

Revelation Chapter 17

Rev. 17:1, 2: **“And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven bowls, and talked with me saying unto me, Come hither, I will show unto you the judgment of the great harlot that sits upon many waters, 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.”**

We were introduced to the 7 angels with the 7 bowls in Chapters 15:1, 2; 16:1. There we determined that they are 7 messages that the 7 Star messengers had already trumpeted forth during their Stage of the 7 Churches. It is in these messages that there would be 7 LAST plagues hard messages of truth that the nominal systems would not be able to ignore. Remember, “Last” plagues means that there had been previous plagues – that is, the messages of truth previously given throughout the Gospel Age had a plaguing effect, but the extent of the plaguing was limited as it was not yet the time for the complete destruction of Churchianity. As we have read in Chapters 15 and 16, it is when the LORD provides the 7 golden bowls that the means of delivering these Last plagues will be manifest.

In verse 1 we see one of these messages, and for several reasons we believe this is the Seventh Message, the Harvest Message of truth delivered by Br. Russell, starting about 1874 AD. It is his greatly detailed writings in the 6 Volumes (especially Volumes 2, 3 and 4) that clearly and Scripturally demonstrate the great harlot as the Papal System. The Kings of the earth that had an “illicit relationship” with her are the various kings, emperors and rulers from about 539 AD through 1914 AD. It was a time when various countries were known as “Christendom,” a very misleading title.

There is another time evidence for when to start dating this Chapter. It is in verse 10: **“And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is (*the 6th*), and the other is not yet come and when he comes he must remain a little while.”**

We will list the 7 Kings further along, but for now we will state that this sixth king is Victor Emmanuel II, known as the king who unified Italy. It was during his reign that Papacy lost the Papal States, gifted to them about 1,300 years earlier. He reigned from 1861 AD-1878 AD. We can easily discern that our time perspective of vs. 1 and 2 is during this period from 1874 AD onward for a period of time.

Again, it has been Br. Russell’s writings that have shown us (the John Class), scripturally and historically, that the time for the great harlot or Babylon the great (vs. 5, 18) to be “judged” is 1878 AD. This is the time of her “casting oL,” no longer being useful, no further attempts being made for her “reformation” or “healing.” She is judged down and the LORD’S spirit-begotten people are to come out of her (Rev. 18:1-4). In fact, the main point or lesson of Chapter 17 is the final destruction of Babylon the Great. Yet we are given the insights in this Chapter to symbolically read of the long history of Papacy, both as a RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL authority. Also in this Chapter, we often read of the “woman” or “harlot.” This is because we are being shown that predominately the RELIGIOUS element of

Roman Catholicism has been alive and active for the entire time since Emperor Constantine in 313 AD, whether or not Roman Catholicism has been in control of the government. We remember that in Chapters 12 and 13 we learned about her development and rise to power. Similarly, here we read of her long history, but we also read of her eventual demise.

We read that she “**sits upon many waters.**” Sitting denotes being supported by the waters, many waters. The symbol of “waters” is provided in vs. 15 – “**...the waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.**” This demonstrates that as a RELIGIOUS SYSTEM Papacy is supported by many different people from many different countries and languages. In fact, we might think of the Papacy or Roman Catholicism as being supported by many people from all around the world.

When she “**sits upon many waters**” it is evident that she is NOT sitting upon the BEAST, as in verses 3 and 7. The Beast is a union of Church and State cooperating together to rule over the people (the Body of the Roman Beast). So then, when there is a Religious and Civil government in power (like the Holy Roman Empire period) the harlot (Papacy) sits upon, or is supported by, the Beast. The harlot being an unchaste woman represents the Religious aspect of Papacy, while the Civil part of Papacy is shown as being part of the Beastly government – the bestower of crowns.

Being “**drunk with the wine of her fornication**” shows us her false doctrinal teachings – implying that God intended for a great Church (Papacy) and State (kings) form of government to govern over all Christians and the countries they live in. Yes, it is very intoxicating, or heady, to think that mere human rulers, along with Popes, Cardinals, Bishops and other clergy members, might have the RIGHT to rule in the name of God Almighty and Jesus Christ! We read of the “**inhabitants of the earth,**” – the common people who are restrained by their religious beliefs into being supportive of such an incredible form of government! Who could resist such an overwhelming system of control! People were ordered and trained to believe and live and pay taxes and, by all means, support this oppressive cultural and economic juggernaut. The Church controlled their eternal life and destiny while the State controlled their current life affairs.

Vss. 3-6: “So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet-colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: and upon her forehead was a name written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. 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 astonishment.”

In these verses the John Class is taken back in time for a historical “look” at the time period in which the Papacy was the leading influence. It was Br. Russell’s writings that have shown us that the “Wilderness” period was the 1,260 years of Papal hierarchy from 539 AD through 1799 AD (Revelation 12:6, 14). The purer element of the Church was outside of the “city” Babylon, either in spirit or literally. The harlot rode the sinful Church and State government of the so-called Holy Roman Empire. This started slowly in 539 AD with the decree of Emperor Justinian I regarding the Bishop of Rome being chief over all the Bishops and, by default, the civil authority in the Western Empire. It was during this long period that the Counterfeit Millennium transpired. It began in 800 AD with the Pope crowning Charlemagne and lasted until 1799 AD when Pope Pius VI died in prison – a long 1,000 years of strong Papal influence upon the governments of Christendom.

We note that it requires that one is “outside” of the present nominal Church systems to understand how the LORD views these events.

This 7-headed, 10-horned beast is the same that we read of in Chapter 13:1-8. That was the Papal beast, a combination of a religious system that has a civil authority as the head. With the Papacy it is the line of Popes that is considered to be Christ’s Vicar as well as a Civil authority over earth. The expression “**7 heads and 10 horns**” is a means by which we can identify that we are considering the Roman Empire during one of its seven heads. We will consider the heads and horns in detail further along in this chapter, but for now, a head symbolizes a form of government, and seven heads represent seven successive forms of government. The ten horns represent “complete” earthly powers or lesser kings or civil authorities (similar to the ten toes in Daniel 2). It is possible to have multiple horns at the same time and there might be more or less than ten at any given time in history. Since the horns of an animal are always on the head, it demonstrates that these lesser powers are supposed to support the current head or overarching controlling government. For example, the various kings and princes in Europe were to support the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire – the current head.

“**Names of blasphemy**” – Both in 17:3 and 13:1, it is during the 4th head, the so-called Holy Roman Empire period, that the Church and State form of government claimed to rule in Christ’s name or by his authority. And since they think that Jesus is God, they believe that they are God’s Kingdom on earth. What blasphemy! Especially when we remember and think about all the horrible and diabolical crimes they committed against humanity, all in the name of so-called Christianity. How God and Jesus abhor both their actions and their false teachings, which are really doctrines of demons (I Timothy 4:1).

The woman clothed in purple, and scarlet, represents Papacy’s claim to kingly or royal authority. (These colors are especially meaningful to the Romans. Consider Matthew 27:28, Mark 15:17, John 19:2.) Clad with gold and precious jewels and pearls also suggests her claims of divine and spiritual wealth (like a counterfeit of the New Jerusalem – 21:18-21). However, it cannot be ignored that Papacy also actually, physically presented herself in as grand a way as possible. Think of all the pomp and ceremony and pageantry, the elaborate clothes and gold crucifixes, the soaring cathedrals, fabulous artwork from paintings to sculptures to furnishings, stained glass windows, incense, glorious music and

choirs, expansive grounds, all meant to present the Papacy as the Kingdom of God, of Christ, on earth!

She had a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication. A cup is a container of liquid. As indicated in vs. 2, it is wine, representing false doctrines. Golden represents divine, so Papacy had the Word of God but filled its pages with erroneous teachings! Her abominations include transubstantiation, trinity, hellfire, immortality of the human soul, Mariolatry, indulgences, Clergy/Laity, prayers for the dead, candles and incense, genuflecting before statues, manmade ordination, priests forbidden to marry, worship of saints, confession, and the leading deceptive teaching is that of her illicit relationship with the kings of earth.

We read likewise in Jeremiah 51:7 (NIV), **“Babylon was a gold cup in the LORD’S hand; she made the whole earth drunk. The nations drank her wine, therefore they have now gone mad.”**

During the Dark Ages, the Papist monk copyists kept the Bible (even though in Latin) available for those who were pious and made the eLort to take what truths they could from Scripture. Like Elijah snatching precious pieces of meat from the ravens as he was by the brook, so too, the saintly throughout the Age have been fed while in the wilderness condition. But since the great Reformation and even more so since 1803 AD, the LORD has brought forth Bibles abundantly.

“...upon her forehead a name written...” – Again the forehead representing a mental agreement, as well as being very prominent before the people.

“...Mystery...” – This demonstrates that even though something is very prominent, it does not mean that everyone understands it. This “mystery” reminds us of 2 Thessalonians 2:3-8, **“the mystery of iniquity,”** the **“man of sin,”** which is the line of Popes, assuming the authority of Jesus Christ before the world.

“...Babylon the Great...” – We have learned that Babylon can be interpreted as either “confusion” or “the gateway to God.” There was literal Babylon that enslaved the Israelites until God delivered them. And here it is Mystic Babylon that has enslaved spiritual Israelites until God delivers them – in part in the past, but even more completely now, since 1878 AD **“...come out of her my people...”** Revelation 18:4.

Her doctrines have so confused or made drunk the nations that relatively few truly recognize her awful condition as a usurper of God’s and Jesus’ rightful positions. She claims to be the only way to heaven.

As if this wasn’t bad enough, we have read that she has committed spiritual harlotry, but she also is a **“...mother of harlots...”** Wow! Other Christian denominations have followed her example – they too, gave up waiting for the Bridegroom to return. Rather they engaged in relationships with the kings and mighty ones of earth, having the same doctrine of representing God’s kingdom on earth. Many of the various “Protestant” denominations that have gotten themselves more or less involved with the civil authorities, including

politics, are in fact, going about trying to set up Christ's kingdom or government before he returns. We can look back to the great Reformation and recognize the beginning of this great confusion. Consider Reprint 3984 on Reformed Churches becoming State Churches.

Furthermore, they also adopted many of the worst abominations of doctrinal teachings that the Mother harlot has.

The woman was drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus – what a horrific scene! Br. Russell, in the Second Volume Study on the Man of Sin, gives pages of historical examples of Papacy's slaughter and torture of any who did not conform to her teachings or recognize her authority. These by great Inquisitions and relentless persecutions of millions during this Dark Age period, including some of the LORD'S true Saints. Her "drunkenness" implies that such horrific power went to her head, seemingly to increase her grip over the majority of people. In fact, in Revelation 18:24 we read: **"In her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints and of all that were slain upon the earth."**

Looking back in history to the time frame of the Church's experience of 1,260 years in the wilderness, this scene ends with the John Class in great astonishment at such brutality and power that this harlot woman – The Antichrist religious system – had, that dominated the Christian world for over 1,000 years.

Vss. 7, 8: "And the angel said unto me, wherefore did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carried her, which has the seven heads and ten horns. The beast that you saw was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into destruction: 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."

With verse 7 we return back to the time frame of verse 1, that is, back to the time of the 6th Head, from about 1870 AD onward, but especially after 1874 when Br. Russell was writing the Harvest Message. The Harvest Message asks the question in order to prepare our minds for the answer to be given.

The Harvest Message reveals to the John Class the historic mystery of the counterfeit, Anti-Christ system that had wielded so much power for so long. The woman (Papacy) with the seven-headed, ten-horned beast (The Church and State government) ruled over the Roman Empire. This was during that previous historic time frame of the so-called Holy Roman Empire, or the Counterfeit Millennium, 800 AD-1799 AD. Note, this was the time in which this beast was carrying the harlot, supporting her. This was during the fourth head.

"The beast that you saw was..." – Yes, this Church-State government was the fourth head, 800 AD-1799 AD.

“...and is not...” – This same Church-State form of government was ended in 1799 AD by Napoleon’s imprisonment of the Pope and his subsequent death in prison. This began the fifth head – the Napoleonic government including his descendants.

“...and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into destruction...” This fourth head form of government, Church and State, that ceased in 1799 AD, is described as going into the bottomless pit, only to ascend at some future point in time, and then it shall be destroyed. This means that that Church and State form of government ceased to be, but it will make a comeback. It shall return at some future point in time, and when it does it will act to a large extent like it did during its previous time in power. This will be the eighth head, a repeat head, a repeat form of government.

Now we will quote verses 11-13: **“And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven (heads), and goes into destruction. And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings which have received no kingdom, but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.”**

We will consider these verses further in due time, but the point is clear. This fourth head, a Church and State form of government, makes a surprising come back to power for a very short period of time before this form of government is destroyed never to reappear.

It is important to understand the symbol of “the bottomless pit.” It appears several times in the Revelation:

1. Rev. 9:1, 2, 11. In these verses it is the Bible and biblical truths that had been in a RESTRAINED condition by Papacy. But here, during the fifth Trumpet period, with Br. John WycliLe’s work of translating the Bible from Latin into English and putting forth true doctrines, these same are depicted as coming out of the bottomless condition no longer restrained.

2. Rev. 11:7. **“And as soon as they have completed their witnessing, the wild beast THAT IS TO COME UP out of the abyss will make war with them...”** Rotherham Translation, capitalization added. This translation, along with others like the Weymouth, RSV and NIV, express it as if this is a parenthetical thought. That is, the words indicate that *this beast that is referred to currently in chapter 11 (during the fourth head period, 800 AD-1799 AD) persecuting the Two Witnesses (the Old and New Testaments) for three and half years (particularly from Nov. 23, 1526 AD until May 24, 1530 AD) is the SAME beast (Church and State under Papal influence) that will be put into the bottomless pit (during the fifth, sixth and seventh heads period), only to arise one more time in the future as the eighth head.*

In other words, this beast is not coming out of the bottomless pit here. Actually, it has not gone into the bottomless pit condition yet. Rather, this expression is a frame of reference, to inform us that it is the same beast that will go into the bottomless pit, and then will come out at a future time.

3. Rev. 20:1-3 – **"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil and Satan and bound him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him that he should deceive the nations no more until the thousand years should be fulfilled, and after that he must be loosed a little season."**

Note: several words have been omitted according to the Sinaitic mss.

Here we see clearly that Satan and his various systems are to be restrained, but not destroyed, while they are in the bottomless pit condition.

Note verse 7 – **"And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be LOOSED OUT OF HIS PRISON."** Capitalization added. Satan was bound into the bottomless pit condition instead of being destroyed because the LORD has a plan to use him to test perfected mankind, after the Mediatorial reign is over. Then after that little season, "loosing," he is finally destroyed in the Lake of fire, that is Oblivion, (verses 10, 14).

To sum up these various examples – the Word of God might be restrained for a time but it can never be destroyed. Satan and his various evil systems will be restrained for a time and when they are loosed, they will shortly be destroyed, whether it be his Anti-Christ systems or even himself. Taking all these scriptural examples back to Revelation 17:8 and 11, we find a harmony of interpretation.

Rev. 17:8 – **"...they that dwell on the earth shall wonder ... when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is."** Earlier in verse 2 we read of those who are of the "earth" Class. These are Christians under religious restraint. But here it demonstrates that these same people are in wonderment that the old Church and State form of government can reoccur – as the eighth head! How unlikely it seems, until it happens. And when it does, we read that these (they that dwell on the earth) will NOT be part of the Overcoming true Church. For we read further in verse 8: **"... whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world ..."** This book of life is referring to those who will be found faithful to be of the predestined Class of 144,000 who have achieved the image of Christ likeness. (For further thoughts on the various books of life see notes on Rev. 3:5).

Vss. 9-11: **"And here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he comes he must continue for a short space. And the beast that was and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goes into destruction."**

This is referring to the New Creature mind, this is the mind that receives "the wisdom that comes from above." The following symbolic explanation requires some thoughtful consideration, it is not meant to be readily understood.

We have seen the seven heads as being part of the beast, as well as part of the "great red dragon" of Rev. 12:3. These are seven successive forms of government over the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire is not always depicted as a beast (Church and State), nor is always shown as a dragon (mostly, if not completely, civil power).

These seven heads (forms of government) are seven mountains. Mountains symbolize kingdoms or governments. These seven successive forms of government or kingdoms of the Roman Empire are those on which the woman sits. The woman is the harlot, Papacy, as an unfaithful Church system. On one hand the seven mountains or hills upon which Papacy sat was considered by many to represent the actual 7 hills of Rome (Palatine, Capitoline, Quirinal, Viminal, Esquiline, Caelian, and Aventine). However, there seems to be more to these symbols. The use of the word “sits” must be understood in an accommodated sense. Why? Because this same Woman, Papacy, was shown to us as “sitting upon the waters” during the SIXTH HEAD (consider verse 1 with verse 10). What does it mean that she sits on the waters at the time of the sixth head? As we will consider in more detail following, it means that the Papacy was in existence and had some little influence at least during the Victor Emmanuel II government (the sixth head), even though she was not “riding or sitting on the beast.” This is because his government was not a Church and State form of government. Rather, she was sitting on the waters being supported by the people, primarily as a religious system.

Furthermore, we considered in Rev. 12:3-5 that the great red dragon which had the same seven heads and 10 horns was the Roman Empire under Constantine the Great, who was the first Emperor to convert to nominal Christianity in 312 AD. It was shortly after this that the “man child” (the line of Popes in their infancy of development) came into competition with the Emperors as to who would have control of the Empire. So then, the expression, “the woman sits” upon the seven mountains, represents that we are to start counting the seven heads as beginning with Constantine and the Christian era. The “sitting” denotes that the Papacy had some influence with each of the successive heads, although at times it was very limited and rather more as a religion than much else.

This lesson is very helpful for us to understand WHEN we should start to count the seven heads or successive forms of government over the Empire, for we know that historically Rome had already been a great Empire before the Christian era. But the Revelation is concerning itself with the Christian era, starting with the seven Churches, seven Seals and seven Trumpets all beginning with Pentecost (33 AD) and onward.

Note that in harmony with the foregoing: it was the seven-headed, ten-horned beast (Church-State form of government) that went into the bottomless pit – NOT THE WOMAN, not Papacy as a religious system.

“And there are seven kings (mountains or heads), five are fallen (past), one is (currently), the other is not yet come (future), and when he comes (the seventh head, mountain or king), he must continue a short space (reign for a short time in comparison to the other 6 heads).

Seven heads list:

1. Constantine the Great and the Western Empire. 313 AD-476 AD.
2. The Goths (includes the various different tribes that came into power). 476 AD-527 AD.
3. Justinian I. 527 AD-800 AD.
4. Charlemagne, Papal Roman Empire, the Counterfeit Millennium. 800 AD-1799 AD.
5. Napoleon and descendants. 1799 AD-1870 AD.
6. Victor Emmanuel II and descendants. 1870 AD-1925 AD (accommodated as this is the date recognized for Mussolini and the Fascist power over Italy).
7. Fascist/Nazi regimes. 1925 AD-1945 AD.
8. A repeat of the fourth head – Church and State (the beast coming out of the bottomless pit), **“even he is the eighth and is of the seven...”** Still future. A hidden time because there is a connection to the completion of the 144,000.

Verses 12 – 14: “And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings which have received no kingdom, but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. 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.”

Unlike the seven heads, the ten horns can be concurrent with each other. These *horns* – kings – are each less powerful than the one *head* – king. These ten *horns* are lesser kings or countries that lend their power to assist the one *head* – king.

It is possible that throughout the Christian era there might be less than ten actual horns – lesser kings, at the same time. In other words, there did not always have to be ten kings all at the same time. Rather, this is a number that at times could have been literally ten, but more importantly it is symbolic of “complete.” Like to the ten toes of the Gentile Times metallic image that Daniel saw, once again it is assuring us that we are to think of this as an identifier of the Roman Empire.

It is a very important point to observe that now, when we refer to the Roman Empire, we include some of the former colonies to which some European nations had extended their power, for example, the Americas.

These ten kings have no power *as kings* – yet. It is possible that these are Post-1914 kings or powers. In comparison to the Pre-1914 kings, they do not claim “divine right to rule.” Rather, monarchies gave place to democracies, republics, socialism, communism, fascism, Nazism and so on.

There will be a time in the future when the eighth head – a Church-State government – will come back into existence. The seven-headed, ten-horned beast will ascend out of

the bottomless pit and for a short time – an hour – will receive cooperative power from the ten lesser powers to unite together one last time. Perhaps similar in power to a monarchy. (Consider B-263.)

This scenario is what Br. Russell was expecting in the 6 Volumes, the Reprints and in the 1916 Forewords. Particularly pertinent is the fourth Volume 1916 Foreword, pages 2-4.

A few other Scriptural pictures of this “hour” of power can be found in:

Luke 22:53: **“When I (*Jesus*), was daily with you in the temple, you stretched forth no hands against me, but this is YOUR HOUR and the POWER OF DARKNESS.”** Jesus is stating that he understood that the short period of time when the forces of Darkness, guided by the wicked influence of Satan, had commenced. He would have to confront the Jewish religious leaders and then the civil authorities, before which he would give his final witness.

Daniel 3:15: **“Now if you be ready ... to fall down and worship the image which I have made ... it is well, but if you worship not, you shall be cast the SAME HOUR into the midst of a burning fiery furnace ...”** This is the trial of the 3 Hebrews, who did not worship the metallic image. This might represent the future trial of worshipping the vitalized Image of Federated Protestantism, Consider Reprint 2495. 2496.

Daniel 5:1-5, 30. This chapter shows that the very night in which king Belshazzar held a great feast and defiled the drink offering vessels from the Temple of Jehovah – in that HOUR, God’s judgment was written on the wall. The aged Daniel was called to interpret the writing – it was a judgment verdict from God. That very night Babylon fell to the Medes and Persians. Daniel symbolizes the Feet Members of Christ, giving a final witness before kings and leaders in powerful positions.

Matthew 10:18-20: **“And you shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a TESTIMONY against them and the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what you shall speak, for it shall be given you in that SAME HOUR, what you shall speak. For it is not you that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaks in you.”**

What a wonderful consolation! If we have developed the proper character and have faithfully studied the Word of God, He will provide us with the words to speak on His authority.

Returning to Revelation 17, we are given a remarkable insight in verse 17: **“For God inclined their hearts to do His Purpose, even to execute one Purpose, and to give their kingdom to the beast, till the words of God shall be completed.”** Diaglott.

As in a number of Old Testament examples (with Gog in Ezekiel 38:1-3, and with the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart in Exodus 7:3) we read that it is God’s PURPOSE for this future rise to power of a Church and State form of government, even though it will make war (persecute) the final Feet Members of the Body of The Christ! This is informing us that God is setting the stage, so to speak, for the final destruction of the Anti-Christ systems. It will

be His great retributive judgment, especially upon the harlot systems of Churchianity. The following two Chapters (18 and 19) will go into greater detail on this.

Returning to verse 14. The Lamb is Jesus Christ. His power and authority are only second to the Almighty Himself, for God planned it so. And those that are with him are his Bride, the 144,000. They are described as being “called” – that is, each previously responded to the High Calling to be of the divine nature. These were then “chosen” – many have been called during this long Gospel Age, but of those called, fewer were actually chosen to be spirit-begotten. And of those who were spirit-begotten, only 144,000, a Little Flock, have been completely “faithful,” even unto death. Note Luke 12:32, Matthew 22:14, Rev. 2:10.

This verse demonstrates that there will be a final persecution upon Christ’s Body Members who remain in the flesh in order to give the final witness, the pouring out of the seven golden bowls filled with the seven LAST plagues. The only way this earthly power of Church and State can “make war with the Lamb” is by making war upon his body members still in the flesh. This is similar to what Jesus told Saul when he appeared to him on the road to Damascus, see Acts 9:1-6. These faithful will resist receiving the “mark of the beast and of his Image,” as shown in Chapter 13:15-17, 15:2, 20:4.

Of Jesus' and the Saints' great victory, we read in more detail in Chapter 19:11-21. We especially note in 19:16: **“And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS”** – the very name stated in vs. 14!

Vss. 15 – 17: “And he said unto me, the waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples, and multitudes and nations and languages. And the ten horns which you saw upon (and), the beast, these shall hate the harlot and shall make her desolate and naked and shall eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has 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.”

As was noted in verse 1, the harlot – Papacy with the religious part emphasized – has always been supported by the people (those who are Roman Catholic), whether or not Papacy has an active role in a Church-State government (sitting on the Beast). We then read that apparently this “one hour” of power with the ten horns comes to a violent end (Rev. 18:21, 19:20). These ten lesser kings – civil powers – awaken out of their “drunken” condition, turning their ire especially against the religious part of Papacy, (vs. 2, 18:3). We also read that the beast likewise “hates” the harlot. Instead of carrying or supporting the religious element of Papacy any longer, the State part of the Church and State form of government rejects any partnership with the ecclesiastical part. Furthermore, the Body of the Beast – the people of the Roman Empire countries – turn against Papacy, both in its religious and civil aspects.

They (the civil authorities and the people) shall “hate” the harlot. Yes, after all of Papacy’s false doctrines and false practices have been fully exposed to the people through the pouring out of the 7 LAST Plagues, vengeance will be theirs! They shall make her

“desolate.” That is, they will no longer support her on the Beast or on the Waters! In fact, Babylon shall be cast down with violence like a great millstone into the sea (waters). The sea represents people without religious restraints! See Rev. 18:21.

They shall make her “naked.” Again, the people will no longer be under her spell of delusions. All of her former riches and glory of apparel is stripped away – showing her devoid of any claims to royalty or Celestial beauty.

They shall “**eat her flesh.**” How grotesque a vision! It brings to mind how wicked Jezebel met her end, after being trodden under the hooves of the horses, she was eaten by dogs, who left only her skull, the palms of her hands and feet (II Kings 9:30-37). In this account, it is horses (doctrinal truths) that lead to the destruction of Papacy. Then the dogs eat her flesh – dogs represent those who were formerly the “bundled Tares.” Now they have been “burned” as such and instead are the indignant masses who execute such destruction upon Papacy (and for that matter, the harlot daughters of Protestantism) that all that is left will be “burned with fire.” Yes, the end will be complete anarchy.

This last expression “**and burn her with fire**” finds a long list of verses in Revelation 18. Her burning as a city and the smoke thereof are witnessed by all who had any relationship to these Anti-Christ systems during this eighth and last Head of the Beast.

As stated earlier, it is God’s will that there will be first a grand exultation and then a sudden and violent destruction of great Babylon – the city that deceived the nations. After all the blasphemies, the lies and deceptions and persecutions – all done IN HIS NAME AND IN THE NAME OF HIS HOLY SON, He will make it plain that all of this was really of Satan and his minions.

Vs. 18: “And the woman which you saw is that great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.”

So, our chapter closes as it opened. The woman, harlot, is symbolic of mystic Babylon, a city or government that had at times successfully instructed the civil authorities who were of the “earth,” those who were under religious beliefs or restraint. This sets the stage for the next Chapter, 18, which describes her sins and God’s just retribution.

End.

Revelation Chapter 17 Addendum

This addendum contains additional scriptural material regarding Revelation 17:11-18. These verses, already commented on, have an additional insight obtained from Revelation 19:11-21.

In both sets of verses there is described a future WAR. This war is the turning point in the long struggle between The Christ – Head and Body members – and the Anti-Christ system with her allies, the civil authorities. The Christ defeats once and for all time the ecclesiastical/political systems that Satan designed and empowered. This un-holy alliance had one objective – to stop the completion of The Christ, both the Head and his Body members, the 144,000, through whatever means necessary.

In Revelation 17 we saw that there was a unique separation between the harlot woman (representing primarily the religious element of Papacy and her daughter harlots, the Protestant systems) and the beast, which, in this context, primarily represents a Church and State form of

government. We also have the kings represented in the 10 horns. In Revelation 17:14 it is depicted that in the future, there will be a very short time during which the 10 kings and the beast along with the harlot shall MAKE WAR against The Christ. But The Christ – Head and Body – shall overcome and defeat this un-holy coalition of Church and State.

In Revelation 17:16 we read that the 10 horns – the civil powers – end up hating the woman – the religious element – of the beastly Church and State confederacy that they had been a part of (much like Rev. 18:9, 10). Furthermore, we read that the beast (that is, the Body of the beast – the people who had supported the harlot) also hate the woman – the religious element of the confederacy.

In Chapter 19:11-21, this same scenario is depicted, but without the harlot woman being separated from the beast. In this context the beast represents Papacy as a Church and a Civil authority, just as it is usually represented in the Revelation.

In Rev. 17:11-16 we have the powerful description of Jesus Christ, the Head of the Body, including this same title of “Lord of Lords and King of Kings.” This is true in 19:16, just as in 17:14. The Church, Body members, is described as his “army” and “armies” in vss. 14 and 19. This is the same group as is described in 17:14, “they that are with him are called, chosen and faithful.”

The same “war” in 17:14 is also mentioned in 19:11, 19. The enemies of The Christ are the same “kings” as in 17:12 and 19:18, 19.

The beast of 19:19, 20 is Papacy – complete, religious and civil – as has been shown throughout the Revelation. (The adjusted emphasis is shown in chapter 17 as stated above). The “daughter harlots” of chapter 17 are here symbolized in 19:20 as “the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast and them that worshipped his image.” These we saw in chapters 13 and 16. These are the Federated Protestant systems.

These are both cast alive (still operating as religious systems) into the lake of fire. They are obliterated once and for all time.

The key point in comparing these sets of verses in chapter 17 and 19 is to demonstrate that the beast is the same throughout the Revelation. It always represents a combination of Papal religion and civil authority.

End.