

Babylon The Great – Woman of Mystery (Revelation 17 & 18)

(Appropriate for High-Schoolers and older)

Michael R. Daily, May 2022

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In Revelation 17 and 18 there is a woman of mystery referred to as Babylon the Great. Tonight we will look at who this woman represents.

Revelation 17:1-6

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality." 3And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. 4The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, 5and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." 6And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. When I saw her, I wondered greatly.

In verse 5 God tells us that this woman's name is a mystery. What does that mean? It means that God has chosen to tell us a lot about this woman but He's not going to tell us enough for us to be able to figure out exactly who this woman is. We'll find out why a little later but for now we need to understand that we won't be able to get all the details figured out exactly and that's OK.

Let's go through the characteristics of this woman and see what we can learn about her.

"great harlot" – she leads people to worship false gods – she represents a false religion

"many waters" – a broad and diverse spectrum of people – the whole world is involved in this religion (vs 15)

"kings of the earth" – all of the world leaders are in partnership with this religion. The political system finds the agenda of the world religion to be useful for their purposes.

"those who dwell on earth made drunk" – people's thinking and judgment are distorted by the world religion and they strongly support the beliefs of the religion.

"scarlet beast" – this is the satanic antichrist world ruler (see also **Rev 13:1-7 & Rev 12:3-9** in appendix)

"seven heads" – likely seven demons who empowered past world rulers who will also be active again during the tribulation (**Daniel 7:12**). We'll see that more clearly when we get to **verses 9-10**. (see also **Revelation 13:1-7, Daniel 7:12-18, and Daniel 10:10-21** in appendix)

"ten horns" – ten human rulers who together rule the world. Verses 12-13 talk more about this. (see also **Revelation 13:1-7, Daniel 7:7-11 & 19-25** in appendix)

"clothed in purple/gold" – this world religion is extremely wealthy

"drunk with blood" – This false religion believes that killing Christians is a great service to God.

John 16:2

They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God.

“Woman on the beast”

The woman controls or has power over the beast, at first. The world religious system is so powerful that it has more power than the world leaders. Does the antichrist and the world rulers like this religion? No (vs 16). But the religion is so powerful they have to defer to it. If they directly challenged the religion the people of the world would rebel against them. So, for now, they will put up with her. Besides, the world rulers and the antichrist are benefitting from the religion even if they don't like it. How? This religion kills Christians by the truckload and enjoys doing it. This is something the antichrist and the world leaders want done and the religion is doing their dirty work for them. The antichrist will allow the religion to keep its power up to the mid-point of the Tribulation when the antichrist will declare himself to be god (i.e. the abomination of desolation).

“Babylon the Great” – Symbolic of 3 things: 1) the worldwide false religion of the Tribulation, 2) a real city (vs 18) that will exist during the Tribulation period that is the seat of power for this worldwide false religion, 3) all the false religions throughout all of history. The historical city of Babylon is the location of the Babel rebellion (the first organized false religion).

Revelation 17:7-13

And the angel said to me, "Why do you wonder? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. 8"The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come. 9"Here is the mind which has wisdom The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, 10and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. 11"The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction. 12"The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. 13"These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast.

The Seven Kings - Demons That Empowered World Kingdoms (verse 10):

Five that have fallen (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece), one is (Rome), the other has not yet come (reconstituted Roman Empire of End Times), the eighth (satan incarnate at middle of tribulation). (see also **Daniel 2:31-45**, **Daniel 5:25-28**, and **Daniel 8:3-26** in appendix)

The Beast (verse 8)

The beast is the antichrist, a person empowered by a demon released from the Abyss. Verse 8 is a little confusing. We are not completely sure what it means. It could be referring to the assassination and apparent resurrection of the antichrist (this is when the demon takes over the man's body). It could be referring to the demon that empowered the ancient Roman Empire installing a future empire that has unusual similarities to the ancient empire. It could mean that the demon that takes on the body of the antichrist is one of the demons that was imprisoned in the Abyss sometime in the past. It could also be all three of these.

The Abyss (verse 8)

The book of Revelation refers four times to the Abyss. What is the Abyss (or bottomless pit)? It is a prison of darkness and chains that God puts demons in who cross certain boundaries they were told not to cross. While imprisoned in the Abyss the demons cannot move and they cannot see. During the Tribulation period God is going to open the Abyss and release the demons who have been imprisoned there for the past few thousand years.

Who are these demons? They are not your run of the mill demon like the ones we deal with today. Today's demons kill, steal, destroy, accuse, deceive, and possess people while opposing God and His angels. This is called spiritual warfare. But the demons in the Abyss went far beyond these boundaries and committed spiritual war crimes.

For more on this topic see the study: "Why Isn't Life Like A Horror Movie?" <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

These war crimes committed in the past by these demons created a situation where life on the Earth was, at one time, like a horror movie. During the Tribulation period God is going to release these war criminals from the Abyss. The horror movie is going to return!

Ten Horns (verse 12)

The ten horns are the ten authorities of the reconstituted Roman Empire that will give their authority to the antichrist. Some people speculate that the ten kings are part of the European Union. The European Union has some of the characteristics of a precursor of this empire but not all. All we know for sure is the world kingdom will have strong associations with the ancient Roman Empire and ten clear human rulers.

Revelation 17:14-18

"These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful." 15 And he said to me, **"The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. 16"** **And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire. 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. 18"** **The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth."**

The harlot is the godless world religion that has been with man, in one form or another, since the days of Nimrod in **Genesis 10:8-10** (starting with the Tower of Babel in the land of Shinar, see appendix) and will come to full power during the first half of the tribulation. At the midway point of the tribulation the kings of the earth will destroy her. Her destruction is required so that the antichrist can consolidate his power and be declared the one true god that all must worship. The antichrist will replace this religion with one led by the false prophet who will lead the world to worship the antichrist and satan. Notice in verse 17 that God does not destroy her supernaturally. Instead, He puts it in the hearts of the ten world leaders to destroy Babylon.

The Great City (verse 18)

We learn in this verse that Babylon the Great is also a city, in addition to being a world religion. An analogy would be the way we refer to the Catholic Church today. When we want to ask what the leaders of this church think we sometimes say, "What does the Catholic Church say about this?" On other occasions we might say, "What does Rome say about this?" Given the context of the discussion everyone knows we are referring to the Catholic religion when we say "Rome", the name of a city. That is because the Vatican City is the location of the leadership of this church and the Vatican City is located within the city of Rome. Another example might be the city of Mecca and the religion of Islam. Something similar is going to happen during the Tribulation. The leadership of this world religion will be located in a city and, as a result, the name of the city will be directly associated with this world religion.

Why is Babylon the Great a Mystery?

Why would God choose to keep this false religion and city a mystery? We don't really know but the likely reason is because if we knew the identity of this religion and/or city we would jump to some wrong conclusions and, perhaps, some wrong actions as a result. Think about this - Does a religion like the one described in Revelation exist today? No. We have seen some of these characteristics in various religions at different times in history but the religion described in Revelation 17 is clearly unlike any known religion of today.

The other thing to keep in mind is that the religious structures in existence during the Tribulation may have some of the same trappings of a currently existing religion but the religion itself will be fundamentally different. Why? Because all of the Christians will have been raptured before the Tribulation starts. With all of the Christians removed from the Earth strange things could happen with the religions left behind.

It is not too difficult to imagine the remnants of the Catholic Church (with all of the Christians removed) combining in some way with Islam or something else such as a space alien cult.

For more on this topic see the study: "Aliens Among Us" <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

If that happened this strange religion could take over the Vatican City in Rome, for example. It would bear virtually no resemblance to today's Catholic Church. But, if God made it clear in Revelation 17 that the city was definitely Rome it would be virtually impossible for people living today to not jump to wrong conclusions about today's Catholic Church. So, God has kept the identity of the city a mystery to protect us from this.

This was also true at other times in history. Keep in mind that at the time Revelation was written Islam did not exist, the Catholic Church did not exist, space alien cults did not exist, New Age religions did not exist, many of the religions of the world as we know them today did not exist.

So, God has given us enough information so that Christians living during the Tribulation will be able to immediately recognize the religion and the city of Babylon when they see it but for us living before the tribulation it will remain a mystery to some degree (so we don't jump to incorrect conclusions).

Revelation 18:1-13

After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory. 2And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird. 3"For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality." 4I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues; 5for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. 6"Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back to her double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her. 7"To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, 'I SIT AS A QUEEN AND I AM NOT A WIDOW, and will never see mourning.' 8"For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong. 9"And the kings of the earth, who committed acts of immorality and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning, 10standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.' 11"And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargoes any more-- 12cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every kind of citron wood and every article of ivory and every article made from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble, 13and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and cargoes of horses and chariots and slaves and human lives.

The ten world leaders destroy Babylon but other (lesser) kings and the merchants weep over the destruction of this Babylon because of the impact to their economy. How quickly is she destroyed? Verse 8 says that she is destroyed in one day and that she is burned up with fire. You can imagine how astonished John was to see such a vision. The highest technology weapon he had probably ever seen was a sword. It would be difficult to imagine how a major city could be burned to the ground in one day (or one hour). Today, it is easy to imagine this. We all know that a nuclear weapon could easily accomplish this. Apparently, the ten world rulers decide to destroy the city of Babylon with nuclear weapons. The resulting radiation would make people want to stay at a safe distance indefinitely. (see verses 10, 15, 17).

Revelation 18:14-20

"The fruit you long for has gone from you, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and men will no longer find them. 15"The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning, 16saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls; 17for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!' And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea, stood at a distance, 18and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What city is like the great city?' 19"And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning,

saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste!' 20"Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her."

Notice that there is an emphasis on the city of Babylon being by the sea (see verses 17, 19).

So, which city might this Babylon be?

Historical Babylon?

In general we start with the obvious. The historical city of Babylon is located in the land of Shinar (see **Zechariah 5** in appendix) in the outlying areas of the modern city of Hillah (current population of 300,000) which is about an hour's drive from Baghdad, Iraq. The problem here is that this location is not currently close to the sea. Its about 250 miles to the nearest large body of water (the Persian Gulf) and the Euphrates is only navigable by shallow boats, not large ships. In addition, Hillah is not a major economic center of the world. So, for the historical city of Babylon to be the city of Revelation 18 it would have to be transformed into something like New York City and the waterways would have to be drastically changed to support large cargo vessels coming and going. We don't see anyone working toward this today. But it is worth keeping an eye on.

Jeremiah 25:12

'Then it will be when seventy years are completed I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation,' declares the LORD, 'for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans; and I will make it an everlasting desolation.

The Bible gives us other options. God has already told us that Babylon the Great is a mystery name. In addition we know from I Peter 5 that God has used the name "Babylon" before to refer to another city, Rome.

I Peter 5:13

She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son, Mark.

So, God is giving us permission to consider the name as symbolic and not the actual name of the city.

With that in mind, Babylon could be referring to any large city located close to the sea that could become a seat of economic and religious power in the future.

Rome?

Rome is located close to the sea and the world political power of the Tribulation is described as a revived form of the Roman Empire. And we know that Peter referred to Rome as Babylon. But there are many large cities close to the sea. Some people point to **Revelation 17:9** ("the woman sits on seven mountains") as an indicator that she is the city of Rome (which sits on seven hills) but there is a long list of cities around the world that claim to be built on seven hills. Also, verse 10 tells us that the seven mountains are actually seven kings.

Others?

It will be a major city near the sea that is the religious and an economic center of the world during the end times with the infrastructure to support large volumes of shipping cargo. We also know that it will be destroyed by the future ten world leaders and permanently uninhabited afterward. That is all we can say for sure.

Revelation 18:21-24

Then a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "So will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer. 22"And the sound of harpists and musicians and flute-players and trumpeters will not be heard in you any longer; and no craftsman of any craft will be found in you any longer; and the sound of a mill will not be heard in you any longer; 23and the light of a lamp will not shine in you any longer; and the voice of the bridegroom and bride will not be heard in you any longer; for your merchants were the great men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery. 24"And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth."

Isaiah 13:19-22

And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. ²⁰ It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation; Nor will the Arab pitch *his* tent there, Nor will shepherds make *their flocks* lie down there. ²¹ But desert creatures will lie down there, And their houses will be full of owls; Ostriches also will live there, and shaggy goats will frolic there. ²² Hyenas will howl in their fortified towers And jackals in their luxurious palaces. Her *fateful* time also will soon come And her days will not be prolonged.

Conclusion

The specific identity of Babylon the Great will continue to be a mystery until the Tribulation. Nevertheless, God has shown us everything else we need to know about her down to the details of her destruction. For believers alive during the Tribulation they will be able to immediately recognize the religion and city during that time that fits this prophecy. For the rest of us this will remain a mystery for now.

The Beast With Seven Heads & Ten Horns

diadem: *a crown or royal headband*

Revelation 12:3-9 (diadems put the focus on the demonic powers)

Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. 4 And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. 5 And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne. 6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days. 7 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, 8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Revelation 13:1-7 (diadems put the focus on the horns or human world rulers)

And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names. 2 And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like *those* of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority. 3 *I saw* one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed *and followed* after the beast; 4 they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?" 5 There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, *that is*, those who dwell in heaven. 7 It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.

Seven Heads - Demons That Empower World Rulers (an example)

Daniel 10:10-21

Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. 11 He said to me, "O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. 12 Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. 14 Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future." 15 When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless. 16 And behold, one who resembled a human being was touching my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke and said to him who was standing before me, "O my lord, as a result of the vision anguish has come upon me, and I have retained no strength. 17 For how can such a servant of my lord talk with such as my lord? As for me, there remains just now no strength in me, nor has any breath been left in me." 18 Then this one with human appearance touched me again and strengthened me. 19 He said, "O man of high esteem, do not be afraid. Peace be with you; take courage and be courageous!" Now as soon as he spoke to me, I received strength and said, "May my lord speak, for you have strengthened me." 20 Then he said, "Do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia; so I am going forth, and behold, the prince of Greece is about to come. 21 However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince.

World Kingdoms (Daniel 7)

Daniel 7:1-25

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind as he lay on his bed; then he wrote the dream down and related the following summary of it. 2 Daniel said, "I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. 3 And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another.

Babylonia

4 The first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it.

Medo-Persia

5 And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a bear. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, 'Arise, devour much meat!'

Greek Empire – Alexander the Great

6 After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

Roman Empire (ancient and future combined)

7 After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. 8 While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts. 11 Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire.

All Four Kingdoms

12 As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time. 15 "As for me, Daniel, my spirit was distressed within me, and the visions in my mind kept alarming me. 16 I approached one of those who were standing by and began asking him the exact meaning of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: 17 'These great beasts, which are four in number, are four kings who will arise from the earth. 18 But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.'

Roman Empire (future)

19 "Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, and which devoured, crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet, 20 and the meaning of the ten horns that were on its head and the other horn which came up, and before which three of them fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts and which was larger in appearance than its associates. 21 I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them 22 until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom. 23 "Thus he said: 'The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it. 24 As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings. 25 He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

World Kingdoms (Daniel 2)

Daniel 2:31-45

“You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. 32 The head of that statue was made of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. 34 You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. 36 “This was the dream; now we will tell its interpretation before the king.

Babylonia

37 You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; 38 and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.

Medo-Persia Followed by Greek Empire

39 After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth.

Ancient Roman Empire

40 Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces.

Future Roman Empire

41 In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. 42 As the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. 43 And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery

Second Coming of Christ and His Kingdom

44 In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. 45 Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.”

World Kingdoms By Name (Daniel 8)

Daniel 8:3-26

Medo-Persia

Then I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a ram which had two horns was standing in front of the canal. Now the two horns were long, but one was longer than the other, with the longer one coming up last. 4 I saw the ram butting westward, northward, and southward, and no other beasts could stand before him nor was there anyone to rescue from his power, but he did as he pleased and magnified himself.

Greek Empire & Alexander the Great (large horn)

5 While I was observing, behold, a male goat was coming from the west over the surface of the whole earth without touching the ground; and the goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes. 6 He came up to the ram that had the two horns, which I had seen standing in front of the canal, and rushed at him in his mighty wrath. 7 I saw him come beside the ram, and he was enraged at him; and he struck the ram and shattered his two horns, and the ram had no strength to withstand him. So he hurled him to the ground and trampled on him, and there was none to rescue the ram from his power.

Greek Empire after the Death of Alexander the Great

8 Then the male goat magnified himself exceedingly. But as soon as he was mighty, the large horn was broken; and in its place there came up four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven.

Future Roman Empire

9 Out of one of them came forth a rather small horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Beautiful Land. 10 It grew up to the host of heaven and caused some of the host and some of the stars to fall to the earth, and it trampled them down. 11 It even magnified itself to be equal with the Commander of the host; and it removed the regular sacrifice from Him, and the place of His sanctuary was thrown down. 12 And on account of transgression the host will be given over to the horn along with the regular sacrifice; and it will fling truth to the ground and perform its will and prosper. 13 Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to that particular one who was speaking, "How long will the vision about the regular sacrifice apply, while the transgression causes horror, so as to allow both the holy place and the host to be trampled?" 14 He said to me, "For 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the holy place will be properly restored."

Medo-Persia

20 The ram which you saw with the two horns represents the kings of Media and Persia.

Greek Empire & Alexander the Great (large horn)

21 The shaggy goat represents the kingdom of Greece, and the large horn that is between his eyes is the first king.

Greek Empire after the Death of Alexander the Great

22 The broken horn and the four horns that arose in its place represent four kingdoms which will arise from his nation, although not with his power.

Future Roman Empire

23 "In the latter period of their rule, When the transgressors have run their course, A king will arise, Insolent and skilled in intrigue. 24 "His power will be mighty, but not by his own power, And he will destroy to an extraordinary degree And prosper and perform his will; He will destroy mighty men and the holy people. 25 "And through his shrewdness He will cause deceit to succeed by his influence; And he will magnify himself in his heart, And he will destroy many while they are at ease. He will even oppose the Prince of princes, But he will be broken without human agency. 26 "The vision of the evenings and mornings Which has been told is true; But keep the vision secret, For it pertains to many days in the future."

Additional Passages Related to Babylon & The Land of Shinar

Daniel 5:25-28

“Now this is the inscription that was written out: ‘MENĒ, MENĒ, TEKĒL, UPHARSIN.’²⁶ This is the interpretation of the message: ‘MENĒ’—God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it.²⁷ ‘TEKĒL’—you have been weighed on the scales and found deficient.²⁸ ‘PERĒS’—your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians.”

Genesis 10:8-10

Now Cush became the father of Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth.⁹ He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD.”¹⁰ The beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

Zechariah 5:1-11

Then I lifted up my eyes again and looked, and behold, there was a flying scroll. 2 And he said to me, “What do you see?” And I answered, “I see a flying scroll; its length is twenty cubits and its width ten cubits.” 3 Then he said to me, “This is the curse that is going forth over the face of the whole land; surely everyone who steals will be purged away according to the writing on one side, and everyone who swears will be purged away according to the writing on the other side. 4 I will make it go forth,” declares the Lord of hosts, “and it will enter the house of the thief and the house of the one who swears falsely by My name; and it will spend the night within that house and consume it with its timber and stones.” 5 Then the angel who was speaking with me went out and said to me, “Lift up now your eyes and see what this is going forth.” 6 I said, “What is it?” And he said, “This is the ephah going forth.” Again he said, “This is their appearance in all the land 7 (and behold, a lead cover was lifted up); and this is a woman sitting inside the ephah.” 8 Then he said, “This is Wickedness!” And he threw her down into the middle of the ephah and cast the lead weight on its opening. 9 Then I lifted up my eyes and looked, and there two women were coming out with the wind in their wings; and they had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heavens. 10 I said to the angel who was speaking with me, “Where are they taking the ephah?” 11 Then he said to me, “To build a temple for her in the land of Shinar; and when it is prepared, she will be set there on her own pedestal.”

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Babylon The Great – Woman Of Mystery (Rev 17&18)*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 17, John 16:2*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 12*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 13*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Babylon The Great – Woman Of Mystery (Rev 17&18)*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Daniel 10:10-21*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Daniel 8:1-26*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Daniel 2:31-45*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Babylon The Great – Woman Of Mystery (Rev 17&18)*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Daniel 7:1-25*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Zechariah 5, Genesis 10:8-10, I Peter 5:13*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 18*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?