

*Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context*



## Revelation Backgrounds 25

### The Woman Rides The Beast

Revelation 17



1

## Acts 17:11 (KJV)

**These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).



2

### Revelation 17

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk." And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her, I marveled greatly.



3

But the angel said to me, "Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast because it was and is not and is to come. This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction. And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast.



4

They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.” And the angel said to me, “The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, devour her flesh and burn her up with fire, for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast until the words of God are fulfilled. And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth.”



5

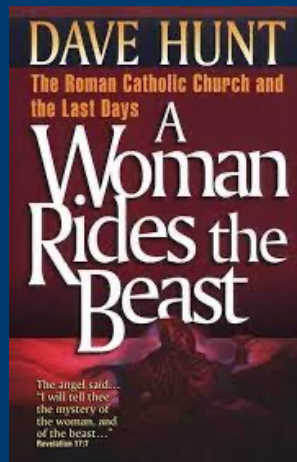
Isaiah 23:16 “Take a harp; go about the city, O forgotten prostitute! Make sweet melody; sing many songs, that you may be remembered.”.

Nah 3:4-5 And all for the countless whorings of the prostitute, graceful and deadly charms, who betrays nations with her whorings, and peoples with her charms. [5] Behold, I am against you, declares the LORD of hosts, and will lift up your skirts over your face; and I will make nations look at your nakedness and kingdoms at your shame.

Deu 23:2 “No one born of a forbidden union may enter the assembly of the LORD. Even to the tenth generation, none of his descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD.



6



1 Pe 5:13 She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son.

Jer 51:7 Babylon was a golden cup in the LORD's hand, making all the earth drunken; the nations drank of her wine; therefore the nations went mad.



7



8





9

## Babylon and Rome

Both empires are the opposite (and opposed to) the Kingdom of Heaven, an “anti-kingdom” to go along with the “anti-Christ.”

Both empires destroyed Jerusalem.

Both empires destroyed the Jewish Temple.

Both empires carried the Jewish people into exile.

10

## Judgment of the Prostitute

Revelation 17:1-2	References
Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk."	<p>Isa 1:21 How the faithful city has become a whore, she who was full of justice! Righteousness lodged in her, but now murderers.</p> <p>Rev 14:8 Another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality."</p>



11

## In the Spirit, in the Wilderness

Revelation 17:3	References
And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns.	<p>Rev 12:14 But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness,</p> <p>Dan 7:24 As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom, ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones and shall put down three kings.</p> <p>Rev 13:1 And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.</p>



12

## Purple, Scarlet, Gold, Jewels and Pearls

### Revelation 17:4

4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality.

### References

Rev 18:3 For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living."



13

## Forehead

### Revelation 17:5

And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations."

### References

Rev 22:4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.



14

## Drunk with the blood of the Martyrs

Revelation 17:6	References
And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her, I marveled greatly.	



15

## Was, is not, and is to come

Revelation 17:7-8	References
But the angel said to me, "Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. 8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast because it was and is not and is to come.	Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come,



16



## One is Not Yet

### Revelation 17:9-11

This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; they are **also** seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, **the other has not yet come**, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but belongs to the seven and goes to destruction.

### References



17

## Ten Horns – Not Yet

### Revelation 17:12-13

And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings **who have not yet received royal power**, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. 13 These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast.

### References

Daniel 7:24 As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom, ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones and put down three kings.



18

## Make war on the Lamb

### Revelation 17:14

They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful."

### References

Deut 10:17 For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.



19

## Kings turn on the Harlot

### Revelation 17:15-16

And the angel said to me, "The **waters** that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire,

### References

Jer 51:11-14 "Sharpen the arrows! Take up the shields! The LORD has stirred up the spirit of the kings of the Medes because his purpose concerning Babylon is to destroy it, for that is the vengeance of the LORD, the vengeance for his temple.[12] "Set up a standard against the walls of Babylon; make the watch strong; set up watchmen; prepare the ambushes; for the LORD has both planned and done what he spoke concerning the inhabitants of Babylon. [13] O you who dwell by many waters, rich in treasures, your end has come; the thread of your life is cut. [14] The LORD of hosts has sworn by himself: Surely I will fill you with men, as many as locusts, and they shall raise the shout of victory over you.



20

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### References

Eze 16:37 therefore, behold, I will gather all your lovers with whom you took pleasure, all those you loved and all those you hated. I will gather them against you from every side and will uncover your nakedness to them, that they may see all your nakedness.

Eze 23:35 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Because you have forgotten me and cast me behind your back, you yourself must bear the consequences of your lewdness and whoring."



21

## Kings turn on the Harlot

### Revelation 17:15-16

And the angel said to me, "The **waters** that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and **burn her up with fire,**

### References

Eze 16:37 therefore, behold, I will gather all your lovers with whom you took pleasure, all those you loved and all those you hated. I will gather them against you from every side and will uncover your nakedness to them, that they may see all your nakedness.

Eze 23:35 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Because you have forgotten me and cast me behind your back, you yourself must bear the consequences of your lewdness and whoring."

Lev 21:9 And the daughter of any priest, if she profanes herself by whoring, profanes her father; she shall be burned with fire.



22

## God can use the wicked to accomplish His purposes

### Revelation 17:17

for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast until the words of God are fulfilled.

### References

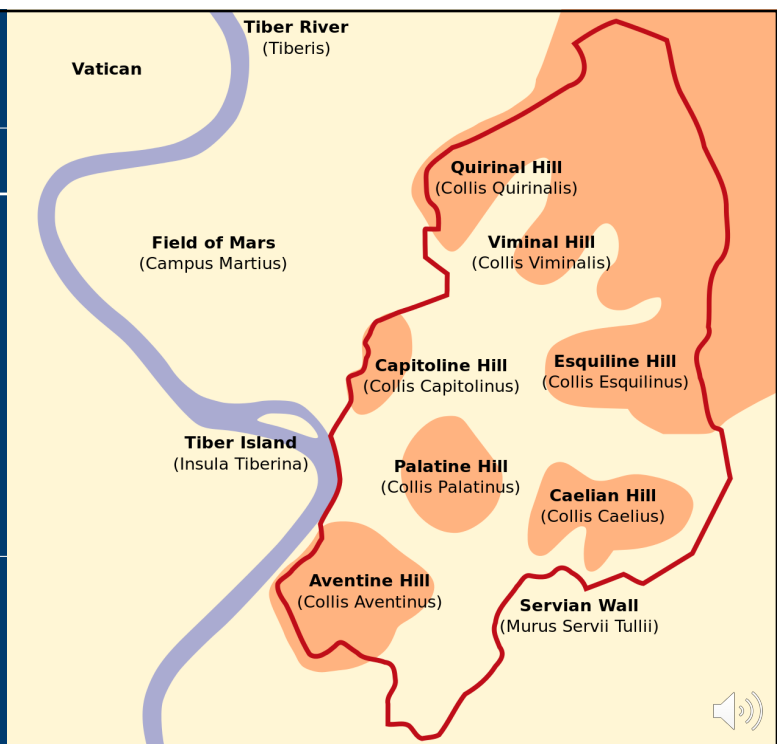
1 Kings 22:23 “the Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets.”



23

### Revelation 17:18

18 And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth.”



24

	<b>Israel Chapter 12</b>	<b>Woman riding Beast Chapter 17</b>
<b>Where?</b>	<b>In Heaven</b>	<b>Upon many waters</b>
<b>Mother</b>	<b>Of Man-Child</b>	<b>Of Harlots</b>
<b>Clothed with</b>	<b>With sun</b>	<b>Purple, Scarlet , Gold</b>
<b>Identity</b>	<b>Sun, Moon, Stars</b>	<b>Reigns over Kings of the Earth</b>
<b>Enemy</b>	<b>Dragon</b>	<b>10 Kings (Ultimately)</b>
<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Hated by world</b>	<b>Caressed by world</b>
<b>Sustained by</b>	<b>Wings of heaven</b>	<b>Dragon</b>
<b>Headdress</b>	<b>Crown of 12 stars</b>	<b>Mystery Babylon the Great</b>
<b>Status</b>	<b>Widowed, divorced</b>	<b>“Am no widow...”</b>
<b>Final location</b>	<b>New Jerusalem</b>	<b>Habitation of demons</b>



25



26