



REVELATION 17:1-6 “The Scarlet Harlot”

A very controversial Chapter in the Scriptures!

- Plain and literal interpretation
- Scripture interprets Scripture
 - Jesus interpreting many of His own proverbs.
- In **Revelation 17**, the religious system is judged;
 - in **Revelation 18**, the political and economic system fall victim.
 - Finally, the Lord Himself returns to earth;
 - In **Revelation 19** God judges Satan, “the beast,” and the false prophet (Rev. 19:19–20);
 - Only then God will establish His kingdom. ¹

We know Babylon will fall

- A very real city of Babylon
- Center of the Antichrist's kingdom
- Center of pride, hatred of God, man's attempts to surpass God.
 - Nephilim
 - Nimrod. (Gen 10-11)
 - Nebuchadnezzar

“All the nations” have fallen prey to the LIE of the Antichrist

Revelation 14:8 And another second angel followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, who caused **all the nations**

¹ Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 611.

to drink from the wine of the passion of **her** sexual immorality.”

Revelation 16:19 And the great city (Jerusalem) was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell.

And Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give **her** the cup of the wine of his furious wrath.

Revelation 18:2–3

2 And he cried out with a powerful voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, and it has become a dwelling place of demons and a haunt of every unclean spirit and a haunt of every unclean bird and a haunt of every unclean and detested animal.

3 For **all the nations** have drunk from the wine of the passion of **her** sexual immorality, and **the kings of the earth** have committed sexual immorality with **her**, and the merchants of the earth have become rich from the power of **her** sensuality.”

Revelation 19:2–3

2 because His judgments are true and righteous, because He has passed judgment on the great prostitute **who corrupted the earth** with **her** sexual immorality, and has avenged the blood of his slaves shed by **her** hand!”

3 And a second time they said, “Hallelujah!” And **her** smoke goes up forever and ever.

Babylon:

Babylon is mentioned by name six times in Revelation. In

1. Revelation 14:8 “that great city”
2. Revelation 16:19 “great Babylon”
3. Revelation 18:2 “Babylon the great” in 18:2;
4. Revelation 18:21 “that great city Babylon, that mighty city”
5. Revelation 18:21 “that great city Babylon”
6. Revelation 17:5 “Mystery, Babylon the great.” 2

1 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the judgment of **the great prostitute**

² Henry M. Morris, *The Revelation Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Prophetic Book of the End Times* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 1983), 324.

who is seated on many waters,

2 with whom the kings of the earth committed **sexual immorality**, and those who live on the earth became drunk with the wine of **her sexual immorality.**"

First, let's deal with this: "her sexual immorality":

- Today, few ever get upset about sexual immorality
 - Consenting adults?
 - Consenting God?
 - Casual sex?
 - Not so, if we "LOVE" each other!
- **(2017) According to various reports, currently, the porn industry's net worth is about \$97 billion.**
 - This money is enough to feed at-least 4.8 billion people a day.
 - Every year, Hollywood releases roughly 600 movies and makes \$10 billion in profit. And how much porn industry makes?
 - 13,000 films and close to \$15 billion in profit.
 - The porn industry makes more money than Major League Baseball, The NFL and The NBA combined. ³

- **πορνεία porneia**

Total KJV Occurrences: 26X

fornication, 24X

Mat_5:32, Mat_19:9, Joh_8:41, Act_15:20, Act_15:29, Act_21:25, Rom_1:29, 1Co_5:1 (2), 1Co_6:13, 1Co_6:18, 1Co_7:2, 2Co_12:21, Gal_5:19, Eph_5:3, Col_3:5, 1Th_4:3, Rev_9:21 (2), Rev_14:8, Rev_17:2, Rev_17:4, Rev_18:3, Rev_19:2

fornications, 2X

Mat_15:19, Mar_7:21

- 4202. πορνεία **porneía**, gen. porneías, fem. noun from porneúō (4203), **to commit fornication or any sexual sin. Fornication, lewdness, or any sexual sin.** ⁴
- πορνεία, ας, ἡ (of various kinds of 'unsanctioned sexual intercourse': Demosth. et al.; LXX, En, Test12Patr; GrBar [in vice lists]; Ascls, Philo, apolog. exc. Ar. W. φθορά Iren. 1, 28, 1 [Harv. I 220, 14])
 - **unlawful sexual intercourse, prostitution, unchastity, fornication,** ⁵
 - Any sexual sin; coupled with moicheía (3430), adultery (Mark 7:21), and other sins (Rom. 1:29). Used generally to refer to any sexual sin (1 Cor. 6:13, 18; 7:2; 2 Cor. 12:21; Gal. 5:19; Eph. 5:3; Col.

³ https://medium.com/@Strange_bt_True/how-big-is-the-porn-industry-fbc1ac78091b

⁴ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

⁵ William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 854.

3:5; 1 Thess. 4:3; Rev. 9:21). In John 8:41, “We be not born of fornication” means, “We are not spurious children, born of a concubine, but are the true descendants of Abraham” (a.t. [Sept.: Gen. 38:24; Hos. 1:2]). Specifically of adultery (Matt. 5:32; 19:9); of incest (1 Cor. 5:1). Porneía may also refer to marriages within the degrees prohibited by the Law of Moses and generally to all such intercourse as prohibited in that Law (cf. Lev. 18; 20:10ff.).

Symbolically it stands for idolatry, the forsaking of the true God in order to worship idols. Since God is said to be married to His Church through Christ, then any idolatry is unfaithfulness toward God equal to sexual unfaithfulness to one’s marriage partner (Rev. 2:21; 14:8; 17:2, 4; 18:3; 19:2; Sept.: Jer. 3:9; Ezek. 16:15, 22; 23:27; Hos. 2:2; 4:12).

Fornication as a sexual vice was common before the time of Moses and was grossly prevalent in Egypt (Gen. 39:7). Prostitution was not tolerated by the Sinaitical code, being an abomination in the sight of God (Lev. 19:29; Deut. 23:17, 18). Its price could not be accepted in the sanctuary (Mic. 1:7), and death by stoning was the penalty for an unmarried woman who had concealed her crime (Deut. 22:20, 21). The term “strange woman” in Prov. 2:16 probably referred to a harlot procured from foreigners. See also Prov. 2:16–19; 5:3–6; 7:5–27. God’s displeasure was thus incited (Jer. 5:7; Amos 2:7; 7:17). Such excesses were very common among the heathen in the times of the Apostles (1 Cor. 5:1, 9, 10; 6:9). Israel is symbolically presented as a harlot (Is. 1:21; Jer. 2:20; Ezek. 16; Hos. 1:2; 3:1).

Syn.: akraśía (192), lack of self-restraint; asōtía (810), profligacy; hēdoné (2237), pleasure, hedonism; asélgeia (766), intemperance, insatiable with regard to pleasure.

Ant.: hagnótēs (54), purity; hagneía (27), chastity; katharótēs (2514), the state of being cleansed, clean; egkráteia (1466), continence; hagiótēs (41), holiness; hagiōsúnē (42), sanctity. ⁶

- **Seated on many waters**
- **Scripture gives us the interpretation:**

Revelation 17:15–16

15 And he said to me, **“The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and crowds and nations and languages.**

16 And the ten horns that you saw and the beast, these will hate the prostitute and will make her desolate and naked, and they will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire.

A religious Spirit, with sexual overtones!

- The word **“whore”** (Greek porne) is the same as **“harlot”** (verse 5) and is related to porneia (“fornication”) and pornos (“fornicator” or “whoremonger”). ⁷
- Four times in this chapter, the woman is called a “harlot” (Rev. 17:1, 5, 15–16); and her sin is called “fornication” (Rev. 17:2, 4). ⁸

⁶ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

⁷ Henry M. Morris, *The Revelation Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Prophetic Book of the End Times* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 1983), 325.

⁸ Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 612.

3 And he carried me away into the **wilderness** (the barren desert) in the Spirit, and I saw a woman seated on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, **having seven heads and ten horns.**

- **Wilderness** – here is where the Harlot is living – the barren desert of the middle east – Iraq

Riding a Scarlet Beast

- Full of blasphemous names
- A BEAST with 7 Heads and 10 horns
 - The Antichrist!

Revelation 12:3 And another sign appeared in heaven, and behold, a great fiery red dragon, **having seven heads and ten horns,** and on his heads were seven royal headbands.

Revelation 13:1 And I saw coming up out of the sea **a beast that had ten horns and seven heads,** and on its horns ten royal headbands, and on its heads a blasphemous name.

Daniel 7:7 After this in the visions of the night I was looking and there was a fourth beast, terrifying and frightful and exceedingly strong, and it had great iron teeth, and it was devouring and crushing, and it stamped the remainder with its feet; **and it was different from all the other beasts that preceded it and it had ten horns.**

Daniel 7:20 and concerning the horns that were on its head, and concerning the other horn that came up and before which three horns fell, **and this horn had eyes and a mouth speaking boastfully, and its appearance was larger than its companions.**

Scripture gives us the full meaning:

Rev 17:9-11 Here is the mind that has wisdom:

the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits and they are seven kings.

10 Five have fallen,
one is,

the other has not yet come,

and whenever he comes it is necessary for him to remain a short time.

11 And the beast that was,
and is not,
is also himself an eighth,
and is of the seven,
and he is going to destruction.



4 And the woman was dressed in purple and scarlet
and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls,
holding a golden cup in her hand full of detestable things
and the unclean things of **her sexual immorality.**



The Scarlet Harlot:

- The same phrase is used later, probably by the same angel, when John is shown the Lamb's wife: "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife" (Rev. 21:9).
- The Great Harlot of this chapter is to be contrasted with both the Lamb's wife and the woman of Revelation. ⁹

Revelation 21:9

9 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."

Apparel of the woman

- Dressed in purple and scarlet
- Royalty, nobility, and wealth
- **A direct contrast to the godly woman:**
 - **Adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls**

1 Timothy 2:9–10

9 Likewise also the women should adorn themselves in appropriate clothing, **with modesty and self-control,**

not with braided hair and gold jewelry or pearls or expensive clothing,

10 but with good deeds which are fitting for women who profess godliness.

1 Peter 3:1–6

⁹ http://www.spiritandtruth.org/teaching/Book_of_Revelation/commentary/htm/chapters/17.html#Revelation%2017%3A1

1 In the same way, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some are disobedient to the word, they may be won over without a word by the conduct of their wives,

2 when they see your respectful, pure conduct.

3 Let your adornment not be the external kind, braiding hair and putting on gold jewelry or putting on fine clothing,

4 but the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is highly valuable in the sight of God.

5 For in the same way formerly the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves by being subject to their own husbands,

6 like Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose children you have become when you do good and are not frightened with respect to any terror.

The golden cup

- Full of detestable things
- Unclean things

Machismo movement

- Raising prideful men to positions of self-esteem

Feminist movement

- Raising prideful women to positions of self-esteem.

Jeremiah 51:6–9

6 Flee from the midst of Babylon and save each one his life. You must not perish because of her guilt. For this is the time of vengeance for Yahweh, he will repay her what is deserved.

7 Babylon was a cup of gold in the hand of Yahweh, making drunk **all the earth.**

The nations drank of her wine.

Therefore the nations acted like madmen.

8 Suddenly Babylon has fallen and she is shattered.

Wail over her!

Take balm for her wounds, perhaps she may be healed.

9 We tried to heal Babylon, and she was not healed. Forsake her and let us go each one to his country, for her judgment has reached to the heavens, and it has been lifted up to the skies.

Revelation 18:5–8

5 because her sins have reached up to heaven,

and God has remembered her crimes.

6 Pay back to her as she herself also paid out,
and pay back double according to her deeds;

in the cup that she mixed,

mix double for her.

7 As much as she glorified herself and lived in luxury, give to her so much torment and mourning, because in her heart she said, ‘I sit as a queen, and am not a widow, and I will never see mourning!’

8 Because of this her plagues will come in one day— death and mourning and famine— and she will be burned up with fire, because the Lord God who passes judgment on her is powerful!”

5 And on her forehead a name was written, **a mystery:**

“Babylon the great,

the mother of prostitutes

and of the detestable things of the earth.”

- In the New Testament, a “mystery” is a hidden truth that only the spiritually initiated can understand. To grasp one of God’s mysteries requires spiritual intelligence and discernment. In this case, the mystery has to do with Babylon. ¹⁰

6 And I saw the woman
drunk with the blood of the saints
and with the blood of the witnesses to Jesus.
And I was greatly astonished when I saw her.

- Systematic torture of Christians
- All for the purpose of recanting their faith
 - Lucifer gets such great pleasure when we curse God.

7 And the angel said to me, “Why are you astonished?
I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that has the seven heads and the ten horns that carries her.

8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is going to come up from the abyss, and he is going to destruction.

¹⁰ Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 612.

And those who live on the earth, whose names are not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, **will be astonished when they see the beast that was, and is not, and will be present.**

- **That will be TRUE astonishment!**

9 Here is the mind that has wisdom:

the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits and they are seven kings. ¹¹

10 Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and whenever he comes it is necessary for him to remain a short time.

- **Most famous city of “seven hills” is Rome, Italy.**
 - Certainly the center of one of the largest church systems in the world.
 - No “special” wisdom needed there
- **BUT** – the 7 heads are 7 mountains which are 7 kings!
 - This at once disposes of the popular interpretation which regards these seven mountains as referring to the seven hills on which the city of Rome was built. The Holy Spirit expressly tells us that the seven mountains are (represent) seven kings, ¹²
 - 5 have fallen – a mystery to me, very difficult to pin on historical rulers.

11 And the beast that was, and is not, is also himself an eighth, and is of the seven, and he is going to destruction.

12 And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings, who have not yet received a kingdom, but they will receive authority as kings for one hour with the beast.

13 **These have one opinion,** and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

- All the nations will come to the same delusional opinion – give it ALL to the Beast and let’s destroy Jerusalem!

14 These will make war with the Lamb,

¹¹ The punctuation of the AV. in this verse is very faulty. Verse 9 should end with the word “wisdom,” and the remainder of the verse should form part of the tenth verse. The explanation of the angel would not then have been cut in two, and interpreted separately as is commonly the case; and the “seven mountains” would not have been treated independently of the clause which goes on to further explain what they signify. The “seven mountains” are, according to this, “seven kings.” It does not say that “there are seven kings” over and above, and beside the “seven mountains;” but that the “seven mountains are (*i.e.*, represent) seven kings.” . . . These mountains, then, are no mere heaps of earth or rocks, but “kings.” . . . For interpreters to take these *literally* as “mountains,” in the midst of a context which the same interpreters take to be *symbolic*; and in the face of the *interpretation* actually given by the angel that “they are seven kings,” is to play fast and loose with the word of prophecy. (Bullinger, *Commentary On Revelation*, Rev. 17:10.)

¹² Pink, *The Antichrist*, s.v. “Antichrist and Babylon.”

and the Lamb will conquer them,

because he is Lord of lords and King of kings,
and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”

- **Jesus Wins!**



15 And he said to me, “The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and crowds and nations and languages.

16 And the ten horns that you saw and the beast, these will hate the prostitute and will make her desolate and naked, and they will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire.

17 For God put into their hearts to carry out his purpose

and to make a unanimous decision

and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.

18 And the woman that you saw is the great city that has sovereignty over the kings of the earth.

2nd time God points out – it was a unanimous decision!

All the Nations of the earth decide together to do the Beast's bidding.

Psalm 2:4–5

4 He who sits enthroned in the heavens laughs. The Lord derides them.

5 Then he speaks to them in his wrath, and in his fury he terrifies them: