

The Judgment of *Babylon the Great*

THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH

Thursday, 9/29 at 7 + Sunday, 10/2 at 8:00 & 10:45

16th Sunday after Pentecost / 15th Sunday after Trinity – 2011

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, in Revelation 16:19 there is a brief mention of God's fierce wrath upon Babylon the Great; now, *in chapter 17*, we focus on some of the DETAILS of Babylon the Great – ♦her description, ♦her actions, ♦her identity, and ♦her judgment (more to come in chapter 18). ¹ [And] one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls [from chapters 15-16] came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the [details of the] judgment of the great harlot [sitting] on many waters, ² with whom the kings of the earth committed [fornication], and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her [fornication]." ³ And he carried me away in ~~the Spirit~~ [spirit] into a wilderness... // **Who are the ones who were mentioned?** ♦The harlot (*beast 2 – false representatives of God*), ♦the kings (*beast 1 – the anti-God ways of secular government*), and ♦the earth-dwellers (*all who reject Jesus alone as the way to heaven*). **How do they interact with each other?** As a prostitute entices a man to sin with her, *so the harlot entices the kings to sin with her* – for the purpose of bringing eternal punishment upon the earth-dwellers!

1. **Her Description:** ...and I saw a woman [the harlot] sitting on a scarlet [sinful colored] beast [indicating her established power and her relationship with beast 1], full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns [Rev. 13:1]. ⁴ [And] the woman was clothed in purple [the color of a king; John 19:5] and scarlet [the color of sin; Isaiah 1:18], and adorned with gold

and precious stones and pearls [she became wealthy from selling herself to the kings], having in her hand a gold cup [such quality would expect wonderful contents, yet she – like the dragon – is a deceiver] full of abominations and of the unclean things of her [fornication], ⁵ and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF [THE] HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” ⁶ And I saw the woman drunk [from] the blood of the saints, and [from] the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. // *The Church is the mother of all Christians, while the great harlot – who falsely represents God – is the mother of all who continue to believe what is false. The great harlot not only deceives many, but even murders some true believers!*

2. **Her Actions:** [And seeing] her, I wondered greatly. ⁷ And the angel said to me, “Why do you wonder? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast [carrying] her, [having] the seven heads and the ten horns. ⁸ The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come. // We read in chapter 13 that beast 1 received a fatal wound, yet he was healed; then the whole earth was amazed and followed him. Today, people tend to choose what they hope to be the winning team; however, *God wants us to know that CHRIST is what matters – not numbers; finally, the beast and those who follow him will be destroyed! (In Christ we win!)*
3. **Her Identity:** *A very tough section!* ⁹ “Here is the mind [having] wisdom.”
 - a. “The **seven heads** are seven mountains [where] the woman sits [on them], ¹⁰ and they are seven kings; [the] five [fell], [the] one is, the other has not yet come; and [whenever] he comes, he must remain a little while.” //

The goal of the kings is to destroy the true church; *who are they?* Maybe each king represents a kingdom; **five fell** before John's time: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, and Greece; the **one** who **is in John's day** was Rome; and the one who had **not yet come** in John's day *could be Vatican City*, which was established as a separate government in 1929. The first six tried to destroy the Church *physically*; the seventh tries to do so *spiritually* – by teaching faith + works for salvation:

- i. Canon XII of the Council of Trent (The Council took place under Pope Paul III in 1547, the year after Martin Luther died): “**If anyone says that justifying faith is nothing else than confidence in divine mercy, which remits sins for Christ's sake, or that it is this confidence alone that justifies us, let him be anathema** [eternally condemned].”¹
 - ii. The Bible:^{NAU} **Romans 3:28** “For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.” See Rom. 3:20-22; Gal. 2:15-16; Eph. 2:1-5, 8-9; etc.
 - iii. Comment: Those conflicting teachings are official teachings of church bodies, *not necessarily of individual people*; therefore, not all Roman Catholics are without salvation, neither do all Lutherans have salvation; instead, ***all who have Christ alone as Savior are saved*** (1 John 5:11-13)!
- b. **11** “[And] the beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is *one* of the seven, and he goes to destruction.” // How can one be *an eighth* AND *one of the seven* at the same time? Maybe by one person holding absolute authority over church AND state, like the pope, who “**has full and absolute executive, legislative and judicial power over Vatican City.**”²

¹ <http://www.ewtn.com/library/COUNCILS/TRENT6.HTM>

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vatican_City#Political_system

c. ¹² “[And] the ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour [*ten could symbolize all the kings to come who oppose the Church*]. ¹³ These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast [*for the purpose of destroying the Church*]. ¹⁴ These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are ~~the~~ called and chosen/[elect] and faithful/[believing].” // Many and powerful and church-like forces oppose the Church of Jesus Christ, *they even wage war against Him* but He will overcome them because He is “Lord of lords and King of kings.” The *true Church* was also identified – those who are called – *by the gospel*, chosen – *to be sinless in His sight*, and believing – *in Jesus as Savior!*

4. **Her Judgment:** ¹⁵ And he [says] to me, “The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues [*she is over a large number*]. ¹⁶ And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire [*even though many kings will be in alliance with her, they will eventually turn on her*]. ¹⁷ For God has put it into their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled [*as God raised up sinful Assyria to destroy the sinful northern kingdom of Israel, so God will use the sinful kings to punish the sinful harlot*]. ¹⁸ [And] the woman whom you saw is the great city, [having a kingdom] over the kings of the earth.” // Is that great city Vatican City, which does influence many nations?

Conclusion: May God → keep us in Christ, *thus on the winning team*, and → sure of His forgiveness! *Amen!*

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