

Revelation

Chapter 17

Introduction

- The Revelation to John
 - A prophetic writing with features of a letter and of the form of literature called Apocalyptic
 - Written by John to Christians during the second half of the First Century
 - Placed at the end of the New Testament because of its concern with the “end times.”
 - So far we have finished the first 16 chapters.
 - Tonight we will cover Chapter 17

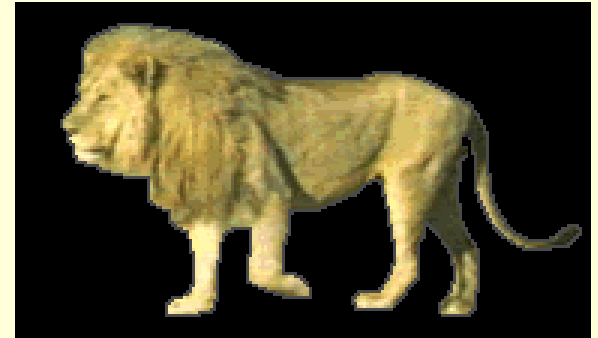
Review

- Introduction (1:1-8)
- First Vision (1:9-20)
- 7 Letters (Chapters 2 & 3)



Review

- Heavenly Throne Room (Chapters 4 & 5)



Review



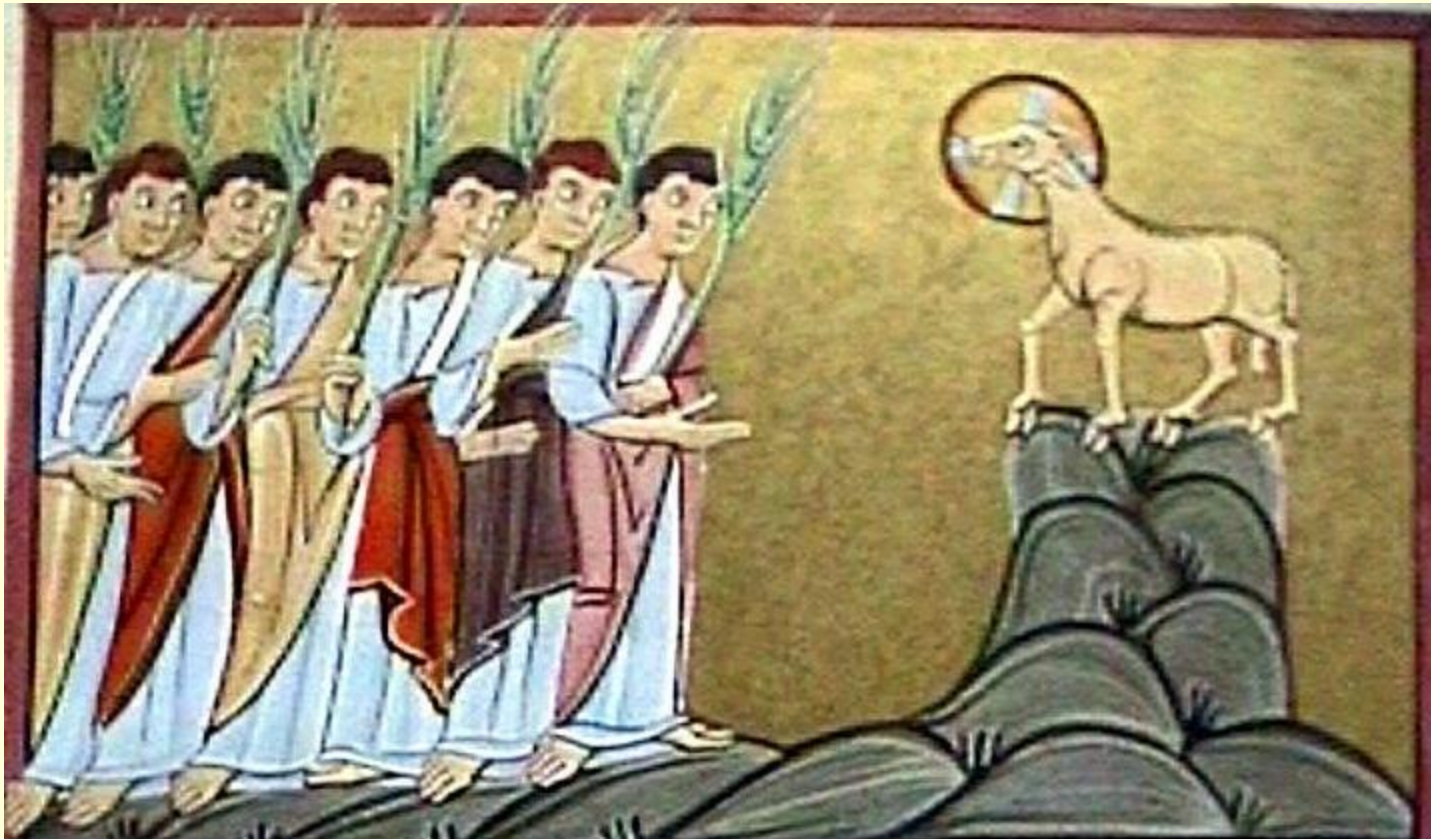
- The First Six Seals (Chapter 6)
 - The 4 Horsemen
 - Souls of Martyrs
 - Vision of the End

Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains,¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

--- Revelation 6:15-17

Review

- The Servants of God (Chapter 7)



Review

- The 7th Seal (Chapter 8)
 - Silence in Heaven
 - Prayers of the Saints
 - The First 4 Trumpets
 - Announcement of the 3 Woes



Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!" (**Revelation 8:113**)



Review

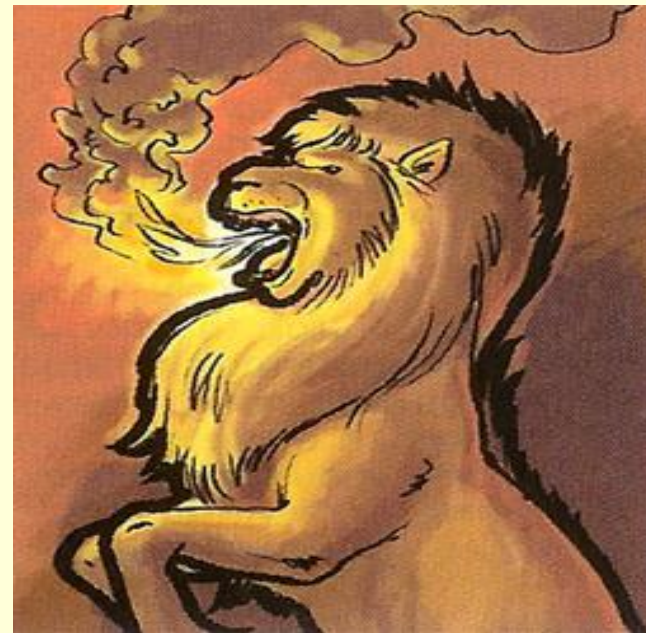
- The First Two Woes (Chapter 9)



5th
Trumpet

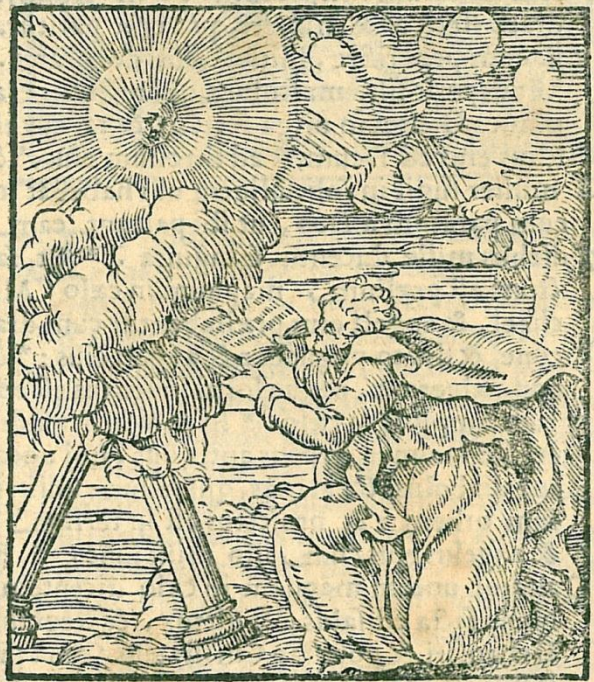


6th
Trumpet



Review

- Interlude
 - Mighty Angel With A Little Book (Chapter 10)
 - Measuring the Temple (Chapter 11, Verses 1-2)
 - The Two Witnesses (Chapter 11, Verses 3-13)



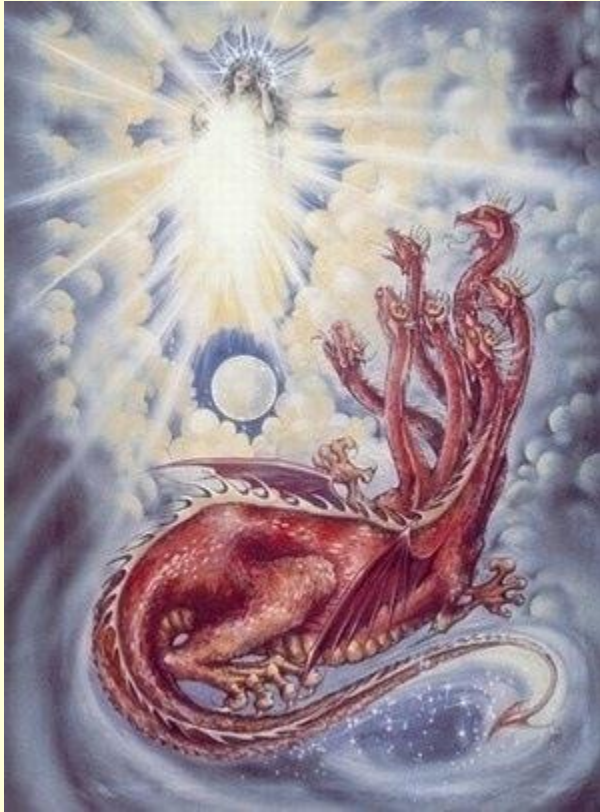
Review

- The Seventh Trumpet (Chapter 11, Verses 14-19)



Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." **(11:15)**

Review



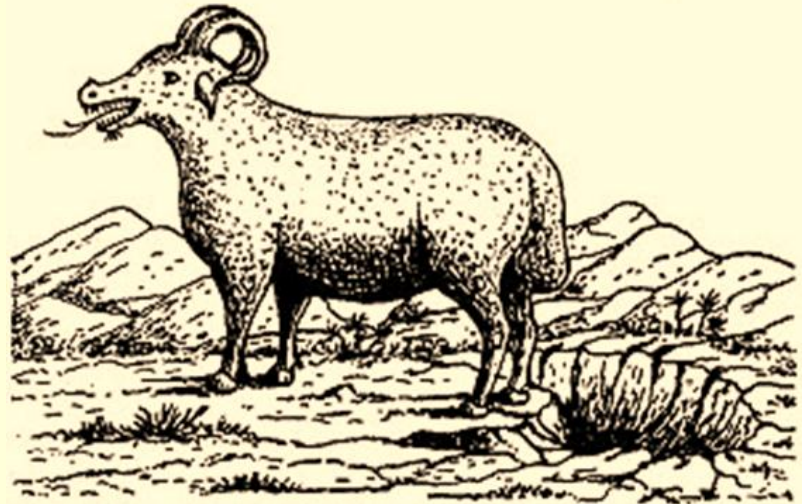
- The Woman, Her Son and The Dragon (Chapter 12)

Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

--- **Revelation 12:17a**

Review

- The Two Beasts (Chapter 13)



Review

- The New Song
(Chapter 14, Verses 1-5)



Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

--- ***Revelation 14:1-3***

Review



- Another Three Angels
(Chapter 14, Verses 6-13)

And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast ... he also will drink the wine of God's wrath..." (9-10)

Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. (12)

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!" (13)

Review

- The Harvest
(Chapter 14, Verses 14-20)



Review

- Chapter 15
 - 7 Angels With 7 Plagues
 - Saints on Sea of Glass



Review

- Chapter 16 (Previous Lesson)
 - 7 bowls of wrath poured out



The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake. The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath.

– Revelation 16:17-19

ヨハネの黙示録 17:1-6

1. それから、七つの鉢を持つ七人の御使のひとりがきて、わたしに語って言った、「さあ、きなさい。多くの水の上にすわっている大淫婦に対するさばきを、見せよう。
2. 地の王たちはこの女と姦淫を行い、地に住む人々はこの女の姦淫のぶどう酒に酔いしれている」。

ヨハネの黙示録 17:1-6

3. 御使は、わたしを御霊に感じたまま、荒野へ連れて行った。わたしは、そこでひとりの女が赤い獣に乗っているのを見た。その獣は神を汚すかすかすの名でおおわれ、また、それに七つの頭と十の角とがあった。
4. この女は紫と赤の衣をまとい、金と宝石と真珠とで身を飾り、憎むべきものと自分の姦淫の汚れとで満ちている金の杯を手に持ち、

ヨハネの黙示録 17:1-6

5. その額には、一つの名がしるされていた。それは奥義であって、「大いなるバビロン、淫婦どもと地の憎むべきものらとの母」というのであった。
6. わたしは、この女が聖徒の血とイエスの証人の血に酔いしれているのを見た。この女を見た時、わたしは非常に驚きあやしんだ。

Revelation 17:1-6

1. Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters,
2. with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk."

Revelation 17:1-6

3. And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns.
4. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality.

Revelation 17:1-6

5. And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations."
6. And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her, I marveled greatly.

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- What are the “seven bowls?”

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- We should note that one of these angels would be a sort of expert witness regarding God’s wrath and its outpouring.

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- This angel invites John to come and see what the angel will show.
- What he promises to show is part of the outpouring of God's wrath
- Specifically the judgment of a particular figure, which the angel describes as "the great prostitute who is seated on many waters."
- Does the angel refer literally to a prostitute?

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 - We can probably guess this
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- To what city, then, does the angel refer?
 - Rome
 - Babylon (c.f. Jer. 51:13)
 - Some future city which, like Rome and Babylon, dominates and seduces and corrupts the kings of the earth

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- Notice that Chapter 16 ended with images of the destruction of this great city.
- Now Chapters 17 and 18 and the first part of Chapter 19 are a closer examination of this same theme.
- As we have so often noticed in Revelation, the sequence in which things are shown to John in his vision are not always a continuous sequence of events in human history.
- Here the vision backs up to look at the destruction of Rome and etc.

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- Might John and his readers have had a particular interest in the fate of Rome?

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- Why?

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- Might John and his readers have had a particular interest in the fate of Rome?
 - Yes
- Why?
 - It persecuted them.
 - It was the prime example in their time of a powerful and pervasive godless civilization

17:2

地の王たちはこの女と姦淫を行い、地に住む人々はこの女の姦淫のぶどう酒に酔いしれている」。

with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk."

- The angel began in Verse 1 by describing the city as the "great prostitute"
- He now continues that image by saying that the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality with this city.
- This is clearly a metaphor, one which is commonly used in the Bible, to represent idolatry and impurity and moral corruption.
- Rome has corrupted the leaders of the earth and, through them, the dwellers of all the earth have been similarly affected.

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- We remember that in Revelation, "dwellers on earth," generally refers to the lost, to those whose names are not written in the book of life.
- The point here, then, would be that Rome has been the instrument whereby many have been damned to Hell
- This is true of historical Rome and Babylon and all of the of the other seats of world government through which the nations have been turned away from God.

17:3

御使は、わたしを御霊に感じたまま、荒野へ連れて行った。
わたしは、そこでひとりの女が赤い獣に乗っているのを見た。その獣は神を汚すかすかすの名でおおわれ、また、それに七つの頭と十の角とがあった。

And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns.

- Remember the angel told John within his vision that he would be shown the judgment of “Rome”
- Clearly this is to be a visionary, symbolic, spiritual showing and not a literal view of the unfolding of human history.
 - John is carried away in the Spirit
 - Into a wilderness
 - He is shown (not literally a city) but the figure of a woman (representing “Rome”)
 - She is seen to be sitting on a beast.

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- Have we seen this beast before?

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 - Yes, where?

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- Have we seen this beast before?
 - Yes
 - This is the beast which rose from the ocean in Chapter 13, which was also full of blasphemous names
 - and which like the scarlet dragon of Chapter 12 (Satan) also had seven heads and ten horns.
 - The city, then, is supported and carried by Satan and his agents.
 - We recall from Chapter 12 that Satan wars against the Church.

17:4

この女は紫と赤の衣をまとい、金と宝石と真珠とで身を飾り、憎むべきものと自分の姦淫の汚れとで満ちている金の杯を手に持ち、

The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality.

- This instrument of Satan --- i.e. the woman --- i.e. Rome --- i.e. any worldly power may first seek to dominate through seduction and corruption and only later resort to violent oppression as necessary.
- This would seem to be the image of the city which is presented here.
- She seeks first to tempt men and to corrupt them by appealing to their desire for wealth and comfort.

17:5

その額には、一つの名がしるされていた。それは奥義であって、「大いなるバビロン、淫婦どもと地の憎むべきものらとの母」というのであった。

And on her forehead was written a name of mystery:
"Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations."

- We have (correctly I think) understood that the figure of the woman in John's vision in some sense represents Rome and other great cities from the past (Babylon) and future though which men are corrupted.
- Yet this figure is not quite so easily understood and dismissed.
- The name written on her forehead is a name of mystery.
- She is called "Babylon the great" and the "mother of prostitutes and of the earth's abominations."
- Such mysteries are to be ... contemplated.

17:6

わたしは、この女が聖徒の血とイエスの証人の血に酔いしれているのを見た。この女を見た時、わたしは非常に驚きあやしんだ。

And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her, I marveled greatly.

- Within his vision John clearly understood that this mysterious woman represented Rome, among other things perhaps, and therefore he understood that she represented the instrument of death for many Christians, including many Christians whom John had known.
- John's reaction to this vision and to this understanding are interesting:
 - He “marveled greatly”
 - This is not perhaps admiration
 - But it does convey a fixity of attention ... he did not quickly look away.

ヨハネの黙示録 17:7-18

7. すると、御使はわたしに言った、「なぜそんなに驚くのか。この女の奥義と、女を乗せている七つの頭と十の角のある獣の奥義とを、話してあげよう。

ヨハネの黙示録 17:7-18

8. あなたの見た獣は、昔はいたが、今はおらず、そして、やがて底知れぬ所から上ってきて、ついには滅びに至るものである。地に住む者のうち、世の初めからいのちの書に名をしるされていない者たちは、この獣が、昔はいたが今はおらず、やがて来るのを見て、驚きあやしむであろう。

ヨハネの黙示録 17:7-18

9. ここに、知恵のある心が必要である。七つの頭は、この女のすわっている七つの山であり、また、七人の王のことである。
10. そのうちの五人はすでに倒れ、一人は今おり、もう一人は、まだきていない。それが来れば、しばらくの間だけおることになっている。

ヨハネの黙示録 17:7-18

11. 昔はいたが今はいないという獣は、すなわち第八のものであるが、またそれは、かの七人の中のひとりであって、ついには滅びに至るものである。
12. あなたの見た十の角は、十人の王のことであって、彼らはまだ国を受けてはいないが、獣と共に、一時だけ王としての権威を受ける。

ヨハネの黙示録 17:7-18

13. 彼らは心をひとつにしている。そして、自分たちの力と権威とを獣に与える。
14. 彼らは小羊に戦いをいどんでくるが、小羊は、主の主、王の王であるから、彼らにうち勝つ。また、小羊と共にいる召された、選ばれた、忠実な者たちも、勝利を得る」。
15. 御使はまた、わたしに言った、「あなたの見た水、すなわち、淫婦のすわっている所は、あらゆる民族、群衆、国民、国語である。

ヨハネの黙示録 17:7-18

16. あなたの見た十の角と獣とは、この淫婦を憎み、みじめな者にし、裸にし、彼女の肉を食い、火で焼き尽くすであろう。
17. 神は、御言が成就する時まで、彼らの心の中に、御旨を行い、思いをひとつにし、彼らの支配権を獣に与える思いを持つようにされたからである。
18. あなたの見たかの女は、地の王たちを支配する大いなる都のことである」。

Revelation 17:7-18

7. But the angel said to me, "Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her.

Revelation 17:7-18

8. The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.

Revelation 17:7-18

9. This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated;
10. they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while.

Revelation 17:7-18

11. As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction.
12. And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast.
13. These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast.

Revelation 17:7-18

14.They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful."

15.And the angel said to me, "The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages.

Revelation 17:7-18

16. And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire,
17. for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.

Revelation 17:7-18

18. And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth."

17:7

すると、御使はわたしに言った、「なぜそんなに驚くのか。
この女の奥義と、女を乗せている七つの頭と十の角
のある獣の奥義とを、話してあげよう。

But the angel said to me, "Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her.

- In the preceding Verse 6, John confessed that he found the figure of the woman within his vision to be captivating: he “marveled greatly.”
- The angel evidently perceived this, and understood that the reason why John marveled had something to do with the fact that the figure of the woman was so mysterious, so hard fully to comprehend.
- The angel proposes to resolve the mystery.
- He apparently believes that in order to resolve the mystery of the woman, he must first resolve of the mystery of the beast.

17:8

あなたの見た獣は、昔はいたが、今はおらず、そして、やがて底知れぬ所から上ってきて、ついには滅びに至るものである。地に住む者のうち、世の初めからいのちの書に名をしるされていない者たちは、この獣が、昔はいたが今はおらず、やがて来るのを見て、驚きあやしむであろう。

The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.

- We have already guessed that the beast is a figure which represents Satan on earth, similar to or identical with the one seen in Chapter 13.
- Here we are told that this beast, as just seen by John in his vision, is about to rise from the pit and then go to destruction.
- The beast in the vision is in the pit presently and so presently “is not”

17:8

あなたの見た獣は、昔はいたが、今はおらず、そして、やがて底知れぬ所から上ってきて、ついには滅びに至るものである。地に住む者のうち、世の初めからいのちの書に名をしるされていない者たちは、この獣が、昔はいたが今はおらず、やがて来るのを見て、驚きあやしむであろう。

The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.

- But the beast was not always in the pit.
- So we have the expression describing the beast who was, is not, and is about to rise to go to destruction.
- This is the dark reflection of the One who was and is and ever shall be, and who went down into the pit but rose again unto eternal life.

17:8

あなたの見た獣は、昔はいたが、今はおらず、そして、やがて底知れぬ所から上ってきて、ついには滅びに至るものである。地に住む者のうち、世の初めからいのちの書に名をしるされていない者たちは、この獣が、昔はいたが今はおらず、やがて来るのを見て、驚きあやしむであろう。

The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.

- Remember, when this beast (representative of Satan) rises from the pit, there will be a seductive harlot (great city) on its back which will corrupt the rulers and people of the world.
- This will be marvelous in the sight of the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life.

17:8

あなたの見た獣は、昔はいたが、今はおらず、そして、やがて底知れぬ所から上ってきて、ついには滅びに至るものである。地に住む者のうち、世の初めからいのちの書に名をしるされていない者たちは、この獣が、昔はいたが今はおらず、やがて来るのを見て、驚きあやしむであろう。

The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.

- Conversely this will NOT be marvelous in the sight of those whose names have been written in the book of life, presumably because they will be able to understand what is really happening.

17:9

ここに、知恵のある心が必要である。七つの頭は、この女のすわっている七つの山であり、また、七人の王のことである。

This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated;

- The angel tells John that the seven heads of the beast he has seen in his vision are seven mountains.
- Rome was known throughout the world in John's day as the city which sits on seven hills, and most have seen the reference here to seven mountains as a reference to Rome.
- Some have seen 7 mountains as referring to seven successive empires which dominated the world, of which Rome was one.
- In any case the beast on which the woman sits somehow represents the empire out of which the city arises and over which she presides.

17:10

そのうちの五人はすでに倒れ、ひとりは今おり、もうひとは、まだきていない。それが来れば、しばらくの間だけおることになっている。

they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while.

- The seven heads of the beast are also, the angel says, seven kings.
- This could be literally seven kings (e.g. 7 Roman Emperors)
- Or it could be seven world empires (of which Rome was one).
- Every attempt to map this out in detail meets with difficulty.
- Most likely the number 7 is, here as elsewhere in Revelation, not to be understood literally but a number symbolizing completeness.

17:10

そのうちの五人はすでに倒れ、ひとりは今おり、もうひとは、まだきていない。それが来れば、しばらくの間だけおることになっている。

they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while.

- The important thing to understand about this beast, is that the reality which it symbolizes has nearly run its course in human history.
- Satan works through human civilization and culture and nations and rulers and cities to seduce men away from God and kill God's people.
- The beast in the vision symbolizes all (symbolically 7) manifestations.
- In John's vision, most manifestations of the beast have passed, one was present in his day, and one brief manifestation was yet to come.

17:10

そのうちの五人はすでに倒れ、ひとは今おり、もうひとは、まだきていない。それが来れば、しばらくの間だけおることになっている。

they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while.

- There is potentially a little confusion here because one of the seven heads of the beast (specifically the 6th one) is said to exist in John's day, whereas the beast itself within the vision is said not to exist, because he is in the pit.
- Such confusion is to be expected with mysterious visions, particularly in visions which do not convey consecutive events in human history.
- The angel moves to resolve this confusion in verse 11.

17:11

昔はいたが今はいないという獣は、すなわち第八のものであるが、またそれは、かの七人の中のひとりであって、ついには滅びに至るものである。

As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction.

- Within John's vision, the king who is, is numbered 6.
- The king yet to come, who will remain only a little while, is number 7
- The beast who will rise from the pit and go to destruction is number 8.
- The beast is not identical with one or all of the 7 kings.
- Verse 11 merely makes it plain that one of the 7 kings can be in the world while the beast himself (of whom all 7 are a part) is in the pit.

17:11

昔はいたが今はいないという獣は、すなわち第八のものであるが、またそれは、かの七人の中のひとりであって、ついには滅びに至るものである。

As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction.

- We constantly observe parallels between Christ and his church and the Beast and those who dwell on the earth.
 - Christ has risen and is in heaven with God
 - The beast has been cast down into the pit

 - Christ is present in the world in and through his Church
 - The Beast is present in the world through his children

 - Christ will return to consummate his eternal Kingdom on earth.
 - The beast will return and go down to eternal destruction

17:12

あなたの見た十の角は、十人の王のことであって、彼らはまだ国を受けてはいないが、獣と共に、一時だけ王としての権威を受ける。

And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast.

- We remember that in the vision which the angel showed to John (Verse 3, likewise Chs. 12 and 13) the beast had 10 horns.
- Here the angel explains that these horns represent kings who will receive royal authority for a brief period, together with the beast.
- It seems unlikely that the number 10 is to be understood literally.
- It is better to understand that with the return of the beast from the pit, he will gather and empower “the rulers of the earth” to oppose Christ.

17:13

彼らは心をひとつにしている。そして、自分たちの力と権威とを獣に与える。

These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast.

- Just as the beast, who is an eighth, was said to belong to the seven who ruled before he came back up from the pit, the ten who rule after he rises belong to him also.
- In effect all or most earthly powers throughout history are seen to belong to the beast.
- And it is on the back of such powers that the great harlot sits, seeking to seduce and corrupt all rulers and peoples of the earth.

17:14

彼らは小羊に戦いをいどんでくるが、小羊は、主の主、王の王であるから、彼らにうち勝つ。また、小羊と共にいる召された、選ばれた、忠実な者たちも、勝利を得る」。

They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful."

- Finally the whole world, all whose names have not been written in the book of life, and who marvel at the rising of the beast, will band together and make war on the Lamb.
- But of course the Lamb will conquer them, because he is also the Lord of lords and King of kings.
- Those who are with the Lamb are called chosen and faithful.

17:15

御使はまた、わたしに言った、「あなたの見た水、すなわち、淫婦のすわっている所は、あらゆる民族、群衆、国民、国語である。

And the angel said to me, "The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages.

- Originally John might have understood the “many waters” beside which the prostitute is seated in his vision as connecting his vision with that of the prophet Jeremiah (Jer. 51:13)
- There Babylon, a city beside many waters (canals), was judged to be the great harlot, guilty of offense against God and his people and ripe for destruction.
- Here the angel seems to broaden this to include not just Babylon but also Rome and the entire world. The whole world has been corrupted.

17:16

あなたの見た十の角と獣とは、この淫婦を憎み、みじめな者にし、裸にし、彼女の肉を食い、火で焼き尽くすであらう。

And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire,

- Corrupt civilization --- Babylon, Rome, and beyond --- will finally be destroyed by the world powers which arise at the end of time to rule with the beast.
- This is a case of evil turning against itself, as has often been seen in human history.
- However glorious Babylon, Rome, and their successors have been or may be, they cannot survive in opposition of God or without Him.

17:17

神は、御言が成就する時まで、彼らの心の中に、御旨を行い、思いをひとつにし、彼らの支配権を獣に与える思いを持つようにされたからである。

for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.

- Corrupt civilization will be consumed, in the end, by same evil world powers which once sustained it, because this has been God's design: he has put this into their hearts to destroy themselves.
- In the end, even the beast must fulfill the words of God.

17:18

あなたの見たかの女は、地の王たちを支配する大いなる都のことである」。

And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth."

- To John and those who had suffered and were suffering under the rule of Rome, and to we who come after them, this is reassuring.
- Neither Babylon nor Rome nor their successors can stand against the living God.
- There is also here a word of caution --- that we not allow ourselves to be seduced by the cultures and societies in which we live, which are perhaps no less corrupt and seductive than were Babylon and Rome.