



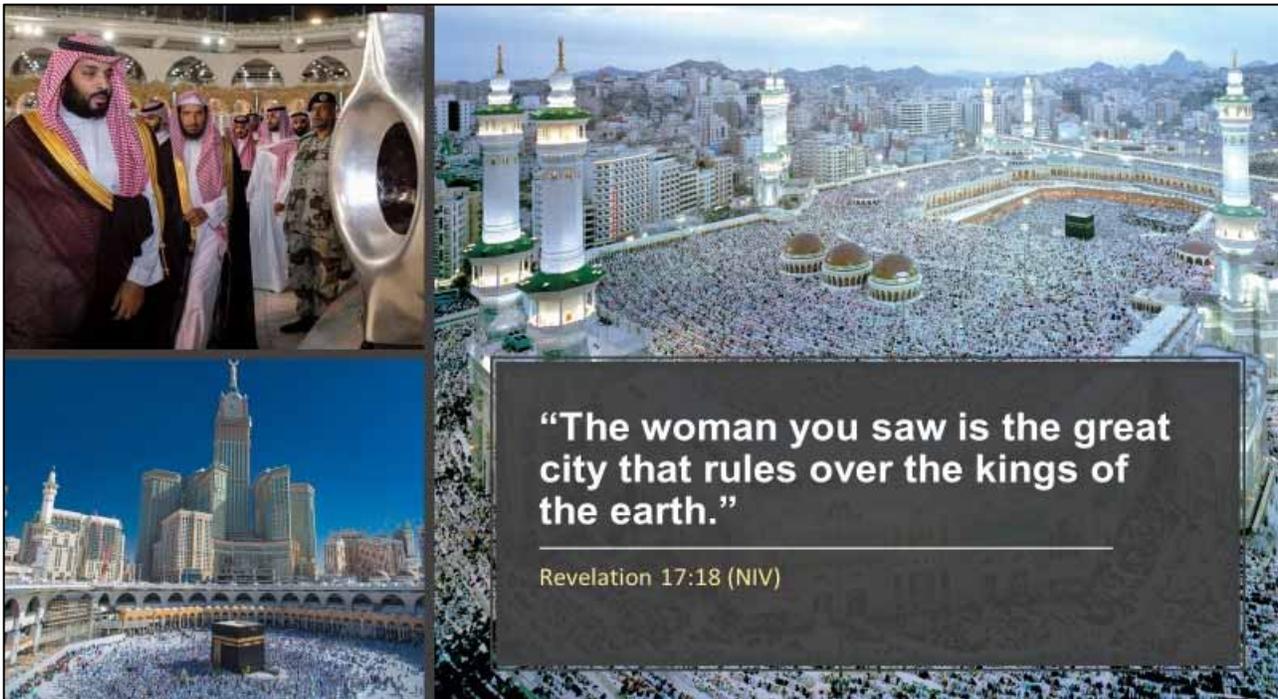
THE WICKED “GREAT CITY” OF REVELATION REVELATION CHAPTER 17 VERSE BY VERSE COMMENTARY

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 17

In Revelation chapter 17, one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls said to John, “Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits by many waters.” The name written on her forehead was a mystery:

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

Then the angel carried John away in the Spirit into a desert wilderness. There John saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. Revelation 17 says 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 woman John saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.



REVELATION CHAPTER 17 VERSE BY VERSE COMMENTARY

Rev 17:1 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.”

About one eighth of the entire book of Revelation, some 50 verses out of a total of 404, is devoted to the subject of God’s judgment upon “Babylon.” The worship of the false god paired spirits (the dragon and the beast, meaning Satan and Baal) gives way to severe punishment from the true God. Satan is the "Allah" of the Qur’an, and the beast is Baal from the original Babylon, now dwelling in the Kaaba, after Baal was released from the Abyss. In Revelation chapter 16, the seven bowls of wrath are the judgment of God on the Day of the Lord. The wrath is poured out on every unsaved person left on the earth on that day. The “great prostitute”, Mecca, does not partake of the first six fearful bowls of wrath poured by God upon the beast worshippers, but does participate in the seventh bowl.

Revelation 16:19 (NIV)

The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath.



PRAYER TO BAAL THE BEAST IN MECCA IN THE “GREAT CITY” OF REVELATION

A prostitute is usually associated with sexual immorality and adultery. But God is warning about of vast spiritual immorality, infidelity and adultery. The image of the “great prostitute” is a metaphor for a vast spiritual infidelity consisting of prayer and worship by billions of people (“many waters”) deceived to worship demonic spirits (Satan and Baal) by the false prophet Mohammad, and not to God.

BAAL WORSHIP WAS WIDESPREAD IN ANCIENT CANAAN

The true God is offended and angry at Islamic prayer and worship to spirits that are not the true God. This is not new. Baal and Satan attempted to take worship from God since the beginning of creation. The Israelites adopted Baal worship very early in their history and God severely punished them.

Numbers 25:1-5 (NIV)

While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate the sacrificial meal and bowed down before these gods. So Israel yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor. And the Lord's anger burned against them. The Lord said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of these people, kill them and expose them in broad daylight before the Lord, so that the Lord's fierce anger may turn away from Israel." So Moses said to Israel's judges, "Each of you must put to death those of your people who have yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor."

Baal was worshipped as god in many ancient Middle Eastern communities, especially among the Canaanites, who apparently considered him a fertility deity and one of the most important gods in the pantheon. Widespread Baal worship is described in texts, other than the Bible, in a group of texts from Ugarit, in northern Syria. These are chiefly concerned with the emergence of Baal as the leader of the gods. Basically, Baal was the storm god, the bringer of rain, and thus fertility, to the land.

According to the Syrian texts, Baal defeated other lesser gods including the dragon of the sea (see Isaiah 27:1 *"In that day, the Lord will punish with his sword—his fierce, great and powerful sword—Leviathan the gliding serpent, Leviathan the coiling serpent; he will slay the monster of the sea."*). The Syrian texts say lesser spirits began to build a magnificent house for Baal so that he could be at rest and provide abundant rain for the earth. But Baal was challenged by "Mot", the Syrian god of death and the underworld. Mot temporarily triumphed and Baal disappeared into the underworld. Baal was brought back to life and restored to his house.



ANCIENT ISRAELITES OFFERED CHILD SACRIFICES TO BAAL

Since the spirit claiming to be “Gabriel” appeared to the false prophet Mohammad over a 22-year time period between 610 and 632 AD, billions of people have been deceived into thinking they are praying to God. But they are not. Satan is very clever. Satan was never going to announce a human “antichrist.” Satan is the antichrist and has deceived many prophecy experts into looking in the wrong direction. Satan is far too clever to allow the prophecies to be easily understood, spotlight his actions, and thus avoided.

Revelation chapters 16,17,18 and 19 are all closely related. The angel who invites John to see the judgment of the great prostitute is “One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls.” This is one of the very angels from chapter 16. God’s judges the Islamic spiritual infidelity, meaning the worship and prayer to Satan and Baal, the dragon and beast. These sins and just punishments are told as a detailed description of the last bowl wrath judgments on the Day of the Lord that destroy Babylon the Great.

In chapter 16, John was shown the seven angels having the seven last plagues—the seven bowl judgments. John sees the seven bowls poured forth, including the last bowl wherein a voice from the Temple declares “It is done!” The effects of the previous chapter, at the pouring forth of all the bowls, include all aspects of God’s wrath being poured out on the earth. Now, one of those angels shows John a detailed perspective which precedes the events he saw in the previous chapter.

Chapters 17-19 give additional information given to John concerning the destruction of Babylon and the final consummation of the wrath that John saw prophetically poured forth. Beginning with Revelation 17 and continuing through Revelation 20:3, John is shown additional detail concerning aspects of the bowl judgments and their recipients. This includes the destruction of Babylon, the beast and his armies, and the binding of Satan.

Rev 17:2 With her the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.”

The angel tells John the kings of the earth have committed adultery with the great prostitute and the inhabitants of the earth, the many waters, have become intoxicated or drunk with the wine of her adulteries. Many prophets of the Old Testament accused Israel of committing adultery when they worshipped Baal and served pagan idols. See Jeremiah chapter 2 (Jeremiah 2:23 *“How can you say, ‘I am not defiled; I have not run after the Baals’? See how you behaved in the valley; consider what you have done.”*).

Mecca rules over the kings of the Islamic world. All Islamic kings must be submissive and are obliged to travel to Mecca for the Hajj. In full submission they must take off their fine clothes and appear as ordinary as every other person. The kings have no special privileges in Mecca. Mecca rules over them. As kings circle the Kaaba, they pray to the false god “Allah” and against Jesus, the Son of God.

“Here I am at Thy service O Allah, here I am.”

“Here I am at Thy service, and Thou hast no partners.”

“Thine alone is All Praise and All Bounty, and Thine alone is The Sovereignty.”

“Thou hast no partners.” “All Glory is to Allah! All Praise is to Allah!”

“There is none worthy of worship but Allah!”

“Allah is the Greatest. There is no power, nor strength except that from Allah, The Most High, The Greatest!”

“Blessings and Peace be upon the Prophet of Allah, Mohammad.”



Satan never tells you he is Satan. Baal never tells you he is the beast. Mohammad never tells you he is the false prophet. Not only kings, but an entire global populace have been influenced by Mecca. In Mecca, people are deceived into “spiritual intoxication.” In Mecca, in the presence of the Kaaba, they are deceived into believing the spirit they sense is God’s presence. They are tricked into having trust and confidence and think they are worshipping God. The spiritual force (the beast Baal and his demons) they perceive, feel and sense is not God.

All who follow the false prophet Mohammad have been made drunk from the false spiritual wine Mecca serves up. Because neither she nor the inhabitants of the earth chose to respond to the light which all men are given concerning God (no Christians are officially allowed in Mecca), God used her

rebellion to make all the nations commit even further to their errant path. Everyone who is allowed to enter Mecca may take the mark of the beast—they must say the Shahada.

Jeremiah 51:7 (NIV)

Babylon was a gold cup in the Lord's hand; she made the whole earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; therefore they have now gone mad.

It was Babylon and Baal who first made them drunk, but in their consistent rejection of God and their drunken stupor they returned for more which God allowed Mecca to continue serving up.

Rev 17:3 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 first part of 17:3 (*then angel carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness*) is the most overlooked verse in chapter 17 by most prophecy experts. They miss the vitally important information about where John was taken to see the woman. **John was taken to the desert wilderness.**

WHY THE CITY CANNOT BE ROME

Too many Bible prophecy experts skip over the beginning of Revelation 17:3, which tells us where John sees the woman--the great city. The experts simply repeat each other and conclude the woman must be "Rome." The Bible makes clear the woman cannot be Rome. Proper exegesis indicates the woman is Mecca. Mecca is in the desert wilderness and Mecca physically sits on seven mountains.



THE "GREAT CITY" MECCA IS IN THE DESERT WILDERNESS

There are three indisputable reasons why the woman cannot be Rome. First, John reports that the angel carried him away in the Spirit into a desert or wilderness. Rome was considered the center of the world by most, and never in the desert wilderness. This wilderness location alone rules out Rome. Jeremiah also tells us the true Babylon is a desert.

Jeremiah 50:12-13 (NIV)

Your mother will be greatly ashamed; she who gave you birth will be disgraced. She will be the least of the nations—a wilderness, a dry land, a desert. Because of the Lord’s anger she will not be inhabited but will be completely desolate. All who pass Babylon will be appalled; they will scoff because of all her wounds.

Second, the term “Babylon” as a reference for Rome does not occur until the second century AD. The term “Babylon” for Rome did not begin until long after Revelation was written in 95 AD. Babylon in the Old Testament meant the physical kingdom of Babylon in Mesopotamia. Old Testament prophecies concerning Babylon would have to have been given using a “code word” which did not obtain its final meaning (Rome) until hundreds of years later. This violates the basic rules of Bible interpretation where the meaning of language is established by its original context.

Third, as will be discussed in more detail under Revelation 17:9, the woman sits on seven mountains, which are said to also represent seven kings. The mountains are symbols of a demonic kingdom in physical Babylon (Jeremiah 51:25 *“I am against you, you destroying mountain, you who destroy the whole earth,” declares the Lord. “I will stretch out my hand against you, roll you off the cliffs, and make you a burned-out mountain.”*)

THE SCARLET BEAST THAT WAS COVERED WITH BLASPHEMOUS NAMES

Islam believes they are a pure monotheistic religion, but have been deceived into worshipping two spirits, the dragon (“Allah” of the Qur’an) and the beast (Baal in the Kaaba receives all Islamic prayer from every location in the world). The beast is one of the two worshipped spirits of the Islamic empire (Revelation 13:4 *People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?”*)

The harlot woman represents the blasphemous city that seduces the nations and Mecca’s economic system (Hajj pilgrimage) that draws them into its earthly luxury. That the beast is “scarlet” most likely points to the incredible luxury of the empire, seen in the “purple and scarlet” clothing of the woman and the Kaaba. The cloth covering the Kaaba costs \$6 million dollars and is replaced each year.

Many prophecy experts view the prostitute as an exclusively religious figure. Some think it is the “antichrist.” But the Bible says the prostitute is a city in the desert wilderness on seven mountains. The harlot is not worshipped, rather the beast in the city is worshipped. The city uses the beast to gain fame and fortune. Mecca “rides” the Kaaba to fame and fortune with the mandatory Islamic Hajj. Mecca’s position, that of riding the beast, indicates on the one hand that she is supported by the religious power of the beast through the Islamic Hajj pilgrimage, and on the other that she seems to outwardly control and directs the beast.

But Mecca does not control the beast. The beast controls Mecca. For without the Kaaba there would be no Mecca. The woman sits on the beast, but it is the beast that has the power and travels where it wants.

The woman is seated on a scarlet beast with seven heads and ten horns. The beast of Revelation 13 that emerges from the sea also has seven heads and ten horns. In Revelation the "sea" represents the spiritual world. The beast, which came out of the sea, also came out of the Abyss, which is Sheol. Sheol is the place of darkness to which all the dead unsaved souls go, and God casts rebellious spirits into Sheol as well.

Revelation 13:1 (NIV)

The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

Remember again that in the book of Revelation the "sea" is the spiritual world. The beast comes out of the sea, or the spiritual world. The beast must be spiritual, since only spirits dwell in the Abyss. Baal (Bel) was sent into the Abyss when Babylon fell. (Jeremiah 51:44 *"I will punish Bel in Babylon and make him spew out what he has swallowed"* and Isaiah 14:15 *"Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit."*) We see this again in Psalm 88.

Psalm 88:2-7 (NASB)

Let my prayer come before You; Incline Your ear to my cry! For my soul has had enough troubles, and my life has drawn near to Sheol. I am reckoned among those who go down to the pit; I have become like a man without strength, Forsaken among the dead, Like the slain who lie in the grave, Whom You remember no more, And they are cut off from Your hand. You have put me in the lowest pit, In dark places, in the depths. Your wrath has rested upon me, And You have afflicted me with all Your waves.

Our English word "blasphemy" comes to us from the Greek word "blasphemia". This Greek word "blasphemia", in turn, is formed from the two Greek words "blapto" and "pheme". The Greek verb "blapto" means "to hurt, harm, injure". "Pheme" means to say or report.

Webster's Dictionary defines this word as "to speak of or address with irreverence". We generally think of the word "blasphemy" in relationship to God. There are two types of blasphemy. One is to insult or injure God. An example would be cursing or using God's name in vain. The second is to give characteristics or titles ("God", "Holy", "Consecrated", "Righteous", etc) that only belong to God to something other than God. This is the blasphemy of Mecca and the Kaaba. They give titles to Allah and Baal that only belong to God.

The Kaaba uses many names that only belong to God. In Islam, the Kaaba (where the beast dwells in Mecca) is called Qâdis, Arabic: القادس **"HOLY"**, and Nâdhir, Arabic: الناذر **"DEDICATED"**, **"CONSECRATED"**. The Kaaba is also called Bayt Allah" Arabic: بيت الله, **"THE HOUSE OF GOD"**. In the Qur'an, the Ka'ba has been also mentioned as "al-Bayt" Arabic: البيت, the house, "al-Bayt al-Haram" Arabic: البيت الحرام, **"THE SACRED HOUSE"**, and **"THE OLDEST HOUSE OF WORSHIP."**

The Kaaba blasphemous names also include **“THE ONE WHO PURIFIES”**, coming from at-taqdīs **“SANTIFICATION”** or **“PURIFICATION”**, from there came the name of Allah al-Quddūs: **“THE PURE ONE”**. The Kaaba includes the word muḩaddas: the purified. Al-Qādis is the pure or **“THE ONE WHO PURIFIES”**, as the Kaaba is claimed to purify from sins. The name ‘atīq was given because in its Mosque, “Allah” is preserving the sinners from punishment and hellfire. The word al-‘atīq also means **“THE ONE WHO RELEASES THE SINNERS.”** Thus, the beast is covered in many blasphemous names, just as John said.

"AND HAD SEVEN HEADS AND TEN HORNS"

The symbolism is analogous to that found in Daniel 7, which helps greatly in the correct interpretation. First, the heads signify dominion. The head is naturally looked upon as the chief, the controlling and guiding part of the body; that part to which all the members of the body are subject. This is the idea conveyed in Daniel 7:6. The third beast there is distinguished by the possession of four heads, and (we are immediately told) "dominion was given to it."

The beast of the Revelation bears a strong resemblance to the fourth beast of Daniel 7:7-8. Common terminology between Daniel and John include the very title, "the beast", which is conspicuous. In addition, the ten horns; great power; duration even until the kingdom of Christ and the Day of the Lord are common terms. Daniel gives additional details of the war with the saints, and of the "time, times and half a time" (3½ times). We learn from Revelation 17: the seven heads

There are some things which Daniel alone mentions: its formidable appearance, great strength, teeth of iron, difference from the former beasts, the little horn, its eyes which are those of a man, the three horns torn out, and nails of brass. Now in Revelation, John gives new details. John includes the seven heads, the names of blasphemy; the resemblance of the beast itself, its feet and mouth to the third, the second, and the first beast in Daniel; the assistance given by the dragon; the “deadly wound” and its “healing;” the “wondering” of the earth; the “worship” of the inhabitants of the earth; the woman seated upon it; the ascent from the Abyss—the spiritual bottomless pit.

These are the same ten spiritual demonic kings which Daniel saw in his night vision (Daniel 7:8-8, 7:24-25). Daniel’s ten kings are “different” from Daniel’s little horn king. The human little horn king was Umar, the Islamic caliph and the same person in Revelation chapter 6 rider on a black horse with a pair of scales. The scales are used to calculate Umar’s Islamic taxes imposed on the conquered people—mostly Christians. For a day’s wages the tax would be 10%, which amounts to *"two pounds of wheat for a day’s wages, and six pounds of barley for a day’s wages."*

There is no need to guess about the seven heads. We learn from Revelation 17:9-10 the exact meaning of the seven heads. The seven heads have a dual meaning. Revelation 17:9 *"This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits."* Revelation 17:10 *"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."*

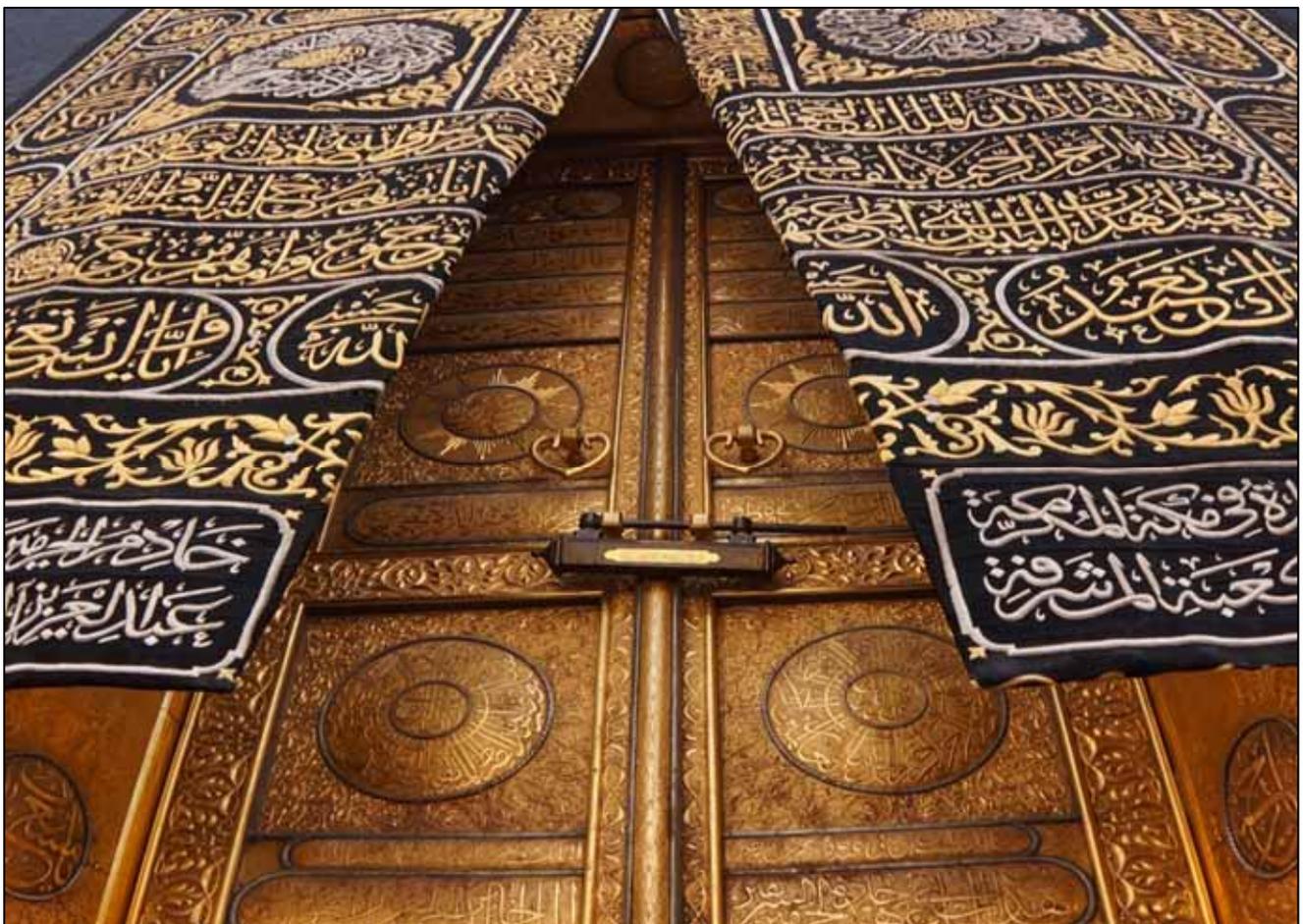
That Mecca is prostitute—the "great city" is now confirmed. Mecca sits on seven mountains and Rome does not. Mecca is in the desert wilderness and Rome is not.

Rev 17:4 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.

All of the woman's wealth is an abomination to God, since it is directly coupled with her spiritual immorality. The woman not only practices spiritual harlotry (idolatry), she gains from the beast materialism and wealth. Prayers are directed to Baal in the Kaaba which glitters with gold.

The prostitute shares these characteristics with Umar (taught by the false prophet Mohammad) who found the fortress god "Allah", and disregarded all other gods, including the God of gods' all gods, exalts himself above them, and in their place shall honor another god with gold, silver, and precious stones (Daniel 11:38-39 *Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his ancestors he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. He will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him.*)

The Harlot wears identical attire as the city. "That great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls" (Revelation 18:16). This indicates that the Harlot and the city are one and the same (Revelation 17:18).



THE KAABA "GLITTERING WITH GOLD, PRECIOUS STONES AND PEARLS"

Rev 17:5 The name written on her forehead was a mystery:

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

Ancient Babylon was notorious for its idolatrous worship. When Daniel and his three friends were taken into captivity from Jerusalem, they found themselves surrounded by idolatrous customs in Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon tried to indoctrinate them in the worship of Baal by feeding them unclean food, by inducting them into a three-year education program, and by changing their Hebrew names to pagan names. But every effort failed. The young men remained true to the Lord (Daniel 1). These three friends miraculously survived a blazing furnace after refusing to worship a statue of the king (Daniel 3). When King Darius took the Babylonian throne, he forbade prayer to anyone other than himself for thirty days. Standing true to God, Daniel continued daily prayers to the Lord. He was arrested and thrown to the lions, but God rescued him (Daniel 6).

Babylon is the mother of harlots and of abominations of the earth (Revelation 17:5). Thus, she birthed the abominations which are found in the cup which she serves. From this, we know that the woman is not just a figure of the time of the end, but has her roots stretching back to early history. Thus, both the harlot and the seven heads on the beast which she rides stretch back to early history. This always includes the two main enemies of God, Baal and Satan.

The woman has a title written on her forehead: "Mystery Babylon the Great, Mother of Prostitutes and of the Abominations of the Earth." Mystery refers to that which is revealed by God alone and cannot be understood apart from his revelation. It does not refer to a puzzle to be solved by human ingenuity.

The Gospel is often called a mystery in Paul's writings. See Ephesians 1 & Romans 16. In Jeremiah 50-52 the prophet outlines God's judgment against Babylon for destroying God's city, Jerusalem, and taking his people into exile. Even though God used the Babylonians to execute his judgment upon Judah God still held them accountable for their conquest and murder of his people. In Jeremiah 51:7 and following God says Babylon was a gold cup in the Lord's hand and she made the whole world drunk on her wine. The nations drank from her and went mad, but she will suddenly fall and people everywhere will weep for her. John uses that same image here in Revelation 17 to describe Babylon which is regenerated when Baal emerged from the Abyss and was revealed to Mohammad.

Babylon became a byword in Scripture for godless culture opposed to God and his people. It was the pagan culture of the world fueled by idolatry and wickedness; full of sexual immorality and greed, built upon human slavery. Even though Rome had many impressive accomplishments at its heart it was wicked and sinful, oppressing people and using them for its own profit. Yet Rome does not fulfill the prophecy of Revelation. Satan has allowed many prophecy experts to be misled by focusing repeatedly on Rome and too prideful to see their errors. God calls Mecca, the great city, the mother of prostitutes who entices all the nations to sin and corrupts them. In God's view Babylon is an abomination. That word means "the hated thing" and is anything that arouses God's wrath and his rejection.

ZECHARIAH AND JOHN: BACK TO BABYLON

Another passage which is often overlooked in establishing the identification of Babylon is the puzzling passage which occupies the last half of Zechariah chapter 5. An angel shows Zechariah a basket containing a woman covered with a lead disk. The angel identifies the woman: *"This is Wickedness!"* (Zechariah 5:8). The basket is then transported away by two winged figures. When Zechariah asks where the basket is bound, the angel responds (Zechariah 5:11), *"He replied, 'To the country of Babylonia to build a house for it. When the house is ready, the basket will be set there in its place.'"*

The future house is the Kaaba--the "House of Allah." Baal the beast dwells in the Kaaba. The city of Mecca is inside the boundaries of the ancient Babylonian Empire, while Rome is nowhere close to the boundary of the old Babylonian Empire.

ZECHARIAH AND JOHN SAW THE SAME BABYLON WOMAN	
Zechariah 5:5-11	Revelation 17-18
Woman sitting in a basket of wickedness	Prostitute woman sitting on the beast, seven mountains and many waters
Severe wickedness ("This is the iniquity of the people throughout the land.")	Severe wickedness ("She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries")
Basket going to a house built sometime later in Babylon	The Kaaba in Mecca is called "the House of Allah"
False Worship	False Worship

The strongest evidence that Babylon is Mecca has to do with the beast from the Abyss. Revelation 17:3 tells us the beast comes from the Abyss. The Bible tells us the empire of Babylon along with their worshipped spirit "Bel" was defeated and Bel himself is punished. Bel is the Aramaic form of Baal, the national god of the Babylonians (Isaiah 46:1; Jeremiah 50:2; 51:44). It signifies "lord." Bel is more than a stone or wood idol, because God specifically punishes Bel; God will *"make him spew out what he has swallowed."*

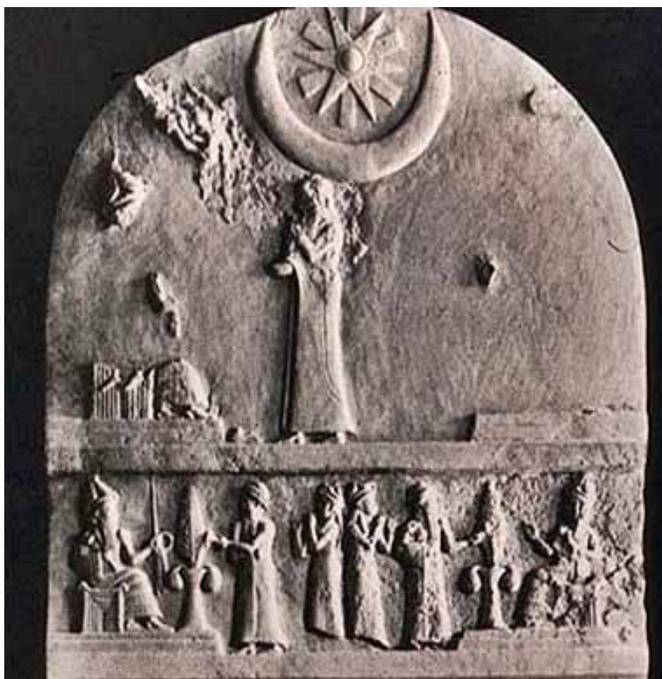
Jeremiah 51:44 (NIV)

I will punish Bel in Babylon and make him spew out what he has swallowed. The nations will no longer stream to him. And the wall of Babylon will fall.

The Bible tells us in Isaiah 14 the demonic prince from Babylon (Bel) is sent to Sheol--the Abyss. Baal then left the Abyss and entered the Kaaba. Baal is the beast with the fatal wound healed.

Isaiah 14:15-17 (NASB)

Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, they will ponder over you, saying, 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world like a wilderness and overthrew its cities, who did not allow his prisoners to go home?'



ANCIENT BAAL SYMBOL



MODERN KAABA BAAL SYMBOL

Babylon in the book of Revelation is not the literal city on the banks of the Euphrates River. The ancient Babylon was not on seven mountains. The key is to understand that the worshipped spirit in ancient Babylon was Baal. Baal was released from the Abyss (the fatal wound was healed) and now dwells in the Kaaba. The ancient symbols of Baal (the crescent moon) are all over the Islamic world and especially in Mecca. Recognize the symbols of Baal and you will understand Babylon.

Rev 17:6 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.

Babylon, the beast, the dragon and the harlot are associated with "*all who have been slaughtered on the earth*" and "*shed the blood of your holy people and your prophets*" (Revelation 18:24, Revelation 16:5-6). The Bible says all the slain people of God over time. This is another strong reason why the city is not Rome. While Rome killed many Christians, it certainly did not kill all believers and saints. Who killed all the prophets and saints in the Old Testament? The answer is the all saints and prophets have been killed by Satan and Baal throughout time since the creation.

Revelation 18:24 (NIV)

“In her was found the blood of prophets and of God’s holy people, of all who have been slaughtered on the earth.”

Revelation 16:5-6 (NIV)

Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: “You are just in these judgments, O Holy One, you who are and who were; for they have shed the blood of your holy people and your prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve.”

Throughout the book of Revelation, John is shown numerous martyrs of Jesus. Antipas in the church of Pergamos was a faithful martyr (Revelation 2:13). At the opening of the fifth seal, John sees *“the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held”* (Revelation 6:9). God’s two spiritual witnesses (Gabriel and Michael the two archangels), empowered to prophesy for 1260 days/years (688 to 1948), are martyred as a witness by Baal the beast from the Abyss (Revelation 11:7 and Zechariah 4).

SATAN AND BAAL BLAME THE JEWS FOR KILLING THE PROPHETS

Always the liars, Satan and Baal blame the killing of the prophets on the Jews. In the Qur’an, Baal (who was revealed as the spirit “Gabriel” to Mohammad) says it was the Jews that killed all the prophets. A prominent repeated story of the Qur’an’s material on the Jews is its report that the Israelites killed prophets sent to them in nine different passages.

Qur’an 2:61 So they [the Jews] were struck with abasement and poverty, and they earned Allah’s wrath. That, because they would deny the signs of Allah and kill the prophets unjustly. That, because they would disobey and commit transgressions.

Qur’an 2:87 Certainly, We gave Moses the Book and followed him with the apostles, and We gave Jesus, the son of Mary, manifest proofs and confirmed him with the Holy Spirit. Is it not that whenever an apostle brought you that which was not to your liking, you would act arrogantly; so you [the Jews] would impugn a group of them, and kill another group?

Qur’an 2:91 And when they are told, “Believe in what Allah has sent down,” they [the Jews] say, “We believe in what was sent down to us,” and they disbelieve what is besides it, though it is the truth confirming what is with them. Say, “Then why would you kill the prophets of Allah formerly, should you be faithful?”

Qur’an 3:21 Those Jews who deny Allah’s signs and kill the prophets unjustly and kill those who call for justice from among the people, inform them of a painful punishment

Qur’an 3:112 Wherever they [the Jews] are found, abasement is stamped upon them, except for an asylum from Allah and an asylum from the people. They have earned the wrath of Allah, and poverty has been stamped upon them. That, because they would deny the signs of Allah and kill the prophets unjustly. That, because they would disobey and commit transgression earned Allah’s wrath. That, because they would deny the signs of Allah and kill the prophets unjustly. That, because they would disobey and commit transgressions.

Qur'an 3:181 Allah has certainly heard the remark of those [the Jews] who said, "Allah is poor and we are rich." We will record what they have said, and their killing of the prophets unjustly, and We shall say, "Taste the punishment of the burning"

Qur'an 3:183 Tell those [the Jews] who say, "Allah has pledged us not to believe in any apostle unless he brings us an offering consumed by fire," "Apostles before me certainly did bring you manifest signs and what you speak of. Then why did you kill them, if you are truthful?"

Qur'an verse 3:183 also begins the process where the false prophet Mohammad deceives those around him into thinking he can call down fire from heaven on an offering like Elijah did with Baal, fulfilling Revelation 13:13-14. *(And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.)*

Qur'an 4:155 Then because of their [the Jews] breaking their covenant, their denial of Allah's signs, their killing of the prophets unjustly and for their saying, 'Our hearts are uncircumcised'... Indeed, Allah has set a seal on them for their unfaith, so they do not have faith except a few.

Qur'an 5:70 Certainly We took a pledge from the Children of Israel and We sent apostles to them. Whenever an apostle brought them that which was not to their liking, they would impugn a part of them and a part they would kill.

It is true the Jews killed prophets. Jesus himself said so in Luke 13. But the Jews were acting on behalf of the dragon and the beast. Revelation 18:24 makes this clear: *"In her was found the blood of prophets and of God's holy people, of all who have been slaughtered on the earth."* Satan and Baal's guilt for shed blood extends throughout all history.

Luke 13:34-35 (NIV)

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Thus, Babylon cannot be Rome. Rome did not kill any of Old Testament Biblical prophets, nor even most Christians over time. Baal dwells in the Kaaba-- the image and the Islamic Shahada is the mark of the beast. John sees the dragon and beast killing the saints: *"the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands"* (Revelation 20:4).

If you allow Babylon to express Satan and Baal's system of evil, as especially developed from Babel onwards after the Flood, and including all those various systems of idolatry and false worship which have had their spring, or root, or direct teaching in Babylon, you will see in the picture presented to us in Revelation 17 and 18 a clear portrayal; otherwise, readers must leave out vast populations of martyrs that Rome never touched.

Rev 17:7 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 angel asks John: *“why are you astonished?”* or *“filled with wonder and perplexity,”* catching the double meaning of the verb. This also is rhetorical, for most Revelation readers have the same feelings. The message in a sense is, “God is sovereign over all this, and Satan and Baal’s temporary triumph has already been told in Revelation chapter 13. So, there is no reason to be perplexed.”

The Book of Revelation uses the image of a harlot woman to illustrate a great city that blasphemes the true God. Where is this “great city”? The Bible says the city rules over the kings, “rides the beast” to great wealth and fame, holds many demons, and sits on seven mountains. It is not Rome, Jerusalem, nor New York City.

The angel provides revelation concerning aspects of the woman (Revelation 17:15-18) and the beast with the seven heads and ten horns (Revelation 17:8-14, and 17:16-17). The remainder of the chapter is devoted to these two topics. Thus, the angel now promises to interpret for John the details of “the mystery” (see on 17:5) regarding the details of the vision in 17:1–6: “the woman and the beast that carries her having seven heads and ten horns.” The explanation that follows, however, focuses on the beast, and the woman with a false religion, false prophet, image and mark is identified throughout Revelation as located the desert wilderness (Revelation 17:3), ruling over the kings (Revelation 17:18) and on seven mountains (Revelation 17:9). This is enough information to clearly identify Mecca.



**BAAL’S HOME IN MECCA: “THE GREAT CITY, DRESSED IN FINE LINEN,
PURPLE AND SCARLET, AND GLITTERING WITH GOLD”**

Rev 17:8 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 is the same beast which John saw earlier in chapter 13: “*One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast.*” (Revelation 13:3) Now, the angel shows John the beast’s place of origin (from the Abyss) and his relationship to the woman (Mecca). Those who marvel are humans on earth, but not over his recovery from his deadly wound. They marvel at his power as they were deceived by Mohammad.

The beast is revealed and is worshipped along with the dragon until Christ returns. This is an important verse because it gives us information concerning the four phases of the life of the beast who is the eighth head and also out of the first seven (Revelation 17:10).

1. **ONCE WAS** – Baal was once worshipped by the Israelites (Numbers 25:1-5).
2. **NOW IS NOT** – Some time before the Revelation to John, the beast appeared to have died and was sent down into the Abyss (Jeremiah 51:44, Revelation 13:3, Isaiah 14:15-17)
3. **YET WILL COME UP OUT OF THE ABYSS** – Baal the beast had a seemingly miraculous recovery out of the Abyss (Revelation 13:3).
4. **GO TO ITS DESTRUCTION** – Baal and Satan’s destruction at the hands of Christ at the Second Coming is certain. (Revelation 19:19 and Revelation 20:10)

Many believe the beast is worshiped because they see his astonishing recovery. This is not what the Bible says. People worship the beast because of his apparent overwhelming power. The Bible says they worship the beast because they say: “*Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?*” John tells us about his astonishing recovery to help us identify the beast from the Abyss. The people worshipping the beast do not know anything about his recovery. The Muslims praying to the Kaaba where Baal resides have no idea that Baal emerged from the Abyss. **Satan is too clever to reveal this and allow the prophecy to be easily understood.** Satan is too clever to put the mark “666” on someone’s forehead. Satan is too clever to set up a human who is called the “Antichrist.”

Revelation 13:4 (NIV)

People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?”

In Islam no one can wage war against Allah, and Allah must be worshipped. In the Qur’an 5:33, no one can wage war against Allah nor his false prophet Mohammad.

Qur’an 5:33 Indeed, the penalty for those who wage war against Allah and His Prophet [Mohammad] and strive upon earth to cause corruption is that they be killed or crucified or that their hands and feet be cut off from opposite sides or that they be exiled from the land. That is for them a disgrace in this world; and for them in the hereafter is a great hellfire.

The mystery of the beast is first explained to John, and the beast is considered first in general, under a threefold state or succession, as existing, and then ceasing to be, and then reviving again, to become another and the same. This helps us identify the beast as Baal, since Baal “was” and “now is not” at the time of John because Baal (Aramaic “Bel”) was sent into Sheol at the time Babylon fell.

God tells us in Jeremiah chapter 50 that *"Bel will be put to shame."*

Jeremiah 50:1-3 (NIV)

This is the word the Lord spoke through Jeremiah the prophet concerning Babylon and the land of the Babylonians: “Announce and proclaim among the nations, lift up a banner and proclaim it; keep nothing back, but say, ‘Babylon will be captured; Bel will be put to shame, Marduk filled with terror. Her images will be put to shame and her idols filled with terror.’ A nation from the north will attack her and lay waste her land. No one will live in it; both people and animals will flee away.”

The Bible tells us in Isaiah 14 the demonic prince from Babylon (Bel) is confined to Sheol--the Abyss. Isaiah 14 describes the destruction of Babylon. At the first in verses 1-13, the destruction of the human king is described, ("On the day the Lord gives you relief from your suffering and turmoil and from the harsh labor forced on you, you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon") but then the dialog changes to the demonic prince of Babylon.

Isaiah 14:12-15 (NASB)

How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! “But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ “Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit.

The last king of Babylon was Belshazzar—whose name literally means **"Bel guards the king."** The demonic spirit Baal (“Bel” in Aramaic) was guarding the king that night. Most people know part of the story of the “handwriting on the wall.” Daniel interpreted the handwriting on the wall the last night the king of Babylon was alive.

Marduk, in the Mesopotamian religion, was the chief god of the city of Babylon and the national god of Babylonia; as such, he was eventually called simply Bel, or Lord. Jeremiah 50:2 *“Announce and proclaim among the nations, lift up a banner and proclaim it; keep nothing back, but say, ‘Babylon will be captured; Bel will be put to shame, Marduk filled with terror.’ Her images will be put to shame and her idols filled with terror.”*

When Babylon fell in 539 BC to the Persians, the false god of Babylon called "Baal" or "Bel" was sent into the Abyss by the true God (Isaiah 14:15 *"You will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit."*) Once in the Abyss it certainly appeared that Baal was dead. But his seemingly fatal wound was later healed (Revelation 13:3 *"One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed."*)



“BEL GUARDS THE KING” BELSHAZZAR SEES “MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN”

Daniel 5:25-28 (NIV)

“This is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN. “Here is what these words mean: Mene: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end. Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting. Parsin: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

Baal would later be released from the Abyss by an angel and is worshipped in the Kaaba. Satan gave Baal his great power (Revelation 13:2 *“The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.”*) The Bible tells us both the beast and the dragon (Satan) will be jointly worshipped. Only Islam conducts this dual worship both to Allah and the Kaaba. (Revelation 13:4 *“People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?”*)

The battle Jesus warned about in Revelation is a spiritual battle. The real antichrist is Satan, and the beast is his second in command-Baal. This is not about some human leader that might be worshipped someday--as most prophecy writers wrongly believe. Satan is far too clever to announce a human “antichrist”. This is about Christ, and the antichrist spiritual forces that opposes him--Satan and his angels. Paul said *“this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil”* in Ephesians 6:12.

Ephesians 6:12 (NIV)

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

“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”

John is not told that their names are not presently found in the book, as if they were at one time but were later blotted out. Instead, in the foreknowledge and election of God, their names were never recorded there (Revelation 13:8). Since their names have not been written in the Book of Life, they are guaranteed eventually to be cast into the Lake of Fire because “anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:12). Only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life find entry into the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:27).

The most important place your name could ever be written is in this book. How can you make sure your name is included in the Book of Life? This takes place by believing in Jesus Christ as Savior: *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast”* (Ephesians 2:8-9). No amount of works can earn a spot in the Book of Life. It is a gift that only comes through faith in Jesus.

There are eight references in New Testament to the “book of life,” and two of them refer specifically to the book of life that belongs to the Lamb, Jesus Christ. Seven of the references appear in the book of Revelation. Those whose names are written in the book of life are those who belong to God, those who have attained eternal life.

Paul refers to those who have labored alongside him as those whose names are in the book of life (Philippians 4:3), again identifying the book of life as a record of the names of those who have eternal salvation. In the same way, Revelation 3:5 refers to the book of life in which the names of believers in the Lord are found. These are those who overcome the trials of earthly life, proving that their salvation is genuine.

This verse also makes it clear that once a name is written in the book of life, Jesus promises that He will never blot it out, proving once more the doctrine of eternal security. The Lord Jesus, who is speaking to the churches in this part of Revelation, promises to acknowledge his own before His Father. Conversely, Revelation 20:15 reveals the fate of those whose names are not written in the book of life—eternity in the lake of fire.

Revelation 17:8 clarifies when the names of the redeemed are written in the book of life: “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” (emphasis added). The names of those who approve of the Antichrist are not found in the book of life, and the names that are in the book of life were written there before the world was created. Thus, Revelation 17:8 teaches both eternal security and election.

In Revelation 13:8 and 21:27, we find the references to the “Lamb’s book of life,” in which also are the names of all those who have been washed by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ. The Lamb who has been “slain from the creation of the world” has a book in which are written all those who have been redeemed by His sacrifice. They are the ones who will enter the Holy City, the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:10) and who will live forever in heaven with God. The book of life and the Lamb’s book of life are one and the same.

Rev 17:9 “This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits.

While the NIV translation says “hills”, most New Testament translations say “mountains.” The KJV, NASB, RSV, ESV and most others say “mountains.” The actual Greek word used is “oros”, which means “mountains.” In the New Testament, the word oros means “hill” 2 times, “mount” 18 times, “mountain” 31 times and “mountains” 12 times. Rome is not in such a situation. Saudi Arabia’s Mecca fulfills this condition, not Rome.

When John wrote the Book of Revelations during his exile on the Island of Patmos, Pagan Rome was the enemy of God's people. Many Christians were martyred there and so the center of the Catholic Church also moved there after Jerusalem was destroyed. It is easy to see why some commentators concluded the Whore of Babylon was Rome. Rome did try to destroy Christ and then persecute the Christians. Rome has a Vespasian imperial coin with a woman seated on seven hills!



The seven hills of Rome are just barely hills. They are an integral part of the Roman ancient culture. The names of these seven hills are, The Esquiline Hill, Quirinal Hill, The Aventine Hill, The Viminal Hill, The Caelian Hill, The Palatine Hill and The Capitoline Hill. Each hill has its own history and plays a significant part in the cultural heritage of Rome. These seven hills are located in the east of Tiber River. Shown below is Palatine Hill, the largest hill. But it is not a mountain! For these and several other Biblical reasons, the great city cannot be Rome.



ROME IS ON SEVEN SMALL HILLS-NOT MOUNTAINS

The connection between mountains and kings must be deeper than the mere outward fact to which incidental allusion is made that Rome (the then world city) is on seven small hills. Everything that describes the harlot better fits the Kaaba in Mecca: dress, pearls, jewels, gold, silver and even the blasphemies etched in silver threads with golden inlays across her attire. Just the doors of the Kaaba alone have 280 kilograms of pure gold.

Mecca is in the desert wilderness and sits on seven actual mountains. Arabia is "Kedar" in the Old Testament. The Bible says Baal worship was involved with Kedar: "*Yet they are not gods at all*" (Jeremiah 2:8-11). The "glory of Kedar" is recorded by the prophet Isaiah, (Isaiah 21:13-17); and its importance may also be inferred from the "princes of Kedar" mentioned by Ezekiel, (Ezekiel 27:21). They appear also to have been, like the wandering tribes of the present day, "archers" and "mighty men." (Isaiah 21:17)

Jeremiah 2:8-11 (NIV)

The priests did not ask, 'Where is the Lord?' Those who deal with the law did not know me; the leaders rebelled against me. The prophets prophesied by Baal, following worthless idols. Therefore, I bring charges against you again," declares the Lord. "And I will bring charges against your children's children. Cross over to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar [Arabia] and observe closely; see if there has ever been anything like this: Has a nation ever changed its gods? (Yet they are not gods at all.) But my people have exchanged their glorious God for worthless idols.



THE GREAT CITY MECCA SITS ON SEVEN MOUNTAINS

Rev 17:10 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.

There has been an endless stream of speculation as to who are the seven kings or kingdoms!

THERE WERE A DOZEN BIBLICAL ROMAN EMPERORS—NOT SEVEN

The book of Revelation was written shortly after the reign of Domitian in 95 AD. Thus, the Biblical Roman emperor chain would stretch from Caesar Augustus to Nerva, the emperor after Domitian. John is told five of the seven kings have fallen or have perished. The word “fallen” is a synonym for “died” in this context. One king “is”, or now rules and one is yet to come. This is a very difficult phrase to interpret. Because Rome is on seven hills (not mountains) many scholars tried in vain to synchronize the Roman emperors with the seven kings. The problem is the numbers don't match up in any accurate way. The Roman emperors up to Domitian were: 1) Augustus, 2) Tiberius, 3) Caligula, 4) Claudius, 5) Nero, 6) Galba, 7) Otho, 8) Vitellius, 9) Vespasian, 10) Titus, 11) Domitian and 12) Nerva. Which of the 12 Roman emperors? **Thus, John is not talking about Roman emperors!**

Even if Rome doesn't fit, is John telling us there will be a literally revived future Roman Empire with an emperor? No! Most importantly, Rome cannot possibly fulfill Revelation 18:24. Rome did not kill all the Old Testament prophets!! Actually, Rome killed no prophets, other than Jesus, if the Son of God can also be considered a prophet. Certainly Rome did not kill all of God's holy people! Even a revived future Rome could not go back in time and do this. But Baal and Satan have orchestrated the war against all prophets and God's holy people since the creation!

Revelation 18:24 (NIV)

“In her was found the blood of prophets and of God's holy people, of all who have been slaughtered on the earth.”

Revelation 18:24 (NASB)

“And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth.”

Looking at the prophecies of Daniel can help us understand. Daniel saw four wild beasts in his dreams; they represented the then great world-power Babylon, and its three successors, Persia, Greece, and eventually Islam. We must also include the two great world-powers, Egypt and Assyria, that preceded Babylon. These two figure in the ancient prophecies as forces hostile God's holy people. John's visions took the range of the world's drama, could not see the ever rising spirit of demonic spiritual hostility to God's chosen without understanding Egypt and Assyria were included.

The voices of Moses and Isaiah called to him across the centuries that in these the world principle of their day found its clearest and strongest manifestation. In various empires the world-power showed itself: in Egypt, the house of bondage (Exodus 20:2); in Assyria, that exalted herself against God (Isaiah 37:23); in Babylon, the hammer of the whole earth (Jeremiah 50:23); in Persia, and in Greece; and in succession these kingdoms fell, only to be succeeded by another—Rome. Five fell; the one is. The one that was present at the time of John was, of course, Rome. But what is the seventh? What is the eighth?

ABADDON THE DESTROYER--THE SEVENTH KING, AND THE BEAST—THE EIGHTH KING ARE BOTH RELEASED FROM SHEOL!

Remember the Bible says that Daniel's fourth kingdom is *"different from all the other kingdoms."* When we understand the spiritual world of the Abyss, we can see the Abyss is where the next two kings (number seven and number eight) come from. They are both from Sheol. The same as Baal.

Daniel tells us the next (fourth) kingdom is *"different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth."* The ten kings from this kingdom are unlike the little horn (Umar). The little horn *"had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully."* Umar had human eyes and a mouth! This means the ten kings do not! They are not human. They exist at the time of Daniel, because the little horn is after them (Umar ruled as caliph 634-644 AD) but the ten are not released until the end times.

Daniel 7:23-24 (NIV)

"He gave me this explanation: 'The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it. The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom.'"

Daniel 7:8 (NIV)

"While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully."

Now, back to Revelation, John tells us in Revelation 9:1-2 the demons, the king Abaddon and the beast are all released from the Abyss. So many spirits were released the sky darkened.

Revelation 9:1-2 (NIV)

The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss.

Next, John tells us the demonic king Abaddon was released from the Abyss.

Revelation 9:11 (NIV)

They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer).

"They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon." The seventh king that only "rules a short time" is Abaddon. Abaddon is the "destroyer" and releases hordes of demons. He also releases from the Abyss the demonic spirit from Babylon. Now the seemingly fatal wound has been healed! Abaddon the king only operates a short time. Revelation 9:5 *"They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months."*

Finally John tells us the beast (Baal) was released from the Abyss.

Revelation 17:8 (NIV)

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.

Michael stood with Gabriel to struggle against the demonic princes of Persia and Greece.

Daniel 10:20-21 (NIV)

So he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come; but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince.

These are kingdoms number four and five in the "Seven Heads" of the beast. They followed Baal of Babylon--the third head. Baal is the "prince who is to come" in Daniel 9:26-27. Baal was punished by God and sent to Sheol--the Abyss. Baal was the both third and eighth head. Baal "comes out of the seven" and "has a fatal wound that is healed" (Revelation chapters 13-17).

1. Egypt
2. Assyria
3. Babylon >> Sheol >> Baal the Beast
4. Persia
5. Seleucid Greeks
6. Rome
7. Demonic King--rules only a short time {Abaddon from the Abyss}
8. Beast {Babylon demon Baal released from the Abyss}

So, just as the Bible says there are seven kings. And just like the Bible says there are eight! That is, seven in all, as they are enumerated in this verse and the next. An eighth coming out of the seven is mentioned in Revelation 17:11, but it is, at the same time, said that this one so pertains to the seven, or is so properly in one sense of the seven, though, in another sense, to be regarded as an eighth, that it may be properly included as the seventh. Baal was Babylon the third, and with the "fatal wound healed" also the eighth.

The demon from Babylon has been released from Sheol. Demonic monsters and false doctrine about Jesus ("smoke") are released which fly like locusts (Exodus 10:12-20; Joel 1:4, 2:4-14) and sting like scorpions (Ezekiel 2:6, Lk 11:12). The power comes from their mouths. That is the false doctrine in the Qur'an that takes away the redemptive sacrifice of Jesus.

God grants these evil "locusts" from the Abyss the power which scorpions have – the power to inflict pain of the souls of non-believers. God tells these paroled demons and fallen angels not to harm the earth or those humans who have His seal on their foreheads. The false doctrine of the Koran cannot harm true believers of the Gospel.

Rev 17:11 The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.

After the fall of Babylon, Baal was sent into the Abyss. He was “restrained” at the time of Paul and John. Once the restrainer was removed (the angel guarding the Abyss) Baal was revealed. Baal was the demonic spirit “Gabriel” acting under orders and with authority from Satan, to give a “powerful delusion” to Mohammad.

End times prophecy must be able to explain how the dragon and beast are both worshipped intentionally and simultaneously by a third of the world. Islam is the only system that does this. Islam is the greatest paradox. Islam claims to be the leader in monotheist thinking (“no God but Allah”), and yet worship the “Allah” of the Koran (Satan) and then must pray five times a day to the Kaaba, the home of Baal the beast. They worship two distinct entities, just like the Bible says will happen. The Bible says the false prophet will lead them to do this. Mohammad lead them.

Those that look for a human antichrist cannot explain how the dragon and beast are both simultaneously worshipped as two distinct entities, while interacting with the third entity the false prophet. Only Islam does this--without even knowing they are worshipping two! The Bible is clear--people will simultaneously worship both the dragon and the beast.



FALSE WORSHIP TO THE BEAST IN THE KAABA IN MECCA, SAUDI ARABIA

Rev 17:12 "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."

These are the same ten spiritual demonic kings which Daniel saw in his night vision (Daniel 7:8-8, 7:24-25). Daniel's ten kings are "different" from Daniel's little horn human king. The human little horn king was Umar, the Islamic caliph and the same person in Revelation chapter 6 rider on a black horse with a pair of scales. The scales are used to calculate Umar's Islamic taxes imposed on the conquered people--mostly Christians. For a day's wages the tax would be 10%, which amounts to *"two pounds of wheat for a day's wages, and six pounds of barley for a day's wages."*

Revelation 6:5-6 (NIV)

When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, "Two pounds of wheat for a day's wages, and six pounds of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!"

Umar is *"different from the earlier ones"* because he had *"eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth."* Umar was human. This means the 10 kings are demonic are from the spiritual world. They do not speak but try to control people's minds and thoughts. Umar is also *"the king will do as he pleases"* in Daniel 11:36-45. Umar converts to Islam from polytheism of his Quraysh tribe ancestors in Arabia and finds the new fortress God named "Allah." *"Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his ancestors he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts."*

Daniel 7:8 (NIV)

"While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

Daniel 7:24-25 (NIV)

The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time.

The angel tells John the ten horns are ten demonic kings that have not yet received a kingdom, meaning their reigns are in the future, specifically during the end times on the Day of the Lord. Since they give their power to the beast they must be spirits as well. No human can give their power to a spirit. Their actions are futile on the day of Wrath. In Revelation the "sea" is the spiritual world. It is the same place as the "Abyss" and "Sheol." The beast out of the sea in Revelation 13 has seven heads and ten horns with ten crowns on its ten horns. The scarlet beast here in chapter 17 is the same. In the lament over Babylon in chapter 18 three times it is mentioned that Babylon was destroyed or fell in one hour. This is the same time period.

Rev 17:13 They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast.

The angel tells John these kings have but one purpose; they will make war against the Lamb, meaning the Lord Jesus. Only spirits would try to make war on the Lamb. Although many in number, the ten demonic kings have one mind, and all give their power and strength to Baal the beast; they give (present tense) their power and authority to Baal. Satan also gave his authority to Baal.

That is, though apparently split up into many sections, they form practically one, acting by and for the beast on whose side they range themselves. They have waited over time in the Abyss for the chance to give power to the beast for this short and futile time period on the Day of the Lord. They represent the allies of the spiritual beast from the Abyss who gathers them to fight a final decisive battle for control of the world against the returning Lord Jesus Christ, and His judgment on them.

Rev 17:14 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.”

The reference *"and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers"* is to the persecuted saints who have adhered to him as his faithful followers in all these protracted conflicts of the tribulation since the time of the Apostles. This connects the war against the Lamb description to Revelation 16:12-21, and with Revelation 19:11-21. This war between the Lamb and the spiritual world powers of evil is that which has run throughout the history of the world (Baal and Satan); it finally occupies the "one hour" of the end times history of the world on the Day of the Lord.

God dealt with Satan in the garden of Eden. God dealt with Baal in the Land of Canaan. The Canaanites were people who lived in the land of Canaan, an area which according to ancient texts included parts of modern-day Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. Baal in Babylon and the Canaanites constantly fought with God, Baal then was punished and placed in Sheol, only to emerge again from the Abyss, (the fatal wound appeared to be healed). Baal was revealed as the "Angel Gabriel", while revealed to Mohammad to give the false gospel of the Qur'an.

John 16:33 (ESV)

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Christ must reign till all enemies be put under his feet. The reason of the victory is, that he is the King of kings, and Lord of lords. He has supreme dominion and power over all things; all the powers of earth and hell are subject to his control. His followers are called to this warfare, are fitted for it, and will be faithful in it.

1 Corinthians 15:25-26 (NIV)

Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Rev 17:15 Then the angel said to me, “The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.

Until now far the angel has described the beast rather than the harlot. Now the angel describes both the identity and fate of the great prostitute. First, the angel defines the “waters on which the prostitute sits” (see Revelation 17:1). This phrase used by the angel refers to the “peoples and multitudes, nations and languages.” This collection of words is used seven times in Revelation, both meaning the people of God (Revelation 5:9 and Revelation 7:9) and of the earth-dwellers (Revelation 10:11; Revelation 11:9, Revelation 13:7, and Revelation 14:6).

As John will show us in chapter 18, the wealth and power of the world flows into Mecca from the Saudi oil transported on the sea. The "languages" brings into mind the original Babel, the confusion of languages, the beginning of Babylon, and the first commencement of idolatrous apostasy after the flood, as the tower was dedicated to Baal in the deified heavens. Thus, Babylon is the appropriate name of the harlot.

This use of the phrase in Revelation 17:15 for the sinners means that the great city and beast rule over the peoples from every corner of the world. And Mecca does this very thing. In Islam, every Muslim from every corner of the world must pray five times a day, and always exactly in the direction of the Kaaba in the great city. Thus 1.5 billion Muslims generate 7.5 billion prayers per day to the beast and prostitute. This precise Islamic prayer direction is called the “Qibla.” A compass or iPhone app is used to provide the precise Kaaba geo-coordinates from every place in the world.



ALL THE NATIONS MUST TRAVEL TO THE GREAT CITY

The great city Mecca requires travel. Rome never required the entire world to travel to Rome. Even when Caesar Augustus held a census, Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem, not Rome.

Luke 2:1-4 (NIV)

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

In addition to daily prayer, one third of the world is obligated to physically travel at least once to the great city Mecca during the Hajj. The Hajj in Islam is the pilgrimage to the “holy city” of Mecca in Saudi Arabia, which every adult Muslim must make at least once in his or her lifetime. The hajj is the fifth of the fundamental Muslim practices and institutions known as the Five Pillars of Islam. The pilgrimage rite begins on the 7th day of the last month of the Islamic year and ends on the 12th day. There is a black stone set up by the false prophet Mohammad enclosed in a silver ring in the eastern corner of the Kaaba. Muslims believe that the stone was given to Abraham by the angel “Gabriel.” Participants touch or kiss the stone to end the ceremony around the Kaaba. Jesus warned about this worship to the beast all throughout the book of Revelation.



Rev 17:16 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.

The beast and the ten horns “*will hate the prostitute.*” Why would they hate their great city? Do they hate the nations as well? On the surface there seems to be a huge disconnect between this statement and what was previously made. In the former text of Revelation 17:12-14, these ten kings are acting in alliance with the beast; “*They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast*”, and as uniting with it in making war with the Lamb.

If the 10 kings were human kings, it might not make sense for them to attack their great city. But the 10 kings are demonic kings and they unite with the beast Baal to attack the Lamb. They oppose Jesus. This is a spiritual war and the physical great city means nothing to them. It is only useful in conjunction with the false prophet to deceive the nations. That is because human souls mean nothing to “Allah” of the Qur’an. In fact, in the Qur’an Allah enjoys sending people to the hellfire.

IN ISLAM ALL MUSLIMS WILL FIRST ENTER THE HELLFIRE

Islamic Hadith and the Qur’an assert that a host of Muslims will end up in hell, and even experience torment while there, even though they genuinely believed that there is no god besides Mohammad’s spirit deity. How long the faithful Muslim will wait in hell is not specified. The Qur’an indicates it is Allah goal to fill hell with humans and angels (“jinn”).

Qur’an 19:71 It is the inevitable decree of your Lord that every one of you will be taken to hell.

Qur’an 11:119 Except those on whom your Lord has mercy—for that reason He created them. The Word of your Lord is final: “I will fill Hell with jinn [angels] and humans, altogether.”

Thus, the beast and the ten demonic kings have a love-hate relationship with Babylon-Mecca. They really do not care about the city. They only care about control over souls around the world. Thus they are willing to sacrifice the great city as they engage in their war with the Lamb.

The beast destroys its Kaaba shrine in Mecca! The angel says they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. The beast and his allies will consume Mecca and leave her desolate. The angel says this is the work of God because God has put it into their hearts to do this and thereby accomplish his purpose to judge Babylon-Mecca. It shows that Baal will do anything for power, even destroying his beloved house in Mecca.

In Jeremiah 50-52 Jeremiah prophesies about the ultimate destruction of Babylon. It would be laid waste and become a haunt for jackals never to be settled again. The great enemy of God's people will be judged by God and brought down by the very kings and peoples that worshipped it and built it up. God's purposes will not be thwarted. The implication here is that in the final hour of history the beast and his allies will destroy Mecca. This is exactly the description given of the harlot Israel (by worshipping false gods) in Ezekiel 16:37 and Ezekiel 23:22.

Rev 17:17 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.

God's sovereign control of the affairs of history is a constant theme behind the events of the book of Revelation. The ten kings are demonic, because the kings are "agreeing to hand over to the beast their royal authority." This the same spiritual realm power transfer as when Satan gave the beast his authority. (Revelation 13:2 "The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.") This shows how powerful Baal the beast is.



Baal is receiving a double dose of demonic authority. Baal has received authority from Satan and will also receive authority from the ten spiritual demonic kings who are active for one divine hour. We see in Matthew 8:28-31 that God is always in control because all demons are under his sovereign will.

Matthew 8:28-31 (NIV)

When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. "What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted. "Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?" Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. The demons begged Jesus, "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs."

Just as in the encounter of Jesus at Gadarenes, the true God so ruled the hearts of these spiritual kings, by his power over them, and by his providence, that they did those things, without intending it, which he purposed and foretold. They shall see their folly, and how they have been bewitched and enslaved by the harlot and will be made instruments in her destruction. The spiritual kings may influence human kings on earth, but the power given to the beast from the ten kings seen by John is demonic power in the spiritual realm.

Everything occurs by God's sovereign permission. From the riding forth of the first horsemen who was given a crown (Mohammad), to rising of the beast Baal from the sea (Abyss) who is given authority over Jerusalem for 42 months (Revelation 13:5 the 1278.4 days/years from 688 to 1967) and as Baal ("man of lawlessness") was previously restrained in the Abyss until revealed to Mohammad.

2 Thessalonians 2:5-8 (NIV)

Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

Rev 17:18 The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.

Chapter 17 concludes giving more information about the woman on seven mountains, the great prostitute. In the last verse the Bible tells us she is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth. It is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth (NRSV), reigns over the kings of the earth (NASB), that has dominion over the kings of the earth (ESV) and has an empire over the kings of the earth (HCSB). No city in history has more control over the kings of the world than Mecca! Mecca has ruled over the Islamic kings of the world for 14 centuries. All Islamic kings even shed their royal clothes in humble submission for the obligatory pilgrimage to the Kaaba.



Nearly one third of the world, all Muslims throughout the world, view the city of Mecca as *“the site of divine, angelic, prophetic, and repentant human activity since the moment of creation.”* According to Islam, Mecca is where creation began, where Abraham built the first house of worship, and where he took his concubine Hagar and their son, Ishmael.

This shrine is the Kaaba, a cube-shaped structure normally covered by a large curtain of fine silk cloth embroidered with gold and silver and containing the sacred Blackstone. This stone, which Muslims believe was given to Adam for the forgiveness of sins upon his expulsion from Eden, was then supposedly white.

In Muslim tradition the original Kaaba perished in Noah’s Flood, but the Black Stone was preserved and later given to Abraham by the angel Gabriel, after which Abraham rebuilt the Kaaba and the false prophet Mohammad restored the Blackstone to its proper place. It is in the direction of the Kaaba—according to Islam the holiest place on earth—that billions of Muslims in every country (Revelation 17:15 *“peoples, multitudes, nations and languages”*) orient themselves in prayer five times a day.

ONLY THOSE THAT HAVE TAKEN THE MARK, THE SHAHADA, CAN ENTER THE GREAT CITY

Today Mecca is a wealthy and cosmopolitan city, even though only Muslims may reside there. Only those who have taken the mark, recited the Shahada, can travel there. The signs on the road leading to Mecca warn non-Muslims to exit the road if they are not Muslim and have not said the Shahada.

Mecca receives all its wealth from the sea trade (Saudi oil) and Hajj revenue. Other than the Kaaba where the beast Baal resides, Mecca has absolutely nothing to offer the world. Before Islam Mecca was a desert wilderness—just as John saw.

During the Hajj, the holy month of pilgrimaging, millions visit to fulfill their religious duty of Hajj. While in Mecca pilgrims visit the Sacred Mosque, where they walk seven times around the Kaaba shrine located near the center of the mosque's roofless courtyard. They think they are praying to God but have been deceived by a powerful delusion.



In verse 18 John is told that the woman is the "great city that rules over the kings of the earth." In 16:19 at the pouring out of the seventh bowl there was a great earthquake that split the "great city" into three parts. Some argue for identifying the phrase "that great city" here with Jerusalem: One of the stronger arguments used by Jerusalem proponents involves the identification of the phrase "the great city" as used in Revelation 17:18.

Jerusalem advocates contend that the only way to properly identify this city is to observe how the phrase "the great city" appears earlier in Revelation. There are only two references to "the great city" prior to Revelation 17:18. These references include Revelation 11:8 and Revelation 16:19. Jerusalem advocates believe that both are references to Jerusalem. Thus, Revelation 17:18 must refer to Jerusalem as well. But such a Jerusalem identification ignores extensive and close ties between the woman and the city of Babylon.

Consider that chapter divisions are not part of the original inspired text and take chapters 17 and 18 as one unified passage, the similarities between the woman and the city are compelling. Add to this the fact that Jerusalem is destined to be restored (Isaiah chapter 62), whereas Babylon is never to be inhabited again, and the idea that the phrase "that great city" describes Jerusalem is not possible.

Most other prophecy experts have concluded this city is Rome. But it is not Rome. Rome might be a logical conclusion in the time of John, and all the circumstances, as we have seen, combined to show that Rome, is not the final fulfillment of the prophecy. The city is Mecca--the city on seven mountains in the desert wilderness-just as the Bible said.

The great city exercises royal power or rule over the kings. Again, we see the impossibility of assigning Jerusalem as the Harlot. How can Jerusalem, of all cities the most trampled and occupied, with the least political influence and material resources, be said to have historically reigned over the kings of the earth? Many others suggest Rome as a candidate for “the great city.” Rome is not on seven mountains and not in the desert wilderness. It is true Rome had influence over kings of the earth in more recent history, Rome provides neither the necessary historic scope nor proper fulfillment for the many Old testament passages which speak literally to Babylon. As old as many may consider Rome to be, Rome is a relative upstart on the stage of Biblical history which spans back to the tower of Babel (Genesis 10-11).

Rome cannot fulfill Revelation 18:24. Rome did not kill all the Old Testament prophets!! Actually Rome killed no prophets, other than Jesus, if the Son of God can also be considered a prophet. Certainly Rome did not kill all of God’s holy people! Even a revived future Rome could not go back in time and do this. But Baal and Satan did, and they fulfill Revelation 18:24!

Revelation 18:24 (NIV)

“In her was found the blood of prophets and of God’s holy people, of all who have been slaughtered on the earth.”

If we thus consider Babylon as an expression of the whole Satanic system from the earliest times since the Flood onward, we are quite prepared to understand the position of the harlot, “mystery Babylon,” in Revelation 17. Some may object that it is difficult to see how literal Babylon could be considered as reigning over the kings of the earth. These people only have a Western myopic view of recent history, and know little about Islam, the Qur’an, and almost nothing about the Kaaba. The Bible identifies the woman with a specific historical city of prominence (Babylon) in the past, and once Islam is understood, with prominence again over the past 14 centuries.



Baal and Satan have controlled an initial rebellion as Babel, ancient Babylon all the way to the current demonic worship masquerading as the true God. The prophet Zechariah warned about the wicked basket heading to a house to be built later in Babylon (Zechariah 5:8-10-11 “*Where are they taking the basket?*” *I asked the angel who was speaking to me. He replied, “To the country of Babylonia to build a house for it. When the house is ready, the basket will be set there in its place.”*) The Kaaba is the house. Mecca is the great city, not Rome or Jerusalem. Neither Rome nor Jerusalem are on seven mountains nor in the desert wilderness. Mecca constantly blasphemes the true God. Mecca is on seven mountains and far in the desert wilderness. Rome did not face anything like imminent attack by its vassal kings (Rome cannot fulfill Revelation 17:16), and Jerusalem did not have any control whatsoever over the rest of the world.