Revelation 17:1-18 December 13, 2020

**Religious Babylon**

The Great Harlot Revelation 17:1-2

* “She represents all the false religions of all time, including those who apostatize from the revealed religion of Christianity” (Robert Thomas)
  + She depicts all those who reject worship of the one true sovereign God
* She deceives the world’s population of all time with **false gods / religions**

The Harlot on the Beast Revelation 17:3-6

* The woman symbolizes the worship of **the beast (Antichrist)** because she sits on him
* The woman’s purple and scarlet garments represent the relationship of the rulers of the world with Antichrist (beast)
* The gold, precious stones, and pearls indicate use of wealth in deceptions of the people
* In antiquity, prostitutes often wore their names on their foreheads on a band or headband type of decoration
  + It was an advertisement of their availability for hire
* The name BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH show her real identity, purpose, and the meaning of the symbols

The Great Harlot

* She oppresses and persecutes God’s people, killing them as martyrs for their faith in Jesus Christ
  + She is “drunk with the blood of the saints”

The Harlot on the Beast

* The gold cup with abominations represents her acts that led to immoral worship of false gods
  + This is represented again as “immorality” as the picture of a prostitute committing sexual immorality

The Beast Revelation 17:7-14

* “was, is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss”
  + Reference to the **Antichrist** as depicted in Revelation 13
  + He attempts to imitate Christ who “was, is, and is to come”
* His rise to power will cause “wonder” or amazement (17:8b)
  + His deceptions over the world will cause people to be enthralled with him
  + These are those whose names are “not written in the book of life”

The Seven Heads of the Beast

* Represent seven kingdoms: 6 past & 1 future  
  Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persian, Greece, Rome – past  
  Antichrist world wide rule – future

The Ten Horns of the Beast

* Represent 10 literal kingdoms / nations that will exist during Antichrist’s reign during the Great Tribulation
  + Their ‘hour’ of rule will be limited to 3 ½ years of the end of the Tribulation
* Revelation 17:13, “These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast.”
  + The nations will lead the world in unified rebellion in worship of the beast and oppression / martyrdom of God’s people
* The Antichrist and ten world leaders will oppose Christ
  + They will appear victorious briefly
  + Christ will defeat all of them at His Second Advent (Revelation 19:11-21)
  + “chosen and faithful” will accompany Christ

The Great Harlot and Babylon Revelation 17:15-18

* The beast (Antichrist) will rule over all “peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues”
  + The ten nations will ensure world-wide union of exclusive worship of the Antichrist by destroying all other **religions / worshippers**

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