

The End of the Harlot Babylon

God knew that what John was about to write down was bizarre and difficult to understand so HE sent an angel to John to explain the scene that was about to unfold...

There are thousands of religions today worldwide that keep people from knowing, experiencing, and having a personal relationship with God, with Jesus. These false religions are all “works” based for one’s salvation to be obtained when it is by **God’s grace alone** – a gift.

What is “religion”?

According to *Merriam – Webster’s Dictionary* it means “an organized system of beliefs, ceremonies, and rules to worship God or groups of gods.”

Chapter 17 is about a religious system governing the world and its rulers. It is connected with Chapter 18, a political & economic system that is global. They are both named “Babylon” and both are to be destroyed.

The Spiritual Harlot Babylon

After Noah’s flood, his descendants all spoke one language. As the population grew, it spread east to a land called Shinar. There the people developed a large settlement named Babel in the plain, built a city and a very tall tower.

- They said to one another, "Come! Let's make bricks and bake them until they're hard." So they used bricks for stone, and tar for mortar. ⁴Then they said, "Come! Let's build ourselves a city, with a tower whose top reaches into heaven. So let's make a name for ourselves, or else we will be scattered over the face of the whole land." Genesis 11:3-4
 - So they decided to reach to the heavens, but not with God’s provision, instead by their own human power (works). Today all religions except Christianity are works based to obtain salvation.

Rather than doing something for God’s glory the people in Shinar worked to make “a name for themselves”.

They didn’t want to follow God’s command to multiply and spread across the earth. So God intervened and brought confusion among them with a language judgement. These different languages forced the people to divide and move away. What they took with them was false religion.

- ✓ False religion began in Babel (confusion) which morphed into Babylon.
- ✓ The founder was Nimrod, the King of Babel. He was the architect of the false religion and led the rebellion against God.
 - Nimrod’s wife was Semiramis, a high priestess of idol worship. Her followers believed that she miraculously conceived a son, his name was Tammuz, and he was born to be the savior of his people. Soon a religion was developed around Semiramis & Tammuz. People worshiped the mother and child.
 - Tammuz worship continued in various forms over centuries, eventually reaching even into the Israel’s Temple.

- He brought me to the door of the court. When I looked, behold, a hole in the wall. ⁸ Then He said to me, "Son of man, now dig through the wall." When I had dug through the wall, there was a door. ⁹ He said to me: "Go and see the wicked abominations that they do here." ¹⁰ So I went in and saw, behold, every detestable image of creeping things and beasts and all the idols of the house of Israel, engraved on the surrounding walls. ¹¹ Standing there before them were 70 men of the elders of the house of Israel, Jaazaniah son of Shaphan standing in their midst, each man with his censer in his hand. A thick cloud of incense went up. ¹² Then He said to me: "Son of man, do you see what the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in his chamber of his carved idol? For they say, 'ADONAI does not see us. ADONAI has forsaken the land.'" ¹³ He said further to me, "You will see still greater abominations that they are doing." ¹⁴ He brought me to the door of the gate of ADONAI's House, which was toward the north. Behold, the women sat there weeping for Tammuz. ¹⁵ He said to me, "Have you seen this, son of man? You will again see even greater abominations than these." Ezekiel 8:7-15

The Vile Prostitute and the Beast

Rev 17:1-2 ¹ Then one of the seven angels holding the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the sentencing of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters. ² The earth's kings committed sexual immorality with her, and those who dwell on the earth got drunk with the wine of her immorality."

- ✓ great prostitute – refers to Babel (Babylon) where the spiritual harlotry against God began (false religion).
- ✓ sits on many waters – "She" is no longer only on the plain of Shinar by the Euphrates River but is found throughout the world (Rev 17:17). This is the "waters" the Antichrist arise from (Rev 13:1).
- ✓ The earth's kings committed sexual immorality with her –
 - Immorality (porneia): metaphorically, of "the association of pagan idolatry with doctrines of the Christian faith"; spiritual harlotry against God (porneuo).
 - The rulers and kings of the earth promoted and enforced false religion.
 - King Nebuchadnezzar and his Golden Statue. Daniel 3
 - Then ADONAI said to me in the days of King Josiah: "Have you seen what backsliding Israel did? She went up on every high mountain and under every green tree, and there she committed adultery. Jeremiah 3:6 (Hos 9:1, Eze 23:19)
 - Babylon has been a golden cup in ADONAI's hand, intoxicating the whole earth. The nations drunk her wine - so the nations are going crazy. Jeremiah 51:7

17.3 ³ So he carried me away in the Ruach into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns.

- ✓ Wilderness – most likely represents the desolate condition of the harlot desolate (eremoo): lay waste, barren region, desert.
- ✓ saw a woman – This woman is the harlot Babylon. Harlot (porne): prostitute, licentiousness, metaphorically of mystery Babylon; symbolizes spiritual harlotry against God.
- ✓ Sitting – (epibano): to go upon, set foot in, she has permeated the world kingdoms (they support her).
- ✓ scarlet beast - Then another sign appeared in heaven: a great fiery red dragon that had seven heads and ten horns, and seven royal crowns on his heads (Revelation 12:3). Satan who influenced and empowered the kingdoms of the earth. Red with the blood of the Saints & prophets.

17.3 ³So he carried me away in the Ruach into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. (continued)

- ✓ seven heads – The seven kingdoms that repressed Israel and introduced them to false religion and rebellion against God. Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo/Persia, Greece, Rome, and the antichrist's kingdom – the revived Roman Empire.
- ✓ ten horns – Kings (powerful men) empowered by satan to be used by God for the purpose He has for the antichrist at the time of the end of the ages. Dan 7:24, 11:36, Rev 13:5-6
 - Then I saw a beast rising out of the sea, that had ten horns and seven heads. On his horns were ten royal crowns, and upon his heads were slanderous names. ² Now the beast that I saw was like a leopard, his feet like a bear's, and his mouth like a lion's. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority. Revelation 13:1-2
 - "While I was pondering the horns, behold, another horn, a small one, sprang up between them, and three of the first horns were uprooted from before it. And behold, this horn had eyes resembling human eyes and a mouth speaking boastfully. Daniel 7:8
 - The little horn is the antichrist, he is highly intelligent, dangerous and has blasphemous mouth.

17.4-5 ⁴The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls. She was holding a golden cup in her hand full of detestable things and the filth of her immorality, and on her forehead was written a name, a mystery: "Babylon the Great, the mother of prostitutes and the detestable things of the earth." Deut 18:9-14, Ezra 9:3-11

- ✓ clothed in purple and scarlet – Colors of Royalty.
- ✓ adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls – Represents expensive fine linen goods, wealth, commercialism, materialism, selfishness, self-indulgence & luxury.
 - She is wearing the same identical attire as Babylon the city.
 - saying, "Alas, alas, O great city - clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! Revelation 18:16
- ✓ and on her forehead – Harlots wore a Harlot's sign on their forehead.
 - "Therefore, harlot, hear the word of ADONAI!" ³⁶ Thus says ADONAI Elohim: "Because your filth was poured out and your nakedness exposed through your harlotry with your lovers, because of all the idols of your abominations, and because of the blood of your children that you gave to them, ³⁷ therefore behold, I will gather all your lovers—those you have pleased and all those you have loved, with all them that you have hated. I will gather them against you from every side. I will expose your nakedness to them, so they may all see your nakedness. ³⁸ So I will judge you, as women who commit adultery and shed blood are judged. Then I will bring on you the blood of fury and jealousy. ³⁹ I will give you into their hand. They will tear down your mound and break down your high places. They will strip you of your clothes and take your jewelry. They will leave you naked and bare. ⁴⁰ They will also incite an assembly against you, stone you with stones and thrust you through with their swords. ⁴¹ They will set your houses on fire and execute judgment on you in the sight of many women. So I will cause you to stop your harlotry. You will never again pay for a lover. ⁴² So I will calm My fury against you and My jealousy will turn away from you. Then I will be quiet and angry no longer. ⁴³ "Because you did not remember the days of your youth, but have enraged Me in all these things, behold, I will also bring your way on your head"—it is a declaration of ADONAI. "Have you not committed this wickedness on top of all your abominations? Ezekiel 16:35-43

- Therefore showers have been withheld and there has been no spring rain. You have a harlot's brazen look; you refuse to be ashamed. Jeremiah 3:3
- ✓ a mystery – (mysterion): Something unknown by man until revealed by God; a revelation is needed to understand.
 - Mystery Babylon: a Spiritual harlot: idolatry, licentiousness, moral decay, rebellious against God's ordinances for humanity.
 - A religious system – The end time religious system that combines the apostate church, false religion, commercialism, humanism, earth worship, persecution of believers in Yeshua and no gospel of Good News. An external religion with a focus on appearance and rituals, inclusiveness and people being ignorant of the truth.
 - She is also called the Great City. Rev 17:18, 18:21
 - It began in Babel (Gen 11:4) and will end with the one world religion destroyed in the end by antichrist who will demand that only he be worshipped – God uses him to do this.

17.6 And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the kedoshim and with the blood of the witnesses of Yeshua. When I saw her, I was totally astounded.

1. Throughout Revelation John is shown uncountable martyrs: Antipas (Rev 2:13), The souls under the Alter (Rev 11:7), the Two Witnesses (Rev 11:7), Those who didn't take the mark or worship the beast (Rev 12:11, 15:2), and the souls of those beheaded (Rev 20:4).
2. Her blood guilt extends throughout history (Rev 18:24)
3. The Harlot and the antichrist are closely associated, he is given authority to overcome the kedoshim and authority overall humanity (Rev 13:7, 15). The antichrist represents a government combined with the harlot, a one world false religion. They persecute and martyr believers, until the antichrist turns on her and has her destroyed, satan is behind the antichrist and the harlot. Rev 17:15-18

17.7-8 But the angel said to me, "Why are you astonished? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and ten horns. ⁸The beast that you saw was, and is not, and yet is about to rise up from the abyss and head for destruction. Those who dwell on the earth—whose names have not been written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world—will be astonished when they see the beast, because he was and is not and is to come.

- ✓ The beast – is referring to the antichrist. Rev 11:7, 13:1-4.
- ✓ Was – His original political appearance and rise to power. Dan 9:26-27, 11:16-45, Matt 24:15.
 - and given to him. He went out as a conqueror so he might conquer. Revelation 6:2
- ✓ is not – His death by a mortal wound, assassination.
 - One of his heads seemed to have been slain, but the fatal wound was healed. The whole earth was amazed and followed the beast. Revelation 13:3
- ✓ rise up – His miraculous satanic resurrection, (Rev 13:3) and his overcoming the Two Witnesses. Rev 11:7
- ✓ destruction – when Yeshua returns and destroys His enemies. Dan 7:11, 11:45
 - Also I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the One who sat on the horse and against His army. ²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and along with him the false prophet who had performed the signs before him by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast, as well as those who had worshiped his image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the One riding on the horse. And all the birds gorged themselves with their flesh. Revelation 19:19-21

17.9-10 "This calls for a mind having wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated. They are also seven kings— ¹⁰ five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while.

- ✓ seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated. They are also seven kings – This is the seven kingdoms listed in Revelation 17:3.
 - This does not refer to the seven hills of Rome! Any teaching that says the antichrist ("the woman", Harlot, Babylon the Great) will rule from Rome is a false teacher.
 - In scripture a mountain is often a symbol of a prominent government. Dan 2:35, Jer 51:25
 - Idolatry and false religion had permeated each of these kingdoms.
- ✓ five have fallen – (pipto peto): fall down, passed
 - These Gentile kingdoms have special relevance to Israel for oppressing God's people and leading them into idolatry.
 - Israel was born as a nation in Exodus from Egypt, so Egypt is the first nation to rule over Israel. Followed by Assyria #2, Babylon #3, Medo/Persia #4 and Greece is #5.
- ✓ one is – Rome #6 current to the time of John's writing on Patmos.
- ✓ the other has not yet come – the 7th head is antichrist's kingdom during the Tribulation – the last 3 ½ years.
 - The feet & toes, the revived Roman Empire, of Daniel's Statue. Dan 2
- ✓ when he comes, he must remain a little while – the antichrist.
 - Of the ten horns on its head, the other horn that sprang up before which three others fell—that horn eyes and a mouth speaking arrogant things, and its appearance was more imposing than its companions. ²¹ As I was watching, that horn was waging war against the kedoshim and overpowering them, ²² until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was rendered in favor of the kedoshim of the Most High—when the time came and the kedoshim possessed the kingdom. Daniel 7:20-22
 - He will speak words against the Most High, and will continually harass the kedoshim of the Most High, and will try to change the appointed times and law. The kedoshim will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time. Daniel 7:25
 - The beast was given a mouth uttering great boasts and blasphemies. It was given authority to act for forty-two months. Revelation 13:5

17.11 ¹¹The beast that was and is not - he himself is the eighth, and is one of the seven, and is heading for destruction.

- ✓ that was – repeats 17.8: White horse rising in power during the first 3 ½ years.
- ✓ is not – midweek of Daniel's 70th week. Focal point: assassination, Death.
- ✓ he himself is the eighth – The 8th horn, last 3 ½ years, the 7th kingdom. False resurrection from his deadly wound (satan powered) after he ascends from the abyss.

17.12-14 The ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. These kings are of one mind, and they give their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴ They will make war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them—because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with Him are called and chosen and faithful."

- ✓ have not yet received royal power – They are a coalition of 10 world leaders who are contemporaries with the Beast, to reign simultaneously with the antichrist.

- ✚ He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he sits in the Temple of God, proclaiming himself that he is God. 2 Thessalonians 2:4
- ✓ receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour – Political, military, commercial and religion).
 - The 10 meet for 1 hour to give their authority to the antichrist, once completed he removes three of the horns (kills).
- ✓ They will make war against the Lamb – when Yeshua returns, they will make war (polemosousin): a prolonged event not a single battle. Rev 16:4, 19:19
- ✓ the Lamb will overcome them – 1 John 4:4, John 16:33
 - The kings of earth set themselves up and rulers conspire together against ADONAI and against His Anointed One: Psalms 2:2
 - By his cunning he will cause deceit to prosper under his hand and he will consider himself superior. He will destroy many, taking them unaware. He will even stand up against the Prince of princes, yet he will be broken, but not by human hands. Daniel 8:25
- ✓ those with Him are called and chosen and faithful –
 - called – (kletos): invited, divinely selected, and appointed, refers to a time before faith.
 - Chosen – (eklektos): chosen out, select, pick out, to choose.
 - Elect – (eklektos): picked out, as a spiritual race.
 - He has saved us and called us with a holy calling—not because of our deeds but because of His own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Messiah Yeshua before time began, 2 Timothy 1:9
 - He chose us in the Messiah before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before Him in love. Ephesians 1:4
 - But we should always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits for salvation through sanctification by the Ruach and belief in the truth. 2 Thessalonians 2:13
 - For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those whom He predestined, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified; and those whom He justified, He also glorified. Romans 8:29-30
 - While Christ's death was sufficient for all men and is effective in the case of the "Elect", yet men are treated as responsible, being capable of the will and power to choose. *Vines Expository Dictionary*
 - Faithful – (pistos): to be trusted, reliable (said of God) just as Abraham had faith in God's promise. Heb 11
- It was also about these people that Enoch, the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with myriads of His kedoshim, ¹⁵ to execute judgment against all. He will convict all the ungodly for all their ungodly deeds that they have done in an ungodly way, and for all of the harsh things ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." Jude 1:14-15
- "You did not choose Me, but I chose you. I selected you so that you would go and produce fruit, and your fruit would remain. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My name. John 15:16
- And the armies of heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. ¹⁵ From His mouth comes a sharp sword -so that with it He may strike down the nations - and He shall rule them with an iron rod, and He treads the winepress of the furious wrath of Elohei-Tzva'ot. Revelation 19:14-15

- ✚ The armies of Heaven will include His angels, but **who are the kedoshim (Saints) returning with Yeshua?** At the time of Messiah's return there are three groups of Saints.
 - Pre-Shavuot (Pentecost) Saints. Not part of the body of Christ if they died prior to the giving of the Rauch Ha Kodesh (Holy Spirit). At their death, their souls entered Paradise in Abraham's bosom (Luke 16:22) until ascending when Paradise was relocated to Heaven following the crucifixion of Yeshua. Luke 23:43
 - Church Age Saints. Believers who lived after the giving of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (John 7:38:39, Acts 2) and were baptized in the body of Yeshua by the Rauch Ha Kodesh (1 Cor 12:13). The souls of those who died prior to the Rapture ascend to Heaven at Death (2 Cor 5:6, Php 1:23). Being in Christ, they are physically resurrected, or translated if alive, at the Rapture of the Church prior to the Tribulation (John 14:1-3, 1 Thl 4:13-18).
 - Post Church Age Saints. Believers who come to faith after the rapture of the Church – the removal of the Restrainer. They died a natural death or were Martyred (Rev 2:10, 13, 12:11, 15:2) and their soul ascends to Heaven at death. Rev 7:14
 - Only one of the 3 groups is resurrected prior to the second coming of Messiah: the Church Age Saints. When Yeshua returns His Spiritual body (the Church) returns with Him. His army will include both angels (Matt 25:31) and church Saints (Col 3:4).
 - Saints who have not been resurrected to participate in His return received their resurrected bodies after the second coming prior to entering the Millennial Kingdom. Dan 12:2, Rev 20:13-15

- ✚ Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron shatters and breaks everything—and just as iron smashes everything, so will it shatter and crush all the others. ⁴¹ Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly potter's clay and partly iron, so this will be a divided kingdom. It will have some of the strength of the iron, for you saw the iron mixed with clay. ⁴² As the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. ⁴³ Just as you saw iron mixed with clay, people will mix with one another, but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. Daniel 2:40-43

17.15 Then he tells me, "The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.

- ✓ peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues, 4-fold = worldwide. The Harlot's influence is global from the kingdom of Babel to the antichrist's kingdom at the end.

17.16-18 The ten horns that you saw, and the beast - these will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire. ¹⁷ For God has put it into their hearts to do His will, and to be of one mind, and to give their royal power to the beast until the words of God are fulfilled. ¹⁸ And the woman that you saw is the great city exercising kingship over the kings of the earth."

- ✓ these will hate the prostitute – The antichrist demands to be worshipped only – he met with the 10 horns/toes receiving all their power and authority – The one world religious system is eliminated.
 - And you, O desolate one, what will you do? Though you dress in scarlet, though you adorn yourself with gold ornaments though you enlarge your eyes with paint - in vain you make yourself beautiful - your lovers despise you, they seek your life. Jeremiah 4:30

17.16-18 The ten horns that you saw, and the beast - these will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire.¹⁷ For God has put it into their hearts to do His will, and to be of one mind, and to give their royal power to the beast until the words of God are fulfilled.
¹⁸ And the woman that you saw is the great city exercising kingship over the kings of the earth." (continued)

- ✓ Desolate – (eremomenen): used of a kingdom brought to ruin. Matt 12:25
- ✓ Naked – (gumnos): of the desolation of religious Babylon. Originally, she was clothed luxuriously and beautifully bejeweled. She will be stripped of her commercial splendor and riches.
- ✓ devour her – (phagontai): consume, destroy as if by rust or fire. Heb 10:27, Jer 51:35
- ✓ burn her up with fire – (katakau sousin): to destroy by fire, burn up. Babylon the city will be utterly burned up by fire.
 - Thus says ADONAI-Tzva'ot: "Babylon's thick wall will be totally razed, and her high gates burned with fire. So the peoples are toiling for nothing, and nations weary themselves for fire." Jeremiah 51:58
 - For this reason her plagues will arrive in a single day - death and grief and famine - and she shall be burned down with fire. **For mighty is ADONAI Elohim who judges her!**" Revelation 18:8

Forever, ADONAI, Your word stands firm in the heavens. Psalms 119:89