

## Revelation #4

### A Brief Review

1. Revelation = unveiling and/or disclosing something previously unknown
2. Four Units in the Book
  - a. Jesus to the Church (chs. 1-3)
  - b. 6 of 7 Seals (chs. 4-7)
  - c. 7<sup>th</sup> Seal (chs. 8-19)
  - d. Beginning Again/New Eden (20-21)
3. Structure of the Seals
  - 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 (Seals)
  - 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 (Trumpets)
  - 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 (Bowls)
  - Satan/Anti-Christ Defeated

### Satan Defeated (Chs 17-19)

- Chapters 17-19 is forms the conclusion of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal and the 7<sup>th</sup> bowl of judgment (which is part of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal)

### Ch 17

#### **John Sees a Harlot Sitting on a Scarlet Beast (17:1-6)**

*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. <sup>2</sup> With her the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries." <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> The name written on her forehead was a mystery: Babylon the great; the mother of prostitutes and of the abominations of the earth. <sup>6</sup> I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God's holy people, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus.*

- The Question is: Who is She?
  - The fact that this woman is referred to as a mystery means we cannot be certain of her identity. But that hasn't stopped the explanations.
  - The Roman Catholic Church: Many link this to the Roman Catholic Church because later on in Revelation 17:9, we read "the seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits." In antiquity, Rome was known as the city on seven hills. However, in 17:10-11, we read: <sup>10</sup> *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. <sup>11</sup> The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.*
  - Most Likely Explanation: The harlot of Babylon is an evil world system, controlled by the Anti-Christ, during the last days before Jesus' return. The harlot has religious connections in that she causes people to commit spiritual adultery with the beast. It's a "Spirit of the Age" idea where people will be "swooned" religiously/ideologically much like the Israelites were swooned by Jezebel and the prophets of Baal who ate at her table.

### Ch 18

#### **John sees Babylon Falling (18:1-3)**

*After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. <sup>2</sup> With a mighty voice he shouted: "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!"<sup>[a]</sup> She has become a dwelling for demons and a haunt for every impure spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable animal. <sup>3</sup> For all the nations have drunk the maddening*

wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.”

- The Question is: What Does Babylon Represent in the Text?
  - Babylon’s first mention in the Bible was as a place of rebellion against God (Genesis 11)
  - In the end times, Babylon will have influence over all “peoples, multitudes, nations and languages” (Rev. 17:15 – alluding to the Tower of Babel)
  - Promotes religious heresy and kills true followers of God (Rev. 17:3-6)
  - Will be a center of luxury, wealth, and opulence (Rev 18:7, 11-17)
  - Will be associated with a federation of ten kings, plus the beast (Rev 17:12)
  - Will thrive for a time, but then the beast and the ten kings will conclude it is no longer needed (because they rule the world) and will dispose of it (Rev 17:6)
- Understanding, Therefore, What Babylon Represents Here:
  - To Understand It, We Have to Go Back to Daniel 7
    - <sup>7</sup>“After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns. (7:7)
    - In two prophecies of Daniel, Rome will be “revived” in some way through a federation of 10 kings. John says the same thing, but uses the word “Babylon” (i.e., against God).
  - Therefore, “Babylon” is John’s way of saying a revival of the Roman Empire (through the 10 kings) will occur at the end of time, led by the Anti-Christ (the beast). Some have conjectured this will come through the papacy. Some have said this will be the literal Roman Empire. We don’t know. But we do know this “evil empire” will arise at the end of time

### **John Sees That Babylon’s Fall Will Be Orchestrated By Heaven (18:21-24)**

<sup>21</sup> Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said: “With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again. <sup>22</sup> The music of harpists and musicians, pipers and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again. No worker of any trade will ever be found in you again. The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again. <sup>23</sup> The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again. Your merchants were the world’s important people. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray. <sup>24</sup> In her was found the blood of prophets and of God’s holy people, of all who have been slaughtered on the earth.”

- Now the stage is set for the Kingdom of God to consummate.

## Ch. 19

### **John Sees Jesus Returning to Defeat and Conquer What He’s Just Seen (19:11-16)**

<sup>11</sup> I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. <sup>13</sup> He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. <sup>14</sup> The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. <sup>15</sup> Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.”<sup>[a]</sup> He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. <sup>16</sup> On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords.

### Christ’s Kingdom (Chs. 20-21)

#### **John Sees Christ Reigning for 1000 Years on the Earth After He Comes and Defeats Kingdom of the Anti-Christ (20:1-3)**

And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. <sup>2</sup> He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. <sup>3</sup> He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. . . <sup>4</sup> I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They<sup>[a]</sup> had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

- This is called the millennial reign of Jesus on earth.

### **Then Satan is Unleashed After that 1000 Years for a Brief Time (20:7-9)**

*<sup>7</sup>When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison<sup>8</sup> and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. <sup>9</sup> They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves.*

### **Then Satan is Defeated Forever as Well as the Final Judgment (20:9-10)**

*But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. <sup>10</sup> And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. <sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it.*

### **Then the New Heavens and the New Earth (21:1-4)**

*Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth,"<sup>1a</sup> for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death<sup>1b</sup> or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."*

## **The Picture We See In Revelation**

Church Age

1<sup>st</sup> Half of Great Tribulation

Rapture

2<sup>nd</sup> Half of Great Tribulation

Christ Returns

1000 Reign (Millennial)

Satan Defeated and Final Judgment

New Heavens and New Earth

### **Now the Terminology is Easier to Understand**

1. Pre-millennial – Christ comes back before the 1000 year reign. 1000 years is literal period of time.
  - a. Any discussion of when a rapture occurs would put you in this camp, whether you believe the rapture occurs before the tribulation, in the middle of the tribulation (my position), or after it.
2. Amillennial – 1000 year period is not a literal time frame. The information in Rev 20 is figurative and just means Jesus wins and is coming back and that will be it.
3. Postmillennial – Jesus comes back after 1000 year reign of Peace on Earth