**Revelation Chapter 17-18, MYSTERY BABYLON,**

**The Tale of Two Cities and the Tale of Two Women**

1. **Read Genesis 10:8-11. Discuss Nimrod (“let us revolt”). What does his name mean? “We shall rebel, the first world dictator. ”Earliest form of Paganism originated on plain of Shinar with Nimrod. Great grandson of Noah, grandson of Ham.** First, what does the name Nimrod mean? It comes from the Hebrew verb marad, meaning “rebel.” Adding an “n” before the “m” it becomes an infinitive construct, “Nimrod.” (see Kautzsch 1910: 137 2b, also BDB 1962: 597). The meaning then is “The Rebel.” Thus “Nimrod” may not be the character's name at all. It is more likely a derisive term of a type, a representative, of a system that is epitomized in rebellion against the Creator, the one true [God](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/god.html). Rebellion began soon after the [Flood](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/deluge.html) as civilizations were restored. At that time this person became very prominent**. Moon and star worship—Babylonian worship.**
2. **Understand who Semiramis, Nimrod’s wife, is. Who is her son? Why are Nimrod and Semiramis important to this study of ancient Babylon? She was known as Ishtar in Assyria, Ashtoreth in Phoenicia, Isis in Egypt, Aphrodite in Greece, Venus in Rome, and the Latin language. Tammuz, her son, has been called Cupid, Osiris, Horus, and he was “miraculously conceived” after Nimrod died. Horus was killed by a wild boar, and his mother, Semiramis, called for a 40 day “fast” for his memory (modern day Lent), and it ended by giving decorated eggs—“Ishtar Eggs,” a take on “Easter Eggs.” She was worshipped by offering her wafers/ small cakes. Read Jeremiah 44:4, 9, 15-17, 19, 23. Verses 17, 19, and 23 mention the “Queen of Heaven.”**
3. **Read Ezekiel 8:5-6, 10-12, 13-14. Tammuz is worshiped in vs. 13-14.**
4. **How does ““Semiramis” and “Nimrod” Worship” infiltrate today’s churches? Read Revelation 17:5. Two god/goddesses: Nimrod and Semiramis (she was Nimrod’s wife and mother), in Egypt—Osiris and Isis, in Assyria—Assur and Ishtar, in Babylon, Bel and Belit, in Persia—Mithras and Anahita, in Greece—Helios and Artemis, In Rome—Apollo and Diana. In the Bible—Baal and Ashtoreth, the Queen of Heaven----acts 7:43, Moloch and Repham. Acts 19:34, (Diana) -- Revelation 17:5—MOTHER OF HARLOTS…..Ishtar Egg—Easter egg…5th trumpet in Revelation—releases demonic spirits on the earth.**
5. **Consider ancient Babylon and the importance of the Tower of Babel. Read Genesis 11:1-9.** “Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. 2And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. 3Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake *them* thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. 4And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *is* in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”5But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. 6And the Lord said, “Indeed the people *are* one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. 7Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.” 8So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. 9Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.” **Babylon is the capital of ancient Babylonia, sited on the Euphrates River in modern Iraq. It was known for its opulence, and the Hanging gardens there were one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient World…known as a place or immorality, exile, and hell. After the “Mystery Religion” moved from Babylon, then to Pergamos, then to Rome in 133 B.C., which united the Babylonian-mystic religion with Rome.**
6. **The last world dictator will also be an Assyrian, as was Nimrod. Read Micah 5:5-6. Thoughts? “**And this *One* shall be peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land, And when he treads in our palaces, Then we will raise against him, Seven shepherds and eight princely men.6They shall waste with the sword the land of Assyria, And the land of Nimrod at its entrances; Thus He shall deliver *us* from the Assyrian, When he comes into our land. And when he treads within our borders.” **And Isaiah 10:5. “Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger, And the staff in whose hand I My indignation; I will send him against an ungodly nation.”**
7. **What is “Spiritual Babylon?” The Woman of Rev.17 is s RELIGIOUS SYSTEM and the hands of the antichrist and the ten kings. Read Isaiah 47. Do we see “Spiritual Babylon,” or “The One World Church,” evident in the image of the whore of Revelation 17?** [Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Isaiah-47-1/)2 [Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Isaiah-47-2/)3 [Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet thee as a man.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Isaiah-47-3/)4 [As for our redeemer, the LORD of hosts is his name, the Holy One of Israel.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Isaiah-47-4/)5 [Sit thou silent, and get thee into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called, the lady of kingdoms.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Isaiah-47-5/)6 [I was wroth with my people, I have polluted mine inheritance, and given them into thine hand: thou didst shew them no mercy; upon the ancient hast thou very heavily laid thy yoke.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Isaiah-47-6/)7 [And thou saidst, **I shall be a lady for ever**: so that thou didst not lay these things to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of it.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Isaiah-47-7/)8 [Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; **I shall not sit as a widow, neithe**r shall I know the loss of children:](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Isaiah-47-8/)9 [But these two things **shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood**: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Isaiah-47-9/)10 [For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, none seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Isaiah-47-10/)11 [Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, which thou shalt not know.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Isaiah-47-11/)12 [Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Isaiah-47-12/)13 [Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Isaiah-47-13/)14 [Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Isaiah-47-14/)15 [Thus shall they be unto thee with whom thou hast laboured, even thy merchants, from thy youth: they shall wander everyone to his quarter; none shall save thee.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Isaiah-47-15/)” **All forms of occultic practices have had their origins in the original city of Babylon. Tammuz, the son of Nimrod and his queen Semiramis, was identified with the Babylonian Sun god who was thought to die at the Winter Solstice; who then gets reborn. The winter solstice is December 22-23. Semiramis was the earlier name for “Thyatira.” They celebrated the death of the sun god by burning a Yule log (which represented an infant) and the next morning having a “trimmed tree” in its place, that celebrated the rebirth of the Moon god. Those pagan practices, after Constantine made Christianity national, were then adapted for Christianity. The mixing of ancient pagan practices with early Christianity was fostered by Constantine. When Babylon was conquered by subsequent empires, the entire religious system was transplanted, first to Pergamos (Revelation 2:12-17) and then to Rome. The calendar year end for the ancients was October 31, which led to occultic rituals, Halloween. Perhaps there was a near pass-by by the planet Mars on that altered the orbit of earth around Oct.31; Baal’s other name was Mars.**
8. **The Book of Revelation could be labeled, “The Study of Two Women.” Consider the pregnant woman of Chapter 12, with the sun, moon and stars and the harlot/whore of Chapter 17. Compare and contrast these two. Read Revelation 12:1-3. Israel is the chap. 12 woman, is in heaven, mother of a man child, clothed with the sun, identify tied up with the sun, moon and stars, has dragon as an enemy, hated by the world, sustained by the wings of heaven, had a crown of 12 stars, status was a widow and divorced, final location in the New Jerusalem. Chapter 17—contrast—riding the beast (the final world system, chapter 13)—not in heaven, but upon many waters, mother of harlots, clothed with purple and scarlet, reigns over the kings of the earth and rides the beast, enemy is the ten kings, woman is caressed by the world, Israel is hated by the world, sustained by the dragon, headdress says “Mystery Babylon the Great,” boasts she is no widow, location is in the habitation of demons. The tale of two cities—Babylon (Rome) and Jerusalem (The New Jerusalem)**
9. **Isaiah 21:1-17, written six centuries before Jesus, Judgment on Babylon. Ch. 17, religious system,—happens around the mid-pt of tribulation, right before the antichrist sets himself up in the holy of holies.Ch.18—Fall of the city, political system, happens near the end of Tribulation. Important info—Worship of Mary—381 A.D., Easter is the word “Ishtar,” another name of Semiramis, the sign of the cross, was first a “T” for Tammuz**

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| **Rev. 12 Woman--Israel** | **Rev. 17 Whore/Harlot—MYSTERY BABYLON** |
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1. **The “beast” in Revelation was called by many names. Discuss. Read 2 Thess. 2:3,** “Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;”**The Apostle Paul called him, “The Man of Sin,” John called him the “antichrist,”**
**2 John 1:7, I John 2:8, I John 2:22,** [**1 John 4:3**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-John-4-3/)**,** – “And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that [spirit] of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.”**Daniel called him “The Little Horn,” Daniel 8:9, “**And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant *land*.” **and Zechariah called him “The Idle Shepherd” and Zechariah 11:17. “Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened.”**
2. **Is the Satanic Beast System the Roman Catholic Church? Discuss. In prophetic scriptures, a “Woman” is always representing a religious or theocratic system.**
3. **The Bible highlights two cities: the city of Man, Babylon, and the city of God, Jerusalem. How are they different?**
4. **Babylon is mentioned over 300 times in the Bible. Why? Nimrod, a great grandson of Noah, and his mother and wife, Semiramis, also known as Ishtar and Isis. Nimrod, known in Egypt as Osiris, was the founder of the first world empire at Babel, later known as Babylon (****[Genesis 10:8-12](http://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/bible.show/sVerseID/243/eVerseID/247);** **[11:1-9](http://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/bible.show/sVerseID/268/eVerseID/276)). From ancient sources such as the "Epic of Gilgamesh" and records unearthed by archeologists from long-ruined Mesopotamian and Egyptian cities, we can reconstruct subsequent events. After Nimrod's death (c. 2167 BC),**
	1. **Discuss the link of Babylon with Christ’s genealogy. Read Matthew 1:17. “**So all the generations from Abraham to David *are* fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon *are* fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ *are* fourteen generations.”
	2. **Babylon is the capital of the first world dictator. Draw similarities between the first “Babel” empire and the final Babylon we view in Revelation.**

**Chapter 17—The Great Whore**

**A woman rides the beast, an intro to Revelation 17**

**……Daniel saw it over five hundred years before Jesus, and it was so upsetting that he fainted to the ground in horror. John saw it previous to Revelation 17 and was detailed and careful in his description of it. But, this time, this sighting in the seventeenth chapter of the Apocalypse, finds John “amazed!””** And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement”.  **After all, this time was different…..this time, the “beast” that he and Daniel had viewed had a flashy, garish rider, a brash, gaudy, bejeweled, decked-out, extravagantly exotic woman, a whore, a harlot, nonetheless! And, what’s worse, what’s sooo disturbing, what’s soooo unbelievable is that John realizes, as Daniel must have centuries before, that the unthinkable has happened. The church, the body that started out so beautifully dedicated to Jesus in John’s first century, has been tragically corrupted to the point of non-recognition, has become sullied with the sins of the world, and has succumbed to the ancient lies that have soiled its very being. And, this flashy woman’s drunkenness, her ungodly blood-thirstiness, and her unforgivable blasphemy have branded her tawdry tastlessness and driven the Apostle John beyond understanding and comprehension. How could the church, the religious representation of faith on earth. have fallen so far? How, indeed?**

**Vs.1-3, Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, 2with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.” 3So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast *which was* full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.”**

**Things to note in Chapter 17: The whore is not the beast, but rides him. She initially exploits the beast, but is eventually destroyed by him in Rev. 17:16-17. The reference to the golden cup has another link with Jeremiah 51:7, “**Babylon *hath been* a golden cup in the LORD'S hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad**.”Mystery Babylon, as a false religious system, has been identified with the city of Rome from the early centuries until present day.**

1. **What are the attributes of this woman in Revelation 17?**
	1. **She rides the Beast with 7 Heads and 10 Horns. The beast is seen in Daniel 7 and Revelation 13, beast is a political system and the leader of that system**
	2. **She sits on Many Waters, vs. 1**
		1. **What are the “many waters?” Read Rev. 17:15. Discuss. Peoples, nations and tongues---world wide influence**
	3. **She has committed fornication with the inhabitants of the earth, vs. 2 “To Show” is used 8 times in Revelation**
		1. **Review the story of Belshazzar in Daniel 5—supreme pontificate that which is devoted to God and pervert it to a false god. Harlotry is a form of false devotion.**
		2. **Mary has taken on the persona of “Queen of Heaven,” not unlike Semiramis, the Babylonian Queen of Heaven, the mother and child Nimrod reincarnate, co-redeemer**

**Verse 4-5, “The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. 5And on her forehead a name *was* written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**

* 1. **She is arrayed in scarlet and purple, vs. 4. Read Psalm 22 and Isaiah 1:18, Exodus 26:1, 2 Chronicles 3:14.** "Moreover you shall make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine woven linen and blue, purple, and scarlet thread; with artistic designs of cherubim you shall weave them." Exodus 26:1"...he made the veil of blue, purple, crimson, and fine linen, and wove cherubim into it." 2Chron 3:14Each color in the Tabernacle construction had a meaning of its own and both crimson and scarlet are associated with sin. For example God says to His people Israel through the prophet Isaiah 1:18,**"Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet,** they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isa 1:18**. The insect ‘coccus ilicis’ is related to the cochineal insect--JESUS SAYS HE IS A WORM, Psalm 22:6—“But I am a worm, and no man, a reproach of man, and despised of people,”** and found on the twigs and branches of evergreen oaks in Southern Europe and North Africa. They belong to the family of insects known as Coccidae or Scale-insects. When the female of the species is ready to lay eggs, she attaches her body firmly to the tree. The eggs are laid beneath her body and following the egg laying the insect dies. Thus the eggs are protected by the insects’ body until the larvae are hatched. It was from the dead bodies of these insects that the scarlet dyes used in ancient times were extracted.
	2. **She is decked with gold, precious stones and pearls, vs. 4**
	3. **What does “mystery” mean in the Bible? Read 2 Thessalonians 2:7, Romans 11:25, I Cor. 15:51. Mystery until it is revealed, opposite of the “Mystery of the Church” that Paul revealed. So, this false religion is now being revealed. 2** Thessalonians 2:7, "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way." Romans 11:25, where Paul writes, "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery. I Corinthians 15:51 says, "Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed."
	4. **She has a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness; vs. 4. What does that imply?…this is dealing with blasphemy, any attempt to change with what God has done.**
		1. **Read Isaiah 28:15, “Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell….for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves.”**
		2. **In 1825 A.D., Pope Leo issued a medal/coin which actually showed the Roman Catholic Church as a woman offering a cup to the world, with the inscription, “She presides over the whole universe.”**
		3. **Read Exodus 20:4-5, “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above…thou shall not bow down thyself to them.”**
		4. **What is the reference in Jeremiah 51:7? “Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD'S hand, that made all the earth drunken : the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.”**
	5. **She has a name written upon her head, MYSTERY, BABYLON, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH, vs. 5. Consider this implication.**
		1. **What does “forehead” mean in the Bible? Look-up: Deuteronomy 11:18-19—bind the laws on your forehead, I Samuel 17:49—David kills Goliath, Exodus 13:16—a sign that God brought the Jews out of Egypt, Revelation 7—the sealing of the 144,000. Speculate the importance of the whore/harlot being marked with a seal on her forehead.**
		2. **Read 2 Thessalonians 2:7, “For the mystery of iniquity doth already work.” What mystery?**
		3. **The Babylonian system offered an “unbloody sacrifice” as part of the rituals. The Catholic Eucharist is said to be an “unbloody sacrifice.” Read Hebrews 9:22, “…without the shedding of blood is no remission.”**
		4. **The Catholic wafer in communion is stamped with “I H S” which really stands for “Isis, Horus, and Seb”—the ancient trinity of Babylon and Egypt. In their ancient ceremonies, they offered on the altars of Baal, they offered up little cakes to the Queen of Heaven. Read Jeremiah16:18, “**And first I will recompense their iniquity and their sin double; because they have defiled my land, they have filled mine inheritance with the carcasses of their detestable and abominable things.**” who condemned the women of Israel for doing this practice. And, Revelation 18:6,** “Give back to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done. Pour her a double portion from her own cup.”
		5. **She was drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus, vs. 6. What does that mean? The Roman Catholic Church has murdered more Christians than any other organization. One pope, one afternoon murdered more Christians than all the Roman empowers put together. What does that mean?**
		6. **Why is John amazed? Awe, astonishment, awareness. Here, he beholds a church who says that she says she is of Christ…50,000,000 martyrs of Christ…..Spanish Inquisition, St. Bartholomew’s Eve, France, massacre by Gregory XIII, In 1929, Roman became a city-state, when the Lateran Treaty was signed by Mussolini, and the Vatican City was established as a city-state.**
		7. **The Pope, Pius XII was making agreement with Adolf Hitler, 1933. Why? How does this affect today’s church?**
		8. **Who is the beast with 7 heads and 10 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.”**

**6-7, “I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.7But 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.”**

* 1. **Read Revelation 17:8. Who is this beast/political system? Defend your answer. The political system or empire existed at one time, then disappeared, and now has reemerged….the revived Roman Empire. The time of John, the Roman Empire. Daniel 2…..beast.**

**9“Here *is* the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. 10There 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. 11The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.”**

* 1. **What does wisdom mean here? Mountains can also mean continents—we have seven continents.**
	2. **What are the seven heads?**
	3. **What are mountains in prophecy? Read Daniel 4. A government**
	4. **What do “Kings” mean? Could be kings or kingdoms**
	5. **Describe the kings.**
	6. **What were Satan’s seven “super kingdoms?” Read Revelation 12:3. The red dragon is behind all of these kingdoms……Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia (Medes), Greece, Rome I, Rome II (has the 10 horns, according to Daniel 2 and 7 and Revelation 17:2) . At the time that John is writing, the first five have fallen, Rome is, and Rome II was to come.**
	7. **In verse 11, describe the beast. In Daniel 7 and 8 a “little horn” sprouts up, the 11th horn. He plucks up 3, and so there are 8 left. Revelation 13 introduces the antichrist. He comes out of the seven kingdoms, and the only kingdom which has not re-emerged, Assyria. Micah 5, Isaiah 10—Assyria.**

**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. 13These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. 14These 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.”**

* 1. **Who are these ten kings/kingdoms? We haven’t seen them yet.**
	2. **What does “one hour” mean? Specific period of time. If one day = one thousand years. Then, one hour equals 41 ½ years. Depending on when the Rapture is, 41 years ago, Dr. Mary Dale wrote an article in a Catholic Journal, “The Second Sex,” whereby it is pointed out the futility of women in the clergy….after that, things changed. In 1978, Pope John Paul I dies after 33 days, probably murdered because of his intent to “clean house” in the Vatican.**
	3. **Why do they make war with the lamb? Reference the Battle of Armageddon.**
	4. **Describe the lamb. Describe His followers.**

**15Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. 16And 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.”**

* 1. **What are the waters? Unrest of peoples.**
	2. **Who are the peoples?**
	3. **What are the ten horns?**
	4. **What do they do to the harlot? In Rev. 2:21, compare to Jezebel.**

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

* 1. **Why would God put this in their hearts? Compare with the troubling spirit God sent to King Saul.**
	2. **When will the words of God be fulfilled?**
1. **The Woman is the great city, according to verse 18. Why does “is” confirm that the great city must be Rome? Explain. It was the current city in the time of John.**
2. **Review and discuss the clues as to the identity of “Mystery of Babylon?”**
	1. **A prostitute, promiscuous and unfaithful**
	2. **Has universal influence, all over the world**
	3. **She is seated upon, steers, and dominates the beast**
	4. **Arrayed with purple, scarlet, gold and jewels**
	5. **Gold cup is precious, but it is a counterfeit as it is filled with abominable things**
	6. **Linked with the Babylon of Nimrod, Rev. 11L8**
	7. **Mother of prostitutes, with spiritual offspring and is not alone**
	8. **Prosecutor of Christians, revels in their blood**
	9. **City on Seven Hill, Rome is built on seven hills**
	10. **The Great City that rules over the kings of the earth in John’s day.**
3. **Things to watch for….Read Revelation 19:3, “**And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up forever and ever.” **THE ONLY TIME “ALLEUIAH” APPEARS IN THE N. T. IS WHEN BABYLON IS DESTROYED.**

**Chapter 18—Babylon the Great (City)**

“**After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. 2And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!**

1. **What does the double reference, “Is fallen, is fallen” imply? Read Genesis 41:32, 32And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice because the thing *is* established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass. Joseph explained this concept to the Pharaoh when he explained his dream.**
2. **Explain Babylon’s habitation, according to verse 2.**
3. **Why the use of the words “unclean and hated bird?” Read Matthew13: 3-4, 18-19, the parables of Christ. “3Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: “Behold, a sower went out to sow 4And as he sowed, some *seed* fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them.…. 18“Therefore hear the parable of the sower: 19When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it,* then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart..the ministers of Satan, the wicked one is the birds. This is the e principle of “expositional constancy,” where the Holy Spirit tends to use the same idioms over and over again.**

**3For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.4And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. 5For her sins have reached[**[**b**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+18&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30999b)**] to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.**

1. **Describe the “wine of the wrath of her fornication.” Refer to Revelation 14:10, Jeremiah 25:15, and Isaiah 51:12.**

 **6Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. 7In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, ‘I sit *as* queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.’**

1. **Explain the “doubles” all through here.**
2. **Define “queen, no widow, and no sorrow.”**
3. **Read Jeremiah 3: 6-8 “**The Lord said also to me in the days of Josiah the king: “Have you seen what backsliding Israel has done? She has gone up on every high mountain and under every green tree, and there played the harlot. 7And I said, after she had done all these *things,* ‘Return to Me.’ But she did not return. And her treacherous sister Judah saw it. 8Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a **certificate of divorce**; **and Jeremiah 3:14**. “Return, O backsliding children,” says the Lord; “**for I am married to you**. I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion**.”**
4. **Contrast Israel in Revelation 12:1-5 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. 2Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.3And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. 4His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. 5She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. 6Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.” with the harlot’s words, “I sit as a queen, and am no widow.” Are these two women diabolically opposed?**
5. **Is this a direct contrast to Israel’s description?**
6. **What does the Bible say in contrast to the Whore’s declaration in verse 8? Read
Isaiah 47:9.** **“Both of these will overtake you in a moment, on a single day: loss of children and widowhood. They will come upon you in full measure, in spite of your many sorceries and all your potent spells.”**

**8Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong *is* the Lord God who judges her.”**

1. **Describe the three plagues that will find Babylon. Death, mourning and famine.**
2. **Why “fire” in verse 8?**

**9“The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, 10standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’**

1. **How do the kings of the earth react to Babylon’s demise? Lament and mourn**
2. **What does one hour represent?**

**11“And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: 12merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; 13and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men. 14The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all**.”

1. **Who are the second group of people that mourn the loss of Babylon? The merchants of the earth. This is a commercial issue.**
2. **List the goods that are affected by this destruction. Gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fine linen, purple, silk, scarlet, citron wood, ivory, precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble, cinnamon, incense, fragrant oil, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle, sheep, horses, chariots, bodies and souls. 28 goods. Why did God detail these? God wants to emphasize that this is a literal place, who engages in commerce.**

**15The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, 16and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! 17For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.”**

1. **Describe the merchants’ reaction to the destruction of Babylon? Why the reference to one hour again?**

**“ Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance 18and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What *is* like this great city?’**

1. **Describe the third group of “onlookers” who are be-moaning the destruction of Babylon.**
2. **Why are these “viewers” standing “afar off?”**
3. **Why did the Holy Spirit pick the three specific groups of gazers of Babylon’s destruction?**

**19“They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.’20“Rejoice over her, O heaven, and *you* holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!”**

1. **Discuss Verse 20, the only place in Revelation where God commands you to rejoice. Compare and contrast this to the world rejoicing when the two witnesses were killed in Revelation 11:7-10. Thoughts? “When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. 8And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our[**[**c**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+11&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30881c)**] Lord was crucified. 9Then *those* from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow[**[**d**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+11&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30882d)**] their dead bodies to be put into graves. 10And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.”**
2. **Discuss God’s vengeance. Is it different than His wrath?**

**21Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw *it* into the sea, saying, “Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore.”22The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. 23The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. 24And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.”**

1. **Why did the angel use a stone? What was the Old Testament punishment for blasphemy? Read Leviticus 24:10-14. Stoning….10Now the son of an Israelite woman, whose father *was* an Egyptian, went out among the children of Israel; and this Israelite *woman’s* son and a man of Israel fought each other in the camp. 11And the Israelite woman’s son blasphemed the name of *the Lord* and cursed; and so they brought him to Moses. (His mother’s name *was* Shelomith the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan.) 12Then they put him in custody, that the mind of the Lord might be shown to them.13And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 14“Take outside the camp him who has cursed; then let all who heard *him* lay their hands on his head, and let all the congregation stone him.**
2. **Where else in the Bible does the Holy Spirit speak of “millstone?” Read Matthew 18:6, Luke 17:2, and Judges 9:50-53.**
3. **What is “sorcery” in the Bible? Read Exodus 22:18, Galatians 5:19-22, and Micah 5:12.**
4. **In verse 23, there is a reference to a bride and bridegroom. Hypothesize the meaning of this.**
5. **Read Isaiah 13:4-5. Describe the destruction of Babylon.**
6. **I Peter 5:13, refers to Babylon. Read this description.**
7. **Could the papacy of Rome end up in “Mystery Babylon?” Read Zechariah 5:5-11. This is a strange story about woman called “wickedness” sealed in with talent of lead, carried by two women with wings of a stork, between the earth and heaven,**

**“5Then the angel who talked with me came out and said to me, “Lift your eyes now, and see what this *is* that goes forth.”6So I asked, “What *is* it?” And he said, “It *is* a basket[**[**a**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Zechariah+5&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-22943a)**] that is going forth.”He also said, “This *is* their resemblance throughout the earth: 7Here *is* a lead disc lifted up, and this *is* a woman sitting inside the basket”; 8then he said, “This *is* Wickedness!” And he thrust her down into the basket, and threw the lead cover[**[**b**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Zechariah+5&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-22945b)**] over its mouth. 9Then 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.10So I said to the angel who talked with me, “Where are they carrying the basket?”11And 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.”**

1. **Restate, in your own words, who Babylon is, both political and spiritual. Babylon is mentioned over 300 times in the Bible.**

**And, here are the promises///**

**Isaiah 50:28**, “Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.29He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.30Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: 31But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

**Psalm 27:1,** “The Lord *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**Proverbs 3:5-6,** “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; 6in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

**James 5:7-8,** “Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. 8You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

**Psalm 33:20-22,** “Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.”

**Lamentations 3:25**, “The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.”