

Date: February 14, 2018  
 Title: What Happens When Jesus Comes to Set Up His Kingdom? (Rev. 14:14-21:1)  
 Text: Revelation 14:14-21:1  
 Theme: When Jesus returns He will thoroughly straighten all that is crooked. His will shall be done on earth even as it is done in heaven.

Introduction:

**THE BIG PICTURE:**

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
The hour of His Judgment has come (v. 7)	The Wrath of God is Finished (v. 1)	4 <sup>th</sup> Cycle Of Seven "Bowls"	The Doom of Babylon vv. 1-13	Babylon is Fallen	Hallelujah, Jesus Wins!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Satan "Bound" (vv. 1-6)</li> <li>• Satan "Freed" (vv. 7-10)</li> <li>• His Seed "Judged" (vv. 11-15)</li> </ul>	New Heaven and New Earth	"Ditto" (vv. 1-9) Final Word (vv. 10-21)
			The Victory of God vv. 14-18					

- Chapter 16 is the big picture of chapters 17-22.
- Chapters 17, 18, and 19 are together. Babylon falls because Jesus comes back to thoroughly straighten all that is crooked.
- As a consequence of His coming, Satan and his seed are fully and finally judged.
- When Jesus comes, Babylon falls, Satan is judged, and there is the establishment of the new heaven and earth.

Let us begin by noting the idea of an "hour" in the Book of Revelation.

- Re 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what **hour** I will come upon thee.
- Re 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee **from the hour** of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.
- Re 9:15 And the four angels were loosed, **which were prepared for an hour**, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.
- Re 11:13 **And the same hour** was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.
- Re 14:7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; **for the hour of his judgment is come**: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.
- Re 14:15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: **for the time [hour] is come for thee to reap**; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

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- Re 17:12 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.
- Re 18:10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! **for in one hour is thy judgment come.**
- Re 18:17 **For in one hour so great riches is come to nought.** And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,
- Re 18:19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! **for in one hour is she made desolate.**

This is the climactic hour on which the *Story* of God swings. However, we should not think or assume it is “literally” one hour made up of 60 minutes and 21,600 seconds.

Rev. 14:14-20

## 1. One like a son of man coming with the clouds (14:14).

- Re 1:7 Behold, **he cometh with clouds**; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.
- Re 10:1 ¶ And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, **clothed with a cloud**: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:
- Re 11:12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And **they ascended up to heaven in a cloud**; and their enemies beheld them.
- Re 14:14 And I looked, and **behold a white cloud**, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.
- Re 14:15 And another angel came out of the temple, **crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud**, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.
- Re 14:16 And **he that sat on the cloud** thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

Cf. Daniel 7:13; Matt. 24:30; Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9-11

- Daniel 7: 13 "I kept looking in the night visions, **And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him.** 14 "And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.
- Matt. 24:21 For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. 22 "Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. 23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There He is,' do not believe him. 24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. 25 "Behold, I have told you in advance. 26 "So if they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out, or, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe them. 27 "For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. 28 "Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will

gather. 29 "But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 **And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky**, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and **they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory**. 31 "And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

- Luke 24:51 While He was blessing them, **He parted from them and was carried up into heaven**.
- Acts 1:9 And after He had said these things, **He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight**. 10 And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. 11 They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? **This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven**."

This text ties us back to Daniel. This is that.

2. There is a final judgment on the unbelieving ("The harvest of the earth is ripe" v. 15).

15:1 "The wrath of God is finished."

15:3, 4 "Your righteous acts have been revealed." (cf. 11:15)

15:8 "Until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished."

This is also reflecting Revelation 19 and 20.

God's judgment on the earth will be completed as represented by the three cycles of seven.

Chapter 16 is the final expression of God's completed *tribulation*. When He finishes this period of *tribulation*, He will come. When He comes, He will fully and finally judge the unbelieving rebels and rescue fully and finally His people for joy.

4 <sup>th</sup> Cycle of Seven (Bowls of Wrath; Revelation 16)		
The Bowl	The Judgment	The Response
1 <sup>st</sup> bowl	Sores	
2 <sup>nd</sup> bowl	Sea became blood	
3 <sup>rd</sup> bowl	Fresh water blood	"blood for blood" cf. 13:10
4 <sup>th</sup> bowl	Sun's Heat	People blasphemed; did not repent
5 <sup>th</sup> bowl	Darkness	People blasphemed; did not repent
6 <sup>th</sup> bowl	Euphrates dries up	
ARMAGEDDON vv. 13-16		
7 <sup>th</sup> bowl	Great Earthquake	Babylon falls; People blasphemed; did not repent

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“Revelation chapter 16 describe the final seven Vials of the wrath of God, representing the climax of God's punishment of sinners during the Tribulation period. No repentance is invited or shown. The judgments are somewhat parallel both to the 10 plaques on Egypt and to the trumpets of chapters 8 and 9.”<sup>1</sup>

“The common feature between the sixth trumpet and the sixth bowl is *the great river Euphrates* (v. 12; compare 9:14). Here, instead of 200 million cavalry (9:16-17), John sees *the kings from the East* coming across the Euphrates (v. 12), representing *the kings of the whole world* assembled for a great battle (v. 14). These kings and their armies correspond to the cavalry of the earlier vision and, like those demonic forces, bring trouble to the earth in threes: three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur in the earlier instance (9:18), and here three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet (v. 13). The comparison between these spirits and frogs is the only link between this plague and the Exodus (see Ex 8:1-15).”<sup>2</sup>

Babylon falls (16:19-20; chaps 17, 18).

When does Babylon fall? Babylon falls at the coming of Jesus (chap. 19).

Chapter 17 Sensual Babylon [immorality 17:2, 4, 5; 18:3]

It is interesting to see the words used to describe the harlot in chapters 17 and 18.

Harlot (**porna** / 17:1, 5, 15, 16; 19:2)

- Re 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:
- Re 17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, **THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS** AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. {harlots: or, fornications}
- Re 17:15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, **where the whore sitteth**, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.
- Re 17:16 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.
- Re 19:2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged **the great whore**, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

Notice whoremongers (pornos)

- Re 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and **whoremongers**, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.
- Re 22:15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and **whoremongers**, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

## Committed acts of immorality (porneuo / v. 2)

- Re 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and **to commit fornication**.
- Re 2:20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants **to commit fornication**, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.
- Re 17:2 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.
- Re 18:3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have **committed fornication** with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.
- Re 18:9 ¶ And the kings of the earth, **who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her**, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

## Immorality (porneia / v. 4)

- Re 2:21 And I gave her space to repent of her **fornication**; and she repented not.
- Re 9:21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their **fornication**, nor of their thefts.
- Re 14:8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her **fornication**.
- Re 17:2 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**.
- Re 17:4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her **fornication**:
- Re 18:3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her **fornication**, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.
- Re 19:2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her **fornication**, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

## Sensuality (strenos / v. 3) “volumptuousness”

## Sensuously (streniao / v. 7)

- Re 18:7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.
- Re 18:9 ¶ And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

The devil takes a natural desire and exploits it to **capture** the people of God and **destroy** their souls.

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The anti-God consortium will spend their resources assaulting God and lie exhausted and extinguished at His feet. In that moment, all the enemies of God will be vanished and be beneath His footstool.

- <sup>20</sup> “But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, **after that those who are Christ's at His coming, <sup>24</sup> then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.** <sup>26</sup> The last enemy that will be abolished is death. <sup>27</sup> For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is [exempt] who put all things in subjection to Him. <sup>28</sup> When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all" (1 Cor. 15:20-28).

He who has ears to hear let them hear what the Spirit says.

- <sup>51</sup> “Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. <sup>55</sup> "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; <sup>57</sup> but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:51-58).

The viciousness of evil is seen in the beast burning the harlot and eating her flesh (17:16).

17:17 The Words of God will be fulfilled in the rebel's assault against Him. We must not assume evil runs unchecked. All of the evil and turbulence we encounter is but the reclaiming by God what is rightfully His as Creator and Redeemer and He is, right now, reconstituting His Garden for the joy of His people [John 14:1ff]. Therefore, 1 Cor. 15:58, “My beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.”

“Chapter 17 reveals details of Satan's work from Noah's flood until the end of this age. The methods used by Satan are tried and true throughout the ages. In this chapter, we see Satan's method to subdue and seduce the kings of the earth. We also see how God plans to destroy these satanic institutions. Chapters 17 and 18 of Revelation deal with the “New Babylon”. Chapter 17 deals with the religious system and 18 with the political system.”<sup>3</sup>

Chapter 18 is another aspect/angle of Babylon's fall.

Chapter 18 Commercial Babylon

Everything the unsaved turns to for salvation will be destroyed by God. “What shall it profit if one gains the whole world and loses his own soul or what shall a person give in exchange for his soul (Mark 8:36, 37)?”

The contrast in responses is stark (18:9-19 w/ 18:20; cf. 11:10). The idea that we will lament at the destruction of the unbelieving is foreign to the biblical text. Today, we weep; tomorrow, we rejoice! Friends, if every time we suffer financial loss at the rise and fall of the stock market or over any material object, then perhaps we have invested in the wrong things!

She is the slayer of God’s people and she shall be destroyed. God answers the prayers of His people from 6:9-11.

- <sup>9</sup> “When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; <sup>10</sup> and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, “**How long**, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” <sup>11</sup> And there was given to each of them a white robe; and **they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until** the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also” (Rev. 6:9-11).

There is an appeal for the people of God to flee from her like Lot of old (18:4-8). Compare this with 13:7-10. Again, Revelation seems to pile paragraphs up rather than lay them out sequentially. It all appears to play out concurrently.

“The chief element of Babylon emphasized in this chapter is commerce on a worldwide scale, i.e., international or multinational organizations. In chapter 17 the beast and his allies in politico-commercial Babylon destroy religious Babylon, or apostate Christendom. Today there are a multitude of worldwide organizations already devoted to the concept of antichrist and are also already speaking of the overthrow of the present religious systems including Judaism, Roman Catholicism, and Protestantism. But by contrast in this chapter it is God who overthrows commercial Babylon.”

### Chapter 19 – ARMAGEDDON

Again, we are exposed to “a great multitude.” Both “Seeds” are innumerable.

- Re 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, **a great multitude**, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;
- Re 17:15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and **multitudes**, and nations, and tongues.
- Re 19:1 ¶ And after these things I heard **a great voice of much people** in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:

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- Re 19:6 And I **heard as it were the voice of a great multitude**, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Armageddon sets off the inauguration of God's final and full installment of His Garden on Earth. His will is done on earth as it is in heaven! As I read and reread all this, I reflect on the appropriateness of our Lord's Prayer (Matt. 6:9-13) and what appears to be its fulfillment in the Book of Revelation.

HALLELUJAH! God wins and His enemies are DESTROYED!

"This shout of rejoicing begins with Hallelujah. Hallelujah is a very common word in religious vocabulary but the only time it actually appears in Scripture is on the four occasions in this chapter. Like Hosanna it is one of the few Hebrew words which have established themselves in ordinary religious language."<sup>4</sup>

Vv. 1-10 The victory celebration as expressed in the marriage supper of the Lamb

Who is the bride?

Who is the Bride in Revelation?

Greek word for woman is **gune**.

- Re 2:20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that **woman** Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.
- Re 9:8 And they had hair as the hair of **women**, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.
- Re 12:1 ¶ And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a **woman** clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: {wonder: or, sign}
- Re 12:4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the **woman** which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.
- Re 12:6 And the **woman** fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.
- Re 12:13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the **woman** which brought forth the man child.
- Re 12:14 And to the **woman** were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.
- Re 12:15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the **woman**, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.
- Re 12:16 And the earth helped the **woman**, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.
- Re 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the **woman**, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.
- Re 14:4 These are they which were not defiled with **women**; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.
- Re 17:3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a **woman** sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.



- Re 17:4 And the **woman** was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:
- Re 17:6 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.
- Re 17:7 ¶ 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.
- Re 17:9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the **woman** sitteth.
- Re 17:18 And the **woman** which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.
- Re 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his **wife** hath made herself ready.
- Re 21:9 ¶ And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's **wife**.

The NASB translates **numphe** with bride in the following passages.

- Re 18:23 and the light of a lamp will not shine in you any longer; and **the voice of the bridegroom and bride will not be heard in you any longer**; for your merchants were the great men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery. [Compare this with 18:4-8; the bridegroom and bride do not participate in the destruction of Babylon].
- Re 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his **wife [gune]** hath made herself ready.
- Re 21:2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a **bride** adorned for her husband.
- Re 21:9 ¶ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the **bride**, the wife of the Lamb."
- Re 22:17 The Spirit and the **bride** say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

The bride is the people of God. What does the marriage supper of the Lamb represent/symbolize?

Vv. 11-21 Armageddon (1<sup>st</sup>) and the supper (2<sup>nd</sup>) are concurrent. Notice the wine press (cmp. 14:19, 20 w/ 19:15-21)

Chapter 20 (19:20, 21; 14:9-12) The final put down of the devil. It is all concurrent with the fall of Babylon and the battle of Armageddon.

“We note two general facts: First, this was a very common belief in the early church and it still has its adherents. Second, this is the only passage in the New Testament in which it is clearly taught. Millenarianism is by no means extinct within the Church; but it has never been the universally accepted belief of the Church, this is the only passage in the New Testament which unequivocally teaches it, its whole background is Jewish and not Christian, and the literal interpretation of it has always tended to run into danger and excess. It is a doctrine which has long since been left behind by the main stream of Christian thought and which now belongs to the eccentricities of Christian belief.”<sup>5</sup>

### **Four things happen in chapter 20 in relation to evil.**

First, the 1<sup>st</sup> Beast and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Beast [false prophet] are thrown into the Lake of fire that burns with sulfur (19:21).

Second, the Great Red Dragon is thrown into the pit and held captive for a 1,000 years (20:1-3).

- As apocalyptic language, I am not sure how this number can be taken literally. It speaks of an “immeasurable” time.

Third, Satan will be released, wage a final battle against God and then be thrown into the lake of fire (20:10).

Finally, all of those who rejected God and followed Satan will be judged and thrown into the lake of fire (20:11-15).

### **Four things happen in chapter 20 in relation to God’s people.**

First, they are raised to life and co-reign with Jesus (20:4-6).

Second, they dwell in the beloved city (20:9).

Third, God fights in their behalf (20:9, 10).

Finally, their names are written in the Book of Life (20:15).

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.discoverrevelation.com/Revelation%20Chapter%2016.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/commentaries/IVP-NT/Rev/Sixth-Bowl>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.truthnet.org/Christianity/revelation/Revelation17/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/dsb/revelation-19.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/dsb/revelation-20.html>

## The Great Whore who sits on a Scarlet Beast (Rev. 17:1-3)

Who is the Great Prostitute who seats on many waters (Rev. 17; 18)?

1. She feeds promiscuity (vv. 1, 2, 4; 18:3 [e.g. "sex trafficking; pornographic, etc.]).
2. She has sway over an innumerable host (17:1, 15).
3. She rides a scarlet beast (vv. 3, 7; cf. 12:3).
4. She has the appearance of wealth (v. 4).
5. She is aligned with Babylon the Great (v. 5).
6. She is a slayer of God's people (v. 6; 18:24).
7. She causes wonder in those who see her (v. 6).
8. She is hated by the earthly powers and the GRD (17:16).
9. She is the great city (17:18).
10. She is called Babylon (18:2).

Babylon occurs eleven times in the New Testament.

- Mt 1:11 Josiah became the father of Jeconiah and his brothers, **at the time of the deportation to Babylon.**
- Mt 1:12 **After the deportation to Babylon:** Jeconiah became the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel.
- Mt 1:17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; **from David to the deportation to Babylon,** fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.
- Ac 7:43 'YOU ALSO TOOK ALONG THE TABERNACLE OF MOLOCH AND THE STAR OF THE GOD ROMPHA, THE IMAGES WHICH YOU MADE TO WORSHIP. **I ALSO WILL REMOVE YOU BEYOND BABYLON.**'

From the above references, Babylon is a place of judgment, desolation, isolation, and separation.

- 1Pe 5:13 **She who is in Babylon,** chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son, Mark.

Despite Israel's failure, God proves faithful.

- Re 14:8 And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, "Fallen, **fallen is Babylon the great,** she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality."
- Re 16:19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. **Babylon the great was remembered before God,** to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.
- Re 17:5 and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "**BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**"

## The Great Prostitute

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- Re 18:2 And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "**Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!** She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird.
- Re 18:10 standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, "**Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.**"
- Re 18:21 Then a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "**So will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer.**"

The place of judgment, Israel's source of desolation, isolation, and separation will be destroyed and forever removed from her experience. Her enemies will be smashed, every tear will be wiped away!

11. She is a prison for every abhorrent thing (18:2).
12. She is destroyed with fire (17:16; 18:9, 18).
13. She is wept over by those who profited from her ill-gotten gain (18:9-19).
14. The people of God rejoice at her downfall (18:20).
15. She will be completely annihilated and forgotten (18:21-24).
16. She persecuted the people of God (18:24).

# The Great Prostitute

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I found this article a good snapshot of Babylon in the Bible.

## **The Fall Of Babylon – Old Testament and New**

June 16, 2017 Paul Carter

<https://ca.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/ad-fontes/fall-babylon-old-testament-new/>

In the Old Testament Babylon was a city; in the New Testament Babylon is a spirit. In the Old Testament the city of Babylon gave birth to an empire that ruled the known world and imposed a worldview upon all of the peoples that she conquered. She could be brutal; she could be proud and she thought she would reign forever.

The story of Babylon is woven throughout the entirety of the Old Testament narrative. She is introduced to us in Genesis as “Babel”, the city where human beings decided to make a name for themselves in defiance of the word of God. Later she becomes the empire that destroys Jerusalem, burns the temple and takes the people of God into exile. She is the beast that almost swallowed the bride; but in the end, she is judged, despoiled and thrown down. Her destruction is announced in Isaiah 47. In response to her wickedness, arrogance, self-indulgence and brutality towards the people of God the Lord pronounces a message of sudden doom:

- But evil shall come upon you, which you will not know how to charm away; disaster shall fall upon you, for which you will not be able to atone; and ruin shall come upon you suddenly, of which you know nothing. (Isaiah 47:11 ESV)

And so it was.

History tells us that the Babylonian Empire fell very suddenly and very unpleasantly to the Persians under Cyrus The Great in 539 BC. Later when Darius was King the Babylonians revolted unsuccessfully and as a consequence they experienced many of the same brutalities they had previously inflicted upon the Jews. The Babylonians themselves strangled many of their wives and children to keep them from starving to death during the siege or being taken as slaves by the Persians. After the city was defeated Herodotus says that the city gates were pulled down and 3000 of the leading citizens were impaled upon the walls. The once great city – the Queen of the world! – was defeated, devastated and despoiled.

Just like God said.

Fast forward 630 years.

The city of Babylon is now little more than a village surrounded by a sea of sand. It is nothing and nowhere but it begins to reappear in the New Testament as a symbol of the world at war with God. The Apostle Peter even uses it as a sort of secret code. He ends his epistle to the churches of Pontus and Bithynia by saying:

- She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ. (1 Peter 5:13–14 ESV)

She who is at Babylon.

## The Great Prostitute

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Peter was nowhere near Babylon when he wrote that letter.

Peter was in Rome.

Peter used the word “Babylon” as a symbolic way of referring to the new world culture at war with the people of God. Peter was saying: Rome is the new Babylon. Rome is the new mistress who would seduce people away from their worship of God.

The city had become a spirit.

Fast forward to Revelation 17.

In Revelation 17 the reference to Babylon is obviously symbolic. John is carried away in the Spirit into the wilderness where he saw:

- “a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. 4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. 5 And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: “Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth’s abominations.” 6 And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.” (Revelation 17:3–6 ESV)

If you have been listening to the *Into The Word* podcast then you have heard me say now several times:

- “The Book of Revelation is like an art gallery filled with pictures painted in colours borrowed from Old Testament canvases.”

So it is here!

By reading the Old Testament background we are well positioned to interpret this imagery. The Whore of Babylon is the spirit of seductive culture, actively engaged in the deception and destruction of God’s people. That she rides upon the beast means that she is propped up by the forces of anti-Christian government.

Just like the beast, who was, and is not and is about to rise, the “Whore” keeps on rising from the dead! A particular brand of her seductive charm may fall into the dust and be buried by the sands of time, but just wait! Before you know it, she will rise again in another place, known by another name but waging the same destructive war against God’s people. Once she was named “Babylon”, then she was named “Rome”, but in the future she will be called something else. Like a grotesque parody of the God-head, she was and is and is to come; but she is destined for destruction!

As it was in the past, so shall it be in the future.

While scholars may debate the precise interpretation of a few aspects of this vision, the main points of application seem abundantly clear:

1. Culture is not neutral.
2. The devil attacks God’s people via the front door through governmental persecution.
3. The devil attacks God’s people via the backdoor through seductive, idolatrous culture.
4. No enemy of God’s people will finally stand. The Lord has a day and that day is coming.

Thanks be to God!

When we attempt to hear the **Melodic Line** in Revelation, one of the **Repeating Notes** is that of persecution. Notice how often this idea is expressed throughout the Book.

## Chapter 1

<sup>5</sup> and **from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness [martus]**, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood-

<sup>7</sup> BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, **even those who pierced Him**; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.

<sup>9</sup> I, John, your brother and **fellow partaker in the tribulation** and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, **was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus**.

## Chapter 2

<sup>2</sup> **I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance**, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false;

<sup>3</sup> and **you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake**, and have not grown weary.

<sup>7</sup> 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who **overcomes**, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.'

<sup>8</sup> "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: The first and the last, **who was dead, and has come to life**, says this:

<sup>9</sup> **I know your tribulation** and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

<sup>10</sup> **'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.**

<sup>11</sup> 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who **overcomes** will not be hurt by the second death.'

<sup>13</sup> I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; and **you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you**, where Satan dwells.

## The Church Persecuted in Revelation

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<sup>17</sup> 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who **overcomes**, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.'

<sup>19</sup> 'I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and **perseverance**, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.

<sup>25</sup> 'Nevertheless what you have, **hold fast** until I come.

<sup>26</sup> 'He who **overcomes**, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS;

### Chapter 3

<sup>5</sup> 'He who **overcomes** will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

<sup>8</sup> 'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and **have kept My word, and have not denied My name**.

<sup>10</sup> 'Because **you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth**.

<sup>12</sup> 'He who **overcomes**, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

<sup>14</sup> "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, **the faithful and true Witness**, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:

<sup>21</sup> 'He who **overcomes**, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

### Chapter 4

### Chapter 5

<sup>6</sup> And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood **a Lamb as it had been slain**, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

<sup>9</sup> And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for **thou wast slain**, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

<sup>12</sup> Saying with a loud voice, **Worthy is the Lamb that was slain** to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.



## Chapter 6

**9 When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained;**

**10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"**

**11 And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.**

## Chapter 7

**14 I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

**16 "They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat;**

**17 for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."**

## Chapter 8

## Chapter 9

## Chapter 10

## Chapter 11

**5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies; so if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way.**

**7 When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them.**

**8 And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.**

## Chapter 12

**4 And his tail \*swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.**

## The Church Persecuted in Revelation

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<sup>11</sup> "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

<sup>12</sup> "For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time."

<sup>13</sup> And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child.

<sup>15</sup> And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood.

<sup>17</sup> So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

### Chapter 13

<sup>7</sup> It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.

<sup>8</sup> And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

<sup>10</sup> If anyone is destined for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.

<sup>17</sup> and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name.

### Chapter 14

<sup>12</sup> Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

<sup>13</sup> And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."

### Chapter 15

### Chapter 16

<sup>6</sup> for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it."

### Chapter 17

<sup>6</sup> **And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus.** When I saw her, I wondered greatly.

<sup>14</sup> **"These will wage war against the Lamb,** and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful."

## Chapter 18

<sup>20</sup> **"Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her."**

<sup>24</sup> **"And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth."**

## Chapter 19

<sup>2</sup> BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and **HE HAS AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS BOND-SERVANTS ON HER.**"

## Chapter 20

<sup>4</sup> Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. **And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand;** and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

## Chapter 21

<sup>4</sup> and **He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."**

<sup>7</sup> "He who **overcomes** will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

## Chapter 22

**Conclusion:** The Church of Jesus is a Persecuted Church. The source of her persecution is the Serpent and his seed. The source of her perseverance is the presence, provision, power, and promises of God in and through the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

