

Commentary on the Mystery of Babylon the Great

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 17:1)

The fact that the angel talking with John is one of the angels that had the seven vials containing the wrath of God doesn't mean that the judgment of **Babylon the Great** occurs during the period of time when God is pouring out his wrath upon the earth.

According to Revelation 17:12-13 and Revelation 17:16-17 shown below, the judgment of **Babylon the Great** occurs before the unification of the fourth and final global kingdom to be headed by Antichrist as it is written in Daniel 7:7-28.

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. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. 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.

This judgment of Babylon the Great is to be distinguished from the judgment of the **great Babylon** of Revelation 16:19.

Great Babylon is another name for the fourth and final global kingdom to be destroyed at Armageddon. (Revelation 13:1-11)

On the other hand, **Babylon the Great** is the great city reigning or prevailing as a immoral influence over the kings of the earth according to Revelation 17:18. The word reigning doesn't mean that **Babylon the Great** exercises political dominion or dictatorial control over the kings of the earth. Within the context of the prophecy of Revelation 17-18 it is written in Revelation 17: 16-17 that the kings of the earth conspire to destroy **Babylon the Great**.

Babylon the Great can't be Jerusalem because this **Babylon the Great** is permanently destroyed prior to the unification of the fourth and final global kingdom to be led by Antichrist. According to Daniel 11:45, the glorious holy mountain referring to Mt. Zion in Jerusalem exists during the reign of Antichrist. In addition to this, Luke 21 foretells that Jerusalem will be trampled by foreign Gentile powers during a period of great tribulation preceding the return of Jesus Christ to unleash God's vengeance upon the heathen.

*And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. 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. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and **great Babylon** came in remembrance before God, to give unto her*

the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. 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.

Revelation 17:16-18 describes the judgment of God upon the great whore, the great city reigning over the kings of the earth. Her destruction is perpetrated by a conspiring group of ten kings.

And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. 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. And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

Revelation 17:4-5 calls this woman **Babylon the Great**. She is the great whore labeled the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth.

*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: And upon **her forehead** was a name written, **MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.** (Revelation 17:4-5)*

Revelation 17:18 describes this woman or great whore as a great city. There is no biblical justification for redefining her as a religious system!

*And the **woman** which thou sawest is that **great city**, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.*

Revelation 19:2 says that the great whore corrupted the earth with her **fornication**. **Fornication** can be interpreted literally as sexual immorality. There is no doubt that sex is a powerful tool used by corrupt governments in order to influence others to cooperate with them. It can also be a figurative or symbolic reference to idolatry.

The context surrounding the use of the word fornication in Revelation 18:3 and Revelation 14:8 doesn't mandate a literal interpretation of fornication as the sexual immorality of a prostitute.

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. (Revelation 18:3)

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 14:8)

The word fornication is used to illustrate that the great whore has made all nations receive a steady stream of violent anger. This anger is linked in Revelation 18:3 with *the abundance of her delicacies* or her excessive consumption of the things sold to her by the *merchants of the earth*; the global traders who profit from her consumerism.

The phrase “drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication” can be understood better when it is compared to the phrase “drink of the wine of the wrath of God” used in Revelation 14:10.

The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

Wrath is violent anger. In the case of God’s wrath, this violent anger is expressed in a holy manner consistent with his righteous, just, unselfish character. In the case of the great whore, her violent anger is poured out like wine over all nations in an unholy, unjust, selfish manner consistent with that of her inconstant, whorish character.

Revelation 18:3 says that her fornication (idolatry) involves her business relationships with the kings of the earth. It also explains that the merchants of the earth (global traders) are waxed rich (become wealthy) through the abundance (overflowing amount) of her delicacies (excessive indulgence in luxurious food and material things).

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.

Violent bloodshed for financial gain is associated with fornication.