

The Book of

REVELATION

The word 'REVELATION' is rendered in a large, bold, dark blue font. The letters are filled with a dark blue color and have a glowing, electric blue and white lightning bolt effect running through them, particularly prominent in the 'E', 'L', and 'A'.

Lesson 13

Chapter 17

Look for the answer to these questions:

1. Who founded the ancient city of Babel?
2. What are the "high places" of Ephesians 6:12?
3. What is the meaning of the WATERS the whore of Babylon sits on?
4. What is the color of the beast she rides?
5. What is the meaning of that color?
6. In Revelation 17:5, what is written on her forehead?
7. In Revelation 17:6, what has made her drunk?
8. What is the meaning of the seven heads of the beast?
9. How does the whore of Babylon die?
10. What is the oldest continuing monarchy in the world?

John's 14 Visions of "The Time of Jacob's Trouble"

H
E
A
V
E
N

9) 14:1-5

11) 15:1-8

The Lamb and the 144,000 on Mount Zion

The Seven Vial Angels, and the chorus of 144,000

E
A
R
T
H

10) 14:6-20

12) 16:1 – 18:24

Six Angels Announce the Judgment of the Earth

The Seven Bowls of Wrath;

The 12th vision of events on earth continues.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

Part 3: The Things Which Shall Be Hereafter

4:1 to 22:21

Ch 17: 1-18

The Judgment of Babylon

Ch 18: 1-24

The Fall of Babylon

Ch 19: 1-3

Celebrating the Fall of Babylon

These three subjects will be examined
in the next two lessons.

To understand this lesson,
we must know a little about

BABYLON



The ancient city of Babylon was founded by Nimrod, the great-grandson of Noah.

Noah
|
Ham
|
Cush
|
Nimrod

Genesis 10:8-10

- ⁸ And Cush begat **Nimrod**: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.
- ⁹ He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.
- ¹⁰ And the beginning of his kingdom was **Babel**, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

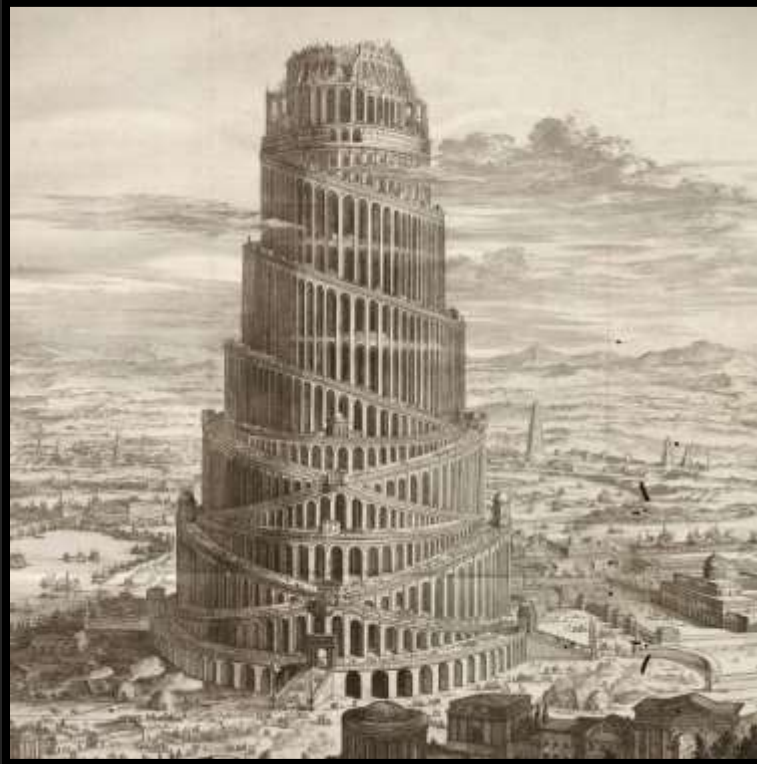


Nimrod means “Let us rebel.”

Genesis 10:8-10

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- ⁹ He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.
- ¹⁰ And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.



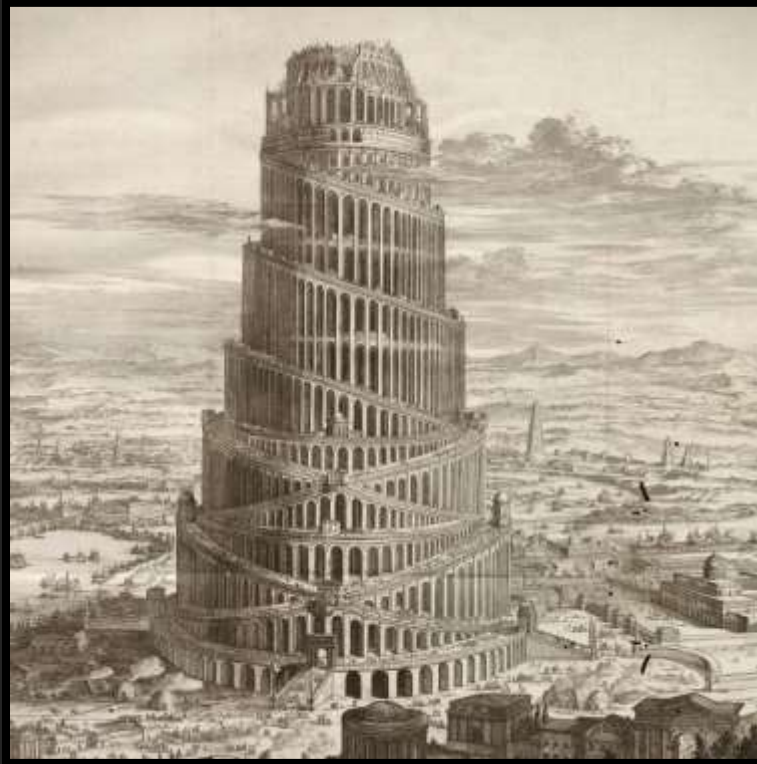


This kingdom was the home of the tower of Babel.

Genesis 11:8-9

- ⁸ So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.
- ⁹ **Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth:** and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.





Babel means “confusion”.

Genesis 11:8-9

- ⁸ So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.
- ⁹ **Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth:** and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.



In the height of its power,
the armies of Babylon captured
Jerusalem and carried the
survivors into captivity.



Since that time, Babylon has come to represent the **antichrist** systems of the world that oppress and deceive God's people.





In Daniel 7, the “dreadful and terrible” beast led by “the little horn” represents the resurrected Roman empire ruled by the antichrist.



It is also the feet of iron and clay that is the final part of the image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

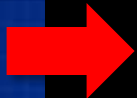
The antichrist's political power is strengthened by his association with the idolatrous religion known as "the whore of Babylon."





Part 3: The Things Which Shall Be Hereafter

4:1 to 22:21



- Ch 17: 1-18 The Judgment of Babylon
- Ch 18: 1-24 The Fall of Babylon
- Ch 19: 1-3 Celebrating the Fall of Babylon

Chapter 17 looks at the partnership of the whore and the beast she rides.

Revelation 17:1-2

- 1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee **the judgment of the great whore** that sitteth upon many waters:
- 2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.



Revelation 17:1-2

- 1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of **the great whore** that sitteth upon many waters:
- 2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with **the wine of her fornication.**



The Word of God consistently describes the sin of idolatry in sexual terms.

The Bible represents God's relationship to his people as a marriage.

2 Corinthians 11:2

² For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you *as* a chaste virgin to Christ.



It is an act of betrayal and (spiritual) fornication for God's beloved to be joined to idols.

We see this in the condemnation of King Jehoram of Judah:

2 Chronicles 21:11

¹¹ Moreover he made high places in the mountains of Judah, and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem **to commit fornication,** and compelled Judah *thereto*.



HIGH PLACES

“Before the temple was built in Jerusalem, sacrifices were offered to Jehovah by his worshipers, on high places; but afterwards such mounds were devoted to idolatrous sacrifices.”

Webster's Dictionary

2 Chronicles 21:11

¹¹ Moreover he made **high places** in the mountains of Judah, and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to commit fornication, and compelled Judah *thereto*.



HIGH PLACES

This term is found only once in the New Testament. It refers to any center of idolatrous worship.

Ephesians 6:12

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness **in high places.**



In this very explicit passage from Ezekiel, Israel's unfaithfulness to God is likened to an promiscuous wife with an unquenchable lust for new lovers.

Ezekiel 16:25-26, 28-29

- ²⁵ Thou hast built **thy high place** at every head of the way, and hast made thy beauty to be abhorred, and hast opened thy feet to every one that passed by, and multiplied thy whoredoms.
- ²⁶ Thou hast also committed fornication with the Egyptians thy neighbours, great of flesh; and hast increased thy whoredoms, to provoke me to anger.
- ²⁸ Thou hast played the whore also with the Assyrians, because thou wast unsatiable; yea, thou hast played the harlot with them, and yet couldest not be satisfied.
- ²⁹ Thou hast moreover multiplied thy fornication in the land of Canaan unto Chaldea; and yet thou wast not satisfied herewith.

Israel was worse than a prostitute because she paid her lovers to give her pleasure.

Ezekiel 16:33

³³ They give gifts to all whores:
but thou givest thy gifts to all thy lovers, and hirest them,
that they may come unto thee on every side for thy
whoredom.



The whore herself is not interested in sensual pleasure. She trades her virtue for money.

She is “the strange woman” who lures the foolish and ignorant to destruction.

Proverbs 5:3-4

- 3 For the lips of a strange woman drop *as* an honeycomb, and her mouth *is* smoother than oil:
- 4 But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword.

She is “the mistress of witchcrafts” who brings destruction to nations and families through her whoredoms.

Nahum 3:3-4

- 3 The horseman lifteth up both the bright sword and the glittering spear:
and *there is* a multitude of slain,
and a great number of carcases;
and *there is* none end of *their* corpses;
they stumble upon their corpses:
- 4 Because of the multitude of the whoredoms of the wellfavoured harlot,
the mistress of witchcrafts,
that selleth nations through her whoredoms,
and families through her witchcrafts.

Revelation 17:1-2

- ¹ And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of **the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:**
- ² With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.



The meaning of this phrase is given later in the chapter, but it useful to see it now:

Revelation 17:15

- ¹⁵ And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

Revelation 17:1-2

- ¹ And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:
- ² With whom **the kings of the earth** have committed fornication, and **the inhabitants of the earth** have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.



Her customers come from around the world and all parts of society – royals and commoners, rich and poor, educated and unschooled.

In verse 3, the focus turns from the woman to the beast she rides.

The beast empowers and promotes the whore.



Revelation 17:3

- 3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness:
and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.



A Dictionary of Bible Types

Revelation 17:3

- 3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness:
and I saw a woman sit upon **a scarlet coloured beast,** full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.



“Scarlet is used to describe the stain of sin in contrast with the white garments of salvation.”

Isaiah 1:18a

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD:
though your sins be as scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;

Revelation 17:3

3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness:
and I saw a woman sit upon a **scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.**



This is the beast from the sea.



Revelation 13:1

And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

The whore flaunts her great wealth, draping herself in purple, scarlet, and gold.



Revelation 17:4

- 4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:



Revelation 17:5

⁵ And upon her forehead
was a name written,

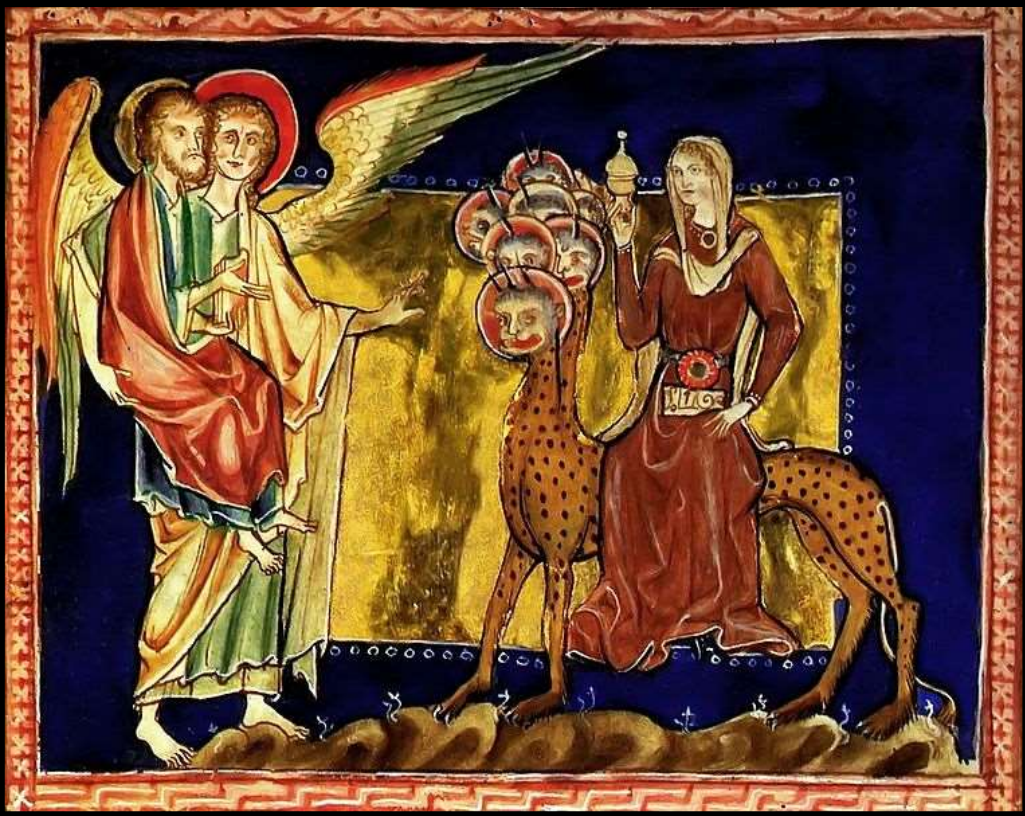
MYSTERY,
BABYLON THE GREAT,
THE MOTHER OF
HARLOTS
AND ABOMINATIONS OF
THE EARTH.



Revelation 17:6

⁶ And I saw the woman
drunken with the blood of
the saints,
and with the blood of the
martyrs of Jesus:
and when I saw her,
I wondered with great
admiration.





Revelation 17:7

- 7 And the angel said unto me,
Wherefore didst thou marvel?
I will tell thee the mystery of
the woman,
and of the beast that carrieth
her, which hath the seven
heads and ten horns.

Revelation 17:8

⁸ The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition:

and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder,

whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world,

when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.



Revelation 17:8

⁸ **The beast that thou sawest was, and is not;** and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast **that was, and is not, and yet is.**

“That was, and is not, and yet is”

The Revived Roman Empire

1. **It was:**
From 27 BC to 476 AD
2. **It is not:**
Rome's last emperor was overthrown by the Germanic leader Odoacer.
3. **Yet is:**
Reborn as the iron mixed with clay.

“That was, and is not, and yet is”

Revelation 17:8

⁸ The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition:

and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder,

whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world,

when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

The people of God who are still on earth will not be bewitched by the beast.

Revelation 17:9

⁹ And here is the mind which hath wisdom.

The seven heads are seven mountains,
on which the woman sitteth.



Revelation 17:9

⁹ And here is the mind which hath wisdom.

The seven heads are seven mountains,
on which the woman sitteth.



Rome is known as the City of 7 hills.

Revelation 17:10

¹⁰ And there are seven kings:
five are fallen,
and one is,
and the other is not yet come;
and when he cometh,
he must continue a short space.



Revelation 17:10

¹⁰ And there are **seven kings:**

five are fallen,
and one is,
and the other is not yet come;
and when he cometh,
he must continue a short space.



The seven kings are the seven empires that ruled over Israel, and much of the known world.

Revelation 17:10

¹⁰ And there are seven kings:

five are fallen,

and one is,

and the other is not yet come;

and when he cometh,

he must continue a short space.



When John wrote Revelation,
five of these empires had already
FALLEN:

The first two were before Babylon:

1. Egypt
2. Assyria

Revelation 17:10

¹⁰ And there are seven kings:

five are fallen,
and one is,
and the other is not yet come;
and when he cometh,
he must continue a short space.



Starting in the time of Daniel:

3. Babylonia (head)
4. Medo-Persia (chest and arms)
5. Greece (belly and thighs)

Revelation 17:10

¹⁰ And there are seven kings:
five are fallen,
and one is,
and the other is not yet come;
and when he cometh,
he must continue a short space.



One IS:

In John's life, the Roman Empire (the legs of iron) was in power.

Revelation 17:10

¹⁰ And there are seven kings:

five are fallen,
and one is,

and the other is not yet come;

and when he cometh,
he must continue a short space.



The other is NOT YET COME:

This is the feet of iron and clay; the ten-horned beast, the world order that is in place when the antichrist comes into power.

Revelation 17:11

¹¹ And the beast that was,
and is not,
even he is the eighth,
and is of the seven,
and goeth into perdition.



The **EIGHTH** is the antichrist himself,
the little horn that came up from the
ten.

Revelation 17:11

¹¹ And the beast that was,
and is not,
even he is the eighth,
and is of the seven,
and goeth into perdition.



“He is **of** the seven in that he is the culmination of all the previous, pagan, idolatrous empires. But he will go into perdition, the lake of fire.”

[Nelson Study Bible]

Revelation 17:12-13

- ¹² And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.
- ¹³ These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.



Revelation 17:12-13

- ¹² And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; **but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.**
- ¹³ These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.



“**One hour** indicates a relatively short period of time.”



Revelation 17:14

¹⁴ These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them:

for he is Lord of lords,
and King of kings:
and they that are with him *are*
called, and chosen, and faithful.

Before long,
the beast will grow
envious of the
worldwide power
held by the woman,
and it will kill her.



Revelation 17:15-16

- 15 And he saith unto me,
The waters which thou sawest,
where the whore sitteth,
are peoples, and multitudes,
and nations, and tongues.
- 16 And the ten horns which thou
sawest upon the beast,
these shall hate the whore,
and shall make her desolate and naked,
and shall eat her flesh,
and burn her with fire.



Revelation 17:17

¹⁷ For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.



Revelation 17:18

¹⁸ And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

As Chapter 17 comes to the close, John gives further insight into the identity of the whore of Babylon:

She is not only the idolatrous system. She is the city from which it governs.





After the fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476, the Roman Catholic Church became a powerful social and political institution, and its influence spread throughout Europe and the world.



The Pope is not only the head of the Roman Catholic church. The Pope is the king of the Vatican City State.

The papal church of Rome is the oldest continuing monarchy in the world.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

Part 3: The Things Which Shall Be Hereafter

4:1 to 22:21

Ch 17: 1-18

The Judgment of Babylon

Ch 18: 1-24

The Fall of Babylon

Ch 19: 1-3

Celebrating the Fall of Babylon

Chapter 17 revealed the fall of the whore of Babylon.
Chapter 18 will look at the fall of the city itself.

John's 14 Visions of "The Time of Jacob's Trouble"

H
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9) 14:1-5

11) 15:1-8

The Lamb and the 144,000 on Mount Zion

The Seven Vial Angels, and the chorus of 144,000

E
A
R
T
H

10) 14:6-20

12) 16:1 – 18:24

Six Angels Announce the Judgment of the Earth

The 7 Bowls of Wrath, the Whore, The Fall of Babylon

All this is still part of the 12th vision.

Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

1. Who founded the ancient city of Babel?
2. What are the "high places" of Ephesians 6:12?
3. What is the meaning of the WATERS the whore of Babylon sits on?
4. What is the color of the beast she rides?
5. What is the meaning of that color?
6. In Revelation 17:5, what is written on her forehead?
7. In Revelation 17:6, what has made her drunk?
8. What is the meaning of the seven heads of the beast?
9. How does the whore of Babylon die?
10. What is the oldest continuing monarchy in the world?

Each question is worth 10 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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