

REVELATION CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

Verse 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 that sitteth upon many waters:"*

Notice: *"one of the seven angels."* There's a revelation in that. Those seven angels play an important part. This is one of the seven spiritual angels showing John the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters. The great whore is the Roman Catholic Church. The **one great whore**, as we'll read later on in the chapter, has daughters. These daughters are harlots and there are many of them. They form the image of the beast, and they are the Protestant churches. As John is in his vision, the angel begins to tell him, "Come hither, I want to show you the judgment of this great whore."

Verse 2: *"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."*

This is talking about spiritual fornication. Notice that the kings of the earth have committed fornication. **Wherever this Roman Catholic Church goes, she flirts with the kings of the earth. She builds schools, hospitals, etc., as a means of getting in with the government,** and it says that the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. What is the wine of her fornication? It's her doctrine. They are stimulated, and there are many of them today who will kill you over their doctrine. They've committed spiritual fornication with her, and in her whoredom, she had daughters.

Verse one said, *"I'll show you the judgment of the great whore."* Not only is he showing the judgment of the great whore, but he's telling something about the great whore before he begins to tell John what the judgment of her will be. We know what the judgment of her will be as the Word declares further on in this chapter.

Verse 3: *"So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns."*

Here is a woman sitting upon a scarlet colored beast. **I want to separate, somewhat, the woman from the beast.** We have got to do that in order for you to see the end-time picture and what is about to take place, even in this very generation.

The great whore is *riding* the beast. This beast is full of names of blasphemy, blaspheming the God of heaven by claiming a title that could only belong to God. When these emperors rode through the city of Rome, or wherever they went, their subjects had to bow down before them, and those that could, even kissed the feet of the emperors. That was going on in the Roman Empire as it started back in the B.C. period.

Here, a woman is sitting upon this beast riding it. A woman has got control

over this beast. **When anyone is riding a beast, they are controlling the beast.** So the woman has got control over the beast that the angel is showing John. The beast that this woman is riding is full of names of blasphemy. What are these names of blasphemy?

The old Caesars called themselves "Emperor." Emperor has a meaning like, "*Sovereign; imperial; universal ruler.*" You can only apply that title to one, and that is God Himself. These Caesars that served in earlier days called themselves "Emperor." No man is a universal ruler. No man is sovereign over the earth. Therefore, these imperial rulers of Rome called themselves rulers of the earth.

"Sovereign" means that you own something. That's why God is sovereign. God is the only one that you can apply the word "sovereign" to, because God is the only one that's sovereign over the earth, or over the universe. There's the beast full of names of blasphemy; it's the blasphemous titles the rulers of Rome use. Now it's the pope that uses that blasphemous title.

I've read much of the history of the Roman Empire, but I'm not going to try to give you a history lesson of Rome. There are volumes written on it, but I do want to show you something about the city of Rome because that is the seat of the beast.

The city of Rome was founded by two young men named Romulus and Remus in approximately 800 B.C. Rome was in the making while Babylon was still in existence. Rome sits upon seven hills. Each one of the hills has its own particular name. Although the city of Rome started about 800 B.C., the Caesarship of Rome did not start until about 180 B.C. Some of the Caesars were Julius, Augustus, Claudia, Cicero, and Nero, which was the last one of that line of Caesars. This established the one great head on the beast that Daniel saw. This means that even though John saw this same beast with seven heads and ten horns, it will be the same territory; because Daniel saw the ten horns on the one great head. From this one great head come those heads that John saw. That's shown by verse ten.

Rome was already a world power at the time Christ came to earth. This seventeenth chapter of Revelation gives us a little rundown on the Roman Empire.

The reason I want you to notice the city of Rome and the territory of the Roman Empire is because the woman is riding the beast. Then that beast destroys the woman. I want to separate this, because when people talk about the Roman Catholic Church, they just say Rome or the beast, and they leave a lot of unanswered questions.

Yes, here is where people mess up. You've heard it preached many times that the Catholic Church is the beast, etc., but this beastly system started in 800 B.C. The fourth beast, the city of Rome, began to be built then. **The Roman Catholic Church did not come into existence until about eleven hundred years later. So how could the Roman Catholic Church be that beast?** The woman, the Catholic Church, is riding on the beast. I want to make this distinction because you'll see

the beast, the ten horns, destroying the woman, the whore. The ten horns are certainly not going to destroy themselves, are they? This woman was decked with gold, precious stones, and pearls. She was really fixed up. She's really going expensive. This was a vision John saw and he called her a great whore.

Verse 4: *"And the woman 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:"*

The scarlet color is the old royal Caesar color. Notice that the woman is clothed in scarlet and purple, showing both of these powers united. Who united them? Constantine united the church and state together in 325 A.D. The woman is not the beast; the woman is riding the beast. There was a beast hundreds and hundreds of years before there was a Roman Catholic Church.

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

She was a whore herself and she was the mother of harlots. I want to say again, this is not the beast. No, she's riding that fourth beast of Daniel chapter seven. Daniel saw it mainly as it rose up with one great head and that was the great Caesars in the B.C. period. How could the beast be the Roman Catholic Church, if the beast was in existence hundreds of years before the Roman Catholic Church came into existence? The fourth beast destroys the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church got control of it in the Dark Age and pulled down three of the kings and cracked the whip over Europe. The kings had to obey her, but many times they didn't want to. Many of them tired to protest her, but she would free the subjects of that king. Then the people would go about to elect another king. In other words, the woman that was sitting on the beast had full control, or had the "bit in the mouth," you might say. She controlled the beast.

Notice verse five says, that upon her forehead was a name written, "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." She was a great whore, and she had daughters.

The whore is riding on a beast. Notice this, not one of the daughters is riding the beast. The mother is riding the beast and she's got a name, "MYSTERY BABYLON." It's announced to John, "She's the mother of harlots."

Notice, **not one of the daughters is riding the beast**, only the mother whore is. Did you get that? Why? **The daughters rule here in the United States as "the image of the beast."** All these little whores get together, and the lamb beast of Revelation 13 gives them power to say what's right and what's wrong in the religious realm. They're ruling here in the United States while "Mama" is ruling Western Europe and the prophetic world. That's why the Bible says not to worship **the beast or his image**. It's differentiating between the mother and the daughters.

Verse 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."*

Verse 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."

Did you catch the two different things: The woman, and the beast that carrieth her. The beast that carries the woman has seven heads and ten horns. This is the same beast that Daniel saw; but Daniel didn't see a woman riding this beast. He just saw another little horn come up. This woman is drunk with the blood of the saints. She is a murderer and she will never repent. **The woman is the Roman Catholic Church. The ten European nations and all those that are involved is the beast that this woman is riding.**

Verse 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, 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."*

Notice, there's a beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit. Let's deal with that a little. What is it that ascends out of the bottomless pit? It's the spirit of the devil in a church system. Nothing tangible ascends out of the bottomless pit. This is a vision John saw; God wants us to have the interpretation of it.

God permits the devil to get in a system. This is a great system that the whole world can see. They cannot see the spirit as he is loosed and permitted to come upon the earth.

What is this beast that was, and is not, and yet is? Do you know what answers that question? Revelation 13 tells us. The Roman Empire was in full swing before 1500 A.D., and the pope was ruling Western Europe; that's when the beast *"was."* That beast was ruling Europe in the Dark Age, but the time came for God to restore the knowledge of God to the Church. Martin Luther came out with a great sword and slashed this seventh head of that beast until it almost died. The beast *"was"* before that, and when Martin Luther slashed it, the beast *"was not,"*

Napoleon sent his general in and dethroned the pope; and there was a saying in Europe that *"The papacy is dead and no one will lift a finger to help it."* That was in 1798 when Napoleon sent his general in and dethroned the pope.

That beast *"was not"* anymore, yet the spirit of the thing still stayed in existence all the way through. The beast that *was, and is not, and yet is,* will come out of the bottomless pit again in the last day and exist until he goes into destruction. It's the restoration of the Roman Empire controlled by the pope as it was before the reformation, as God permits the Roman Catholic Church to be restored back to full power. These ten nations will submit to the pope as God permits a pope on that throne that knows how to pull strings, and he will make a covenant with many nations that last for seven years, but in the middle of the week, he will break his covenant and that brings on the tribulation period for the second half of the 70th week of Daniel. That beast once again will rule Europe and the world. Humanity will say that it's the greatest thing that's ever been; except those whose names were written in the Lamb's book of life from the foundation of the world. **There's your beast that was, and is not, and yet is, that will ascend out**

of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition, and the world will wonder after it.

Verse 9: *"And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth."*

The city of Rome sets on seven hills as we all know, and that's where the Vatican, the headquarters for the Roman Catholic Church is located.

Verse 10: *"And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space."*

The seven kings represents seven different forms of Roman government, of which there are many volumes of writings about that we can not put into this book, but I want to show you that this is after the period of the great Caesars of which Nero was the last. When he died in 68 A.D. the one great head in that form came to an end. Between the time of this one great head on the beast as Daniel saw it and the seven heads that John saw, there was what is called in history *the Flavian Caesars*. For after the death of Nero, there was not any of his kin to take the throne. So the Roman Senate sent for Flavius Vesasianus, the general of the armies that was at Jerusalem, to make him ruler of the Empire. Vesasianus then made Titus general of the army at Jerusalem who destroyed the city of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Then upon the death of Vesasianus, Titus took the throne, and after Titus's death, Domitian, another of Vesasianus's sons, took the throne, and his reign brings us up to about the time John was having the vision that we are studying about in the tenth verse of this chapter.

In 96 A.D. John saw this same beast that Daniel saw, but when John saw it, it had seven heads. So, in a nutshell, here's what happened. From about 96 A.D. to about 180 A.D. there were five emperors, not Caesars, that's known in history also as "The five golden emperors." Notice they still retained that title of blasphemy by being called emperors. History gives their names, the first was Nerva, second was Trajan, third Hadrian, fourth Antonius Pius, and the fifth one was Marcus Aurelius. This brings us to about 180 A.D.; and is the meaning of "*five are fallen*" of verse ten. This is very condensed, but I have to do it this way; I'm not writing a history book. (Note: from Raymond Jackson's writings)

From 180 A.D. to about 300 A.D. there was constant unrest, and many emperors were assassinated during this time. Then came the Constantine period. He succeeded in bringing some order to the Roman Empire by marrying the church and state together. You will remember this from reading about the Pergamos Church Age. This is the first time the government has ever had a mixture of Christianity and civil government. This is the sixth king or sixth form of Roman government that John saw after the one great head government of Daniel's vision. This is the meaning of "*one is*" of verse ten, and sets the stage for the seventh head or king which began around 600 A.D. and was on this order. As the church and state worked together and that brand of Christianity spread throughout the Roman Empire, the office of the papacy was set up by this time, and there began to be a question of which had the most power, the emperor or the pope. At this time certain areas of the Roman Empire began to break away,

until it broke up into the ten horns that we are studying about in this book. This made up the seventh king or head on the beastly system as the pope took authority over the emperors. One of the popes even pulled up three of the horns under this seventh form of Roman government. He dethroned three of the kings and freed their subjects, but after they repented and submitted to the pope, he reinstated them as kings over their territory. That's the seventh head that John saw and is the one that received the deadly wound and did live. That's the one that *"continues a short space"* in verse ten.

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

As the woman rides the European nations, the eighth head (a spirit) ascends out of the bottomless pit. Not one of the kings ascends out of the bottomless pit. Not one of the popes ascended out of the bottomless pit. But what does? Satan himself, the beastly spirit of this thing, ascends out of the bottomless pit. He is the eighth, but is of the seventh. The seventh form of Roman government was ten European nations **with the pope ruling them**. That's the one that continued for a short space and then it received a deadly wound. **One of its heads was wounded unto death, but the deadly wound was healed, meaning that the seventh form of Roman government will be restored back again as these ten nations listen to the pope.** And not only ten nations, but it will reach and pull in the other empires of the other beasts. John saw the beast in Revelation 13 like a leopard, a bear, and a lion.

Verse 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."*

The ten horns are the ten European nations that are in power at this time under the pope, but as Revelation 16 showed us, in the end they destroy the whore. Where did the beast come from? He ascends out of the bottomless pit. These horns receive power through that beast that the whore was riding on.

Verse 13: *"These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast."*

The ten horns are fussing and feuding, but it doesn't stop the Word of God. I'm reading to you history that's not fulfilled. One of these days those ten European nations of Western Europe will be in complete agreement on what to do. Do you know what that complete agreement will be? They will say, "Let's listen to the pope; let's listen to the Roman Church." They will submit to the whore and the whore will ride them. They will have one mind. She'll pull the reigns to the left, and they'll go to the left. She'll pull the reigns to the right, and they'll go to the right. They'll have one mind, because it's the Word of God. It's the eighth spiritual head of verse 11 riding the seventh form of Roman government. It's satan, the devil, as he incarnates himself through the church, through the false prophet, and through the beastly system of Rome, through the Roman Empire. These ten horns will also have one mind concerning the destruction of the great whore and religion as a whole. Then, as Jesus comes to

earth with His Bride, they attempt to make war with Him and His Bride.

Verse 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 that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful."*

Notice, *"These shall make war with the Lamb."* When will they do that? **Not while the whore is riding them, but after they destroy the whore. They will then make war with the Lamb; that's Revelation 19.**

In verse one, the angel told John that he would show him the judgment of the whore; but look what he went through before he showed John the judgment of the great whore. He showed practically the whole Roman Empire to John.

Verse 15: *"And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues."* (The Roman Church will reign over the whole PROPHETIC world.)

Verse 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."*

Now, I want to show you the judgment of the great whore. These ten horns are going to hate the whore. This seventh form of Roman government that the Roman Catholic Church is controlling is right now communistic in their spirit, in their hearts. Communism is infiltrating the European governments. You know that; because you can hear it on the news and read it in the paper, but they are going to submit to the whore. They are going to submit and lay with the whore.

One thing about it, after kings stay with a whore so long, they get tired of her and want to get rid of her. Nobody wants to live with a whore, do they? So after a while, they hate the whore. When they really see what kind of whore she is, they get sick of her. They hate the whore, make her naked, and burn her with fire.

Those ten European nations and Euro-Communism will destroy the Roman Catholic Church; they'll destroy religion just as sure as the world. Will the Roman Catholic Church be destroyed? Yes. I'm reading to you history not yet fulfilled, but it will be. Why will they do it? Verse 17 tells us why.

Verse 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."*

God puts in these kings hearts to give their power unto this beast, so that His Word can be fulfilled. This whore will be destroyed by Euro-Communism.

A thought for the end-time ministry: If God can take these ten nations that are communistic and don't even know God, and can make them do what He wants them to, to fulfill His Word; then, how much more can He take us that have the Holy Ghost, that's got the mind of Christ, that's striving to do His will, and bring us into complete unity and make us all believe the same thing. If God can take this communistic world, snap His fingers, and make them do just exactly what He wants them to do, then don't tell me the Bride's not going to obey Him. Don't tell me the Bride's not going to speak the same thing. Don't tell me the

Bride's not going to be in complete unity!

The beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit is actually the devil. God just has to destroy the religious system, and He uses the same horns that have been obeying that religious system. He puts it in their hearts to do it.

Verse 18: *"And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth."*

What city reigns over the whole earth today? It's a church, Babylon. It's not Rome as a city. As a city, Rome can't even have a stable government itself. It says that this city reigns over all the earth. What city is it? It's the Church of Rome, but she'll be burnt with fire.

Do you see the seventeenth chapter of the Book of Revelation? It's an explanation of the Roman Empire. It shows where the Roman Empire started. It shows the beast before it was wounded. It shows it as it grew into seven heads and ten horns. It shows even the destruction. The angel said, "John, come here a minute. I want to take you over here in the Spirit and show you what's going to happen to the old whore." **She was burnt with fire by the very beast that she rode.** She will go out of existence one of these days. Amen.