

# I Midweek Bible Study

## Exposition of Revelation

### The Mother of Harlots, Babylon the Great (II)

#### Rev. 17-18

Historicist perspective – the Papacy and its overthrow

Preterist perspectives – Overthrow of Rome or Jerusalem

Futurist perspectives – Catholic church, apostate religion (one world religion), or a literally revived Babylon or revived Roman Empire.

Progressive parallelism's perspective – *the world's idolatrous economic-religious system* (Beale)

“Babylon is not simply a cipher for Rome but is a rich biblical theological symbol for the world's idolatrous, seductive political economy – the archetypal godless city, which Rome embodied in the first century.” Brian Tabb, 164.

Proposal –

#### **I. Introduction to the vision of judgment (17:1-2)**

- A. One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls
  
- B. Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot
  - 1. who sits on many waters
  - 2. with whom the kings of the earth committed immorality
  - 3. those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality

#### **II. Description of Babylon the Great (17:3-6a)**

- A. He carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness
  
- B. And I saw a woman
  - 1. sitting on a scarlet beast
  - 2. full of blasphemous names
  - 3. having seven heads and ten horns
  - 4. Clothed in purples and scarlet
  - 5. adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls
  - 6. Having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations  
And of unclean things of her immorality
  - 7. And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints

#### **III. The Angel interprets the vision (17:6b-18)**

- A. When I saw her, I wondered greatly
  
- B. The angel to John, Why do you wonder?  
I will tell you the mystery of the woman and the beast that carried her,  
which has the seven heads and the ten horns



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- C. The beast which you saw (17:8)
1. Was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction
  2. those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.
- D. The seven heads (17:9-11)
1. Here is the mind which has wisdom
  2. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits
  3. They are seven kings, five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come
  4. And when he comes, he must remain for a little while
  5. The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is *one* of the seven, and he goes to destruction.
- E. The ten horns (17:12-13)
1. The ten horns are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour
  2. These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast
- F. War with the Lamb (14)
1. These will wage war against the Lamb
  2. and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings,
  3. and those who are with Him *are the* called and chosen and faithful.
- G. Civil war and destruction (17:15-18)
1. The waters where the harlot sits are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues
  2. And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire.
  3. For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled.
  4. The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.

