

The Revelation

Lesson 15

The conclusion of the *seventh bowl of the wrath of God* ends with the introduction of the *great harlot*. She has been around in the world for a long time and the REVELATION would not be complete if her ultimate fate was not included. As with the participants presented before, the Scripture tells the story of her past, present and future.

H. The Judgment from Heaven (17:1-18:24)

1. The Introduction of the Great Harlot (17:1)

Rev 17:1 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,

For the first time in the REVELATION, the *great harlot* is mentioned. Nothing has been said about her to this point, yet the verse says she **"sits on many waters."** This phrase must mean that she has been involved in the world events for a significant period. How many waters does she sit on? In Revelation 17:15 the **"waters"** are defined as follows. **"The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues."** Therefore, we do not need to speculate about the **"waters."** This *great harlot* sits on many **"peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues."** In other words, her influence is far reaching to humanity around the earth.

2. The Suiters of the Great Harlot (17:2)

Rev 17:2 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."

The influence of this *great harlot* reaches right to the thrones of the powers of the kings of the earth. Here, John uses the word *earth* and he means it is not worldwide but restricted to certain plots of land which she controls.

The verse says that the **"kings of the earth committed acts of immorality"** with her. The word **"immorality"** is the proper translation for the Greek word *poreuo*; however, today a better word is *adultery*. It means a sexual act outside the proper relationships established by God for husbands and wives here on earth. But, unless this *great harlot* is an actual human, it is impossible for her to have a sexual relationship with all the kings and **"peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues."** The **"immorality"** or *adultery* of this *great harlot* must be a metaphor for her interaction with the nations in an ungodly relationship of some kind. These kings willingly commit this **"immorality"** with her and in so doing, the kings make the people under their control drink the **"wine of her immorality."** It seems that the kings are overly willing but the people are forced to interact with this *great harlot*.

In the Old Testament we find God complaining about the religious *immorality or adultery* of the Nation of Israel. One example can be found in Jeremiah 23. In this example, the people of the Southern Kingdom have been led away by false prophets to worship false gods. In response the LORD says to Jeremiah the following.

Jer 23:14 "Also among the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen a horrible thing: The committing of adultery and walking in falsehood; And they strengthen the hands of evildoers, So that no one has turned back from his wickedness. All of them have become to Me like Sodom, and her inhabitants like Gomorrah.

The relationship between the *Nation of Israel* on earth and the LORD is the topic here. When humans worship any god except the LORD God, they are *adulterers*. Every person who worships in the faiths of Rabbinic Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, or any other variation or offshoot of these major religions of the world is considered a religious *adulterer* in God's eyes as bad as the *immorality of homosexuality* that was found and identified by Him in the villages of Sodom and Gomorrah. This *great harlot* must be false religions found in the world that kings of the earth have accepted and forced on the people of their kingdoms. What great multitude of people does she control with the **"wine of her immorality?"** What does **"wine"** mean? The word must also be a metaphor for her brand of false religion, her brand of theology, her brand of belief. The people are forced to drink her brand of faith from her system of religion. Her system is different from that of the LORD's; therefore, the kings and people who follow her system are *adulterers* to the LORD. They have sought an improper relationship with a false god instead of a proper relationship with the true God. God also calls them *idolaters*.

3. The Scarlet Beast of the Great Harlot (17:3)

Rev 17:3 And 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.

Off to the wilderness John was taken by one of the seven angels to be shown the **"immoral," adulterous** relationship. It is plainly identified here! Her *adultery* is with the **"scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns."** We know this *beast*; it is the *Revived Roman Empire*. Therefore, the **"kings of the earth"** (17:2) are the rulers of *Britain, France, Spain, Italy, North Africa, Macedonia, Greece, Turkey, Syria and Egypt*. And the **"many waters"** (17:1) are the people of that empire and others who hold to her belief system. With that we must look at another interesting detail. John was carried **"into the wilderness"** to see this *beast*. The home of the *beast* was not in the wilderness, it was around the *sea*. This fact must mean that the *great harlot* was controlling the *beast* from a distance. The *harlot's* home was in the wilderness; the *beast's* home was around the sea. Where was her home? We will address that shortly! At this point we will ask the question, **"What does this great harlot look like?"**

4. The Dress of the Great Harlot (17:4)

Rev 17:4 The 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,

Look at the words of this verse. This woman is a wealthy harlot adorned with all the best of the best this world has to offer. Purple and scarlet material has traditionally been reserved for the richest of humanity because the dye is extremely expensive to make. Gold, precious

stones and pearls have always been symbols of wealth through all the ages. We could take the time to look into each item she wore but we already understand this image. Full-length films have portrayed harlots as major characters in their productions and no doubt, this verse inspired their dress. Sadly, even cartoons portray such women in children's movies. But through the ages, *harlots* have continued to dress in such gaudy attire, but underneath, the body soon becomes unhealthy, a place of disease that leads to death. So, too, is the body of this *great harlot*. Hers is an “**abomination**” and “**unclean**.” Notice the “**gold cup**” in her hand. Common people of John's day used wooden or clay cups to drink from. Only the wealthy used golden cups. The wealthy of John's day were found in three places, the royalty, the slave owner, the temple hierarchy. But even then, the common people were never allowed to drink from the golden cups of these three. Therefore, it was something special for this *great harlot* to offer her *golden cup* to the commoners of the *Revived Roman Empire*. We already interpreted the LORD's use of the Greek word for “**immorality**” as the Hebrew word translated *adultery* and we associated it with the worship of false gods when the LORD commanded that *we should have no other gods*. But what does the word “**abominations**” mean? It simply means *detestable*. Therefore, the deeds of this *great harlot* are *detestable and unclean (filthy)* in the eyes of the LORD.

5. The Name of the Great Harlot (17:5)

Rev 17:5 and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

This *great harlot* may have been dressed in the wealth of the world while at the same time being filthy and detestable in all her ways. “**BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH,**” was marked on her forehead. We dare not run past this too fast. We have seen the name “**Babylon the Great**” twice before in chapters 14 and 16. Here we have been given the key that unlocks the mystery of this *great harlot* and “**Babylon the Great.**” “**BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS,**” what does that mean?

The Greek word for “**Mother**” is *meter* and it is the normal word we use for the mother of a child. It is used 83 times in the New Testament in the normal context of the mother/child relationship with respect to every possible scenario that involves an earthly mother. In that context, the *mother* is the one who gives birth to her offspring. However, it is used in the Bible two times in a different relationship. The word *mother* here is still used as giving birth to an offspring but not one that is a human child. It is used as a metaphor for one who gives birth to a movement, a way of thinking, a theology, a way of life or of a business or entity. We find the first use of the word in this sense in Galatians where Paul uses “**mother**” in an allegory.

Gal 4:21 Tell me, you who want to be under law, do you not listen to the law? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman and one by the free woman. ²³ But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and the son by the free woman through the promise. ²⁴ This is allegorically speaking, for these *women* are two covenants: one *proceeding* from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar. ²⁵ Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and

corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶ But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother. . . . ²⁸ And you brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise. ²⁹ But as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him *who was born* according to the Spirit, so it is now also. ³⁰ But what does the Scripture say? "CAST OUT THE BONDWOMAN AND HER SON, FOR THE SON OF THE BONDWOMAN SHALL NOT BE AN HEIR WITH THE SON OF THE FREE WOMAN." ³¹ So then, brethren, we are not children of a bondwoman, but of the free woman.

Paul intended this passage to be an allegory and he said so in verse 24. The story is about the influence of the two sons of Abraham in the world. His oldest was Ishmael and his descendants became the Arab people. About 621 AD, the religion of Islam was born among these people in Arabia. Since that time, these people have claimed their inheritance through Ishmael to his father, Abraham. It was a true lineage through Sarah's bondservant, Hagar. Ishmael was born to Abraham as a result of a sinful relationship with Hagar that was instigated by his wife, Sarah. Therefore, Ishmael was a child of Abraham's flesh. He was not the child of the Spirit promised to Abraham and Sarah. In their rush to fulfill the LORD's promise on their own, a child of the flesh was born. Isaac was Abraham's second son and he was the child of the Spirit, promised by the LORD to be born to Sarah whose body was old and as good as dead for childbearing. Isaac became the father of Jacob whose name was changed to Israel. He became the father of twelve sons and they became fathers of the twelve tribes of the Nation of Israel that we know today. In like manner, Ishmael had twelve sons who became the fathers of the first twelve Arabian tribes. Ishmael also had a daughter who married Esau who was Jacob/Israel's twin brother. Esau had twelve sons who became the fathers of a second wave of twelve tribes in Arabia. With that, Ishmael became the link to Abraham for twenty-four Arabian tribes still in existence today. As a whole, they have embraced the religion often called the *Nation of Islam* and have sought to destroy the *Nation of Israel*. In Paul's allegory, the descendants of Hagar, the *Nation of Islam* and the flesh, were seen persecuting the descendants of Sarah, the *Nation of Israel* and the Spirit. In this passage the word "**mother**" is directed toward Sarah who gave birth in the spirit to the *Nation of Israel*. We know from the REVELATION that the *Nation of Israel* gave birth to the Child known as Jesus. It is important to note the prophecy in Paul's allegory – the descendants of Hagar, meaning the *Nation of Islam*, will not be heirs to the glories of the LORD and His bliss in eternity.

The second passage that uses the word "**mother**" is found here in Revelation 17:5 and it refers to "**Babylon**" and calls it the "**MOTHER OF HARLOTS**" to indicate that "**Babylon the great**" is the *great harlot* who gave birth to the greatest detestable things in all the world. As the *great harlot* she is a repulsive, ancient, sinful woman under the disguise of her dress. Beneath the purple, scarlet and gold is the violent, fraudulent and deceptive religion that she is. Her tale of her sin is as old as the days of the rebellious building of the tower of Babel. Just 98 years after departing the Ark after the flood, idolatrous relationships with false gods were already prevalent among the family of Noah. He was still alive and would live until just eight years before the birth of Abraham. We must remember, Noah and Abraham were of the same line of family members who spoke the same language after the confusion at the tower of Babel and remained in that area after the nations were scattered over the world by the LORD. It was from this same family line that brought about the Hebrew, Akkadian,

Chaldean, Aramaic and Arabic languages. Even though these languages are different today, similarities still exist that would allow someone in one language to communicate roughly with someone in one of the other languages. Communicating audibly is one thing, written communication is a different thing. The actual written word in each of these languages is quite different in most cases.

When the *Tower of Babel* event took place, the LORD God of creation was not the only god worshiped. In fact, because of His wrath of confusing the languages, perhaps only one of the family lines at the tower still worshipped the LORD – Nimrod surely did not. As the families were dispersed across the world, the various gods of Babel went with them. Ten of the major gods and goddesses of Babel have been depicted in stone carvings found in the area. A short description of each gives a picture of the warped theology developed in Babylon.

Tiamat was a goddess depicted as a dragon who often took the form as a giant dragon to wreak havoc on the younger gods.

Enlil was one of a triad of gods which included *Anu* and *Enki*. *Enlil* was considered the *lord of the air*. He was thought of as the *father of the gods*.

Enki, one of the triad of gods, was considered the *lord of the earth*. His residence was a place called *Abzu*. History tells us that Babylon was built on *Abzu*.

Anu, one of the triad of gods, was considered the *lord of the heavens* and the supreme source of all authority. However, as a god, he was rarely worshipped.

Marduk was the most famous deity of Babylon. He was the son of *Enki* and he was the god who killed the goddess *Tiamat* and carved up her body to create heaven and earth. *Marduk* lived in a temple in Babylon. He is also known as Merodach, Bel and Baal.

Ishtar was the goddess of beauty, sex and desire and a goddess who turned vengeful after she was rejected by the hero god Gilgamesh and she began to war with others after that. The Assyrian kings would pray to her before military campaigns.

Sin was the god of Ur, just south of the city of Babylon. His symbol was the bull and his sign was the waxing moon. He was therefore considered the *moon god*. *Sin* was the first offspring of *Enlil*. *Sin* was also considered the father of *Utu*, the sun god, and *Ishtar*, the goddess of beauty. The name of this same god, *Sin*, the *moon god*, would later be changed and worshipped as *Allah*.

Utu, also known as *Shamash*, was the god of the sun. In Akkadian, he was the son of Enil but in Sumerian he was the son of *Sin* as noted above. The relationship must be a misinterpretation between cultures. His claim to fame is that he was the giver of the laws to Hammurabi in the 18th Century BC.

Nisaba was the goddess of knowledge, writing and scribes. It is said that *Enlil* was her son-in-law.

Ashur was the god of the northern region of Mesopotamia where Abraham would have left after his father's death to go to the Promised Land. *Ashur* took the place of *Enlil* in that area.

Ninkasi was the goddess of beer or alcohol. She symbolized the role of women brewing beverages. A 3,900-year-old poem speaks of her soaking malt in a jar and filtering beer in a vat.

It is amazing how all of these gods have some similarities to the true God. It seems only plausible that the true God was known by Noah and his descendants when they departed the

Ark but by the time of the tower, the family had become rebellious toward the LORD and guilty of immoral adultery in idolatrous relationships to false gods of man's creation. However, just as Adam and Eve did not commit the first sin on their own, they were prodded into it by the *great red dragon*. So, too, the families at the *Tower of Babel* were not alone in their sin, the *great red dragon* had no doubt deceived them into not obeying the LORD and into developing many forms of god like characters. For that, Babylon became the mothers of the *harlots* (world religions) of the world.

6. The Drink of the Great Harlot (17:6)

Rev 17:6 And 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.

This *great harlot* had made it her goal to kill the “**saints**” of the LORD and especially those who boldly told the Gospel message about Jesus being LORD of everything. John saw her “**drunk.**” Dressed in the best, but drunk! John did not understand the meaning of this woman. He knew she was a *harlot*. Surely he knew that *harlots* were disgusting. John also knew about the *beast* she was riding. He had written much about her in the previous pages. But why was this *great harlot* riding the *scarlet beast*? John wonders greatly about this.

a) The Description of Her Beast (17:7)

Rev 17:7 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.

The angel that took John to this wilderness knew exactly what John was thinking at the time. John wanted to know more about the *harlot* and why she was riding this *beast*.

b) The History of Her Beast (17:8a)

Rev 17:8a "The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction.

The angel directly identified this *scarlet beast* as the same creature that the *red dragon* was waiting for when he was standing on the shore of the sea – the *beast from the abyss*. John had already written into the pages of the REVELATION the past, present and future for this *beast*. He knew him well. But as we see, the angel says the *beast* “**was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss.**” Do not be confused with this language. In John's day, the arrival of this *beast* was still in the distant future. For that matter, the arrival of this *beast* is still in our future. The *beast* was alive at one time. The heads of this *beast* tell us that story through the empires of *Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Mede and Persian, Greek and Roman*. But the *Roman Empire* died. After the death of the *Roman Empire*, one day it will reform and when it does, this *great harlot* with all her disgusting acts will be controlling it from the distant wilderness. And the purpose of this *beast* will be to destroy all who are “**witnesses of Jesus.**” Her intent is to spill their blood.

c) The Admirers of Her Beast (17:8b)

Rev 17:8b 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.

By this time in the story, all the seals on the *Book of Life* have been broken for a long time and it is clear whose names are written there and whose are not. Those who see this *beast* arrive will marvel at its existence. For an empire that was dead, to come back to life will seem like a miracle to all who see it happen. But more than that, to see that the *beast* being controlled by a *great harlot* located outside the bounds of the *beast's* empire will amaze even more. Think about the disparity between *Britain, Italy, France, Spain, North Africa, Macedonia, Greece, Turkey, Syria and Egypt* today. For those nations to unite in a new empire is beyond common sense. Today, it seems farfetched for five basically Christian countries to join forces with five basically Islamic countries in a happy union. Looking back in history, a senseless war between those same ten countries carried on from 1095 AD until 1492 AD between the Church and Islam and nothing was gained except many deaths on both sides and the changing of a lot of land here for a lot of land there. For example, Islam may have gained the country of Macedonia in 1453 AD, but it lost Spain to the Church in 1492 AD – a basic trade in square miles of land. The war of swords could not bring those countries together but perhaps, in the future, the war of lies can, led by the *great harlot* of *Babylon*.

d) The Interpretation of Her Beast (17:9-14)

(1) The Identity of the Seven Heads (17:9-10)

Rev 17:9 "Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits,¹⁰ and 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.

Much has been made of these “**seven mountains**” in the Christian commentaries through the ages. Most have landed on the premise that these mountains are the seven hills of Rome; therefore, the city of Rome has become the target of most commentary. Furthermore, because Rome is the target of political power, a quick jump is made to the Catholic Church whose headquarter is in the same city, as the target of religious power. With that basis, the Church becomes the *great harlot* of this passage. A proof passage from Paul’s writing concerning *the great apostasy* still to come before the Second Coming is also attached to the Church in Rome. For emphasis, you will be hard-pressed to pick up a Christian commentary that does not accept this interpretation and interpret the rest of the REVELATION under that light. I categorically reject that premise and interpretation. Even though the REVELATION uses symbolic language, it gives the proper meaning of each symbol shortly after it is presented. In this verse, the meaning is given immediately after the symbol is presented.

This verse states, “**The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, and they are seven kings.**” Thus, we have the interpretation, the “**mountains**” are “**kings.**” We have no need to speculate any further; the seven hills of Rome are not the seven kings – they are just hills. Kings sit on thrones. Thrones are always elevated above the people. Each empire has a king and each king has a throne.

Let us take a moment to review some of the symbols that apply to the *scarlet beast*. The seven heads represented the seven empires that had controlled the *Nation of Israel* in some

form over the ages. The ten horns represented the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar's dream which were interpreted as a combination of the ten countries that were formed when each leg of the Roman Empire died. The ten crowns (diadems) represented the authority of those ten countries. Here, the seven mountains represented the seven thrones of the kings of the seven empires. The person sitting on the throne ruled the empire and he was the emperor. Many rulers might sit in succession on the same throne through the ages as the ruler of the same empire, but the empire had only one ruler at a time. It does not matter to the LORD that five kings sat in succession on the throne of an empire; what matters to the LORD is that the throne of that empire ruled over Israel. This example is found in the Babylonian Empire. Its first king was Nebuchadnezzar, its second Amel-Marduk, its third Neriglissar, its fourth Labashi-Marduk, its fifth Nabonidus. Five men sat on the same throne during the 70-year history of the Babylonian Empire, yet, to the LORD, it was only one throne that ruled over Israel regardless of the names of five humans that served in that position. Therefore, the thrones or **"mountains"** of these seven empires of the world represented the seven sets of **"kings"** who sat in power over the *Nation of Israel*.

In review, as of today in 2018 AD, six of the seven empires have come and gone. Those thrones are gone. However, the last throne of the empire that died will revive; thus, we call the revived empire the *Revived Roman Empire*. When it arrives, it will have a king on the throne; however, that king will be replaced by the king chosen by the *great red dragon*. In other words, seven thrones with sets of kings rightfully held positions in those seven empires, but with the last empire, an eighth king will replace the seventh king of the seventh empire, therefore becoming the replacement for the seventh throne in the seventh empire.

(2) The Heritage of the Eighth Beast (17:11)

Rev 17:11 "The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is *one* of the seven, and he goes to destruction.

When the last empire recovers as the *Revived Roman Empire*, seven thrones of seven empires will be represented by these seven heads of this beast. However, this verse says about the *Revived Empire* that he **"is himself also an eighth and is *one* of the seven, and he goes to destruction."** In order to understand this verse, we must return to chapter seven in the book of Daniel. For background, Daniel was living in the last days of the Babylonian Empire. Belshazzar was acting as king even though he was truly the *king in waiting*. The great Egyptian and Assyrian Empires had already passed. Babylon would soon pass to the Persians. Nebuchadnezzar had already died and so had four other kings. Belshazzar was the son of the last Babylonian king. He was acting as king in the city while his father paid more attention to the luxuries of life than the business of being the emperor. Daniel's numbering of the empires begins with Babylon, not Egypt. Therefore, he starts counting with Babylon being empire one and he will end with the fourth empire being what we call the *Roman Empire*, Daniel says the following.

Da 7:7 "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*.

Daniel sees this *Roman Empire* as it is in its last days before it dies, one nation with ten states. We have made much about these ten states or countries in the past and how the tribes that killed the *Roman Empire* established these ten countries as the *ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar's dream*; the reality is that the conquering nations allowed the ten countries to remain with their original borders even though five were controlled by the Germanic tribes and the other five were controlled by the Ottoman Muslim Turks. Here, *ten horns* still means *ten countries*. For Daniel, these *ten countries* represented the people who live within the borders of *Britain, France, Spain, Italy, North Africa, Macedonia, Greece, Syria, Turkey and Egypt*.

But Daniel sees a *little horn* squeeze in among the *ten*. The *little horn* killed the kings of three of the countries and became the ruler of the empire but also controlled one of the *ten*. Thus, with the resurrection of the *Revived Roman Empire*, the seventh revived head of the beast, the eighth ruler, the *little horn*, was the human emperor of *the first beast* but he will also be the king of one of the *ten countries*.

To be complete, Daniel says that the *Roman Empire* would be killed.

Da 7:11 "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.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.

Verse 12 says, **"but an extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time."** The extension of life means that the slain *Roman Empire* would be granted another life that we are calling the *Revived Roman Empire*.

(3) The Identity of the Ten Horns (17:12)

Rev 17:12 "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.

The REVELATION is looking far into the future and that is the reason this verse says, **"the ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom."** These kings would live on earth many centuries after the days of John. The verse also says that these kings will join in authority **"with the beast for one hour;"** this is an incorrect translation. It should say they will join in authority **"with the beast in the same hour."** Think of it this way. Each country will vote independently to join the *Revived Roman Empire*. When all the voting is done, the leaders of the *ten countries* will meet to sign the final documents. In that hour, they will receive their authority in the new empire.

(a) The Purpose of the Ten Horns (17:13)

Rev 17: 13 "These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast.

Here is the purpose of the uniting of the *ten countries*. It will be to create the *first beast* with all the **“power and authority”** of their combined countries. The people had voted, the people had united. The empire will speak English, French, Spanish, Italian, Greek, Egyptian, Arabic, Syrian, Hebrew, Aramaic and several other languages and many dialects. As we have seen with the *European Economic Union* today, once the people of a nation join with other nations, stepping out of that union is exceedingly more difficult than entering into the agreement.

(b) The War of the Ten Horns (17:14)

Rev 17: 14 "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."

The purpose of the *Revived Roman Empire* will be to join forces for one common goal, to **“wage war against the Lamb.”** For the *Revived Roman Empire*, it is a deadly mistake.

7. The Waters of the Great Harlot (17:15)

Rev 17:15 And he said to me, "The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.

In the introduction to this woman, we were told that she sat **“on many waters.”** We had already mentioned this verse in the last two lessons. It tells us that the **“waters”** she sat on were the **“peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.”** In the commentary on Revelation 17:13 we listed the languages of the people of the *Revived Roman Empire*, here we should mention that there will be one nationality from each of the ten countries but there will also be descendants of all three sons of Noah. No lineage from Noah down will be absent from the population of this empire.

8. The Destruction of the Great Harlot (17:16-18)

a) Destroyed on Earth (17:16)

Rev 17:16 "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.

This *great harlot* is religious and there is one thing people who hate God hate more than God, they hate religion and religious restrictions. They want to live in a world without God looking over their shoulder and convicting them of sin. They cannot stand the churning in their souls when the name of God or any god is brought into the picture. Therefore, it will be the intent of the *beast* to kill this *great harlot* as soon as she is no longer needed.

b) Directed by God (17:17)

Rev 17:17a "For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose,

Here we see an interesting paradox. The *beast* wants the *great harlot* dead and so does God. Furthermore, it was God who put the intent of killing the *great harlot* in the heart of the *beast*. This whole parade is directed by God for God and His purpose.

(1) To Build the Kingdom of the Beast (17:17b)

Rev 17:17b and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled.

We must not run past this verse too quickly. Here we are told that all of the people of the *ten countries* will join together to create *the beast* to kill the *great harlot* and fulfill God's plan. But wait, the *ten countries* will unify behind the religion of the *false prophet* and the *second beast* in order to kill the *great harlot*. The religion of the *Revived Roman Empire* must be one that hates all other religions of the world and will kill as many people as necessary to end those faiths. God wants this *harlot* killed, the *Revived Roman Empire* wants this *harlot* killed and at least one religion of the world wants this *harlot* killed. However, little does the one religion that wants this *harlot* killed realize that it is part of the *great harlot*. Who is this *great harlot*?

(2) To Expose the Woman as the Great City (17:18)

Rev 17:18 "The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth."

Finally, we arrive at the exposing of the *great harlot*; she is the "**great city**" that John saw broken into three sections in *bowl seven* (16:19). This sinful woman has "**reigned over the kings of the earth.**" Which kings? She has reigned over the kings of the *ten countries* that united to form the *Revived Roman Empire*. She has also reigned over the kings of the east that would cross the dried Euphrates River to join this *beast* in the valley of Megiddo. She has also reigned over the past kingdoms of the world in some form or fashion. Her name is *Babylon the Great* and she is the *Mother of Harlots*. She began all the false religions in the world that needed to be destroyed once and for all.