

Revelation 17

Part 3

The Harlot on the Beast
Mystery Babylon



Is it well?

EVEN SO,
IT IS WELL
WITH MY SOUL.

Please,
listen and
hear what
our Master
has to say
to your soul
tonight...

**Is it well
with your
soul?**



Revelation 17

¹ Then 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."

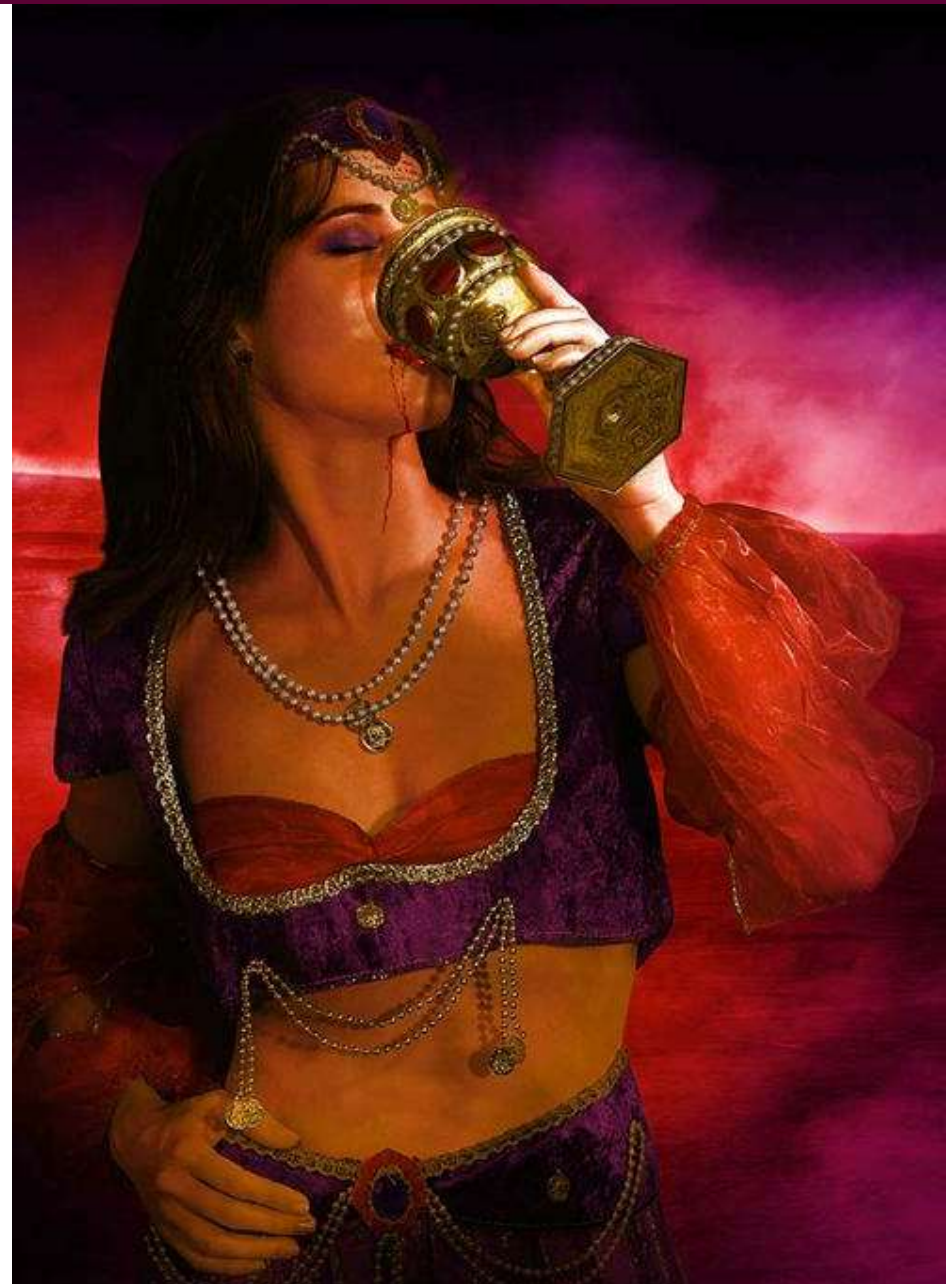
³ So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. ⁴ The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.

Revelation 17

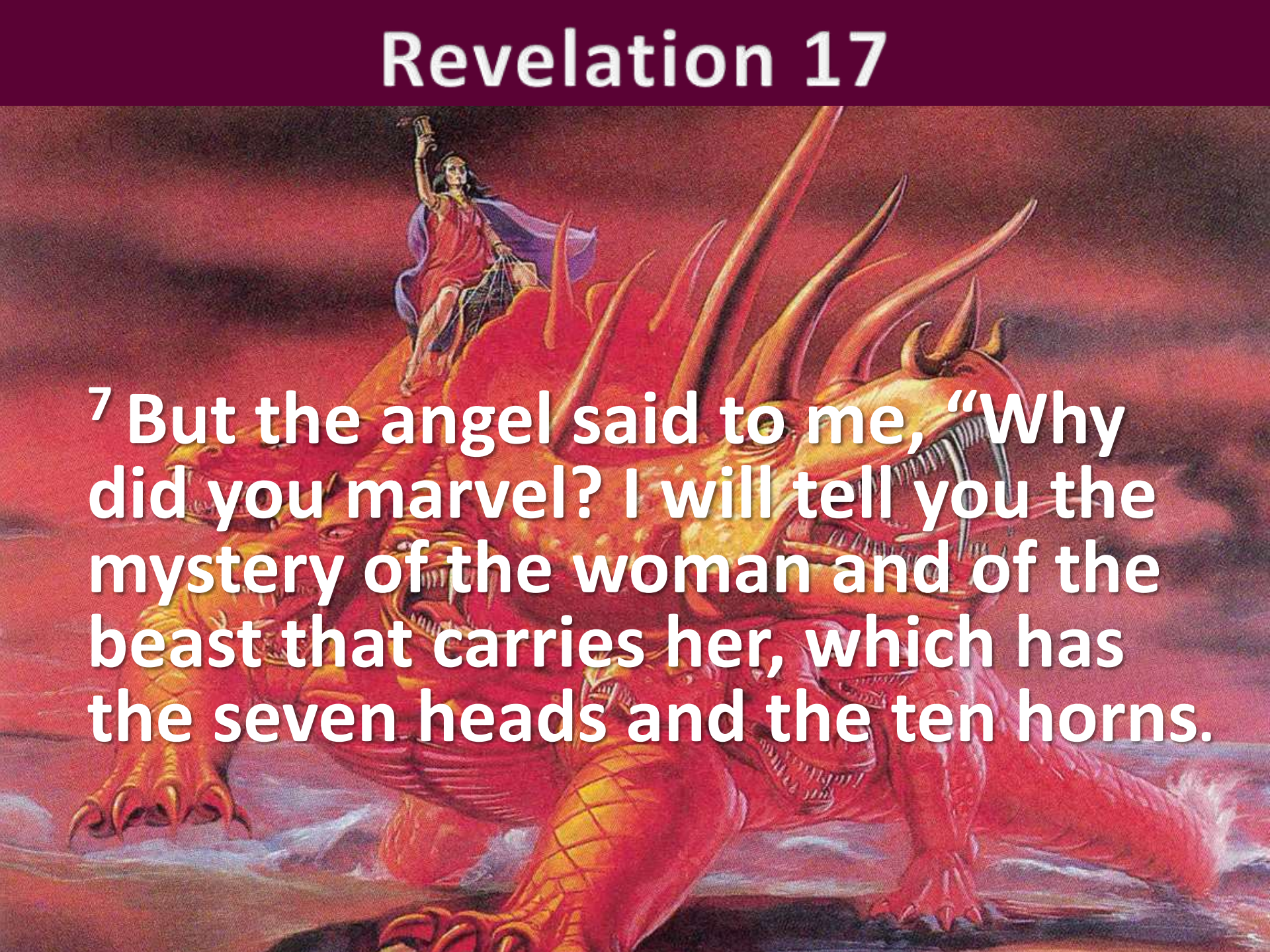
⁵ And on her forehead a name was written:

***MYSTERY, BABYLON
THE GREAT,
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS
AND OF THE
ABOMINATIONS
OF THE EARTH.***

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

An illustration depicting the woman on the beast from Revelation 17. The woman, dressed in a red and purple robe, sits atop a large, multi-headed, red and orange dragon-like creature with ten horns. The creature is shown in a dark, stormy sea. The text is overlaid on the image.

⁷ But the angel said to me, “Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.

Revelation 17

- Angel notes John is wondering and astounded, indicates mystery is about to be revealed.
- However, angel also knows John understands image of the harlot. It's everything else that needs to be revealed – including relationship of woman and beast. Woman's identity is known.
- Want to introduce an interesting thought here, about the “**woman and the beast that carries her.**”
- There is another very well-known story of a woman riding a beast...which may have major significance in our understanding of this book.

Revelation 17

THE LEGEND OF EUROPA

An eerie similarity to symbols of Revelation:

- Woman riding a beast**
- A beast in the sea**
- A forbidden relationship**

“In Greek mythology **Europa** was mother of King Minos of Crete, a woman with Phoenician origin of high lineage, for whom continent Europe was named. The story of her abduction by Zeus in the form of a white bull was a Cretan story; but most of the love-stories concerning Zeus originated from more ancient tales describing his marriages with goddesses. This can especially be said of the story of Europa.” *(Wikipedia)*

Revelation 17

THE LEGEND OF EUROPA

This story also known (*interestingly*) as the Rape of Europa. It goes like this...

Zeus saw Europa alone on the beach and lusted after her. So he transformed himself into a bull and lay down at her feet. She climbed on his back and he plunged with her into the waves of the sea and raped her. She conceived a son, and after her death she received divine honors as "**Queen of Heaven.**" The bull became the constellation Taurus. The legend of Europa has come alive in the European Union, and "**The Queen of Heaven**" is no stranger to the cults.

Revelation 17

THE SYMBOLS OF EUROPA...today!



**Euro
Magazine
Cover,
coins**



Revelation 17



stamps



German phone card



From Time Magazine article about European Union

Revelation 17

Sculpture, "The Removal of Europa," a gift from Crete to the European Parliament in 2005.



Sculpture outside the Council of Ministers in Brussels



Revelation 17

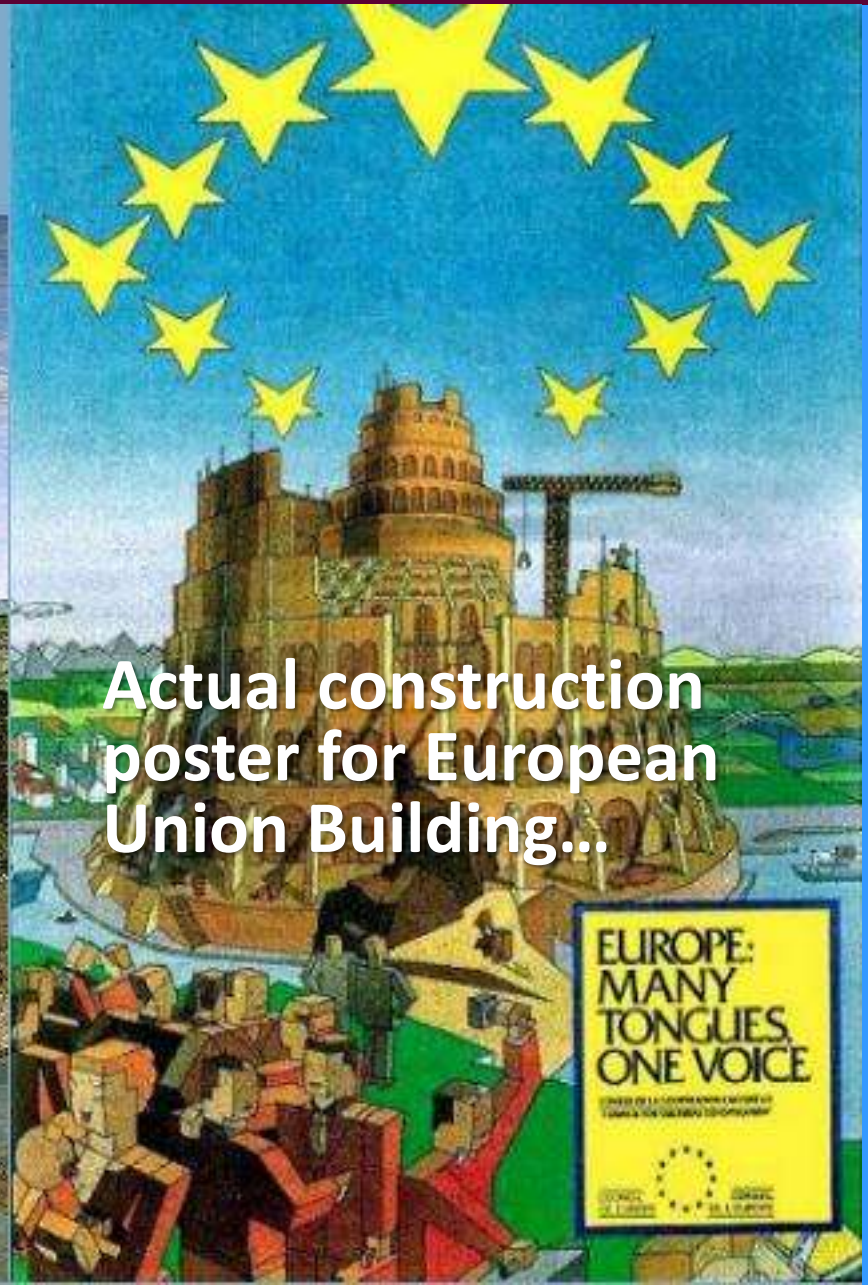


European Union flag,
note 12 stars in a
circle....Chapter 12?



Revelation 17

TOWER OF BABEL



Actual construction poster for European Union Building...

Revelation 17



**Tower of Babel Rebuilt:
European Union
Parliament Building
Strasbourg, FRANCE
“unfinished” look
deliberate association
with Tower of Babel**

Revelation 17

European Union
Parliament Building
Brussels
Always a “tower”



Revelation 17

**Katy Perry is the
Harlot, riding a
beast Superbowl
2015**



Revelation 17

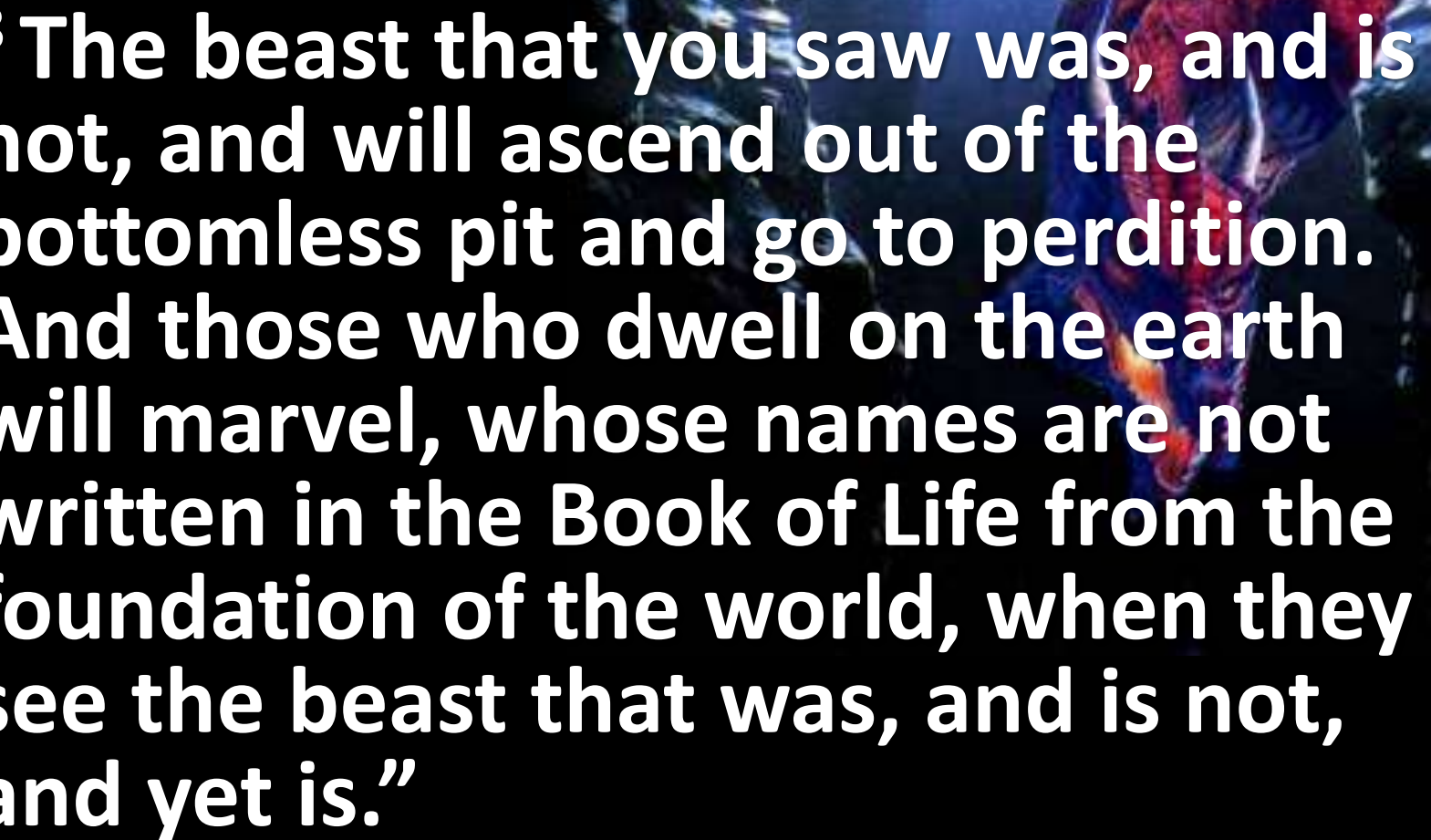
SO, IS THERE ANY ASSOCIATION WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION, EUROPA AND THE WOMAN AND THE BEAST?

Probably.

We're just not exactly sure, YET, **what form it will take.** A revived Roman Empire (Daniel 2), an Islamic Empire where church and state are combined? **A false religious system supported by government, most likely.** Speculation rampant.

Revelation 17

⁸ The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.”



Revelation 17

- This verse has caused **great confusion and speculation**. Have to take it apart to understand.
- First, “**the beast...**” already know identity from ch 13. This is human antichrist, final world ruler.
- However, “***...was, and is not, and will ascend...***” and later in verse 11 “***the beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth...***” **makes entire passage a puzzle**. *No end to interpretations.*
- Most prominent idea, represents entire **Roman Empire** (*or even imperialism as a world system*) beginning its downward spiral at this point (point of writing), but would be “resurrected” in end times as “**revived Roman empire.**” (Daniel 2)

Revelation 17

- However, passage could be only about beast, not necessarily his kingdom, so could also be reference to fact that beast will apparently “die” then be resurrected, though many believe this will only be a grand deception. (*More later*)
- ***“...will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition...”*** Gives satanic origin (*and ultimate destination*) of beast.
- Many believe antichrist will be indwelt by satan at this point, following “apparent resurrection.”
- However, could also be a reference to what comes at end of Chapter 20, after Millennial Kingdom, when satan is loosed from abyss.

Revelation 17

- ***“...those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world...”*** that phrase again that indicates unbelievers (*“inhabitants of the earth”*), those whose names are not written in the Book of Life.
- These will marvel at events covered in these verses. Will be deceived because they do not know the Lamb and follow Him.
- They follow the earthly king and apparently something happens to amaze them. Most often interpreted as the apparently “fatal” wound from which antichrist recovers. This alone can explain the ***“was, and is not, and yet is.”***


Revelation 17

- Some scholars have even said this relates to an historical figure who is “**reincarnated**” or comes back from the dead as the antichrist.
- Most popular figures said to be **Judas** Iscariot (*some interesting arguments for this*), or even world rulers like **Nero, Hitler**, etc.
- Does not seem likely in view of other verses that **preclude reincarnation** as a method in which God works.
- Reincarnation is not supported by God’s Word. In fact, it anticipates this as a false teaching: “**And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,...**” (Hebrews 9:27)

Revelation 17

- Whatever or whoever these verses refer to, is obviously **revival, bringing back to life**, of either:
 - 1) Rome (or other empire) as world power;
 - 2) imperial-style (or other style) government;
 - 3) the final world ruler, the beast himself.
- Either way, these things are going to happen, and it is not important for us to know precisely who or what this is right now, just that it will be revived, and it **comes from the pit of hell**.
- People spend lifetimes trying to decipher these mysterious passages. Perhaps only people **living in this time** will be able to put the pieces together. *Speculation has no meaning here.*

Revelation 17



⁹ “Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. ¹⁰ There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. ¹¹ The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.

Revelation 17

- Another **challenge to use wisdom** (*not worldly wisdom*) to decipher these verses. To understand precise meanings requires God's revelation, and thorough understanding of Word of God. It also implies that the one with wisdom will "take note" of this, be warned, so to speak.
- ***"The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits."*** Again, riddle about seven mountains or hills. (*Greek word for "mountain" here could mean either a hill or mountain, something that "lifts itself above the plain."*) Could be Rome, as previously indicated. Rome frequently referenced this way. *Or....?*

Revelation 17

- Could also represent **7 greatest world empires** throughout history: Sumeria, Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medes/Persians, Greece, and Rome. *Mountains often imply kingdoms in scripture.*
- It gets a little tricky, however, in determining and counting empires and kingdoms...*(more in a minute on this.)*
- Woman, harlot, **sits on them**, or controls them. False religious systems have played dominant roles in controlling world governments.
- *(Harlot is the same at any point in history.)*

Revelation 17

- ***“There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come.”*** Now we hear these hills are also seven kings (*remember Bible makes no distinction between kings and kingdoms. It could literally say “there are also seven kingdoms.”*)
- OR the seven kings are **in addition** to seven kingdoms. Some say these kings are Caesars of Rome. (*not much support for this thought*)
- If identified as kingdoms, would indicate five of them have come and gone (fallen), one is (Rome) and another still to come (revived Roman Empire, or some other kingdom)

Revelation 17

- Since Sumeria was first “kingdom,” so to speak, in world history, but was not really a world dominating empire like others, it may not be included as one “fallen” so that leaves the five *perhaps*, as Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia and Greece.
- The one that “is” is the **Roman Empire in John’s day**. Again, we are living on the side of history that has not yet seen this scripture fulfilled, *so at best, we have only speculation*.
- **Counting kingdoms is difficult**. It is possible some other kingdom(s) may also be included here, and God’s counting is different than ours!

Revelation 17

- We do know that Rome was the kingdom or empire of the day, and it is identified as the sixth (five had fallen before it.). That leaves one more to make 7, but then we hear of an eighth.
- Could speculate another world power after Rome comes (*perhaps Islam?*) in which the antichrist is part (*next verses*), but then he rises to form his own unique kingdom not associated with worldly false worship (the harlot), but worship of him alone. That would be the final, eighth, kingdom. ***Again, all speculation!***

Revelation 17

- ***“And when he comes, he must continue a short time.”*** Refers to the *“other has not yet come.”* This is either final world kingdom (*perhaps revived Roman Empire, or something else*), or final world ruler, antichrist.
- The ***short time*** most likely the 7-year duration of Daniel’s 70th week (see Daniel 9) (*or even the last part, “great tribulation” of 3 ½ years*).
- Kingdom and king used interchangeably and identified together in scripture.
- ***“The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.”*** Now it gets really confusing!

Revelation 17

- The coming world empire, and coming final world leader is going to hell, or perdition, *that much we can determine easily.*
- However, ***“is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven,”*** is a bit puzzling.
- Perhaps a look at Daniel 7 can help explain this more clearly. *“I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.”* (Daniel 7:8)

Revelation 17

- This beast has 10 horns (*horns = power, and hence represent kings or government leaders here*), seen in this book and Daniel.
- The 10 horns are 10 kings, as in next verse. According To Daniel 7, one of these horns, called **“little horn,”** takes out 3 of others, and rises to become the 8th horn.
- Must put all puzzle pieces (*and scriptures*) together to begin to see the bigger picture.



Revelation 17

- **WARNING:** Revelation is culmination of all prophecies in place for thousands of years. **No hope of understanding it without an understanding and reference to the former prophecies**, such as the ones in Daniel, Zechariah, Isaiah and many other places.
- Now, after taking out 3 of the 10 kings, the little horn becomes the 8th power, but all the others “horns” (kings) will hand over their power to this little blasphemous horn (*antichrist*) making him the final total world ruler.
- “Eighth” can also be interpreted as eighth final world power, an entity all to itself.

Revelation 17

- We are told final kingdom will be different than all others. ***“It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.”*** (Daniel 7:7)
- Whatever these verses relate specifically to, in general they are about the final world empire and the final world ruler.
- Should be noted here that Roman Empire never was conquered, or to be considered “fallen.” Rome died from within, but can still be found in some form in nations across the planet. **IMPORTANT to know know....**

Revelation 17

- Roman Empire began about 100 BC. Continued as world empire until 476 AD.
- Rome also had an **eastern branch** of the empire (Byzantine Empire) which lasted until 1453 AD.
- Even after this, Rome's brand of imperial rule (*empires, emperors*) could be found as late as 1918. German word "Kaiser" literally means Caesar, as does Russian "Czar."
- Roman imperialism lasted well over 2000 years. Everyone *thought it was dead*, but perhaps will rise again, for a short time, very intense and very deadly. Or....(*could go on and on with speculation, but that is all it is!*)

Revelation 17




12 “The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. ¹³ These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.”

Revelation 17

- Need to continue reading in Daniel 7 for help with these verses: *“Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast shall be A fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all other kingdoms, And shall devour the whole earth, Trample it and break it in pieces. The ten horns are ten kings Who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, And shall subdue three kings.”* (Daniel 7:23-24)
- Daniel has vision of beasts related to world kingdoms, from Babylon through Rome. At time Daniel saw this vision, he **only knew of Babylon**, none of the successive kingdoms.

Revelation 17

- We know (from Daniel 2's statue) that after **Babylon** (*head of gold*) came **Persia** (*Meads and Persians, arms and chest of silver*), then **Greece**, (*belly and thighs*) and finally **Rome**, the 4th kingdom on the statue (*legs*).
- God said fourth beast/kingdom **will be different than all the others**. Perhaps difference is fact that Rome was not defeated or conquered, it crumbled from within, but is still found in various forms throughout world today.
- Two legs of statue **then grow into ten toes** (iron and clay mixed). Toes are NOT defined as a 5th kingdom, but are to be interpreted as **an extension of the 4th kingdom.** 

Revelation 17

- This fourth kingdom is the END TIME kingdom, or will **BECOME** this final power.
- Again, important to note there is NOT another, or fifth, kingdom mentioned. **The fourth is the final.** If Rome was final, that means end time kingdom comes from *what was Rome*, or has morphed in some way from the Roman Empire.
- Same is true for Daniel's vision of wild beasts (*God's view of government, vicious, bloodthirsty entities who prey on others*) in Daniel 7. It is the 4th beast, Rome, that will become "terrible." Fourth or "terrible" beast is Rome, or more correctly, **what will come out of, or from, Rome.**

Revelation 17

- This is why so many speak of a **“Revived Roman Empire.”**
- Most of these look to the **European Union** today as this revived Roman Empire.
- In fact, the first days and original leaders of this group *actually stated that they saw themselves as a revival of the Roman Empire.*
- First steps taken in 1948, “Treaty of Rome” in 1957. Started with three very small nations, grew to 10 nations (when Greece joined in 1981) and **every prophecy scholar in the world went ballistic!** (*thinking this was fulfillment of these prophecies in Daniel and Revelation*).

Revelation 17

- Clear that EU is still in formative stages. Many changes, many difficulties, but still moving forward.
- 28 nations today, representing 500 million people.
- **Boundaries of EU are same as Roman Empire.**
- Rise of Islam has thrown a “wrench” into many old theories about Revived Roman Empire, but God has a distinct plan that we cannot see clearly yet, and it is likely both EU and Islam will play key roles in extension of the 4th kingdom, or 4th beast that was birthed in the Roman Empire. (*clay and iron don't mix??*)

Revelation 17

Protests and revolutions in various Islamic countries around the Mediterranean Sea since 2011 raise the specter of a new Islamic caliphate that might merge with the European countries where Muslim culture is becoming predominant. Such a coalition would resemble the old Roman Empire at its greatest extent, and could be what was predicted in Daniel, chapter 2 -the final world empire, symbolized by iron [Rome] and clay [Islamic caliphate]. The Islamic State (also known as ISIS and ISIL) emerged in 2014 with barbaric practices and the stated goal of reestablishing the caliphate.

(<http://www.bible-prophecy.com/2015/roman2015.htm>)

Revelation 17

The European Union: 500 million people – 28 countries



Member States of the European Union



Candidate countries and potential candidates

Revelation 17

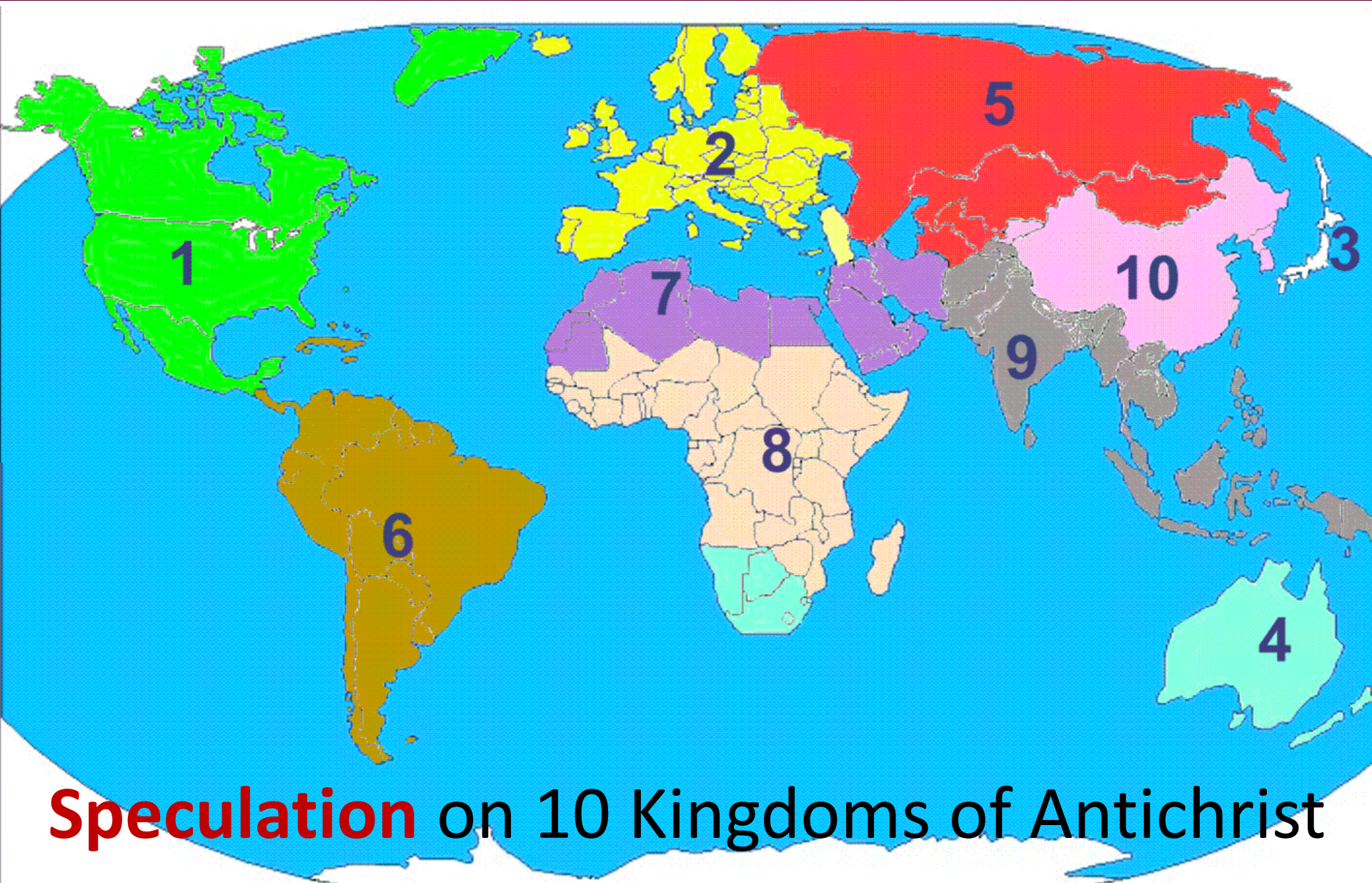
- Daniel says there will be 10 kings (or kingdoms) that will come from fourth beast. These correlate to 10 toes of the statue in Daniel 2.
- Out of a **revived Roman Empire** will come 10 kingdoms and 10 kings over those kingdoms.
- Again, we hear of one rising and subduing 3 of these kings. For awhile they rule together, but then somehow are talked into giving over all their power to the “little horn” or antichrist, making him **the last king standing**, the final world ruler (“8th” out of 7 last horns).



Revelation 17

- Vision of Daniel's was well into the future for him, and even now somewhat for us.
- Speaks of a **coming geo-political scenario that has not yet happened**, or has not yet been fully developed and formulated, thus the "ten kings" don't have their kingdoms yet.
- Some speculate that these 10 kings and kingdoms will **be geographically apportioned** kingdoms, dividing the world into 10 geographic states.
- Some have even *been so bold* as to suggest what those 10 "kingdoms" might look like.
(So far, though, only God knows this!)

Revelation 17



Revelation 17

- What about the words “*for one hour...*” (from the verse: “*but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.*” 17:12) Not necessarily or literally one 60-minute period of time. “**One hour**” represents a **very short period of time**.
- Keep in mind Daniel’s 70th week is 7 literal years. So one hour would represent a very small portion of that time.
- **The reign of these kings together, before their power is usurped, will be very short.**

Revelation 17

- ***“These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.”*** In the beginning the kings will reign together.
- But somehow the “little horn” (*antichrist, the beast of which our Revelation 17 passage speaks*) will convince the others to give him their power, and he ***will become the sole world ruler***.
- We know antichrist will be charismatic and very persuasive. He will also be very powerful at this point. These kings, while of “one mind” **may very well have NO choice in this matter.**
- **That leaves just one “horn” standing** – the antichrist, the beast of this passage.

Revelation 17



14 “These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”

Revelation 17

- These kings refers back to the 10 kings (ten horns here, 10 toes in Daniel 2), or precisely **8 kings = 7 plus antichrist** (*who supplanted 3 of original 10.*)
- They will **persecute and war against God** (*and God's people, see all of Daniel 7*).
- But we know the good news, **Jesus, the Lamb of God, will overcome the world**, and all governments.
- Nebuchadnezzar's statue in Daniel 2 a preview of this. All human government will be destroyed, and the Lamb will take His throne.

Revelation 17

- He is, after all, the **King of kings and the Lord of Lords!**
- This title also mentioned in Revelation 19:16, *where it is written on His robe, and on His thigh.*
- This war extends to all those who are called by His Name, all believers.
- We are **called, chosen, and faithful**. The “called” is also a title, not a verb in this sentence. So we are: CALLED, CHOSEN, FAITHFUL.

Revelation 17

We are...

called

kletos

Invited, appointed

chosen

ekletos

Favorite, chosen

faithful

pistos

Trustworthy,
faithful, sure

Revelation 17

- This persecution can take place *before* the antichrist rises, *during* his takeover, and *after* his solitary reign.
- In fact, persecution of the saints is happening today, all over the world, and is *increasing as the world become less tolerant of the truth*.
- Many will be martyred for their faith in this time, but the Lamb of God overcomes the enemy.
- This is a **wonderful ray of hope** in an otherwise terrifying and dismal chapter.

Revelation 17

15 “Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

16 And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

Revelation 17

- Verse 15 is the one we referenced earlier as an interpretation given to us of the Harlot and her scope of influence (*sitting on many waters*).
- The harlot, the apostate church, will influence and deceive ALL (*whose names are not written in the Lamb's book of life*).
- She has **global influence**, everyone who does not seek the Lamb will be sucked into her deceit.
- The reference to peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues makes this clear.

Revelation 17

- And now we see the **demise of this apostate world wide religious system**. She does not last long!
- Why not? Because antichrist does not wish the world to worship something false, **he wishes them to worship him!!**
- Ten kings/rulers, prior to time antichrist takes sole control, will come to despise apostate (false) church, not for her false teachings, but because she is arrogant, proud and gets in the way of what these rulers really want to do. Especially one.

Revelation 17

- Antichrist seeks worship for himself alone.
- He will eventually enter the Temple (*which some say must be rebuilt in order to fulfill the verses that prophesy this action*) and proclaim himself as god.
- He is not interested in a world church. These 10 kings will do away with this false church. She will be completely destroyed, with nothing left.
- Worship of the beast will replace this church as the official “religion.” *And it will be mandatory.*

Revelation 17

³Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

Revelation 17

17 For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.



Revelation 17

- Once again we are reminded, as terrible and amazing as these events are, God is in control. He is the One manipulating world rulers.
- Reminds us of other scriptures that say He raises up kings and takes them down, and puts in their hearts what He wants them to do.
- World not out of control, nor is antichrist in control. **GOD ALMIGHTY IS IN CONTROL!!**
- The 10 (*or 8 at this point*) kings do as God intends, give their power and kingdoms to antichrist, to fulfill prophecies written beforehand about this time. God is controlling history. *It is not out of control!*

Revelation 17

18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.”



Revelation 17

- Finally, last verse seems to reveal the mystery, but is *a mystery in itself!*
- Seems to be the “kicker,” and very difficult to argue about. As John was seeing and writing this, Rome was the only power that “reigned over the kings of the earth.”
- **Out of Rome came the first organized church.** Seems to be strong and irrefutable clue.
- However, must remember this is prophecy about END times. Perhaps this reference is to final world power, or final city of power, the headquarters of the beast.

Revelation 17

- Brings in speculation about whether **Babylon is really a code name for Rome** (*which many suggest the early disciples used*) and that literal Babylon is not referenced in this passage. (*but “spiritual” Babylon IS.*)
- They say the real “great city” is Rome, origin of organized church, hence identity of harlot.
- However, there is some evidence to suggest that literal Babylon will be rebuilt, and might even become the headquarters of the beast, and fulfill the phrase, *“great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.”*

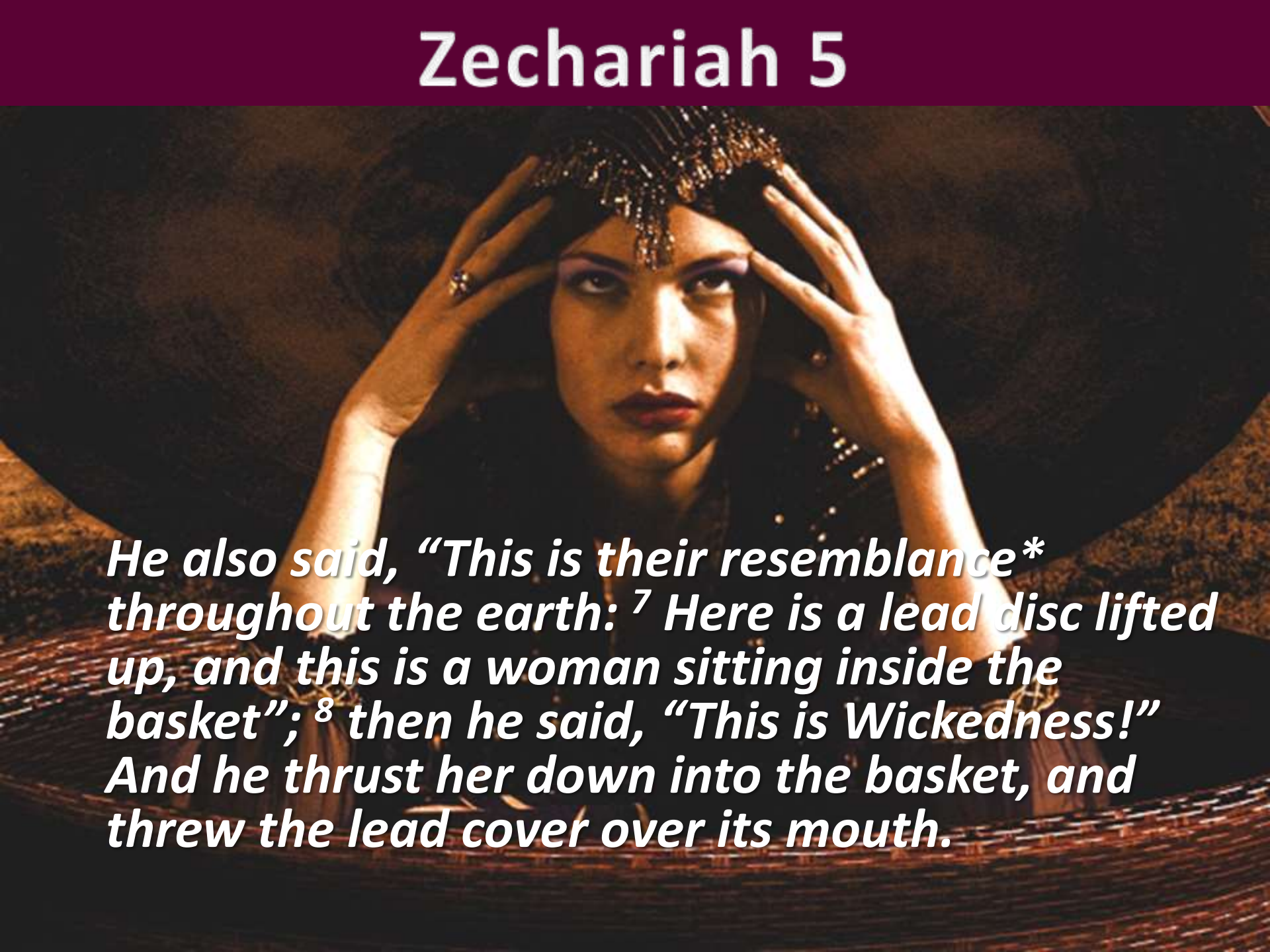
Revelation 17

- Interesting passage in Zechariah 5, about woman identified as evil and wickedness, being kept in a basket until relocating her to the “plains of Shinar” when the time is come.
- **“Plains of Shinar”** another term for Babylon.
- Some speculate that while Rome was the center of the world power at the time of John’s writing, the literal city of government power will be Babylon at the end. There are so many different opinions about this, it is difficult to keep them all straight!
- *Probably won’t know for sure until it happens.*

Zechariah 5

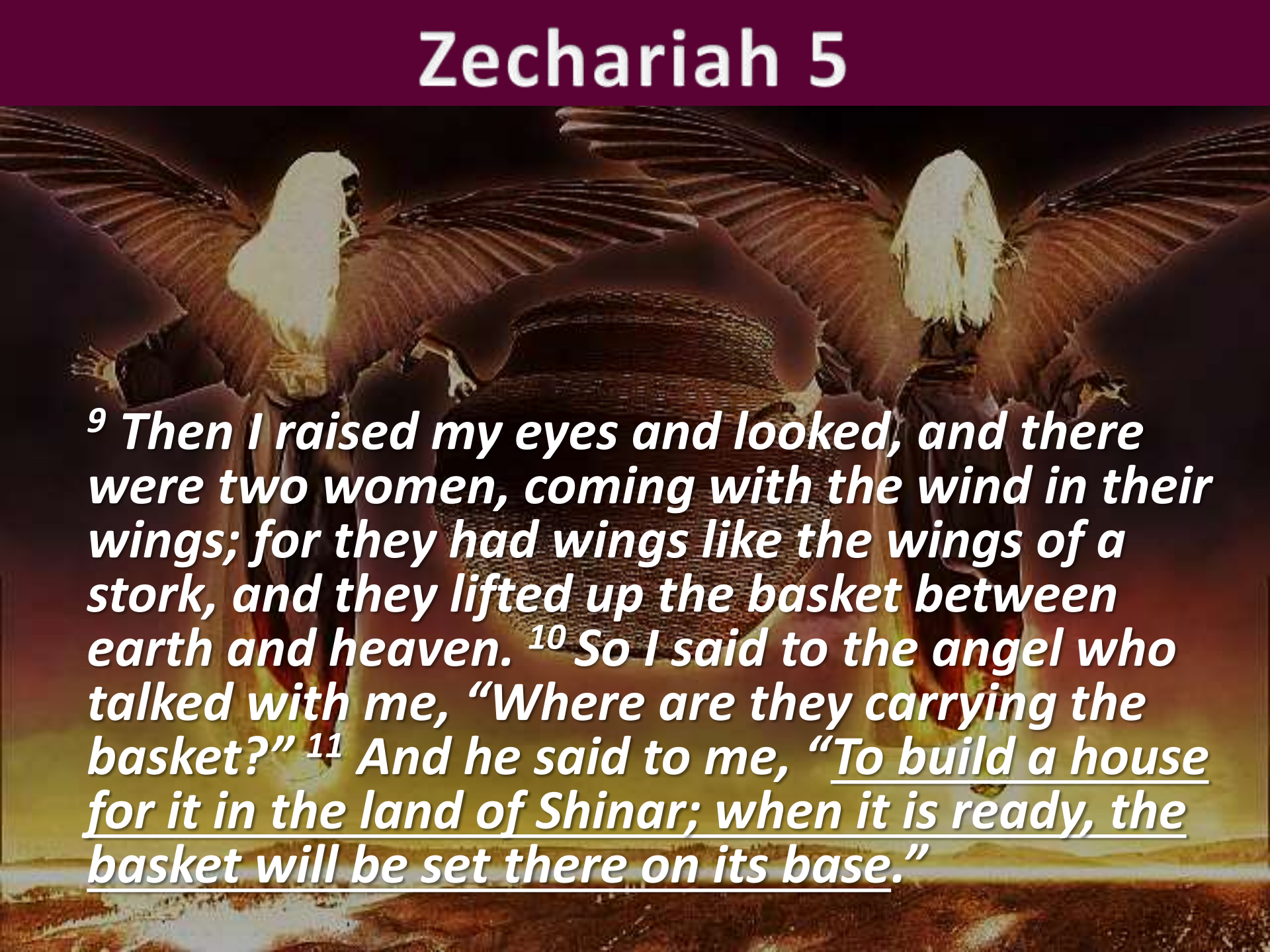
⁵ Then the angel who talked with me came out and said to me, “Lift your eyes now, and see what this is that goes forth. ⁶ So I asked, “What is it?” And he said, “It is a basket that is going forth.”

Zechariah 5

A woman with dark hair and purple eye makeup is sitting inside a woven basket. She is holding a large, dark, circular lead disc over her face, with her hands raised to the edges of the disc. The background is dark and textured, suggesting a night sky or a cave. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting her face and the texture of the basket.

He also said, “This is their resemblance throughout the earth: ⁷ Here is a lead disc lifted up, and this is a woman sitting inside the basket”; ⁸ then he said, “This is Wickedness!” And he thrust her down into the basket, and threw the lead cover over its mouth.*

Zechariah 5

The background of the slide is a painting depicting two women with large, brown, feathered wings, similar to those of a stork. They are carrying a woven basket between them, and the basket is positioned between the earth and the sky. The scene is set against a dark, dramatic sky with a hint of a landscape at the bottom.

⁹ Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there were two women, coming with the wind in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between earth and heaven. ¹⁰ So I said to the angel who talked with me, “Where are they carrying the basket?” ¹¹ And he said to me, “To build a house for it in the land of Shinar; when it is ready, the basket will be set there on its base.”

Zechariah 5*

The angel indicated that the basket represented the iniquity of the people throughout the land. The NIV marginal translation for “**iniquity of the people**” is “appearance,” which is closer to the Hebrew word which is literally “eye.” The clause could be translated, “**This is the appearance (or resemblance, i.e., of the ephah) in all the land...**” *[in other words, evil is everywhere you look in the land.]*

The use of a measuring basket to symbolize the corporate evil of the land of Israel was appropriate in view of the common perversity of making false measures (Amos 8:5). The sins associated with commercial preoccupation were gripping Israel at this time...probably too specific to identify the basket only with godless commercialism. **The rest of the vision seems to include the concept of false worship.**
(Walvoord & Zuck)

Revelation 17

The Harlot: 10 Big Clues

From these passages we understand **the Harlot...**

- 1) **Is a prostitute.** Ultimate in promiscuous, unfaithful behavior; depicts unfaithfulness to God by someone who *claims* to honor God.
- 2) **Has universal influence;** all over the world.
- 3) **Is seated upon the beast** (*Steers, dominates*). She is in control, even over government.
- 4) **Is adorned with Purple, Scarlet, Gold and Jewels.** Conspicuously wealthy, expensively adorned; outwardly attractive, with adornment (vestments) of organized “church.”

Revelation 17

The Harlot: 10 Big Clues

- 5) **Holds a Golden cup:** precious, shining, pleasant to behold; “ostensibly” utensil in God’s service; yet counterfeit, filled with abominable things, making her “drunk,” *and will bring her judgment.*
- 6) Has writing on her, **Mystery, Babylon the Great.** A mystery, linked with Babylon of Nimrod (*See Revelation 11:8, used as an idiom*). Something not revealed before, shown now.
- 7) **Is the Mother of Prostitutes:** has spiritual offspring, not alone. Spawned other “harlots.”
- 8) **Is Persecutor of Christians** (*true believers*). In fact, revels in their blood, drunk on persecution.

Revelation 17

The Harlot: 10 Big Clues

- 9) **Is sitting on a beast with seven heads, identified as Seven “mountains.”** Rome built on 7 hills; Aventine, Caelian, Capitoline, Esquiline, Palatine, Quirinal and Viminal. Possible may not be direct reference to Rome, since word used can either be “mountain” or “hill,” may instead represent earthly kingdoms that have come and gone in world history.
- 10) **Is The Great City that rules over the kings of the earth.** In John’s day, could only be Rome, birth place of first organized Christianity, Holy Roman Catholic Church. No question about this identity, which gives previous clue more weight as Rome.

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, וַיַּחַנֶּנְךָ

Ya'er Adonai panav elekha vihunneka

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

יְשַׁא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיַּשֵּׁם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

Yissa Adonai panav elekha viyasem lekha shalom.

