

THE BEAST'S MYSTERIES REVEALED

(Rev 17:9-18) 04-19-20

Grace Bible Church, Gillette, Wyoming

Pastor Daryl Hilbert

CONTEXT (Rev 17:7-18)

- A. The **mystery** of the **beast** is revealed in vv. 7-8 (False Resurrection of Antichrist).
 - B. The mystery of the “seven heads” is revealed in vv. 9-11 (Seven World Empires).
 - C. The mystery of the “ten horns” is revealed in vv. 12-14, 16-17 (Revived Roman Empire).
 - D. The mystery of the woman is revealed in vv. 15, 18 cf. vv. 1-6 (Worldwide False Religion).
- I. THE MYSTERY OF THE “BEAST” (Rev 17:7-8)
- A. Support - The beast supports [“**carries**”] the false religious system [“**woman**,” i.e. “great harlot”] for a time (v.7 cf. Rev 17:16).
 - B. False Resurrection - The beast exhibits a false resurrection (8).
 1. The beast’s false resurrection is described with the phrase “**was and is not and will come**” (Rev 13:3a; Rev 13:12, 14). Summary of arguments:
 2. No biblical passage states Satan creates life.
 3. Satan is a created being, not divine.
 4. Satan’s strategy is deception.
 5. Antichrist by definition is a counterfeit.
 - C. Demonic Possession - The beast’s demonic possession is described with the phrase “**come up out of the abyss**.” In the book of Revelation, the term “abyss” is associated with demons (Rev 9:11), demon oppression (Rev 9:5-6), and demon possession (Rev 11:7).
 - D. Non- Elect - Those who are not the elect (“**not written in the book of life**”) will be deceived by the Antichrist’s false resurrection.
 - E. Demise - The beast’s demise is described by the phrase “**goes to destruction**” (Rev 19:20).
- II. THE MYSTERY OF THE “SEVEN HEADS” (Rev 17:9-11)
- A. Seven Heads Support the Woman (9)
 1. Mind of Wisdom - The expression “**mind of wisdom**” means that God’s wisdom is about to be revealed in the following passages. However, in order to have a mind of wisdom, it takes much study of Scripture, comparison of Scripture with Scripture, and spiritual insight.
 2. Identification #1 - “Seven Mountains” - There are several identifications of the imagery of the “**seven heads**” (cf. v.9 and v.10). This verse identifies the seven heads as “**seven mountains**.” “Mountains” probably do not refer to the actual seven mountains at Rome but refer to the Seven Empires supporting the woman (see v. 10).
 - B. Seven Empires in Past and Future (10)
 1. Identification #2 - “Seven Kings” - In v. 10 the seven heads are identified as “**seven kings**” or Seven Empires of the World.
 2. Seven Empires of the World - The empires that **have fallen** were Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persian, and Greece. The empire that existed (“**one is**”) during the time of John’s writing in A.D. 95 was the Roman Empire. The empire that “**has not yet come**” is the future Revived Roman Empire under the alliance of the ten kings (“horns”). The Antichrist will work his way to rule the ten kings. At the Mid-Tribulation the Antichrist will have world domination and will become the “**eighth**” empire.
 3. Association with Israel - Why are these empires mentioned? For one reason, they were considered the greatest world empires of their time (cf. Dan 2:37-38). For another reason, they all had dealings with and dominion over Israel. This is referred to as the “times of the Gentiles” when Gentile world empires rule over Israel in succession (Luk 21:24).

“SEVEN HEADS” - EMPIRES OF THE WORLD (Rev 12:3; 13:1; 17:9-10)				
STATUS	EMPIRE	DATE	RELATION w/ ISRAEL	SCRIPTURE
“Fallen”	Egypt	1550-1069 B.C.	Brought Israel into Bondage	Exo 6:5; Isa 52:4
“Fallen”	Assyria	911-609 B.C.	Took N. Kingdom Captive	2Ki 17:6; Jer 50:17-18
“Fallen”	Babylon	605-539 B.C.	Took S. Kingdom Captive	Dan 1:5-6; Jer 52:27
“Fallen”	Medo-Persia n	539-331 B.C.	Allowed Jews to rebuild	2Ch 36:23; Ezr 1:2
“Fallen”	Greece	331-63 B.C.	Abomination of Desolation	Dan 8:10-11
“One is”	Roman	63 B.C.-A.D.4 76	Crucified Christ	Joh 19:23, 34
“To Come”	Ten Horns	1st Half Trib.	Sign Covenant with Israel	Dan 9:27a
“Eighth”	Res. Antichrist	2nd Half Trib.	Broke Covenant with Israel	Dan 9:27b; Mat 24:15

Support the Woman - The sense in which all of the great empires of the world supported the **woman** (“Great Harlot”) was not only in their relationship with Israel but also their embrace of false gods and false religions.

C. Beast is the Eighth Empire (11) - The Antichrist is part of the **seventh** empire with the alliance of ten kings (Dan 7:24; Rev 13:1; 17:12). However, when he takes over in world domination, he will be the **eighth** empire (Rev 17:12-13, 17).

III. THE MYSTERY OF THE “TEN HORNS” (Rev 17:12-14, 16-17)

A. Ten Horns are Ten Kings (12) -

1. Ten Kings - The “**ten horns**” are identified as ten kings that make up the future Revived Roman Empire.

“TEN HORNS” - FUTURE REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE		
NAME	IDENTIFICATION	SCRIPTURE
"Ten Horns"	Alliance of 10 Kings	(Dan 7:7, 20, 24; Rev 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 12)
"Three Horns"	3 Kings Removed	(Dan 7:8, 20, 24)

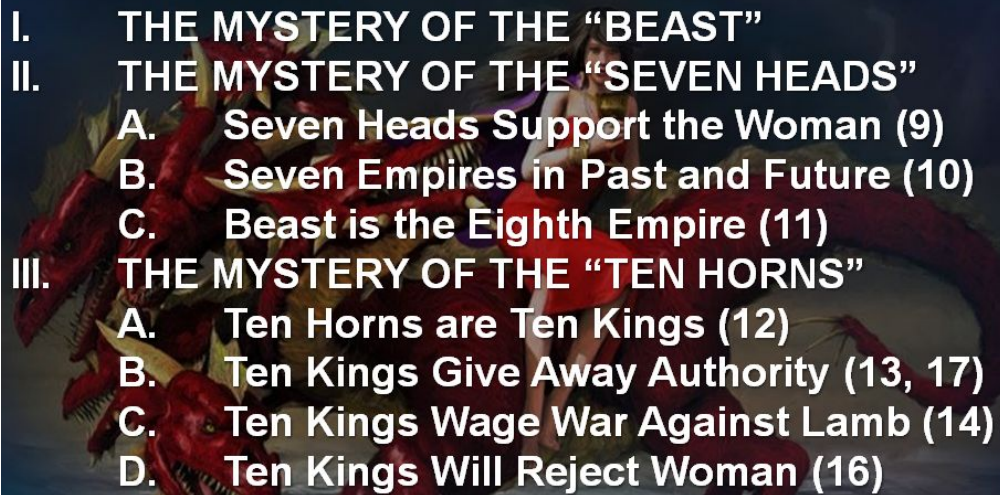
"Little Horn"	Antichrist	(Dan 7:8, 11 , 21; Rev 17:12-13, 16-17)
---------------	------------	--

2. Future Kings - They are future kings since they “**have not yet received a kingdom.**”
 3. One Hour - Here the phrase “**one hour**” is symbolic for a short period of time. The rule of the ten kings will begin during the 1st half of the Tribulation when they rule alongside the Antichrist.
- B. Ten Kings Give Away Authority (13, 17)
1. Short Time - The rule of the ten kings will extend into the 2nd half of the Tribulation but be short-lived when the Antichrist rules over them.
 2. Give Away Authority - It is both the **purpose** of the ten kings (13) as well as God’s predetermined **purpose** (17) that they give their authority to the beast. He will lead the world and his followers to destruction and to Hell.
- C. Ten Kings Wage War Against Lamb (14)
1. War Against the Lamb - John is informed that the Revived Roman Empire will wage war against Christ (**Lamb**) at the Battle of Armageddon when He returns (Rev 19:19-21).
 2. King of Kings - The Antichrist and his Revived Roman Empire will be “**overcome**” (*nikaō - to conquer*) by the “**Lord of lords and King of kings**” (cf. Rev 19:11, **16**)
 3. Called, Chosen, Faithful - This is a reference to the raptured church in heaven who will accompany Christ at His 2nd Coming (Rev 19:14). They are elect. They are “**chosen**” before the foundation of the world (Eph 1:4). They are effectually “**called**” (Rom 8:30). In addition, Christ makes them “**faithful**” so that they persevere (Rev 14:12-13).
- D. Ten Kings Will Reject Woman (16)
1. Hate the Harlot - Amazingly, the ten-king alliance under the Antichrist will **hate the harlot** because the Antichrist will want to be worshipped himself (cf. Dan 11:36-37; 2Th 2:3-4).
 2. Desolate and Naked - The Antichrist will confiscate the abundance of wealth which the world’s false religion had acquired through deceit (Rev 17:4).
 3. *Antichrist’s alliance with the false religious system will not last. Eventually the ten horns (the ten kings who rule under Antichrist) and the beast (Antichrist himself) will come to hate the harlot. Having used the false religious system to help him gain control of the world, Antichrist will discard it. In his rampant megalomania, he will want the world to worship only him. He will also no doubt covet the vast wealth of the false religious system (MacArthur).*
 4. Use and Abuse - Like Satan, the Antichrist will use and abuse anyone at any time in any way to satisfy his desires, purposes, and power.
- IV. THE MYSTERY OF THE “WOMAN” (Rev 17:15, 18)
- A. False Religion Will Be Worldwide (15) - The **harlot** (end time False Religion) will have the worship of the “peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues” (**waters**). This worship will be transferred to the Antichrist through his false resurrection, the ten kings, and the False Prophet.
- B. False Religion Will Be Centered in Babylon (18)
1. Most likely, the city of Babylon (Rev 16:19; 17:5; 18:10) will be the Antichrist’s capital.
 2. It most likely will be the center of false religion until the Antichrist sets up his image and takes his seat in the Jerusalem Temple (i.e. “Abomination of Desolation”).
- V. OBSERVATIONS AND APPLICATIONS
- A. Seven Empires and the Invisible Battle
1. All of the seven empires had or will have dominion over Israel in the times of the Gentiles (key)
 2. All of the seven empires had or will have dealings with Israel in one way or another (key)
 3. All of the past empires have characteristics that will contribute to the Antichrist (Rev 13:1; 17:3, 7, 9)

4. All of the seven empires were or will be under influence of Satan (Rev 12:3)
 5. Satan will use and abuse anyone and in any way he can (Rev 17:16).
 - a. APP: Even Christians when we sin
 - b. Even Christians when they adopt unbiblical morality (culture)
 - c. Even Christians when they eceuminize with false religion.
 - d. Daniel stood in his day; the apostle John stood in his day. We must stand in our day doctrinally and morally.
- B. History is “His-story”
1. History is “His-story”, that is, “History is “Christ’s-story”
 2. God prophesied the world empires, including the future on
 3. God pre-writes history. He does not rewrite history. He doesn’t need to because it will happen the way He pre-wrote it to happen.
 4. God orchestrates the actions and desires of all past and future kings.
 - a. That is why John wrote in Rev 17:17 ““For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, **until the words of God will be fulfilled.**”
 - b. It is “His - Story”
 5. God even orchestrates typologies of history with future characters (Dan 8:9-14).
 6. In spite of Satan’s influence in the world in all ages, that will come to an end.
 7. Rev 17:14: 14 "These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome (nikaō have victory, conquer) them, **because** He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful." (cf. Rev 17:8; 19:20).



THE BEAST'S MYSTERIES REVEALED
(Rev 17:9-18) 04-19-20

- 
- I. THE MYSTERY OF THE "BEAST"
II. THE MYSTERY OF THE "SEVEN HEADS"
A. Seven Heads Support the Woman (9)
B. Seven Empires in Past and Future (10)
C. Beast is the Eighth Empire (11)
III. THE MYSTERY OF THE "TEN HORNS"
A. Ten Horns are Ten Kings (12)
B. Ten Kings Give Away Authority (13, 17)
C. Ten Kings Wage War Against Lamb (14)
D. Ten Kings Will Reject Woman (16)

THE BEAST'S MYSTERIES REVEALED
(Rev 17:9-18) 04-19-20

- 
- IV. THE MYSTERY OF THE "WOMAN"
A. False Religion Will Be Worldwide (15)
B. False Religion Centered in Babylon (18)
V. OBSERVATIONS AND APPLICATIONS
A. Seven Empires and the Invisible Battle
B. History is "His-story"

“SEVEN HEADS” - EMPIRES OF THE WORLD (Rev 12:3; 13:1; 17:9-10)				
STATUS	EMPIRE	DATE	RELATION w/ ISRAEL	SCRIPTURE
“Fallen”	Egypt	1550-1069 B.C.	Brought Israel into Bondage	Exo 6:5; Isa 52:4
“Fallen”	Assyria	911-609 B.C.	Took N. Kingdom Captive	2Ki 17:6; Jer 50:17-18
“Fallen”	Babylon	605-539 B.C.	Took S. Kingdom Captive	Dan 1:5-6; Jer 52:27
“Fallen”	Medo-Persian	539-331 B.C.	Allowed Jews to rebuild	2Ch 36:23; Ezr 1:2
“Fallen”	Greece	331-63 B.C.	Abomination of Desolation	Dan 8:10-11
“One is” (95 A.D.)	Roman	63 B.C.- A.D. 476	Crucified Christ	Joh 19:23, 34
“To Come”	Ten Horns	1st Half Trib.	Sign Covenant with Israel	Dan 9:27a
“Eighth”	Res. Antichrist	2nd Half Trib.	Broke Covenant with Israel	Dan 9:27b; Mat 24:15

“TEN HORNS” - <u>FUTURE REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE</u>		
NAME	IDENTIFICATION	SCRIPTURE
“TEN HORNS”	ALLIANCE OF TEN KINGS	Dan 7:7, 20, 24; Rev 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 12
“THREE HORNS”	3 KINGS REMOVED	Dan 7:8, 20, 24
“LITTLE HORN”	WORLD-RULE OF ANTICHRIST	Dan 7:8, 11, 21; Rev 17:12-13, 16-17

