

Book of Revelation

Chapter 17 – Babylon, the “Great Prostitute”

Revelation 17:7-8

- 7 Then the angel said to me: “Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns. 8 The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because it once was, now is not, and yet will come.

Revelation 17:7

- John was “astonished” or “marveled” at the woman
- The angel tells John he will explain the mystery related to the woman and the beast she rides
- This implies John couldn’t really understand it in whatever imagery God revealed it to John
- For now, the beast with 7 heads and 10 horns supplies the woman’s power and purpose

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Revelation 17:8

- As mentioned last week, the beast is the Antichrist
- Some believe the resuscitation refers to the human representation of the beast during Tribulation
- Others believe the resuscitation refers to a previous empire that Antichrist resurrects (e.g. Revised Roman Empire)
- Revelation 13:3 tells us people of earth will be extremely impressed and will delight to follow Antichrist

Revelation 17:9-10

- **9 “This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. 10 They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for only a little while. 11 The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.**

Revelation 17:9

- Wisdom is needed to understand
- 7 heads are 7 hills the woman sits on
- There are many interpretations
 - Rome built on 7 hills
 - Mountains could also refer to both kingdoms and individual kings
 - Therefore Rome may be the center of Antichrist's power
 - The 7 hills/mountains in context could symbolize 7 kingdoms and their kings
 - The woman sits over the seven rulers and empires, but she is not one of them. She exercises authority over them.

Revelation 17:10

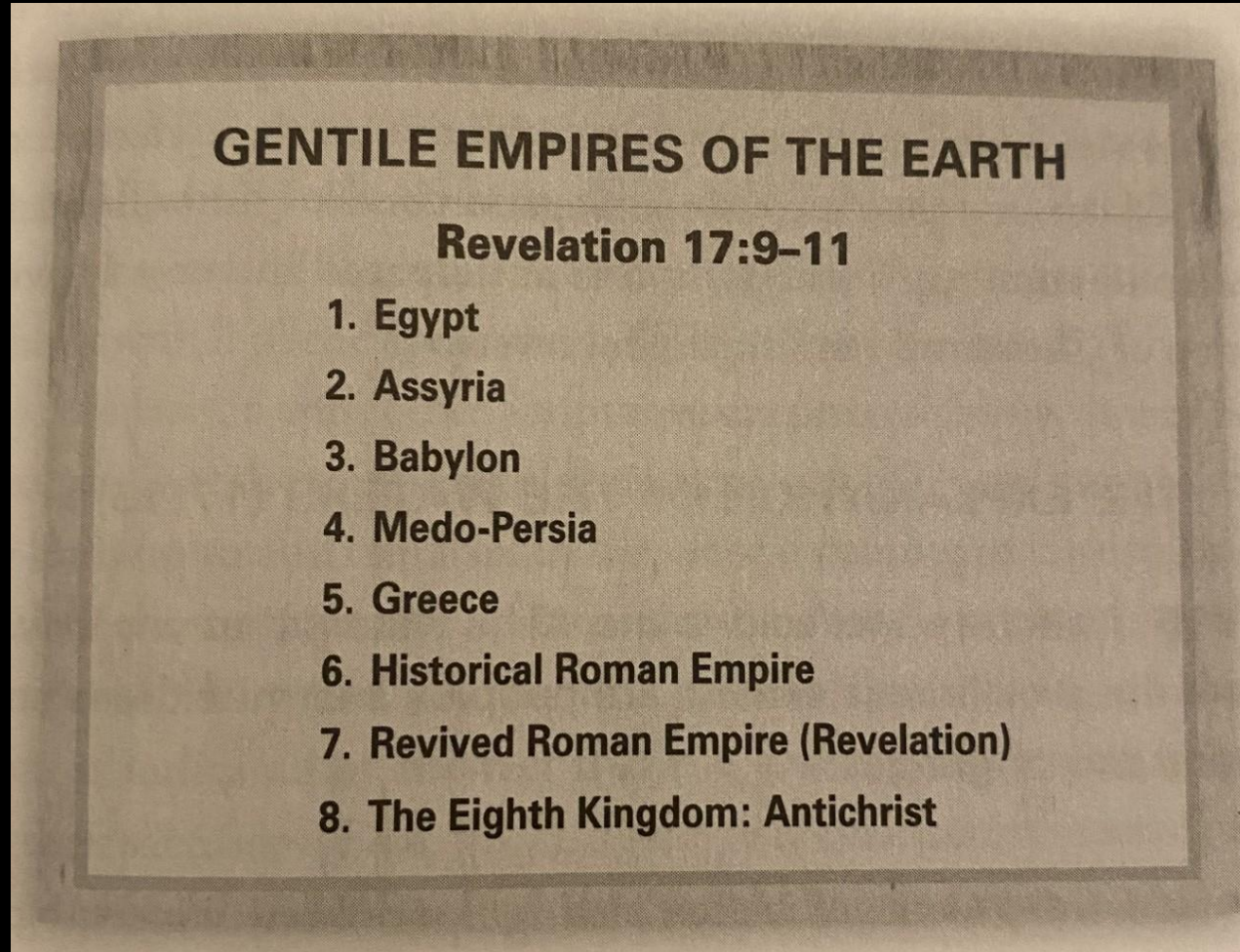
- Seven kings
- Five have fallen (by John's day)
- One is
- The other has not yet come
- Will remain for only a little while
- Who are they?

Revelation 17:10

- Possibly Five previous kingdoms:
 - Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, and Greece
- The one that was during John's day
 - Rome
- The “other” still to come
 - Antichrist's kingdom

Revelation 17:10-11

From Dr. John
Walvoord's notes



Empire #7 is likely the kingdom that comes into play during first part of the Tribulation. This is the “revived Roman Empire”

Empire #8 is the full global kingdom that Antichrist rules over

7th empire is like the previous kingdoms but Antichrist establishes his own kingdom as the 8th on his own

Revelation 17:11

- Jesus will destroy this 8th kingdom at His return
- The Antichrist will be defeated and tossed into Lake of Fire alive
- Every other empire or kingdom throughout history fell to some outside force in some way and even weakened from within
- This 8th kingdom will be directly destroyed by Jesus

Revelation 17:12-14

- 12 “The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. 13 They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. 14 They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.”

Revelation 17:12-14

- Who are these 10 kings?
- We simply do not know and will not know until they take their places
- They will rule for a short period/one hour
- Their purpose is to rule the world
- They will ultimately give their power to the Antichrist
- The 10 rulers will submit to the Antichrist's leadership to achieve this end.
- Antichrist will have to put down three who revolt against him (Daniel 7:24; cf. Revelation 12:3; Revelation 13:1; Revelation 17:3)
- They will fight against the Lamb and lose - Battle of Armageddon

Revelation 17:14

- A group returns with Jesus to the earth at the end of the Tribulation
 - Called
 - Elect
 - Faithful
- One group with three labels signifying ALL true believers including those who died during the Tribulation

Revelation 17:15-18

- 15 Then the angel said to me, “The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages. 16 The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. 17 For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to hand over to the beast their royal authority, until God’s words are fulfilled. 18 The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.”

Revelation 17:15-18

- 15) Angel explains meaning of “waters” – people of the world
- There will essentially be one religious system during Tribulation for all nations
- 16) the Antichrist and his allies eventually destroy/throw off the prostitute
 - They plunder her – steal her wealth
 - Expose her corruption
 - Will consume her as dogs ate Jezebel’s flesh
- Will likely happen at midpoint of Tribulation when Antichrist breaks covenant with Israel and demands to be worshiped as God
- 17) God’s sovereignty decrees this and it is the beginning of the destruction of Satan’s kingdom
- 18) Great City = Babylon

Next Time:

- Revelation 18
 - Death of Commercial Babylon