

## Revelation Chapter 17: Seeking help from other parts of the Bible.

### I. Revelation 17:1-2---

*a. 1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality."*

- i. The Chapter starts out as an interlude to chapter 16. In Chapter 16 John witnesses the pouring out of the Bowls of God's wrath and final judgments on the earth. The Seventh Bowl references Babylon the Great and how her sins are at this time being recalled by God, and God makes her drink the wine of His wrath. In the first part of this Chapter, we see one of the Angels that had the Bowls of the last judgment come over to John and proceeds to tell him about this Babylon the Great. He says he will show John the Judgment of the "Great Harlot" who sits on many waters.
- ii. So, in Revelation chapter 16:19 We see Babylon the Great referenced as a *She*, and also that *She* is given the cup of God's wrath. In Revelation chapter 14:8 we see echoed something that I just read, in chap 14:8 it says that *She* made the nations drink the wine of *her* immorality. Now here in Revelation chapter 17: 2 we see that not only do the nations, but both their leaders and people also drink of her immorality. So here it is indicated that the Woman, this Harlot, sits on many waters, which Jeremiah the Prophet also uses in relation to the original Babylon in Jeremiah 51:13.

#### 1. Jeremiah 51:13

*a. 13 O you who dwell by many waters, Abundant in treasures, Your end has come, The measure of your end.*

- iii. So, what are the Many Waters that she sits on? Well, the Angel tells John in verse 15 of Chapter 17 that these Many Waters are peoples, Multitude, and nations and Tongue. So here we see the Symbolic reference to what Many waters means in the bible, her sitting over them is like Psalm 29: 3 where we are told the Lord sits over many waters. This is telling us that this Harlot has influence and effect on many nations and peoples.

#### 1. Psalm 29: 3

*a. 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; The God of glory thunders, The Lord is over many waters.*

b. **Jeremiah 51:7--**

- i. *Babylon has been a golden cup in the hand of the Lord, Intoxicating all the earth. The nations have drunk of her wine; Therefore, the nations are going mad.*
- ii. We see here that this woman has affected leaders of nations and entire peoples with her immoralities. Just as Babylon did, but if we look carefully, we can see that all of the major empires of world history have impacted the thinking and culture of the people they conquered, but most importantly they affected their beliefs and religion. For example when Alexander the Great conquered the Holy Land the beliefs and religion of the Greeks drastically affected the beliefs and religions of the People of Israel. Her being a Harlot and the Mother of Abominations gives the indication that her wine is immoral beliefs and actions that lead to religious beliefs that are opposite of what God's word says. Remember the events of Revelation are mostly set in the future, and so we see in this woman a global push of immoral behaviors and ways of thinking that will stand in opposition to the word of God.

II. **Revelation 17: 3-7---**

- a. *3 And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, 5 and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." 6 And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. When I saw 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 that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.*

b. **Zachariah 4:5-11**

- i. *5 Then the angel who was speaking with me went out and said to me, "Lift up now your eyes and see what this is going forth." 6 I said, "What is it?" And he said, "This is the Ephah going forth." Again he said, "This is their appearance in all the land 7 (and behold, a lead cover was lifted up); and this is a woman sitting inside the Ephah." 8 Then he said, "This is Wickedness!" And he threw her down into the middle of the Ephah and cast the lead weight on its opening. 9 Then I lifted up my eyes and looked, and there two women were coming out with the wind in their wings; and they had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the Ephah between the earth and the heavens. 10 I said to the*

*angel who was speaking with me, “Where are they taking the Ephah?” 11 Then he said to me, “To build a temple for her in the land of Shinar (Which is where Babylon was); and when it is prepared, she will be set there on her own pedestal.*

- c. This prophecy in Zachariah 4 gives us an insight into the beginnings of this Woman on the beast, Babylon the Great. The Ephah, or, Basket, that is *“Their appearance in all that Land”* is that of the People of Israel’s appearance wherever they went. It indicates that their appearance was like a basket full of grain, but on closer inspection is found to be empty. The empty basket is then filled with this woman, who the Angel tells Zachariah that she is called wickedness. This points us back to the first ten chapters of Proverbs where Wisdom is contrasted with Folly, or Wickedness and Solomon uses the image of these two very different women to contrast these two concepts.
- d. The Ephah, or basket, is carried by two women with the wings of a stork, into the wilderness. Leviticus 11:19 tells us that the stork is one of the detestable birds that the people of Israel could not eat or touch. So, these flying women have wings of a bird that would make one unclean. This gives us an indication that these two flying women are not of good intent.

**i. Leviticus 11:19**

**1. 19 and the stork, the heron in its kinds, and the hoopoe, and the bat.**

- 2. Previously in Leviticus 11 we are told that these birds mentioned in verse 19 are detestable and will make someone unclean if they touch them. These two women therefore are indicated as agents of this wickedness who support her and her eventual rise to power. This is further supported by the statement in the prophecy that they will build a temple for Wickedness and place her on a pedestal.

- e. An iron cover is placed over her showing God’s power to restrain wickedness. She is carried into the wilderness where a temple will be built for Wickedness, and she will be set upon a pedestal.
  - i. At the beginning of chapter 17 in Revelation, where does the angel carry John to see this Harlot on the Beast? To the wilderness.
  - ii. Is she sitting on the ground? No, she sits atop the Scarlet Beast, like it was her pedestal.
  - iii. So here in Chapter 17 we see the Mystery of this Woman, Wickedness, now come into completion. As we will read in a few minutes from 2 Thessalonians,

the revealing of the Anti-christ and his Empire, or this Beast that she rides on, is through the workings of the devil. Pointing to the fact that the heart of this Empire is a temple to Wickedness.

- f. We also see that she is drunk with the blood of the saints and the witnesses of Jesus. Note the distinction here between the two categories. If just Christ followers were in view, saying the witnesses of Jesus would have sufficed, but the inclusion of the Saints, or Holy Ones or set apart ones, would also include the ones who were set apart to salvation in the Old Testament also.

### III. Revelation 17:8--

- a. *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.*

- i. Didn't we just see this beast she is riding somewhere else? In Revelation chapter 13 we see this same beast rising up out of the sea, or the Abyss.

#### b. Revelation 13:1-2---

- i. *1 And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names. 2 And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.*

- c. What do we know about this Beast? It is the Anti-christ, and also His empire. Where is the connection to this woman, Wickedness? Well, Zachariah would seem to indicate the beast is her pedestal, or that which she sits on. There is a deep connection between wickedness and Lawlessness. Also, the blasphemous names are no longer just on the heads, they now cover the Beast, showing how wickedness can spread corruption.

#### d. 2 Thessalonians 2:5-8

- i. *5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? 6 And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.*

- ii. Remember that this Babylon the Great, Wickedness herself, was also a Mystery. Something hidden, developing in the background until it was time for it to be revealed? Well, like it is the Mystery of Lawlessness. The meaning of

Lawlessness here is not disobedience to any law, but disobedience to the Law God handed to Moses .

e. 2 Thessalonians 2: 9-12

i. *8 Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; 9 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, 10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. 11 For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, 12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.*

f. This Lawless One, or the Man of Lawlessness in 2 Thessalonians 2, is the Anti-christ. So here we learn that the Mystery of Lawlessness is being fulfilled through the work of Satan. So, the revealing and building of the Empire of the Anti-christ will be the culmination of the work of the Devil. How does the devil bring this about? *“With every kind of Power, Sign, and false wonder, and with every wicked deception.”* His works are directed toward those who are perishing, those who do not know Jesus. Just as God hardened Pharaoh’s heart, so here we see Him sending a great delusion on the unbelievers who delighted in the woman called **Wickedness**. She sits on top of and is supported by the Man of Lawlessness who is the culmination of the Mystery of Lawlessness, just as she is the fruition of Wickedness, which encompasses Harlotry and Abominations, or the abandoning of God and turning to idols.

g. The phrase *“was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss”* is one Greek word, **Mellon**, which means something that is about to happen, or come about. It has both a present and future tense, this is why it is translated as *“Was, and is not, and is about to come up.”* Indicating that this empire of the Anti-christ will resemble one of the previous empires. This is what is indicated in Revelation 13: 3 by the head that was wounded.

i. Revelation 13: 3

1. *3 I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast;*

2. This would indicate both the leader being killed and resurrected, but also his Empire, the Beast, will have characteristics of all of these past Empires. We see support for such an idea in Daniel 7:6-7.

ii. Daniel 7:6-7

1. *6 After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it. 7 After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.*
2. So, this beast from the abyss will share characteristics of all the past empires, but at its heart will be that temple full of Wickedness, that has always been at the heart of the Empires of the world. Man's pride in thinking he can be God.

IV. Revelation 17:9-13---

- a. *9 Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, 10 and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. 11 The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction. 12 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. 13 These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast.*
- b. Okay, so the seven heads of the beast are seven mountains on which the woman sits, or her pedestal. The Seven mountains are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one presently exists during the time John is writing, and there is still one coming. The beast being described, the Anti-christ and His Empire, are an eighth mountain or empire and king, and he is numbered as one of the seven, or he comes out of them. So, what does all this mean? The answer is actually in the passage itself. If the seven heads, are seven mountains that the woman sits on, and we know from the Old Testament that a mountain prophetically represents an empire or Kingdom and the heads are also seven kings. What are they? Well, what does this passage say about the Anti-christ? We know that he is the Beast and we know from the book of Daniel that the Beast is also his empire. So, we can see from this passage that the mountains are Empires, which also represent their famous leaders.
- c. These are a few passages that support this idea of mountains representing Empires.

i. Daniel 2:35

1. *35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.*

ii. Daniel 2:44-45

1. *44 In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. 45 Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.”*

iii. Jerimiah 51:25

1. *25 “Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, Who destroys the whole earth,” declares the Lord, “And I will stretch out My hand against you And roll you down from the crags, And I will make you a burnt out mountain.*

d. So, looking at these mountains as Empires, the statement that five have fallen point to five empires of the past that have dominated the world and then fallen. Rome would be the Empire mentioned where John writes *“One is”* or the one of the seven mountains that is currently the empire that rules the world while John is writing this. This also helps us understand which empires are the five that have fallen. Daniel gives us insight here. In Daniel chapter 7 where we see Daniel having a vision where he sees four beasts that represent four empires. The fourth beast he sees, the Terrible one is Rome, The third Beast, the Leppard, is Greece. The second beast, the Bear that devours, is the Meades and the Persians. The first beast, the Lion, is Babylon. All of those empires, beside Rome, had already fallen by the time John was writing Revelation, but their lands still existed.

- i. Wait, that only accounts for three of the five that have fallen. (Greece, Persia, Babylon). What then are the other two that have fallen?
- ii. The only other two major empires before Babylon were the Assyrians and the Egyptians. These both were prophesied against in the Bible and their notable leaders defeated, and so these would be the other two that have fallen that are mentioned. So, we see that this Harlot, Babylon, Wickedness, has had an influence in all the major empires of the world.

- e. These are the Prophecies against Assyria and Egypt from the Old Testament.
  - i. **Ezekiel 29: 3**, against Egypt.
    - 1. *3 Speak and say, 'Thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am against you, Pharaoh king of Egypt, The great monster that lies in the midst of his rivers, That has said, 'My Nile is mine, and I myself have made it."'*
  - ii. **Isaiah 14:23-27** against Assyria.
    - 1. *24 The Lord of hosts has sworn saying, "Surely, just as I have intended so it has happened, and just as I have planned so it will stand, 25 to break Assyria in My land, and I will trample him on My mountains. Then his yoke will be removed from them and his burden removed from their shoulder. 26 This is the plan devised against the whole earth; and this is the hand that is stretched out against all the nations. 27 For the Lord of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate it? And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?"*
  - iii. Assyria replaced Egypt in world domination, but both were broken by the might of Babylon.
- f. We also see here that the ten horns of the beast's heads are ten Kings who are rulers with ambition for empire ,but have not been given one. The fact that they are on the heads of the beast, which are the fallen empires of the past, indicates that they will be leaders who rule over the lands of those fallen empires but could not succeed in making their own Empire. So, when the Anti-christ does come, the fact that they will give him their power, indicates that they will give him their lands and they will be leaders in his empire. Daniel indicates that the anit-christ, and his empire will rise out from among these horns or leaders. That the Anti Christ will be one of the 10 who rises up from them.
  - i. **Daniel 7:7-8**
    - 1. *7 After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. 8 While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts.*

2. The Little Horn is the Anti-christ. As we can see here he comes to power out of one of the areas formally controlled by one of the previous empires.
- g. The Anti-christ being one of the ten horns and coming to power is what it means that he is an eighth and is one of the seven.
- h. We can find this seventh empire as the one described in Daniel chapter 2, one where the feat of the statue from the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar saw was made of iron mixed with clay. It gives the indication of nations trying to form empires like the ones of the past that would rule the entire world, but they are unable to hold themselves together long enough to rule the world. We have seen countries try to rule the world since the time of the fall of the Roman Empire, Empires trying to form, but not lasting a long time and then breaking apart. Ten toes on the feat of the statue, Ten horns on the beast, Ten Kings, Ten minor Kingdoms.
- i. **Daniel 2: 34**
    1. *33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.*
    2. The feat of clay would indicate this seventh kingdom. This tells us that at some point in the future the leaders of the world powers will give their lands over to one leader and out of their lands he will forge the remaining world Empire, the Eighth, that will then be overthrown by the return of Jesus.

#### V. Revelation 17:14----

- a. *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 and faithful.”*
- b. The Anti-christ and his lesser kings and their armies will head out to battle to try to defeat Jesus, the lamb, and His armies. We will find out the outcome of that battle in two weeks.
- c. This does point us back to some previous chapters of Revelation thought.
  - i. The Sixth Seal, the Day of the Lord. **Revelation 6:14-17**
    1. *14 The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. 15 Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and*

*the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; 16 and they \*said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"*

ii. Why are they there? **Revelation 16:13-14**

1. *13 And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs; 14 for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty.*

iii. How did they get there? **Revelation 16:12**

1. *12 The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east.*

iv. Where is there? **Revelation 16:16; Revelation 16:19**

1. **Revelation 16:16**

- a. *6 And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.*

2. **Revelation 16:19**

- a. *19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell.*

**VI. Revelation 17:15-18---**

- a. *15 And he \*said to me, "The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. 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. 17 For God has put it in 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. 18 The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth."*

**b. Jeremiah 51:11-13---**

- i. *11 Sharpen the arrows, fill the quivers! The Lord has aroused the spirit of the kings of the Medes, Because His purpose is against Babylon to destroy it; For it is the vengeance of the Lord, vengeance for His temple. 12 Lift up a signal against the walls of Baylon; Post a strong guard, Station sentries, Place men in ambush! For the Lord has both purposed and performed What He spoke concerning the inhabitants of Babylon. 13 O you who dwell by many waters, Abundant in treasures, our end has come, The measure of your end.*

- c. So, just as ancient Babylon was built over the great river Euphrates, and was also over the Kings of the earth because she had conquered, so too will this Babylon have power over many peoples and nations and Toungs. Ancient Babylon was so mighty and confident, so too is this Harlot, but just as God raised up the Meads and Persians to come together and destroy the original, haughty Babylon. So also, God will use the Anti-christ and those who helped him form the Empire to come against and destroy the Harlot. There is another reason that the armies of the Kings have come into Israel. It is their hatred for this Harlot; they will attack her and burn her and destroy her.
- d. What is this great city? Well, John uses the term great city four times in Revelation, and each time we see Jerusalem in view. Jerusalem is also the City on Seven Hills?