

Revelation Chapter 17

Last week ended with 7th Bowl being poured out on the air (Satan's Kingdom – Babylon)
Rev. chapters 17 & 18 – detail that judgment (Ecumenical – economic/political)

My worldview – the scope of all human history is God is bringing all things back into alignment with His perfect will.

Jesus 'worldview'?

John 15:18-19 – “If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. “the world” 6 x's in two verses.

Not referring the physical globe – It is the system – or kingdom – which opposes Him (1 John 5:19; Rev 12:9). In fact, this Satanic system is so contrary to Jesus that He would not even pray for it. In

John 17:9 Jesus said, “I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but on the behalf of those whom You have given Me, because they are Yours” (love not the world, 1 John 2:15)

This rebellious/godless system is exposed in Psalm chapter 2 in a conversation between the members of the Trinity.

Holy Spirit (vss. 1-3): describing efforts of mankind to cast off any form of rule by the Creator God.

God the Father (vss. 4-6): “but I have installed my King upon Zion, my holy mountain (vs. 6).

Jesus (vss. 7-9): declaring He will declare the decree of God to the world (which He fulfilled when He came in human flesh – if you've seen me you've seen the Father).

This is the 'Mystery of Iniquity' spoken of by Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:7 which began with the individual sin of Adam and Eve but went worldwide prior to the flood

Flood

Genesis 6:5-8 – The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the LORD said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.” But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

The Hebrew translated “intent,” (yēšer – yester) means what is framed in the mind.” what is being said in Genesis 6:5 is that before we can even recognize our fully developed thoughts in our minds, their very inception is evil because of our fallen and utterly corrupt natures.

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This 'worldwide rebellion happened **again after** the flood at the Tower of Babel.

The Book of Revelation is a summary of all Biblical history and the Bible is the summary of God's dealings with His creation (particularly mankind) throughout human history. Everything begun in Genesis finds its conclusion in Revelation.

It's also a tale of two cities:

Jerusalem – the city of peace (ruled by Jesus Christ)

Babylon – Akkadian language of the time, meant 'Gate of the gods' (ruled by Satan thru his 'Beast')

What is “Babylon”: We hear the name and think of a city, or an ancient empire. It is those things but, more importantly, it is a system – referred to in Revelation 17 as 'Mystery Babylon'.

A “mother” – one who gives birth to . . . or 'brings forth'

A “mystery” – now revealing something purposely hidden in the past.

A Harlot/prostitute – represents spiritual idolatry (17:1, 15, 16)

Her title – Rev. 17:5: And on her forehead a mysterious name was written:

BABYLON THE GREAT,
THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Chapters 17-18 go in tandem with each other much like the 7 letters to 7 churches on chapters 2-3 go together. This godless 'Mystery Babylon' system is receiving judgment from Jesus Christ Himself. Chapter 17 is the judgment of the false one-world religious system. Chapter 18 will be the judgment of the one-world economic and political system.

The City of Babylon – literal or spiritual

Mentioned more (300-plus refs) than any city other than Jerusalem. In Revelation 42 of 404 verses.

Literal Babylon (not New York, Washington, the Vatican)

Babylonian Talmud

Large church there and Jewish population since the captivity (1 Peter 5:13)

Paul spoke directly about Rome (why would John be afraid)

doesn't symbolize false church – Apostles routinely named false people/churches

Revelation means “unveiling” - not “veiling”

But it barely exists today (Israel was a wasteland for 2000 years until May 14, 1948)

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55 miles south of Baghdad in modern day Iraq. Nebuchadnezzar built to it's height (hanging gardens) 7 wonders of the ancient world. City was impenetrable. Herodotus (the “Father of History – 430 B.C.)” wrote the walls were 35 stories high, 85 feet thick.

Jeremiah (51:6) predicted it's destruction 60 years before it fell.
Isaiah 45:1-3 predicted how and by whom (Cyrus) Babylon would fall – 150 years before Cyrus was born! Conquered by damming up the river and marching under the underwater gates. (October 12, 539 B.C.)

Saddam Hussein spent 500 million dollars building his palace on the old foundation of Nebuchadnezzar's palace. He tried to annex Kuwait and his dream fell apart. Today it is ancient ruins but it will be rebuilt and then destroyed by the Lord Himself.

History of literal Babylon

The area itself is the **cradle** of civilization and it will be the **grave** of it as well. In Genesis 2:10-15.

Sun Worship

- The earliest form of Paganism, originating on the plain of Shinar.

The sun was first worshiped by Nimrod and his followers on the plains of Shinar and Bab-El was the site of the first temple to the sun. Gen 11:4. Mazzeroth corrupted to the zodiac.

All paganism is derived from this beginning. This also accounts for the parallelism in the pagan myths in all parts of the world.

Nimrod – ancient sources describing him

Nimrod persuaded mankind not to ascribe their happiness to God, but to think that his own excellency was the source of it. And he soon changed things into a tyranny, thinking that there was no other way to wean men from the fear of God, than by making them rely upon his own power.

Josephus, Antiquities of Jews, I.c.4.2

He was powerful in hunting and in wickedness before the Lord for he was a hunter of the sons of men, and he said to them, ‘Depart from the judgment of the Lord, and adhere to the judgment of Nimrod!’ There is it said, ‘As Nimrod is the strong one, strong in hunting, and in wickedness before the Lord.’

Jerusalem Targum

Genesis 10:8-10 – Nimrod [means: rebellious-one] (great-grandson of Noah): his kingdom was Babel (ancient term for Babylon). A mighty hunter before [heb. 'panim = in the face of] in “defiance” of the Lord! The final world dictator will be an Assyrian (Plain of Shinar): Micah 5:5,6; Isaiah 10.

Genesis 11 – Tower of Babel (confusion). Worldwide rebellion just as before the flood. Make a name for ourselves (not God) and worshiped the 'starry hosts'. All occult and astrological worship can be traced back to Babel.

Just as Jesus has a 'worldview', so did the Babylonians

Nimrod married Semiramis (the Queen of Heaven – Jeremiah 7:18; 44:17-19; 44:25). They had a son named Tammuz (Ezekiel 8:14). He was immaculately conceived, was killed by a bore and came back to life.

This is where mother/son cult worship all began (the birthplace)

Chaldeans: Semiramis (early name for Thyatira- Jezebel church) and Tammuz

Assyrians: Ishtar and Tammuz

Canaanites: Ashteroth and Baal (Queen of Heaven – Jeremiah 7:18; 44:17-19; 44:25)

Egyptians: Isis and Horus

Greeks: Aphrodite and Eros

Romans: Venus and Cupid

“Marduk Prophecy,” describes the travels of the Babylonian supreme god Marduk (Gr. Zeus) to the lands of Hatti, Assur, and Elam. It concludes with the prediction that a future king will lead Marduk back from Elam. (Antichrist prophesied to come from Assyria) *The Marduk Prophecy is an Assyrian document dating to between 700 BC found in the building known as The House of the Exorcist adjacent to a temple in the city of Ashur.*

Marduk is also the ancient “sky god” (a.k.a. 'Bel'): (pictured as a calf) (like Zeus who is king of the gods, or, Satan) (The Throne at Pergamos)

Hesiod (c. 700 bc), Greek poet. One of the earliest known Greek poets, he wrote the Theogony, a work on the genealogies of the gods

As Babylon was conquered by subsequent empires, this entire religious system was transplanted, first to Tyre (Is. 23:16-17), then Pergamos (Rev 2:12-17) and then to Rome.

Iniquity, rebellion, lawlessness, wickedness

2 Thessalonians 2:7 – For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains (Gen. 6:3) will do so until He is removed [taken out of the midst – 2 Cor. 6:17 – God goes 'hands-off']. (vs. mystery of godliness: 1 Tim. 3:16; 1 John 4:3)

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John 16:7-8 – Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

Omnipresent versus limited by time/space in His flesh

John 14:16-17 – Spirit of truth abides with you and IN YOU!

Psalms chapter 2:8-9, Jesus would “break the nations as with a rod of iron”. That is exactly what we are witnessing in these chapters of Revelation. It is the conclusion of the spiritual cosmic warfare initiated by God Himself in Genesis 3:15 between Satan and his seed and the woman and her seed. The theme of 'The Woman' is picked up in Revelation chapter 12 where the serpent is the Devil (12:9), the Woman is Israel (who gave birth to the man-child) – Jesus (Gal. 3:16). The seed of the woman was the Messiah but what is the seed of the serpent?

Jesus in Matthew 12:34 called Pharisees a generation of vipers (Matthew 12:34). A viper is a serpent and a generation is something which has been birthed (the seed of the serpent).

The masses were never condemned this way by Jesus. In scripture they are referred to as “Children of wrath” and “children of disobedience” but never children of the devil (Ephesians 2:2). The 'masses' were simply sheep without a shepherd Jesus said. They walked in ignorance because they were never shown the way of truth. There is another group, however, those who give themselves over to Satan and align themselves with his evil world system (1 John 4:1-3; John 8:44-45; Rev. 14:9-11).

Last week we concluded with ...

Revelation 14:7 – Fear, give Him glory – creator heaven, earth, sea, waters

Revelation 15:1 – in them the wrath of God is finished

Revelation 16:19 – Babylon the Great was remembered before God

17:4 – The Church was not meant to rule until her rejected Lord returns in power.

Revelation 2:6, 15 – Nicolaitans – 'conquerors over the people'

Purple was the predominant color of Roman imperialism; every senator and consul wore a purple stripe as a badge of his position; the emperor's robes were purple. Scarlet is the color adopted by Roman Catholicism.

Vss. 9-13 – The Seven Heads/Ten Horns

Mystery of the WOMAN & The BEAST EXPLAINED

(1) BEAST Rev 17:8; 13:1-4; 14:8-20

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Was/ is not/about to come up out of the abyss -----> destruction.
Earth dwellers wonder (name not in book of life)

(2) 7 HEADS: Rev 17:9-11; 13:1

7Heads = 7 mountains = 7 kings

The WOMAN (=) sits on these

5 fallen, 1 is, other has not yet come, & when he comes, he must remain a little while

Beast = 8th king = one of the 7 kings =>destruction

Assyria

Egypt

Babylon

Medo/Persia

Greece

Rome

Rome Revived

8th is Antichrist: the little horn of Daniel 7:8 and 8:9

(3) 10 HORNS: Rev 17:12-14; Daniel 2:42-44

10 Horns = 10 Kings

Not yet received a kingdom

Receive authority w/ Beast for ONE HOUR

ONE PURPOSE: Give power/authority to Beast

These wage war against the Lamb...

Lamb will overcome because He is Lord of lords & King of kings

With Him: Called, Chosen, Faithful

(4) JUDGMENT of the WOMAN

10 Horns + Little Horn => will hate harlot

They will make HER desolate, naked, eat flesh, & burn her up w. fire

Because God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose

Chapter 17 describes the beginning of the judgment of Mystery Babylon. The first form of this judgment is against the ecumenical system – a false religious system which dominates the whole world. Remember that by this point in the Tribulation the True Church has been removed. Anyone remaining of Earth but belonging to 'the church' does not belong to something true and good – they are being swept along by a false system which ultimately points them to worship the Beast through the miraculous signs of the False Prophet.