

Revelation 17 NKJV w/ paraphrase

1Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls [that were poured out in the bowl judgments of Ch 16] came and talked with me [John], saying to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot [the city of Babylon] who sits on many waters [which are peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues] , 2with whom the [pagan] kings of the earth committed fornication, and the [pagan] inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her [Babylon’s] fornication.” 3So [the angel] carried me [John] away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I [John] saw a woman [the city of Babylon] sitting on a scarlet beast [the antichrist] which was full of names of blasphemy [being in opposition to God], having seven heads [the kingdoms of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, revived Rome] and ten horns [ten global regions ruled by ten kings during the first ½ of the tribulation]. 4The woman [city of Babylon] was arrayed in purple and scarlet [speaking of Babylon’s influence], and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls [speaking of Babylon’s wealth], having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication [speaking of Babylon’s religious apostacy]. 5And on her [Babylon’s] forehead a name was written : ~~MYSTERY~~ [mystery], BABYLON THE GREAT [due to Babylon’s pervasive influence throughout history], THE MOTHER [source] OF HARLOTS [prostituting religion for improper purposes of ruling rather than serving the world] AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH [speaking of her harlot daughters themselves as false and apostate religious systems]. 6I [John] saw the woman [city of Babylon], drunk with the blood of the saints [Jewish tribulation believers in Jesus] and with the blood of the martyrs [tribulation believers] of Jesus. And when I [John] saw her [Babylon], I marveled with great amazement.

7But the angel [who had the seven bowls of judgment] said to me, “Why did you marvel? I will tell you [John] the mystery [something that has not been known in the past but has now been revealed] of the woman [city of Babylon] and of the beast [antichrist] that carries her [city of Babylon], which has the seven heads [the kingdoms of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, revived Rome] and the ten horns [ten global regions ruled by ten kings during the first ½ of the tribulation]. 8The beast [antichrist] that you [John] saw was [alive], and is not [has been killed], and will ascend [because of being resurrected] out of the bottomless pit [where the demonic locust of Ch 9 came from] and go to perdition [eternal destruction]. And those who dwell on the earth [non-believing earth dwellers] will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they [non-believing earth dwellers] see the beast [antichrist] that was [alive], and is not [currently dead], and yet is [in the future resurrected]. 9“Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads [on the beast which is antichrist] are seven mountains [the kingdoms of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, revived Rome] on which the woman [the city of Babylon] sits [to influence and control].

10~~There~~ [They] are ~~also~~ seven kings. Five [Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece] have fallen [by the time that John is receiving this vision], one is [Rome at the time of John's vision], and the other [the revived Roman empire holding imperial rule by ten worldwide regions for the first 3.5 years of the tribulation] has not yet come [as of the time of John's vision]. And when he [antichrist] comes, he [antichrist] must continue a short time [as the 8<sup>th</sup> final kingdom that rules over the previous 10 global regional kingdoms, the antichrist being the world dictator for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 3.5 years of the tribulation]. 11The beast [antichrist] that was [alive], and is not [meaning dead for a period of time because of a mortal wound], is himself [resurrected] also the eighth [kingdom], and is of the seven [kingdoms- Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, revived Rome], and is going to perdition [destruction]. 12“The ten horns which you [John] saw [on the beast which is antichrist] are ten kings [ruling over ten global regions of the world] who have received no kingdom as yet [at the time of John's vision], but they [these ten kings of ten global regions] receive authority [from Satan] for one hour [a short time of 3.5 years - the first ½ of the tribulation] as [regional] kings with the beast [who is antichrist]. 13These [ten global regional kings] are of one mind [having the same will or purpose], and they [the ten global regional kings] will [at the midpoint of the tribulation] give [surrender] their power and authority [over their ten regions] to the beast [who is antichrist]. 14These [ten global regional kings under the authority of the antichrist] will make war with the Lamb [Jesus], and the Lamb [Jesus] will overcome them [the antichrist and his subservient ten kings], for He [Jesus the Lamb] is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him [you and I in our glorified bodies] are called, chosen, and faithful.” 15Then he [the angel who had the seven bowls] said to me [John] , “The waters which you saw [in v1], where the harlot [the city of Babylon] sits [influencing the world], are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. 16And the ten horns [ten global regional kings] which you [John] saw ~~on~~ [and] the beast [which is antichrist], these [ten global regional kings and antichrist] will hate the harlot [the city of Babylon], make her [the city of Babylon] desolate and naked [stripped of her power and influence], eat her flesh and burn her with fire [completely eliminating all forms of religion throughout the world]. 17For God has put it into their [the ten global regional kings] hearts to fulfill His [God's] purpose, to be of one mind [all in agreement], and to give their [ten global regional] kingdom [the region that is under their control] to the beast [antichrist], until the words of God are fulfilled. 18And the woman whom you saw [in verses 1 & 3] is that great city [Babylon] which reigns [through religious apostacy] over the kings of the earth.”