

THE GREAT WHORE OF ECUMENICALISM

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Revelation 17



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REVELATION 17

There will be two dangers in the thinking of people in the Tribulation, which is also the thinking of most people today in the 20th century. One of them is political internationalism. The other is religious internationalism.

Political internationalism is the principle of conquering and enslaving the world, like the United Nations, and before it the League of Nations. **As far as God is concerned, the United Nations is ANTI-BIBLICAL.** As far as religious internationalism is concerned, we have something just as bad, if not worse. Religious internationalism promotes the universal brotherhood of man and the universal Fatherhood of God. We have had in our history, what we used to call "the Federal Council of Churches," then "the National Council of Churches" and now "the World Council of Churches," simply because it is a part of the international organization.

That is the "Babylon" of our age. But the Babylon of our age is silly compared to the Babylon of the Tribulation. When the Lord Jesus Christ returns to this Earth, He is going to find two predominate views: Political internationalism will be popular, those tremendous spheres of influence, the political power grabs, which will be well organized. And from the religious standpoint, you will have "one world religion." **We are rapidly moving towards that today in the name of the "Ecumenical Movement."**

There are two antithetical tendencies in Church history. First, the rise of the independent movement, actually that which is back to the biblical movement, away from the authority of large organizations, and back to the authority of the Scriptures. **You cannot have a co-existence of a large organization and the authority of the Scriptures at the same time. It is utterly impossible.** There has never been an organization in Church history, when it got to a certain size,

THAT WAS ABLE TO MAINTAIN THE CRITERION OF THE WORD OF GOD, because the organization always sets up the criterion and sooner or later false ideas infiltrate into the organization and you have "**programs vs. the Word of God.**"

That is the rise of Romanism. That is the failure of denominationalism in our day. By increasing the organization, and in order to hold the organization together, you must have some type of a program. In the program are those who are anti-biblical, and you have had it. Leaven has come in.

There are a number of groups today who are in the process of doing what "Romanism" did in the fifth century. They are slow about it, but they are moving steadily in that direction. Now all these things will come to fruition in the Tribulation, where you are going to have "one-world religion." Everyone will be broad-minded, and the way of life will be very broad. When Christ returns to reign there will be a "one-world religion" and until then, as Satan has universal dominion, it will exist until Christ returns.

So then the true estimate of the world situation can only be understood in the light of biblical revelation. If you understand the doctrine of sin, the doctrine of the penalty for sin, the doctrine to the solution of sin, the doctrine of salvation only by Christ, and if you can understand these doctrines you can see and understand the failure of "Ecumenical religion."

We have had an experience with Ecumenicalism in the Bible. We have already experimented with it. It is not new. In the time after the flood of Noah's day, the universal religion got its start in the city of Babylon, on the plains of Shinar. In this universal religion, of course, God showed His disapproval of it, and He personally came down and destroyed

the whole thing. This is found in Genesis 11:1-9.

That is an important passage from the standpoint of what your attitude should be toward the "United Nations," the "League of Nations," as a Christian. **Of course, if you are not a Christian, you can go on with your ivory tower, the "United Nations,"** and that is about all it amounts to.

Genesis 11:1, "And the whole Earth was of one language and one speech." This makes it easy to set up the United Nations. You don't need any earphones, no interpreters. They all speak the same language so it makes it easy to set up the United Nations of Babylon.

Verse 2, "And it came to pass as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there." "Shinar" is in the land of Chaldea.

Verse 3, "And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar." Verse 4, "And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole Earth." Verse 5, "And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded." Verse 6, "And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do."

This ties in with Romans 1:18ff, the principle of the "imagination of their mind." **The principle is that every one did that which was right in their own eyes.** This is man's plans, man's ambitions. **God is seen here expressing His disapproval of this idea, a one-world organization, one-world idea,** the headquarters in Babylon, in the plains of Shinar. Here then is the one-world concept, one language, one organization. No restraint on their imagination. **This is the thrust of the old sin nature.**

Verse 7, "Go to, let Us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." God said "Let Us," which is an indication of the Trinity.

Verse 8, "So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the Earth: and they left off to build the city." Verse 9, "Therefore is the name of it called Babel: because the Lord did there confound the language of all the Earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the Earth."

"THE BABEL OF BABYLON."

Babel means confusion, and the tower is the first United Nations building. **Here is God's attitude toward internationalism.** Here is the first recorded attempt at internationalism in the world. God confounded their language and scattered them. Speech barriers. **Now that is why we have different languages today.** It would be interesting to speculate as to what this original language really was. But here is God's attitude about internationalism either of a religious or political nature.

Religious internationalism says that we are all brothers under the skin. We are all in the family of God and God is the Father of all. This, they say, is the thing that unites us. It doesn't make any difference what color you are, or what language you speak. We are all brothers. We all have a Divine spark. That is one of Satan's best cards. And Satan says that a lot. **But Christ said something entirely different. HE SAID, "WE ARE ALL THE SONS OF GOD BY FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS,"** Galatians 3:26.

The building of that city in Shinar was a political structure. The tower reaching up to heaven is the religious structure. **Internationalism is never ever condoned by God. God's order as far as the structure of people is the principle of national entities.**

God gave the first division among nations by the division of languages. Linguistically, you have your first recognition of a national entity, not on the basis of territory, but on the

basis of language. **God separated them by languages.** The languages caused them to scatter throughout the Earth. So, one language is not wrong, but when it comes to the point where it becomes a basis for internationalism, it is wrong biblically. But one language in itself is not evil.

Now in Genesis 10 we find the founder of Babylon himself. He was a very interesting character. He was primarily the original gangster and he was called Nimrod. His name in the Hebrew means "he will revolt." **He was in revolt against God, and he was in defiance of God. He was in rebellion toward God and God's plans.** Remember it is stated in Scripture that he was a "great hunter." Well, he was a great hunter, all right, but he didn't hunt animals. **He hunted people.** He killed men. He was more or less the original hit man, gangster. HE IS NOT A HUNTER OF DEER, BUT YOU, DEAR.

Remember that when Jesus Christ returns the second time to this Earth, at that time there will be the true political and true spiritual internationalism. But until such time, any attempt at internationalism is a mere plot on the part of some to control the more powerful nations, which the United Nations is doing to us right now.

Today we have a perfect illustration for us in the United Nations, which is merely an organization of weaker and less powerful nations and countries, encroaching upon our rights and our freedoms.

There are several biblical approaches to the subject of the United Nations. The first is the fact that we have a doctrine which is called "Divine Institutions" in the Scriptures. There is another doctrine called "The doctrine of Christian Institutions." A Christian institution is for Christians. But a Divine institution is for all members of the human race. **There are some things that God has ordained for believers and unbelievers alike.**

Marriage is a good example. It is for believers and unbelievers alike. Family, also, is a Divine institution. There are countries who have tried to get along without family life and

they have discovered that it doesn't work. One of the most recent experiments was the U.S.S.R. **They found out it wasn't very good, and they raised a whole generation of unstable people.** No family, they started institutional life as soon as they could crawl. But today the U.S.S.R. is going with marriage and family.

Now the next is logical in its sequence, Divine Institution Number Four, Nationalism. **God recognizes the existence of nations and order. Also capital punishment is a part of a Divine institution.** This is put in the hands of those who are leaders of the state, etc. Romans 13:4, "For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid: for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil."

One of the by-products of the difficulties we are facing today is that we have gotten away from the principle of capital punishment. From the historical standpoint, one of the best places to live a century or so ago, was in Victorian England where there was less crime and there was better control of crime than in any national entity that existed. The reason was because of the maximum utilization of capital punishment.

The reason for moving away from capital punishment is the influence of a whole generation of gangster movies where the "poor gangster" is just a victim of his environment and later on he kills ten or 15 people in a very brutal way. He is calloused and monstrous, "But he is just a victim of his environment," "his circumstances." And then he falls in love with some pretty girl, and he ought to be forgiven for everything and be permitted to marry her and live happily ever after, and the movie ends and the curtain goes down. **We have hurt our society by the removal of capital punishment.**

God recognizes national entities, but God does not recognize internationalism at this time, only when Christ reigns on this Earth. Internationalism and world peace are only possible when Jesus

Christ reigns on this Earth. It is impossible to have perfect environment without the personal reign of Christ. It is impossible to have true internationalism without the reign of Christ on this Earth. **True internationalism demands justice, and only Christ can render justice throughout the world.** True internationalism demands that any violator of justice, and violation of that which is right, be punished immediately and only Christ is able to do that. **True internationalism is depended upon the non-existence of religion.** THE EXISTENCE OF RELIGION MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR TRUE INTERNATIONALISM TO EXIST.

Religious internationalism is more pernicious than political internationalism. Political internationalism takes away all your freedoms and destroys your way of life. Religious internationalism can dump you right straight into Hell with a good feeling.

Religion spawns a lot of false ideas. Like, "we all have a Divine spark. And all we need to do is fan it. We are all going the same way." Or "just as long as you are sincere you will make it." "We are all brothers." "God is the Father of us all." "All roads lead to Rome."

Genesis 10:8, Cush is one of the sons of Ham. "Cush beget Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the Earth." Ham, as you remember, saw his father's nakedness and there was a curse. Genesis 9:22, "And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without." And they did the right thing and Ham did the wrong thing.

Genesis 9:25, "And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren." The curse was upon Canaan. The hamitic race is divided into two colors, white and black. It just so happens that the white branch of the hamitic race are the Canaanites, the Ethiopians, and others are the black branch. There are no biblical passages saying why we have color except by implication, which is that God did not intend for all people to mingle. GOD IS RE-

SPONSIBLE FOR DIFFERENT COLORS OF SKIN. HE DIDN'T INTEND FOR ALL RACES TO MINGLE. "Cursed be Canaan, a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren." So it is only the Canaanite's branch that are to the servants.

Genesis 9:26, "And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of Shem; and Canaan shall be His servant." So the curse says that Canaan was to be the servant of Shem. The Canaanites were in the land when one of the ancestors of Shem came and his name was Abraham. He was a part of the semitic group, which are the Jews. The semitics were to rule the Canaanites, and that happened.

When Joshua walked across the Jordan River there, and then he stared using the sword, what was the first place he hit? Jericho. And everyone got clobbered but one woman and her family, Rahab. That is the beginning of the fulfillment of this verse. The Canaanites became subservient after the conquest by Joshua. They were the servants of the sons of Shem. The semitic branch are the Jews. The Jews conquered the land, which was the fulfillment of this curse. Why was Abraham promised the land of Palestine? Well, it was the land of the Canaanites, which was again fulfillment of this verse.

This does not have anything to do with the subject of race relations. The Canaanites were the white branch of the hamitic race. Genesis 10:8, Nimrod, son of Cush, and Cush, son of whom? Ham! "Nimrod" means "we will revolt," which is a revolt against God. **Nimrod's heirs started internationalism, a revolt against God. One world without God.** In other words, "we can do it ourselves." Genesis 10:9, "And he was a mighty hunter before the Lord." Not animals, but people. He hunted people. So he was a gangster. "Before the Lord" is literally "in defiance of the Lord." The Lord says "Thou shalt not" what? Well, murder. Nimrod was a murderer.

Verse 10, "And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel." The original inhabitant of Babel was Nimrod. He was a defiant one against the Lord, one who despised the Lord,

a hunter in defiance of the Lord. That is the biblical background for Babel or Babylon. It always stands for that which is against the Lord, whether it is a political or religious Babylon.

In Revelation, our study, we will study Babylon, called the Great Whore. You will begin to understand this. So, here, then, is a combination of everything that is against God, from the religious standpoint, and the political standpoint in Revelation 17. One world without God did not start in Russia. It started in Babylon. This was the title for the Bolshevik wing of the Communist Party.

Here's an interesting biblical outline:

Genesis 10, Nimrod

Genesis 11, the tower of Babel.

Revelation 17:1, "And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither: I WILL SHEW UNTO THEE THE JUDGMENT OF THE GREAT WHORE THAT SITTETH UPON MANY WATERS." In verses 1-6 we have the vision of ecumenical religion. Other passages are Revelation 13:4-8, 11-17, Revelation 14:8-11, Revelation 16:19.

Revelation 16:19, "And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: AND GREAT BABYLON CAME in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His WRATH." **"Great Babylon" is the religious and political internationalism of the Tribulation.**

Now out of this one verse we have two complete chapters. "Babylon the great," that is a system now. God remembered. "Cup of wine from God" is wrath. And that is amplified in Revelation 17:18. So we are going to have the destruction of Babylon the Great. Chapter 17 is the downfall of political Babylon. Chapter 18 is the downfall of religious Babylon.

The National and World Council of Churches of today would be the branch of re-

ligious Babylon. And the United Nations would be today the branch of the political Babylon. But the National Council of Churches and the United Nations are pikers compared to what is coming in the Tribulation and what we are studying here.

In Revelation 17:1-6 we have the vision of this international set up. Verse 1, "And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither: I WILL SHEW UNTO THEE THE JUDGMENT OF THE GREAT WHORE THAT SITTETH UPON MANY WATERS." This angel is going to have a conversation with John, on the Isle of Patmos, which is a very remote and isolated island. John is bound. He is in prison. This is more or less a prison epistle. John may be bound and isolated, but the Word of God is not bound and God is faithful in presenting the Word to John.

The "Great Whore" is the first title we have here for Babylon. And notice "sitteth upon many waters." "Waters" refers to nations, as per Revelation 13:1, "The beast that came out of the sea," the sea of people. The "Great Whore that sitteth upon many waters" IS A SYSTEM, the internationalism, the system which controls many nations. The title again indicates internationalism. THIS IS THE PRINCIPLE OF ONE PERSON CONTROLLING MANY. This is Satan's plan, and his one world ruler. And his ruler will be the Anti-Christ, trying to counterfeit the one-world rule of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Millennium.

Verse 2, "WITH WHOM THE KINGS OF THE EARTH HAVE COMMITTED FORNICATION, AND THE INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH HAVE BEEN MADE DRUNK WITH THE WINE OF HER FORNICATION." "Fornication" naturally is not literal fornication, **but they have given adherence to this international system, the "Great Whore," fornication.** Adultery and fornication also have a religious meaning. And, of course, since the Bible interprets the Bible, the context will always tell when it is literal or not. **Either adul-**

tery or idolatry or subservience to an international system is in view here.

David committed adultery and that was literal adultery. Here we don't have literal adultery or fornication, **but spiritual adultery and fornication, which in context here would be giving adherence to a satanic system, to become a part of a religion, a relationship with religion, or a cult or any false religious organization.**

"Kings, rulers commit fornication." **They have become intoxicated with her ideas, which in context is internationalism in religion.** They have so accepted this system, so enthusiastically, that **they have become intoxicated, drunk, with this false doctrine, intoxicated with it, overtaken by it.**

So here in the Tribulation we have "religious alcoholics." **They are dependent upon this religious system, which makes them slaves of this system.**

Verse 3, "SO HE CARRIED ME AWAY IN THE SPIRIT INTO THE WILDERNESS: AND I SAW A WOMAN SIT UPON A SCARLET COLORED BEAST, FULL OF NAMES OF BLASPHEMY, HAVING SEVEN HEADS AND TEN HORNS." "In the spirit" is God the Holy Spirit. "A woman," is a religious system. "Sitting upon a scarlet Beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns." This is literally full of names of many different blasphemies. **The woman is the religious internationalism. Seven heads and ten horns are the political internationalism.** We had seven heads and ten horns before this in Revelation 13, in connection with the Revived Roman Empire. **So political internationalism will be this Revived Roman Empire. And religious internationalism will be the religious organization that moves along with it.**

We notice something, or we should notice something here, that is contrary to the Word of God. In this particular situation the woman is sitting upon a scarlet colored Beast, and the beast is the political organization, and the woman is the religious organization. **The combination of the two is the un-**

ion of Church and State, which is always contrary to the Word of God. Whenever you find a nation that combines Church and State, then that nation is in real trouble. One of the great things about the structure of our country is that we have no national church as they do in Germany. No combination in our country of Church and State.

Some of the most decadent countries in the world today have this combination of Church and State, like Spain, France, and Italy. They are sorry nations because of it. And they have been this way for hundreds of years. Always this combination of Church and State existed with them. And we have one even closer to us, and that is Mexico.

"Woman" is the "Great Whore" of verse 1, religion. "Scarlet Beast" is political internationalism. Scarlet is a royal color, and here it shows his sovereignty, either one man, or one group controlling a vast empire. This is internationalism at its peak. **This organization is driven by satanic and demonic powers.**

SEVEN HEADS are the seven empires who have gone before and dominated Israel. The TEN HORNS are the ten nation confederacy of the Revived Roman Empire.

Verse 4, "AND THE WOMAN WAS ARRAYED IN PURPLE AND SCARLET COLOR, AND DECKED WITH GOLD AND PRECIOUS STONES AND PEARLS, HAVING A GOLDEN CUP IN HER HAND FULL OF ABOMINATIONS AND FILTHINESS OF HER FORNICATION." Rich apparel, precious stones, filthiness, fullness of evil.

Here we have two royal colors, purple and scarlet. "Golden cup" would be the false holy grail, i.e., communion, the "Chalice of Religion." This carries out the analogy of verse 2, the "Great Whore" full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication. Whore, fornication. So the analogy is fornication and drunkenness, verse 2.

In verse 4 she has a cup, which is full of false ideas, religious ideas. Now whether you know it or not, we have a lot of cups today,

practically every cult from Christian Science to Jehovah's Witnesses. We live in a day of "religious mixed drinks." So this is an atomic cocktail, or Satan's martini. Remember fornication is religion, so this is a religious cocktail. We have repetition of the analogy of fornication and drunkenness, stimulated with religious ideas, drunk, saturated with religion.

Verse 5, "And upon her forehead was a name written. MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT. THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." "Mystery Babylon the great." Mystery, because people, the Babylon of Genesis 10, do not understand the form it will take in the Tribulation. **Therefore the Babylon of the Tribulation is something that has been hidden but revealed for the first time in the Tribulation.** People do not understand that what Nimrod started way back thousands of years ago, that that would eventuate in a tremendous religious system. So the religious internationalism is a mystery.

A mystery is defined for us in Ephesians 3, Colossians 1, and Romans 16. It is something that was hidden to the Old Testament, but revealed in the New Testament. So this was hidden in the past. It is now revealed to believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a tremendous international movement that will exist in the Tribulation. "Mystery, Babylon the great," the system, not the city, the system of religious and political internationalism.

"The mother of harlots." This has to do again with the religious aspect. "Abominations of the Earth." This is the political aspect. So once again we have God's attitude toward religious and political internationalism in the Tribulation.

Revelation 17:5, "Mystery," "Babylon," "the great," "the mother of harlots." This chapter and the next one constitute an interlude of interpretation dealing with the "mystery of Babylon." It is represented under the figure of a woman upon whose forehead these revealing words are branded.

The first word "mystery." This suggests the subtlety and spiritual nature of that which

is in mind. "Babylon" stands for the whole system of organized Godlessness in the history of the human race. It emerged into manifested activity as Babel when men organized to defeat the purposes and plan of God. It is a spirit of evil. It is the mystery of lawlessness, which has been at work throughout every age. This is a part of the conflict of the ages. It has had countless manifestations, but its genius has been ever the same. It is declared as "THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS" which is in harmony with the unvarying method of Scripture, which ever refers to the departure of men from the true and only God to the worship of every form of idol.

Under this figure, this evil spirit, this mystery of iniquity, has been constantly garbed in the things of material splendor. "Arrayed in purple and scarlet and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls." **This has been the method by which it has deceived the minds of men, which is "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and pride the pattern of life."** But she is the "MOTHER OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." **All the things of vileness, of corruption, of cruelty, of tyranny, are her spawn.**

John, on the isle of Patmos, saw her "drunken with the blood of saints and with the blood of the martyrs of the Lord Jesus Christ." This is the evil thing against which God, through the Lamb, proceeds in wrath, "the wrath of the Lamb." Mystery, we have a revelation. "Mother" means origin, gave birth to. "Abominations" means all kinds of evils, religious.

Verse 6, "And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration." Now in this verse it says she is drunk too. This one phrase summarizes the tremendous martyrdom in the Tribulation. This is brought out in Revelation 13 and 14. **There the people are slain because they believe in Jesus Christ. And because they will not accept the mark of the Beast, which is a "card-carrying" internationalism identification.** The King James reads, "great admira-

tion,” but literally it is “astonishment.” John didn’t admire her. He was astonished, amazed. This is from the Greek word THAUMA.

Verse 7, “And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the Beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.” We are going to have the interpretation of the ecumenical religious system in verses 7-18. We have anticipated this woman, religious internationalism, and the beast, political internationalism. So once again we have the Bible teaching the Bible, or the Bible explains and expounds the Bible.

“Why do you marvel?” Last time it was translated “admired.” Translators are inconsistent, but the Lord isn’t.

Verse 8, “The Beast that thou sawest was, and is not: and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go in to perdition: and they that dwell on the Earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundations of the world, when they behold the Beast that was, and is not, and yet is.”

1. “The Beast that was,” That was the Roman Empire in John’s day.

2. “And is not.” This is the downfall of the Roman Empire in 476 A.D.

3. “And shall ascend out of the bottomless pit.” In the Tribulation, “out of the bottomless pit” means that **this religion is Satan and his demons.**

4. “Those on Earth shall wonder,” literally “be impressed.” But shall go into perdition at the Second Advent. These are unbelievers.

The love of this harlot is a feigned love. **And its hatefulness consists largely in the fact that it is put in the place of true love of a wife.** This is the principle of the wrong woman, or the strange woman. **The harlot’s aim is to secure favors for herself.** To that end she not only prostitutes whatever she may have of womanly charms, but she brings into play all manner of seductive arts, and

adorns her person with whatever may increase her attractions in the eyes of men.

But especially reprehensible is her pretended affection for those she seeks to ensnare in the web of her fascination and enchantments. Such is the false religion that feigns a deep solicitude for the spiritual good of the great one of this Earth, and exerts a mysterious and intoxicating influence over the inhabitants of the Earth, making them, as it were, drunk with the wine of her fornication. **She is the religion that conceals the basest of motives behind the mask of pretended affection and fondness.** This is the chief figure, according to the figures here used, of the guilt of which this woman is about to be judged.

It is no wonder that John is amazed. “Why do you marvel?” Wonder? Astonished? Or are amazed? This is the question asked by the angel. And the very form of it shows that the character of the religious organization is so clearly understood to be basically satanic that no one should be deceived for a moment by the fact that the outward resemblances of religion have been retained.

The messenger then announces to John that he is to learn the secret of this woman and of the Beast which carries her, this Beast with the seven heads and the ten horns. **The wild Beast is the personification of imperial power.** Rome had its great rise and then its fall. For centuries it was. Then for centuries it has not been. But it is to rise again. **The revival of the Roman Empire is the climax of Satan’s power on Earth. When it rises, it rises out of the abyss, that prison house of the demons.**

This is also declared in Revelation 9:1, 2, 11, “And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the Earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace: and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.” “And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the

Greek tongue hath this name Apollyon.”
Revelation 11:7, “And when they shall have finished their testimony, the Beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.”

And in Revelation 20:1-3 as the prison of Satan during the thousand year reign of Christ on Earth. “And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed for a little season.”

We are not to look, therefore, for the mere revival of earthly power in a sphere that once was great and then eclipsed. There have been many such revivals. The power of Germany under what was known as the Holy Roman Empire fell into nothingness and has now risen during the past decades. The power of France which was great under Charlemagne, fell and was revived unto Louis the fourteenth, and fell again in the revolution, and rose and fell again.

This passage of Scripture is not leading us to contemplation of any such natural phenomenon, but here is a rise of a power, once great and then low, which rises to preeminent heights, **but rises by the power of Satan.** This is clearly understood when we remember all that has been written on the incarnation of Satan in the Anti-Christ in Revelation 13:2. “And the Beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”

The rise of imperial power is to have much of the supernatural about it. Most clearly it will be beyond any human possibilities of greatness. The world will recognize that it is not human. **Unfortunately the world has accepted the Devil’s subterfuge**

that he does not exist. Therefore, the world has come to look upon everything that is more than human as being truly from God.

The believer in the Lord Jesus Christ should always suspect everything that is more than human as being demoniacal. We are not ignorant of his devices. So when the world sees this supernatural power tumble suddenly into perdition, the world will be amazed, impressed. It will have the idea of Divinity so firmly fixed in its mind that it will be difficult to rout up that idea and to plant in its place the Truth. Thus, the unsaved wonder at the fall of Satan’s power, while those whose names are written in the book of life, from the foundation of the world are not astonished at the turn of events. **Everyone is in the book of life, and you get out by choice. Rejection of Christ removes you from the book of life.**

The believers have true understanding. **So the believer who knows the Word is wise, and makes application of the Word to his experience.** Revelation 17:9, “And here is the mind of wisdom. The seven heads are the seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.” In verse 8 the unbeliever does not understand this. In verse 9 **the believer can understand this by wisdom, which is the application of the Word of God to his experience. The seven heads are the seven nations that have or will dominate the Jews.** Mountains are nations. They are Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Media-Persia, Graeco-Macedonia and Rome.

1. The five which are fallen in John’s day: Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Media-Persia, and Graeco-Macedonia.

2. The “one which was” is the Roman Empire, which fell in 476 A.D.

3. The “one which is yet to come” is the Revived Roman Empire.

4. The one which was the eighth was the Beast who rises out of the Roman Empire and contaminates it.

5. The ten horns are the ten nations of the Beast.

In verse 14 this verse shows us that **Ecumenical religion is warring against Christ as the Lamb of God.** "Waters" are the people and nations under Ecumenical religion.

6. The fall of Ecumenical religion is in verse 17. The ten nation confederation turns against the religious part of the Roman Empire. Verse 9 should be divided into two parts, for the last half is clearly belonging with the following verse.

So we have in verse 8 the unbelievers and in verse 9, believers, wise. There is a double identification of the Beast under different symbols. First of all there is the statement that the seven heads of verse 9 are seven mountains upon which the woman sits. Virgil, Horace, Ovid, Cicero and a host of lesser writers of ancient times have spoken of Rome as being the city of seven hills. Here is that the ecclesiastical Rome governing power has its throne.

All of this gives us a clear picture of **the ecclesiastical Rome governing by means of her place in Rome over the political power of Rome.** The imperial and ecclesiastical Rome were like two thieves, helping each other over a wall, the one aids the other to rise and in turn is pulled up by the first to scale the height.

The figure is now changed and our attention is called to "seven kings." Verse 10, "And there are seven kings, five are fallen, and one is, the other is not yet come and when he cometh, he must continue a short space." Five fallen: Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Media-Persia, Graeco-Macedonia. One is, the Roman Empire which fell in 476 A.D. One which cometh is the Revived Roman Empire. **So the seven heads of the Beast are also to be look at as seven kings.**

Verse 9, wisdom. Verse 10, explanation.

A mountain in Scripture is the symbol of government. Jeremiah 51:25, "Behold, I am against thee, O destroying mountain, saith the Lord, which destroyest all the Earth: and I will stretch out Mine hand upon thee, and roll

thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a burnt mountain."

Throughout the centuries the satanic power that has ever arrayed in government against God has been the same. Six various forms had appeared by the time John wrote. And a seventh is announced to endure for a short space. This is, of course, the Revived Roman Empire.

Verse 11 introduces some of the details of that last Roman Empire revived. Verse 11, "And the Beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition." This is the Beast out of the Roman Empire who dominates it. Now we must remember the thirteenth chapter for clarity. There we see the power rising out of the nations which was the last dictator who would arise with Rome, and to him Satan appears and to him the satanic rule is committed. The dragon endues him with power, his throne and his authority. Revelation 13:3, "And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed; and all the world wondered after the Beast."

If we look upon the Roman dictator as being the seventh, he becomes the eighth, not "the eighth who is out of the seventh," since Satan is the cause of all the others. And he now comes to his judgment, going down to perdition. The details of this are given in the last few verses in Revelation 19.

Verse 12, "And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the Beast." We have seen previously that a "horn" represents power, rule, government. Here it is definitely stated that the ten horns are ten kings, which had not, in John's time, nor in ours, received their power. They are to receive power and to reign for "one hour" with the Anti-Christ.

All of this can be understood in the light of Daniel's prophecies. **It is strongly indicated in Scripture that the Revived Roman Empire shall rise in the form of ten kingdoms.** The image seen in Nebuchadnezzar's

dream had feet of iron and clay. And the ten toes are said to be ten kings. Daniel 2:34, "Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces." It is definitely stated that they are ruling at the time the Lord destroys the power of the Anti-Christ. Daniel 7. The Beast, the ten are seen as ten horns, even as in our passage in Revelation. Putting these passages together, we judge that in the time of the end, ten kings will dominate in the area of the Revived Roman Empire. Out of one of these kingdoms shall rise a king who will come to control that kingdom. It would appear that this is the king who then becomes the head of the ten kings, the Anti-Christ.

Verse 13, "These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the Beast." This almost indicates that they invite him to be their head. But his hour will be short. **He will reign for three and one-half years.**

The examination of the history of the Roman Empire from its founding in 753 B.C. and onward shows that there are five distinctive types of administration that have come and passed on. At one time they had a king. At another time they had the plebeian form of government. Next the republic. And after that, the consular form of government, followed by the triumvirant. There was one, the imperial form of government, in existence in John's day. There is yet another, one other form that will rise in the end time. When it comes, the world kingdom will include every nation, every tribe, every tongue, and every language. Then it will collapse, falling into ten divisions, as indicated by the ten horns of the Beast. The ten horns are contemporaneous and are on the Beast in its final form during the Tribulation.

In Revelation 13 we read that the Beast receives a death stroke from which he recovers. In Revelation 17 the Anti-Christ, in the middle of the Tribulation, will be slain, literally, and his spirit will descend to Sheol, or Hades. Then he will come back out of Ha-

des, being raised by Satan. From that time on during the latter half of the Tribulation, he will rule the world with an iron hand. He is at the head of the Empire when it has its seventh head, which is imperialism, dictatorship, caesarism. But when he is slain and comes back to life, he will be of the seven and yet he will be an eighth one.

Satan will deliver over to the Anti-Christ his throne and power, then the Anti-Christ will hold high carnival. **But not as far as God is concerned.**

Verse 14, "These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for He is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful." Here is the world Ecumenical religion warring against the Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ. There can only be one answer to this. Revelation 19 is in view, where the battle of Armageddon is fought and where the Lord comes forth from heaven to make war on the nations.

Notice it says, "Make war with the Lamb." This is our sacrificial Lamb, the Saviour of the world. "And the Lamb shall overcome them. He is King of kings and Lord of lords." **Here's the combination and uniqueness of the Lamb which is the God-man. Equal with man, equal with God, the ONLY MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MAN, the man Christ Jesus.**

Verse 12, the ten horns, ten kings, the ten nations of the Beast. Here is power. Here is government. Here is rule. And they receive power one hour with the Beast, the Anti-Christ.

Verse 13, "And these have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the Beast." This indicates that they either elect or invite him to be their head, their ruler, their authority, but his hour is short. He will only reign for three and one-half years.

Verse 14, "And these shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for He is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful."

So here is the Ecumenical world religion of the Tribulation warring against Jesus Christ, the "Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." "Lamb" refers to His humanity. **The Lamb is a habitual sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, past, present and future. This term, "Lamb," means the Saviour of the world. "And the Lamb shall overcome them." **The Lamb wins! TRUTH ALWAYS TRIUMPHS.****

"They that are with Him." Contrasted to verses 12, 13 and 14, those who are against Him. **There is a spiritual conflict.** Literally, the ones with Him. This is from the Greek word META, which is "associated with Him." So this host is composed of those who have been invited, and have responded to the invitation and are appointed, anointed, and/or placed in Him. "Faithful" is PISTIS, and **these are the believers in Christ, trusting in the promises and the provisions of God.**

So Ecumenical religion is seen here as warring and it is warring against the Lamb of God and those who are with Him. These are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, in union with Christ, and accepted in the Beloved. **Christ is the only one who is elected or chosen and we are elected in Him at the point of our faith in Him as Saviour.**

Isaiah 42:1, 2, "Behold My Servant, whom I uphold, Mine Elect, in whom My soul delighteth; I have put My Spirit upon Him: He shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street."

1 Peter 2:4, "To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed of men, but CHOSEN OF GOD, AND PRECIOUS."

1 Peter 2:6, "Wherefore also it is contained in the Scripture, Behold, I lay in ZION A CHIEF CORNER STONE, ELECT, PRECIOUS: and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded."

1 Peter 2:5, "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 2:9, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people."

This host, the Lord's host, are composed of those who are called, invited, chosen and elected in Christ at the point of their faith in Christ as their own personal Saviour.

Verse 15, "And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." "Waters" are people and nations under the Ecumenical religion.

So we can see here that you must make a biblical distinction between religion and Christianity. Religion always wars against Christ, AND RELIGION ALWAYS LOSES. There is always religious antagonism to Christ. **There is always the principle of the works of religion persecuting the GRACE of Christianity.** The child of the bond woman always persecutes the child of the free woman.

So verse 15 is one that is self-explanatory. And it actually needs no comment. Here once again we have the gracious principle where the Bible interprets the Bible. Here we have God the Holy Spirit's interpretation and His significance of "the waters."

They are also used this way in Psalm 124:1-8. "If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, now may Israel say; If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when men rose up against us: Then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us: Then the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had gone over our soul: Then the proud waters had gone over our souls. Blessed be the Lord, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth. Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped. OUR HELP IS IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, WHO MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH."

Israel, in context, is the nation of destiny and **God will not allow Satan and all of his hosts to overpower and to overcome the remnant of Israel.** The same principle ex-

isted before between Balak and Baalim. **God still has a purpose and a plan for the nation of Israel.** The waters, therefore, are the symbolic state of confusion and commotion of nations and peoples and races (unstable as water).

Now this woman, whore, is represented not only as seated on these waters, but she is seated upon the Beast of the end time. This Beast is the symbol of the world empire, an ecclesiasticism. **Babylon the harlot will be supported by the civil government.** It will be so closely connected with the civil power and with the capital of the world that its downfall is mentioned in terms of the city of Babylon.

Verse 16, “And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the Beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.” This verse announces the war to the death of which the next chapter will furnish the details. **The political civil power carries the religious power, but at a given moment will turn and rend her.** To return to an earlier illustration, we have two thieves helping each other over the wall, but when they are both on top, the political power destroys the religious power.

Before that final overthrow of the world power in the hands of men, the TEN KINGS WILL COMPLETELY CHANGE THEIR MIND TOWARDS THIS GREAT HARLOT. **They are fickle. They are unstable. Their former fondness for her will be turned to extreme enmity.** The honeymoon is over. For they will hate her. And they will make her desolate and naked and eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

Her end will be exactly like that of Jezebel, who typifies her, both in life and in death. Jezebel is a foreshadowment of the great harlot of the Tribulation. This is found in 2

Kings 9:30-37. The fate of Jezebel was prophesied in 1 Kings 21:23. “And of Jezebel also spake the Lord, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezereel.”

Now the terrible end of the harlot of the Tribulation. This enchantress will appear to proceed from natural causes. It will seem as if the ten kings were simply accomplishing their own minds, and were turned against this monstrous system of duplicity and covetousness by some more than usual arrogant assumption of authority, or usurpation of power. But the Word of God says differently. Verse 17, “For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill His will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the Beast, UNTIL THE WORDS OF GOD SHALL BE FULFILLED.” **There is a permissive will of God, and a directive will of God, and an overruling will of God.**

So the ten nation confederation turns against the religious part of the Revived Roman Empire, the political part. Here in this verse it is given to us to know that God's hand will be the active agent. This is a reference to God's sovereignty. **God will put it in their minds to fulfill His will. This would then be God's overruling will.** He has done this many times in history, where He causes them confusion within. This is where He confounds the enemies, i.e., the Assyrians.

Verse 18, “And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the Earth.” So God's directive will says that “He is not willing that any should perish.” **But in His permissive will, people do perish, because He allows the free will of man to reject Him. But in His overruling will He intercedes on behalf of man, so that the world can still be evangelized.**

Buddy Dano, Pastor

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