

the book of

REVELATION

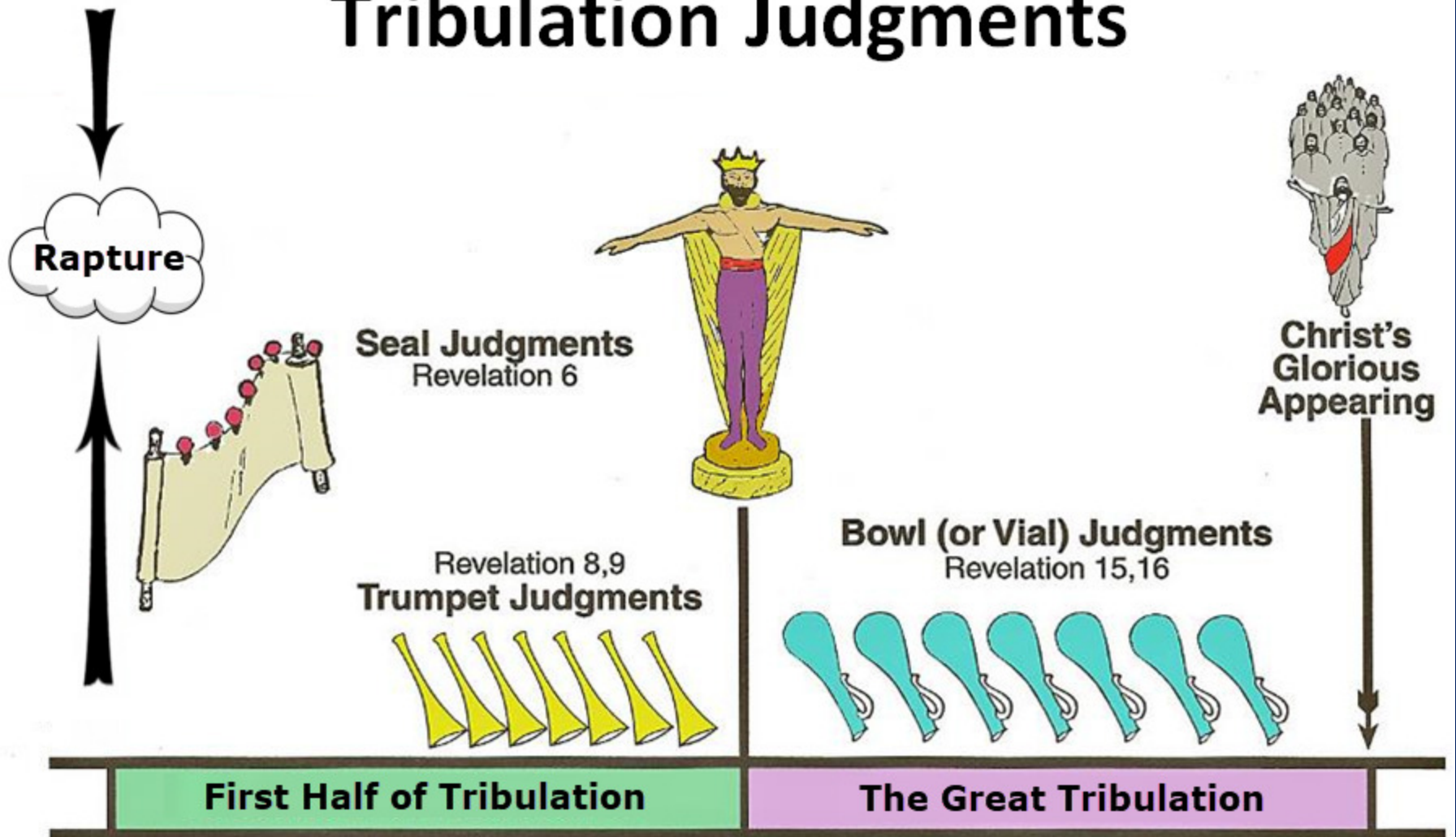
sermon series



Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church
President – Chafer Theological Seminary

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

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**

The Woman Rides the Beast

Revelation 17

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



The Woman Rides the Beast

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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)



The Woman Rides the Beast

Revelation 17

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



II. The Interpretation Concerning Babylon

Revelation 17:6b-18

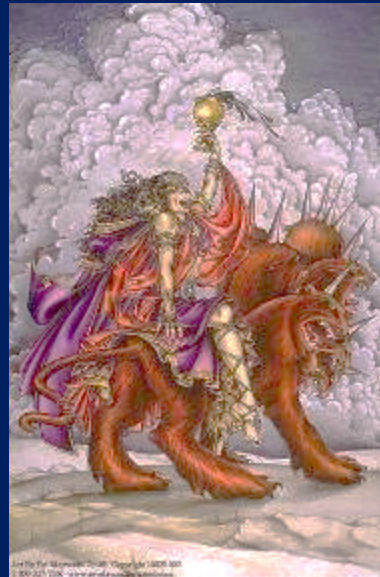
- A. The Interpretation Promised (6b-7)
- B. The Beast & His system (8-14)
- C. Babylon (15-18)



II. The Interpretation Concerning Babylon

Revelation 17:6b-18

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



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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II. The Interpretation Concerning Babylon

Revelation 17:6b-18

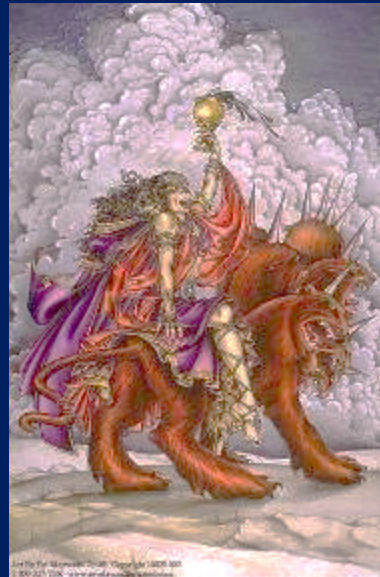
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B. The Beast & His System

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 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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Revelation 17:9-10

“⁹ 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.”



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



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B. The Beast & His System

Revelation 17:8-14

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



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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.”

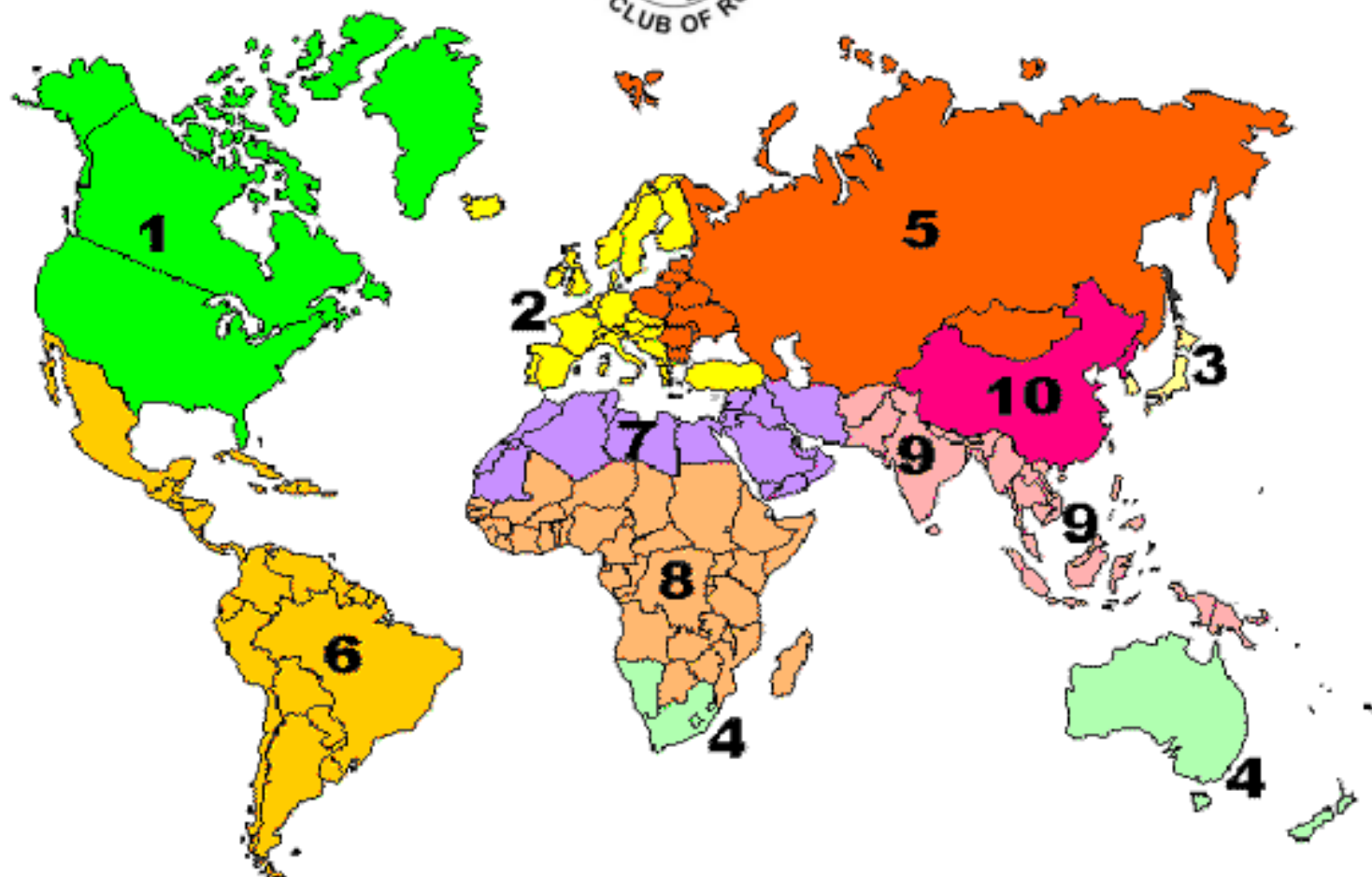


Daniel 7:23

“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.’”



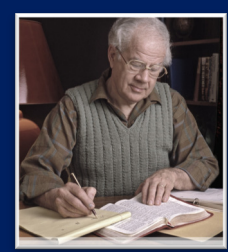
THE CLUB OF ROME



Daniel 7:24

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J. Dwight Pentecost

Things to Come, Page 321-22

“(3) From among those ten kingdoms there will arise one individual who will have control over the whole dominion of the ten kings (Dan. 7: 8, 24; Rev. 13: 1-10; 17: 13). In gaining his authority three of the ten kings are overthrown. (4) This final authority over the empire is wielded by one who is marked by blasphemy, hatred of God’s people, disregard for established law and order, who will continue for three and one-half years (Dan. 7: 26). (5) This final form of world power will have world-wide influence (Dan. 7: 23).”

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)



Revelation 17:3

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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)
2. Her Destruction (16-17)
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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

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*



C. The Beast & His System

Revelation 17:15-18

1. Her Influence (15)
2. Her Destruction (16-17)
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ONE BABYLON

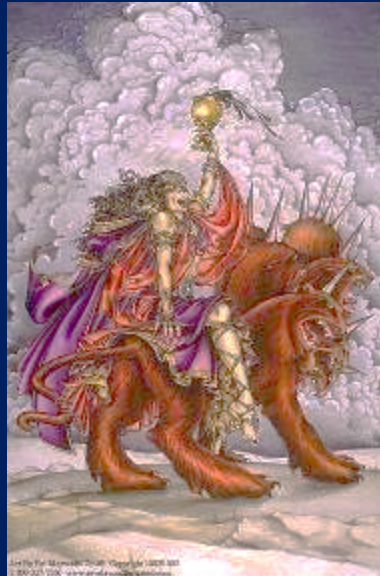
	Rev. 17	Rev. 18
Same name	17:5	18:2
City	17:18	18:10
Same clothing	17:4	18:16
Holding a cup	17:4	18:6
Fornicating with Kings	17:2	18:3
Drunk with wine of immorality	17:2	18:3
Persecuting believers	17:6	18:20, 24
<u>Destroyed by fire</u>	<u>17:16</u>	<u>18:8, 18</u>
Destroyed by God	17:17	18:5, 8

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

C. The Beast & His System

Revelation 17:15-18

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2. Her Destruction (16-17)
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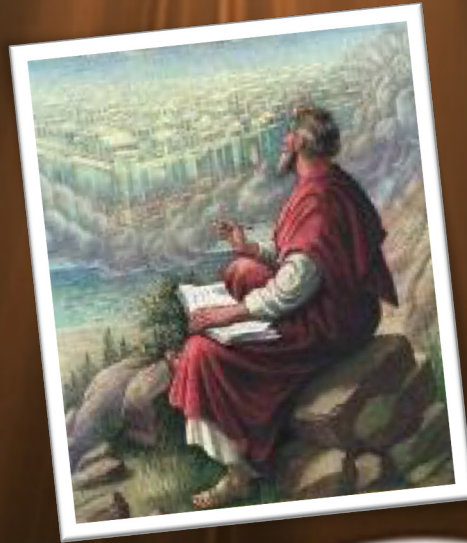
“MYSTERY” IN HARLOT’S TITLE? REV. 17:5

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)

Revelation 17:18

“The woman whom you saw is the great city, [polis] which reigns over the kings of the earth.



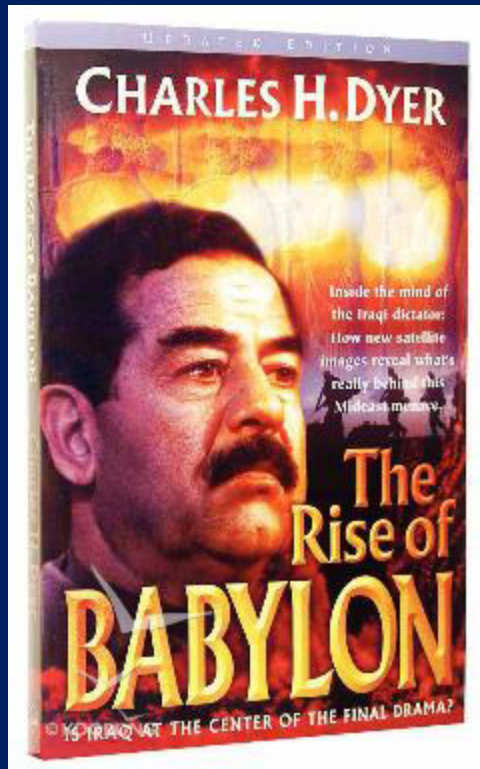
Bullinger

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.’”

Charles H. Dyer

“The Identity of Babylon in Revelation 17–18 (Part 2),” *Bibliotheca sacra* 144 (October-December 1987): 436.



“Whatever else is said about the harlot, she is first a city, not an ecclesiastical system.”

Two Babylons View

BABYLON

Ecclesiastical

Commercial

Chapter

Revelation 17

Revelation 18

Literalness

Not literal

Literal

**Time of
Destruction**

**1st half of
Tribulation**

Second Advent

Emphasis

Religion

**Commercial &
Political**



John F. Walvoord

The Revelation of Jesus Christ: A Commentary

(Chicago: Moody, 1966), 267.

“Babylon, ecclesiastically symbolized by the woman in Revelation 17, proposes a common worship and a common religion through uniting in a world church. This is destroyed by the beast in Revelation 17:16 who thus fulfills the will of God (Rev. 17:17). Babylon, politically symbolized by the great city of Revelation 18, attempts to achieve its domination of the world by a world common market and a world government. These are destroyed by Christ at His second coming (Rev. 19:11–21).”



John F. Walvoord

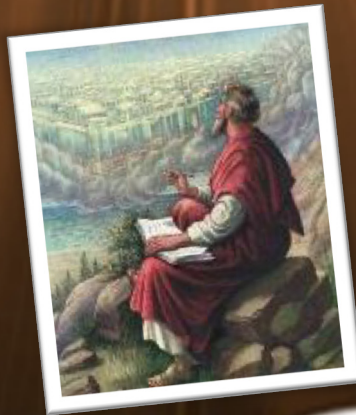
The Revelation of Jesus Christ: A Commentary

(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.”

Revelation 18:10

“standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city [polis], Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’”



ONE BABYLON

	Rev. 17	Rev. 18
Same name	17:5	18:2
<u>City</u>	<u>17:18</u>	<u>18:10</u>
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Conclusion

The Woman Rides the Beast

Revelation 17

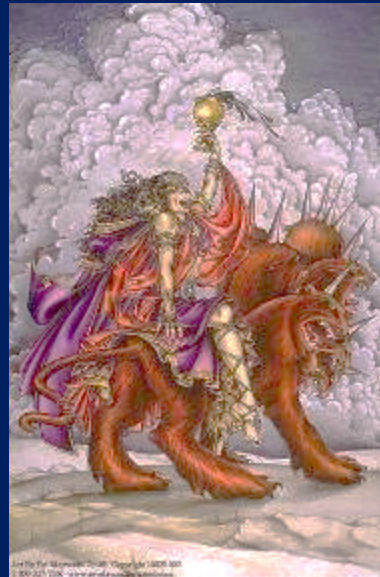
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Revelation 17:6b-18

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“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)