

# Revelation 17:7-18 "Mystery Babylon Revealed"

## The Woman Babylon:

John is shown the "woman." She is described with **six statements**:

1. She sits on many waters, committing immorality with the kings of the earth.
2. She is sitting on a scarlet beast.
3. She is clothed in purple, scarlet, gold, precious stones, and pearls.
4. She has a gold cup in her hand full of abominations and the unclean things of her immorality.
5. She has a name on her forehead, "MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."
6. She is drunk with the blood of the saints and witnesses of Jesus.

## European Community Commemorative Coin and Stamp:



**7** But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.

**8** "The beast that you saw **was, and is not, and will ascend** out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

- The "Beast" is the Antichrist – however, the power, motivation, and agenda is purely Satanic.
  - **"He was"** – It is Satan that existed long before John did.

- **Only God can resurrect a human being.**
- The Beast existed in Satan's plans.
- **Reference to the "beast" in Eden that tempted Adam and Eve?**
- **"He is not"** – the "Beast", as a person, did not exist during John's era.

**Revelation 13:1-4**

**1** Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.

**2** Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.

**3** And I saw one of his heads **as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.**

**4** So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

- **"Will ascend out of the abyss"** – demonic in nature, Satanic in power, all that the Antichrist will become originates straight out of the Pit of Hell.

**Revelation 9:11** And they (the demonic flying scorpions) had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

- **Note the MARVEL:** only unsaved pagans will look on with wonder!
  - It will appear that the Antichrist, the Beast, has resurrected.
  - People will believe in him and consign their eternities to follow him into Hell.

**9** "Here is the mind which has wisdom: **The seven heads are seven mountains** on which the woman sits.

- **What other city set on seven hills has promoted more idol, man, and woman worship than the Vatican in Rome?**

**10** "There are also **seven kings**. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time.

- **David Hocking:** "The seven kings can represent political empires or kingdoms as well as individual rulers."
- **Hal Lindsay:** "Here John is referring to those great world kingdoms from the time of the original Babylon of Nimrod's day which have been dominated by the false occultic religion of Babylon."
- **Six Empires of Nebuchadnezzar's dream:**
  1. Babylon
  2. Medo-Persia
  3. Greece
  4. Rome
  5. A Modern Revived Roman Empire
  6. Christ's Millennial Empire

- Perhaps adding (as many commentators do) the following Empires:
  - Egyptian
  - Assyrian

**11** “And the beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.

### 1. Antichrist’s Empire

- One Politic
- One Religion
- One Economy

- Keep in mind though – Daniel’s 6<sup>th</sup> kingdom will still dominate and eliminate all other previous kingdoms.

**Daniel 2:44** And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up **a kingdom which shall never be destroyed**; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

**12** “The ten horns which you saw: are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.

- See notes on verse 3

**13** “These (*the ten kings*) are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

**14** “These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”

### **Revelation 19:17-19**

**17** Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the supper of the great God,

**18** that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all *people*, free and slave, both small and great.”

**19** And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

**15** Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits:, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

**Revelation 13:14** And he deceives **those who dwell on the earth**— by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

**Revelation 13:16** **He causes all**, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,

### **Revelation 14:9-11**

**9** Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If **anyone worships** the beast and his image, and receives *his* mark on his forehead or on his hand,

**10** he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

**11** And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”

**16** “And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

**17** “For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.

**18** “**And the woman whom you saw is: that great city** which reigns over the kings of the earth.”

- The woman Babylon seems to be riding the beast for the first half of the Tribulation.
  - **But it turns out that the beast was merely carrying her - she suited his purposes for the time being.**
  - **But now, the ten kings, with authority from the antichrist, turn on her and destroy her.**
- Babylon will once again be relocated and re-established.
  - Zechariah saw this in a vision, telling us in **Zechariah 5** about the woman's relocation to Shinar, the area of Babylon.

**Zechariah 5:5-11**  
**5** Then the angel who talked with me came out and said to me, “Lift your eyes now, and see what this *is* that goes forth.”  
**6** So I asked, “What *is* it?” And he said, “It *is* a basket that is going forth.” He also said, “This *is* their resemblance throughout the earth:  
**7** Here *is* a lead disc lifted up, and this *is* a woman sitting inside the basket”;  
**8** then he said, “This *is* Wickedness!” And he thrust her down into the basket, and threw the lead cover over its mouth.  
**9** Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there *were* two women, coming with the wind in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between earth and heaven.  
**10** So I said to the angel who talked with me, “Where are they carrying the basket?”  
**11** And he said to me, “To build a house for it in the land of Shinar; when it is ready, *the basket* will be set there on its base.”
- In Revelation 18, we will see that Babylon is once again established in the ancient city of Babylon. This is right in the middle of modern-day Iraq, about 60 miles south of Baghdad, and situated on both sides of the Euphrates River.
- Babylon will no longer be a mixture of religions, and anti-Christian ecumenicalism. It will worship one god: the antichrist. And when God judges it, its destruction will be massive and complete.