

Steve Greenberg's Handout: September 03, 2025 (Wed p.m.)

Week 28: Rev 17:7-12 Meaning: Woman and the Beast

Intro 1:

We have seen the chronological judgements (3 sets), which increased intensity.

1-7 Seal judgments

1-7 Trumpet judgments

1-7 Bowl judgments

We notice that there is an order: first set 1-7, second set 1-7 and third set 1-7 and increase in intensity with each group. We also notice that when we hit a six, between a six and a seven, there is a pause (**break in chronology, or interlude**).

Five times in the book we have chronology stops or pauses to give us insights into something that is related or happening in the section. These pauses are often called "interludes" or "parenthetical sections" moments when the narrative "stops" to explain something important before continuing.

We are now in the last pause which starts at Rev 17

# Scripture	Five Pauses	Summary
1. Rev 7	144,000 Sealed	God can preserve and protect His people during judgment
2. Rev 10-11:14	Two Witnesses	God continuous call for repentance, no more delays
3. Rev 12-14	Woman-Satan-Beast	Satan's role in history and end times, Israel's flight, two beast
4. Rev 16:13-16	Nations Gathering	Gathering the nations to war at Armageddon
5. Rev 17-19:6	Fall of Babylon	Collapse and judgement of world systems, before Christ returns

Seven Bowls of Wrath, Comparison with Old Testament Scriptures

Bowl #	Poured Into	Result / Judgment	OT Comparison	NT Reference
Bowl 1	Into the earth	Boils on people, beast's mark	Exo 9:8-12; Boils on Egyptians; Deut 28:27, 35 Curse sore and boils	Rev 16:2
Bowl 2	Into the sea	Sea to blood, living things die	Exo 7:17-21 Nile to blood, fish died; Ezek 32:6 water land with blood	Rev 16:3
Bowl 3	Into rivers/springs	Fresh waters become blood	Exo 7:19 Water throughout Egypt turns to blood	Rev 16:4
Bowl 4	On the sun	Scorches man, blaspheme God	Isa 24:6, Earth scorched by sin; Mal 4:1 Day, burning like an oven	Rev 16:8-9
Bowl 5	Throne of the beast	Darkness and pain	Ex 10:21-23 Plague darkness; Joel 2:2 Day darkness; Isa 8:22 Distress	Rev 16:10-11
Bowl 6	Euphrates River	Dries up; demons, kings east	Exo 14 Red Sea parted; Isa 11:15 Lord dries rivers;	Rev 16:12-16
Bowl 7	Into the air	Earthquake, hail, cities flatten	Exo 9:23-26 - Hail and fire; Ezek 38:22 Hail, earthquake	Rev 16:17-21

Conclusion of God's Wrath and Final Judgement

Steps	Description	Scripture
Wrath Complete	It is done! 7th bowl poured out, finalized	Rev 16:17
Babylon Falls	Judgment on the evil world system	Rev 17-18
Christ Returns	Gods enemies defeated, beast cast into fire	Rev 19:20-21
Final Judgment	Millennium, rebellion, wicked cast into fire	Rev 20:11-15

We noticed part of that judgment involves the destruction of a city called Babylon.

Rev 16:19b ...And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath (**Gods Wrath**).

Rev 17:1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me (**John**), saying to me, "Come, I (**angel**) will show you (**John**) the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters (v15 The waters, where the harlot sits, representing her influence over peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues),

The angel is going to disclose and show us through John the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,

Rev 17:5 And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

The 'mystery' is connected with the 'Woman' herself, and not with her 'name' is clear from v. 7,

Rev 17:7 But 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.

Rev 17:6 I (**John**) saw the woman (**The, MOTHER OF HARLOTS**), drunk with the blood of the saints (**God's holy people**) and with the blood of the martyrs (**witnesses unto death**) of Jesus. And when I saw her (**the woman, MOTHER OF HARLOTS**), I marveled with great amazement (**I John wondered greatly**).

It seems John is perplexed (**greatly wondered**) by the woman named Babylon and the beast.

Rev 17:7-13 The Meaning of the Woman and the Beast

Rev 17:7 But the angel said to me (**John**), "Why did you marvel (**wonder**)? I will tell you (**explain to you**) the mystery (**hidden truth**) of the woman, and of the beast, that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.

Another words I will reveal to you this mystery.

Notice the mystery is not just the woman named Babylon, and it's not just the beast, it's the woman that rides the beast.

Two main views:

View 2: Symbolic Babylon (most popular amillennial view). Babylon is not a literal city, but a symbol of a global system: False religious system, with a corrupt political leadership, run on economic materialism for profit. Seen as the world religious system under Satan that opposes God. See Babylon as Rome, or a symbol of world empires. See antichrist is coming, Daniel 2 and 7, most likely out of the ancient Roman Empire, and other scriptures including Revelation 17-18 described its end before Christ returns.

View 2: Literal Future Babylon (Babylon Revived City)

Babylon is a real, rebuilt city in modern-day Iraq (where ancient Babylon once stood, next to the Euphrates River). This future city will become a global center of politics, finance, and false religion, during the Tribulation. It will rise suddenly and be destroyed

dramatically, fulfilling prophecies like those in: Isaiah 13–14, Jeremiah 50–51, Zechariah 5:5-11 and Revelation 17–18.

Revelation uses specific city language: “that great city” (Rev 17:18; 18:10)
Jeremiah 50–51 describes a future destruction of Babylon that sounds more final and catastrophic than what happened historically because it has had people living there.

Jer 50:39 "Therefore the wild desert beasts shall dwell there with the jackals, And the ostriches shall dwell in it. It shall be inhabited no more forever, Nor shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation.

Jer 50:40 As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah And their neighbors," says the LORD, "So no one shall reside there, Nor son of man dwell in it.

Isa 13:19 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, The beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

Isa 13:20 It will never be inhabited, Nor will it be settled from generation to generation; Nor will the Arabian pitch tents there, Nor will the shepherds make their sheepfolds there.

Ancient Babylon (in Iraq) was never fully destroyed as prophesied, and because of this the prophecy is still future.

Arthur Pink writes, “That mystery is connected with the woman herself and not with her name as is clear from verse 7, the verse we just read, “the angel says unto John, ‘I will tell you the mystery of the Woman, and of the beast which carries her.’” [Pink, *The Antichrist*, pg. 262] The mystery is not just about the woman. The mystery is not just about the beast, it’s about both of them and how these two strands of independent prophetic thought reaps their resolution and how God uses this resolution to fulfill His Word of Babylon’s destruction. We know from the end of chapter 16, with the seventh bowl, that Babylon will be destroyed. How is she destroyed relates to woman’s interaction with the beast and that’s the mystery.

The Bible is a self-interpreting book. If we are patient with the Bible and keep reading and give enough time either in the immediate context or sometimes somewhere else in the Bible, the Bible will give you understanding and interpret itself.

John Walvoord, *Commentary on the Book of Revelation* tells us that the Book of Revelation will interpret itself 26 times. This means that passages hard to understand, symbols, visions, or mysteries in the book of Revelation are explained in the text or interpreted elsewhere within the book, often by an angel, Christ, or through another vision.

Rev 17:8 "The beast (**or the coming antichrist**) that you saw was (**once**), and (**now**) is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit (**abyss, can mean place of the demons or the grave, or the place of the dead-not demons-Rom 10:7**) and go to perdition (**eternal destruction**). And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life (**unbelievers**), from the foundation of the world, when they (**earth dwellers**) see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is (**will come**).

Rom 10:7 or, "Who will descend into the abyss? (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

Revelation 13:3 it speaks of the beast and one of his heads coming back from the dead.

Rev 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as if (**seemed like**) it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.

Heads: representing kingdoms, we were talking about the fact that one of the things that makes the antichrist so appealing to people is he will bring back an empire from the dead. He will bring back Rome.

Rev 13:14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

Ancient Rome revived reference to the ten toes in Daniel 2, the ferocious beast with the ten horns in Daniel 7. It's sort of an empire arising out of the remains or the ashes or the cultural inheritance of ancient Rome. And when the world sees that life from the dead they're going to be astonished. When they see a political resurrection and a political miracle of this magnitude they will be astonished and they will follow after the beast

The beast (lawless one, Antichrist) will be killed and destroyed by fire

Dan 7:11 "I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame.

The Antichrist will be revealed, He is restrained by God

2Th 2:6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.

2Th 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains (**HS within people of the church**) will do so until He (HS) is taken out of the way (church translated, raptured).

2Th 2:8 And then the lawless one (**the Antichrist**) will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

Rev 19:20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Whose names are not written in the Book of Life (**unbelievers**), (**my name is written**)
Rev 20:15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

At the end of the church age and the rapture the church the program of Satan is going to look so real and so spiritual, he is going to do signs and wonders and present himself as an angel of light, to deceive as many as he can.

Have you ever noticed people they will talk about God but when you bring up Jesus things change?

1Jo 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

1Jo 4:2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,

1Jo 4:3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

How Satan Imitates God, and the Antichrist Imitates Jesus Christ

<u>Theme</u>	<u>JESUS CHRIST</u>	<u>Antichrist (Imitations)</u>
Claim of deity	John 14:9	2 Thess. 2:4
Heralded by a forerunner	John 1:23	Rev. 13:12
Forerunner comes in power	Luke 1:17	1 Kgs. 8:37-38; Rev. 13:13
Empowered by higher source	1 Cor. 6:14	Rev. 13:14
Member of a Trinity	Phi 1:2; Acts 5:3-4; Jn 14:9	Rev. 16:13; 20:10
Head of a Church	Eph. 5:23	Rev. 2:9; 3:9
Miracle worker	Acts 2:22	2 Thess. 2:9
Resurrection from the dead	1 Cor. 15:3-6	Rev. 13:3, 12, 14
Given a throne	Rev. 3:21	Rev. 13:2
Ruling a political kingdom	Isa. 9:6-7	Rev. 13:5
Ushering in world peace	Isa. 9:6-7	Rev. 6:1-4
Activity in the Temple	Luke 2:41-50	2 Thess. 2:4

Rev 17:9 "Here is the mind which has wisdom (**this is, what it knows, about the vision**).

The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits (**is seated and rules**).

Rev 17:10 "There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is (**six one exists and is reigning**), and the other (**seventh king**) has not yet come. And when he comes (**seventh king**), he must continue a short time (**or his reign will be for a brief time**).

The woman is riding the beast; the beast that has seven heads. Seven heads, are seven mountains. The seven mountains are seven kings (**another way of saying kingdoms**). So it goes from heads, interpreted as mountains, interpreted as kings, interpreted as kingdoms, and these entities are not on the woman riding the beast, but on the beast the woman is riding.

King and kingdom and are used synonymously (King has a kingdom).

Dan 2:37 "You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory;

Sometimes a mountain is referred to as a Kingdom or king

Isa 2:2 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. (Other examples: Jeremiah 51:25, Daniel 2:35, 45, Isaiah 41:15 ...)

Seven Kingdoms

#	Kingdom	Status in John's Day (c. 95 AD)
1	Egypt	Fallen
2	Assyria	Fallen
3	Babylon	Fallen
4	Medo-Persia	Fallen
5	Greece	Fallen
6	Rome	Ruling during John's time
7	Future kingdom (Revived Rome or Global empire)	"Not yet come" –Last days

Quote from Chuck Smith

When John was writing, the sixth king was on the throne of the Roman empire; five had died and one was yet to come. The beast will be seventh. Caesar Nero was the fifth emperor of Rome and was called "The Beast" by the early Church. His actions after he rejected Paul the apostle's witness were those of a demon-possessed man. In my opinion, the demon who possessed Nero will possess the Antichrist.

Dan 7:12 "As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

Don't think the Seven Mountains are Seven Hills of Rome. Some of the early church fathers held this view.

The "woman" (false church) is based there.

I believe we should use the literal interpretation of the Bible whenever it's possible

Gal 4:22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman.

Gal 4:23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise,

Gal 4:24 which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage (law), which is Hagar--

Gal 4:25 for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children--

Gal 4:26 but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

Rev 11:8 And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city (**Jerusalem**) which spiritually (**symbolically**) is called Sodom (**corrupt, rebellion against God**) and Egypt (**oppression, bondage**), where also our Lord was crucified.

Rev 17:11 "The beast that was (**once**), and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition (**headed to destruction**).

Rev 17:12 "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they (**the ten kings, together will**) receive authority (**and be appointed to their kingdoms**) for one hour, as kings, with the beast.

These are ten horns (**ten kings**) on the beast that the woman is riding and you'll notice that these ten kings are in agreement with the beast and join the beast with authority for an hour (**age of time, brief**).

Daniel Explains the Kings Dream

Dan 2:44 "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms (worldwide), and it shall stand forever.

Dan 2:45 "Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold-- the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."

The ten horns are ten kings

Dan 7:22 "until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.

Dan 7:23 "Thus he said: 'The fourth beast shall be A fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all other kingdoms, And shall devour the whole earth (global), Trample it and break it in pieces.

Dan 7:24 The ten horns are ten kings Who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, And shall subdue three kings.

The "ten kings" are possible the ten divided up regions of the Global World Market at that time.

David Hocking quote, "The ten horns could represent the nations of the end times or perhaps more likely ten divisions or regions of world government.

Are you a citizen of the kingdom of Christ?