

Babylon is fallen!
Part 31

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

- Man is incurably religious.
- Satan has stepped right into this spiritual vacuum
- The Anti-Christ's religious empire is called "the great harlot" because it spreads spiritual infidelity all over the world
- The Anti-Christ uses his false religion to control the world
- Babylon is called the "Mother of harlots and abominations of the earth" because it all began at the Tower of Babel in Gen 11.



Even though the harlot of Rev 17 is not the Catholic Church explicitly, Roman Catholicism is certainly a false church that has spread its "false gospel" throughout the centuries.

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

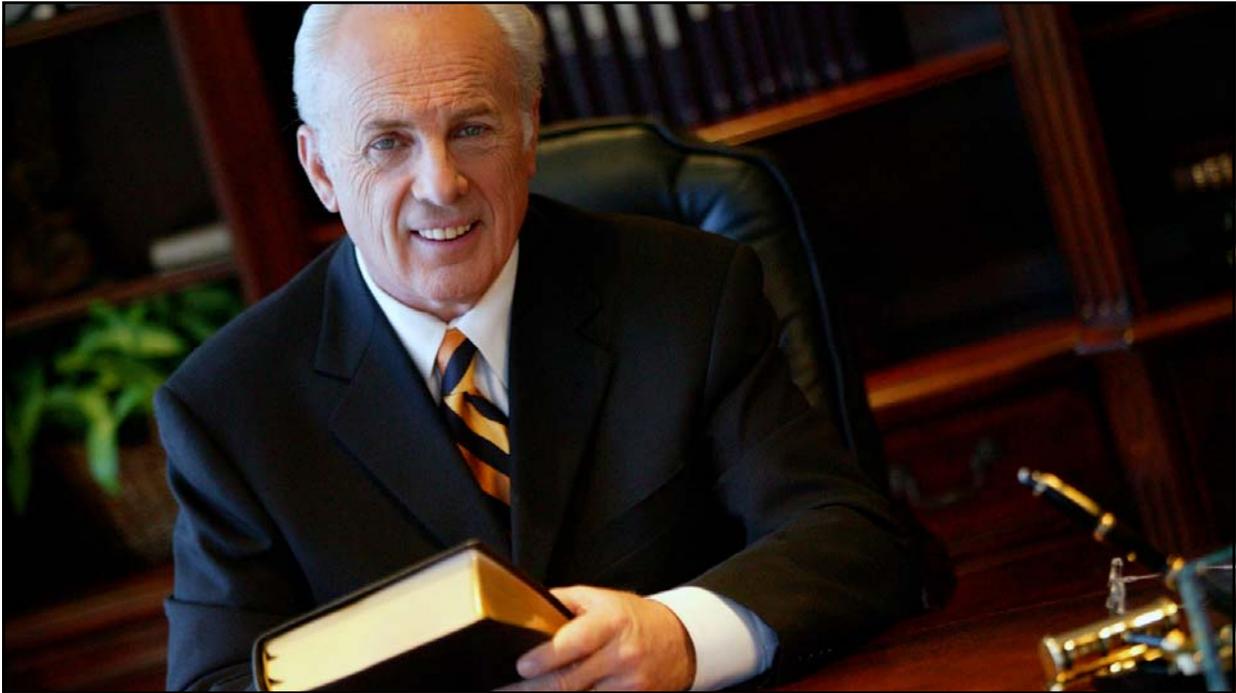
Rev 17:16 And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

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.

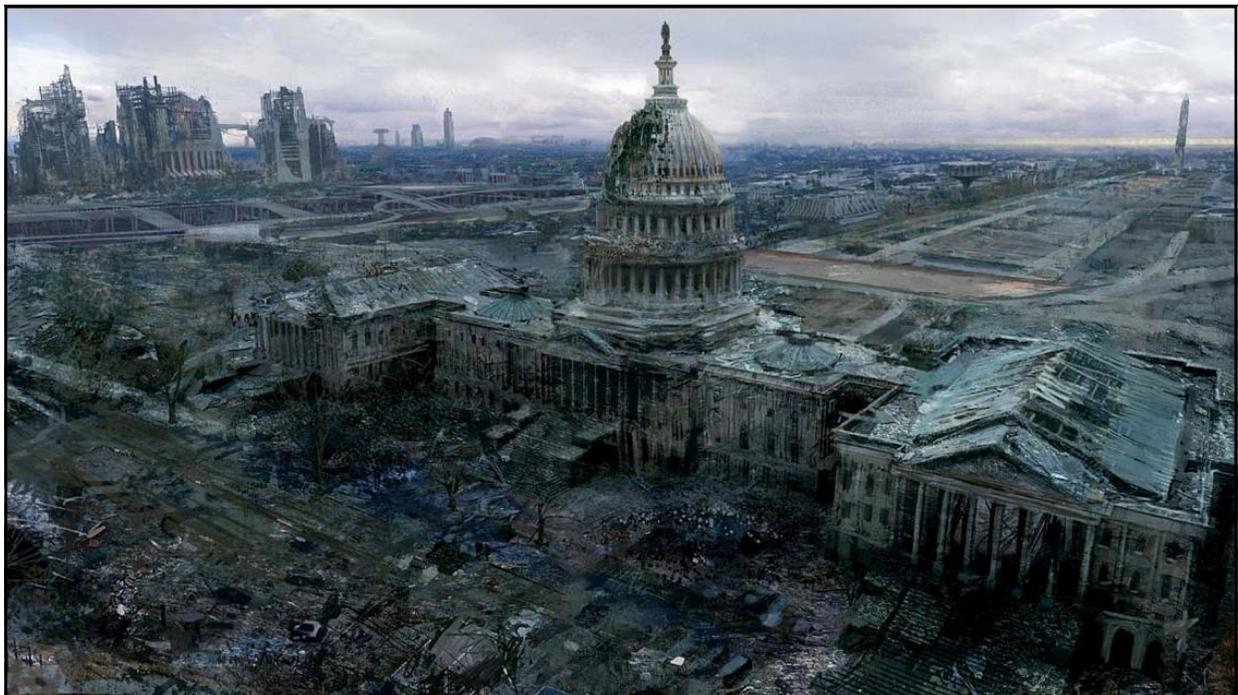
11. The woman will be headquartered in Babylon

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



God reigns supreme among the nations:

Ps 2:2-4 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, ³“Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.” ⁴He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision.

Is 40:15,17 Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust on the scales; look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing. ¹⁷ All nations before Him are as nothing, and they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless.

Is 43:13 ... I work, and who will reverse it?”

46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,’

Acts 14:16 who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways.

Rev 6-18: cover the entire Great Tribulation

Rev 17: covers the Anti-Christ's religious empire

Rev 18: covers the Anti-Christ's commercial empire

Chapter 18 details how the great city Babylon will fall under divine judgment

Rev 18:2 ... "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen

1. The pronouncement of judgment

Rev 18:1-3 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. ²And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! ³For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."

The Babylon of Revelation seems to be an actual city and its destruction appears to be final:

Rev 14:8 And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

Is 13:19-22 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. ²⁰It 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. ²¹But wild beasts of the desert will lie there, ... Her time is near to come, and her days will not be prolonged."

14:22-23 "For I will rise up against them," says the Lord of hosts, "And cut off from Babylon the name and remnant, and offspring and posterity," says the Lord. ²³"I will also make it a possession for the porcupine, and marshes of muddy water; I will sweep it with the broom of destruction," says the Lord of hosts.

Jer 50:13,39 Because of the wrath of the Lord she shall not be inhabited, but she shall be wholly desolate. Everyone who goes by Babylon shall be horrified and hiss at all her plagues. 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.

51:37 Babylon shall become a heap, a dwelling place for jackals, an astonishment and a hissing, without an inhabitant.

- The announcement is made by a “great” angel
- Babylon is judged because it has become the dwelling place of demons
- Babylon is judged because it has perverted the world

Js 5:1-5 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! ²Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. ³Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. ⁴Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. ⁵You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts  as in a day of slaughter.

2. The call for escape

Rev 18:4-5 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. ⁵For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

Scripture is filled with calls for separation:

Rom 12:2 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.

2 Cor 6:14-17 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. ¹⁷Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you."

Js 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

1 Jn 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.



Lot and his family:
Gen 19:12-13



**Babylon's sins piled up to
heaven – just like at the
tower of Babel**

3. The definition of the judgment

Rev 18:6-8 Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. ⁷In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.' ⁸Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong *is* the Lord God who judges her.

Vengeance is the Lord's:

Ps 137:8 O daughter of Babylon, who are to be destroyed, happy the one who repays you as you have served us!

Jer 50:14-15,29 "Put yourselves in array against Babylon all around, all you who bend the bow; shoot at her, spare no arrows, for she has sinned against the Lord. ¹⁵Shout against her all around; she has given her hand, her foundations have fallen, her walls are thrown down; for it is the vengeance of the Lord. Take vengeance on her. As she has done, so do to her. ²⁹"Call together the archers against Babylon. All you who bend the bow, encamp against it all around; let none of them escape. Repay her according to her work; according to all she has done, do to her; for she has been proud against the Lord, against the Holy One of Israel.

Rom 12:19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

Babylon is simply experiencing God's eternal law of "sowing and reaping" (Gal 6:7-9)

God's will cannot be thwarted:

Job 42:2 "I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.

4. The world's response to the judgment

Rev 18:9-19 "The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, ¹⁰standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.' ¹¹"And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: ¹²merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; ¹³and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men.

¹⁴The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all. ¹⁵The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, ¹⁶and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! ¹⁷For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.' Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance ¹⁸and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What *is* like this great city?' ¹⁹"They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.'

Another reason to believe Babylon of Rev 18 is an actual city is that these people watch her burn: kings, merchants, sailors

"What a catalog of opulence! What a vivid picture of a great, commercial city, trafficking in every luxury the heart could desire. This is the world's great Vanity Fair. It offers articles of adornment and display, beautiful things to grace the mansions of the world's millionaires. It deals in exotic spices and perfumes, in delicacies for the table, in provisions for banquets, in slaves, and in the souls of men. And Babylon imported all these things. ... Babylon's demand for this world's goods was insatiable; ever it clamored for more and more!"



5. Heaven's response

Rev 18:20, 23b-24 “Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!” ... ²³For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. ²⁴And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.”

6. The totality of the judgment

Rev 18:21-23a Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore. ²²The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. ²³The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore.

Jer 51:61-64 And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, “When you arrive in Babylon and see it, and read all these words, ⁶²then you shall say, ‘O Lord, You have spoken against this place to cut it off, so that none shall remain in it, neither man nor beast, but it shall be desolate forever.’ ⁶³Now it shall be, when you have finished reading this book, that you shall tie a stone to it and throw it out into the Euphrates. ⁶⁴Then you shall say, ‘Thus Babylon shall sink and not rise from the catastrophe that I will bring upon her. And they shall be weary.’”

Babylon’s fate will be much like the rich fool Jesus spoke of:

Lk 12:16-21 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. ¹⁷And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ ¹⁸So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.” ²⁰But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ ²¹“So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”