

**The Book of Revelation**  
**Revelation 17 (NIV)**  
**“Her Exaltation, Her Exploitation, Her Execution”**

**Babylon, the Prostitute on the Beast**

*One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits by many waters. With her the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.”*

*Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. The name written on her forehead was a mystery:*

**BABYLON THE GREAT**  
**THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES**  
**AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**

*I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God’s holy people, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus.*

*When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. Then the angel said to me: “Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns. The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the Book of Life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because it once was, now is not, and yet will come.*

*“This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for only a little while. The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.*

*“The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because He is Lord of lords and King of kings — and with Him will be His called, chosen and faithful followers.”*

*Then the angel said to me, “The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages. The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to hand over to the beast their royal authority, until God’s words are fulfilled. The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.”*

**Revelation 17**

## Introduction

Several years ago in Hollywood (the veritable bastion of morality), a movie was produced called “*Pretty Woman*”, starring Julia Roberts and Richard Gere. If you have never seen it, allow me to summarize it for you; thus saving you the \$5 it would cost in the Walmart bargain bin. A prostitute (played by Roberts) is picked up for an evening of exploitation by her soon to be Prince Charming (played by Gere), who is a ruthless billionaire. He sees in her all he has ever wanted, and she, because of her loving, caring nature, melts his icy heart. She transforms into a socialite before our very eyes, and he becomes a caring philanthropist. All the while, the audience is swept away in a trance like state, the rational part of their brains disengaged; thinking, “This could happen!”.

IN REAL life, no one seeks out a prostitute to find a soul mate. She is merely a means to an end. The “pretty women” as it were, always ends up discarded and alone. The wages of sin is death. The outcome never changes. In ***Revelation 17***, we find the anti-Christ using and discarding a “*prostitute*” for his own evil desires. He has no regard for her, but he needs her services for a time to help him seduce a foolish world. She does her job well, luring the sheep to their slaughter. In the end, she finds that she is being lead to her own demise as well. She is the one world religion, bringing all nations under one banner of faith. A faith of empty promises and deception. God has given this “church of the masses” a name... “The Whore of Babylon”.

In ***Revelation Chapter 16***, we witness the seven bowls of God’s wrath poured out upon the world, in order to put an end to the blasphemies and abominations that are prevalent during the reign of the anti-christ. Now, here in ***Chapter 17***, we are given further insight into just what type of abominations are being destroyed. The “One World Religion”, known as “The Great Whore of Babylon”, will be one of the blasphemous apparitions that will arise in these, the final days of earth’s rebellion against God. In this passage, we are given a front row seat to The Great Harlot’s *Exaltation*, her *Exploitation*, and then finally, her *Execution*.

## Her Exaltation

We are first introduced to the prostitute sitting on many waters, adorned in all her finery (***vs. 1-5***). We are told later in ***vs. 15*** that the waters represent the multitudes who will swoon over her. She is decked out in style, so that the world will be drawn to her. After all, in order to seduce, she must make herself alluring and beautiful. *The Bible* uses the term “harlotry” several times to depict false religion (***Leviticus 20:6; Ezekiel 16:17***). This is how God views any belief system that causes people to stray from His Love and Truth. People were created by God to worship Him. When they reject His love, their need to worship never goes away, so they must seek out something else as the object of that worship.

Enter the harlot. She offers a quick fix for the worshipers, but does not require them to submit their lives to God. As any prostitute, she offers an encounter, rather than a marriage. There are no strings attached, she will be whatever you want her to be. When God says repent of that sin, and I will forgive you; she says, hold on to your sin, and I will accept you. Unfortunately, her time is limited and in the end, she will be destroyed along with her lovers. Only those who worship The One True God, in spirit and in truth, will endure. For only He has the Words of Life (***John 6:68***).

The “*Whore of Babylon*” found in this chapter is therefore the one world, universal religion that will cover the earth in the last days. All kingdoms will come together under one religious banner. The world will be convinced by the anti-Christ that this is the way to lasting peace. This “can’t we all just get along” religion will no doubt combine different aspects of the worlds many faiths into one very attractive package, seducing all humanity into submission. This prostituted faith will do its best to give the world what it longs for, but in the end, the cost of her services will be very high.

### **Her Exploitation**

The harlot is described as ***“sitting on the beast” (vs. 3)***. We know from previous study that the beast is the anti-Christ (***Revelation 13***). The fact that the prostitute (universal, false religion) is now sitting on him illustrates that he is supporting her. The anti-Christ, with the help of his false prophet, will endorse a one-world faith system under the guise of bringing every one together. He will not believe in this world faith, but will instead use it to his own ends. She is his prostitute, not his wife. Once he gains control of the hearts and minds of the people, her services will no longer be necessary.

False religion has long been used to control the masses. The birth place of false religion was the original city of Babylon (***Genesis 11***). Noah's great grandson, Nimrod, the builder of the tower of Babel, was married to a woman named Semiramis. At the height of her power, she declared herself to be a goddess. She became pregnant and claimed that she had been impregnated by a beam of sunlight. When she gave birth to a son named Tammuz, she declared him to be a *god* as well. As the legend goes, Tammuz was killed one day by a wild boar and Semiramis prayed to the gods for forty days, until Tammuz was resurrected from the dead. Because of this deception, she and Tammuz were worshiped throughout history as the goddess of heaven, who bore a god-child. This false religion of mother-and-child-worship is found throughout scripture (***Jeremiah 44:15-19, 20-27; Ezekiel 8:14***). The reason God calls the final world religion “The Whore of Babylon” is because ancient Babylon was where she was first conceived and later “born” to go out and deceive all the world.

Many *Bible* teachers have long predicted that the Roman Catholic church shall be the latter day “Whore of Babylon”. While I do not fully subscribe to this theory, (I believe the one-world-church will be an amalgamation of many world religions). It is very plausible that the Roman Catholic Church will be one of the driving forces behind this latter day “One World Church”. Many *Bible* Scholars believe that the location of its governance will in fact be the city of Rome (the city of seven hills (***vs.9***)). The “city of seven hills” was a common description of Rome in John's day.

Others, however, believe that the seven hills represent the seven world empires that have had and shall again have dominion over the earth, culminating with the final resurrected Roman Empire ruled by the anti-christ. While either description is quite possible, it is without question that the Roman Catholic church, created by the Roman Emperor Constantine, is at the very least a prototype of the “Whore of Babylon”.

In order to seduce the masses of the Roman Empire to come together under his reign (sound-familiar?), Constantine combined pagan traditions with “*Christian*” doctrine and created a church to rule Rome (the word Catholic means universal). Pagan idols were renamed as Roman Catholic Saints and the people were encouraged to pray to them. The forty days of fasting and weeping for the death of Tammuz became lent, culminating in the resurrection of Christ (rather than Tammuz). The holiday was named “Easter” (Ishtar was the name used for Semiramis “goddess of heaven”), and thereby, paganism married Christianity to form a one-world-religion in Constantine's Rome. It is chilling, when you actually research the origin of our “Christian” holidays (Holy days) that we celebrate each year without a second thought (Christmas or Christ-mass is no different).

Just like Constantine, the anti-Christ will use religion to control the whole world. People who were created for the purpose of worship will be given a false religion that allows them to do just that. The best way to bind people together is with religious fervor. It can be far more seductive and have more sway over the masses than any government, or government official, could ever hope to be. People will willingly lay down their lives for their religion, even when that religion is empty and worthless! Just as J. R. R. Tolkien's story of “The Lord of the Rings” portrays the ring that was forged to bind the people of middle earth together by the powers of darkness, Satan's one-world-religion will be the ring “that binds them all”. This binding religion will lead the masses to their ultimate destruction.

## Her Execution

***“The beast and the ten horns (kings) you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.”***  
***(Revelation 17:16)***

Once the anti-Christ and his ten-king-confederation have brought the world together under one despotic rule (dictatorship), the “Whore of Babylon” will no longer be necessary. The anti-Christ has no intention of sharing his power with anyone. He alone will be the object of worship in his kingdom. One wonders if this is the cause of his assassination (**Revelation 13:3**). Will religious zealots murder him, when he dismantles the one world church? It is a reasonable assumption. After all, those who “drink the Kool-Aid”, as it were, have been known to stop at nothing in the name of their religion (ie. September 11<sup>th</sup>).

We know that the anti-Christ will be resurrected from his assassination (**Revelation 13:3**), and this will cause the world to abandon the “Whore of Babylon” and proclaim the beast as “god” (This is why he is called the 7<sup>th</sup>, as well as, the 8<sup>th</sup> king in **vs. 11.**) He was there, then he was not, and then he reappears to proclaim his victory over death. He is a counterfeit “christ” in all that he does. If your king can rise from the dead, odds are, people will worship him. People will abandon their one world religion and follow after the beast. This Satanic ruse will allow the anti-christ to kill off the “Whore of Babylon” once and for all. He will massacre her, and all of her faithful followers who refuse to convert, just as he will destroy all others who refuse to worship him. The Great Harlot will serve her purpose well. She will lure the world to the throne of the beast, and then she will be “executed” for her trouble. She was both beautiful and treacherous, but she will finally meet her violent end. She destroyed many (**vs. 6**), and now, she too will be destroyed forever. False religion will meet its end in the Great Tribulation. But one Truth shall forever endure; **Jesus is The King of kings and Lord of lords!!!**

TRUTH!