

**REVELATION 17:7-18**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Revelation chapter 17 as we continue our study through the Word of God, and we will be finishing up Revelation chapter 17 this evening.

As we began looking at Revelation chapter 17 last time, we saw that the focus is this false religious system or this one world religious system.

In fact, this woman riding the beast is called a “**great harlot**” and this is what she does, **“with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”** Revelation 17:2.

The world will become intoxicated with her, and they will not only be involved with spiritual fornication, turning from the Lord, but also physical fornication as this false religious system gives people the freedom to feed their fleshly desires!

And think about it. How much does false religion impact this world today?

It impacts it a lot. From Roman Catholicism to Islam, Mormonism, Jehovah Witnesses, the New Age Movement, the apostate church and the list goes on.

And as much as it has a role today, it should be no surprise to us that it will play a major role in the end times!

Remember what I shared with you last time. One pastor wrote, *“That ultimate expression of false religion will be an essential element of Antichrist’s final world empire, in holding together his military, economic, and political structure. Only religion can unite the world in the most compelling way. Politics, economics, even military force are unable to overcome the world’s cultural diversity. Only religion, with its appeal to the supernatural, can transcend the physical, geographical, historical, economic, and cultural barriers to world unity.”*

How true that is and that is why we see the Pope trying to unite the world religions together under the false pretense of global warming, and then there is the pandemic, and whatever other cause may be out there for them to come together.

Listen to these excerpts from Tal Brooke’s book *The Conspiracy to Silence the Son of God*, for it deals with the subject matter that we will be studying this evening.

This is what he wrote, and it is from several years ago but as you listen to this, look at how far we have come. This is what he said,

The momentum of change is upon us. An international who’s who of statesmen, intellectuals, and financial leaders met June 15, 1995, at the UN’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in San Francisco.

At the key ceremony, it was revealed that Mikhail Gorbachev, the former head of the Soviet Union, had the backing of world leaders to set up a United Nations sister organization in San Francisco called the United Religions (UR) . . .

What is going on?

Gorbachev and other leaders realize that a world federation cannot be fully realized without a world religion in place.

Why?

Religious differences comprise the final barrier among ethnic populations that stand in the way of the real goal - a one world order. The political, military, and economic pillars of these world states cannot hold up a world order without the fourth pillar of a global religion standing beneath the fourth corner, lest the structure collapse. It is that simple.

- Tal Brooke, *The Conspiracy to Silence the Son of God*, p. 34

How close are we?

Tal Brooke goes on to say,

Matthew Fox, an excommunicated Roman Catholic priest now fully embraced by the Episcopalian hierarchy, has constructed a cosmic Theology (and Christology) that has wide appeal.

His stand against patriarchal religion makes him popular with the feminists. His pantheism and mysticism makes him popular with New Agers. His focus on rescuing mother earth: makes him popular among the ecologically minded.

His version of the cosmic Christ - nonjudgmental about sin and especially “inclusive” of homosexuality - makes him popular with the “lesbian-bi-gay” community.

His emphasis on deep ecumenism makes him popular with all those who hold to the politically correct idea that all religions lead to God.

And couching his Theology in Christian terminology makes him popular with a wide range of cultural Christians in the major denominations.

- Tal Brooke, *The Conspiracy to Silence the Son of God*, p. 36

And let me share this with you, I just got it today. One writer praises Matthew Fox by saying,

Matthew Fox might well be the most creative, the most comprehensive, surely the most challenging religious-spiritual teacher in America . He has the scholarship, the imagination, the courage, the writing skill to fulfill this role at a time when the more official Christian theological traditions are having difficulty in establishing any vital contact with either the spiritual possibilities of the present or with their own most creative spiritual traditions of the past... . . . He has, it seems, created a new mythic context for leading us out of our contemporary religious and spiritual confusion into a new clarity of mind and peace of soul, by affirming rather than abandoning any of our traditional beliefs.

- Thomas Berry, author of *The Great Work, The Dream of the Earth and The Universe Story*

And listen to the list of things that Matthew Fox is part of and leading people astray. This is from August 2, 2021. And we are told that in his fifty years involved in his spirituality ministry, he **“has been calling people of spirit and conscience into the Creation Spirituality lineage”** and this is what he has accomplished,

His 38 books, lectures, retreats, and innovative education models have ignited an international movement to *awaken people to be mystics and prophets, contemplative activists,* who honor and *defend the earth and work for justice.*

Seeking to establish a new pedagogy [teaching] for learning spirituality that was grounded in an effort to *reawaken the West to its own mystical traditions* in such figures as Hildegard of Bingen, Meister Eckhart and the *mysticism of Thomas Aquinas*, as well as interacting with contemporary scientists who are also mystics, Fox founded the University of Creation Spirituality.

His recent projects include Order of the Sacred Earth and Daily Meditations with Matthew Fox as well as The Cosmic Mass. . . .

Other books include Original Blessing; *The Coming of the Cosmic Christ*; A Spirituality Named Compassion; *The Reinvention of Work*; and *Christian Mystics*.

- [bit.ly/3qqQoR6](http://bit.ly/3qqQoR6)

Do you see anything about repentance, of turning to Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins?

No, you don't! And yet, how many Christians love his teachings! Shame on them! They should know better!

And if you think I am wrong, think about it. Are we to be involved in mysticism as we await the cosmic Christ! No, we are not! That is New Age teaching, and it is not of God, it is of the devil. Sorry, but if it is not of God then there is only one other source and that is the devil!

As we closed last time, we read Revelation 17:6, which says, **“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.”**

As we continue looking at this false religious system tonight, keep in mind that John **“marveled with great amazement.”** And it is out of that we will get into our study this evening.

With that said, let's begin reading in Revelation chapter 17, beginning in verse 7 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word.

## REVELATION 17

### VERSES 7-8

Notice what we are told here, **“But the angel said to me, ‘Why did you marvel? . . .’**

I don't know about you, but if I am told these things by an angel, I would marvel too!

The Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament defines this Greek word for **“marvel”** like this, it *“denotes the amazement that is awakened through sight. It can most often be translated with be amazed, be astonished and has several nuances, depending on context. It can refer to a bewildered, questioning astonishment (Luke 24:12; John 3:7) or surprise (Mark 15:44; Luke 1:63) and can also include fear (Luke 8:25).”* (Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company)

And as we have read, this angel is going to show John what this all means.

Now there is much confusion over what or who this beast represents.

Some say it represents a man, the Antichrist, who becomes a world ruler.

Others say that this beast refers to the revived Roman Empire that comes on the scene in the last days.

The reason for the confusion is simple. Sometimes the beast represents the Antichrist and sometimes it represents a system, a worldwide Kingdom. I feel that the beast spoken of here, the one that carries this harlot, is the revived Roman Empire, and the Antichrist is so entwined with this world-wide Kingdom that it does speak of him as well.

Let me explain in like this. When you think of Hitler you think of the Third Reich or when you think of the Third Reich you think of Hitler. Why is that? Because this empire was inseparable from its ruler just as the Antichrist and this One World Government are inseparable! I hope that makes sense.

Now this woman riding the beast is the false religious system and this beast is the Antichrist and his one world government and they both profit from each other.

In fact, religious power tends to increase political power and vice-a-versa, they feed off each other. And, of course, the Antichrist will oversee this last Kingdom.

I want you to notice something here that is easy to miss. We are told here of “**... the woman and of the beast that carries her ...**” Revelation 17:7.

Back in Revelation 17:3 the woman was ridding the beast but here in Revelation 17:7 we see that the beast is carrying the woman. Why the difference?

I believe that this false religious system helped to bring to power the Antichrist and his World Kingdom but at one point, the Kingdom will control the false religious system!

To put it more accurately, the Antichrist will destroy this false religious system and have the world worship him!

Now, what does it mean when we read, “**the beast that was, and is not, and yet is**”?

Some say it is referring to the pseudo-death and resurrection of the Antichrist.

The idea with this is that the beast “**that was**” is speaking of the Antichrist.

Then, the beast that “**is not**” is speaking of this pseudo death and resurrection of the Antichrist.

Which leads us to that phrase “**yet is.**”

In other words, he came back to life!

It could be, but I don't believe that is what John is saying here.

I think it is more than that.

Keep in mind that in the last days the Roman Empire will be revived, and it will encompass the world, not just Europe.

Now let's think this through. When John wrote this book, Rome was in power and thus, the phrase "**that was**" applies.

Now, this world power of Rome was not going to last, it would fade, and it did. Thus, the phrase "**and is not**" applies.

The Roman Empire fell apart and it never gained its power again, but it will.

You see, the fascinating point to me is that this Roman Empire will be revived and thus the phrase "**and yet is**" applies.

The Roman Empire will be revived, and I believe that this world will be divided into ten Kingdoms or ten Empires you might say, which represent the ten toes of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar dreamed about in Daniel chapter 2, this last world Empire!

It is the power of Satan that will bring together this last world empire, one that is in rebellion against God and then the Lord will crush it and He will establish His Kingdom on this earth.

Here's how I believe this will be played out.

For those first 3½ years the Antichrist's political and economic empire will coexist with the false religious system headed by the false prophet.

But at the midpoint of the seven-year Tribulation Period there is this assassination attempt on the Antichrist, and it appears that he is dead. And I believe that he will appear dead for three days and then have this pseudo resurrection and the world will worship him.



It is then that he enters the rebuilt Temple and demands to be worshiped as God and at this point it would seem that this powerful demon who was in charge of the bottomless pit indwells the Antichrist.

Remember in Revelation chapter 9 as the bottomless pit was opened as the Lord gave to Satan the key to open it. And as he did, we saw all these demons that were held for this time of judgment were released. We are also told in Revelation 9:10-11 what they were about and who was leading them. It says, **“They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months. And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.”**

Here we are told the name of this leader of this army of demonic locusts. And his name, in any language is – ***DESTRUCTION!***

In Hebrew it is ***ABADDON***, which means destruction.

In Greek it is ***APOLLYON***, which means destroyer.

So who is this angel of the bottomless pit?

Some believe it is Satan. The problem with that is that as I read the text, I don't think it can be. Yes, what this demon brings about is destruction, he is the leader of this army, and what Satan does his followers, his demons do as well!

Let me share with you why this leader can't be Satan.

The main and really most important reason is that Satan is not bound. We are told in the Scriptures that Satan is the **“god of this world”** or **“god of this age”**, and he is **“the prince of the power of the air.”** (II Corinthians 4:4, Ephesians 2:2)

We also see this in Job 1:6-7 as we are told, **“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. And the Lord said to Satan, ‘From where do you come?’ So Satan answered the Lord and said, ‘From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.’”**

In fact, Satan can't be associated with the bottomless pit until he is cast into it.

Remember what Revelation 20:1-3 says, **“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.”**

Satan will not be bound in the bottomless pit until the Millennial reign is over. It is at the end of the Tribulation Period that Satan is cast into the bottomless pit and not before.

I believe this angel is a high-ranking fallen angel or demon!

I hope that makes sense to you. Satan can't be the King over these demons who were locked in this bottomless pit.

I do believe that the star fallen from heaven spoken of in Revelation 9:1 is Satan, as I have said. And he is given the key to this bottomless pit and opens it, but here, this King over these demons is ***ABADDON*** or ***APOLLYON!*** This is the King to this bottomless pit.

But now this demon enters the Antichrist!

Now, what are these **“seven heads and the ten horns”** all about? (Revelation 17:7)

We will deal with that as we read on.

VERSES 9-11

Remember what we read in Revelation 17:7 about “**. . . the seven heads and the ten horns.**”

And out of that there is much controversy about what this all means.

And then, when we read here in Revelation 17:9, “**The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.**”

And putting those two verses together some believe that this is speaking of Rome, that this is what those seven mountains are speaking of.

And they make a good point. They say that Rome has been called “*the city on seven hills.*”

What we have to understand is that in the Greek, this word for “**mountain**” means a mountain and not a hill.

Again, this is obvious to us if we really think about it. A hill is not a mountain.

Think about our hills in Wisconsin and then the Rocky Mountains, they don’t compare.

Then what is this speaking of?

Mountains, I believe, refer to Kingdoms.

Again, let’s let Scripture help us to understand Scripture and try to leave out our ideas.

David said in Psalm 30:7, referring to his Kingdom, “**LORD, by Your favor You have made my mountain stand strong . . .**”

Again, when David speaks of his mountain being strong, he is speaking of his Kingdom!

We also see in Daniel chapter 2 how the Kingdom that Jesus will establish is likened to a great mountain which covers the whole earth.

Also, in verse 10, the word “**there**” is better translated “**they.**”

Thus, this should read “**. . . The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. They are also seven kings . . .**” Revelation 17:9-10.

So these mountains are Kingdoms, and I will expound on that in a minute.

First, I need to deal with how some look at these seven Kings, who they represent.

Some like to see these seven Kings as seven Roman emperors: Julius Caesar, Caesar Augustus, Tiberias, Caligula, Claudius, Nero and Domitian, who was in control during John’s imprisonment on Patmos.

But there were more than seven of them, more than what I have just listed. Which makes this a stretch to say that they are representing these Roman Emperors! It just doesn’t work.

Let me explain what I believe is going on here.

We need to keep in mind that when John wrote this book, five World Empires had come and gone.

These Empires were as follows: *Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Medo-Persian*, and the *Grecian*.

Thus, “**Five have fallen.**” In other words, these World Empires have come and gone.

Then, this angel goes on to say that “**one is.**”

Notice how this fits in. What this angel is telling John is that it was the Roman Empire that was still in existence when John wrote this book.

But there is one more we have to deal with. And we are told regarding this World Empire, “**And the other has not yet come.**”

What Empire is this angel speaking of?

It is the revived Roman Empire that will only continue on for a short time, for seven years and it is still future!

One writer put it like this. He wrote,

Commenting on the significance of the first six empires, Henry Morris writes,

*Though none of these empires ever actually ruled the whole world, each was the greatest kingdom of its own time, particularly in reference to the land and people of Israel and these kingdoms' opposition to the proclamation of God's Word and the accomplishment of His purposes in the world. . . .*

These, of course, have not been the only kingdoms that have been at enmity with God and His purposes.

In this category could also be placed such kingdoms as Syria, Edom, Moab, Midian, and many others, but none of these were empires of great size and influence.

On the other hand, there were other great and powerful empires in the ancient world - China, India, and the Incas, for example - but these had only peripheral contact with the Word of God and the chosen people.

There were only six kingdoms that met both criteria up to the time of Christ and the apostles.

Furthermore, all six of these were not only legitimate heirs of political Babel but also of religious Babel as well.

Babylonia, Egypt, Assyria, Persia, Greece, and Rome were all strongholds of the world religion of evolutionary pantheism and idolatrous polytheism. Thus, they appropriately are represented as six heads on the great beast that supports the harlot.

- John MacArthur, Revelation 17:7-14

So this Antichrist and his World Empire will not last long, “. . . And when he comes, he must continue a short time” we are told in Revelation 17:10.

And as we get Revelation 17:11 we are told, “The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.”

In other words, it is out of this seventh World Empire that we will see the eighth King arise and He comes out of the seventh Kingdom or the Revived Roman Empire.

You see, this is the Antichrist that will arise out of the Revived Roman Empire and rule the world as he sets himself up as their King and eventually as God to them!

So we see here that the Antichrist will come out of the Revived Roman Empire and he will lead this confederacy of ten nations, but around the 3½-year mark of the 7-year tribulation period, he takes over with force.

In a sense he creates a new Empire, and he is the dictator of this Empire. Daniel 7:8 tells us “I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.”

In other words, he is of the seven, and his Empire is the eighth. But even his Empire will be brought down to destruction.

In speaking of his fall, we are told in Daniel 7:26-27, “But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever. Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.”

Yes, his Kingdom will be crushed, and we will see that as we get to Revelation chapter 18 and ultimately, the Battle of Armageddon will put an end to the wicked and the righteous will inherit the Kingdom of God!

#### VERSES 12-14

Keep in mind that when John wrote Revelation these Kings were not in power yet. Their Kingdom was still in the future, some 2,000 years down the road.

And thus, we are told that they “**have received no kingdom as yet.**”

But when the Antichrist comes, they will have a Kingdom and for a short time. They will have this power and then they will give this power back to the Antichrist.

Now it seems that three of these Kings want to hold onto their power and thus, the Antichrist will take it from them with force!

We see that spoken of in Daniel 7:20, where we are told, “**and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows.**”

I believe it is this last half of the Tribulation Period we begin to see some rebellion as the Antichrist comes down hard upon the people of this world, especially Christians as well as these leaders from this Revived Roman Empire who are fighting against him.

And this authority for “**one hour**” is speaking of a limited amount of time, or 3½ years. Now their power may be removed anywhere during the Tribulation Period, but more than likely, their power to rule will be early on in the Tribulation Period, probably the first 3½ years!

And notice the unity they have, “**one mind.**”

But to do what?

They are in unity with the beast, or the Antichrist and they are in unity against the Lamb, to fight against God! And when you fight against God you will try to destroy the people of God!

And here's the thing. Anyone who rejects Jesus is at war with God whether they agree with that or not!

Now for us as Christians, Paul also calls for us to be like-minded. In Philippians 2:5-8 we are told, **“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”**

May the love of Christ be the motivating force in our life in all that we do as we put on the mind of Christ!

How can we accomplish that, how can we put on the mind of Christ?

Paul tells us in Romans 12:1-2, **“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”**



The Amplified Bible puts these verses like this, **“I APPEAL to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].”**

In other words, give your life over to the Lord, humble yourself before Him so that He may mold and shape your life into His image through the Word of God opened up to us by the Spirit of God!

You see, it is not just reading God’s Word; it is applying it to your life, being obedient to His will and allowing it to saturate your life.

As powerful as the Antichrist thinks he is, and these leaders, Jesus will overcome them, destroy them and their Kingdom.

Now in regard to this world government. I have already shared with you how the world is divided up into ten Kingdoms by the Club of Rome and now the call for the nations of the world to join together into this global government.

Listen to this call for a world government and this is from 2020 regarding the World Economic Forum set in 2021.

This is what we are told,

For decades, progressives have attempted to use climate change to justify liberal policy changes. But their latest attempt – a new proposal called the “Great Reset” – is the most ambitious and radical plan the world has seen in more than a generation.

At a virtual meeting earlier in June hosted by the World Economic Forum, some of the planet’s most powerful business leaders, government officials and activists announced a proposal to “reset” the global economy. Instead of *traditional capitalism, the high-profile group said the world should adopt more socialistic policies, such as wealth taxes, additional regulations and massive Green New Deal-like government programs.*

“Every country, from the United States to China, must participate, and every industry, from oil and gas to tech, must be transformed,” wrote Klaus Schwab, the founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum, in an article published on WEF’s website. ***“In short, we need a ‘Great Reset’ of capitalism.”***

Schwab also said that ***“all aspects of our societies and economies” must be “revamped,” “from education to social contracts and working conditions.” . . .***

the general principles of the plan are clear: The world needs massive new government programs and far-reaching policies comparable to those offered by American socialists such as Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) in their Green New Deal plan.

Or, put another way, ***we need a form of socialism*** - a word the World Economic Forum has deliberately avoided using, all while calling for countless socialist and progressive plans.

“We need to design policies to align with investment in people and the environment,” said the general secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation, Sharan Burrow. “But above all, the longer-term perspective is about rebalancing economies.”

One of the main themes of the June meeting was that the coronavirus pandemic has created an important “opportunity” for many of the World Economic Forum’s members to enact their radical transformation of capitalism, which they acknowledged would likely not have been made possible without the pandemic.

*“We have a golden opportunity to seize something good from this crisis - its unprecedented shockwaves may well make people more receptive to big visions of change,”* said Prince Charles at the meeting, adding later, *“It is an opportunity we have never had before and may never have again.”*

You might be wondering how these leaders plan to convince the world to completely alter its economy over the long run, since the COVID-19 pandemic most assuredly won’t remain a crisis forever. The answer is that they’ve already identified another “crisis” that will require expansive government intervention: *Climate change*.

*“The threat of climate change has been more gradual [than COVID-19] - but its devastating reality for many people and their livelihoods around the world, and its ever greater potential to disrupt, surpasses even that of Covid-19,”* Prince Charles said.

Of course, these government officials, activists and influencers can’t impose a systemic change of this size on their own. Which is why they have already started to activate vast networks of left-wing activists from around the world, who will throughout 2021 demand changes in line with the Great Reset.

According to the World Economic Forum, its 2021 Davos summit will include thousands of members of the Global Shapers Community, youth activists located in 400 cities across the planet.

The Global Shapers program was involved in the widespread “climate strikes” of 2019, and more than 1,300 have already been trained by the Climate Reality Project, the highly influential, well-funded climate activist organization run by former Vice President Al Gore, who serves on the World Economic Forum’s Board of Trustees.

For those of us who support free markets, the Great Reset is nothing short of terrifying. Our current crony capitalist system has many flaws, to be sure, but granting more power to the government agents who created that crony system and eroding property rights is not the best way forward. America is the world’s most powerful, prosperous nation precisely because of the very market principles the Great Reset supporters loathe, not in spite of them.

Making matters worse, the left has already proven throughout the COVID-19 pandemic that it can radically transform political realities in the midst of a crisis, so it’s not hard to see how the Great Reset could eventually come to fruition. . . .

Prince Charles was right: The present pandemic is a “golden opportunity” for radical change.

And if Al Gore, Prince Charles and the rest of the World Economic Forum can convince enough people that attempting to stop climate change is also worth dramatically pushing humanity toward greater government control, then radical – and catastrophic – change is exactly what we’re going to get.

- [bit.ly/3DDR6zZ](https://bit.ly/3DDR6zZ)

It is happening and they realize that this is a golden opportunity, with Covid, that they may not get again. But of course, they can create any crisis to push through whatever they want and if something doesn't work, they have other plans up their sleeves. It is not might, it is truly when this Global Government comes to power! And it is getting closer I believe.

I will give you this example. Look at what is happening with Russia and their war with the Ukraine. Companies are pulling out of Russia, the Rubble is deteriorating, and the world is telling Russia what they can do by force. I am not saying what they are doing is right but look at the power the world can have upon anyone to force them to do what they want!

#### VERSES 15-17

As we have seen, this is a worldwide religious system, but that system has fulfilled its purpose.

You see, governments will use religion to promote its goals until it is no longer useful, and then the government, which it supported, will destroy it.

And notice that God has put it into their hearts to destroy this false religious system. God will use wicked people to carry out His plans and purposes and thus, God has directed the judgment against religious Babylon. Here it is these ten Kings that are used as the instrument of His judgment against another wicked group. And here it is religious Babylon.

But it is not just the ten horns that will destroy this religious system, as verse 16 seems to imply.

That verse should read, "**And the ten horns which you saw ['and' not 'on'] the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.**"

And that just makes sense to me. As I have said, at the 3½-year mark of the 7-year Tribulation Period we see the Antichrist go into the Temple of God and demand to be worshiped as God.

It is at this point that there is a dramatic change in his ministry.

Now all religious worship will be centered on him, and this other religious system will fall by the wayside.

The false prophet will now lead the world in the worship of the beast.

One writer put it like this. He wrote,

Antichrist's alliance with the false religious system will not last. Eventually the ten horns (the ten kings who rule under Antichrist) and the beast (Antichrist himself) will come to hate the harlot.

Having used the false religious system to help him gain control of the world, Antichrist will discard it.

In his rampant megalomania, he will want the world to worship only him.

He will also no doubt covet the vast wealth of the false religious system.

Thus, he will turn on the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire.

That graphic language of extreme violence is used to make clear that Antichrist and his henchmen will utterly and completely obliterate all vestiges of the false religious system.

- John MacArthur, Revelation 17:16-17

Remember how this false religious system was clothed. We were told that this religious system was clothed with fine robes, but now they will be naked.

The great wealth she had acquired will be removed and she will be desolate.

The flesh that she consumed by killing the faithful Christians, will be paid back as her flesh is consumed.

And with the fire of her judgment that she has placed upon the people, she will be burned with it till she is found no more.

Everything is then given to the beast, according to the plan of God!

J. Vernon McGee put it like this, ***“The hatred of the Antichrist and his followers against the apostate church is so violent that the reaction is described as the cannibalistic picking of her bones, then burning them with fire!”***

Isn't it interesting that all the hope people place in the false religious systems of the world will come crashing to the ground, and it doesn't matter how sincere you are about it, if it is false, it will not stand nor will you!

It is as the Lord said in Jeremiah 2:11-13 to His people, the Jews, **“Has a nation changed its gods, Which are not gods? But My people have changed their Glory For what does not profit. Be astonished, O heavens, at this, And be horribly afraid; Be very desolate,’ says the LORD. ‘For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns - broken cisterns that can hold no water.’”**

Don't place your hope in that which can't hold water, but put your trust in Jesus, the fountain of living water!

VERSE 18

Now where is this city that this false religious system is headquarters at?

Some say Babylon, but I see Babylon as the economic center of the world as we will see next time in Revelation chapter 18.

Keep in mind the timeframe that John was living in and what was the powerhouse of his day.

It was Rome who “**reigns over the kings of the earth.**” And what I mean by that is this. Rome was the political, economic and religious center of the world during the time of John and his writing of Revelation!

Now please keep in mind that when I speak of this false religious system being in Rome, I am not saying that the Roman Catholic Church is alone in this apostasy. It is all the religions of the world that jump on board of this one world religion, which the Lord calls, “***THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.***” Not a good thing as you can see!

This great harlot is made up of all the religions of the world, even the apostate Christian faith, which we are seeing today, and it is growing at an alarming rate!

Many churches today have watered down the Gospel message and added a works theology to get into heaven, and that is wrong.

In the Catholic Church the Pope is not even sure if he is good enough to get into heaven until after he dies and finds out.

And many Protestant churches have picked up on this theme of a works salvation.

And yet Paul tells us that it is not by our works, but by His finished work on the cross of Calvary that we have been saved.



In Ephesians 2:8-9 we are told, **“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”**

I think that is very clear and yet, since the Bible is not being read, since pastor's have moved away from teaching from the Bible or have watered it down, all kinds of false doctrine is blowing through the church and people are being tossed to and fro because of it!

Jude was warning his readers years ago about the apostasy that was coming into the church and destroying our common salvation.

Today we need to listen and heed his warnings, for our faith is being challenged at an alarming rate, and people are falling for the lies of these men.

Jude tells us **“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.”** Jude 3-4.

May we contend for the faith we hold onto and not compromise what we believe! The faith that has been entrusted to us!

As I begin to close this evening, let me share this with you, something to think about.

The false church will unit together because they have **“one mind”** and yet the Christian church seems to be fighting and dividing over non-essential doctrines, why?

Because we don't have the mind of Christ!

Folks, as Christians we need to be united in our faith and not fight over non-essentials, but instead, take a stand on the essential doctrines of the Christian faith. And the only way to do that is to be like-minded, to put on the mind of Christ!

Paul put it this way in Colossians 3:1-4, **“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”**

Put on the mind of Christ and walk in unity!

Listen to what Charles H. Spurgeon had to say regarding unity in his day, words we should heed today.

He said *“To remain divided is sinful! Did not our Lord pray, that they may be one, even as we are one? (John 17:22). A chorus of ecumenical voices keep harping the unity tune. What they are saying is, ‘Christians of all doctrinal shades and beliefs must come together in one visible organization, regardless . . . Unite, Unite!’ Such teaching is false, reckless and dangerous. Truth alone must determine our alignments. Truth comes before unity. Unity without truth is hazardous. Our Lord’s prayer in John 17 must be read in its full context. Look at verse 17, ‘Sanctify them through thy truth, they word is truth.’ Only those sanctified through the Word can be one in Christ. To teach otherwise is to betray the Gospel.”*

May we not forget that!

The great harlot, this false religious system is about to be born!

The great apostasy or the falling away from the truths of God found in the Word of God is upon us and the only way to stand strong is by being in Christ, by being in His Word and being united together, but that unity *MUST* be in *TRUTH*, the truths of God found in the Word of God!

As I close, and I mean it this time, let me leave you with these words from one pastor who wrote,

The one-world unification government so long sought by the humanists will have finally arrived, only to be destroyed in one great act of divine judgment.

All the words of God – every prophecy of Christ’s return and the setting up of His kingdom – will be fulfilled completely.

God hates every form of false religion and will not tolerate those who seek to rob Him of His glory (Isa 42:8).

Antichrist’s religious empire will be judged and destroyed.

So also, as chapter 18 of Revelation reveals, will be the political and economic aspects of that evil empire.

- John MacArthur

Everything that man clings to, everything he thinks will bring him joy and satisfaction, will be destroyed. We saw Religious Babylon fall here in Revelation chapter 17 and next time we will see commercial Babylon fall.

And yet, for Christians, our faith is built upon the Rock, Jesus Christ and we will not be moved!