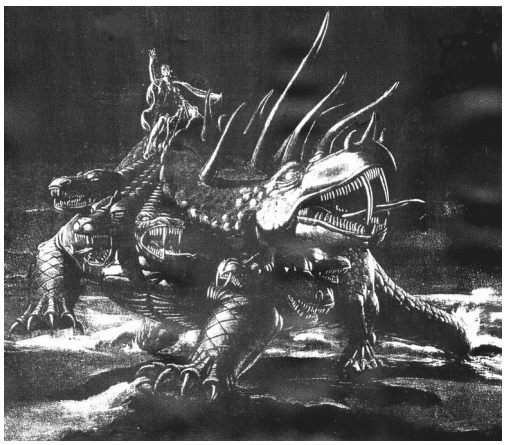
"THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS"

(Satan's Global Corruption City)
Revelation 17:1-18
9-4-2022



INTRODUCTION: Who is Mystery Babylon the Great? (v. 5)

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I. Satan's Global Corruption City influences <u>WORLD-WIDE</u> (v. 1, 15)
(Ecumenical)

II. Satan's Global Corruption City is <u>POLITICAL</u> (v. 2-3, 8-14)

A. She enters into union with the world's kings (v. 2)

B. She will use the Beast (Satan's political system and man) to accomplish her goal of world domination (v. 3, 8-14).

III. Satan's Global Corruption City is <u>WEALTHY</u> (v. 4a)

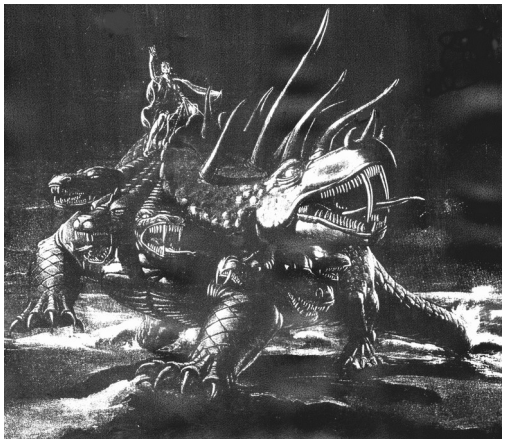
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V. Satan's Global Corruption City is a <u>MURDERER</u> (v. 6)

VI. Satan's Global Corruption City will be <u>JUDGED</u> (v. 16-17)

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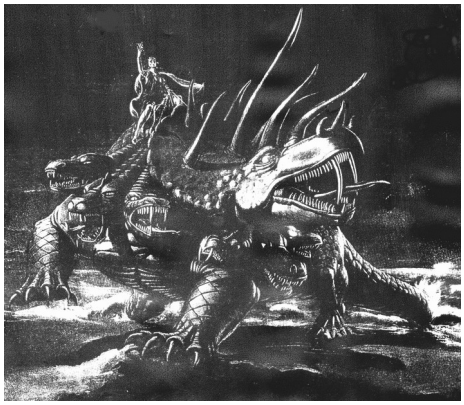
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"THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS"

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INTRODUCTION: Ever since the fall of Lucifer, Satan has desired that which exclusively belongs to God. He has always wanted global worship via global control via and global unity. To achieve this the Devil has always wanted a city from which to influence and rule the world. A rival city opposite to God's city - Jerusalem and ultimately the New Jerusalem. Starting with Nimrod, the founder of ancient Babel (Genesis 10:8-10; 11:1-9) and continuing with Babylon of the Chaldees under king Nebuchadnezzar and ultimately the final "Mystery Babylon" of the Last Days (3 Babylons; 3 cities of Demonic confusion) Satan has wanted a city from which to influence and control the world.

Who is Mystery Babylon the Great? (v. 5)

- It's a city (v.18)
- It's perhaps a city in the desert (wilderness v. 3)
- It's a city of global influence which has high political connections
- It's a city known for its wealth, wickedness, and hatred for the True God and His people.

Evidence that "Mystery Babylon" in Rev. 17 is a <u>RELIGIOUS Center</u>:

(A hub for global religious influence)

1) She is called a "whore" (v. 1) and a "harlot" (v. 5).

2) In the O.T. and in prophetic language, the analogy of a whore or prostitute denoted <u>religious apostasy</u>. EX: religious apostasy of Israel in O.T. - Ezek. 16:6-8, 15, 25-32, 35-38, 40-42 (cp. Jer. 3:1, 6, 8; the book of Hosea) *SEE: Rev. 2:20-24 - "Jezebel's" doctrine and fornication

The theme of Rev. 17 involves the judgment of Mystery Babylon.
The reference to "mystery" (17:5, 7) indicates that the Babylon in view was not the same Babylon known in the O.T. but was a system and a city hidden from man's understanding, but now is being revealed.

NOTE: *Rev. 17 - The <u>corrupting</u> and <u>destructive</u> influence of Mystery Babylon*
Rev. 18 - The <u>economic</u> and <u>commercial</u> influence of Mystery Babylon

The fine distinction between these two aspects of these Babylons may be implied by the phrase "after these things" (18:1).

Many believe that "Mystery Babylon" in Rev. 17 is a reference to ROME:

1) Some view the reference to the woman sitting on "seven mountains" (v. 9) as evidence that John is speaking about Rome, which is called the City that sits on "7 hills."

2) The most conclusive evidence is verse 18, where John is told that the woman represents that "***great city which reigneth*** (*present tense*, during the time of John) *over the kings of the earth*." --This only refers to **Rome**. NOTE: The Roman Empire was the fourth and final in Daniel's visions - Dan. 2:40-45; 7:19-28; 8:21-25.

3) **She is clothed in purple and red (**Revelation 17:4)
There are two ruling bodies in the Roman Catholic Church: The College of Cardinals and the College of Bishops and Archbishops. These two bodies are somewhat like the Senate and the House of Representatives here in the US.
An article appeared in *The Criterion*, a Roman Catholic publication, July 1, 1988. The article was entitled, "More than You Want to Know About Cardinals." It stated, "Cardinals wear red, while non-Cardinal Bishops and Archbishops wear purple."

4) According to Catholicism, the name "Babylon was a synonym for Rome" (RCC, St. Joseph Edition of the Bible, "Confraternity version" Catholic Book Publishing Co. NY, p.274)

Evidence that mystery Babylon in Rev. 17 is the ROMAN CATHOLIC Institution.

Because Satan had failed to stop Christianity (via the persecution of the Caesars), he figured he would set up a phony "christian" church and deceive the world into thinking it was real Christianity.

1) Rome's (RCC's) parallels with the ancient Babylon mystery religion:

   a) **Mary worship** is traced back to ancient Babylon's worship of Semiramis.

   b) **Saint worship** stems back to Babylonian worship of gods and goddesses who "had at one time been living heroes on earth, but were now on a higher plane" (p. 31).

   c) The **mitre** (shaped like a fish head with its jaw's head) worn on the head of the pope came from the Babylonian fish god named "Dagon" (p. 84-85).

   d) The idea of **confessing sins to a priest** does not come from the Bible, but from Babylon (as a matter of fact, the only evidences about the Babylonian concepts of right and wrong come from recorded confessions) (p.120).

   e) The springtime observance of **"Lent"** (and the 40-day sacred Lenten fast) comes from ancient Babylon.
   Tammuz, supposedly died and was resurrected in the spring because of the weeping of his wife Ishtar ("Easter"). Hislop points out that forty days--a day for each year Tammuz had lived on earth--were set aside to "weep for Tammuz" (Ezek. 8:14). In olden times these forty days were observed with weeping, fasting, and self-chastisement" (p. 147).

2) No other religious system has two powers, both political and religious (the Catholic Church and the Mother of Harlots is both -v. 2).

3) No other religious system in the world officially calls itself "Mother" (The RCC and the Harlot are called "Mother" - v. 5).

4) God used a virgin to represent His true church (II Corinthians 11:2), and He used a harlot to represent a false church—as he did in Revelation 17-19. https://www.endtime.com/mystery-babylon-who-is-it/

5) Men such as Wycliffe, Calvin, Wesley, Finney, Moody, Spurgeon, etc., believed that the RCC is the Mother of Harlots.

Some say that "Mystery Babylon" in Rev. 17 is a reference to Mecca – in Saudi Arabia

View of Author: Joel Richardson *(Mystery Babylon: Unlocking the Bible's Greatest Prophetic Mystery)*

- Saudi Arabia exists geographically in a desert region (John sees Mystery Babylon in the Wilderness (Literally a dessert) v.3.
- Saudi Arabia represents the greatest and most influential anti-Yahweh religion that has ever existed (Saudi Arabian Islam ranks number 1 in this regard; No Church or Synagogue is allowed in Saudi Arabia).
- Saudi Arabia is fabulously wealthy due to the export of fossil fuels (The wealth of Mystery Babylon is described in Rev.18.
- Mystery Babylon persecutes and murders God's people: Christians and Jews. On two occasions, she is highlighted as being a persecutor of the saints (as is Saudi Arabia and her offshoots of Al-Qaeda, Isis etc.).
- Specifically, it is said that in her is found the blood of prophets and saints.
- She is a politically and geographically definable entity that exerts a great measure of influence over and corrupts many kings, leaders, nations, nationalities, and people groups through her religion, money and products (As is Saudi Arabia). The kings of the earth share in her luxury.
- She is an importer and an exporter. The merchants of the earth have grown rich from all of the goods that she purchases. She imports vast amounts of goods. Likewise, she also provides the merchants of the world with her "delicacies" whereby they grow rich. Those who do business with the Harlot are "the world's great men."
- Many of the specific items that are highlighted that she imports are things that all require great wealth and speak of great opulence. Beyond this, we see that she also imports various forms of produce, livestock and she even literally imports human beings.
- She has a large body of foreign nationals living in her midst who are warned by God to leave Babylon and return to their own respective countries.

Some say that "Mystery Babylon" in Rev. 17 is a reference to <u>the U.S.A (particularly NYC)</u>

- The USA is very affluent
- The USA has global influence, power, and respect
- The USA has spread much corruption throughout the world (especially in recent years)
- The USA has not persecuted God's people (but an anti-Semitic and anti-Christian spirit seems to be on the rise)

Some say that "Mystery Babylon" in Rev. 17 is a reference to <u>the City of Jerusalem</u>

- Both are called "the Great City"
- Old Jerusalem will be replaced by New Jerusalem.

Note: God says that Babylon will burn forever and that it will become an abode for jackals and owls; We know that Jesus will rule and reign from Jerusalem in the Kingdom so it can't be burning at the same time.

Without getting into all of the speculative details of who specifically "mystery Babylon" is, today we will cover her various characteristics:

**** Beware of Satan's Global Corruption System!***

I. Satan's Global Corruption City influences <u>WORLD-WIDE</u> (v. 1, 15) (Ecumenical)

V. 1
"Sitteth upon many waters" (v. 1) - Cp. v. 15 for God's interpretation.
"Peoples' and multitudes, and nations, and tongues" - words describing the <u>world-wide</u> influence of mystery Babylon.
Just as O.T. Babel was man's attempt at world unity (Gen. 11:1-4), so will mystery Babylon be.

The word *"catholic"* means "universal" and describes the world-wide quest of this denomination. It is also Islam's desire to control the entire world.
A <u>one-world</u> system is the desire of Satan. Among his main religious tools at present are the Pope of Rome and the World Council of Churches.

Satan's religious system in Rev. 17 is called the ***"mother of Harlots"*** because from her were <u>born</u> all other pagan, pseudo idolatrous religions; and to her were <u>related</u> all other false forms of false worship.

In the last days, many professing (but not possessing) the faith will depart from it and will be deluded into following Romanish doctrine (SEE: I Tim. 4:1-3).

The unity of the Spirit of God (Eph. 4:3) binds true believers together.

The world, however, does not have such unity; so the present-day ecumenical movement is man's attempt at man-made unity.

Biblical unity only comes from God (Jn. 17:21, 22) (not some Pope or Imam).

Biblical unity is only produced via the Spirit (Eph. 4:3) (not some ecclesiastical system).

Biblical unity is only protected via peace (Eph. 4:3) (true unity cannot be forced via
oppression).

Biblical unity is only based on God's truth (Eph. 4:4-5) (not "pseudo love").

God does not measure the greatness of a church by its size or popularity but by its fidelity to the truth (I Tim. 3:15) [According to Jesus, large size is indicative of falsehood - Mt.7:13]

II. Satan's Global Corruption City is POLITICAL (v. 2-3, 8-14)

A. She enters into union with the world's kings (v. 2)

The whore has an unholy alliance with the nations (rulers) of the world.

SEE Columbia, June 1990 - "Pope plays key role on world stage." Pope is called a "world leader."

The Roman Catholic Church was the catalyst for starting the European Economic Community (a formation of a common market to have a one-world economy).
The first meeting of the EEC was called at the invitation of the RCC and held at the Vatican (Zion's Fire, Jan. 1990, p. 5).

Saudi Arabian princes have lined the pockets of presidents and royal families for several years.

B. She will use the Beast (Satan's political system and man) to accomplish her goal of world domination (v. 3, 8-14).

V. 3

"A woman sit" - The Harlot's power is so great the Beast allows her to ride him (as in the past, so in the future).

The Harlot will use the Beast to gain world-wide status as the state religion.
As such, the apostate church will receive financial and political help as well as military protection (cp. Epp, p. 305).

Baptists, historically, have believed in the separation of church and state [i.e. a state-run church]

"Scarlet-coloured Beast" - so called because of its identification with the red dragon, Satan (Rev. 12:3), which opposed Israel via the 7 kingdoms represented by the 7 heads; Perhaps the redness of the Beast also descriptive of the scarlet color of sin (Isaiah 1:8 – "though your sins be as scarlet…") and of the bloodshed of God's people instigated by the Beast.

NOTE: Satan is described as having seven heads and ten horns (12:3).

"Full of names of blasphemy" - SEE Satan's system with the identical description (Rev. 13:1).

"Blasphemy" - points to each kingdom's claim of divine, total authoritative power and rule over Israel and the world. . . when only God reigns over all!

"Seven heads and ten horns" (same description in Rev. 13:1).

"Seven heads" =	7 world powers
"ten horns" =	10-fold confederacy of nations in the Last Days to be destroyed by Christ (Rev. 17:14; Dan. 2:40-44 - *"feet"* with ten toes smashed by Christ at His second coming).

V. 8

A clear reference to the Antichrist, who will be wounded unto death, but will be resurrected at the mid-point of the Trib. (Rev. 13:3-4).

V. 9

"Seven mountains" - In prophetic language, a mountain is descriptive of a world power or kingdom. (SEE Dan. 2:35; Jer. 51:25; cp. Is. 2:2, 41:15; Hab. 3:6; Ps. 68:15, 16).

These seven mountains describe 7 successive anti-semitic world powers, all of which persecuted God's people, Israel.
[1) Egypt; 2) Assyria; 3) Babylon; 4) Medo-persia; 5) Greece; 6) Rome; 7) Revived Rome]

V. 10

"And there are seven kings" - the word "there" is not in the Greek. God is identifying the seven mountains (v. 9) with seven kings (or kingdoms) (v. 10).

"Seven kings" = seven kingdoms (each king represented a kingdom - Example: Dan. 2:37-39).

"Five are fallen"	1.	**Egypt** *(under Pharaoh) (Ezek. 29-30)*
	2.	**Assyria** *(under Sennacherib) (Nineveh – Nahum 3:1-19)*
	3.	**Babylon** *(under Nebuchadnezzar) (Isaiah 21:9; Jer. 50-51)*
	4.	**Medo-Persia** *(under Cyrus) (Dan. 10:13)*
	5.	**Greece** *(under Alexander) (Dan.11:3-4)*
"One is"	6.	**Rome** *(under Caesar) (the world power in John's day)*
"The other is yet to be".	7.	The **revived Roman Empire**, personified by the Antichrist.

V. 11
The Antichrist is ***"of the seven"*** (from the seven), since he is identified with and comes from the revived Roman empire, but he is called the eighth because he will be reigning with the seventh kingdom, be killed, and then rise again to (in a sense) be the ***"eighth"***.

III. Satan's Global Corruption City is WEALTHY (v. 4a)

"***Purple and scarlet*** are the colors of Roman imperialism and of the RCC. Her riches are almost indescribable." (Epp, p. 306).

Because of the Catholic system's tremendous wealth, the Vatican can sway the economy of the world. Saudi Arabia has the same power.

God does not measure the greatness of a church by its material wealth (Rev. 3:17), but by its spiritual riches (Rev. 2:9 - like the church at Smyrna).

IV. Satan's Global Corruption City is WICKED (v. 4b-5)

"Golden cup" - Jer. 51:7 - "Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD's hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad."

A cup full of idolatry and lies (is indicative of a false gospel - works religion with externals but nothing real inside).

Many Doctrinal errors & heresies abound in Roman Catholicism and Islam.

The contents of which cup deceived the world (got the world spiritually drunk and ***"mad"***).

V. Satan's Global Corruption City is a <u>MURDERER</u> (v. 6)

"I wondered with great admiration" - lit. "I was amazed with great amazement."
Why was John so shocked to see what he saw? ANSWER: Because he saw a religious system that professed to know Christ, murder those who belong to Christ.
In the Middle Ages (Dark Ages) the Roman Catholic Inquisition persecuted and martyred multitudes who rose up in protest against the Catholic system.

"Many were those noble souls who rejected the false claims of the Pope, looking instead to the Lord Jesus for salvation and truth. These were called "heretics" and were bitterly persecuted by the RCC" (Woodrow, p. 105).

A few documented examples of RCC persecutions:

1. "Ad Extrpanda" issue by Pope Innocent IV in 1252. This document stated that heretics were to be "crushed like venomous snakes." It formally approved the use of torture." (Woodrow, p. 105).

2. Inquisitions in the Netherlands - 21 Protestants hung on a tree (Woodrow, p. 107).

3. At Lavaur in 1211 - 100,000 Albigenses (protestants) were killed and burned (p. 108).

4. 10,000 Huguenots were killed in the bloody massacre in Paris on St. Bartholomew's Day, 1572 (p. 108).

(SEE Babylon Mystery Religion, Woodrow, p. 105-109).

Cp. the martyr's cry (Rev. 6:10).

Islam has always spread itself at the edge of a sword. From the days of Muhammad its founding prophet until today.

NOTE: The manner in which Jews and Christians are martyred is by beheading. Beheading by the use of a sword has always been Islam's method of destroying infidels. (Revelation 6:9-11; 20:4)

VI. Satan's Global Corruption City will be JUDGED (v. 16-17)

Evidently, Babylon's religious system is destroyed at the end of the first 3 1/2 years (when Antichrist receives full power), whereas the city of Babylon is not destroyed until at the end of the second 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation.

Rev. 17 - The "Harlot" (Babylonian religious system) is destroyed by 10 kings (v. 16).

Rev. 18 - The literal city called "Babylon the Great" is destroyed directly by God (18:20).

V. 16
The words ***"desolate...naked...eat...burn"*** all show the completeness of her annihilation (Ryrie, p. 104).

Satan's false ministers will come to an end that shall be "according to their works" (II Cor. 11:15).

V. 17
Rather than a system being the object of worship, Satan ultimately wants his "man" to be the object of worship.

God, in fulfilling His plan (and prophetic word) will allow the 10 kings (10-fold confederacy of nations) to destroy the Harlot (the Ecumenical system) and give all authority to the Antichrist.

"God hath put in their hearts" - God is sovereign! (cp. Prov. 21:1). God is in ultimate control! He will perform His will (desired and ordained plan).

CONCLUSION: **What is our response to the false Satanic Global Corruption System of today?**

Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
For all that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.
And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever. (1 John 2:15-17)

1) Beware of her deception

2) Come out of her - Rev. 18:4; II Cor. 6 (Ecumenical cooperation with pagan religion is wrong).

3) Pray for those who are in Satan's false system (they are in bondage, deceived ["drunk"]