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# The Book of Revelation: Session 22

## Revelation 17:1-18

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**YouTube:** “Verse by Verse Teaching | Revelation 17 | Gary Hamrick”  
(on December 9, 2020 | 43:01 minutes)

### Notes:

Babylon will again be a literal location that represents two systems:

- Revelation 17: Spiritual Babylon, a world religious system (likely put into place during the first half of the Tribulation): “The woman of Revelation 17 represents a false world religion that rises on the back of the Antichrist and seduces the nations.”
- Revelation 18: Commercial Babylon, a world economic system

Nimrod (Genesis 10:8-12): “rebellious one”

- V. 9 “a mighty hunter before (“face”) the LORD” → Nimrod “got up into God’s face,” was in opposition to God
- Babel (Genesis 11:1-9): the birthplace of false religion – worship of the stars, the sun, the moon, and the worship of people (humanism, “make a name for ourselves”)

A tale of two cities: (1) Jerusalem, a city of peace and (2) Babylon, a city of confusion

17:1 – She “sits on many waters” → global influence (see also v. 15)

17:2 – “The inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication”  
→ false religion, spiritual adultery

17:3 – She is “sitting on a scarlet beast” → rides to prominence with the Antichrist

17:4 – She is “arrayed in purple and scarlet ... adorned with gold, precious stones, and pearls” → wealth and royalty

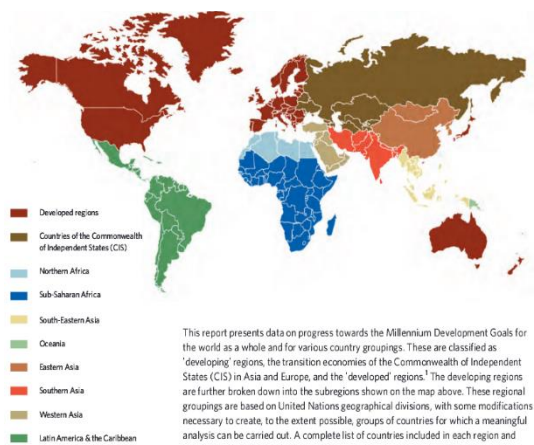
17:6 – She was “drunk with the blood of the saints” → persecution against Christians

17:9-10 – She sits on “seven mountains” which are “seven kings” or “kingdoms” → associated with a political system

- “five have fallen” → Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Medo-Persia, Greece
- “one is” → Rome
- “the other has not yet come” → Ten-Nation confederation that includes the Antichrist and rules “for a little while” until they give the Antichrist full control

17:16-17 – The Beast and ten horns will “hate the harlot” and bring her to ruin and “give their kingdom to the Beast” → power and worship will be given to the Antichrist

**The United Nations’ Ten Regions of the World**



## Questions:

1. Read Revelation 17:1-6. John MacArthur comments: “During the Tribulation, all the world’s diverse false religions will be reunited into one great world religion.” Chuck Swindoll explains that “false religion exchanges God’s grace and mercy for self-sufficiency and human effort.” What other principles might this future false religion hold to?
2. Read Genesis 11:1-9. MacArthur states: “False religion’s powerful appeal comes from its promise to satisfy man’s longing for the spiritual realm without bringing him under God’s authority.” How does this situation in Genesis 11 reflect this statement? How can we cultivate a real relationship with God, resisting the rut of religion that’s so easy to get caught into?
3. Read Revelation 17:7-13. Sometime in the latter half of the Tribulation, likely after the Antichrist’s “fatal wound [is] healed” (Rev 13:12), “the inhabitants of the earth” will no longer worship the prostitute, but instead will worship the beast (Antichrist). Though the Antichrist has not yet risen to prominence in our world today, his spirit is active. The Apostle John writes, “but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard is coming, and even now is already in the world” (1 John 4:3 NIV). What do you think the angel means when he says, “This calls for a mind with wisdom” (v. 9a)?
4. Reread Revelation 17:14-18. Like many bowed before Nebuchadnezzar’s statue (in Daniel 3), many will bow before, will give their worship to the Antichrist. Those that won’t, will have their lives taken from them. But, in the midst of this brief-but-difficult moment, there are things to draw encouragement from. What encourages you in this passage? What are you compelled to do, or to do more, based on what we have learned tonight?

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Want to dig deeper? Engage with these sermons by John MacArthur, taught in 1994:

- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-59/the-destruction-of-the-final-world-religion-part-1>
- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-60/the-destruction-of-the-final-world-religion-part-2>
- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-61/the-destruction-of-the-final-world-religion-part-3>
- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-62/the-destruction-of-the-final-world-religion-part-4>