

# Fall of Babylon the Great - Part I

## 17:1-18

### Introductory Notes

- We enter somewhat of a parenthetical section as the fate of “Babylon”
- Chapters 17 and 18 are together part of this passage
- Opinions differ, but it appears that Babylon represents the unholy alliance of (false) religion and government under the control of Satan during the Tribulation.
- Most commentaries that I trust point toward this being based in the Roman Catholic Church and the revived Roman Empire.
- Of everything we’ve covers thus far, I personally feel most confused by these two chapters.

### Outline

- Vision of Mystery Babylon - vs. 1-6
- The Angel’s Interpretation - vs. 7-18

### Notes

- vs. 1 - one of the seven angels - tying us back in to the previous chapter
- vs. 1 - great whore - God’s opinion of “Babylon” and its works are expressed in cold, clear language
- vs. 1 - many waters - represents people, see vs. 15
- vs. 2 - fornication - that is, spiritual adultery. They have taken part in her wickedness. See Book of Hosea for examples of this imagery.
- vs. 2 - made drunk - I think the imagery of riotous living and stupefied thinking applies
- vs. 3 - woman - representing the ecclesiastical “Babylon”. J. Vernon McGee calls it the “anti-church”
- vs. 3 - scarlet coloured beast - representing the imperial “Babylon”
- vs. 4 - arrayed - without going into infinite detail, just note the splendor and richness of this individual.
- vs. 5 - mystery - doesn’t mean that is unknown, merely unrevealed. The works of this Babylon could be traced all the way into Genesis 10-11.
- vs. 6 - Note that Babylon here is responsible for the death of saints (Old Testament) and martyrs (New Testament).
- vs. 6 - admiration - no positive emotions at work here, merely wonder or astonishment.
- vs. 8 - the beast - representing the revived Roman empire and how Satan uses it in the Tribulation period.
- vs. 9 - seven mountains - many see a reference to the famed seven hills of Rome.
- vs. 10 - some see this verse referring to literal rulers, others to forms of government. Any way you interpret it, the conclusion is same in that the Antichrist and his government are in control in the Tribulation
- vs. 11 - I take this as meaning that although the Antichrist’s government is a continuation of the Roman Empire, it is also something different.

- vs. 12 - ten horns - compare to Daniel 7:7
- vs. 14 - as bad as things may seem we know that in the end Christ wins.
- vs. 16 - this appears to reference an overthrow of the Religious Babylon by the Political Babylon. This could be part of the Antichrist's claim to deity at midpoint of Tribulation.
- vs. 17 - this likely does refer to the last half of Tribulation as Antichrist's power rises
- vs. 17 - God - note who is in ultimate control. It is NOT Satan.
- vs. 18 - great city - once again, many believe this to be Rome.