

Revelation 17 New American Standard Bible

The Doom of Babylon

17 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 prostitute *[the apostate church]* who sits on many waters *[nations, peoples]*,² with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of sexual immorality *[infidelity to YHWH]*, and those who live on the earth became drunk with the wine *[false doctrine]* of her sexual immorality.”³ And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness *[a place of refuge and/or testing]*; and I saw a woman *[church, faithful or faithless]* sitting on a scarlet *[sinful]* beast *[kingdom]*, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.⁴ The woman was clothed in purple *[royalty]* and scarlet *[sin]*, and adorned with gold, precious stones, and pearls, holding in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her sexual immorality,⁵ and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery: “BABYLON *[confusion, apostasy, spiritual bondage]* THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”⁶ And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints *[O.T. believers]*, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus *[N.T. believers]*. When I saw her, I wondered greatly.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 *[blending of church and state]*, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.

⁸ “The beast *[the prince behind this kingdom]* that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction *[Satan was, is now imprisoned, and will be released again]*. And those who live on the earth, whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was, and is not, and will come.⁹ Here is the mind which has wisdom. **The seven heads are**

seven mountains [*kingdoms*] upon which the woman sits, ¹⁰ and they are seven kings [*princes, not necessarily human*]; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come [*as seen from John's time*]; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. ¹¹ **The beast which was, and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven** [*the mortal head wound that lives again?*], and he goes to destruction. ¹² **The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom**, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. ¹³ These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast.

Victory for the Lamb

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.”

¹⁵ And he *said to me, “***The waters which you saw where the prostitute sits are peoples and multitudes, and nations and languages.*** ¹⁶ And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate **the prostitute** and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire. ¹⁷ For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled. ¹⁸ **The woman whom you saw is the great city** [*deceived people, apostate church*], which reigns over the kings of the earth [*Jerusalem reigns over those in heaven – whether literally or figuratively*].”

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Babylon Is Fallen

18 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated from his glory. ²And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird [*deceitful people, enemies or spirits*]. ³For all the nations have fallen because of the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed *acts of* sexual immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich from the excessive wealth of her luxury.”

⁴I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “**Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive *any* of her plagues;** ⁵for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her offenses. ⁶Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back to *her* double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her. ⁷To the extent that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, to the same extent give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, ‘**I sit as a queen and I am not a widow, and will never see mourning** [*people with a dead faith; those who think they are ‘saved’*].’ ⁸For this reason in one day her plagues will come, plague and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong.

Grief over Babylon

⁹“And the kings of the earth, who committed *acts of* sexual immorality and lived luxuriously with her, will weep and mourn over her when they see the smoke of her burning, ¹⁰standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’

¹¹“And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargo any more— ¹²cargo of gold, silver,

precious stones, and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet; every *kind of* citron wood, every article of ivory, and every article *made* from very valuable wood, bronze, iron, and marble; ¹³ cinnamon, spice, incense, perfume, frankincense, wine, olive oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle, sheep, and *cargo* of horses, carriages, slaves, and human lives. ¹⁴ The fruit you long for has left you, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and *people* will no longer find them. ¹⁵ The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning, ¹⁶ saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold, precious stones, and pearls; ¹⁷ for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!’ And every shipmaster *[church leader]* and every passenger and sailor, and all who make their living by the sea *[peoples, multitudes]*, stood at a distance, ¹⁸ and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What *city* is like the great city?’ ¹⁹ And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships *[church or economic power]* at sea became rich from her prosperity, for in one hour she has been laid waste!’ ²⁰ Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her.”

²¹ Then a strong angel picked up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “So will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will never be found again. ²² And the sound of harpists, musicians, flute players, and trumpeters will never be heard in you again; and no craftsman of any craft will ever be found in you again; and the sound of a mill will never be heard in you again; ²³ and the light of a lamp will never shine in you again; and the voice of the groom *[Messiah]* and bride *[faithful believers]* will never be heard in you again; **for your merchants were the powerful people**

of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your witchcraft. ²⁴And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slaughtered on the earth.”