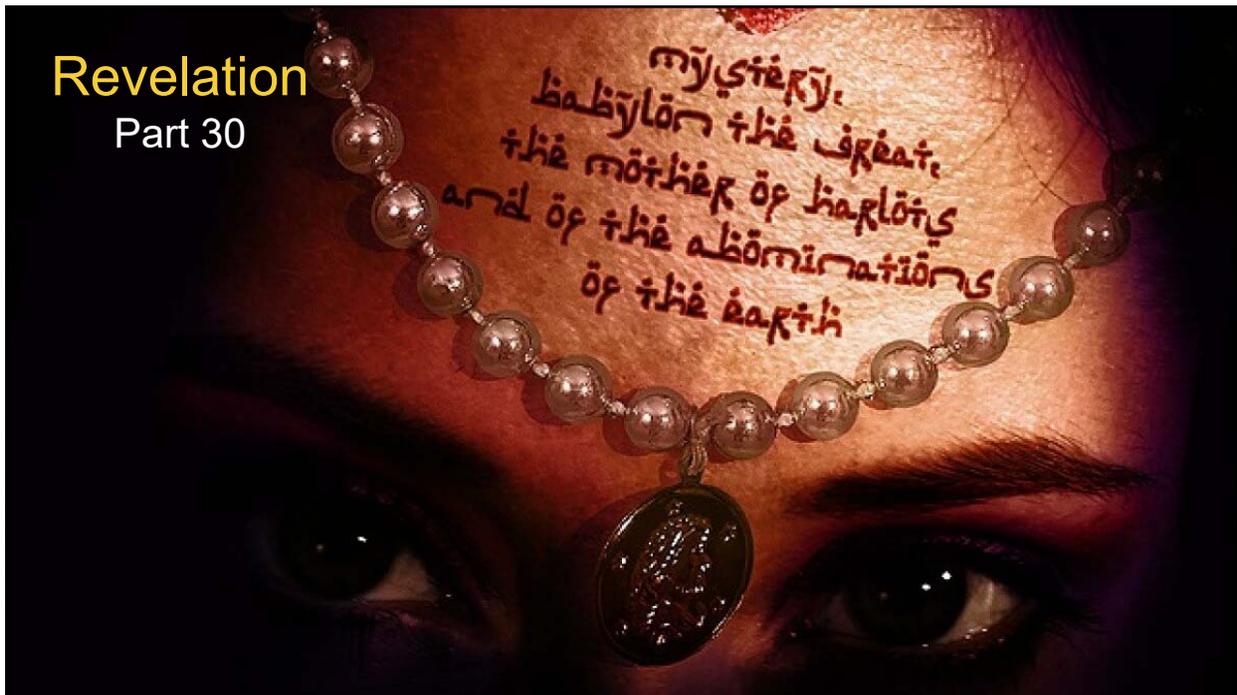


Revelation

Part 30



Chronologically, chapter 19 follows immediately after chapter 16. Chapters 17-18 are a parenthetical explanation of the religious & political systems of Anti-Christ.

1. Man is incurably religious.

- His sin nature causes him to pervert this religious hunger:

Rom 1:19,25 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. ... ²⁵who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever.

Rom 3:11 no one seeks after God

Jn 6:44 no one can come to Jesus unless God draws him

Rom 1:21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

- **Satan has stepped right into this spiritual vacuum:**

Jn 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

2 Cor 11:14-15 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness

1 Tim 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons

2. The great “harlot”

Rev 17:1-2 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, ²with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”

- **Why a harlot?**

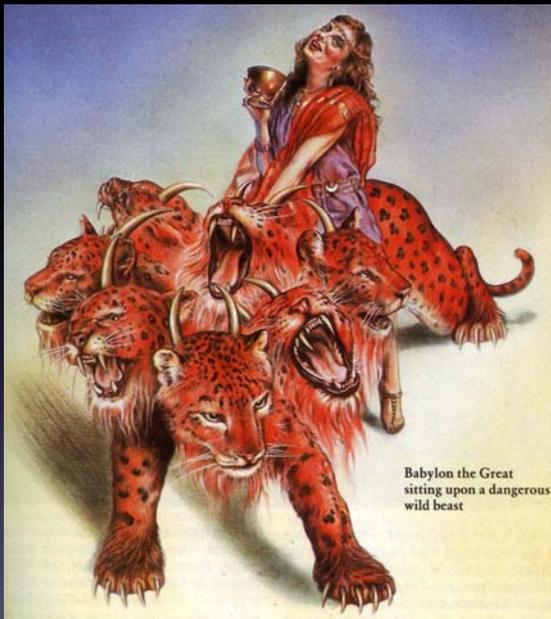
God calls idolatry spiritual adultery (Jer 3:6-9, Ezk 16:30-31,36)

- **What are the waters upon which the harlot sits?**

(v. 15 Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.)

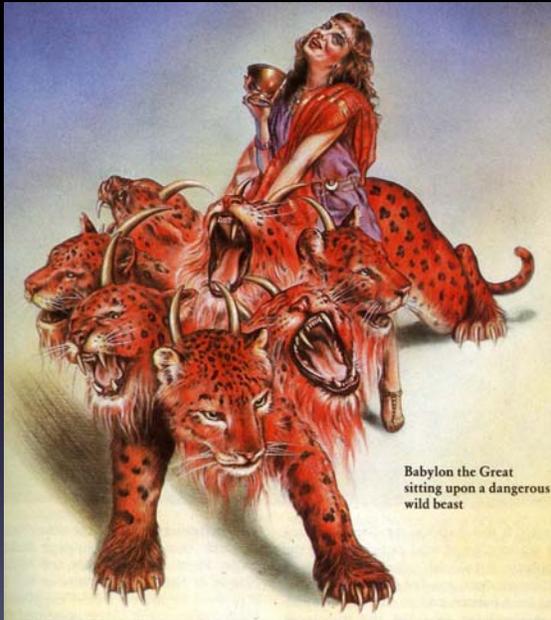
Jer 51:13 What He spoke against the inhabitants of Babylon. O you who dwell by many waters, abundant in treasures, your end has come, the measure of your covetousness.

- **The harlot adulterates the whole world**
- **The angel says chapter 17 is about the judgment of the harlot**



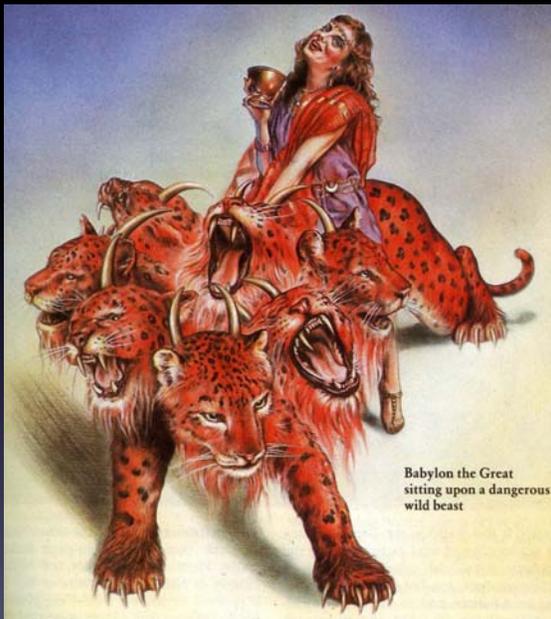
3. Beauty and the Beast

Rev 17:3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.



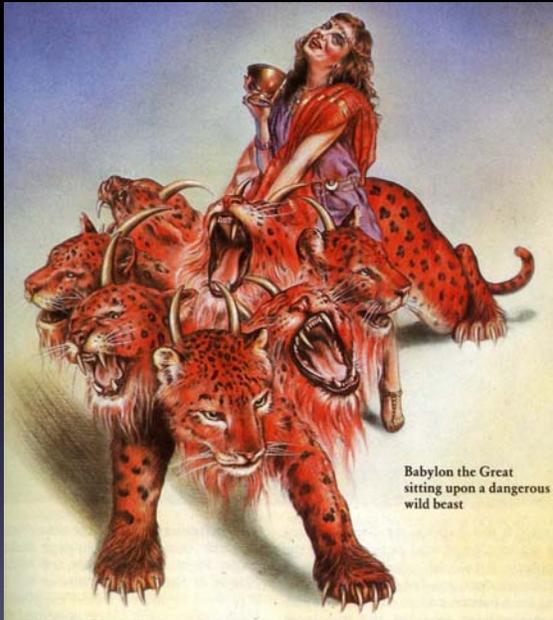
- The woman “rides” the Beast
- How do we know it is the Anti-Christ?

The blasphemous names & 7 heads/10 horns (13:1)



4. She dresses the part

Rev 17:4-5 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. ⁵And on her forehead a name was written: Mystery, Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Of The Abominations Of The Earth.



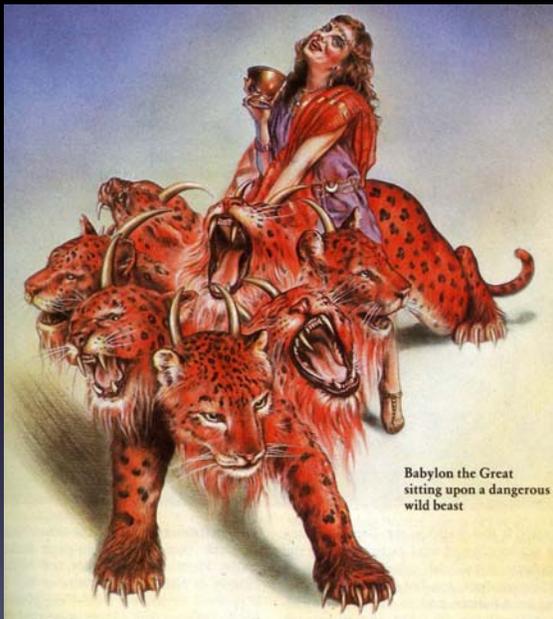
Babylon the Great
sitting upon a dangerous
wild beast

- Purple, scarlet, gold, jewels, & pearls =

She looks like a harlot (Prov 7:10)

- The gold cup full of abominations:

Jer 51:7 Babylon was a golden cup in the Lord's hand, that made all the earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; therefore the nations are deranged.



Babylon the Great
sitting upon a dangerous
wild beast

- In Old Testament times, harlots often wrote their names on their foreheads: Jer 3:3

5. Why is Babylon the “Mother of harlots
and abominations of the earth”?

Gen 11:1-9



- Nimrod means “let us rebel” or “rebel” (Gen 10:8-12)
- He was Noah’s great-grandson
- Nimrod tried to form the first one-world government: (Gen 11:1,4)
- Nimrod founded a type of worship that included worshipping the “Queen of heaven” and her “child”
- After the scattering, this religion was carried all over the world
- The Israelites even practiced this form of idolatry: (Jer 44:15-19,20-27)



Some believe the harlot of Rev 17 is the Catholic Church

6. Drunk with the blood of saints

Rev 17:6 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.

Rev 13:7 It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them.

Rev 6:9-10 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. ¹⁰And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

Matt 23:35-36 that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. ³⁶Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation. ³⁷"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! ³⁸See! Your house is left to you desolate; ³⁹for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

7. The mystery deciphered

Rev 17:7-11 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. ⁸The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. ⁹"Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. ¹⁰There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. ¹¹The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.

- **The Beast who was, and is not, & is:** 13:3
- **Shall ascend out of the bottomless pit:** 13:2, 19:20, 20:1-3,7
- **Go to perdition:** 2 Thess 2:3, Rev 19:20
- **The world marvels:** Rev 13:3-4
- **The seven heads = seven mountains = seven kings/kingdoms**
- **5 have fallen = Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, & Greece**

- **One is = Rome**
- **The 7th must continue for a short time = Anti-Christ's kingdom lasts 3 ½ years**
- **The Beast is the 8th and is of the seven = the fatal wound and fake resurrection (13:3)**

8. The ten horns

Rev 17:12-14 “The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. ¹³These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.” ¹⁵Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.”

- 10 rulers who share their kingdoms with Anti-Christ and/or who rule divisions of his kingdom
- They form a loyal coalition
- They will fight a war with Jesus:

Rev 19:19-21 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. ²⁰Then 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. ²¹And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

9. In the end, the Anti-Christ will turn against the harlot

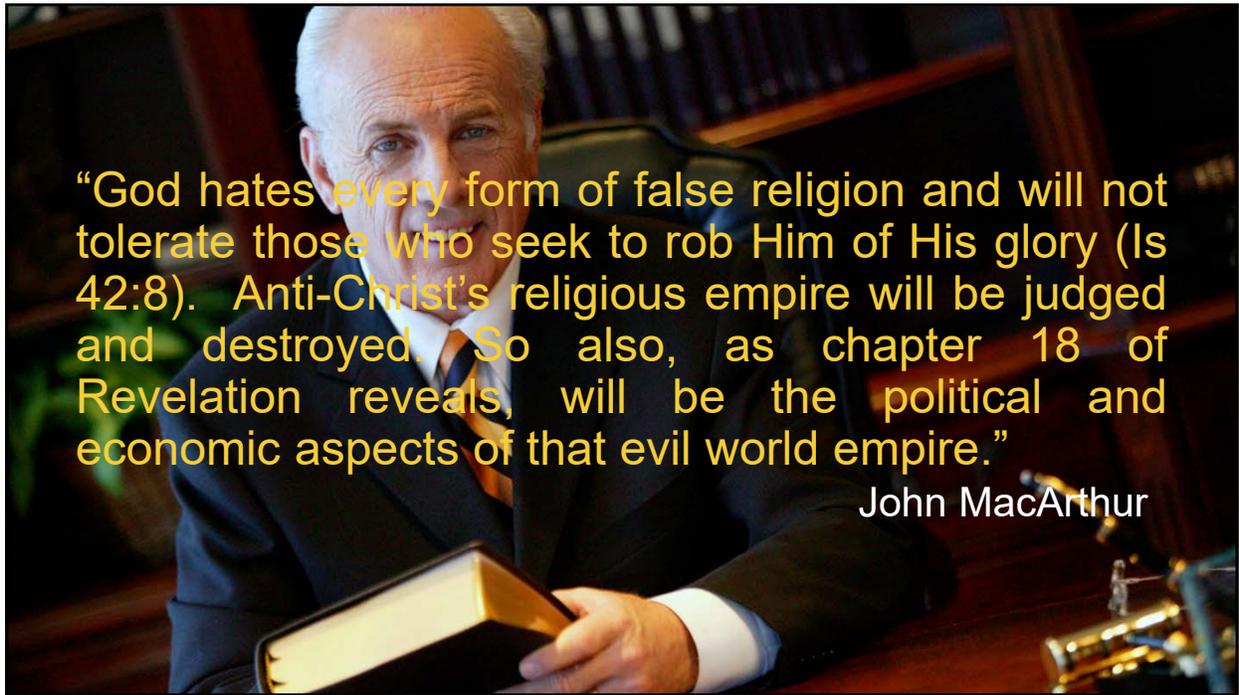
Rev 17:16 And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

10. All of this is under the sovereign providence of God

Rev 17:17 For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.

11. The woman will be headquartered in Babylon

Rev 17:18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.”



“God hates every form of false religion and will not tolerate those who seek to rob Him of His glory (Is 42:8). Anti-Christ’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 world empire.”

John MacArthur