

THE CLASH

PART 1

THE HARLOT RIDES THE BEAST



**TAKING THE MYSTERY OUT OF
MYSTERY BABYLON**

REVELATION 17-18

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JANUARY 25, 2022

FOCUS
ON THE END TIMES

I. CLASH OVER JERUSALEM

A. Satan wants what belongs to God

1. He will risk everything to defeat the Lord and rule the world from God's Throne in Jerusalem - Isa. 14:13-14

¹³ I will raise my throne and sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, I will make myself like the Most High God.

2. Jesus is promised the nations (Ps. 2:8) and the right to sit on the throne of David in Jerusalem and the right to rule over the nations for 1000 years!

3. Satan wants to usurp the promises for Jesus and rule the earth himself by setting up his own kingdom and reigning from the city of Jerusalem

B. Jerusalem... City of God

Names for Jerusalem

- The city of God - Ps. 46:4; 48:1; 87:3
- The city of the Great King - Matt. 5:35
- City of the Lord - Isa. 60:14
- The Throne of the Lord - Jer. 3:17
- The Holy Mountain - Zech. 8:3

C. Satan's End-Time Game Plan

1. Deceive Muslims to conquer Jerusalem!
2. Exterminate Israel!
3. Kill Jesus at His Second Coming!
4. Establish his global Caliphate from Jerusalem!



II. WEIGHING THE OPTIONS

A. Global Financial System

1. Some see Mystery Babylon as referring to the world's financial system.
2. This view comes from the wrong assumption that Revelation 18 represents something entirely different than the false religious system of Revelation 17 - it does not!

B. Illuminati / New World Order

1. This view holds that Babylon refers to a global cabal of world leaders, power brokers, and bankers who control everything. This group, it is claimed, consists of an assortment of secret societies and organizations that span the globe.
2. The shadowy network of global leaders is supposedly involved in occult rituals and the worship of Satan. The notion of a global organization of world leaders who secretly worship Satan and do his bidding is not able to be proven.

C. Rebuilt City of Babylon, Iraq

1. Some prophecy teachers believe that Revelation 17-18 calls for the actual building of a mega-city, somewhere near ancient Babylon in Iraq. This new city/empire will somehow rise up overnight and become the political, religious, and financial capital of the world.

2. Problems with this view:

- a. God said that once Babylon was destroyed, it would never rise again. (Isa. 13:19-20; Jer. 51:26)
- b. According to the Bible's chronology of Satan's seven empires, it's not possible for Babylon to return as the empire of Antichrist (Rev. 17:9-11)
- c. The word "*mystery*" (17:1) conveys the idea of something cryptic or hidden and is not pointing to the future resurrected city of Babylon.
- d. "*Mystery, Babylon the Great,*" points to the roots of false religion associated with Arabia and the Tower of Babel.

D. America

Despite America's increasing wickedness, she doesn't fit the descriptions:

1 - Mystery Babylon is a city not a country (17:18)

2 - For all its faults, killing Christians (17:6), a hallmark of the harlot, is not one of them.

the woman was drunk with the blood of God's holy people

3 - The term "harlot" (Rev. 17:2) refers to betraying God for another false religion. The United States practices separation of church and state and cannot be considered the religious system described as the "harlot."

E. Vatican/Rome

1. Bible Prophecy is Israel & Middle East centric not European Centric

2. The correct view of 'Mystery Babylon' must be able to fulfill **every aspect** about her that God reveals in the text, not just align with one or two features.

There are dozens of qualifiers described in Revelation 17-18 that a correct interpretation must meet. One can't identify the harlot simply by cherry-picking a few hot-button topics out of these two chapters.

3. A correct view of these chapters must also be consistent with the many prophecies relating to the Beast and Antichrist. Example:

a. As a Christian religion, the theology of the Vatican does not align with the monotheistic theology of Antichrist found elsewhere in scripture.

b. This shortfall alone is enough to disqualify the harlot as Rome!

c. The Apostle John clearly points out the monotheistic theology of Islam and Antichrist. Antichrist denies the Christian doctrines about Jesus Christ, the Father, the Trinity, and the Cross, thus, ruling out the harlot from being connected with Rome or Christianity - 1 Jn. 2:22

*Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ?
This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.*

F. Mecca/Arabia

1. Mecca Fulfills Revelation 17-18 Perfectly

The harlot represents the spiritual and economic fountain that gave birth to the religion of Islam, Satan's grand deception to worship himself as Allah which he created by using Muhammad in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

2. Copycat

a. For example: Just as God visited Moses in the desert in Midian, Arabia, to reveal his plans for the nation of Israel, so Satan visited Muhammad in the desert in Mecca, Arabia, to reveal his plans for the nation of Islam. Just as God gave Moses a godly system of laws for Israel, Satan devised an ungodly system of laws for Islam.

b. These type parallels are almost endless in comparing the storyline of Islam with the storyline of the Bible.

c. Satan has committed **identity theft** by stealing the lives of over 50 Bible characters and transforming them into good Muslims who all become loyal followers of Allah... even Jesus follows him.

3. Today and through the first half of the Tribulation, Mecca continues to rule over the religion of Islam like the Vatican rules the Catholic church.

It is described in detail here because this distinctive false religion includes a system of government and mandated civil laws (like Jihad) that power the Beast & Antichrist.

4. Destroying the Gospel, Killing Jesus

Islam's political-religious system was cunningly designed by the enemy to strip Jesus of His biblical identity and to replace the Bible.

Satan's end-time purposes are extremely devious as he plans to deceive Muslims into becoming his army and nuclear-powered military, capable of destroying Israel and killing Jesus at His Second Coming.

III. HELP WITH INTERPRETING THE HARLOT

A. Both chapters of Revelation 17-18 are speaking about the same subject. The topic of both chapters is the alluring harlot that represents Satan's religious system behind the beast and Antichrist. Chapter 17 presents the harlot using symbolic language and chapter 18 uses literal terminology.

B. John takes an On-Site Tour of the Harlot - vs. 3

Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast

C. John has an 'Interpreting Angel' as his Tour Guide - 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

D. God tells us in plain terms the meaning of the Harlot - Rev. 17:18

The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of earth

IV. INTERPRETING THE SYMBOLISM OF THE HARLOT'S NAMES

The names describing the harlot are symbolic and not meant to be taken literally. The words & meaning are disguised because **GOD LOVES MUSLIMS** as He does all people.

A. "**Great Harlot, Whore, Harlotry**" (Vs. 1)

1. 'Harlot' speaks of spiritual infidelity not sexual harlotry
2. Betraying God for something else - Hosea 4:2; James 4:4
3. **Mother of Harlots... Mother of Abominations = THE GREATEST FALSHOOD**

From the life of Muhammad and the teaching of the Quran, Islam proudly teaches and practices breaking all 10 commandments. For Allah and the cause of Jihad you can lie, cheat, steal, murder, commit adultery, etc.

B. “Sits on Many Waters” - Rev. 17:1; 15 (Her widespread influence)

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

C. “Beast”

1. Symbolic term for an Empire (Daniel 7) “Beast” is the empire of Antichrist
2. Formed by 10 kings, the Beast is the revived Islamic Caliphate - Rev.17:12-13

¹² The ten horns which you saw are ten kings...¹³ These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

D. “Harlot... Riding the Beast”

1. Pictures Mecca using the Quran and Sharia controlling & steering the empire
 - A democracy is controlled by the people
 - A Republic is controlled by the Constitution
 - An autocracy is controlled by a dictator
 - A Caliphate (Beast) is controlled by Islam (“harlot rides the beast”)

E. “Golden cup” full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication (vs. 4)

“Made drunk with the wine of her fornication” (Rev. 14:8, 10; 18:3)

1. The imagery does not describe actual wine and sexual sin but pictures being swept up in the intoxication of the false system of religion
2. The inebriating teaching (“cup”) and upside-down doctrines of Islam appeals to man’s flesh. Drunk enough to perform millions of acts of terror - 911, ISIS

F. “Kings of the earth”... committed fornication (17:2, 18; 18:3, 9)

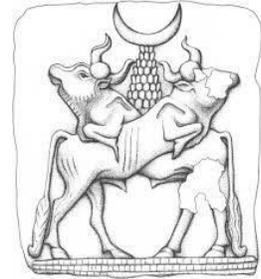
1. Points to the **10 Kings** but can include all Muslim kings - Rev. 17:12-13

¹² The ten horns which you saw are ten kings... they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. ¹³ They give their power to the beast.

2. “Committed fornication” - The kings ally themselves with Mecca and adhere to the teachings of the Quran and Sharia

V. MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT MOON-GOD CULT

A. In the Old Testament, God constantly rebuked the worship of the Moon and the Stars saying that the worship of the heavens was an abomination to the nations. (Deut.17:3; 2 Kings 21:3,5; 23:5; Jer. 8:2; 19:13; Zeph. 1:5, Acts 7:42-43)



¹⁹ And when you look up to the sky and see the sun, the moon and the stars do not be enticed into bowing down to them. Deut. 4:19

B. **“Babylon the Great”** is not referring to Nebuchadnezzar’s city of Babylon but rather it is identifying the Harlot’s false religious roots back to the Tower of Babel

1. “Mystery, Babylon the Great” has a spiritual connotation pointing to the ancient Moon-god cults that were strongholds at the Tower of Babel, Ur of the Chaldeans, Haran in Syria, Jericho and other hotspots throughout the land of Canaan before the conquest of Joshua.

2. In 2000 BC, God called Abraham out of the Mesopotamian capitol of Ur whose chief Moon-god was Nanna/Nannar, symbolized by the crescent moon.

3. In 1400 BC, God called Moses from Midian, Saudi Arabia, whose chief Moon-god was named Sin (Sen, Syn) symbolized by the crescent moon.

4. **For deceptive purposes**, Satan would make unique adjustments to the features of the Moon-god cults across Arabia and the Middle East. Most often, the name of the chief deity would change from empire to empire. But the symbol always remained the crescent moon and the purpose behind the religious system was always to bring worship to Satan himself - Isaiah 14:12

5. **Today, the Moon-god is sophisticated** and even more deceptive with its own holy book called the Quran, its immense worship centers in Mecca and Medina, the name of the Moon-god is now Allah, and the crescent moon is placed on top of millions of mosques worldwide.

Most concerning is the fact that 2 billion Muslim worshippers are deceived and have no idea that their chief deity is Satan.

C. **Islam is nothing more than a makeover of the ancient Moon-god cults!**

It has taken the symbols, the rites, the ceremonies, and even the name of its god Allah from the ancient religion of the Moon-god.

VI. CLUES TO UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY

A. The Harlot is a City (17:18) 8 Times!!!



*The woman you saw is that **great city** which reigns over the kings of earth.*

The city is not merely a metaphor but a tangible, definable, specific city. The harlot is symbolic for Mecca, Satan's capitol city of Islam!

18:18 - *What city is like the great city?*

18:19 - *Woe, woe, the great city*

18:21 - *So Babylon, the great city, will be thrown down with violence*

B. The Harlot is a City Located in the Desert (17:3a)

“He carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. (eremos = desert)

1. **To tour the city**, the angel doesn't take John to Europe but carries him out into the desert. The harlot city is described as sitting in a desert.

a. Saudi Arabia sits on the great Arabian Desert - the size of Texas.

b. The clue is meant literally because the angel offers no other meaning.

2. **Jesus warned** of spiritual deception coming out of the desert - Mt. 24:24-26

*False christs and false prophets will rise and deceive... Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, **He is in the desert!**’ do not go out.*

C. The Harlot is a Rich, Import City (18:11-16)

¹³ *Cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots (cars), and slaves (human slavery) and human lives.*

1. As a desert city, most provisions need to be imported. That's what God wants us to see in this section.

2. **We find 29 imports** listed that are vital to the city of the harlot.

She imports everything from food to cars to slaves. Saudi Arabia, thanks to her Petro-dollars, hosts the largest slave work force in the world.

D. A Port City by the Sea (18:17-19)

17 For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.’ Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance 18 and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What is like this great city?’ 19 “They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.’

1. Seafarers can see the smoke of Mystery Babylon burning (Rev. 18:17) from their ships. This clue tells us that the desert city is in close proximity to a major commercial waterway. **The Red Sea is the busiest shipping lane in the world.**

2. Just Fifty miles to Mecca’s west, on the Red Sea is the port city of Jeddah. Jeddah is the main religious port of the kingdom, serving millions of Muslims each year visiting Mecca, but it’s also the most important commercial port on the Red Sea.



E. Deceiver and Seducer of Nations (Rev. 17:1-2, 15; 18:23)

The kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication. (Intoxicated by the Quran/Sharia)

The Harlot’s seduction can be felt around the world in the highest political places through political bribery, mosque building and planting religious schools... all of which spew forth hateful Islamic ideology.

F. Drunk on the Blood of the saints (17:6, 14; 18:24; 19:2)

6 I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints and the martyrs of Jesus.

Intoxicated with Jihad...

Since its inception, Islam has killed more saints than anything in existence because the Quran teaches killing Christians and Jews (Q 8:12; 47:4). It is the only religion on earth that kills those who won’t submit.

VII. SAUDI ARABIA, HATED HARLOT OF THE MIDDLE EAST - Rev. 17:16-17

⁶ 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. 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.

A. Hated by Pro-Turkey Countries

These countries feel that Saudi Arabia stole the headship of Islam away from Turkey after the fall of the Ottoman Empire in WWI.

This was mainly accomplished through the discovery of oil in 1938 and bringing in the engineering assistance of the U.S.

B. Hated by the Shiite faction of Islam (Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, etc.).

They see Saudi Arabia as unfit and defiled for allowing U.S. forces (“Great Satan”) on the same soil as the Holy Sites in Mecca & Medina - They feel this disqualifies Saudi Arabia and makes her unfit to lead Islam.

Saudi Arabia is the leader of the Sunni faction of Islam. However, with Antichrist most likely being Shiite, the Shiite nations will have a dominant influence in the Caliphate and be very happy to destroy Saudi Arabia even if it destroys Islam’s Holy sites!

C. Hated by Antichrist and the Beast

1. After Antichrist establishes his Seat in Jerusalem (2 Thess. 2:4), at the mid-point of the Tribulation, Mecca’s stranglehold on Islam, depicted by the harlot riding the beast, is no longer needed or tolerated!



2. With Antichrist on his seat in Jerusalem, there’s no need for Mecca

3. Saudi Arabia’s self-appointed custodianship of Islam and it’s holy sites will end abruptly with Satan replacing Mecca with Jerusalem!

VIII. HARLOT AVENGED TWO-FOLD - Rev. 17:1, 16; 18:6-7

- ¹ Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters
- ¹⁶ The ten horns you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked and eat her flesh and burn her up with fire. ¹⁷ **For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose.**
- ⁶ Repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her.⁷ In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow.

A. Events at the Mid-Point of the Tribulation now center around the destruction of Saudi Arabia and the establishment of Jerusalem as capitol of the Caliphate

With time running out and the return of Jesus closing in, Satan needs his follower's hearts and eyes fixated on Jerusalem. The best way to accomplish that is to permanently destroy Mecca!

B. Her judgment is carried out in **"one hour"** = 4 TIMES - Rev. 18:8, 10, 17, 19

1. Nuclear equipped Caliphate nations include Pakistan and Iran
2. Arabia becomes uninhabitable - Rev. 14:10-11; 18:18; 19:3

They cried out when they saw the smoke of the great city burning

"Smoke ascends forever" - "Burning pitch" = Underground oil fires

Its streams will be turned into pitch, and its loose earth into brimstone, and its land will become burning pitch. It will not be extinguished night or day - Isa. 34:9-10

C. Meanwhile, around the same time that Arabia is being destroyed by the Caliphate, Antichrist will break his covenant with Israel and launch a sudden and sweeping invasion into the so-called 'West Bank' (Judea & Samaria)

1. As prophesied, the sudden assault will take place in the middle of the Tribulation period. Antichrist and his Caliphate armies will capture biblical Jerusalem, the Temple Mount and Israel's Temple - Zech. 14; Mt. 24:15-16.
2. Just as fast as Israel won this area in 1967 in the **6-Day War**, Satan will gain it back again!

D. The Ottoman Caliphate has a long history of converting captured religious facilities into mosques for places of worship including Churches and synagogues

(Example: Hagia Sophia, the largest and most famous Eastern Orthodox Cathedral was captured and converted to a mosque in Istanbul, Turkey by the Ottomans in 1453).

1. Once seized, Israel's temple will receive an Islamic facelift and be converted into a mosque complete with tall minarets topped with loud speakers and gold crescent moons. What a sight that will be! The Gold Dome of the Rock and now the golden topped minarets of the temple all glistening off the sun will make a dazzling scene across the Temple Mount.
2. This vile, turn-of-events for Israel's glorious new temple aligns with the **'Abomination of Desolation'** (*"that which causes horror"*).

Jesus prophesied (Mt. 24:15) about the future defilement of Israel's temple by an act so evil that it would desecrate it and make it no longer fit for Jewish worship in the Tribulation.

When you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (Notice it can be seen 'Standing on the Temple Mount').

3. The defiling act of the Abomination of Desolation is when Antichrist defaces Israel's temple by renovating it and **'setting it up'** (Dan. 12:11) as a mosque to become the **Image or symbol of the beast**.

E. Converting the temple into a mosque also helps us to understand why the Apostle Paul says that Antichrist will *"sit in Israel's temple"* - 2 Thess. 2:4

He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

1. Why is Antichrist sitting in Israel's temple?

He's not really sitting in Israel's Temple anymore because the temple has become a mosque serving as government headquarters of the Caliphate

The phrase, **"taking his seat"** means to **"rule from"** and points to the Temple Mount becoming the seat of the Caliphate. This is confirmed by the prophet Daniel - Dan. 11:45

He (Antichrist) will pitch his royal tents (throne/seat) between the seas at the beautiful holy mountain (Temple Mount).

2. Let's remember... Islam will give rise to Antichrist

- a. Antichrist will arrive on the scene as the Mahdi, Islam's long-awaited messiah and "Caliph", the ruler of the Caliphate, which would make it unlawful for him to rule in a 'defiling Jewish temple'.
- b. The Quran teaches that Allah is so disgusted with Jews that he assigns them the lowest class of mankind likening them to apes and swine, "*Those among you (Jews) who transgressed the Sabbath: We say to them: "Be ye apes, despised and rejected."*" (Sura 2:65)
- c. However, it would not be unlawful for the Mahdi to be in the Jewish temple if the temple was taken captive and properly converted to an Ottoman mosque.

F. What would happen if Mecca and the Kaaba was blown up? How would the Muslim world react?

1. **The Islamic world would be devastated** and stunned in reaction to learning of the annihilation of Saudi Arabia. How can this be? Why? Along with the destruction of the Saudi oil fields, Islam would lose its two most holy sites: Mecca and the 'Prophet's Mosque' in Medina. Even more devastating would be the realization that the supposed body of Muhammad was blown up from its resting place inside the Prophet's Mosque in Medina, Saudi Arabia.
2. **Satan will take advantage** of the confusion and uncertainty among Muslims by launching a campaign of supernatural signs and wonders (Rev. 13:13-14) centered around reinforcing the Caliphate, Jerusalem, and the Mahdi.
3. **The purpose of this strategy** is to convince the world that Antichrist is Allah's chosen one and Jerusalem is Allah's choice not Mecca! The powerful witness of miracles will have the effect of solidifying Muslims still on the fence and bring them into the fold of the Caliphate.

G. With Mecca wiped out and Islam's holy sites destroyed, Satan will take advantage to escalate his control of Jerusalem and the worship of himself.

1. The False Prophet will order Israel's converted temple to be elevated to the highest status in Islam making it the official replacement of Mecca and the new '**Grand Mosque of Jerusalem**'.

2. Engrained in Islamic worship is the act of praying toward Mecca

- a. **To help with this**, every mosque on earth is supposed to point toward Mecca. But since Mecca is gone, Muslims will be ordered to begin praying toward Jerusalem making Jerusalem the centerpiece of daily prayer and worldwide worship for Muslims during the second half of the Tribulation. What greater way to incite Islamic fervor for Jerusalem than having all of Islam praying toward the city 5 times a day?
- b. **This has been Satan's plan all along** and will turn out to be a crucial turning point in elevating Jerusalem in the hearts and minds of Muslims. Just as Jesus will become the 'desire of the nations' during the Millennial Kingdom, the Temple Mount in Jerusalem will become the showcase of the Mahdi. What would you rather do as a pious Muslim; Go to Mecca in the desert and walk around a black rock 7 times or visit your long-awaited messiah in Jerusalem?
- c. **Making the temple into the Grand Mosque of Jerusalem**, having all Muslims to begin praying toward Jerusalem and celebrating the presence of the Mahdi in Jerusalem will change God's city to Satan's city overnight. This will cause Jerusalem to be revered in the eyes of Muslims as never before since their magnificent new temple, Islam's most holy place, now houses the messiah who sits on the Temple Mount.

H. **The followers of the beast** will be ecstatic about the sudden turn of events in their favor. And the notion of Israel's former temple becoming Islam's most holy place will achieve a new level of Jihad enthusiasm and anti-Jew hatred.

1. Going forward, anti-Israel rhetoric will be ratcheted up significantly. Satan will see to it that the 'sermons' preached in the mosques on Fridays during the 2nd half of the Tribulation will be, *"From Sea to Sea, the Jews must be erased from the Land"*.
2. Messages will allude to the need to slaughter any Jews that are still remaining in the land of Israel because they are defiling the Mahdi, Islam's revered messiah. Jewish hatred will grow into a crescendo until Armageddon.

Conclusion

Satan's plan seems to be working. He now has 3.5 years to prepare his followers to be ready to destroy Israel and defeat Jesus in his final attempt to rule the world.

And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse, and against His army. Rev. 19:19