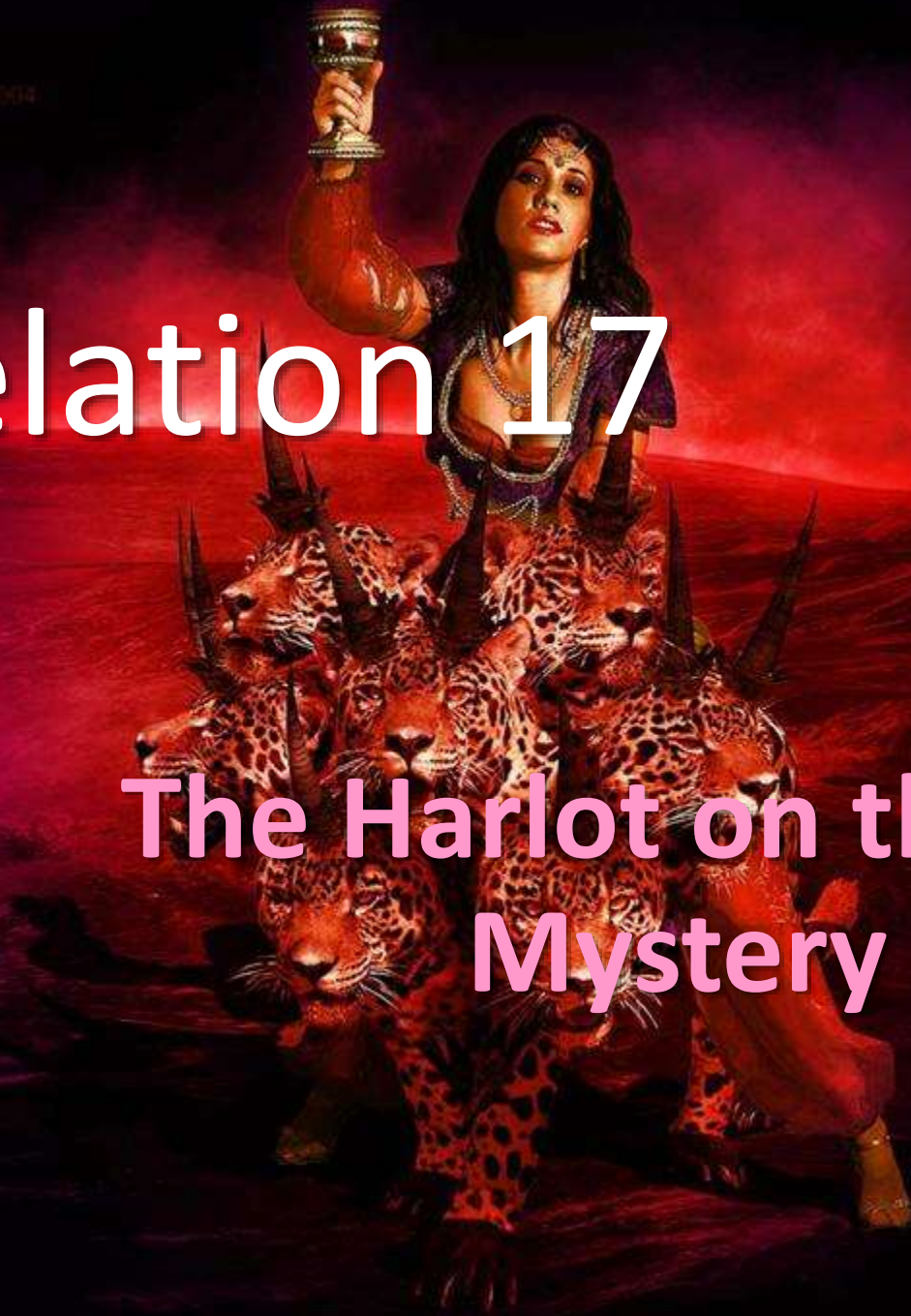


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Revelation 17

The Harlot on the Beast
Mystery Babylon



Hosanna!

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord,
God of power and might
Heaven and earth are
filled with your glory.

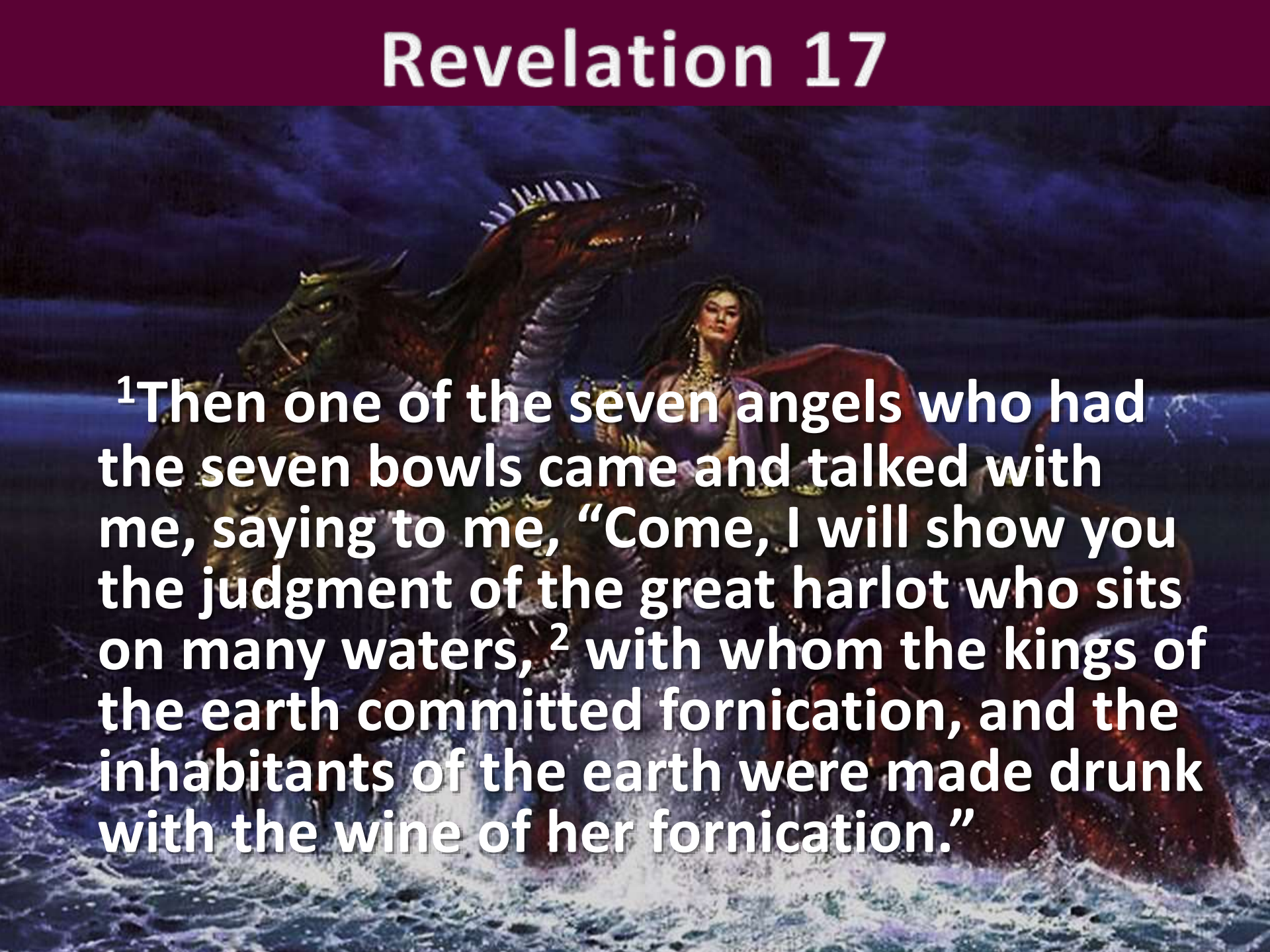
Hosanna, Hosanna
In the highest



Revelation 17

- Chapter 16 all final plagues poured out, world prepared for Armageddon.
- Chapters 17/18 further explanation of end judgments. Most likely **judgment of “harlot” happening at same time**, or near same time.
- Babylon is a key symbol in scripture, these chapters explain who “she” is and why she is being judged.
- Important to our understanding of **what God expects** of His people, and those who follow Him, and what can be expected from, and for, the world that does not.

Revelation 17

A dramatic illustration of a woman in a purple dress and red cape sitting on a dark, multi-headed dragon in a stormy sea. The dragon has several heads, each with sharp teeth and glowing eyes. The woman is looking towards the viewer with a serene expression. The background is a dark, stormy sea with white-capped waves under a dark, cloudy sky.

¹Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, ² with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”

Revelation 17 – Review Part 1

- Main character **receives more attention than any other symbol in Revelation**. Surrounded by more identifying clues than any other character or symbol in Revelation.
- “Woman” often symbolized as seductress, someone who seduces/entices people away from God.
- Woman identified as harlot, **very developed symbol in the Old Testament** of God’s people (or others), or a system, who have “prostituted” themselves with other gods, with other systems, with other forms of government or ways of doing things that are not God’s ways.

Revelation 17 – Review Part 1

- Image of harlot **represents the whole of false worship, faithlessness.**
- In several places (see Ezekiel 16, and 23) God likens all of Israel as a whore/harlot, who “prostituted” herself with other gods. **Also speaks of Gentile nations as harlots.**
- ***CLUES BEGIN... “who sits on many waters...”*** *symbolic for many peoples from all nations.* interpreted for us in verse 15 (*“The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.”*)



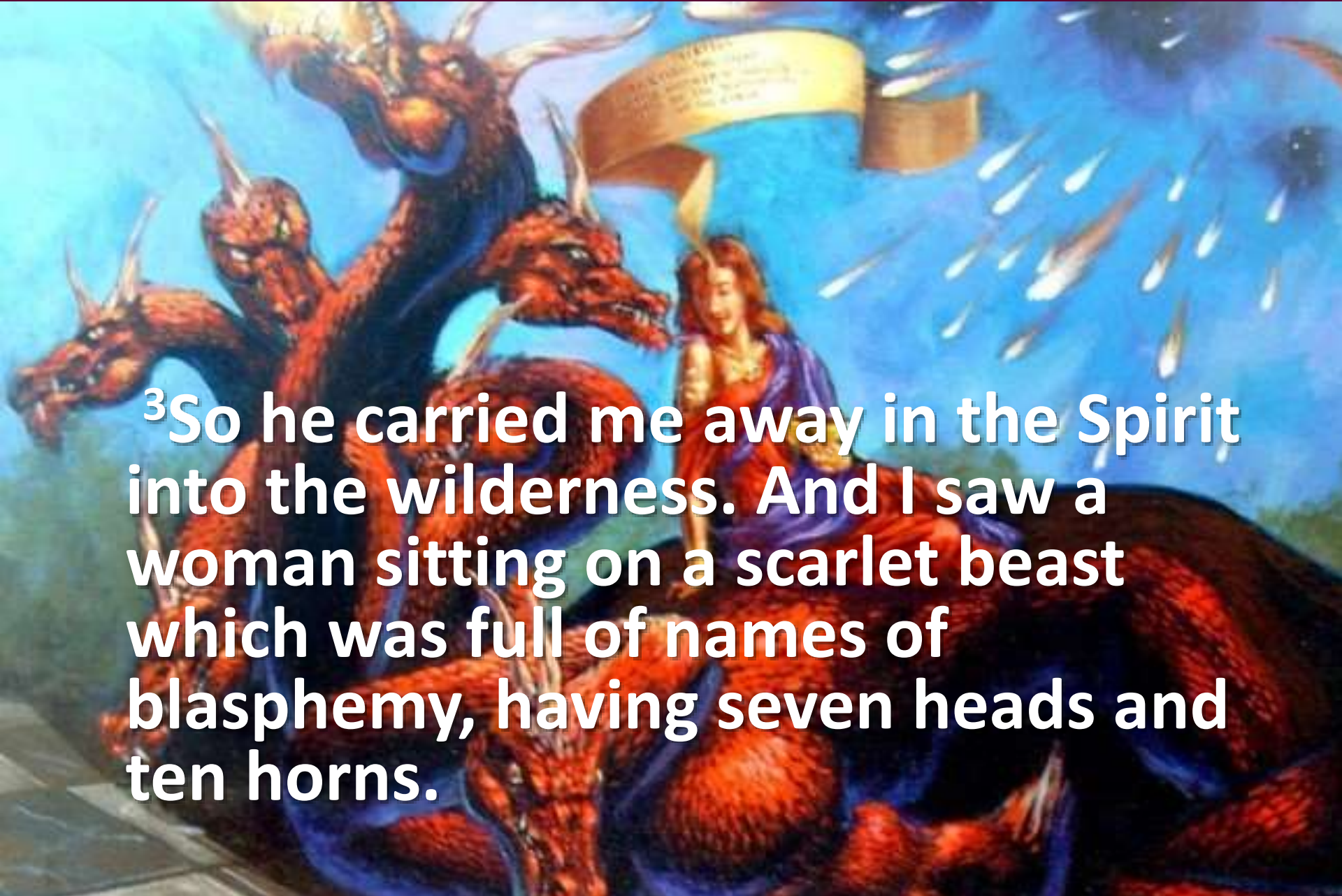
Revelation 17 – Review Part 1

- ***“...committed fornication, made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”*** In scripture, fornication both in physical terms (as sin) and in spiritual terms, symbolic for “prostituting” one’s self, or entire group, with foreign (pagan) gods.
- **Implication much wider than Israel.** This is all peoples of the earth, against God.
- Harlot has committed fornication with ***“kings of the Earth”*** - **union of false “church” with human political kingdoms.**
- By "joining herself" to the world, Harlot has spiritually committed herself to the world instead of to God and His Messiah.

Revelation 17 – Review Part 1

- ***“Made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”*** Drunkenness brings euphoria, a “high.” World rejoicing over physical and spiritual union with evil. Evil exalts, **promotes all lusts of flesh**. Personal power is evil lust fed and promoted by Harlot (supported by dragon).
- Being drunk also dulls senses. World, in drunken stupor, rebels against God. **“High” on lies of false religious system, which promotes sin.**

Revelation 17




³So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

Revelation 17 – Review Part 1

CLUES CONTINUE...

- “*...into the wilderness...*” = place of desolation. Barrenness of God and Truth.
- “*...woman sitting on a scarlet beast...*” Harlot, sitting on beast. **Rider usually in control of one being ridden**. At this point, appears Harlot controls beast.
- **Beast clearly antichrist** (same as ch 13)
- **Harlot = false religious system of final end days**. Both “church” and “state” represented, church riding, controlling, (*and supported by*) state (*government*). **At the beginning**...doesn’t last...
- **Blasphemy** = doctrine that adds to or denies (*removes*) any truths of God. Any false doctrine is blasphemy.

Revelation 17

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a red dress and a purple cape, is riding a large red dragon. She is holding a golden cup. The dragon is breathing fire. The background is a dark, stormy sky with lightning. The scene is set against a blue background.

⁴ The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.

Revelation 17 – Review Part 1

- *“And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet,...”* Information about Harlot’s dress important. **Wears colors purple and scarlet**, with lots of jewels and pearls.
- **Purple and scarlet used extensively by Catholic** cardinals and bishops, as well as gold trimmings. *(may be important!)*
- Interesting to note comment about COLOR of the beast. It is **scarlet**. Harlot also wears scarlet.
- Both Beast and Harlot use scarlet and **purple** extensively. Has resulted in much debate and interesting controversy.

Revelation 17 – Review Part 1

- Purple used by Catholic Church, but also predominant color of Roman imperialism.
- **Important clue:** God specified **priest's dress**, and key portions of Tabernacle embroideries, to **also be purple and scarlet**, and one more color.
- Color missing from Harlot of 3 commanded by God = **Blue**. Why blue? “...put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners. ...that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the LORD and do them, and that you may not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined, and that you may **remember and do all My commandments**, and be holy for your God.” (from Numbers 15)

Revelation 17 – Review Part 1

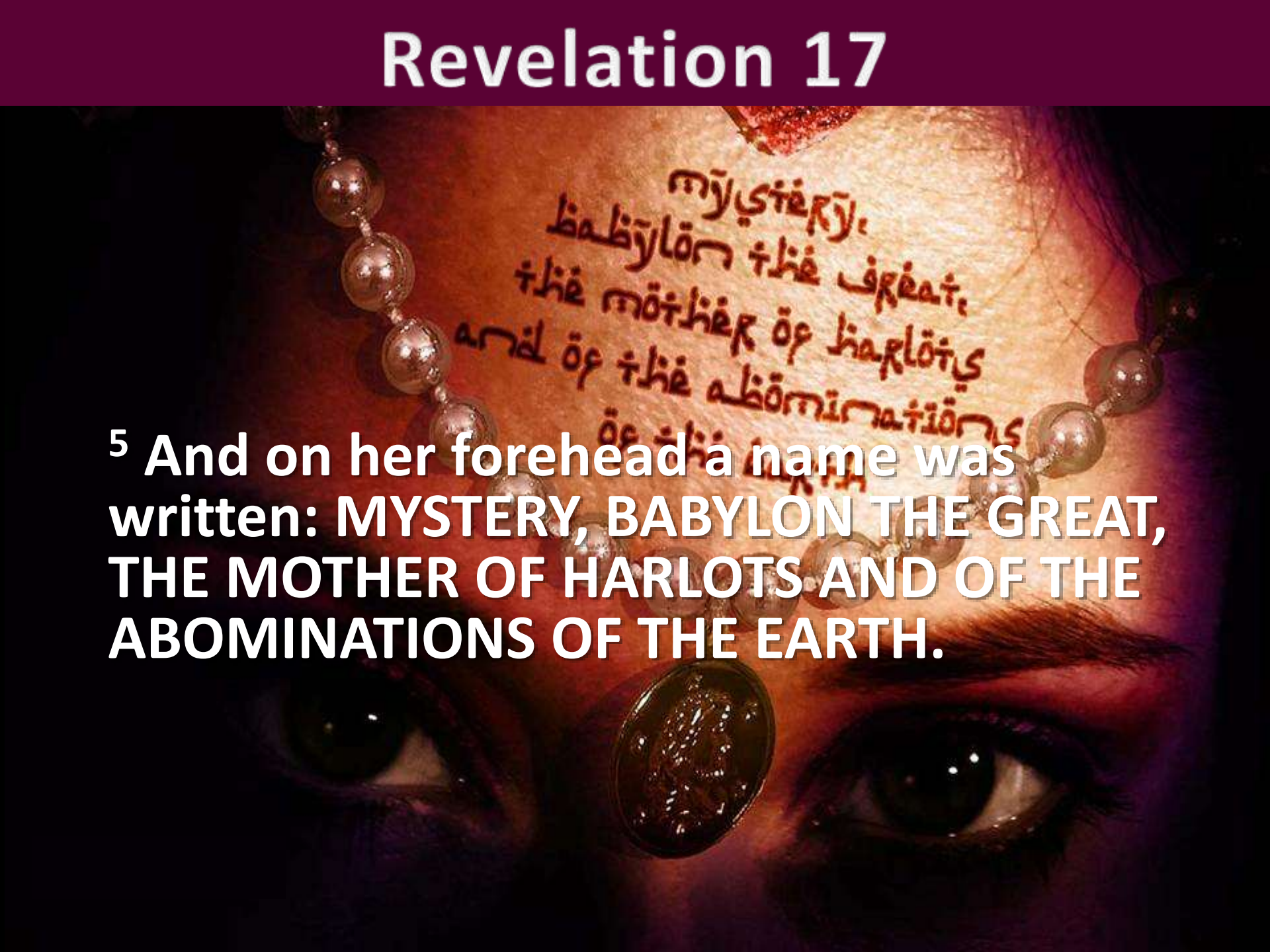
- Blue reminder of **WORD OF GOD, truth**. Beast and Harlot have scarlet and purple, but no blue – **no Word of God, no Truth**.
- The Harlot counterfeits true with one vital element missing: **The Word of God**.
- Notice she is fabulously bedecked with precious jewels. Purple, scarlet and gold considered only for wealthy. **Harlot is fabulously wealthy**.
- Early organized Church also gained incredible wealth, and ruled governments of the world.
- **ID of Harlot getting clearer.**

Revelation 17 – Review Part 1

- “...**golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.**” Harlot has been drinking to her heart’s content all abominations and sins of the ages.
- **Intoxicated on sin, rebellion, apostasy**, and fact that she is leading God’s people away from Him.
- Cup significant, “**cup**” is symbolic of **drinking judgment**. “Golden cup,” religious intoxication of anti-church (*not the antichrist*), a counterfeit “religion.” Jeremiah 51:7 says **nations are “deranged”** because of this cup.
- **KEEPING TRACK OF THE CLUES?** Have any thoughts about Harlot’s ID?



Revelation 17

A close-up photograph of a woman's face, focusing on her eyes and forehead. She is wearing a pearl necklace. On her forehead, there is handwritten text in three different languages: Greek (μυστήριον), Arabic (بابلون العظيمة), and English. The English text reads: "the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth".

⁵ And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Revelation 17 – Review Part 1

- **MYSTERY:** *musterion*, meaning “something secret, previously unrevealed.”
- Scripture full of contrasts (*Law vs grace, etc.*)
- Bible can be called Tale of Two Cities: **City of God** (Jerusalem) vs **City of Enemy** (Babel, Babylon).
Contrasting cities, leaders, values.
- Now continuation of contrasts: **Mystery Babylon vs. Mystery of “True Church”** (Ephesians 3:1-9).
- Paul explains concept of Church as **Bride of Messiah**. Here is another mystery, another church – a **contrasting, opposite** church.
- But she is false. Can assume Harlot (false “bride”) is **final, end times apostate church**. Wicked, phony.

Revelation 17 – Review Part 1

ALL ABOUT BABYLON

- First mentioned Genesis 10 and appears more than 300 times in scripture.
- Still exists as literal city, located 62 miles south of Bagdad in current Iraq.
- Nimrod, first world dictator (*name = “rebel”*) built Tower of Bab-el in rebellion against God.
- **Bav** (our Bab) = “gate” and **El** = God. Bab-el is “*gateway to the gods.*” Beginning of Babylon. God disrupted rebellious coalition by confusing languages (Genesis 11).
- Tower later rebuilt by Nebuchadnezzar.

Revelation 17 – Review Part 1

- 606 BC Nebuchadnezzar sieged Jerusalem, taking first wave of captives into captivity to Babylon.
- 587 BC, after Israel's rebellion Neb came back (3rd time), completely destroyed Temple, took remaining Jews into Babylonian captivity.
- 70 years later, *right on schedule per God's prophecies*, Cyrus the Great, Persian king, conquered Babylon without a fight. (Daniel 5)
- Babylon never destroyed, a magnificent city.
- Over years, Babylon fell into disrepair, pretty much abandoned – *but never destroyed*.
- **World effort** now to make it a tourist attraction.

Revelation 17 – Review Part 1

- All forms of occult practices had their origins in original city of Babylon.
- As **Babylon** conquered by subsequent empires, **entire religious system transplanted**, first to **Pergamos** (*Revelation 2:12-17*) then to **Rome**.
- Early Christianity (Roman Catholic Church) mixed religious traditions/practices of pagan worship.
- Christmas (Saturnalia, solstice); Easter (**Ishtar**, **Astarte**, pagan fertility rites). Halloween, Baal, etc.

Babylon – Pergamos - Rome

Revelation 17 – Begin Part 2

- Some regard “Mystery Babylon” symbolic allusion to America. Greco-Roman Washington architecture, Columbia, statue of liberty as pagan goddesses, Masonic influences, random applied scriptures etc. **Some very convincing arguments made to support this, but relies on grand conclusions.**
- Some even using argument to promote “king of the North” as Putin, “king of the South” as Obama, predicting major war between the two. EMP blast, demise of US, etc.



Revelation 17

- Most likely, Babylon represents ALL world who worships enemy and practices those things which are “an abomination” to God, **in opposition to Him.**
- It is not limited to one literal city, but that literal city is a **symbol for an entire world** in opposition and rebellion to God.




Revelation 17

- Some also believe Babylon in Chapters 17 and 18 are **different** forms; **ecclesiastical (religious) Babylon** and **commercial Babylon**.
- **Seems logical:** focus of chapter 17 on spiritual, false worship and ritual in opposition to God, with the stars of end times featured (*the beast, woman riding the beast*).
- Focus of chapter 18 on commerce, business, and the way in which the world in general opposes God's ways and does business wickedly. (*False religion, lies will always dictate how people act, what they believe and do.*)

Revelation 17

“BABYLON THE GREAT....”

- Babylon, (*beginning at Ezekiel 28:2, 6-10*) considered a Harlot many years prior to this time (*when John wrote*). 
- Important to note **Babylon never destroyed.** Literal and prophetic difference between FALL of Babylon as a world empire, and the DESTRUCTION of Babylon as a city.
- Important because God’s Word calls for total destruction of Babylon. We see that destruction here in Revelation chapters 17 and 18.

Revelation 17

- Parts rebuilt, but not completely. Saddam Hussein showed special interest and rebuilt many of the ruins, as he saw himself as the 4th Nebuchadnezzar (*a title, not a name*).
- To accurately fulfill prophecy, seems Babylon will be rebuilt and may become headquarters of final world government before its complete destruction. (*See Isaiah 13:19, 20; Jeremiah 50:39-40*).
- Subject of MUCH controversy, differing opinions. One safe meeting place – **Babylon always represents false religion and opposition to God**.

Revelation 17

Reconstruction of ancient Babylon...



Revelation 17

- **Destruction of Babylon** in prophecy, found primarily in six chapters: Isaiah 13 and 14, Jeremiah 50 and 51, and Revelation 17 and 18. Helpful to read all 6 chapters at once to capture the impact.
- **Many other passages in scripture deal with Babylon**, also called “Chaldea” or “Chaldeans,” “Shinar,” etc. Word “BABYLON” appears 274 times alone (*not including other references.*)
- In contrast, Jerusalem (City of God) appears over 800 times. Babylon is **referenced more than any other city** besides Jerusalem.

Revelation 17

	Isaiah 13	Isaiah 14	Jeremiah 50	Jeremiah 51	Revelation 17	Revelation 18
Many nations attacking	4, 5	2, 26	29, 41, 46	7	16	
Israel in Land, forgiven		1	4, 20			
Like Sodom and Gomorrah	19		40			
Never to be inhabited; bricks never used	20	23	13, 26, 39	26, 29, 37		
During "Day of the Lord"	6, 10, 11, 13		25			
Literal Babylon (Chaldean)	19	22	50	4, 24, 63		
King's fornication, drunk with wine...				7	2	3, 9
Scarlet, purple, golden cup				7	3, 4	6, 16

Revelation 17/Isaiah 47

AND Isaiah 47...interesting parallel to chapter 17, and additional prophecy regarding Babylon

“Come down and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon; Sit on the ground without a throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans! For you shall no more be called Tender and delicate. ² Take the millstones and grind meal. Remove your veil, Take off the skirt, Uncover the thigh, Pass through the rivers. ³ Your nakedness shall be uncovered, Yes, your shame will be seen; I will take vengeance, And I will not arbitrate with a man.”

⁴ As for our Redeemer, the LORD of hosts is His name, The Holy One of Israel.

Revelation 17/Isaiah 47

⁵ “Sit in silence, and go into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans; For you shall no longer be called The Lady of Kingdoms. ⁶ I was angry with My people; I have profaned My inheritance, And given them into your hand. You showed them no mercy; On the elderly you laid your yoke very heavily. ⁷ And you said, ‘I shall be a lady forever,’ So that you did not take these things to heart, Nor remember the latter end of them.

⁸ “Therefore hear this now, you who are given to pleasures, Who dwell securely, Who say in your heart, ‘I am, and there is no one else besides me; I shall not sit as a widow, Nor shall I know the loss of children’;

Revelation 17/Isaiah 47

⁹ But these two things shall come to you In a moment, in one day: The loss of children, and widowhood. They shall come upon you in their fullness Because of the multitude of your sorceries, For the great abundance of your enchantments.

¹⁰ “For you have trusted in your wickedness; You have said, ‘No one sees me’; Your wisdom and your knowledge have warped you; And you have said in your heart, ‘I am, and there is no one else besides me.’

¹¹ Therefore evil shall come upon you; You shall not know from where it arises. And trouble shall fall upon you; You will not be able to put it off. And desolation shall come upon you suddenly, Which you shall not know.

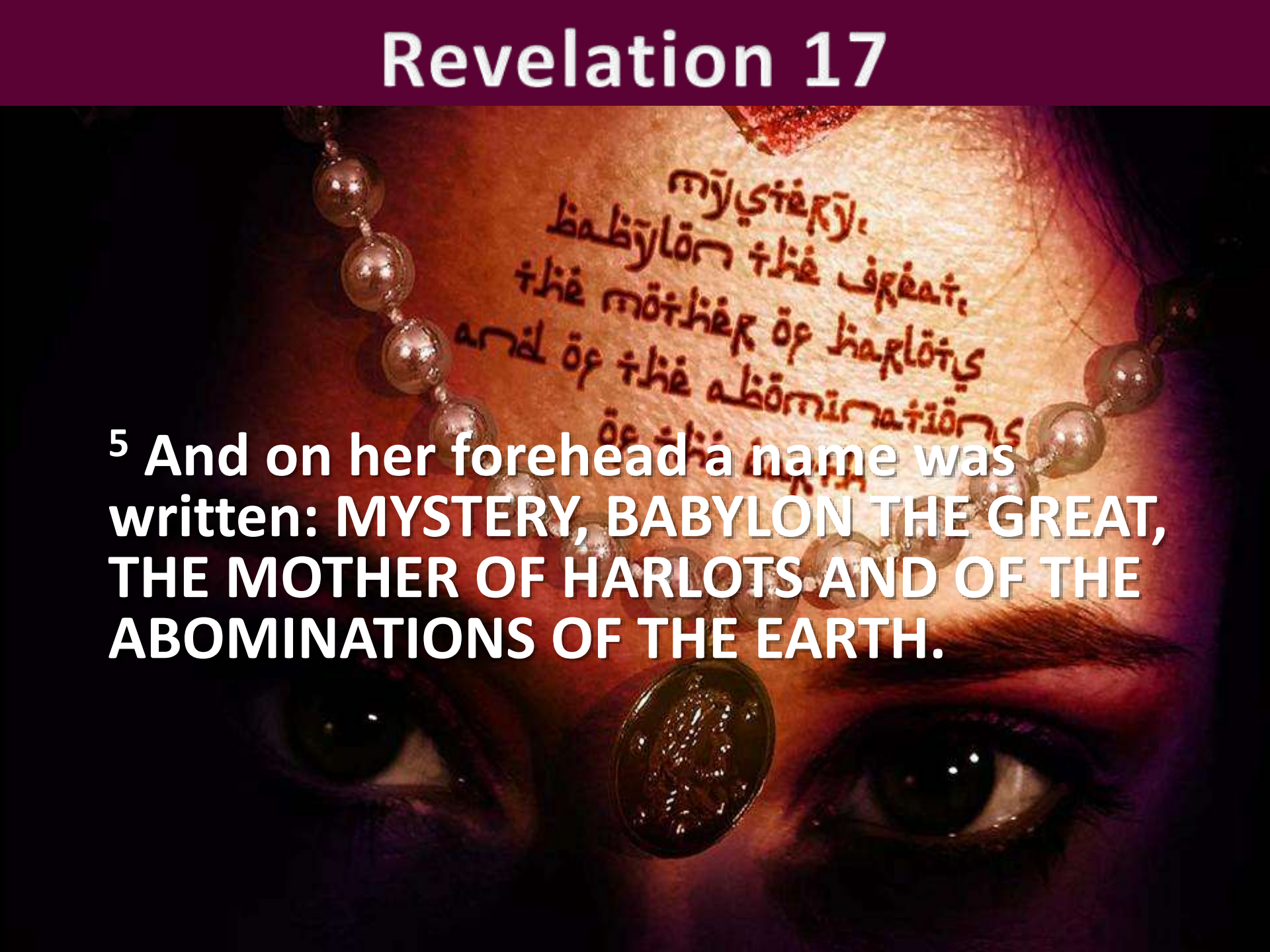
Revelation 17/Isaiah 47

¹² “Stand now with your enchantments And the multitude of your sorceries, In which you have labored from your youth—Perhaps you will be able to profit, Perhaps you will prevail. ¹³ You are wearied in the multitude of your counsels; Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, And the monthly prognosticators Stand up and save you From what shall come upon you.

¹⁴ Behold, they shall be as stubble, The fire shall burn them; They shall not deliver themselves From the power of the flame; It shall not be a coal to be warmed by, Nor a fire to sit before!

¹⁵ Thus shall they be to you With whom you have labored, Your merchants from your youth; They shall wander each one to his quarter. No one shall save you.

Revelation 17

A close-up photograph of a woman's face, focusing on her eyes and forehead. She is wearing a pearl necklace. On her forehead, there is handwritten text in three different languages: Greek (μυστήριον), Arabic (بابلون العظيمة), and English. The English text reads: "the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth".

⁵ And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Revelation 17

MORE CLUES...

- ***“THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS...”*** Notice this harlot not alone.
- Harlot is mother of many daughter “churches” that have followed in her sin.
- Women, symbolic in prophecy, represent churches, or groups and their forms of worship.
- **Four women** are mentioned in this book of Revelation, one of them represents the true ***“Called out ones.”***

Revelation 17

Four women of Revelation:

- 1. Jezebel** represents pagan, perverted church. (*not queen Jezebel of 1/2 Kings*). Jezebel in Revelation 2:20 a Jezebel “type.” An actual woman harming the church at Thyatira (leading them astray), but was called by Jesus "**Jezebel**." *Not a compliment!*
- 2. Woman clothed with the sun** gave birth to “male child” caught up to heaven. Represents Israel.
- 3. The Harlot**, scarlet woman of this chapter. She represents apostate, false “church” or religious system.
- 4. Wife of the Lamb** in Revelation 21, represents true church (Body of Messiah).

Revelation 17

- "Mother Church" has **given birth** to other churches that have come out of her, and have her characteristics still in them.
- Harlot has influenced her "daughters" to also become harlots. Apostatized (*abandon or pervert truth*) relationship with God and His Messiah, guilty of "prostitution" with the world.
- **Can be true of ANY church, ANY denomination.**
- Catholic Church first of organized Christian churches. History of Catholic church full of bloodshed, incredible riches and wealth, and political intrigue worldwide (still is!)


Revelation 17

- Corruption of organized church led to many “breakaways” into Protestantism, other areas.
- Sadly, these too have become corrupt for the most part. Most prevalent false churches (*mini-harlots!*) in Protestantism are the “emergent” church and those preaching “social gospel.”
- Today Catholic church also abandoning what truth it had (*though mixed with paganism*).
- Becoming difficult to find solid Bible truth-based church not more concerned with political rightness, world acceptance and social agendas than the truth of God’s Word.

How incredibly sad!

Revelation 17

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A woman with long dark hair, wearing a purple and gold ornate outfit with multiple necklaces and a headpiece, is shown drinking from a golden chalice. The chalice has a skull-like design on its bowl. She has a red mark on her chin. The background is a dramatic, fiery sky with red and purple hues. The text is overlaid on the lower left of the image.

⁶ I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

Revelation 17

- ***“...drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.”*** This “church” is and has been actively involved in persecution of believers. A certain euphoria here. Harlot enjoys and revels in persecution of God’s own. *(Remember, is a FALSE church, fueled by enemy who seeks to take from God.)*
- ***“And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.”*** John is stunned by what he sees here. The vision is bad enough, images are very disturbing. However, most likely more going on here than John’s reaction to a terrible image.

Revelation 17

- Greek words translated in KJV as “*I wondered with great admiration*” “admiration” is better translated as **perceived in great wonder**, something amazing *and surprising*.
- The CJB translates this as “*I was altogether astounded.*”
- From remainder of these verses seems only thing John needed explaining was the beast, the heads and the horns and the kings.
- He did not get an interpretation of who or what the harlot was **because he didn't need one!**

Revelation 17

- **He knew it was a religious system.** What the harlot has been all throughout scripture.
- John knows this harlot represents the unfaithful (*or she wouldn't be a whore!*) apostate church.
- Only church John knew in Rome was one that was persecuted, and met secretly underground in the catacombs.
- Seeing this incredible harlot has him **completely confused and astounded**. Could not imagine fledgling Christian faith could become this harlot, big, powerful, fearsome and completely unfaithful.

Revelation 17

- Need to remember 4 women in Revelation, each one a religious system or group, **either faithful, or faithless**: 1) Jezebel (ch 2) represented corruption in local church at Thyatira, 2) Woman and her child (ch 12), represented Israel and Messiah, 3) This Harlot of Babylon, stands for faithless apostate end time church, all corruption of people of God through ages, and 4) Bride of Messiah, the Lamb's (Yeshua's) wife, believing Church.
- God consistently used image of harlot to paint picture of faithless "church" or group/system. John knows what the harlot is. **He just can't believe what the organized church becomes.**

Revelation 17

Please see
Revelation 17 Part 3
for a continuation of
this lesson...

The Aaronic Blessing: Birkat Kohanim

May the LORD bless you and keep you

יְבָרֶכְךָ יְהוָה, וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ

Yevarekh-kha Adonai veyishmerekha

May the LORD make His face shine
upon you and be gracious unto you

יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיַּחַנְךָ

Ya'er Adonai panav elekha vihunneka

May the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and
give you peace.

יְשֵׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיַּשֵּׂם לְךָ שָׁלוֹם

Yissa Adonai panav elekha viyasem lekha shalom.

