

## Revelation 17

[A woman in Bible prophecy is a symbol of a church/religion (Jer 6:2; Isa 51:16; 2 Cor 11:2). This “whore” or corrupt woman represents a corrupt religion. In Isa 47:1, 9 ancient Babylon, the centre of pagan religion is depicted as a mother of daughters. The pagan city of Nineveh was also likened to a whore and a witch (Nah 3:4).

“In Rev 17 Babylon is represented as a woman - a figure which is used in the Bible as the symbol of a church, a virtuous woman representing a pure church, a vile woman an apostate church.” GC 381.

This woman - the “great whore” (Rev 17:1), or mystical “Babylon the great” (v 5) - is guilty of “the blood...of all that were slain upon the earth” (Rev 18:24). In the broadest sense she may be thought of as all false religion throughout all time. Her spirit is the same but the forms she takes may vary including pagan, papal, apostate protestantism and even atheism. “The great city,” Babylon is spiritually called “Sodom and Egypt” in Rev 11:8. Sodom is the home of whores and Egypt represents those who deny the existence of the living God (cf. Exo 5:2), i.e. atheists. Satan’s masterpiece has been the papal church and for this reason the symbolism fits that system so perfectly.

### IDENTIFYING THE WHORE

(a) “the great WHORE” - a woman in Bible prophecy represents a church (Jer 6:2; 2Cor 11:2), a whore - a corrupt church.

(b) “arrayed in PURPLE and SCARLET colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls” - The whore’s attire is almost identical to the attire of the Levitical high priest except that the High priest also had BLUE in his garments (Exo 28:15-22). Blue represents “ALL the commandments of the Lord” (Num 15:37-39) and the lack of BLUE in the whore’s colours indicates that she does not regard ALL the commandments. It is a fact that the Papacy openly confesses to disregarding the seventh day sabbath choosing to observe the first day of the week in its place.

Purple is also the colour of the state (the papacy is a state power). Scarlet is the colour of sin (the papal system openly admits to breaking the ten commandments as God wrote them, choosing to observe the commandments as changed by the church.

Purple & Scarlet are also the literal colours of the Roman Catholic popes and cardinals.

(c) “decked with gold and precious stones and pearls” - Symbolize the magnificence and more than kingly pomp of Roman Catholicism.

Roman Catholicism does outwardly possess many of the “pearls” of wisdom found in Christ’s Word, while living contrary to many of them by killing her enemies, disregarding the Lord’s seventh day Sabbath, enforcing priestly celibacy without any Scriptural mandate, etc.

(d) “having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness” - The Papacy is outwardly magnificent

(e) “Mystery, Babylon the GREAT” - Roman Catholicism is a “great” global system.

(f) “the MOTHER of harlots.” - Roman Catholicism openly claims to be the Mother church from which the Protestant churches came.

In 1725A.D. Pope Benedict XIII, in his declaration of a jubilee, described the church of Rome as, “...the MOTHER of all believers and the mistress of all churches.” Jamieson, Fausset & Brown, *Commentary*, 1953, p1415

Father James O’Brien said, “That observance [of Sunday instead of Saturday] remains a reminder of the MOTHER Church from which the non-Catholic sects broke away.” *The Faith of Millions* (Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., 1974), p401.

The once pure Protestant churches have taken hold of their mother’s characteristics such as Sunday observance, a belief in the natural immortality of man and the teaching that the wicked will live forever in eternal torment, and by doing so they have become harlots themselves.

(g) “drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.” - Roman Catholicism openly admits to having martyred Christians for their faith.

(h) “that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.” - Roman Catholicism is the power that for so many centuries maintained despotic sway over the monarchs of Christendom. Even today she is the most powerful religious organization on earth and will soon head all the world in the persecution of the faithful.

(i) “sitteth upon many waters” - Waters symbolized “peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” Rev 17:15. Roman Catholicism is supported by great multitudes worldwide.

(j) “sit upon a scarlet coloured beast” - Beasts symbolize political civil powers (Dan 7:23; Dan 8:20-21). Roman Catholicism has always attempted to rule over the world’s political civil powers and uses them to carry out her own purposes]

1\* And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials [As the vision was to show Babylon’s judgment (destruction) we can conclude that this was the 7th plague angel. See Rev 17:1; 16:1, 19; 18:10], and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment [destruction] of the great whore [**THE WHORE - THE CORRUPT CHURCH**] that sitteth upon many waters [the waters represent “peoples, nations etc. (See v15). The papal church is global. Her abominations are “of the earth.”

### **NOT THE LITERAL CITY OF BABYLON**

1. This woman is symbolic like the beast she rides.
2. The literal city is a ruin never to be inhabited (Isa 13:19-20).
3. Old literal Babylon which Cyrus overthrew before releasing God’s people, typified the global spiritual confusion from which Jesus, (whom Cyrus typified), will overthrow before delivering His people.

4. Old literal Babylon sat or was built over the *literal* waters of the Euphrates river. The waters upon which spiritual Babylon sits are *symbolic* and said to represent nations in v 15]:

2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication [The papal church has intimate connections with world leaders. Fornication is two becoming one, “What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.” 1Cor 6:16. The Papal Church has always sought to unite the Church with the State. As the church is to rely on Christ for support, power, and influence when she unites with the state she becomes an harlot.

### **REVELATION IS THE TALE OF TWO WOMEN**

(a) The whore and the beast vs

(b) The Bride and the Lamb], and the inhabitants [the kings committed fornication, the inhabitants are made drunk] of the earth have been made [the use of force is here implied] drunk [by their policy the kings and rulers of the world have confused the masses] with the wine of her fornication [**FALSE DOCTRINE**. Her false doctrine is here represented by alcoholic “wine” offered in a cup which looks gorgeous on the outside, but contains “abominations.” GC 388, 536, 2SM 68.

Non-alcoholic wine = true doctrine of Christ (Matt 9:17).

Alcohol - corrupted fermented intoxicating grape juice, represents corrupted doctrine. See on Dan 1:8, 12..

Prov 31:4-5 “[It is] not for kings, O Lemuel, [it is] not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: Lest they drink, and *forget the law*, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.”

Babylon’s spiritual wine causes the kings of the earth to forget God’s law.

### **BABYLON’S TWO GREAT ERRORS**

“Through the two great errors, the IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL and SUNDAY SACREDNESS, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.” GC11, 588.

### **THE FALSE DOCTRINES OF ROME**

1. The primacy of the Pope - that he is the head of the church whereas Jesus is head of the church.

2. Rome openly admits to having based many of her doctrines upon mere tradition. The Bible teaches us to test all teachings by the Bible alone (1John 4:1; Isa 8:20; 2Tim 3:16-17).

3. Mary and the R.C. priesthood act as mediators instead of the ONE mediator Jesus Christ (1Tim 2:5; Heb 8:6, 9:15)

4. Auricular confession, penance, and absolution through an earthly priest. The Bible teaches us to go directly to God (Luke 11:2-4; Heb 4:16)

5. The natural immortality of the soul. The Bible teaches that evil souls will perish (John 3:16) and that we must seek immortality because we do not naturally possess it (Rom 2:7).
6. Prayers for and to the dead. The Bible teaches us to pray to the living God.
7. Purgatory. Completely unbiblical. The dead know nothing (Ecc 9:5) and nothing we can do can change the destiny of the dead. This deception has however bought much wealth to the Papacy.
8. Eternal torment in hell fire, instead of “everlasting destruction.”
9. The doctrine of original sin. i.e. that everyone is born guilty of Adam’s sin
10. Infant sprinkling instead of the baptism (literally immersion). (Rom 6:4; Acts 8:38)
11. Sunday sacredness in place of the seventh day Sabbath (Exo 20:8-11)
12. The celebration of Christmas, Easter, Lent, and other pagan festivals under a ‘Christian’ cloak.
13. The sacrifice of the mass, crucifying Christ again & again instead of Christ’s once for all sacrifice (Heb 10:10)
14. The use of material aids in worship, such as crosses, images, etc. which are bowed before contrary to the 2nd commandment (Exo 20:5].

3 So he carried me away in the spirit [Taken to another time in vision. cf. Rev 1:10; 4:2; 21:10; Eze 8:3. John was taken from his own time to the time of the end to view this vision.

### **JOHN VIEWED THE BEAST NOT FORM HIS OWN TIME BUT FROM THE TIME OF THE END**

1. John was “carried...away in the spirit” to see this, showing that he was carried from his time to another time. v 3. Compare Rev 21:9-10 where John was carried away in the spirit to a time forward of his day when the New Jerusalem will descend.
2. The whore John saw primarily represents the papacy (See v 1) which did not exist in John’s day.  
Rev 17:18 said that “the woman... reigneth over the kings of the earth.” This was not true in John’s day.  
Rev 17:15 speaks of the waters “where the whore sitteth.” The papacy was not sitting anywhere in John’s day.  
In Rev 17:8 the beast is said not to be. This was not true of John’s day
3. When viewed the “whore” - the papacy, was wealthy - Evidently the vision shows her after she has become GREAT. v 1, 4
4. She is a MOTHER OF HARLOTS - indicating that at the time John viewed this scene the Protestant churches, had already separated from Rome and had themselves become corrupt. The fall or corruption of the Protestant churches occurred in 1843-44 with the rejecting the 1st angel’s message (See on Rev 14).
5. When viewed the Papal whore was “drunken with the blood of the saints.” ie. after her terrible 1260 year reign which ended in 1798, during which she, using powers under her control, slew the saints. v 6; GC 571, 382, 133.
6. The vision concerned the great whore’s “judgment,” an end-time event. v 1; Rev 18:10, 17, 19.
7. She is in the wilderness (v 3) - the period when the papacy was in obscurity after its

abolition in 1798. Though the whore rides the beast she evidently has no control of it for she would not choose to be in the wilderness. Since 1798 the papacy has lacked the control she once had to direct nations.

7. The angel tells John that the beast he saw **“is not.”** (v 7-8). ie. it was not persecuting as it had. This statement cannot be applied to John’s day for the beast most certainly WAS persecuting at that time.

8. One of the 7 end-time angels with the vials (end time plagues) gave this vision. v 1.

9. The kings of the earth HAVE (past tense) fornicated with her. v 2.

10. The inhabitants of the earth HAVE (past tense) become drunk. v 2]

into the wilderness : and I saw a woman [The true church symbolized by a pure woman in Rev 12 spent centuries in obscurity & seclusion hiding from papal forces in the wilderness areas of Europe See Rev 12:6, 14.

Here in Rev 17 the false church endures her wilderness experience. This period began when the Papal church received her deadly wound being abolished by the atheistic French government in 1798.

The word translated “wilderness is eremos. Among the meanings Strongs gives for this word are the following, **“deserted by others, deprived of the aid and protection of others, especially of friends, acquaintances, kindred, bereft.”**

Describing the abolishing of the Papacy in 1798 George Trevor wrote, “The papacy was EXTINCT: not a vestige of its existence remained; and among all the Roman Catholic powers not a finger was stirred in its defence..” *Rome: From the Fall of the Western Empire*, George Trevor, p440.

This is also the time of the sixth head. See v 10]

sit upon a scarlet coloured [SATURATED IN SIN. “...though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” Isa 1:18 Scarlet dye was very valuable in Biblical times.

“When the female of the scarlet worm species was ready to give birth to her young, she would attach her body to the trunk of a tree, fixing herself so firmly and permanently that she would never leave again. The eggs deposited beneath her body were thus protected until the larvae were hatched and able to enter their own life cycle. As the mother died, the crimson fluid stained her body and the surrounding wood. From the dead bodies of such female scarlet worms, the commercial scarlet dyes of antiquity were extracted. What a picture this gives of Christ, dying on the tree, shedding His precious blood that He might ‘bring many sons unto glory’ (Heb. 2:10)! He died for us, that we might live through Him! Ps. 22:6 describes such a worm and gives us this picture of Christ. (cf. Isa 1:18).” *Biblical Basis for Modern Science*, p73, 1985, Baker Book House, by Henry Morris]

beast [UNION OF CHURCH & STATE. Beasts represent kingdoms, nations, Political powers. cf. Dan 7:17, 23; cf. Dan 8:3 with Dan 8:20.

This seven headed beast represents the political civil powers which support the corrupt church. Rev 17 is a picture of the evil union of **CHURCH & STATE**],

full of names of blasphemy [Gr. blasphemia

1) slander, detraction, speech injurious, to another's good name

2) impious and reproachful speech injurious to divine majesty. *Strongs Concordance*.

The Bible defines blasphemy as:

1. Claiming to be God when you are not (John 10:32-33)
  2. Claiming to be able to forgive sins when you cannot ( Mark 2:5-7)
- Claiming to be Christian while your actions show that you are not (Rev 2:9; Exo 20:7)

The beast of Rev 13 had “the name of blasphemy.”

The beast of Rev 17 is “FULL of the names of blasphemy.” Evil has fully developed], having seven heads [heads represent nations. See v 9-10. **THE SEVEN HEADS ARE SEVEN NATIONS**] and ten horns [See verse 12].

4 And the woman was arrayed in purple [**PURPLE THE COLOUR OF STATE** Purple is the colour of kings. Roman Cæsars, state rulers, wore purple. After dressing Christ in purple they mocked Him, “...they put on him a purple robe, And said, Hail, KING of the Jews.” John 19:2-3.

### **SCARLET THE COLOUR OF SIN**

“...though your sins be as scarlet...” Isa 1:18.

A whore - A corrupt church

Wearing purple - A State power.

Wearing scarlet - Sinful. A transgressor of God’s law “...sin is the transgression of the law.” 1John 3:4.

### **THE WHORE’S ATTIRE SHOWS HER TO BE A CORRUPT PRIESTHOOD**

Beginning in Exo 28:5 God describes the design for the garments of Aaron, the high priest. He was to wear Purple, Scarlet and BLUE with gold and precious stones.

“And they shall take gold, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen...And thou shalt set in it [the breastplate] settings of stones...a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle...an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond...a ligure, an agate, and an amethyst...a beryl, and an onyx, and a jasper: they shall be set in gold in their inclosings.”

The harlots garments bear a striking resemblance to the priest’s garments but she is missing the blue.

### **A PRIESTHOOD THAT DISREGARDS GOD’S LAW**

Blue represented the law of God. “And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of BLUE: And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember ALL THE COMMANDMENTS of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to GO A WHORING:” Num 15:37-39

The lack of this colour in the whore’s garments show that she has rejected the genuine law of God

## **PAPAL ROME'S COLOURS ARE PURPLE & SCARLET SYMBOLICALLY & LITERALLY**

Papal Rome is a church clothed in state power. Vatican city is the smallest state in the world.

Papal Rome openly confesses to disregarding the law of God as written by Him, observing the law as changed by the Roman church without, they admit, any scriptural authority.

Papal Rome is a priesthood that disregards God's law commanding obedience to church tradition in place of the command of God.

The colours of Catholic bishops and cardinals are purple & scarlet.

In "St. Paul's Outside the Wall," in Rome 109 Popes are portrayed around the ceiling and every single one of them is arrayed in scarlet. Even the Pope's throne room is scarlet], and decked with gold [**OUTWARD SPLENDOUR**. "Decked" Strong's. Gilded tells us that it was not solid gold]

and precious stones and pearls [**THE HARLOT CHURCH HOLD SOME TRUTHS**

Pearls symbolize truths. "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine..." Matt 7:6; also Matt 13:45.

The Harlot church carries with her certain truths and teachings but this only makes her better at deceiving multitudes into thinking she is pure and holy

## **THE MAGNIFICENCE OF PAPAL ROME**

Motley declares at the time of the great image-breaking Crusade in the Netherlands, "...pictures, statues, organs, ornaments, chalices of silver and gold, reliquaries, chausables, copes, cibores, crosses, chandeliers, lamps, censors, all of the richest material, glittering with pearls, rubies and other precious stones, were scattered in heaps of ruin upon the ground."

J.L. Motley, *Dutch Republic*, Vol. 1, p567

"In 1512A.D., a book was compiled by Archbishop Marcellus of Rome and dedicated to Pope Leo X. It enumerates five different articles of dress of scarlet colour that only Popes and cardinals can wear. A vest is mentioned studded with pearls. The Pope's mitre is gold and precious stones. These are the very characteristics...Revelation thrice ascribes to Babylon."

Jamieson, Fausset & Brown, *Commentary*, 1953, p1414

"Pope Paul II wore vestments decorated with diamonds, sapphires, emeralds, chrysolithes, jaspers...and all manner of precious stones." B. Platina (Roman Catholic authority), *Lives of the Popes.*"],

having a golden cup in her hand [**EXTERNALLY IMPRESSIVE**. The counterfeit "...the cup of salvation..." Ps 116:13. Rome has represented herself as a woman offering a cup containing the host (wafer) to the world. On another medal she is seen as a woman extending a cup to the world. The inscription reads, "Sedet Super Universum," which means, "The whole world is her seat."

In Rev 17:15 we read, "The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues."]

full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication [The woman has six items: 1. Purple 2. Scarlet 3. Gold 3. Silver 4. precious stones 5 pearls 6. Golden cup. Six is the number of Babylon]:

5 And upon her forehead [the forehead represents the mind or the will. She is willingly, knowingly a whore. It was faddish in John's day for harlots to wear their names on their headbands. See Carl Schneider, *Metopon*, Gerhard Kittel and Gerhard Friedrich, *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, tr. and ed. Geoffrey W. Bromiley, 9 vol.] was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON [Babylon means confusion (Gen 11:9).

Characteristics of Old Babylon were:

1. Babylon was a global system.
2. Disobedience. The builders of the tower of Babylon disobeyed God's command to "replenish [fill] the earth." Gen 1:28. Instead of seeking the garden lifestyle that God designed for man's good they built a city. Furthermore many believe that the tower was built to serve as a means of salvation if another Flood was to occur. The tower might thus be thought of as a symbol of salvation by their own works.
3. Confusion - Because of their disobedience God "did confound the language of all the earth." Gen 11:9.

### **THE GATE OF GOD**

Babel originally meant, "the gate to God." Today Roman Catholicism claims to be the gateway to God & salvation and that there is no salvation outside her. Since the confusion of the languages Babylon now indicates confusion, Gen 11:9 margin.

Harlot Babylon considers herself the gate to God. For centuries her official Latin doctrine was, *Extra ecclesiam non salus est*, "Outside the church [of Rome] there is no salvation." She is in reality the "mystery of iniquity" (2 Thess 2:7)

On one of the Pope's tiaras or crowns used to be the word MYSTERIUM - Mystery. The Reformers drew attention to this showing it was the fulfillment of Rev 17. So powerful was the effect that Pope Julius III (1550-1555) had it removed and replaced with the words, "Vicarius Filii Dei," which means Vicar of the Son of God. Astonishingly the Pope had moved from the frying pan of Rev 17 into the fire of Rev 13:18 which says that "the number of the beast, is the number of a man and his number is 666." Vicarius Filii Dei, the official title of the Pope as Roman numerals totals 666!

### **A BABEL OF SPIRITUAL CONFUSION.**

1. Babylon teaches that Judgment occurs at the second coming while it also teaches that people are sent to heaven or hell when they die!?
2. She teaches that God is love but that He will torment sinners without end!?
3. She teaches that the Bible is God's word but when church councils differ from the Bible the traditions are more clear and authoritative!?
4. She teaches that all of the Ten Commandments are morally binding but in her Catechism she has removed the 2nd commandment which prohibits bowing to or worshipping images and she has changed the Sabbath commandment so as to replace the seventh day with the Sunday!?

Confusion - Babylon.

The true church in contrast exhibits the “mystery of godliness.” (1 Tim 3:16)  
**THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS [THE MOTHER CHURCH.** The papacy has long called itself the Mother Church, as it is true that from her came many of the Protestant churches.

In 1725 A.D. Pope Benedict XIII, in his declaration of a jubilee, described the church of Rome as, “...the mother of all believers and the mistress of all churches.”  
Jamieson, Fausset & Brown, *Commentary*, 1953, p1415

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### **HER DAUGHTERS - THE ‘PROTESTANT’ CHURCHES**

Job 14:4 “Who can bring a clean [thing] out of an unclean? not one.” No man can but God can. No daughter is born a harlot. Likewise the protestant bodies which came out of Rome were ‘pure,’ in God’s eyes though they unknowingly retained error. As daughters become harlots by their own choice so the protestant bodies, through choosing to cling to papal falsehood when made aware of further light, became Rome’s fallen harlot daughters.

“By her daughters must be symbolized churches that cling to her doctrines and traditions, and follow her example of sacrificing the truth and the approval of God, in order to form an unlawful alliance with the world.” GC 382-3

As they came into existence each major protestant body brought back truth so long hidden throughout the Dark Ages. Luther rediscovered justification by faith, the Bible alone and the priesthood of believers. Baptists restored believer baptism by immersion. i.e. baptism by consent rather than the sprinkling of unknowing infants. Calvin of the Congregational & Presbyterian churches rediscovered that it is God, not an earthly priest, who judges who will be saved or lost. Wesley of the Methodists and Nazarenes rediscovered free grace, that salvation is free to all who believe. He also restored holy living. Tragically in the 1840 at the height of America’s religious revival and the Great Second Advent Awakening the leaders of the various denominations rejected the three angel’s messages of Rev 14:6-12. In doing so they:

- (1) Denied Christ’s present ministry of atonement in the Most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary and the message that the Investigative Judgment had begun
- (2) Rejected or even opposed the seventh day Sabbath of the Ten Commandments.
- (3) Denied the true state of the dead.

Thus they fell and became part of spiritual Babylon. These fallen denominations will fall further ultimately uniting with the State to inflict cruel boycotts and capital punishment on God’s faithful commandment keeping people. (See Rev 13).

Many of God’s people are presently in these denominations without realizing that they are in Babylon. In love Jesus through His faithful remnant on earth is now calling them out of Babylon

## SEVEN WOMEN - THE HARLOTS DAUGHTERS

Isa 4:1 “And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.”

Besides depicting the desperate desire of women to be married in Isaiah’s time due the the scarcity of men this also symbolizes the last days. Women symbolize churches. Bread symbolizes Christ’s truth, Apparel symbolizes character. In the last days the world is full of churches who desire to be called “CHRISTIAN” but who do not want the real truth of Christ or the real character of Christ. cf. Matt 7:22-23.

## THE DAUGHTER’S DANCE

John the baptist rebuked king Herod for illegally marrying his brother wife, Herodias.

“Mark 6:18-19 “For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife.

19 Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not:

20 For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.

21 And when a convenient day was come, that Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, high captains, and chief [estates] of Galilee;

22 And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give [it] thee.

23 And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give [it] thee, unto the half of my kingdom.

24 And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask? And she said, The head of John the Baptist.

25 And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying, I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist.

26 And the king was exceeding sorry; [yet] for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her.

27 And immediately the king sent an executioner, and commanded his head to be brought: and he went and beheaded him in the prison,

28 And brought his head in a charger, and gave it to the damsel: and the damsel gave it to her mother.”

This story is a type of end time events when the apostate Protestant daughter(s) of Papal Rome will, at their mothers instigation, influence the State to pass a death decree upon the faithful remnant who are giving the last message of mercy to the world.]

AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH [The abomination of desolation (Dan 11:31; 12:11; Matt 24:15)].

6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints [**MARTYRED GOD’S SAINTS**. Parallels “...wear out the saints...” Dan 7:25.

“destroy the mighty and the holy people...” Dan 8:24.

“...they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, [many] days...” Dan 11:33

Dan 12:7 “scatter the power of the holy people.”

Rev 12:15 “And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.”

Rev 13:7 “And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them...”],

and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus [This confirms that John beheld this vision, not from his time, but from a time AFTER the papacy had martyred millions of Christians during the Dark Ages]:

and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration [or wondered exceedingly.”

“Thus is represented the papal power” 7BC 983. “The haughty see of Rome.” GC 382].

7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

8 The beast that thou sawest was [existed previous], and is not [was dead during the period of time John saw in vision. **THE BEAST SUFFERED THE DEADLY WOUND- 1798**]; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit [will come to life again. **THE DEADLY WOUND WILL BE HEALED**

### **THE BOTTOMLESS PIT - DEATH**

The bottomless pit is the grave, a “pit” which cannot be filled, Isa 38:18; Isa 14:19; Hab 2:5; Prov 30:16 in other words a bottomless pit. The Greek “abussos” translated “bottomless pit” is also translated “deep” in Rom 10:7 where it refers to the grave.

Good is represented as coming from above, evil from below:

James 3:15; Rev 14; Rev 18; 9T 43; John 8:23.

For a power to ascend out of the bottomless pit suggests that it is “Of Satanic origin and character” GC 269 (See Rev 11:7). The wicked will be bound many days (1000 years of Rev 20) in the “pit” of death. Isa 24:22.

Atheism, the resurrected spirit of Pharaoh ascended “out of the bottomless pit” in the form of France (Rev 11:7) and sent the papal power into the bottomless pit by giving it the deadly wound in 1798 (Rev 13:3).

When the papacy’s deadly wound is healed it “shall ascend out of the bottomless pit” or grave. As the beast ascends, the loud cry warning of Rev 18 descends from heaven to meet it.

“It is impossible to give any idea of the experience of the people of God who shall be alive upon the earth when CELESTIAL GLORY and a repetition of the PERSECUTIONS OF THE PAST are BLENDED.” 9T 16; 6T 18.

“The influence of Rome in the countries that once acknowledged her dominion is still far from being destroyed. And prophecy foretells a restoration of her power.” GC 579.

“The Scriptures teach that popery is to regain its lost supremacy, and that the fires of persecution will be rekindled through the timeserving concessions of the so-called Protestant world.” 7BC 975.

At the end of time two Satanically directed powers - Apostate Protestantism and the Papacy - will rule together. This is seen in Rev 14:9 “If any man worship the beast AND his image...”

The beast was, is not, shall ascend v 8.

The beast was, is not, yet is (will be) v 8.

The beast was, is not, even he is the 8th v 11],

and go into perdition [destruction. cf. 2 Thess 2:3]:

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 [will be when the wound is fully healed. Comp Rev 13:8].

9 And here *is* the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains [mountains symbolize kingdoms, cf. Dan 2:35, 44-45; ], on which the woman [the apostate church] sitteth [the apostate church is supported by the state powers.

**Q. How could it be said that the Papacy sits upon the seven heads when some of those heads (kingdoms) no longer exist?**

Though the papacy did not sit on ancient Babylon she does sit on Babylon’s descendants which exist today.

The seven headed beast when seen in Rev 13 is shown to be an amalgamation of all previous kingdoms - leopard body, bears feet, etc. Scripture sees the previous kingdoms as still present though they have been absorbed outwardly by successive powers.

**Q. Are the seven mountains the seven hills on which Rome was built?**

Many Reformers interpreted the whore as Papal Rome and the seven mountains as the seven hills upon which Rome is built.

“It is within the city of Rome, called The City on Seven Hills, that the entire area of Vatican State Proper is now confined.” *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, p. 529.

“Rome was founded in 753B.C. on “the seven hills” - a term used for centuries to describe the Capitoline, Quirinal, Viminal, Esquiline, Caelian, Aventine, and Palatine hills surrounding the old city.” *Encarta 97*

The word “mountain” is from the Greek, *onos*, and is translated “hills” 3 times in the K.J.V. Bible.

(a) However, as the seven “MOUNTAINS” are SUCCESSIVE, “five are fallen, and one is...” etc., they cannot refer to the hills of Rome.

(b) The Papacy is not built on the seven literal hills of Rome. The Vatican (the smallest country in the world) covers only a little over 100 acres.

(c) Rome itself has not always covered seven hills and today it covers many more than seven hills].

10 And there are [rather “and they are”] seven kings [**THE SEVEN SUCCESSIVE KINGDOMS**

The Bible uses “king” and “kingdom” interchangeably. cf. Dan 7:17, 23.

The seven heads or mountains are seven successive kingdoms]:  
five are fallen ["Fallen" Gr. *pipto* - "to be prostrated, lose authority, loose power." *Strong Concordance*. From the time of the end (after 1798), from which point John viewed this vision, five kingdoms had been & gone. See on v3],  
and one is [evidently the 6th which existed at the time the papacy was in the wilderness i.e. obscurity],  
and the other [the 7th and last nation]  
is not yet come; [This prophecy must apply from the period of the 6th head before the 7th comes to power.

### **IDENTIFYING THE SEVEN HEADS**

The seven heads represent seven successive kingdoms used by Satan in his attempt to destroy Christ's church:.

### **THE HEADS REPRESENT KINGDOMS**

(a) Heads represent kingdoms. Seven heads represent seven kingdoms. The leopard's four heads (Dan 7:6) parallel the goat's four horns (Dan 8:8) which are said to represent "four kingdoms" (Dan 8:22).

(b) The heads are called mountains & mountains represent kingdoms, See Jer 51:25; Dan 2:35, 44.

(c) The 8th head in Rev 17 is said to be a "beast" (v 11) and a beast represent's a kingdom or nation (Dan 7:17, 23; 8:22).

(d) If these heads parallel the 7 heads of the dragon in Rev 12, we have further proof that the heads represent kingdoms because the 7 heads in Rev 12 wore crowns, indicating that they represented political powers or kingdoms

The seven headed beast of Rev 13 was made up of previous kingdoms:

1. the leopard - Greece
2. the bear - Persia
3. the lion - Babylon
4. the ten horned dragon - Rome).

Daniel 7:12 said "concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time." i.e. the earlier kingdoms lost their dominions yet their peoples etc. were incorporated into their successors.

Likewise in the image of chapter 2 though the original nations represented are no longer visible, the elements which represented them: iron, brass, silver, and gold, exist on until they are "broken to pieces together," (Dan 2:35) when the stone comes.

In like manner the vision of Rev 17 depicts all the previous powers as members of the seven heads which will all perish with the death of the beast.

"Revelation is the supplement of Daniel" (2SM 114). As Daniel began the outline of nations with Babylon we would expect the first head to be Babylon.

### **FURTHER POINTS**

(a) The kingdoms are numbered and thus sequential, they rule in order.

(b) They extend to the end of this world for 7 indicates completeness, the beginning to

the end, eg. 7 days in a whole week. 1MR, p372”...the number of the churches--seven indicates completeness and is symbolic of the fact that the messages extend to the end of time...”

(c) They all greatly affect God’s people.

(d) The vision is viewed from the time of the 6th head which exists when the whore, the papacy, is in the wilderness (v 3). This must refer to the period after the deadly wound in 1798.

(e) The real power which continues behind all the heads is Satan, who may be thought of as the body of the beast.

(f) The reigning head is said to be the beast. When it comes, the 8th head is said to be a “beast” (v 11).

(g) In Daniel & Revelation we find seven nations depicted as beasts.

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Babylon            | Dan 7:4               |
| 2 Medo Persia        | Dan 7:5               |
| 3 Greece             | Dan 7:6               |
| 4 Pagan Rome         | Dan 7:7               |
| 5 Papalism           | Rev 13:1              |
| 6 Atheism            | the “beast” of Rev 11 |
| 7 Image of the beast | - Rev 13              |

Seven in Revelation are broken into four then three. Following this division the first four heads form a unit of non-global powers, the last three heads are global powers.

The heads are:

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Babylon            | Dan 7:4               |
| 2 Medo Persia        | Dan 7:5               |
| 3 Greece             | Dan 7:6               |
| 4 Pagan Rome         | Dan 7:7               |
| 5 Papalism           | Rev 13:1              |
| 6 Atheism            | the “beast “of Rev 11 |
| 7 Image of the beast |                       |

These same seven powers are represented in Daniel:

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 1 Babylon            | Lion Dan 7:4  |
| 2 Medo Persia        | Bear Dan 7:5  |
| 3 Greece             | Leopard Dan 7:6   |
| 4 Pagan Rome         | Dragon Dan 7:7  |
| 5 Papalism           | “the king of the north” Dan 11:40                         |
| 6 Atheism            | “the king of the south” Dan 11:40                         |
| 7 Image of the beast | “the tabernacles of his (the papacy’s palace).” Dan 11:45 |

**How can atheism be one of the seven heads on the beast, when the papacy never sat on or controlled atheism?**

The whore - the papacy, is not controlling the beast during the period of the 6th head (atheism) for the whore would not choose to be in the wilderness if she were in control.

**You claim that the dragon “is in a secondary sense a symbol of pagan Rome” in Rev 12. How can you now call it a collection of kingdoms?**

At the time the dragon sought to destroy Christ as described in Rev 12 the head in control was Pagan Rome. The head in control is said to be the beast of the moment. At the time the dragon sought to destroy the church in the wilderness as described in Rev 12 it was Papal Rome etc.

**John had the vision of the Revelation in A.D. 96. He was told five heads had fallen. Does this not show that the 6th head must have been Pagan Rome in John’s time?**

John did not view the beast’s heads from his day but from our day. See notes.

**What usefulness is it to know that some of the heads are passed?**

The same usefulness it is to know that the the kingdoms mentioned in Daniel 2 & 7 etc. have passed.

Rev 12 has crowns on the heads (Shows the heads represent kingdoms)

In Rev 12 there are no crowns on horns as at the time the dragon sought to destroy Jesus the 10 kingdoms had not yet become kingdoms. Rev 17 may be thought of as a time line in which all the powers which have been and all which are and will be are presented at once though some no longer exist and some have not yet existed.

Rev 13 describes crowns on the horns showing that at the period this prophecy depicts, the 10 nations had arisen and had become kingdoms.

Rev 17 describes no horns on the kingdoms as they had become democracies or republics.

**Babylon, Medo-Persia, nor Grecia had anything whatsoever to do with the papacy, how then can they be heads on the beast that the papacy rides?**

The papacy did not ride the beast when each of those heads ruled. The whore which rode them in their day was the dominant pagan religion of the time.

**“This symbol, as most Protestants have believed, represents the papacy, which succeeded to the power and seat and authority once possessed by the ancient Roman Empire.”**

The whore was not always of the Papal religion.

**Isn’t it doubling up on symbols if heads are the same as the body parts in Rev 13**

It is simply repeat & enlarge.

**If we are yet to wait for more heads will this not have a tendency to put off the coming of the Lord in people’s minds?**

No more than is the teaching that we await the formation of the image of the beast and the mark of the beast.

**Rome pagan & papal is symbolized by the same metal in Dan 2, the same horn in Daniel 8, so how can it be two seperate heads in Rev 17? – 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>.**

Pagan Rome was depicted as a red dragon in Rev 12 but its change to papal Rome

necessitated a change from a dragon to a leopard bodies beast.

In Daniel 8 through the inspired use of gender Daniel differentiates between pagan & papal Rome. The pagan form is called the daily in Dan 8 while the papal form is called the transgression that maketh desolate.

See on Dan 8.

In 2Thess Paul differentiated between pagan Rome and papal Rome. There he called pagan Rome the withholder which had to be taken away in order to set up “the man of sin” - papal Rome.

### **Rome’s number is 6 so why is Rome not head number 6?**

Rome was kingdom number 4 in Dan 2 & 7. There is therefore no reason why it must be the sixth head.

Already we see the “whirlwind-like” collapse of Atheism in the communist countries as the apostate Protestant United States and the Papacy apply military and economic pressure (Dan 11:40). The 7th head will be that new form of dragon-like persecuting power: the apostate Protestant image of the beast which is already beginning to speak “AS A DRAGON.” Rev 13:11. This image will be complete when, with the total rejection of the 3 angels’ messages, apostate Protestantism influences the state to enforce the Sunday worship. GC 390; Rev 18:3-5; R&H Nov 5, ’89; Man 24, Jan 1891. (See ‘Mark of the Beast’).

“Yet under one head - the papal power - the people will unite to oppose God in the person of His witnesses.” 7T 182.

The fact that at the end of time the two evil powers of apostate Protestantism and the papacy will rule together is seen in Rev 14:9 “If any man worship the beast AND his image...”]

and when he cometh, he must continue a short space [relative to the preceding kingdoms the persecuting phase of the seventh head will be short. Rev 12:12 “...the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.” Satan’s final attack upon the church will be through the 7th head in conjunction with the eighth (See next verse)].

11 And the beast [The beast when the papal head ruled & had power to persecute], that was [existed prior to 1798] and is not [after its deadly wound in 1798], even he is the eighth, and is of the seven [**THE EIGHTH HEAD**. It is numbered 8th. The beast only has seven heads. The eighth head is one of the seven heads returned to life.

Rev 13:3 says “And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.”

The head that was wounded and returns to life is the papal state power (See on Rev 13). Therefore the beast, as ruled by the papal head, was (i.e. existed prior), is not (suffered the deadly wound in 1798) and when healed of the wound it returns as the eighth.

Together with the seventh head, the apostate protestant image of the beast, these two powers will dominate end time events. Rev 14:9 “And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship THE BEAST and HIS IMAGE...”

### **8 IS A SYMBOL OF RESURRECTION:**

(a) The 1st day of the week, the 8th day, Christ's resurrection day, is mentioned exactly 8 times in the New Testament. Christ said "I am He that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive forever more..." Rev 1:18. The beast's resurrection from the dead counterfeits Christ's resurrection. We will soon behold the beast which liveth and was dead...

(b) Tabernacles, an 8 day feast, represented the final gathering at the first resurrection. Lev 23:39.

(c) Circumcision, done the 8th day after birth, is likened to baptism where the old man is buried in the watery 'grave' and resurrected to newness of life. Luke 2:21; Col 2:11-12.

(d) 8th indicates resurrection. Compare:

The beast was, is not, shall ascend v 8.

The beast was, is not, yet is (will be) v 8.

The beast was, is not, even he is the 8th v 11.

There is no definite article "the." Literally it reads the beast...is eighth.

The 8th is one of the seven returned to life - the Papal head healed of its deadly wound.

**The only one of the seven, the eighth cannot be, is the seventh as the 7th head continues to the end and does not pass away in order for it to return as the 8th],**

and goeth into perdition [cf. "...that man of sin [the pope] be revealed, the son of perdition;..." 2 Thess 2:3].

12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings [**THE TEN HORNS**. We would naturally understand these ten horns to be the 10 horns seen first in Daniel 7 because:

(a) The seven headed beast of Rev 13 parallels the 7 headed beast of Rev 17. The beast of Rev 13 is an amalgamation of the symbols of Daniel 7. The lion, the bear, the leopard and the dragon are all present. It is natural to conclude that the 10 horns are also drawn from Daniel 7.

(b) The Bible follows the repeat and enlarge principle where that which has been presented before is presented again with more details added.

(c) We are to understand Scripture by comparing line upon line (Isa 28:10). In trying to understand the ten horns of Rev 17 we must therefore look at other verses which refer to ten horns. The first reference in Scripture to ten horns is in Dan 7:7 where they symbolized the nations of Europe.

**Q. But the 10 horns of Rev 17 give their power to the beast for one hour. When did the 10 horns give their power to the beast? (v 12).**

A. They will.

**Q. They receive a kingdom (singular) When did the 10 nations of Europe receive one kingdom?**

They will.

**Q. When did the 10 kingdoms of Europe have one mind?**

They will.

**Q. But how can all 10 be said to do these things when three of them have already**

### **been plucked up? (See Dan 7).**

The symbolism pictures them as all present though some no longer exist. In just the same way the picture shows seven heads (kingdoms) though some no longer exist (five have fallen). In Daniel 2 the gold, silver, brass and iron are represented as existing at the time the stone (Christ) strikes the image at His second Coming. The nations represented by these metals no longer exist at Christ's return but God presents them as existing.

### **TEN AS A SYMBOL**

- 1) Symbolically 10 = all.
  - 2) 10 commandments = all.
  - 3) Christ is chiefest among 10,000 = He is chief of all.
  - 4) 10 virgins represent the entire church Matt 25:1 etc.
- All the world will wonder after & worship the beast. Rev 13:3,8.

“[Rev 17:12 quoted] There WILL BE a universal bond of union, one great harmony, a confederacy of Satan's forces...In the warfare TO BE waged in the LAST DAYS there WILL BE united in opposition to God's people, all the corrupt powers that have apostatized from allegiance to the law of Jehovah.” E.G. White, 7BC 983

10 is sometimes associated with test and trial

Daniel asked for a 10 day trial, Nebuchadnezzar found Daniel 10 times wiser. 10 commandments are the test of character. The 10 horns will be a trial or test for the people of God

### **Q. Heads are political kingdoms so how could atheism - an ideology, be one of the heads?**

The atheistic state is as much a civil power as is the papal state. If the papal state is represented by a head then so also may the atheistic state be represented by a head.

### **Q. What is the eighth head?**

It is the papal head healed from its deadly wound. 8 is symbolic of resurrection. See on v 11. It will exist alongside the image of the beast. The third angel's message shows this. “if any man worship the beast and his image...” Rev 14:11], which have received no kingdom as yet [John views things from our day in the time of the end after 1798. See on v10]; but receive power as kings one hour [symbolic of a short time. Using the day = year principle this equates to 15 days. Note that the ten kings have but one kingdom and its duration is short. cf. v 10 where the duration of the seventh head is short] with the beast [The image of the beast and the beast will rule together. “If any man worship the beast AND his image...” Rev 14:9 ].

13 These [the ten horns] have one mind [They will be united in purpose. A counterfeit of the unity of God's true worshippers. “These have one mind.’ There will be one universal bond of union, one great harmony, a confederacy of Satan's forces. ‘And shall give their power and strength unto the beast.’ ...In the warfare to be waged in the last days there will be united, in opposition to God's people, ALL the corrupt powers that have apostatized

from allegiance to the law of Jehovah.” 3SM 392-3.

“There will be a universal bond of union. John in Revelation writes of the unity of those living on the earth to make void the law of God. (Rev 17:13, 14 quoted).” 3SM 423.], and shall give their power and strength unto the beast [“In the seventeenth of Revelation is foretold the destruction of all the churches who corrupt themselves by idolatrous devotion to the service of the papacy, those who have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. [Rev. 17:1-4 quoted.] 7BC 983].

14 These [the ten horns] shall make war with the Lamb [The only way to war with Christ is to attack Christ’s people, His church. The ten horns are the kings of the whole earth. The Catholicity of Europe (original ten horns) is now a global phenomenon cf. Rev 19:19 which describes Armageddon (Ms 172, 1899). They fight against Christ in the person of His witnesses.

“And he [the U.S.A. See on Rev 13] had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.” Rev 13:15.

“Yet under one head - the papal power - the people will unite to oppose God in the person of His witnesses.” 7T 182],

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.

15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues [Literal Babylon sat upon the waters of the river Euphrates which was dried up just before Babylon’s destruction (Jer 50:38, 51:13). Likewise Spiritual Babylon (Rev 17:18), sits upon “waters” representing multitudes, nations etc., (Rev 17:1, 15). These supporting “waters” will also dry up just before she is destroyed (Rev 16:12; 17:12-17). In her “judgment” and “desolation” “none shall help” her, (Dan 11:45) as ALL the 10 horns, which “shall give their power and strength” unto her for 1 hour (Rev 17:12, 13), then turn on her (Rev 17:16). Her desolation will take one prophetic hour (Rev 18:10, 17, 19)]

16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore [when they realize they have been deceived and are forever lost they will turn upon the corrupt church which deceived them],

and shall make her desolate [From the same word as wilderness in v3. Made an outcast] and naked [strip her of her gaudy apparel and reveal her real character. Forcing harlots to wear their skirts over their heads was once a common punishment. Jer. 13:22; Nahum 3:5],

and shall eat her flesh [Alludes to 2Kings 9:35-36 where Jezebel, who typified the great whore, was pitilessly destroyed and eaten by dogs],

and burn her with fire [Lev 21:9 “And the daughter of any priest, if she profane herself by playing the whore, she profaneth her father: she shall be burnt with fire.” cf. Gen 38:24.

This is the only sin punishable by burning in the O.T. Its mention here confirms the whore’s identity as a corrupt christian church who has turned away from Jesus, the Great high Priest..

The mother & daughter churches of spiritual Babylon will be consumed by the burning anger of their ex-supporters.

“After the saints had been delivered by the voice of God, the wicked multitude turned their rage upon one another.” EW, 290.  
cf. Zech 14:13; 2 Chron 20: esp. 22, 23; Isa 10:26 with Jgs 7:22; Jer 27:7.

“The people see that they have been deluded. They...all unite in heaping their bitterest condemnation upon the ministers...’We are lost!’ they cry, ‘and you are the cause of our ruin;’ and they turn upon the false shepherds...’And it shall come to pass in that day, that a great tumult from the Lord shall be upon them; they shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbour, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbour.’ Zech 14:13...At the coming of Christ the wicked are blotted from the face of the earth...The whole earth appears like a desolate wilderness...when the work of atonement in the heavenly sanctuary has been completed...the sins of God’s people will be placed upon Satan...And as the scapegoat was sent away into a land not inhabited, so Satan will be banished to the desolate earth, an uninhabited and dreary wilderness.” GC655; See EW 282; See Rev 20 notes.

### **PROPHETIC IRONY**

The Franks (French) who gave their power and strength to the papacy assisting it to power also delivered the papacy its deadly wound in 1798. In a similar way the ten horns, who are to give their power & strength unto the papacy will also deliver it a deadly wound when they turn on her.

“The thing that hath been, it [is that] which shall be; and that which is done [is] that which shall be done: and [there is] no new [thing] under the sun.” Ecc 1:9].

17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will [it is God’s will that the wicked reveal their wickedness by their actions],  
and to agree, and give their kingdom [multiple kings, singular kingdom]  
unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth [**BABYLON**. Alexander Flick says that by the 13th century, the Pope was “at least in theory and claim...the ruler of the whole world in temporal and spiritual affairs.” A. Flick, **The Rise of the Mediaeval Church**, (New York: Burt Franklin, 1959), p575-576.

She will again be the head under which the world unites in waring against the truth].

### **THE 7 HEADED BEAST - POLITICAL POWERS**

The beast upon which the woman rides represents the civil or political powers which uphold apostate religion. Rev 17 thus pictures the alliance between religion & State.

“The woman (Babylon) of Revelation 17 is described as ‘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:...and upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots.’ Says the prophet: ‘I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.’ Babylon is further declared to be ‘that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.’ Revelation 17:4-6, 18. The power that for so many centuries maintained despotic sway over the monarchs of Christendom is Rome. The purple and scarlet color, the gold and precious stones and pearls, vividly picture the magnificence and more than kingly pomp affected by the haughty see of Rome. And no other power could be so truly declared ‘drunken with the blood of the saints’ as that church which has so cruelly persecuted the followers of Christ. Babylon is also charged with the sin of unlawful connection with ‘the kings of the earth.’ It was by departure from the Lord, and alliance with the heathen, that the Jewish church became a harlot; and Rome, corrupting herself in like manner by seeking the support of worldly powers, receives a like condemnation.”  
GC 382.

‘In the seventeenth of Revelation is foretold the destruction of all the churches who corrupt themselves by idolatrous devotion to the service of the papacy, those who have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. [Rev. 17:1-4 quoted.]...Thus is represented the papal power, which with all deceivableness of unrighteousness, by outside attraction and gorgeous display, deceives all nations; promising them, as did Satan our first parents, all good to those who receive its mark, and all harm to those who oppose its fallacies. The power which has the deepest inward corruption will make the greatest display, and will clothe itself with the most elaborate signs of power. The Bible plainly declares that this covers a corrupt and deceiving wickedness. ‘Upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon the Great, The Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth.’ (Letter 232, 1899). 7BC 983