



THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Vision 4, Part 3 (17-18) - Babylon, the Beast, Babylon's fall mourned

SUMMARY OF BOWLS 6-7

- Bowl 6 represents the decline and fall of the Ottoman Empire
 - This makes way for the modern kingdoms of the Middle East
 - Dangerous doctrines, philosophies, and ideologies emanate from Europe
 - These developments draw the world toward Armageddon
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SUMMARY OF BOWLS 6-7 (CONT'D)

- Bowl 7 represents the two world wars
 - Greatest catastrophe in human history
 - Hailstones weighing a talent foreshadow the extensive damage from artillery and bombs across Europe
 - A new world order emerges from the ashes
 - Rather than repent, men curse God
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“But (this) did not happen without sins on our part: for that justice and that care for the poor which (most mendaciously) the Communists advertise, we in reality ought to have brought about ages ago. But far from it: we Westerners preached Christ with our lips, with our actions we brought the slavery of Mammon. We are more guilty than the infidels: for to those that know the will of God and do not do it, the greater the punishment. Now the only refuge lies in contrition and prayer. Long have we erred. In reading the history of Europe, its destructive succession of wars, of avarice, or fratricidal persecutions of Christians by Christians, of luxury, of gluttony, of pride, who could detect any but the rarest traces of the Holy Spirit?”

—C.S. Lewis, *The Latin Letters*, January 7, 1953

“I certainly feel that very grave dangers hang over us. This results from the great apostasy of the great part of Europe from the Christian faith. Hence, a worse state than the one we were in before we received the faith. For no one returns from Christianity to the same state he was in before Christianity, but into a worse state: the difference between a pagan and an apostate is the difference between an unmarried woman and an adulteress Therefore many men of our time have lost not only the supernatural light, but also the natural light which the pagans possessed.”

—C.S. Lewis, *The Latin Letters*, September 15, 1953

17:1-2

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”

A TALE OF TWO...

- Women

- 12:1-5 — clothed with magnificent glory; gives birth to the male child; represents the people of God across all ages
- 17:1-6 — a harlot who is the “mother of harlots;” represents the spirit of human rebellion

- Cities

- 11:2 — the holy city; the heavenly Jerusalem (21:2)
 - 11:8 — the great city; manifest in Sodom, Egypt, and Jerusalem; Babylon
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WHAT FOLLOWS IS AN ANGELIC INTERPRETATION
OF THE HARLOT AND THE BEAST

17:3-6

So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

THE BEAST AND THE HARLOT

- John is “carried away to the wilderness” — where the people of God fled in 12:6
 - “scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns”
 - A beast is an earthly power, in this case, the Latin Kingdom (i.e. 666, *lateinos*)
 - Scarlet — the color of royalty; also the color of the dragon (see 12:3)
 - The woman sits on the scarlet beast (verse 3) — the beast is subservient to the woman
 - She is clothed as a queen “in purple and scarlet...”
 - She holds a “golden cup...” — used to seduce and intoxicate the nations (verse 2, 18:3)
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MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT

- Genesis 11 — the Tower of Babel, unified humanity defies God
 - Used as an archetype — think of it as the “spirit of Babylon”
 - 11:8 — the great city (Babylon) is evident in places like Sodom, Egypt, and Jerusalem
 - Revelation 18:24, “And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.”
 - Rome is the manifestation of “Babylon”: Revelation 17:18, “And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.”
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| 7:7-11 |

But the angel said to me, “Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.”

REVIEWING THE BEAST

- Seven heads = seven stages of Roman power
 - Five have fallen — five stages of power have passed
 - One is — the Principate which lasts from Augustus to Diocletian
 - The other has not yet come...he will endure for a short time — Constantine to the fall of Rome in the West
 - “seven mountains on which the woman sits” = city of Rome sat on seven hills
 - The “beast himself is also the eighth, and is of the seven” = the Catholic Church
 - Ten horns = European nations that emerged from the Roman Empire (verse 12)
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A FEW MORE THINGS ABOUT THE BEAST

- He emerges from “the bottomless pit”
 - Revelation 11:7, “When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.”
 - The beast is a earthly manifestation of Satan’s power: Revelation 13:2, “The dragon gave (the beast) his power, his throne, and great authority.”
 - The beast “is going to perdition”
 - Perdition = destruction, judgment
 - Revelation 19:20, “Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.”
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17:12-14

“The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”

EUROPEAN KINGDOMS

- The kingdoms which emerged following the decline and fall of the Western Roman Empire
 - They subjected themselves to authority of the Catholic Church: “These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.”
 - These kingdoms allowed the Catholic Church to persecute dissenting views of Christianity
 - “These will make war with the Lamb...”
 - 13:7, “It was granted to (the beast) to make war with the saints and to overcome them.”
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17:15-18

Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.”

“THESE WILL HATE THE HARLOT”

- “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues” - the Catholic Church claimed ultimate spiritual and secular authority
 - The kingdoms of Europe cooperated with the Catholic Church for a time — they “(gave) their kingdom to the beast”
 - They gradually threw off the yoke of Catholicism
 - Protestant Reformation (discussed in trumpet #6)
 - French Revolution (discussed in bowl #1)
 - Italian unification (discussed in bowl #5)
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18:1-3

After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.”

“BABYLON THE GREAT IS FALLEN, IS FALLEN”

- The angel illuminates the earth with heavenly glory — the light of heaven exposes Babylon’s depravity (see Ephesians 5:13, John 3:19-21)
 - 14:8 has been fulfilled: “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”
 - With the seventh bowl, the Catholic Church and the kingdoms of Europe are a shell of their former selves.
 - They became “a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird” — moral decay and spiritual corruption
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| 8:4-8

And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.' Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.

“COME OUT OF HER, MY PEOPLE”

- Echoes of Isaiah and Jeremiah: e.g. Jeremiah 51:45, “My people, go out of the midst of her! And let everyone deliver himself from the fierce anger of the LORD.”
 - Revelation 13:9, “If anyone has an ear, let him hear.”
 - Heed the warning of 14:9-11
 - 14:1-5: the faithful are rewarded
 - “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues” — a call to repent and to be sanctified (see 2 Corinthians 6:14-18)
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“REPAY HER DOUBLE...”

- “her sins have reached to heaven” — Genesis 11:4
 - Galatians 6:7-8, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. [8] For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”
 - ‘I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.’
 - She is blinded by pride
 - Echoes of Isaiah 47:7-10 (quoted on next slide)
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“And you said, 'I shall be a lady forever,' So that you did not take these things to heart, Nor remember the latter end of them. [8] Therefore hear this now, you who are given to pleasures, Who dwell securely, Who say in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one else besides me; I shall not sit as a widow, Nor shall I know the loss of children'; [9] But these two things shall come to you In a moment, in one day: The loss of children, and widowhood. They shall come upon you in their fullness Because of the multitude of your sorceries, For the great abundance of your enchantments. [10] For you have trusted in your wickedness; You have said, 'No one sees me'; Your wisdom and your knowledge have warped you; And you have said in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one else besides me.'”

—Isaiah 47:7-10

“For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity hidden from My eyes. And first *I will repay double* for their iniquity and their sin, because they have defiled My land; they have filled My inheritance with the carcasses of their detestable and abominable idols.”

—Jeremiah 16:17-18

18:9-10

“The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’”

THE KINGS OF THE EARTH

- Describes the mutually beneficial relationship between the monarchies of Europe and the Latin church
 - They abandoned Babylon at her judgment in Bowl 7
 - Revelation 16:19-20, “And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.”
 - Revelation 17:16, “And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.”
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18:11-14

“And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men. The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all.”

“NO ONE MAY BUY OR SELL”

- “He causes” — the second beast of Revelation 13, the office of the papacy
 - “a mark” — denotes allegiance or ownership
 - Those without the mark were excluded from commerce
 - The mark = 666, Gr. “lateinos,” the Latin Empire, the Latin Church, the Church of Rome, the Catholic Church
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“He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.”

–Revelation 13:16-18

LASTING ECONOMIC IMPACT

- The Spanish Inquisition
 - Lasted from 1478-1834
 - 67k records remain
 - Fines, property confiscated, the guilty shunned from society
 - Study from the University of Sydney: “While the suffering of the accused and convicted was the single most important result of persecution, our findings suggest its effects live on. Even now, 200 years on from the Spanish Inquisition, the locations affected appear to be poorer, more religious, less educated, and less trusting.”
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RELIGION IS PROFITABLE

- 2 Peter 2:14-15, “...having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children. [15] They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness...”
 - Catholic Church was the largest landowner in Europe
 - The Papal States and other holdings enriched the Vatican coffers
 - Monasteries and nunneries became profitable with smart management
 - Church lived tax free while demanding a tithe from parishioners
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18:15-20

The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.' Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like this great city?' 'They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.' 'Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!'"

SWIFT JUDGMENT

- The world marveled at the beast in Revelation 13:4, “Who *is* like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”
 - Powerful, formidable, indomitable
 - Verse 18, “What is like this great city?”
 - Verses 8, 10, 17, 19 refer to either one day or one hour
 - Represents swift **AND** unexpected judgment
 - Matthew 24:50, “the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of,”
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JUSTICE FOR HER VICTIMS

- Verse 13: she trafficked in “the bodies and souls of men”
 - Verse 20, “Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!”
 - Verse 24, “And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.” (cf. with Revelation 17:6)
 - Babylon is bigger than just Rome and the Latin church
 - Luke 11:50-51, “that the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation, [51] from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation.”
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18:21-24

Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore. The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.”

FINAL AND DECISIVE JUDGMENT

- Babylon shall “not be found anymore”
 - All signs of life will be extinguished — from musicians to artists to weddings
 - “...by your sorcery all the nations were deceived”
 - Revelation 13:13-14, “He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. [14] And he deceives those who dwell on the earth—by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.”
 - All people were deceived by Babylon — even the wealthy and powerful
-