

# WHO IS THE HARLOT OF REVELATION 17 AND 18?

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## INTRODUCTION

Many Christians believe that the Harlot of Revelation 17-18 is the Catholic Church because Revelation 17:9 says that there are seven hills on which the woman sits and Rome is built on seven literal hills. Many other Christians believe that Jerusalem is the Harlot because she is called a harlot in Ezekiel 16:1,35. Yet another idea is that the Harlot of Revelation is a worldwide religious system. Since the name of the Harlot is Babylon the Great in Revelation 17:5, in this article we will go through all the scriptures in the Bible having to do with the prophecies about Babylon. Revelation 17 and 18 do not tell us who the Harlot is. But we do not need to guess or assume. There are scriptures that do tell us who she is. And she is NOT who most Christians think she is.

## THE BEGINNING OF BABYLON

The first mention of Babylon is in Genesis 10:6-10, 11:1-9. Here we see the beginning of Babel or Babylon. The children of Noah found a plain in Shinar to dwell in. Because they were united and all of one language, they proceeded to build a government under the 'mighty man' or dictator, Nimrod the great grandson of Noah. They built the Tower of Babel or ziggurat as the expression of their pagan religion. From Babel God confused their language and scattered them abroad throughout the earth. Thus verse 9 tells us that the name Babel or Babylon means 'confusion'. Wherever they went from Babel they carried their pagan ideas with them. Thus Babylon is the very cradle of all pagan cultures. Just as Eve is called the 'mother of all living', in Revelation 17:5 Babylon is called the 'mother of harlots and abominations of the earth' because every pagan nation had their beginnings when they were scattered abroad from her.

Although the children of Noah at first left off to build the city of Babylon in its full glory because they were scattered, it was eventually built and became the center of a great world empire twice in its history, once in the reign of Hammurabi, the sixth king of the First Babylonian Dynasty, who reigned from 1792 BC to 1750 BC and later in the reign of Nebuchadnezzar in the Neo Babylonian Empire from 605-562 BC.

Gen 10:6 And the sons of Ham; Cush, and Mizraim, and Phut, and Canaan.

Gen 10:7 And the sons of Cush; Seba, and Havilah, and Sabtah, and Raamah, and Sabtecha: and the sons of Raamah; Sheba, and Dedan.

Gen 10:8 And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.

Gen 10:9 He was a mighty hunter before the Lord: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord.

Gen 10:10 And the beginning of his kingdom was BABEL, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

Gen 11:1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

Gen 11:2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.

Gen 11:3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.

Gen 11:4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

Gen 11:5 And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

Gen 11:6 And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

Gen 11:7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

Gen 11:8 So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

Gen 11:9 Therefore is the name of it called BABEL; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

## **OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES ABOUT BABYLON**

In Isaiah 13 verse 6 we see that a destruction of Babylon is to take place at the time of the Day of the Lord. In verse 5 we see that the 'whole land' shall be destroyed. In verse 11 the whole land includes the 'whole world'. Some have interpreted this to mean that Babylon is a 'whole-world religious system as we mentioned in the Introduction'.

Other evidence that this destruction of Isaiah 13 is the same as the Day of the Lord in Revelation 17-18 is that the heavenly signs are mentioned in verse 10. We know from Revelation 6:12-17 that the Day of the Lord begins at the end of the Sixth Seal after the heavenly signs. Another fulfillment of the Sixth Seal is the shaking of the heavens and the earth mentioned here in verse 13.

Isa 13:1 The burden of BABYLON, which Isaiah the son of Amoz did see.

Isa 13:2 Lift ye up a banner upon the high mountain, exalt the voice unto them, shake the hand, that they may go into the gates of the nobles.

Isa 13:3 I have commanded my sanctified ones, I have also called my mighty ones for mine anger, even them that rejoice in my highness.

Isa 13:4 The noise of a multitude in the mountains, like as of a great people; a tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together: the Lord of Hosts mustereth the host of the battle.

Isa 13:5 They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, even the Lord, and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole land.

Isa 13:6 Howl ye; for the Day of the Lord is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.

Isa 13:7 Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt:

Isa 13:8 And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames.

Isa 13:9 Behold, the Day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to

lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

Isa 13:10 For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

Isa 13:11 And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

Isa 13:12 I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.

Isa 13:13 Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the Lord of Hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.

Continuing in Isaiah 13, notice in verse 17 that the Medes are to be brought against Babylon. Putting these scriptures together shows the dual prophesy of the destruction of Babylon. The first destruction was when the city was conquered by the Medes and Persians at the end of the seventy years of Judah's captivity. The second and final destruction will take place in the Day of the Lord at the second coming of Christ

Babylon fell to Cyrus the Mede in 539 BC. From that time it continued to fall until it ended up laying under the sands for many centuries. It fell to Alexander the Great who died there in 323 BC. It fell to the Parthians in the second century BC. Ultimately the walls were pulled down in 363 AD. Babylon steadily declined over these years until it became practically nonexistent. But Babylon was never destroyed suddenly and violently like Sodom and Gomorrah as verse 19 tells us. Therefore, this great destruction from which Babylon shall never rise again nor be inhabited even by anyone pitching a tent there has not been fulfilled yet. Revelation 18:8 confirms this sudden violent destruction saying that all these plagues shall come upon Babylon 'in one day'

Isa 13:14 And it shall be as the chased roe, and as a sheep that no man taketh up: they shall every man turn to his own people, and flee every one into his own land.

Isa 13:15 Every one that is found shall be thrust through; and every one that is joined unto them shall fall by the sword.

Isa 13:16 Their children also shall be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be spoiled, and their wives ravished.

Isa 13:17 Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, which shall not regard silver; and as for gold, they shall not delight in it.

Isa 13:18 Their bows also shall dash the young men to pieces; and they shall have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eye shall not spare children.

Isa 13:19 And BABYLON, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

Isa 13:20 It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there.

Isa 13:21 But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and owls shall dwell there, and satyrs shall dance there.

Isa 13:22 And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in their pleasant palaces: and her time is near to come, and her days shall not be

prolonged.

Here in Isaiah 14 we see another prophesy which takes place after the final destruction of Babylon. God will again set Israel in their own land and they shall come to rule over the Babylonians who once ruled over them. We will find other scriptures in this context of the destruction of Babylon showing the restoration and conversion of Israel and Judah.

Isa 14:1 For the Lord will have mercy on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel, and set them in their own land: and the strangers shall be joined with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob.

Isa 14:2 And the people shall take them, and bring them to their place: and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of the Lord for servants and handmaids: and they shall take them captives, whose captives they were; and they shall rule over their oppressors.

This is a prophesy of the King of Babylon and his final destruction. As we know from Revelation, the woman Babylon is sitting on the head of the Beast with the seven heads and ten horns. This King of Babylon then, must refer to that end-time Beast of Revelation 13. After his destruction, verse 7 and 8 tell us that the whole earth shall be at rest and break forth into singing.

Isa 14:3 And it shall come to pass in the day that the Lord shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve,

Isa 14:4 That thou shalt take up this proverb against the King of BABYLON, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!

Isa 14:5 The Lord hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers.

Isa 14:6 He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth.

Isa 14:7 The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing.

Isa 14:8 Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us.

Continuing in chapter 14 is a prophesy of the death of the Beast called the King of Babylon. The dead kings of the earth are amazed that he is become as weak and worm covered as they are.

Isa 14:9 Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations.

Isa 14:10 All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us?

Isa 14:11 Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee.

Here this final King of Babylon is compared with Satan himself and his attitudes and ambitions.

Isa 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Isa 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

Isa 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.  
Isa 14:15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.  
Isa 14:16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;  
Isa 14:17 That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?

Here we are told that this final King of Babylon shall be slain with the sword, but then will be cast out of his grave like an abominable branch. How similar this is to the Beast in Revelation 13:3 who has a deadly wound that is healed. The reason he is cast out of his grave is that he shall not die in glory and honor like other kings and lie in his own house. But in verse 19 he shall be like a carcass trodden under feet. Revelation 19:20 tells us that the Beast shall be cast into the lake of fire. Malachi 4:3 then tells us that those who are burned up shall be ashes trodden under feet, 'And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of Hosts.' Satan shall have a similar fate. He will be temporarily cast into the bottomless pit (Rev 20:3), but Revelation 20:10 tells us that he will ultimately be cast into the lake of fire where he will be tormented forever. This dishonorable death and trampling under feet is the fate of all the wicked.

Isa 14:18 All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house.

Isa 14:19 But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcass trodden under feet.

Isa 14:20 Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people: the seed of evildoers shall never be renowned.

Here, even the children of the final King of Babylon shall be destroyed. They will not be allowed to rebuild cities. We don't know from this whether the Beast will have literal children or whether his children, like John 8:44 explains about Satan's children, will be those who do his works

Isa 14:21 Prepare slaughter for his children for the iniquity of their fathers; that they do not rise, nor possess the land, nor fill the face of the world with cities.

Isa 14:22 For I will rise up against them, saith the Lord of Hosts, and cut off from BABYLON the name, and remnant, and son, and nephew, saith the Lord.

Isa 14:23 I will also make it a possession for the bittern, and pools of water: and I will sweep it with the besom of destruction, saith the Lord of hosts.

According to Jamiesson, Fausset Brown Commentary, Isaiah 21:1-10. is a repetition of the assurance given in the thirteenth and fourteenth chapters to the Jews who are about to be taken captive to Babylon, that their enemy will be destroyed and they will be delivered. Isaiah does not narrate the events, but graphically supposes himself in verse 6 to be a watchman in Babylon beholding the events as they pass. In verse 2 he sees a destruction of Babylon by the Persians, here called Elam, which was a province of Persia, the original place of their settlement (Gen 10:22). In verse 9 he saw the final destruction where 'Babylon is fallen' in the Day of the Lord. Please see the Jamiesson Fausset Brown Commentary for a more detailed explanation of the verses.

Isa 21:1 The burden of the desert of the sea. As whirlwinds in the south pass through; so it cometh from the desert, from a terrible land.

Isa 21:2 A grievous vision is declared unto me; the treacherous dealer dealeth treacherously, and the spoiler spoileth. Go up, O Elam: besiege, O Media; all the sighing thereof have I made to cease.

Isa 21:3 Therefore are my loins filled with pain: pangs have taken hold upon me, as the pangs of a woman that travaileth: I was bowed down at the hearing of it; I was dismayed at the seeing of it.

Isa 21:4 My heart panted, fearfulness affrighted me: the night of my pleasure hath he turned into fear unto me.

Isa 21:5 Prepare the table, watch in the watchtower, eat, drink: arise, ye princes, and anoint the shield.

Isa 21:6 For thus hath the Lord said unto me, Go, set a watchman, let him declare what he seeth.

Isa 21:7 And he saw a chariot with a couple of horsemen, a chariot of asses, and a chariot of camels; and he hearkened diligently with much heed:

Isa 21:8 And he cried, A lion: My Lord, I stand continually upon the watchtower in the daytime, and I am set in my ward whole nights:

Isa 21:9 And, behold, here cometh a chariot of men, with a couple of horsemen. And he answered and said, Babylon is fallen, is fallen; and all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground.

Isa 21:10 O my threshing, and the corn of my floor: that which I have heard of the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel, have I declared unto you.

These verses, especially verse 6, show us that Babylon the Great of Revelation 17 and 18 is THE ACTUAL CITY to which the Jews were taken into captivity.

Isa 47:1 Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of BABYLON, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate.

Isa 47:2 Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers.

Isa 47:3 Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet thee as a man.

Isa 47:4 As for our redeemer, the Lord of hosts is his name, the Holy One of Israel.

Isa 47:5 Sit thou silent, and get thee into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called, The lady of kingdoms.

Isa 47:6 I was wroth with my people, I have polluted mine inheritance, and given them into thine hand: thou didst shew them no mercy; upon the ancient hast thou very heavily laid thy yoke.

Continuing in chapter 47 we find several scriptures which parallel those about Babylon in Revelation. 18 and these are set forth in a table at the end of this article. Compare verses 7 and 8 with Revelation 18:7. Compare verse 9 with Revelation 18:8 and 23. These show that the Old Testament and New are talking about the very same Babylon.

Isa 47:7 And thou saidst, I shall be a lady for ever: so that thou didst not lay these things

to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of it.

Isa 47:8 Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children:

Isa 47:9 But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments.

Isa 47:10 For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me.

Isa 47:11 Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, which thou shalt not know.

Isa 47:12 Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail.

Isa 47:13 Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee.

Isa 47:14 Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it.

Isa 47:15 Thus shall they be unto thee with whom thou hast laboured, even thy merchants, from thy youth: they shall wander every one to his quarter; none shall save thee.

Notice here how the Lord talks to his people who were taken captive to Babylon. He knows their transgressions, but he reminds them that he loves them and assures them that his arm shall be on the Chaldeans and he will do his pleasure on Babylon. As we mentioned in the Introduction, there are Christians who think that Jerusalem is Babylon the Mother of Harlots, but the difference made here between the Jews and Babylon especially in verse 20 shows that this cannot be so.

Compare verse 20 with Revelation 18:4.

Also here in verse 20 we find the command to go forth from Babylon. This cannot only mean to flee from the actual city. It must also be a message to God's people to depart from all forms of idolatry which Babylon was the source of.

Isa 48:1 Hear ye this, O house of Jacob, which are called by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, which swear by the name of the Lord, and make mention of the God of Israel, but not in truth, nor in righteousness.

Isa 48:2 For they call themselves of the holy city, and stay themselves upon the God of Israel; The Lord of hosts is his name.

Isa 48:3 I have declared the former things from the beginning; and they went forth out of my mouth, and I shewed them; I did them suddenly, and they came to pass.

Isa 48:4 Because I knew that thou art obstinate, and thy neck is an iron sinew, and thy brow brass;

Isa 48:5 I have even from the beginning declared it to thee; before it came to pass I shewed it thee: lest thou shouldest say, Mine idol hath done them, and my graven image, and my molten image, hath commanded them.

Isa 48:6 Thou hast heard, see all this; and will not ye declare it? I have shewed thee new things from this time, even hidden things, and thou didst not know them.

Isa 48:7 They are created now, and not from the beginning; even before the day when thou heardest them not; lest thou shouldest say, Behold, I knew them.

Isa 48:8 Yea, thou heardest not; yea, thou knewest not; yea, from that time that thine ear was not opened: for I knew that thou wouldest deal very treacherously, and wast called a transgressor from the womb.

Isa 48:9 For my name's sake will I defer mine anger, and for my praise will I refrain for thee, that I cut thee not off.

Isa 48:10 Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.

Isa 48:11 For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another.

Isa 48:12 Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last.

Isa 48:13 Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together.

Isa 48:14 All ye, assemble yourselves, and hear; which among them hath declared these things? The Lord hath loved him: he will do his pleasure on Babylon, and his arm shall be on the Chaldeans.

Isa 48:15 I, even I, have spoken; yea, I have called him: I have brought him, and he shall make his way prosperous.

Isa 48:16 Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord God, and his Spirit, hath sent me.

Isa 48:17 Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.

Isa 48:18 O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea:

Isa 48:19 Thy seed also had been as the sand, and the offspring of thy bowels like the gravel thereof; his name should not have been cut off nor destroyed from before me.

Isa 48:20 Go ye forth of Babylon, flee ye from the Chaldeans, with a voice of singing declare ye, tell this, utter it even to the end of the earth; say ye, The Lord hath redeemed his servant Jacob.

Isa 48:21 And they thirsted not when he led them through the deserts: he caused the waters to flow out of the rock for them: he clave the rock also, and the waters gushed out.

Isa 48:22 There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked.

Here, the Lord says that he will send Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon to destroy many nations,

but after seventy years he will punish Babylon. Verse 12 says that the Lord will make Babylon perpetual desolations. We have already learned from Isaiah 13 that this will happen in the Day of the Lord.

Jer 25:8 Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts; Because ye have not heard my words,

Jer 25:9 Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the Lord, and Nebuchadnezzar the King of BABYLON, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations.

Jer 25:10 Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle.

Jer 25:11 And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

Jer 25:12 And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the King of BABYLON, and that nation, saith the Lord, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.

Jer 25:13 And I will bring upon that land all my words which I have pronounced against it, even all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah hath prophesied against all the nations.

Jer 25:14 For many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of them also: and I will recompense them according to their deeds, and according to the works of their own hands.

Here in Jeremiah 50 are the only gods spoken of in the prophecies against Babylon, Bel or Baal and Merodach or Marduk. Marduk (also known as Bel) was the god of the city of Babylon probably from the time Babylon rose to supremacy under Hammurabi (1792-1750 BC). The symbol of Marduk is the pickax and his emblematic animal is a composite serpent-dragon with a name derived from the Sumerian mush-hush, "fire-red dragon" [Ref 1] The symbol of the dragon is pictured over and over again on the Ishtar Gate in Babylon.

The temple of Marduk covered inside with gold was called Esagila (house whose top is lofty) and the adjacent tower (ziggurat - tower of Babel) was called Etemenanki (house of the terrace-platform of heaven and earth.) The temple tower or ziggurat was not only found in Babylon, but was the principal form of religious building all over ancient Mesopotamia. These were built from the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium BC to 600 BC. Constructed of mud-brick, they rose in stepped stages to a small temple or sanctuary at the peak and are said to be a meeting place between heaven and earth. They are built on seven levels representing seven 'heavens' and planes of existence. Nebuchadnezzar (604-562 BC) was said to affirm in grateful prayer that it was Marduk who had entrusted him with kingship over all people. [Ref 2] He finished and restored the great ziggurat which his father had begun.

It has occurred to me that the mention of the seven hills on which the woman sits in Revelation 17:9 could refer to this tower of Babel which is built on seven foundations.) (It has also occurred to me that the god of Babylon, Marduk, described as a fire red dragon, fits the description of

Satan, the dragon who shall give the Beast of Revelation 13:2 his power and seat and great authority.

Jer 50:1 The word that the Lord spake against BABYLON and against the land of the Chaldeans by Jeremiah the prophet.

Jer 50:2 Declare ye among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard; publish, and conceal not: say, BABYLON is taken, Bel is confounded, Merodach is broken in pieces; her idols are confounded, her images are broken in pieces.

Compare again the underlined in these verses with Revelation 18:4. And in Jeremiah 50 verses 17-20 we again find the promise of restoration of Israel and Judah at the destruction of Babylon. The latter day restoration will be much greater than the former restoration under Cyrus, the King of Persia, because in this restoration Israel and Judah will be converted and will make a perpetual covenant with God as it says in verse 5.

Jer 50:3 For out of the north there cometh up a nation against her, which shall make her land desolate, and none shall dwell therein: they shall remove, they shall depart, both man and beast.

Jer 50:4 In those days, and in that time, saith the Lord, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the Lord their God.

Jer 50:5 They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten.

Jer 50:6 My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their resting place.

Jer 50:7 All that found them have devoured them: and their adversaries said, We offend not, because they have sinned against the Lord, the habitation of justice, even the Lord, the hope of their fathers.

Here we find another prophecy concerning the restoration and conversion of Israel and Judah at the time of the destruction of Babylon, saying in verse 20 that at that time the sins of Israel and Judah shall not be found.

Jer 50:8 Remove out of the midst of BABYLON, and go forth out of the land of the Chaldeans, and be as the he goats before the flocks.

Jer 50:9 For, lo, I will raise and cause to come up against BABYLON an assembly of great nations from the north country: and they shall set themselves in array against her; from thence she shall be taken: their arrows shall be as of a mighty expert man; none shall return in vain.

Jer 50:10 And Chaldea shall be a spoil: all that spoil her shall be satisfied, saith the Lord.

Jer 50:11 Because ye were glad, because ye rejoiced, O ye destroyers of mine heritage, because ye are grown fat as the heifer at grass, and bellow as bulls;

Jer 50:12 Your mother shall be sore confounded; she that bare you shall be ashamed: behold, the hindermost of the nations shall be a wilderness, a dry land, and a desert.

Jer 50:13 Because of the wrath of the Lord it shall not be inhabited, but it shall be wholly desolate: every one that goeth by BABYLON shall be astonished, and hiss at all

her plagues.

Jer 50:14 Put yourselves in array against BABYLON round about: all ye that bend the bow, shoot at her, spare no arrows: for she hath sinned against the Lord.

Jer 50:15 Shout against her round about: she hath given her hand: her foundations are fallen, her walls are thrown down: for it is the vengeance of the Lord: take vengeance upon her; as she hath done, do unto her.

Jer 50:16 Cut off the sower from BABYLON, and him that handleth the sickle in the time of harvest: for fear of the oppressing sword they shall turn every one to his people, and they shall flee every one to his own land.

Jer 50:17 Israel is a scattered sheep; the lions have driven him away: first the king of Assyria hath devoured him; and last this Nebuchadnezzar king of BABYLON hath broken his bones.

Jer 50:18 Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will punish the king of BABYLON and his land, as I have punished the king of Assyria.

Jer 50:19 And I will bring Israel again to his habitation, and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan, and his soul shall be satisfied upon mount Ephraim and Gilead.

Jer 50:20 In those days, and in that time, saith the Lord, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.

Here in verse 21 according to the Jamiesson, Fausset, Brown Commentary, Merathaim is a symbolical name for Babylon, meaning the doubly rebellious against God. Compare Jeremiah 50:24, "thou hast striven against the Lord"; and Jeremiah 50:29, "proud against the Lord." The "doubly" refers to: first, the Assyrian's oppression of Israel and second, the kindred Chaldean's oppression of Judah. Also in verse 21 Pekod ( Eze 23:23 ); refers to a chief province of Assyria in which Nineveh, now overthrown, once lay. But, as in Merathaim, the allusion is to the meaning of Pekod, namely, "visitation". The inhabitants whose time of deserved visitation in punishment is come. The visitation on Babylon was a following up of that on Assyria. Again we find the prophecy that God will destroy Babylon as he overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah so that no man will dwell there forever.

Jer 50:21 Go up against the land of Merathaim, even against it, and against the inhabitants of Pekod: waste and utterly destroy after them, saith the Lord, and do according to all that I have commanded thee.

Jer 50:22 A sound of battle is in the land, and of great destruction.

Jer 50:23 How is the hammer of the whole earth cut asunder and broken! how is BABYLON become a desolation among the nations!

Jer 50:24 I have laid a snare for thee, and thou art also taken, O BABYLON, and thou wast not aware: thou art found, and also caught, because thou hast striven against the Lord.

Jer 50:25 The Lord hath opened his armoury, and hath brought forth the weapons of his indignation: for this is the work of the Lord God of hosts in the land of the Chaldeans.

Jer 50:26 Come against her from the utmost border, open her storehouses: cast her up as heaps, and destroy her utterly: let nothing of her be left.

Jer 50:27 Slay all her bullocks; let them go down to the slaughter: woe unto them! for their day is come, the time of their visitation.

Jer 50:28 The voice of them that flee and escape out of the land of BABYLON, to declare in Zion the vengeance of the Lord our God, the vengeance of his temple.

Jer 50:29 Call together the archers against BABYLON: all ye that bend the bow, camp against it round about; let none thereof escape: recompense her according to her work; according to all that she hath done, do unto her: for she hath been proud against the Lord, against the Holy One of Israel.

Jer 50:30 Therefore shall her young men fall in the streets, and all her men of war shall be cut off in that day, saith the Lord.

Jer 50:31 Behold, I am against thee, O thou most proud, saith the Lord God of hosts: for thy day is come, the time that I will visit thee.

Jer 50:32 And the most proud shall stumble and fall, and none shall raise him up: and I will kindle a fire in his cities, and it shall devour all round about him.

Jer 50:33 Thus saith the Lord of Hosts; The children of Israel and the children of Judah were oppressed together: and all that took them captives held them fast; they refused to let them go.

Jer 50:34 Their Redeemer is strong; the Lord of hosts is his name: he shall thoroughly plead their cause, that he may give rest to the land, and disquiet the inhabitants of BABYLON.

Jer 50:35 A sword is upon the Chaldeans, saith the Lord, and upon the inhabitants of BABYLON, and upon her princes, and upon her wise men.

Jer 50:36 A sword is upon the liars; and they shall dote: a sword is upon her mighty men; and they shall be dismayed.

Jer 50:37 A sword is upon their horses, and upon their chariots, and upon all the mingled people that are in the midst of her; and they shall become as women: a sword is upon her treasures; and they shall be robbed.

Jer 50:38 A drought is upon her waters; and they shall be dried up: for it is the land of graven images, and they are mad upon their idols.

Jer 50:39 Therefore the wild beasts of the desert with the wild beasts of the islands shall dwell there, and the owls shall dwell therein: and it shall be no more inhabited for ever; neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation.

Jer 50:40 As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour cities thereof, saith the Lord; so shall no man abide there, neither shall any son of man dwell therein.

Continuing in Jeremiah 50 we can compare Jeremiah 51:6 with Revelation 18:4. Jeremiah 50:41 refers to the first destruction of Babylon by Cyrus, coming from the north. The verse then talks about the final destruction of Babylon by many kings who are raised up from the coasts of the earth. These kings according to Revelation 17: 12,16-17 are the ten horns of the Beast who shall hate the harlot Babylon and burn her with fire. Also notice again that the Lord assures Judah and Israel in chapter 51 verse 5 that they have not been forsaken even though they have sinned. Thus we can see that the Jews are not spiritual Babylon.

Jer 50:41 Behold, a people shall come from the north, and a great nation, and many kings shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth.

Jer 50:42 They shall hold the bow and the lance: they are cruel, and will not shew mercy: their voice shall roar like the sea, and they shall ride upon horses, every one put in array, like a man to the battle, against thee, O daughter of BABYLON.

Jer 50:43 The king of BABYLON hath heard the report of them, and his hands waxed feeble: anguish took hold of him, and pangs as of a woman in travail.

Jer 50:44 Behold, he shall come up like a lion from the swelling of Jordan unto the habitation of the strong: but I will make them suddenly run away from her: and who is a chosen man, that I may appoint over her? for who is like me? and who will appoint me the time? and who is that shepherd that will stand before me?

Jer 50:45 Therefore hear ye the counsel of the Lord, that he hath taken against BABYLON; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the land of the Chaldeans: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out: surely he shall make their habitation desolate with them.

Jer 50:46 At the noise of the taking of BABYLON the earth is moved, and the cry is heard among the nations.

Jer 51:1 Thus saith the Lord; Behold, I will raise up against BABYLON, and against them that dwell in the midst of them that rise up against me, a destroying wind;

Jer 51:2 And will send unto BABYLON fanners, that shall fan her, and shall empty her land: for in the day of trouble they shall be against her round about.

Jer 51:3 Against him that bendeth let the archer bend his bow, and against him that lifteth himself up in his brigandine: and spare ye not her young men; destroy ye utterly all her host.

Jer 51:4 Thus the slain shall fall in the land of the Chaldeans, and they that are thrust through in her streets.

Jer 51:5 For Israel hath not been forsaken, nor Judah of his God, of the Lord of hosts; though their land was filled with sin against the Holy One of Israel.

Jer 51:6 Flee out of the midst of BABYLON, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the Lord's vengeance; he will render unto her a recompence.

Compare verse 7 with Revelation 17:4. Compare verse 8 with Revelation 18:2 Compare verse 9 with Revelation 18:5 Compare verse 13 with Revelation 17:1,15. There can be no doubt that the city of Babylon is the very same Babylon the Great spoken of in Revelation. Verse 11 speaks of the destruction under Cyrus, the King of the Medes.

Jer 51:7 BABYLON hath been a golden cup in the Lord's hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.

Jer 51:8 BABYLON is suddenly fallen and destroyed: howl for her; take balm for her pain, if so be she may be healed.

Jer 51:9 We would have healed BABYLON, but she is not healed: forsake her, and let us go every one into his own country: for her judgment reacheth unto Heaven, and is lifted up even to the skies.

Jer 51:10 The Lord hath brought forth our righteousness: come, and let us declare in Zion the work of the Lord our God.

Jer 51:11 Make bright the arrows; gather the shields: the Lord hath raised up the spirit of the Kings of the Medes: for his device is against BABYLON, to destroy it; because it is the vengeance of the Lord, the vengeance of his temple.

Jer 51:12 Set up the standard upon the walls of BABYLON, make the watch strong, set up the watchmen, prepare the ambushes: for the Lord hath both devised and done that which he spake against the inhabitants of BABYLON.

Jer 51:13 O thou that dwellest upon many waters, abundant in treasures, thine end is come, and the measure of thy covetousness.

Jer 51:14 The Lord of hosts hath sworn by himself, saying, Surely I will fill thee with men, as with caterpillers; and they shall lift up a shout against thee.

Jer 51:15 He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heaven by his understanding.

Jer 51:16 When he uttereth his voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens; and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth: he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures.

Jer 51:17 Every man is brutish by his knowledge; every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image is falsehood, and there is no breath in them.

Jer 51:18 They are vanity, the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish.

Jer 51:19 The portion of Jacob is not like them; for he is the former of all things: and Israel is the rod of his inheritance: the Lord of hosts is his name.

Jeremiah 51 verses 60-64 are the major proof verses showing who the Harlot of Revelation 17 and 18 is. After Jeremiah had spoken all these words about Babylon contained in chapters 50 and 51, which as we saw include parallels to verses in Revelation 17 and 18 such as the references to the golden cup and the many waters, he commanded a man named Seraiah to write all this prophesied destruction in a book, go to Babylon, read the book there to the captive people, and then bind the book to a stone and cast it into the Euphrates River symbolizing the fall and sinking of Babylon. Where did Seraiah go? Did he go to Jerusalem? No. Jerusalem is not situated on the Euphrates River is it?. Did he go to Rome? No! Rome is not situated on the Euphrates either. But Babylon is. Half of the city was built on one side of the Euphrates and half on the other. Babylon also cannot be a nebulous 'worldwide Babylonian religious system' because Seraiah was told to go to a specific place. Babylon is the literal ancient city rebuilt again in the end time to become an important center of a world ruling empire under the Fourth Beast for God's purpose of her ultimate and final destruction.

Jer 51:20 Thou art my battle axe and weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms;

Jer 51:21 And with thee will I break in pieces the horse and his rider; and with thee will I break in pieces the chariot and his rider;

Jer 51:22 With thee also will I break in pieces man and woman; and with thee will I break in pieces old and young; and with thee will I break in pieces the young man and the maid;

Jer 51:23 I will also break in pieces with thee the shepherd and his flock; and with thee will I break in pieces the husbandman and his yoke of oxen; and with thee will I break in pieces captains and rulers.

Jer 51:24 And I will render unto BABYLON and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, saith the Lord.

Jer 51:25 Behold, I am against thee, O destroying mountain, saith the Lord, which destroyest all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a burnt mountain.

Jer 51:26 And they shall not take of thee a stone for a corner, nor a stone for foundations; but thou shalt be desolate for ever, saith the Lord.

Jer 51:27 Set ye up a standard in the land, blow the trumpet among the nations, prepare the nations against her, call together against her the kingdoms of Ararat, Minni, and Ashchenaz; appoint a captain against her; cause the horses to come up as the rough caterpillars.

Jer 51:28 Prepare against her the nations with the kings of the Medes, the captains thereof, and all the rulers thereof, and all the land of his dominion.

Jer 51:29 And the land shall tremble and sorrow: for every purpose of the Lord shall be performed against BABYLON, to make the land of BABYLON a desolation without an inhabitant.

Jer 51:30 The mighty men of BABYLON have forborne to fight, they have remained in their holds: their might hath failed; they became as women: they have burned her dwelling places; her bars are broken.

Jer 51:31 One post shall run to meet another, and one messenger to meet another, to shew the King of BABYLON that his city is taken at one end,

Jer 51:32 And that the passages are stopped, and the reeds they have burned with fire, and the men of war are affrighted.

Jer 51:33 For thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; The daughter of BABYLON is like a threshing floor, it is time to thresh her: yet a little while, and the time of her harvest shall come.

Jer 51:34 Nebuchadnezzar the king of BABYLON hath devoured me, he hath crushed me, he hath made me an empty vessel, he hath swallowed me up like a dragon, he hath filled his belly with my delicates, he hath cast me out.

Jer 51:35 The violence done to me and to my flesh be upon BABYLON, shall the inhabitant of Zion say; and my blood upon the inhabitants of Chaldea, shall Jerusalem say.

Jer 51:36 Therefore thus saith the Lord; Behold, I will plead thy cause, and take vengeance for thee; and I will dry up her sea, and make her springs dry.

Jer 51:37 And BABYLON shall become heaps, a dwelling place for dragons, an astonishment, and an hissing, without an inhabitant.

Jer 51:38 They shall roar together like lions: they shall yell as lions' whelps.

Jer 51:39 In their heat I will make their feasts, and I will make them drunken, that they may rejoice, and sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the Lord.

Jer 51:40 I will bring them down like lambs to the slaughter, like rams with he goats.

Jer 51:41 How is Sheshach taken! and how is the praise of the whole earth surprised! how is BABYLON become an astonishment among the nations!

Jer 51:42 The sea is come up upon BABYLON: she is covered with the multitude of the waves thereof.

Jer 51:43 Her cities are a desolation, a dry land, and a wilderness, a land wherein no man dwelleth, neither doth any son of man pass thereby.

Jer 51:44 And I will punish Bel in BABYLON, and I will bring forth out of his mouth that which he hath swallowed up: and the nations shall not flow together any more unto him: yea, the wall of BABYLON shall fall.

Jer 51:45 My people, go ye out of the midst of her, and deliver ye every man his soul from the fierce anger of the Lord.

Jer 51:46 And lest your heart faint, and ye fear for the rumour that shall be heard in the land; a rumour shall both come one year, and after that in another year shall come a rumour, and violence in the land, ruler against ruler.

Jer 51:47 Therefore, behold, the days come, that I will do judgment upon the graven images of BABYLON: and her whole land shall be confounded, and all her slain shall fall in the midst of her.

Jer 51:48 Then the heaven and the earth, and all that is therein, shall sing for BABYLON: for the spoilers shall come unto her from the north, saith the Lord.

Jer 51:49 As BABYLON hath caused the slain of Israel to fall, so at BABYLON shall fall the slain of all the earth.

Jer 51:50 Ye that have escaped the sword, go away, stand not still: remember the Lord afar off, and let Jerusalem come into your mind.

Jer 51:51 We are confounded, because we have heard reproach: shame hath covered our faces: for strangers are come into the sanctuaries of the Lord's house.

Jer 51:52 Wherefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will do judgment upon her graven images: and through all her land the wounded shall groan.

Jer 51:53 Though BABYLON should mount up to heaven, and though she should fortify the height of her strength, yet from me shall spoilers come unto her, saith the Lord.

Jer 51:54 A sound of a cry cometh from BABYLON, and great destruction from the land of the Chaldeans:

Jer 51:55 Because the Lord hath spoiled BABYLON, and destroyed out of her the great voice; when her waves do roar like great waters, a noise of their voice is uttered:

Jer 51:56 Because the spoiler is come upon her, even upon BABYLON, and her mighty men are taken, every one of their bows is broken: for the Lord God of recompences shall surely requite.

Jer 51:57 And I will make drunk her princes, and her wise men, her captains, and her rulers, and her mighty men: and they shall sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the King, whose name is the Lord of Hosts.

Jer 51:58 Thus saith the Lord of hosts; The broad walls of BABYLON shall be utterly broken, and her high gates shall be burned with fire; and the people shall labour in vain, and the folk in the fire, and they shall be weary.

Jer 51:59 The word which Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, when he went with Zedekiah the king of Judah into BABYLON in the fourth year of his reign. And this Seraiah was a quiet prince.

Jer 51:60 So Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that should come upon BABYLON, even all these words that are written against BABYLON.

Jer 51:61 And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, When thou comest to BABYLON, and shalt see, and shalt read all these words;

Jer 51:62 Then shalt thou say, O Lord, thou hast spoken against this place, to cut it off, that none shall remain in it, neither man nor beast, but that it shall be desolate for ever.

Jer 51:63 And it shall be, when thou hast made an end of reading this book, that thou shalt bind a stone to it, and cast it into the midst of Euphrates:

Jer 51:64 And thou shalt say, Thus shall BABYLON sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her: and they shall be weary. Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.

Here is a prophesy in Zechariah of a wicked woman sitting in the midst of an ephah who has been contained in a vessel under a talent of lead and then is brought to the land of Shinar to set up a house. The land of Shinar is where Babylon was built as we read in Genesis 11:2 and Daniel 1:2. This could not be a prophesy of when the Jews were taken captive into Babylon because this vision of Zechariah was written in 519 BC in the reign of Darius the Mede AFTER Babylon had already been conquered by Cyrus. This is a FUTURE house to be built in Babylon. We see then that verse 11 is another proof verse showing that this wicked house will be built in the land of Shinar or Babylon, not in Rome. The ephah is the 'resemblance' or representative of the wickedness of all the earth in the midst of which this woman sits.

Zech 5:5 Then the angel that talked with me went forth, and said unto me, Lift up now thine eyes, and see what is this that goeth forth.

Zech 5:6 And I said, What is it? And he said, This is an ephah that goeth forth. He said moreover, This is their resemblance through all the earth.

Zech 5:7 And, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead: and this is a woman that sitteth in

the midst of the ephah.

Zech 5:8 And he said, This is wickedness. And he cast it into the midst of the ephah; and he cast the weight of lead upon the mouth thereof.

Zech 5:9 Then lifted I up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came out two women, and the wind was in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork: and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heaven.

Zech 5:10 Then said I to the angel that talked with me, Whither do these bear the ephah?

Zech 5:11 And he said unto me, To build it an house in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base.

## **NEW TESTAMENT PROPHECIES OF THE DESTRUCTION OF BABYLON**

Revelation 14 begins in verse 1 with the return of Christ. Then the first angel goes forth with the everlasting gospel to preach to the world. The second angel goes forth with the announcement saying, "Babylon is fallen" and the third angel declares that if any man worships the Beast, he will drink of the wrath of God.

Rev 14:8 And there followed another angel, saying, BABYLON is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

Revelation 16 describes in detail these vials of the wrath of God showing that the fall of Babylon takes place at the pouring of the seventh vial (verses 17 and 19).

Rev 16:17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

Rev 16:18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightening; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

Rev 16:19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great BBYLON came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

Rev 16:20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

Rev 16:21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

After the vials of wrath are poured out, Revelation 17 and 18 then describe in detail the judgment of Babylon. Here, verse 1 says that she sits upon many waters. Verse 15 explains that the waters which thou sawest where the whore sitteth are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. (See also Isaiqh 17:13) Babylon's fornication was having other gods instead of the true God of Heaven and she passed on this false worship to all nations that went out from her and they have been drunk with this symbolic wine.

Rev 17:1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

Rev 17:2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

Here we see in verse 3 that the woman is sitting on the Beast with seven heads and ten horns. Verse 9 explains that the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. Those who interpret verse 9 as being seven literal mountains or hills of Rome have forgotten to read this verse 3 telling us

that the woman sits on the Beast with seven heads and ten horns. The seven heads of the Beast are seven kingdoms beginning with Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian Kingdom, then Cyrus's Medo-Persian Kingdom, then Alexander the Great's Greek Kingdom with its four divisions, and finally the last Beast and his kingdom who has not arisen yet. The key here is the word 'mountains' which is a symbolic word for 'kingdoms'. (See Jeremiah 51:24-25) The seven heads of the Beast are seven kingdoms (mountains) on which the woman sits.

Rev 17:3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

Rev 17:4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

As we said on page 1 the ancient city of Babylon is the 'mother' of harlots because the false religion of all nations began when the builders of the Tower of Babel were scattered all over the world from her.

Rev 17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

The first seal of Revelation 6:1-2 is that the final Beast shall come forth conquering the whole world. His false prophet will set his abomination up in Jerusalem. (Mat 24:15) This abomination is described in Revelation 13:14-15 as a miraculously talking image of the world conquering Beast demanding that all men worship him or be put to death. Since the saints of God will refuse to worship him, they will be put to death as is described in the fifth seal (Rev 6:9-11). Babylon will also play a central role in this end time persecution since the scriptures say here that she is drunken with the blood of the saints.

Rev 17:6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

Rev 17:7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

The Beast structure consists of:

1. The first Beast Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian Kingdom

2. The Second Beast Cyrus' Medo Persian Kingdom

The Third Beast Alexander the Great's Greek Kingdom

The Four Heads of the Third Beast into which Alexander's kingdom was broken:

3. Macedonia,

4. Thrace,

5. Egypt (Kings of the South)

6. Syria (Kings of the North)

The Little Horn of the Third Beast (Daniel 8)

The Man of Sin of 2 Thessalonians

7. The Fourth Beast Revelation 13:1-10 Unknown yet

8. The Little Horn or False Prophet of the Fourth Beast Revelation 13:11-18 Unknown yet

The Ten Horns of the Fourth Beast Unknown yet

Here, verses 8 and 11 are talking about the Little Horn or False Prophet of the Fourth Beast described in Revelation 13:11-18

The king who 'IS' in verse 10 was the Little Horn of the Third Beast whom I understood to be Herbert Armstrong when he was yet alive. [Ref 3]

Rev 17:8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

Rev 17:9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

Rev 17:10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

Rev 17:11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

The ten horns have been interpreted by Christians as ten European Union nations who give to the Beast their power. But notice here in verse 12 that they are ten **KINGS**. This Greek word is *basileus*. It is not a word interchangeable with the word *kingdoms* as some have said because the word **KINGDOM** in this same verse is the Greek *basileia*. So these are kings, that is individuals without a kingdom as yet. These men shall gather the nations to make war against Christ at the Battle of Armageddon when he comes. They shall also burn the city of Babylon with fire.

Rev 17:12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

Rev 17:13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

Rev 17:14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of Lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

Rev 17:15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the where sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

Rev 17:16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the where, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

Rev 17:17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

Verse 18 tells us plainly that the woman is a city. She is the capital city of the First Beast, Nebuchadnezzar, whose name is Babylon the Great.

Rev 17:18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

Rev 18:1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

Rev 18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

Rev 18:3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

Rev 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

Rev 18:5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

Rev 18:6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.

Rev 18:7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no

sorrow.

Rev 18:8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

Rev 18:9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

Rev 18:10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

Rev 18:11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

Rev 18:12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,

Rev 18:13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.

Rev 18:14 And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.

Rev 18:15 The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,

Rev 18:16 And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!

Rev 18:17 For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,

Rev 18:18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city!

Rev 18:19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.

Rev 18:20 Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

Rev 18:21 And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

Rev 18:22 And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee;

Rev 18:23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.

Rev 18:24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

Rev 19:1 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:

Rev 19:2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great where, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

Rev 19:3 And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.

Rev 19:4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshiped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.

PHRASES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT ABOUT BABYLON  
THAT ARE REPEATED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES	NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES
<p>Isa 21:9 And, behold, here cometh a chariot of men, with a couple of horsemen. And he answered and said, <u>Babylon is fallen, is fallen;</u> and all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground.</p> <p>Jer 51:8 <u>Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed;</u> howl for her; take balm for her pain, if so be she may be healed.</p>	<p>Rev 14:8 And there followed another angel, saying, <u>Babylon is fallen, is fallen,</u> that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.</p> <p>Rev 18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, <u>Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen,</u> and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.</p>
<p>Isa 47:7 And thou saidst, <u>I shall be a lady for ever;</u> so that thou didst not lay these things to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of it.</p> <p>Isa 47:8 Therefore hear now this, <u>thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children:</u></p>	<p>Rev 18:7 How much she hath <u>glorified herself, and lived deliciously,</u> so much torment and sorrow give her: <u>for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.</u></p>
<p>Isa 47:9 But these two things shall come to thee in a moment <u>in one day,</u> the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments.</p>	<p>Rev 18:8 Therefore shall her plagues come <u>in one day,</u> death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.</p>
<p>Isa 47:9 But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection <u>for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments.</u></p> <p>Isa 47:12 <u>Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries,</u> wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail.</p>	<p>Rev 18:23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; <u>for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.</u></p>
<p>Isa 48:20 <u>Go ye forth of Babylon, flee ye from the Chaldeans,</u> with a voice of singing declare ye, tell this, utter it even to the end of the earth; say ye, The Lord hath redeemed his servant Jacob.</p> <p>Jer 51:6 <u>Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity;</u> for this is the time of the Lord's vengeance; he will render unto her a recompence.</p> <p>Jer 51:45 My people, <u>go ye out of the midst of her, and deliver ye every man his soul from the fierce anger of the Lord.</u></p>	<p>Rev 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, <u>Come out of her, my people,</u> that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.</p>
<p>Jer 51:7 Babylon hath been a <u>golden cup</u> in the Lord's hand, that made all the earth drunken: the</p>	<p>Rev 17:4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and</p>

nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.	precious stones and pearls, having <u>a golden cup</u> in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:
Jer 51:9 We would have healed Babylon, but she is not healed: forsake her, and let us go every one into his own country: <u>for her judgment reacheth unto Heaven, and is lifted up even to the skies.</u>	Rev 18:5 <u>For her sins have reached unto heaven,</u> and God hath remembered her iniquities.
Jer 51:13 O thou that <u>dwellest upon many waters,</u> abundant in treasures	Rev 17:1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that <u>sitteth upon many waters:</u> Rev 17:15 And he saith unto me, The <u>waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.</u>

## CONCLUSION

The interpretation of Babylon in Revelation has been disputed from the times of the church fathers. The older commentators saw it as a prophecy of the evil world. Modern scholars thinking along this line see it as a 'worldwide religious system'. Others believe that Babylon is to be defined ecclesiastically interpreting her as apostate Christendom as a whole. One of the basic problems with these interpretations is that the ten kings who are the agents of the destruction of Babylon must have a specific place to carry out this destruction, not a nebulous worldwide system.

Some have therefore insisted on a more specific geographical reference such as Jerusalem. But the mention of rivers and ships and extensive commerce in the description of Babylon does not fit Jerusalem. Also the destruction of Jerusalem at the coming of Christ as described in Zechariah 14 does not fit the description of the destruction of Babylon.

Most modern scholars have identified Babylon with the city of Rome basing the identification largely on the mention of seven mountains (Rev 17:9) They point out that literal Babylon is situated on a plain, not seven mountains. However, notice in these scriptures that the seven mountains in verse 9 are identified in verses 7 and 8 as the seven heads of the Beast.

Rev 17:1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

Rev 17:2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

Rev 17:3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

Rev 17:7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

Rev 17:8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast

that was, and is not, and yet is.

Rev 17:9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

Rev 17:10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

Rev 17:11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

So these are not seven literal mountains or hills on which Rome sits. They are seven symbolic mountains (representing the successive kingdoms or heads) of the Beast. And the city of Babylon did sit on these seven kingdoms beginning with Nebuchadnezzar.

Since there is no New Testament scripture which tells us who Babylon is, the interpreters have pointed to Rome who 'looks' as though she fills the role. But if we are honest and let the Bible interpret itself, there can be no doubt that the Old Testament scriptures have already defined her as the literal ancient city situated on the Euphrates River who was the origin (the mother) of all the world's idolatry and false religions and who later on under Nebuchadnezzar swallowed up God's heritage Judah. The view that Babylon is Rome only works if you ignore these Old Testament prophecies.

The view of the end-time Babylon as the literal city on the Euphrates has been rejected and largely forgotten because Babylon has lain for centuries under a heap of sand and ruins.  
But NO LONGER!

**TODAY BABYLON HAS BEEN PARTIALLY REBUILT!** And we have so long been deceived into looking to Rome or a 'worldwide religious system' that we have completely ignored this significant and most ominous fulfillment of prophecy!

Charles H. Dyer, the author of a book written in 1991 called *The Rise of Babylon*, [Ref 4] went to Babylon in 1988 to attend the second annual Babylon Festival under the patronage of Saddam Hussein who had been rebuilding the ancient city. The most important features of ancient Babylon were its walls, the Ishtar Gate, the Ziggurat (Tower of Babel), the Temple of Marduk, the Processional Way, the Palace of Nebuchadnezzar and the Hanging Gardens. Since restorations began in 1978 the southern palace of Nebuchadnezzar, the procession street, a Greek theater, many temples, Nebuchadnezzar's throne room, and a half scale model of the Ishtar Gate had been reconstructed. There were plans, it was said, to rebuild the great Ziggurat (Tower of Babel). According to the book, Saddam Hussein ignored the objections of archaeologists who saw the building over ancient ruins as a crime. He also ignored their suggestions of rebuilding further away and insisted on reconstructing directly on the original sites.

The festival which the author attended included a procession of soldiers dressed in ancient Babylonian garb and services to the goddess Ishtar. The official seal of the festival featured the portraits of Nebuchadnezzar and Saddam Hussein placed side by side stressing their physical similarities.



It is said that the purpose of Saddam's rebuilding was to make Babylon a symbol of national unity, pride and Iraqi greatness. He saw himself as a successor to Nebuchadnezzar and ultimately hoped to restore to Iraqis the glory their ancestors knew when all the world was under Babylonian control.

I thought at the time that Saddam Hussein might be the Beast of Revelation 13 because of his rebuilding of Babylon and his fascination with comparing himself to Nebuchadnezzar. But on December 30, 2006 Saddam Hussein was executed for crimes against his people.

The World Monuments Fund web site [Ref 5] shows the continued restoration work being done at Babylon today and says that although not many people in the world visit the site, thousands of Iraqis do visit it each year. Saddam Hussein built a palace for himself on a hill overlooking the ruins of Babylon that could still be used by the coming Beast to inspire and unite the Muslim people in accomplishing his world ruling empire. Then when Christ returns, Babylon will face her prophesied final destruction of being burned up by the ten horns and she will never be inhabited again.

Print outs of References are available upon request

#### REFERENCES

Ref 1 Pg 9 Myth and Mystery by Jack Finegan Pg 29

Ref 2 Pg 9 Cradle of Civilization by Samuel Noah Kramer, Pg 154

Ref 3 Pg 18 The Little Horn of the Third Beast by Marie Casale

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Ref 4 Pg 23 The Rise of Babylon by Charles H. Dyer Pgs 11-15 & 21-25

Ref 5 Pg 23 World Monuments Fund Ongoing Work in Babylon <https://www.wmf.org/project/future-babylon>