

the book of

REVELATION

sermon series



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Tribulation Judgments





Seven Bowls

(Revelation 16)



1st Bowl (16:1-2) – Boils

2nd Bowl (16:3) – Sea becomes blood

3rd Bowl (16:4-7) – Freshwater destroyed

4th Bowl (16:8-9) – Sun scorches man

5th Bowl (16:10-11) – Darkness

6th Bowl (16:13-16) – Euphrates dried

7th Bowl (16:17-21) – Greatest earthquake

The Woman Rides the Beast

Revelation 17

- I. The Vision Concerning Babylon (17:1-6a)
- II. The Interpretation Concerning Babylon (6b-18)



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I. The Vision Concerning Babylon

Revelation 17:1-6a

- A. Her introduction (1a)
- B. Her judgment (1b)
- C. Her immorality (2)
- D. Her influence (3)
- E. Her appearance (4)
- F. Her title (5)
- G. Her persecution (6a)



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7. The Seventh Bowl

Revelation 16:17-21

- a) 7th angel pours out the bowl (17)
- b) Lightning & thunder (18a)
- c) Greatest earthquake (18b)
- d) Jerusalem destroyed (19a)
- e) **Babylon destroyed (19b)**
- f) Every mountain & island moved (20)
- g) 100-pound hailstones (21a)
- h) Man's sinful reaction (21b)



Revelation 16:19

“The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.”



Revelation 17:1

“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.”



5 Non-Chronological Parenthetical Insertions

Seals (Rev 7) 144,000 JEWS

1 2 3 4 5 6 ↓ 7

Trumpets (Rev 10–11) No Delay; 2 Witnesses

1 2 3 4 5 6 ↓ 7 (Rev 12–14) Israel's flight

Bowls (Rev 16:13-16) Armageddon

1 2 3 4 5 6 ↓ 7 (Rev 17–18) Babylon falls

5 Non-Chronological Parenthetical Insertions

1. Rev 7 – 144,000 Jews
2. Rev 10:1-11:13 – Announcement of no more delay and the two witnesses
3. Rev 12-14 – Israel's flight, two beasts, six scenes of hope
4. Rev 16:13-16 – Gathering of the nations to Armageddon
5. **Rev 17:1-19:6 – Babylon's fall**

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Parallels Between Jeremiah 50-51 & Revelation 17-18

	Jeremiah	Revelation
Associated with a Golden cup	51:7a	17:3-4; 18:6
<u>Dwelling on many waters</u>	<u>51:13</u>	<u>17:1</u>
Intoxicating the nations	51:7b	17:2
Same name	50:1	17:5
Persecution of the saints	51:49	17:6; 18:24
Stone sinking into Euphrates	51:63-64	18:21
Sudden destruction	51:8	18:8
Destroyed by fire	51:30	17:16
Final, uninhabitable	50:39	18:21
Deserved	50:29	18:6
God's people flee	51:6, 45	18:4
Heaven rejoices	51:48	18:20

Dyer, "The Identity of Babylon in Revelation 17–18 (Part 2)," 441-43.

OT Descriptions of Babylon in Rev 17–18

	Revelation 17–18	Old Testament
<u>Waters</u>	<u>17:1</u>	<u>Psalms 137:1</u>
Babylon the Great	17:5	Daniel 4:30
Mother harlots	17:5	Genesis 11:1-9
Fallen, fallen is Babylon	18:2	Isaiah 21:9
Will not see widowhood	18:7	Isaiah 47:7-9
Colorful attire	17:4; 18:16	Daniel 5:7, 16, 29
Sorcery	18:23	Isaiah 47:9-13

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Genesis 11:1-4

¹ Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. ² It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³ They said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly.” And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. ⁴ They said, “Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”



Spread of the Mother-Child Cult

	Mother	Child
Assyria	Ishtar	Tammuz
Phoenicia	Astarte	Baal
Egypt	Isis	Osirus/Horus
Greece	Aphrodite	Eros
Rome	Venus	Cupid
Asia	Cybele	Desius
India	Isi	Aswara
Roman Catholicism	Mary	Jesus
Israel	Queen of Heaven (Jer. 7:18; 44:17)	Tammuz (Ezek. 8:14-15)

Alexander Hislop, *Two Babylons*

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THE NATIONS OF PENTECOST ACTS 2:9-11

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Revelation 17:3

“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.”





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I. The Vision Concerning Babylon

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ONE BABYLON

	Rev. 17	Rev. 18
Same name	17:5	18:2
City	17:18	18:10
<u>Same clothing</u>	<u>17:4</u>	<u>18:16</u>
Holding a cup	17:4	18:6
Fornicating with Kings	17:2	18:3
Drunk with wine of immorality	17:2	18:3
Persecuting believers	17:6	18:20, 24
Destroyed by fire	17:16	18:8, 18
Destroyed by God	17:17	18:5, 8

Dyer, "The Identity of Babylon in Revelation 17–18 (Part 1)," 311-13.

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Literal Geography in Revelation

Asia	1:4	Philadelphia	3:7
Patmos	1:9	Laodicea	3:14
Ephesus	2:1	Euphrates	9:14;16:12
Smyrna	2:8	Jerusalem	11:8
Pergamum	2:12	Armageddon	16:16
Thyatira	2:18	Jerusalem	20:9
Sardis	3:1	New Jerusalem	21:2



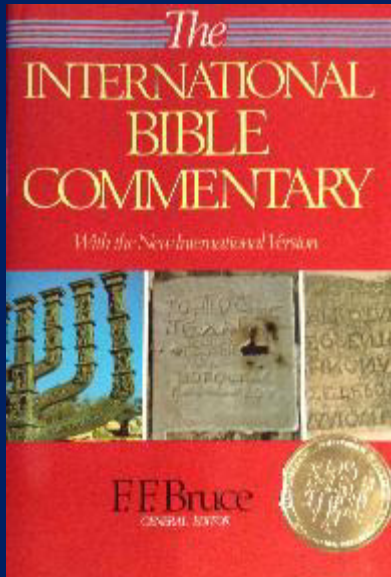
John F. Walvoord

John F. Walvoord, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ: A Commentary* (Chicago: Moody, 1966), 257, 263.

“The city here according to verse 5 is a mystery, not a literal city...The ultimate decision depends upon the judgment of the expositor, but in many respects it is simpler to postulate a rebuilt Babylon as fulfilling literally the Old Testament prophecies as well as that embodied in this chapter.”

F. F. Bruce

“Revelation,” in International Bible Commentary, 1986, p. 1621.



“This title was written on her forehead: Mystery: ‘mystery’ indicates that the name she bears...is not to be understood literally, but allegorically: Babylon the Great is read, but ‘Rome’ is meant (cf. verses 9, 19).”

“MYSTERY” IN HARLOT’S TITLE? REV. 17:5

And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. (KJV, NIV)

... and upon her forehead a name was written, a mystery, “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” (NASB)

“Mystery” Defined

“In the N.T, it [*mystērion*] denotes, not the mysterious (as with the Eng. word), but that which, being outside the range of unassisted natural apprehension, can be made known only by Divine revelation, and is made known in a manner and at a time appointed by God, and to those who are illumined by His Spirit.”

Colossians 1:26

“*that is*, the mystery which has been hidden from the *past* ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His.”



Revelation 17:3

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Arthur W. Pink

1886 - 1952

“We believe that the English translators have misled many by printing (on their own authority) the word ‘mystery’ in large capital letters, thus making it appear that this was a part of ‘the woman’s name. This we are assured is a mistake. That ‘mystery’ is connected with the ‘Woman’ herself and not with her ‘name’ is clear from v. 7, where the angel says unto John, ‘I will tell thee *the mystery of the Woman*, and of the beast which carrieth her.’””

Pink, *The Antichrist*, 262.



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Spread of the Mother-Child Cult

	Mother	Child
Assyria	Ishtar	Tammuz
Phoenicia	Astarte	Baal
Egypt	Isis	Osirus/Horus
Greece	Aphrodite	Eros
Rome	Venus	Cupid
Asia	Cybele	Desius
India	Isi	Aswara
Roman Catholicism	Mary	Jesus
Israel	Queen of Heaven (Jer. 7:18; 44:17)	Tammuz (Ezek. 8:14-15)

Alexander Hislop, *Two Babylons*

Larkin, *The Book of Revelation*, 151.

“The river Euphrates, on which the city of Babylon was built, was one of the four branches into which the river that flowed through the Garden of Eden was divided, and Satan doubtless chose the site of Babylon as his headquarters from which to sally forth to tempt Adam and Eve. It was doubtless here that the Antediluvian apostasy had its source that ended in the flood. To this centre the ‘forces of Evil’ gravitated after the Flood, and ‘Babel’ was the result. This was the origin of the nations, but the nations were not scattered abroad over the earth until Satan had implanted in them the “Virus” of a doctrine that has been the source of every false religion the world has ever known.”

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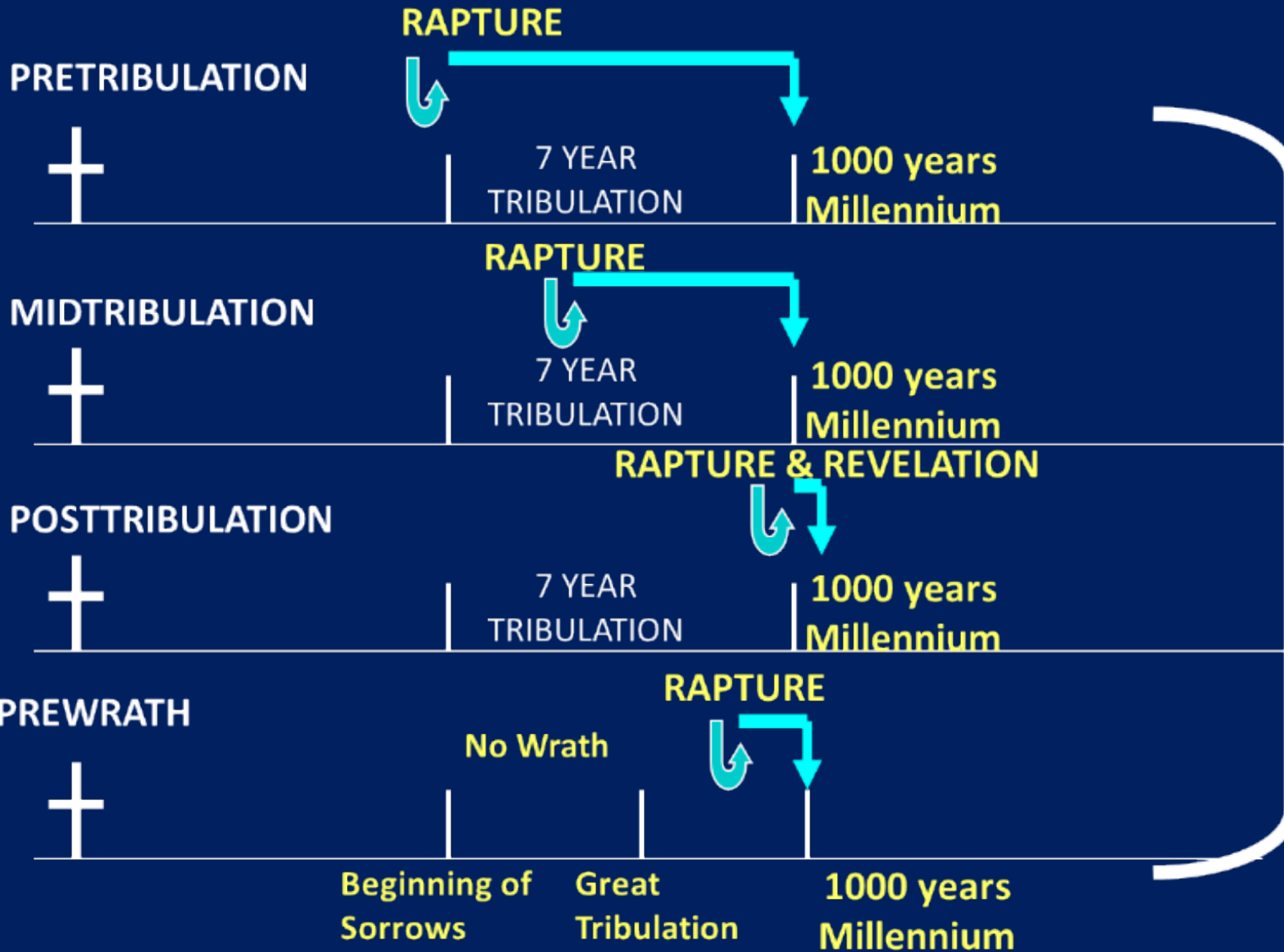


When Will the Rapture Take Place Relative to the Tribulation Period?

- Pre-tribulation rapture theory
- Mid-tribulation rapture theory
- Post-tribulation rapture theory
- Pre-wrath rapture theory
- Partial rapture theory



RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON



Y-H-Z-R-E

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Dyer, "The Identity of Babylon in Revelation 17–18 (Part 2)," 441-43.



The Woman Rides the Beast

Revelation 17

- I. The Vision Concerning Babylon (17:1-6a)
- II. The Interpretation Concerning Babylon (16b-18)**



II. The Interpretation Concerning Babylon

Revelation 17:6b-18

- A. The Interpretation Promised (6b-7)
- B. The Beast & His system (8-14)
- C. Babylon (15-18)



II. The Interpretation Concerning Babylon

Revelation 17:6b-18

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Two Rules of Interpretation



- Search the immediate context
 - ◆ Walvoord: 26X
- Search the remote context
 - ◆ Old Testament
 - ◆ Thomas: 278 / 404 verses

II. The Interpretation Concerning Babylon

Revelation 17:6b-18

- A. The Interpretation Promised (6b-7)
- B. The Beast & His system (8-14)**
- C. Babylon (15-18)



B. The Beast & His System

Revelation 17:8-14

1. The Beast (8)
2. The Seven Heads (9-11)
3. The Ten Horns (12-14)



B. The Beast & His System

Revelation 17:8-14

1. The Beast (8)
2. The Seven Heads (9-11)
3. The Ten Horns (12-14)



Revelation 13:14

“And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life [zǎo].”



Revelation 2:8

“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write:
The first and the last, who was dead, and has
come to life [zǎo], says this.”



Revelation 20:4-5

“⁴ Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I *saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they **came to life [zǎo]** and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵ The rest of the dead did not **come to life [zǎo]** until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.”



2 Thessalonians 2:6-7

“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.”



B. The Beast & His System

Revelation 17:8-14

1. The Beast (8)
2. The Seven Heads (9-11)
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Revelation 17:9-10

“Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains [oros] 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.”



Revelation 11:8

“And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.”



Revelation 17:9-10

“Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains [oros] 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.”



Daniel 2:37-38

You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; ³⁸ and wherever the sons of men dwell, *or* the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.



7 Kings or Kingdoms (Dan. 2:37-38)

(Revelation 17:9-10)

1. Egypt
2. Assyria
3. Babylon
4. Persian
5. Greece
6. Rome I
7. Rome II





Statue & Stone

2. A Statue and a Stone



Statue is destroyed by a great stone, which represents Jesus Christ



HEAD
GOLD

WORLD POWER
BABYLON
608-539

CHEST AND ARMS
SILVER

WORLD POWER
PERSIA
539-331

STOMACH AND THIGHS
BRASS

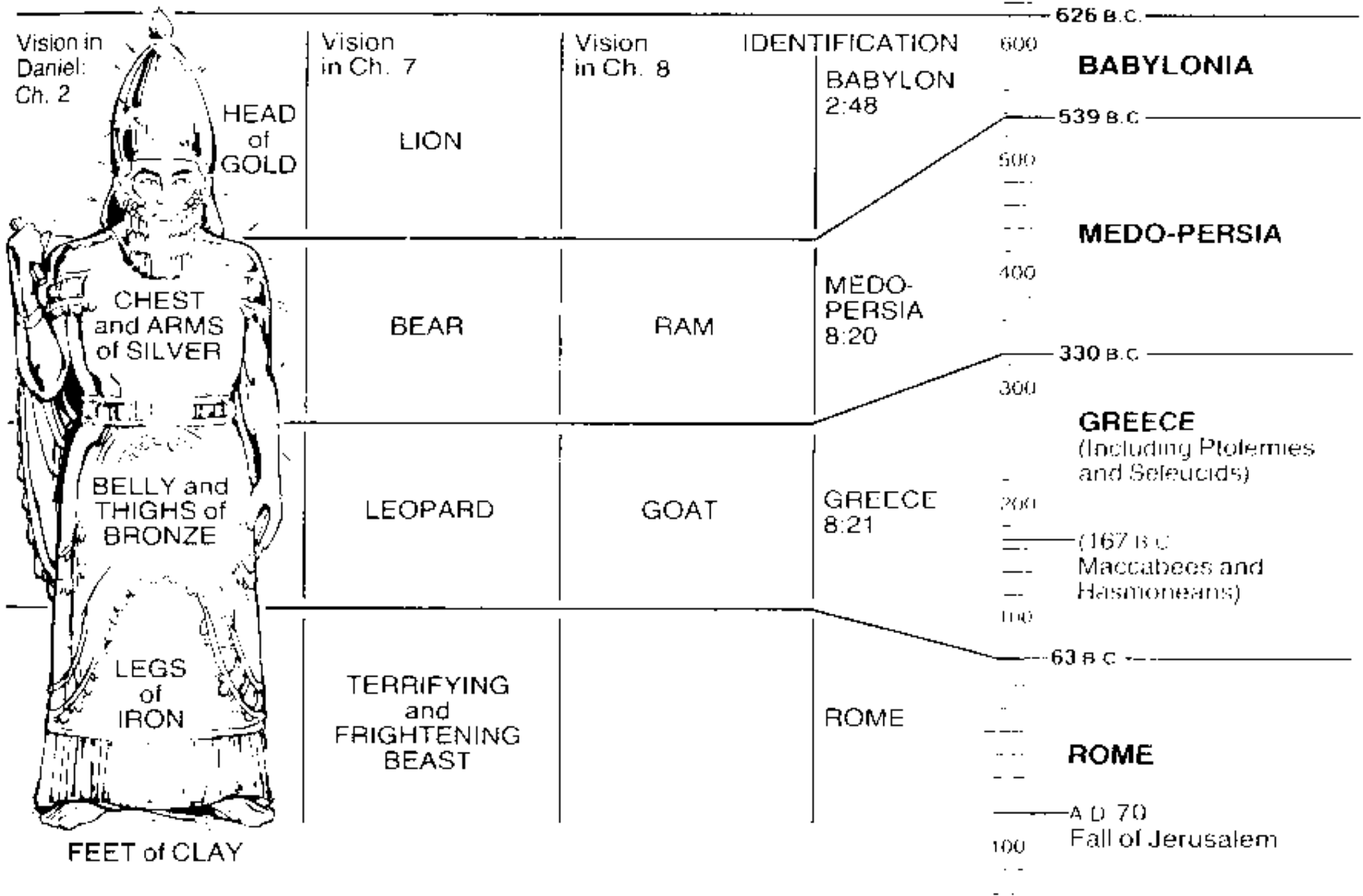
WORLD POWER
GREECE
331-323

LEGS AND FEET
IRON & CLAY

WORLD POWER
ROME
322 B.C.—A.D. 476
FUTURE

Identification of the Four Kingdoms

Chronology of Major Empires in Daniel



Daniel 7:12

“As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time.”



B. The Beast & His System

Revelation 17:8-14

1. The Beast (8)
2. The Seven Heads (9-11)
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Daniel 2:44

“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.”



Daniel 7:24

“As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings.”



Daniel 7:23

“Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.’”



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II. The Interpretation Concerning Babylon

Revelation 17:6b-18

- A. The Interpretation Promised (6b-7)
- B. The Beast & His system (8-14)
- C. Babylon (15-18)



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C. The Beast & His System

Revelation 17:15-18

1. Her Influence (15)
2. Her Destruction (16-17)
3. Her Identification (18)



C. The Beast & His System

Revelation 17:15-18

1. Her Influence (15)
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Spread of the Mother-Child Cult

	Mother	Child
Assyria	Ishtar	Tammuz
Phoenicia	Astarte	Baal
Egypt	Isis	Osirus/Horus
Greece	Aphrodite	Eros
Rome	Venus	Cupid
Asia	Cybele	Desius
India	Isi	Aswara
Roman Catholicism	Mary	Jesus
Israel	Queen of Heaven (Jer. 7:18; 44:17)	Tammuz (Ezek. 8:14-15)

Alexander Hislop, *Two Babylons*



C. The Beast & His System

Revelation 17:15-18

1. Her Influence (15)
2. Her Destruction (16-17)
3. Her Identification (18)



Revelation 17:3

“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.”





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Parallels Between Jeremiah 50-51 & Revelation 17-18

	Jeremiah	Revelation
Associated with a Golden cup	51:7a	17:3-4; 18:6
Dwelling on many waters	51:13	17:1
Intoxicating the nations	51:7b	17:2
Same name	50:1	17:5
Persecution of the saints	51:49	17:6; 18:24
Stone sinking into Euphrates	51:63-64	18:21
Sudden destruction	51:8	18:8
<u>Destroyed by fire</u>	<u>51:30</u>	<u>17:16</u>
Final, uninhabitable	50:39	18:21
Deserved	50:29	18:6
God's people flee	51:6, 45	18:4
Heaven rejoices	51:48	18:20

Dyer, "The Identity of Babylon in Revelation 17–18 (Part 2)," 441-43.

ONE BABYLON

	Rev. 17	Rev. 18
Same name	17:5	18:2
City	17:18	18:10
Same clothing	17:4	18:16
Holding a cup	17:4	18:6
Fornicating with Kings	17:2	18:3
Drunk with wine of immorality	17:2	18:3
Persecuting believers	17:6	18:20, 24
<u>Destroyed by fire</u>	<u>17:16</u>	<u>18:8, 18</u>
Destroyed by God	17:17	18:5, 8

Dyer, "The Identity of Babylon in Revelation 17–18 (Part 1)," 311-13.

C. The Beast & His System

Revelation 17:15-18

1. Her Influence (15)
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Bullinger

The Apocalypse or "The Day of the Lord", 509

“It is indeed surprising how any mistake could have been made in the identification of this woman. For the Holy Spirit first shows us her very name upon her forehead. Then, in verse 18, He tells us as plainly as words can tell anything, that ‘the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reignest over the kings of the earth’, and chap. xvi. 19, as well as xvii. 5, identifies this city with Babylon. God says it is a ‘city.’ He does not say *a system or a religion*, but a ‘CITY.’”

Conclusion

The Woman Rides the Beast

Revelation 17

- I. The Vision Concerning Babylon (17:1-6a)
- II. The Interpretation Concerning Babylon (6b-18)





“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.” (NIV)