

THE WORLD, BABYLON, AND THE BEAST

Introduction

Did you know that people can be religious and not honor the true God of creation? The idol worshiper is seriously dedicated and involved with his religious practices. Yet, any clear thinking, true seeker of God The Creator could readily explain that carving an image and calling it god is that person's own creation of god. The carving cannot speak, see, hear, or do any of the things an ordinary individual can; so how could it ever approach being God. There are not many "Gods"; there is just one that really, truly, is God.

Most folks can see and understand the common sense explanation about the analogy of the idol worshiper. But, did you know that even smart people behave the same way where things other than carvings are concern. People get caught up in worshipping money, power, other people, gods which are not "the God of creation", and things related to the worlds' system of values. This is no less the same circumstance of those that worship carved idols.

All of these things that people go after and worship in place of the TRUE AND LIVING GOD is what Revelation 17:5 describe as MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And it is stated in Revelation 17:2, that this is 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.

People are intoxicated with worshipping everything except the true God of heaven. There are scriptures that make it clear that those who do such things commit fornication, because no other (nothing else) is to be worshipped as God but God of creation. This distinguishes Him from any other "so called god", and Jesus is His Son. Therefore, a time will come, as described in the scriptures, when God will cease from efforts to bring the un-repentant out of their ways to destruction, and he will get rid of evil and everyone, or everything associated with it. The Book of Revelations paints the picture of that time when God recalls his mercy and executes His judgment, and those that are not allied with him and his Christ (Jesus) will be lost.

The Book of Revelation contains a vast amount of information about events that shall occur, which leads up to the time when God shall remove evil from HIS Universe/Creation. This study will focus primarily on prophecies about that time provided in Revelation Chapter 17. These are the prophecies that talk about "Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth", and the beast (anti-Christ or man of Satan) that support, control, and influences "Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots", or "the world's system that is disobedience to the eternal authority of the God of creation".

Subject Scriptures

Rev 17:1 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 (*world, woman, Babylon the Great*) that sitteth upon many waters (*the sea, peoples, or societies of the earth*):

Rev 17:2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication (*idolatry*), and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her (*world, woman, Babylon the great whore*) fornication.

This next verse is the same beast we saw in Revelation 13:1 that resembles the great red dragon in Revelation 12:3; the man of sin under the authority of the devil, Satan.

Rev 17:3 So he (*one of the seven angels*) carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman (*Babylon the great, whore, world*) sit upon a scarlet coloured beast (*governing authority, man of sin, world ruler*), full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

Rev 17:4 And the woman (*world, Babylon, great whore*) 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 (*or, those thing that draw the attention of men away from God and to her, "the world"*):

Rev 17:5 And upon her forehead *was* a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Rev 17:6 And I saw the woman (*world, Babylon the great whore, 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.

Rev 17:7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast (*human authority, government, man of sin*) that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns (*this is the scarlet coloured beast of Revelation 17:3. Again, notice that he looks like the great red dragon of Revelation 12:3; the devil Satan, the god of this world*).

Rev 17:8 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 (*follow after*), 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. . (*In others words the beast was manifest in the past as the world powers of "Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon, the Medo-Persain Empire, the Empire of Alexander the Great and those dynasties (Ptolemy, Seleucid) that came out from him, and the Roman Empire."* And now the beast shall be manifest again as the end time beast/man of sin /world power.

Rev 17:9 And here *is* the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains (*or, seven ruling nations throughout history*), on which the woman (*world, Babylon the great whore*) sitteth.

Rev 17:10 And there are seven kings (*or, seven persons in history of the beast/world power*): five are fallen (*Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Alexander the Great*, and one is (*the Roman Empire*), and the other (*end time world power/beast/man of sin*) is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space (*3 ½ years; see Revelation 13:4 & 5*).

Rev 17:11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth (*this is a more abdominal manifestation of the end time beast/man of sin/ world power shall come out of the now decayed Roman Empire. He declares himself to be God*), and is of the seven (*have attributes of the seven*), and goeth into perdition (*and shall be put alive in the bottomless pit that burn with fire and brimstone*). See Revelation 19:20.

Rev 17:12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet (*at the time of John the apostle*); but receive power as kings one hour with the beast (*when the end time beast rules, these ten kings will have authority, but only for one hour*).

Rev 17:13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

Rev 17:14 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 (*the saints*) that are with him *are* called, and

chosen, and faithful (*see Revelation 19:11 through 19:21*).

Rev 17:15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues (*or the people that make-up earth's societies/ civilization*).

Rev 17:16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore (*they shall hate those things that the "world/whore/Babylon the Great" uses to entice men and the affairs of men*), and shall make her (*the world, Babylon the great whore*) desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire (*sounds like the terrorisms in the world today that is at war with the more, "civilized societies that ignores the God of creation, and his Christ/ Jesus"*).

Rev 17:17 For God hath put in their (*the ten horns*) hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

Rev 17:18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

Discussion of Subject Scripture

Verse 17:3 says the angel carried John away in the spirit into the wilderness: and he saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

Now, this is the appearance of what John saw in the spirit.

Generally speaking, the physical manifestation of what John saw in the spirit (the whore, Babylon the Great) is the world (corrupt riches, corrupt power, corrupt authorities, especially false religion, and other evils of the world) which take people (nations) away from seeking and worshipping the TRUE AND LIVING GOD of creation. The scarlet coloured beast (governments, authorities of man) is disobedient to God along side Satan to keeps the whore supplied with distractions that draw men (the masses), and blind them from seeing the TRUE AND LIVING GOD. Another way of describing this is to say that the woman and the beast consists of corrupt powers and authorities, both secular and religious, that come up in the world to keep men separated from God.

In Verse 17:4 we see that the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls. These are representative things that Verse 17:2 says the kings of the earth, and the inhabitants of the earth go after rather than God and therefore commit fornication with the world (Babylon, the whore). In fact, we know from the scriptures that the world, the flesh, and Satan are the enemies of God.

We see in scriptures that sometime a specific nation, people, or city is identified with Babylon, the woman, or the world because of their sin. Therefore, when we read Verse 17:18 it implies that a particular city (or nation) is being identified that will exhibit those attributes describing the whore, the world, Babylon the Great, in Verses 17:1 through 17:6.

At the time of John's Revelation "that great city" referred to in Verse 17:18 was Rome. So we would expect the woman (city) sitting upon the beast will have attributes consistent with the ancient city of Rome. This city, the woman, will be an integral part of, and influenced by the beast. The man of sin will take on the persona of the beast when he comes into his power. The fact that the woman sits upon the beast indicates that the woman/world is supported by, and does those things (or go) according to the will of the beast.

Now, this is not the only occasion in scripture where a manifestation of the beast is revealed. Approximately six hundred years before John's Revelation, Daniel prophesied of the beast in Daniel Chapter 7 & 11 as documented in the paragraphs, "Reference 1 - The End Time Beast" and "Reference 2 - The End Time Beast's First Appearance and The End Time Beast)" below.

Reference 1 is Daniel's specific prophecy about the manifestation of the beast in the person of the man of sin as described in Revelation Chapter 17 & 13. Since he has not yet come to power, his name has been withheld.

Reference 2 is Daniel's prophecy about the manifestation of the beast as he appeared in the person of Antiochus IV Epiphanies, and also as he (the beast) will appear again in the person of the man of sin as described in Revelation Chapter 17 & 13. Thus, Reference 2 is a dual prophecy, applicable to both these persons that are disobedient to God as Satan is disobedient to God. But you must keep in mind that these prophecies are ultimately about the beast, which has the spirit of Satan, the author of evil.

Antiochus IV Epiphanies is the ruler that defiled the Jewish temple by erecting a statue of the Greek god Zeus in the temple, and sacrificing a pig on the alter (175 - 163 BC). He also defiled the temple in other ways, such as bringing prostitutes into the temple. These abominable acts against the God of heaven and his people sparked the Jewish revolt recorded in history as the "Maccabean Revolt". (Investigate and read what the historical record says about Antiochus IV Epiphanies).

Revelation 17:8 says "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 earth shall wonder (or follow after), whose name 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".

Thus, we see that the beast came in the person of Antiochus IV Epiphanies.

But Antiochus IV died, yet the beast is, because his spirit is of Satan. And at some future time, he shall ascend out of the bottomless pit in the manifestation of the man of sin as Daniel prophesied in Reference 1. The final state of the beast is that he, and those with him, shall go into perdition.

Reference 1 – The End Time Beast

The fourth world Empire, or Roman's successors:

Dan 7:7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it *was* diverse from all the beasts that *were* before it; and it had ten horns.

Dan 7:8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn *were* eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

This fourth beast began as the Roman Empire. It conquered and/or controlled, perhaps every civilized nation of its day. Out of its' dominance, and control ten nations shall be spawn that has the attributes of its' politics, laws, ideals, culture, and religious behavior in disobedience to the God of creation; the Father and God of the Lord Jesus Christ. The leaders of these nations are synonymous with the horns. The little horn that came up after the initial ten is the man of sin, who will rule during the final days of the kingdom of men. Therefore, the beast is not destroyed, even unto today, but is subdued until the man of sin should take on the attributes of the great red dragon (or beast) as talked about in the book of Revelation 12:3 and 4.

Then we see in verse 9, just as Daniel explained in Chapter 2, the kingdom of men will be cast down and replaced by the kingdom God:

Dan 7:9 I beheld till the thrones (*kingdom of men*) were cast down, and the Ancient of days (*God of heaven*) did sit, whose garment *was* white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne *was like* the fiery flame, *and* his wheels *as* burning fire (*Ezekiel Chapter 1 also talk about wheels*).

Dan 7:10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him (*Ancient of days/God of heaven*): thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

Dan 7:11 I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the (*little*) horn (*man of sin/beast*) spake: I beheld *even* till the beast (*of verse 7*) was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.

Dan 7:12 As concerning the rest of the beasts (*of Daniel verses 4 through 7*), they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time (*The first three beasts, or world powers of Daniel Chapter 7:1 through 6 were conquered and replaced by the ones that came after them. The residual impact of their cultures influenced the world and those that conquers them for a time*).

Reference 2 –The End Time Beast’s first Appearance, and The End Time Beast *The third world Empire, or Alexander the Great successors:*

Dan 11:21 And in his estate shall stand up a vile person (*Antiochus IV Epiphanies of the Seleucid Dynasty*), to whom they (*his opponents*) shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries (*promised favors*).

Dan 11:22 And with the arms (*power/authority*) of a flood shall they (*his opponents*) be overflowed from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant (*legitimate high priest of Judah*).

Dan 11:23 And after the league *made* with him (*the new high priest makes an agreement with Antiochus IV Epiphanies; buying the priesthood position*) he (*Antiochus IV Epiphanies*) shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small (*group of the*) people (*of Judah*).

Dan 11:24 He (*the new illegitimate high priest allied with Antiochus*) shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest places of the province (*Judah*); and he shall do *that* which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers; he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches (*sell favors of the priesthood to highest bitter(s): yea, and he shall forecast his devices against the strong holds (those Jews dedicated to the covenant of their fathers honoring God according to right behavior)*), even for a time.

Dan 11:25 And he (*Antiochus IV Epiphanies*) shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the south (*Ptolemy of Egypt*) with a great army; and the king of the south shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he (*Ptolemy, king of the south*) shall not stand: for they (*those that were his family and ally*) shall forecast devices against him.

Dan 11:28 Then shall he (*Antiochus IV Epiphanies*) return into his land with great riches; and his heart *shall be* against the holy covenant (*Judah of Israel*); and he shall do *exploits*, and return to his own land.

Dan 11:29 At the time appointed he (*Antiochus*) shall return, and come toward the south; but it shall not be as the former, or as the latter.

Dan 11:30 For the ships of Chittim (*authority of Rome*) shall come against him: therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant (*Judah of*

Israel): so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant (*some of the Jews violate the covenant of their fathers and attach themselves to the Greek worship practices with Antiochus IV Epiphanies*).

Dan 11:31 And arms (*authority/ power*) shall stand on his (*Antiochus*) part, and they (*Jews converted to Greek worship practices, and Antiochus*) shall pollute the sanctuary (*Jewish temple*) of strength, and shall take away the daily *sacrifice*, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate (*They erected a statue of Zeus in the sanctuary, and sacrificed a pig on the alter*).

Dan 11:32 And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries (*promise favors*): but the people (*Jews allied with the Maccabees*) that do know their God shall be strong, and do *exploits* (*revolt*).

The Jews that remained dedicated to the God of their fathers revolted in what is now known as the "Maccabean Revolt." For more information: the accounts of this revolt can be found on the internet/world wide web, "The Maccabean Revolt."

Beginning at this next verse and continuing through Daniel 11:45, some narratives of the scriptures seem be applicable to Antiochus IV Epiphanies in his time and the man of sin in the end time. Thus, I believe some verses may be dual prophecies??

Dan 11:33 And they that understand among the people (*Judah of Israel*) shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, *many* days.

When we read about Judas Maccabee, one of the key leaders of the Maccabean Revolt, we see that he cleansed and rededicated the Temple to God in about 165 B.C.; three years after Antiochus IV Epiphanes defiled it. The celebration after the rededication continued for eight days. Even today it is an annual Jewish celebration called "Hanukkah" or "Feast of Lights."

Dan 11:34 Now when they (*faithful followers of the God of creation*) shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries.

Dan 11:35 And *some* of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make *them* white, *even* to the time of the end: because *it is* yet for a time appointed.

When Daniel wrote these prophecies they spoke of two future events. There is the time these events were satisfied by the actions of Antiochus IV. And they shall be satisfied again at a future time, from our present time, by the man of sin when he appears on the world stage of events. So then, there are two "ends" to consider: There is the "end" when Jesus came to confirm the Old Testament Covenant with God's people and established the New Covenant in his blood. Then, there is the "end" when Jesus shall come again and consummate the New Covenant at the time appointed of the final end of man's kingdom rule on earth. Read Revelation 13:5-8, and see that similar circumstances of persecution against those allied with God are present during both these "end times." But we must mention that the Jewish authority rejected Jesus at the end of the Old Testament!

Dan 11:36 And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

It is at this point (after verses 11:34, 35, and 36) that Daniel seems to cross over completely into prophesying about a single, and different time than that of Antiochus IV. Secular history sources show that Antiochus IV Epiphanies initially considered the Jewish rebels' fight against his newly established laws to be a small group of complainers, and would be quickly squashed by a few of his troops. Thus, he took the bulk of his army and went east to fight the Parthian in Iran, and he died there without returning home. Verses 11:34, 35 and 36 fit into the category of "dual Prophecies", like some of the other prophecies previous identified. These verses

describe the events that occurred during Antiochus IV Epiphanies time, and also those events that shall occur during that "end time", which will accompany the man of sin (the beast), as talked about in Revelation Chapter 13, Revelation 17:7-11, and other New Testament passages. Then the remaining prophecies Daniel gives in this chapter (verses 11:37 through 45) uniquely applies to this person, the man of sin of the end time, which is of the Fourth World Kingdom began by the Roman Empire.

Dan 11:37 Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. *(Even though Antiochus IV and his fathers considered themselves to be gods, they all were Greek god believers. Therefore, I do not believe this is talking about Antiochus IV).*

Dan 11:38 But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.

Dan 11:39 Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge *and* increase with glory: and he shall cause them (*strange gods*) to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain.

Dan 11:40 And at the time of the end shall the king of the south (*Egypt*) push at him: and the king of the north (*perhaps a nation who's borders touch the Mediterranean Sea Cost*) shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.

Dan 11:41 He shall enter also into the glorious land (*Israel of Judah*), and many *countries* shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, *even* Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.

Dan 11:42 He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape.

Dan 11:43 But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt (*or the world?*): and the Libyans and the Ethiopians *shall be* at his steps (*close neighbors?*).

Dan 11:44 But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.

Dan 11:45 And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.

Verse 17:9 says the seven heads of the beast are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. To my way of thinking, mountains are high above all other earthly places. Therefore, these mountains are nations that ruled high above every other nation during their time in history. So then, the woman could be likening to those affairs of the world (corrupt riches, corrupt authorities, false religion, etc) that were fueled by those powerful nations (or people). The seven kings in verse 17:10 are those most influential rulers of the seven nations that ruled their respective nation during their time in history. Five are fallen, and one is. The "one that is", has to be the Roman Empire, since it was the dominant world power at the time of John's Revelation. The five that are fallen, would be Babylon, Medio-Persia, the Empire of Alexander the Great, the Seleucid Dynasty that spawn Antiochus IV Epiphanes, and the Ptolemy Dynasty of Egypt, which spawn the Cleopatra(s). The other king that is not yet come will be the man of sin (the end time beast), and he must

continue a short space. And according to Revelation 13:3, it seems obvious that he is the head that will be wounded unto death, then return to the world stage to become the eighth King. It is probable that he will fulfill his most beastly reign during this second part of his rule, as the eighth King.

Rev 17:11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

Verse **17:12** - 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.

At the time of John's Revelation these kings did not exist, but will come into existence when the man of sin rules.

I suspect that these ten horns will have some corrupt religious ideology that will be at odds with everything and against the world (the whore, world, Babylon the Great) in particular. We see that Verse 17:16 says "these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire". Perhaps these ten horns will have religious convictions much like those in control of terrorist/suicide, bombers/mass destructionist, etc. So, even though they will hate the world's corruption, their religion will be false and they will be allied with the man of sin, and therefore enemies of the true and living God of creation.

Rev 17:13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

Rev 17:14 These shall make war with the Lamb (*Jesus*), 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.

Rev 17:16 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.

Rev 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.

Rev 17:18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city (having the character of The Roman Empire), which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

Rev 17:15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

John previously said this in Verse 17:1. Peoples of earth contribute to the affairs of the world. Therefore, in this sense, the whore, Babylon, or world gets its' sustenance from the people (many waters).

And it is the evil affairs of the world (the woman, that great city, Babylon, the whore) that results in the death of the saints, spoken of in Verse 17:6.

Rev 17:6 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.

Rev 17:7 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.