

“The Mystery of the Woman and the Beast” Part 2
Ten Kings, Their End, and Their Purpose
Revelation 17:12-18

Revelation #40

The angel explains to John the place and significance of the ten kings.

1. The Ten Kings – What do we know about them? vv. 12-13

(1) They are intimately related to the Beast *“The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet...”*

- cf. v. 3 “a beast...having ten horns” cf. 13:1ff.
- Geopolitical manifestations of the beast, but also to be distinguished from the beast

(2) They were yet to come to power

- A near term fulfillment (and prefiguring): Those powers that were to destroy Rome
- An end-times fulfillment: Those powers that are to destroy the final “Babylon”

(3) They receive power for a very short season *“but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.”*

(4) They do the bidding of the beast *“These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.”*

- cf. v. 13 and 13:4-7

2. The End of the Ten Kings v. 14

(1) They oppose the Lamb (and the Saints!) *“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.”*

- **A near-term fulfillment**
- **An end-times fulfillment**
- cf. 19:19

(2) The Lamb will overcome them!

- **An inevitability! For He is Lord of lords and King of Kings!** cf. 19:16, 20-21

- **The blessing and security of being “with the Lamb.”**

- Called – by an invincible work of the Spirit
- Chosen – from before the foundation of the world
- Faithful – persevering in their faith and in service to the Lamb

3. The Purpose of the Ten Kings: The Destruction of the Harlot vv. 15-18

(1) More concerning the Harlot v. 15 *“The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.”*

- **Her world-wide influence**

- A near-term fulfillment in Rome (a prefiguring) cf. v. 18
- An end-times fulfillment in the final “Babylon”

(2) The ten kings turn against the harlot and destroy her! v. 16 *“the ten horns...will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.”*

- **At first they supported the harlot! Now they destroy her!**

- **Idolatry in all of its forms collapses upon itself! Devours itself! Why?**

- **Note the fatal flaw in “conspiracy” theories!**

(3) The sovereign purpose of God v. 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.”*

- **It is God who rules the world!**

- “The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord...” Prov. 21:1
- It is God’s purpose that shall stand! Ps. 33:10-11