

Revelation 17

F. T. Wright



Source:

Compiled from written material
and a taped study given in 1965

Cover:

Revelation 17: The Great Whore Described
Holy Bible 1671

Jared T. Wright,

Fonts:

Imprint MT Shadow
ITC Black Adder
Liberation Sans Narrow
Linux Biolinum
Linux Libertine



May 2024
practicaprophetica.com
srac.info

Contents

Identifying Babylon the Great.....	1
Establishing the Time.....	3
The Seven Heads of the Beast.....	5
The Ten Horns.....	11
The Seven Plagues.....	19
The First Four Plagues.....	19
The Fifth Plague.....	20
The Sixth Plague.....	22
The Kings of the East.....	25

Revelation 17

Revelation 17

¹ And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come here; I will show unto you the judgment of the great whore that sits upon many waters.

IN *Revelation*, chapter 16, we have the seven last plagues outlined one by one, and the seventh plague in particular. Verse 19 says:

Revelation 16

¹⁹ And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.

The seventh plague is the climax of the judgments of Babylon, the great whore. *Revelation 17*, therefore, is a further explanation of the seven last plagues.

Identifying Babylon the Great

Notice that the angel said to John,

Revelation 17

¹ Come here; I will show unto you the judgment of the great whore that sits upon many waters.

Now the angel said to John,

“Come and I will show you this, a whore sitting upon many waters.”

In verse three it tells us:

³ So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness.

And what did he see?

³ ...a woman [sitting] upon a scarlet colored beast.

Therefore, obviously it follows that the whore is now called “a woman,” and the waters and the beast must be one and the same thing. The woman sitting upon a beast is the whore sitting upon the waters.

$\frac{\text{Whore}}{\text{Waters}}$	=	$\frac{\text{Woman}}{\text{Scarlet-Colored Beast}}$
--------------------------------------	---	---

In this chapter we find that these symbols are given a number of names. Let us read on. In verse 5 it says:

Revelation 17

⁵ And upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of harlots and abominations of the earth.

So this woman’s name then is “Babylon the Great.”

$\frac{\text{Whore}}{\text{Waters}}$	=	$\frac{\text{Woman}}{\text{Scarlet-Colored Beast}}$	=	$\frac{\text{Babylon}}{\text{?}}$
--------------------------------------	---	---	---	-----------------------------------

Now, for the moment we are not going to put a corresponding symbol (the symbolic name of the waters) underneath Babylon. We will come to that when we complete the picture, because here in *Revelation 17*, the name of the waters is not given. It is elsewhere in the Scriptures, however.

⁶ And I saw a woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

⁷ And the angel said unto me, Wherefore 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 ten horns.

The first part of this chapter has been a vision in which John saw these symbols—namely, a woman sitting upon a scarlet-colored beast, bearing a particular name. The rest of the chapter is an explanation of that vision. We are told in the Spirit of Prophecy and elsewhere that Great Babylon is the threefold union of Apos-

tate Protestantism, Catholicism, and Atheism, all bound together by Spiritualism. In verse 15 of this chapter, it says:

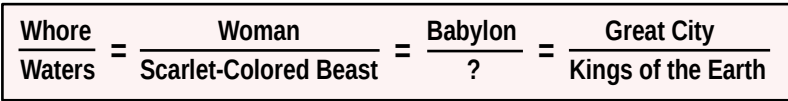
Revelation 17

¹⁵ The waters which you saw, where the whore sits, are peoples, and multitudes and nations and tongues.

The waters are the peoples of the whole earth which support the threefold union, in the last great act of apostasy against the people of God. Let us go to verse 18:

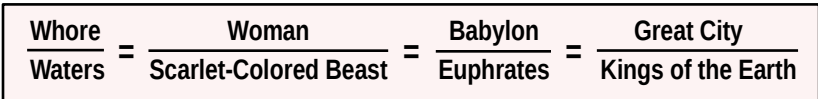
¹⁸ And the woman which you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.

Our diagram looks like this:



That city is Rome and those kings are the ten kings. This chapter presents to us a worldwide picture, and it is a prophecy for our day.

If Babylon the Great is the symbolic name of that whore, what must the symbolic name of the waters that support that whore be? All you have to do is go back to the Old Testament and find the type, which was literal Babylon, and you will have the anti-typical name for the waters here. What is the obvious answer? Euphrates. Notice the diagram again.



Establishing the Time

Let us now come back to an extremely important point. The angel said in verse one:

Revelation 17

¹ Come and I will show you this great whore.

In order for the prophet to see the whore, he had to be taken to where the whore was. The angel took him into the wilderness:

³ So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness.

Now it follows that he must be taken into the wilderness when the whore was in the wilderness. Let us look a moment now at time as it spans down through the centuries, and we will go back to the cross of Calvary. There we have John's day, when the actual prophecy was given. Then we have the period from 538 down to 1798.

In *Revelation 12*, we are told that the woman who brought forth the man-child,

Revelation 12

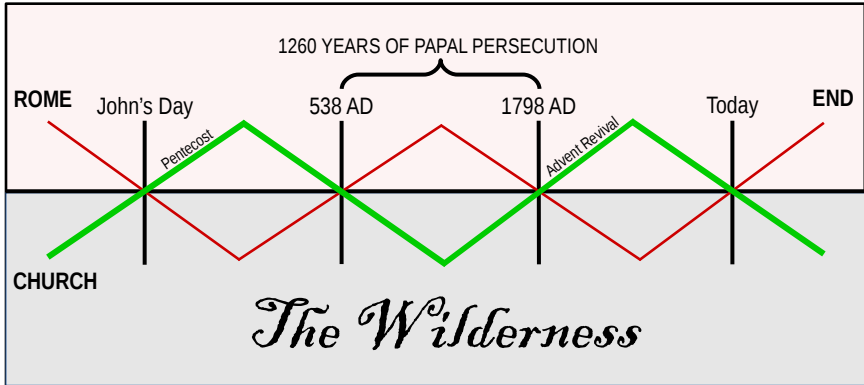
⁶ ...fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

Who was in the wilderness during the 1260 prophetic days (1260 years) of papal persecution? *Revelation 12* tells us that it was the church of God. Now if the true church of God—the true woman—was in the wilderness at that time, would you expect to find this other woman—the great whore—in the wilderness at the same time? No!

Now come back to John's own day. Was Rome in the wilderness in John's day? No. Rome went into the wilderness in 1798. If the angel had taken John into the wilderness in his own day to see the whore, he would not have found the whore there.

He could not have found the whore there until after the period between 538 and 1798, which proves beyond a shadow of doubt that the point of view that was given to John when he was taken into the wilderness at the time when the beast was in the wilderness was the point of time after 1798, between the fall of Babylon

and her final return to full power. That is the time of view of the vision given to John.



Now, having established the time, we have an understanding, then, of what it means when it says:

Revelation 17

¹⁰ There are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he comes, he must continue a short space.

The Seven Heads of the Beast

Let us go back to verse 8, and read it through in its proper order. We have begun to read the explanation in:

⁸ The beast that you saw was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit.

At the point of time when John was being spoken to, the beast was, and he says, it is not, but shall ascend out of the bottomless pit. Today we can say, it is ascending out of the bottomless pit. Continuing on:

⁸ ...and they that dwell upon the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

⁹ And here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sits.

Jeremiah tells us that the word mountain symbolizes a government:

Jeremiah 51

²⁴ And I will render unto Babylon and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, says the Lord.

²⁵ Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, says the Lord, which destroy all the earth: and I will stretch out my hand upon you, and roll you down from the rocks, and will make you a burnt mountain.

And Babylon was called in that scripture a “destroying mountain.”¹

Revelation 17

¹⁰ And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he comes, he must continue a short space.

So from John’s point of view, looking back, there were seven kings or seven heads of government in the history of Satan’s rule, as outlined in *Daniel* and *Revelation*. And going back we find that five are fallen. Let us name them:

1. Babylon
2. Medo-Persia
3. Greece
4. Pagan Rome
5. Papal Rome

These five are fallen. One is. Now here is a good question. What form of satanic power ruled when the Papacy fell in 1798? Because certainly the Papacy was not the ruling power at that time.

¹ *Jeremiah* 51:25.

Today it has become Satan's instrument, but not so back at that time.

Progressively through *Daniel* and the *Revelation* the symbols become more and more detailed or complex. For instance, if we go back to *Daniel 2*, there is an image, and it is so simple that it tells you very little. It tells you that there will be four great world empires, a period of division, and the coming of Christ.

The same powers are symbolized in *Daniel 7*, by a lion, a bear, a leopard with four heads and four wings, the great nondescript beast with 10 horns, and so on. Other symbols are introduced much more complex to give us much more information. But always and ever in *Daniel* you find that there is no division made within the beast itself.

In *Revelation 12*, you find the beast has 7 heads and ten horns. In *Revelation 13*, it is the same story. But in *Revelation 17*, we now have that power divided up into two parts—a woman, which is seated upon the beast. We shall soon learn that in *Revelation 17*, in its fullest expression of the constitution of this final power, the beast represents the peoples of the earth, that is, in the sense of civil power. The woman represents the religious power. We know at the end of time it will be the religious power which will rule the laws of the state for their own ends.

The reason for introducing seven heads on the beast in *Revelation 12* is to show that there has been seven different phases of government in the expression of satanic power down through all those years. To help us understand this, let us turn to:

The Great Controversy, p. 268-269:

Revelation 11

¹⁷ When they shall have finished [are finishing] their testimony.

The period when the two witnesses were to prophesy clothed in sackcloth, ended in 1798.

The two witnesses had prophesied in sackcloth during the long period of papal persecution.

The Great Controversy, p. 268-269:

As they were approaching the termination of their work in obscurity [1798], war was to be made upon them by the power represented as “the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit.” In many of the nations of Europe the powers that ruled in church and state had for centuries been controlled by Satan through the medium of the papacy.

The papacy was only Satan’s instrument, that is all.

But here is brought to view a new manifestation of satanic power.

So in 1798, there appeared a “new manifestation of Satanic power” which must be the beast “which is.” The papacy which was back there, is not now. We have the one which is.

It had been Rome’s policy, under a profession of reverence for the Bible, to keep it locked up in an unknown tongue and hidden away from the people. Under her rule the witnesses prophesied “clothed in sackcloth.” But another power—the beast from the bottomless pit—was to arise to make open, avowed war upon the word of God.

Atheism is the power or religion who makes open war upon the word of God. And this is just what we are told in the next paragraph.

“The great city” in whose streets the witnesses are slain, and where their dead bodies lie, is “spiritually” Egypt. Of all nations presented in Bible history, Egypt most boldly denied the existence of the living God and resisted His commands. No monarch ever ventured upon more open and high-handed rebellion against the authority of Heaven than did the king of Egypt. When the message was brought to him by Moses, in the name of the Lord, Pharaoh proudly answered:

Exodus 5 [ARV]

² Who is Jehovah, that I should hearken unto His voice to let Israel go? I know not Jehovah, and moreover I will not let Israel go.

This is atheism, and the nation represented by Egypt would give voice to a similar denial of the claims of the living God and would manifest a like spirit of unbelief and defiance.

According to the words of the prophet, then, a little before the year 1798 some power of satanic origin and character would rise to make war upon the Bible. And in the land where the testimony of God's two witnesses should thus be silenced, there would be manifest the atheism of the pharaoh and the licentiousness of Sodom.

The Great Controversy, p. 269:

This prophecy has received a most exact and striking fulfillment in the history of France.

Today we can see the beast that is the religious beast of great Babylon arising out of the bottomless pit to again rule the world. But that which today is still the predominant enemy of God's people and truth is Atheism, in the form of materialism, communism, high intellectual learning, and modern higher criticism.

FIVE ARE FALLEN					ONE IS
Babylon	Medo-Persia	Greece	Pagan Rome	Papal Rome	Atheism

What is the real god of America today? Is it not materialism? It is the great enemy against which the churches still have to battle. But the time is rapidly coming when materialism is to give way to the rising power of the papacy as it returns to its power.

Revelation 17

¹¹ And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goes into perdition.

This may sound a little perplexing for a moment, because here we have seven heads, and yet we have eight appearing in the scene as well. But if we look a moment at the problem we will see that there is not too much difficulty at all. First of all, let us go through *Daniel* and *Revelation* and list all the beast powers which are brought to view:

Powers	Dan. 7	Dan. 8	Rev. 11	Rev. 12	Rev. 13	Rev. 17
1. Babylon	Lion					
2. Medo-Persia	Bear	Ram				
3. Greece	Leopard	He Goat				
4. Pagan Rome	Ten-Horned Beast	Little Horn		Ten-Horned Beast		
5. Papal Rome	Little Horn	Little Horn			Ten-Horned Beast (v. 1-11)	
6. Atheism			Beast from Bottomless Pit			
7. Apostate Protestantism					Lamb-like Beast (v. 12-18)	
8. Babylon the Great						Whore on Beast

You can see that we have eight, but the beast of *Revelation 17* is not a new beast at all, but he is simply apostate Protestantism, Atheism, and the Papacy all returned in the threefold union to be the eighth head. Let us read the verse again:

Revelation 17

¹¹ And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven and goes into perdition.

When you go through *Daniel* and the *Revelation*, eight is exactly how many beasts there are. Every power which is brought to view in *Daniel* and the *Revelation* is listed there. Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Pagan Rome, Papal Rome, Atheism, Apostate Protestantism, and Great Babylon. Are there any more? Are there any less?

Now, having established the picture, notice that every single one of them is a worldwide power so far as the extent of the then-

known world was concerned. Ancient Babylon ruled all the world. Medo-Persia ruled all the world. Great Babylon will rule all the world at the end. Therefore, the beast on which great Babylon sits at the end of time is going to be a worldwide beast, because great Babylon must have the support of all the peoples of all the earth in order for her to rule the earth in the end of time.

The Ten Horns

With that in mind, then, consider this. Some of these beasts in the past have horns. The Ram had two horns. The two horns of the Ram represent a world power. These horns represent kingdoms into which the world was divided. Notice this point: the two horns together ruled over all the territory occupied by the Ram, not part of it, but all of it.

Now come to the one horn of the He Goat. That horn represented Alexander the Great. Again you find that one horn ruled exactly in all that the beast ruled. That kingdom was divided into four horns. Did they rule only a part or all of the Grecian empire? They ruled all of it.

Next we come to the beast of *Daniel*, chapter 7, which had 10 horns, and we find that those 10 horns ruled all the territory that the beast itself had ruled.

Therefore, when you find that the beast having 10 horns is representing the whole earth, to be consistent with the pattern laid down in all these prophecies, how much must the beast with ten horns likewise rule? Does it rule just Europe? No. It rules the whole earth.

Note the consistency after you laid down the rule. Once the rule is established by looking back into the past, it must be maintained right through until the very end. Otherwise, the prophecy can soon become a matter of private interpretation.

Now let us identify these 10 horns, because it is quite simple and something which is important for us at the present time.

Revelation 17

¹² And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings; which have received no kingdom as yet.

Remember the words, “as yet,” are spoken as John stood in the wilderness after 1798 and looked at the Papacy. Those two words, “as yet,” are subsequent to 1798. Those ten kings have received no power as kingdoms, but will receive power as kings one hour together with the beast. They get their power when the beast gets his power. That means that at this given time, up to this date, there is not a single one of those kingdoms which has yet received its power as a king to rule with the beast.

There are sundry theories abroad in the world today that would say that the ten horns of the beast of *Revelation 17* are the ten kings of Europe, which are forming the European common market—political kingdoms.

Let us ask ourselves a question about some of these nations. Is France a sovereign state which has received power as a government of a kingdom? Of course, it is. What about Holland, Belgium, Spain, and some of those other nations? In a word, every single one of the powers involved in the European common market are all sovereign states. They all have power as kingdoms. They do not necessarily have to have a crowned king. They may have a dictator or king, but they are still kingdoms in the sense that they have a government. Whether they have a dictatorship or a democracy or whatever they may happen to have, they are still kingdoms.

It therefore means that today there is not an existing kingdom in the world which can actually qualify to be one of those ten kings that make up the beast that supports the papacy in the end. Well, then, who are they? Let us turn now to a statement which will make the point very, very clear, and we will follow it through with the Bible before us. With our Bibles open to *Revelation 17*, let us just read what Sister White had to say:

The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 7, p. 983:

In the seventeenth of *Revelation* is foretold the destruction of all the churches who corrupt themselves by idolatrous devotion to the service of the papacy, those who have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

Revelation 17

¹ And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will show unto you the judgment of the great whore that sits upon many waters:

² With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been 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 sit upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

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

Thus is represented the papal power, which with all deceptiveness of unrighteousness, by outside attraction and gorgeous display, deceives all nations; promising them, as did Satan our first parents, all good to those who receive its mark, and all harm to those who oppose its fallacies. The power which has the deepest inward corruption will make the greatest display, and will clothe itself with the most elaborate signs of power. The Bible plainly declares that this covers a corrupt and deceiving wickedness.

Revelation 17

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

What is it that gives its kingdom to this power?

It is important to notice this point. She asks the question:

“What is it that gives its kingdom to this power?”

Turn to your Bibles now and the answer is there in verse 12:

Revelation 17

¹² And *the ten horns* which you saw are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

¹³ These have one mind, and *shall give their power and strength unto the beast.*

¹⁷ For God hath put it in their [the ten kings] hearts to fulfill His will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

Now Sister White asks the question,

“What is it that gives its kingdom to the beast?”

The Bible’s answer is, “The ten kings.” And now she will begin to identify those ten kings. What do you suppose she says? America? Russia? England? Germany? None of those. She says: “Protestantism.” She does not name a political empire, but a spiritual power.

The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 7, p. 983:

What is it that gives its kingdom to this power? Protestantism, a power which, while professing to have the temper and the spirit of a lamb and to be allied to Heaven, speaks with the voice of a dragon. It is moved by a power from beneath.

Now notice, inspiration asks the question,

“What is it?”

—and inspiration gives the answer,

“Protestantism.”

So we ask ourselves the question at the present time:

“Has Protestantism yet gained the power of a kingdom?”

In other words, has there yet been given to Protestantism the power of the state? The answer is, No, not yet, at the giving of this study. She has received no power as a king “yet.” Is she going to? Certainly! This will happen when the Sunday law is passed.

And the very moment there is given into her hands that power, she will give it to the beast right away.

This is perfectly consistent with the understanding which we have of *Daniel*, chapter 11. Daniel here speaks about a king of the north. I assume that all are aware of the fact that the king of the north is the papacy. If the king of the north, in the closing verses of *Daniel* 11, equals the papacy, and if the king of the south, in the closing verse of *Daniel* 11, equals Atheism, then in *Revelation* 17, we have kings spoken of at a time in history exactly parallel to this time in history. Then to be consistent, we must also look for a spiritual power to fulfill the kings of *Revelation* 17. And to achieve Bible understanding, it must be done the same way.

Right now Protestantism is only one of ten kings. Protestantism is not going to be a worldwide religion, because there are other religions in the world that are going to join in this program.

The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 7, p. 983:

Revelation 17

¹³ These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

¹⁴ 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.

There will be a universal bond of union, one great harmony, a confederacy of Satan's forces.

The word "universal," means the whole world.

There will be a universal bond of union, one great harmony, a confederacy of Satan's forces.

Revelation 17

¹³ ...and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

Thus will be manifest the same arbitrary, oppressive power against religious liberty, freedom to worship God according to the dictates of conscience, as was manifested by the papacy, when in the past it persecuted those who dared to refuse to conform with the religious rites and ceremonies of Romanism.

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. In this warfare the Sabbath of the fourth commandment will be the great point at issue; for in the Sabbath commandment, the great Lawgiver identifies himself as the Creator of the heavens and the earth.

But Protestantism is only one king, and ten kings are demanded. Sister White now says that though America leads out, all other nations will follow in her train. What about the king of the south, Atheism? Will she join with Protestantism in giving her power to the beast in the end? Certainly she will. We will list the kings:

1. Protestantism
2. Atheism
3. Mohammedanism
4. Shintoism
5. Buddhism
6. Hinduism
7. Heathenism
8. Judaism
9. Greek Orthodox
10. Confucianism

The number ten simply means "universal" in regard to Satan's kingdom, and the number 12 means "universal" in regards to God's kingdom. You will notice that God always has 12 tribes, 12 apostles, 12 gates, 12 foundations. The number 12 is God's kingdom number, and the number 10 is Satan's kingdom number. Ten horns, 10 kingdoms, 10 toes are always lined up with Satan's kingdom.

In every nation the image of the beast is to be set up; and just as soon as the image is set up, even in the great atheistic countries, in Mohammedan countries, and all the rest of these on the

list, and as the sword of the state is given to the religious power, each nation in turn will give that power to the beast, until, as was said, “there is a universal bond of union” against God’s people. When this apostasy becomes universal, when the last nation has adopted the Sunday Law, then God will arise to shake terribly the earth.² In other words, at that point probation will finally close for all mankind.

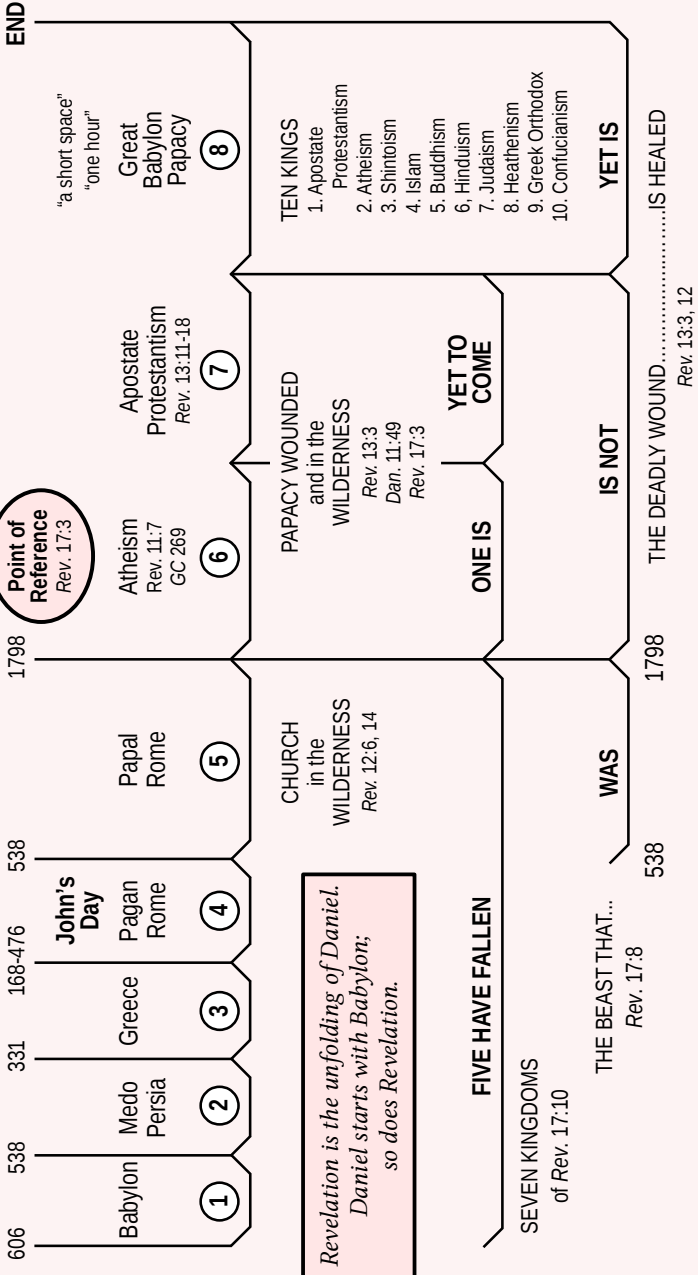
Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, p141:

This earth has almost reached the place where God will permit the destroyer to work his will upon it. The substitution of the laws of men for the law of God, the exaltation, by mere human authority, of Sunday in place of the Bible Sabbath, is the last act in the drama. When this substitution becomes universal, God will reveal himself. He will arise in His majesty to shake terribly the earth. He will come out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity, and the earth shall disclose her blood and shall no more cover her slain.

This brings to view something of the vastness of the nature of the final conflict. If we focus our attention upon Europe as the scene of the rising of these 10 kings, we are going to miss the scope of this last final conflict and be in danger of concentrating our gaze and looking for things to happen over there which will never happen, while these great events are stealing upon us, and thus we will be caught unawares.

² *Isaiah* 2:19.

WORLDWIDE PROPHECY OF Revelation 17



The Seven Plagues

Now let us look at *Revelation 16*. First of all, let us notice quickly just what the seven last plagues are:

1. A grievous and noisome sore
2. Sea becomes blood
3. Rivers of water become blood
4. Sun scorches men with fire
5. Darkness
6. Drying up of the river Euphrates
7. Great earthquake

Let us keep these in mind as we move along and see if we can find them.

The First Four Plagues

The Great Controversy, p. 627:

When Christ ceases His intercession in the sanctuary, the unmingled wrath threatened against those who worship the beast and his image and receive his mark (*Revelation 14:9-10*), will be poured out. The plagues upon Egypt when God was about to deliver Israel were similar in character to those more terrible and extensive judgments which are to fall upon the world just before the final deliverance of God's people. Says the revelator, in describing those terrific scourges:

“There fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshiped his image.” The sea “became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.” And “the rivers and fountains of waters...became blood.”

In the plague that follows, power is given to the sun “to scorch men with fire.”

This is the fourth plague. So Sister White mentions one, two, three, four, in their right order—one after the other in those two paragraphs. In the whole of the rest of this chapter nothing is said about the fifth plague, which is darkness,—not a word. If you read

the remainder of the chapter you will see that it speaks about the results of the first four plagues.

On page 629, it says “the fig tree shall not blossom.” The wicked are dying from hunger and pestilence, but angels will shield the righteous and supply their wants. This is outlined in the middle of the last paragraph. All the rest of the pages in this chapter speak about the results of those first four plagues.

The Fifth Plague

Let us now go to the next chapter on page 635. Sister White now goes back a little and introduces the three last plagues in relationship to the Sunday law.

The Great Controversy, p. 635:

When the protection of human laws shall be withdrawn from those who honor the law of God, there will be, in different lands, a simultaneous movement for their destruction. As the time appointed in the decree draws near, the people will conspire to root out the hated sect. It will be determined to strike in one night a decisive blow, which shall utterly silence the voice of dissent and reproof.

The people of God—some in prison cells, some hidden in solitary retreats in the forests and the mountains—still plead for divine protection, while in every quarter companies of armed men, urged on by hosts of evil angels, are preparing for the work of death. It is now, in the hour of utmost extremity, that the God of Israel will interpose for the deliverance of His chosen. Says the Lord:

Isaiah 30

²⁹ You shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goes...to come into the mountain of the Lord, to the Mighty One of Israel.

³⁰ And the Lord shall cause His glorious voice to be heard, and shall show the lighting down of His arm, with the indignation of His anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.

With shouts of triumph, jeering, and imprecation, throngs of evil men are about to rush upon their prey, when, lo, a dense

blackness, deeper than the darkness of the night, falls upon the earth.

Here is the fifth plague, a dense blackness which falls upon the earth. The Bible says that it falls upon the seat of the beast. What is the seat of the beast at this time, but the whole earth—the whole world. So now in its right order we read the first four plagues in the previous chapter, and Sister White spends some time discussing the results of the first four plagues and then she talks about that deep blackness coming at this very point of time.

The Great Controversy, p. 636:

Then a rainbow, shining with the glory from the throne of God, spans the heavens and seems to encircle each praying company. The angry multitudes are suddenly arrested. Their mocking cries die away. The objects of their murderous rage are forgotten. With fearful forebodings they gaze upon the symbol of God's covenant and long to be shielded from its overpowering brightness.

The next paragraph relates that the voice of God is heard, while the next one says:

It is at midnight...

Then the next paragraph says:

That voice shakes the heavens and the earth. There is a mighty earthquake, "such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great." *Revelation* 16:17-18.

Turn in your Bible to *Revelation* 16:

Revelation 16

¹⁸ And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake and so great.

Sister White quoted that scripture to describe this earthquake, which means that this earthquake can be nothing else but the seventh and final plague.

The Sixth Plague

Now here is a problem for you. On page 636, we plainly read about the fifth plague. On page 637, we plainly read about the seventh plague. Where is the sixth plague, the drying up of the river Euphrates? It is there. Can you see it?

Remember we learned that Euphrates is the people, and nations, and multitudes and tongues which support Babylon. Can you see the drying up of that river on these two pages? Let us read on again:

The Great Controversy, p. 635-636:

...when, lo, a dense blackness, deeper than the darkness of the night falls upon the earth.

That is the fifth plague.

Then a rainbow, shining with the glory from the throne of God, spans the heavens and seems to encircle each praying company. The angry multitudes are suddenly arrested.

There is the sixth plague—the drying up of the support of Babylon. Now turn to *Revelation 17*, and look at verse 12:

Revelation 17

¹² And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

¹³ These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

¹⁴ These shall make war with the Lamb...

What is this march against God's people but to war against the Lamb?

¹⁴ ...and the Lamb shall overcome them.

¹⁶ And the ten horns which you saw 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.

¹⁷ For God has 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.

In *The Great Controversy* you see these people giving their kingdom unto the beast until the voice of God speaks from heaven, and then the angry multitudes are suddenly arrested. What follows when they are arrested? In this chapter we are not told, because Sister White now goes on to speak about the seventh plague. Go on to page 654, and here we have a fuller description of that which takes place under the sixth plague:

The Great Controversy, p. 654:

When the voice of God turns the captivity of His people...

Is that not a direct reference to what we just read on page 636? There we have the voice of God turning the captivity of His people. Now what happens?

...there is a terrible awakening of those who have lost all in the great conflict of life.

Now, skip a few paragraphs down:

The Great Controversy, p. 655-656:

The people see that they have been deluded. They accuse one another of having led them to destruction; but all unite in heaping their bitterest condemnation upon the ministers. Unfaithful pastors have prophesied smooth things; they have led their hearers to make void the law of God and to persecute those who would keep it holy. Now, in their despair, these teachers confess before the world their work of deception. The multitudes are filled with fury. "We are lost!" they cry, "and you are the cause of our ruin;" and they turn upon the false shepherds.

The people represent the civil power; the false shepherds represent the woman in the picture. The Bible says:

Revelation 17

¹⁶ These shall hate the whore and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

Revelation 17: Worldwide Apostasy

Pagan Rome
4TH BEAST

Papal Rome
5TH BEAST

Great Babylon
8TH BEAST

Rev. 12:3-4 7 Heads - Civil 10 Horns - Religious 7 Crowns - Authority	Rev. 13:1 7 Heads - Civil 10 Horns - Religious 10 Crowns - Authority	Rev. 17:7-14 7 Heads - Civil 10 Horns - Religious 0 Crowns - Authority
State had power. Caesar superior to Priesthood.	Church had power. Priesthood superior to Caesar.	Neither sovereign.

Rev. 17:1

WHORE
WATER

Peoples
Nations
Tongues

Give their power to the Beast.

Popery regains supremacy.
Makes war with the Lamb,
"in the person of His saints."

MS 137, 1897

Rev. 17:3

WOMAN
SCARLET BEAST

7 Heads = Mountains (Rev. 17:9)
10 Horns = 10 Kings (Rev. 17:12)

State recognized Churches.

GC 383

1. Protestantism
2. Atheism
3. Islam
4. Shintoism
5. Buddhism
6. Hinduism
7. Judaism
8. Greek Orthodox
9. Heathenism
10. Confucianism

Rev. 17:5

BABYLON THE GREAT
PEOPLE

Church had power.
Priesthood superior to Caesar.

Rev. 17:18, 14:8 / GC 269

GREAT CITY
KINGS OF THE EARTH

The Type

BABYLON
EUPHRATES

Historical

ROME
10 KINGS

WOMAN = CHURCH = RELIGION
BEAST = STATE = CIVIL

All corrupt powers that have apostatized from the law of God.
7BC 983

Universal Bond of Union = One mind.
Unity till 6th Plague.

Hate the Whore when she is exposed.
Her true identity is revealed.

Here is a picture of it in *The Great Controversy*. Can you see it?

The Great Controversy, p. 656:

They turn upon the false shepherds. The very ones that once admired them most will pronounce the most dreadful curses upon them. The very hands that once crowned them with laurels will be raised for their destruction. The swords which were to slay God's people are now employed to destroy their enemies. Everywhere there is strife and bloodshed.

Can you see the clear-cut commentary here in *The Great Controversy* on *Revelation 16 & 17*? It is as clear as day. There are the plagues in the right place, one after the other. The first five seem to have a very literal meaning, but the sixth and seventh have a symbolic meaning. That is how it appears to be, because Euphrates is mentioned in the sixth plague with symbolism employed there.

The Kings of the East

Who, then, are the kings of the east? They are Christ and those who come with Him. Let us look at *Revelation 16*, where it says:

Revelation 16

¹² And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

What event immediately follows the withdrawal of the support of the people from Babylon and their turning upon Babylon to destroy her? The second coming of Christ.

Can the second coming of Christ happen before the people of this world see that they have been deluded? It cannot, for the simple reason that unless those people themselves are brought to see that they have been deceived, then any interference on God's part will be arbitrary, and charges can be laid against Him that He was interfering in this.

The way for Christ to come can only be made when it becomes self-evident that the people have been deceived. When they

themselves turn upon their oppressors, they destroy Babylon. Then God is fully vindicated and exonerated from all blame and interference, and the way is fully made for Him to come.

The picture is very simple, very consistent, and very clear, and ties in beautifully with the last-day events, wherein we know that the whole world is to be united with the one purpose of destroying God's people and making war with the Lamb in the person of His saints. At the right moment, that support is withdrawn from Babylon, and the very thing which supported her now becomes the instrument of her destruction.

Remember that Solomon said:

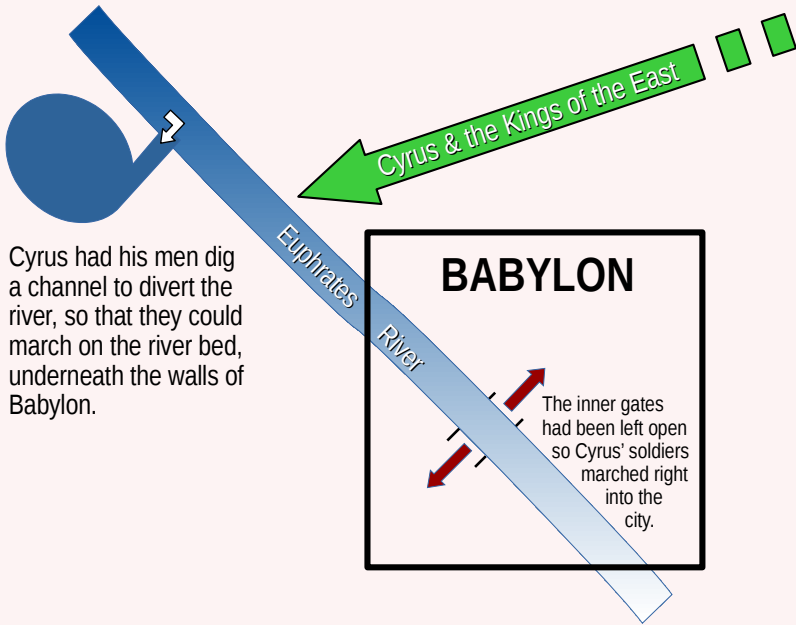
Ecclesiastes 1

⁹ The thing that has been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.

“There is nothing new under the sun.” All of this is symbolized in the Old Testament. Why did God use the word “Babylon” in *Revelation 17*, if we are not to look back to the type in that foursquare city? That city was supported by a river which flowed through it diagonally. There were gates at each end of the river and walls along its sides and bridges across it.

In *Isaiah 45*, it speaks about how Cyrus was called in righteousness, how he was a king from the east, how that man got to the upper side of Babylon, and the means by which he overthrew Babylon. That river was her lifeline, her water supply, and her protection. After having his men dig a channel to divert the flow of the river, Cyrus rode underneath the wall when the drunken revelers had left open the river gates, which should have been locked, and he went in and destroyed Babylon. The very river which had been Babylon's support and protection became the means of her overthrow.

The Euphrates River and Fall of Babylon



Notice something further. It was when she had come to the ultimate in defiance against God, when Belshazzar dared to call for and drink out of the golden vessels of the temple. It is at the very same point of time that modern Babylon will be destroyed at the end of time, at the time of her ultimate defiance toward God again. It is a perfect parallel.

It says of Cyrus that he will let go the captives without price or reward. Is that not true of Christ? What happened back there in the ancient overthrow of Babylon is typical of the overthrow of modern Babylon. Christ and His armies and the princes who come with Him are the kings. Moses will be a king when he comes back with Christ. The Bible says that we will all be kings and priests when we go to heaven.³

³ Revelation 1:6; 5:10; 20:6; 1 Peter 1:5-9; Exodus 19:6; Isaiah 61:6.

So when Jesus comes back, He does not come back alone. He comes with Moses, Elijah, Enoch, and a whole host of kings who were raised up when He was raised up and who went back to heaven with Him. These will all come back with Him. So the kings from the East will come back for God's people.

Let us each one be a part of that great company when it returns to heaven is my prayer.

