

The Judgment of Babylon

Revelation 17:12–15 along with Revelation 16:14–16.

"And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful." Rev. 17:12-14.

The ten kings receive their authority by giving their authority to the beast and receiving it back again. Ellen G. White identified this power as Protestantism. See introduction. They had religious authority. When they receive it back under the beast, they have political authority. The authority which at first was only religious is given back as governmental authority.

When the horns finally unite, what is said of their mind? Verse 13.

These have not the mind of Christ but the mind of Satan as they band together. Ellen G. White comments: "There will be a universal bond of union, one great harmony, a confederacy of Satan's forces. . . .

"In the warfare to be waged in the last days there will be united, in opposition to God's people, all the corrupt powers that have apostatized from allegiance to the law of Jehovah." —Ellen G. White Comments, SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 7, p. 983.

If we wonder how it is possible for the nations to be deceived, note these inspired words: "The power of Satan now to tempt and deceive is ten-fold greater than it was in the days of the apostles."—Spiritual Gifts, Vol. 2, p. 277.

When the forces of evil finally unite, upon whom do they wage war? Who will win? Verse 14.

"The so-called Christian world is to be the theatre of great and decisive actions. Men in authority will enact laws controlling the conscience, after the example of the papacy. Babylon will make all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. Every nation will be involved."—Ellen G. White Comments, "SDA Bible Commentary," Vol. 7, p. 949.

"And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth." Rev. 17:15-18.

What does prophecy declare will happen to the woman? Verse 16.

These last verses of chapter 17 picture a strange reversal of all that the previous verses seemed to be leading up to: verse 14 forecasts a bitter attack upon the Lamb and His followers by Satan's confederacy of evil. But verse 16 shows that the very powers that gave their strength and support to the woman will eventually turn on her and savagely destroy her, burning her with fire.

What result of men's anger, pointed out by the psalmist, will occur again? Ps. 76:10.

In 1798 it was the beast that suffered the "deadly wound." The political power was stripped from the papacy; but the woman, the church, continued on as a religious power. Slowly the church began to rebuild her political power, until in this prophecy she is seen riding the beast.

What does this prophecy say is her relationship to the kings or the dictators of earth? Verse 18.

This portrays a global combination. It will include all the powers of earth, and under the influence of the woman they will form a confederacy against the apparently helpless people of God. But these very powers will turn upon the woman and destroy her.

What is the nature of the daughters that spring from this adulterous "mother"? Verse 5.

The daughters of the apostate church actually form the -image to the beast of chapter 13:14.

Am I able to discern the antichrist influences that threaten the church in both education and religion?

The false science of the present day, which undermines faith in the Bible, will prove as successful in preparing the way for the acceptance of the papacy, with its pleasing forms, as did the withholding of knowledge in opening the way for its aggrandizement in the Dark Ages."—The Great Controversy, page 573.

Before the full moral collapse of Babylon, a voice from heaven urges God's people still in Babylon to " 'Come out of her, my people' " ([Rev. 18:4](#)). There are many worshipers of God who are still in Babylon for various reasons. God uses His end-time church to call these people out from this apostate religious system and not to participate in its sins. They must come out of it in order to escape its fate. God does not want anyone to perish ([2 Pet. 3:9](#)). [Revelation 19:1–10](#) shows that many God-fearing people in Babylon will respond to the call. Think, then, about the tremendous responsibility that rests upon us as God's remnant church. What should this responsibility tell us about our need of God's truth in our hearts and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

As [Revelation 18:4](#) shows, there are many God-fearing people in Babylon whom God calls " 'my people.' " Reflect on the following statement: "This message must be given, but while it must be given, we should be careful not to thrust and crowd and condemn those who have not the light that we have. We should not go out of our way to make hard thrusts at the Catholics. Among the Catholics there are many who are most conscientious Christians, and who walk in all the light that shines upon them, and God will work in their behalf. Those who have had great privileges and opportunities, and who have failed to improve their physical, mental, and moral powers, . . . are in greater danger and in greater condemnation before God than those who are in error upon doctrinal points, yet who seek to live to do good to others."—Ellen G. White, *Evangelism*, p. 575. What should this thought tell us about how to treat others?

Revelation 17 describes a harlot sitting on a scarlet beast. While the woman in chapter 12 symbolizes God's faithful church, the one in chapter 17 refers to an apostate church seducing the world away from God. In your view, what are the similarities and differences between them? More important, what can we learn from this comparison?

The texts portray a very dismal state of the religious and political world during the final stages before Christ's victorious return. What should this tell us about why it's so important right now that we stay faithful, true, and pure to the message that God has given us? Read [Revelation 16:15](#), an appeal for faithfulness amid the depiction of worldwide apostasy. How can we apply this warning to ourselves right now?