

The Whore Riding the Beast

Materialism!-The Religion of the World!



ILLUSTRATED BY EMAN ARTIST

REVELATION CHAPTER 17 part 1

The Whore and the Beast with Seven Heads!

Basic and General Study of Revelation
compiled by Gaetan.

This 17th chapter is one of the most symbolic, significant, but also complex, chapters in the Book of Revelation, and it requires a good amount of interpretation. The chapter starts with the appearance of an angel who “*carries*” John “*in the spirit*” and shows him a vision (*verses 1 to 6*), and then proceeds to give him the interpretation (*verses 7 to 18*).

REV.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 thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:**

Here appears one of the seven Angels of Wrath from the preceding passages (*chapters 15 and 16*). And remember, the story is steadily progressing, offering greater detail all the time, much of which comes through the use of flashbacks.

So here we have in this chapter a flashback, yet at the same time it is a progression in that we gain a wider understanding of what happened before in chapter 13 about the Beast and his ability to make war and in chapter 14 about the angel's announcement regarding the fall of Babylon. It flashes back to those passages, but then towards the end of the chapter we are carried beyond anything we've had before.



The Lord keeps going back and forth like that, a little further ahead each time, one step backwards, two steps forward, one step backwards. In order to make sure you get it all very



clearly and understand what's happening, He keeps reviewing and repeating a little background, which carries you a little further toward the end of the story.

So this angel was saying, *"Come hither, I will show unto thee the judgement of the great whore."* He's talking to John, *"Come here, I'm going to show you something!"* And the main thing he's going to show is what? *"The judgement of the great Whore."* But now he backs up a lot, explaining who the Whore is and the Beast and all the

things they're going to do; he doesn't really get around to the final judgement of the great Whore until the 18th Chapter.

In other words, the Lord feels that you need to understand the situation before you can understand why she's being judged so severely... because she's to be destroyed in one hour of one day by burning with fire! It still is unclear exactly when this occurs, probably at the beginning of the Great Tribulation.

What does the “*many waters*” represent”? Verse 15 says: “And he saith unto me, *the waters* which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, **are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.**” This whore has been sitting on the people and governments of the world. (Jer.51:13)



REV.17:2 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.

What is "*fornication*" anyhow? Literally, it's an evil form of sex. And in the dictionaries, in the World's terminology, it can include adultery. But when the Lord uses the word, it takes on the symbolic meaning of being in love with some other god than Himself, which is spiritual adultery and the worst kind of fornication. It's being in love with the World and what it contains instead of with Himself. That's what God means by fornication in these chapters.

(See *Eze.6:9; Jam.4:4; Psa.106:39; Eze.20:30-32; Jer.3:6-10.*)

In this case, the people, merchants and governments of the world have lusted, desired and embraced her materialism and have fallen under her spell, letting her mold, corrupt and pollute their minds and souls.



REV.17:3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet-coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

REV.17:4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

REV.17:5 and upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

In John the apostle's time, the great Babylonian Empire had left the stage of history some 500 years earlier; the great city Babylon was mostly an abandoned ruin. This Babylon that John was being shown was not the ancient Babylonian Empire but was something far more sinister and enduring. Her identity, at least in John's time, was a mystery!



So, who is this great whore? The **“harlot”** symbolism in this verse personifies the political, economic, social and religious systems of this world. She is a symbol of the biggest false religion of all ages,



materialism! She is the commercial system, materialism, the worship of Mammon! God here is using **“Babylon... the mother of harlots”** as a descriptive term for this great wealthy materialistic commercial System of the modern World.

Ancient Babylon was a great idolatrous wicked, wealthy capital of the

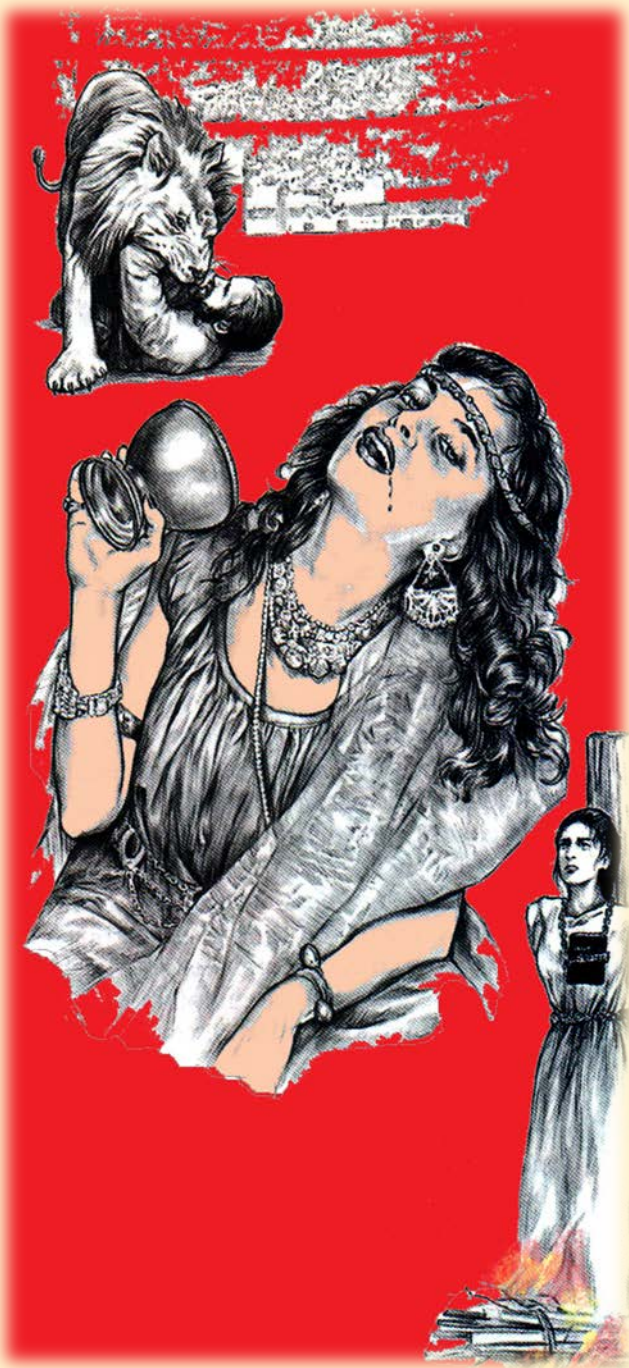
World at one time. But **Revelation 17** is talking about the FINAL Babylon, the final manifestation of the god Mammon or wealth or riches or materialism, which everyone worships except those who love the Lord!

The good woman of chapter 12, the Church, represents all true Christians of whatever faith they may be. The true followers of Christ are represented in that woman, the True Church, the good Woman, the genuine Bride of Christ.

This whore symbolises everything the people love and commit adultery and fornication with – everything but what the good woman, the true Church, stands for. You didn't know you could commit adultery and fornication with money, with temples, with possessions? Some men love their cars more than their wives! Some women love their homes more than their husbands! Many churches love their buildings more than God! So, it's all fornication as far as God's concerned, it's spiritual intercourse with the enemy, and He symbolises it by this foul Whore, an evil woman!

This Whore riding on the Beast is the antitype, therefore, of the Bride of Christ. So, we have two contrasting characterisations here, and each one is a symbol, of course. These are not actual persons, but they were pictures that God was drawing for John, to illustrate in a simple way some very complex realities.





****JER.51:7** *Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD's hand that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore, the nations are mad.*

**** REV.18:3** *For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.*

REV.17:6 And I saw the 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.**

“Admiration” means an attitude of great wonder, astonishment, even horror! Not admiration in the sense in which we use that English word today. To admire today is to respect, to give credit where credit is due, etc. But he is marvelling, astonished, awestruck with the horror of this monstrous woman! And she is drunken with the blood of the saints. The false religions have always persecuted the true Saints, the true Church throughout history!

REV.2:13; REV.6:9

REV.17:7 And the angel said unto me, wherefore didst thou marvel? **I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast** that carrieth her, which hath the **seven heads and ten horns**.

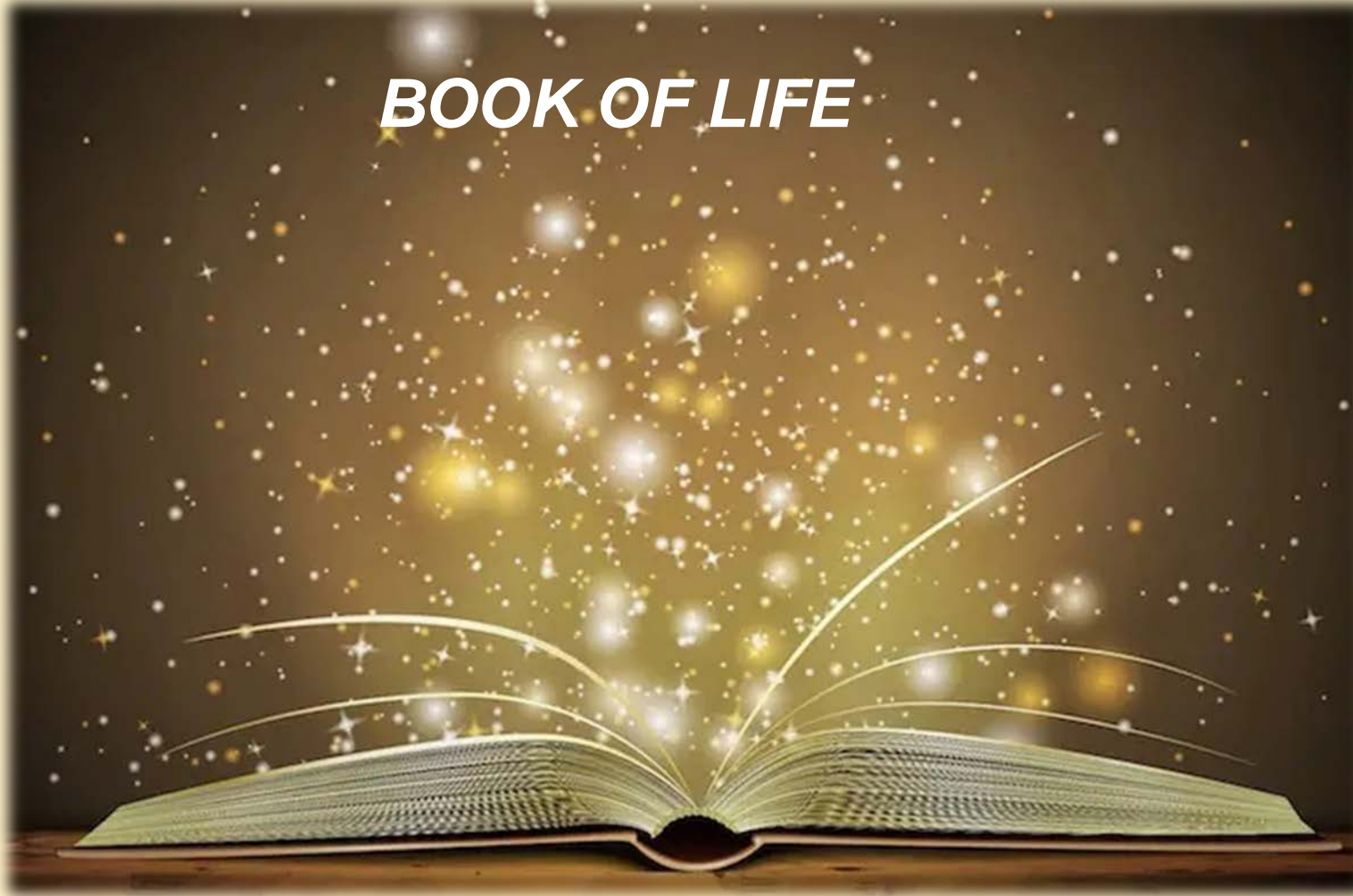
This is, of course, symbolic and not easily interpreted. However, as mentioned before, the important thing to understand is that the final Antichrist and his empire are the ultimate embodiment of the Beast. We won't comprehend every detail and we can't at this moment – but when studying and comparing the scriptures in this and other chapters, a lot about what this vision represents can be understood and we will continue to try to unravel at least some of the mystery here. Have we heard of that Beast before? Isn't that the very same Beast we read about in the 13th Chapter?

**** REV.13:1** *And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.*



The Beast has existed since the beginning of time! Its first major head was Egypt, remember?

REV.17:8 The beast that thou sawest **was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition:** and they that dwell on the earth **shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life (the unsaved)** from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast **that was, and is not, and yet is.**



Did you get that? Only the people who are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life are going to really wonder and marvel at him in the sense of worship, falling prey to him and receiving his Mark, etc. We who are studying Bible prophecies will know who this beast is, we won't be deceived.

**** REV.11:7** *And when they shall have finished their testimony, **the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit** shall make war against them, and shall overcome them...*

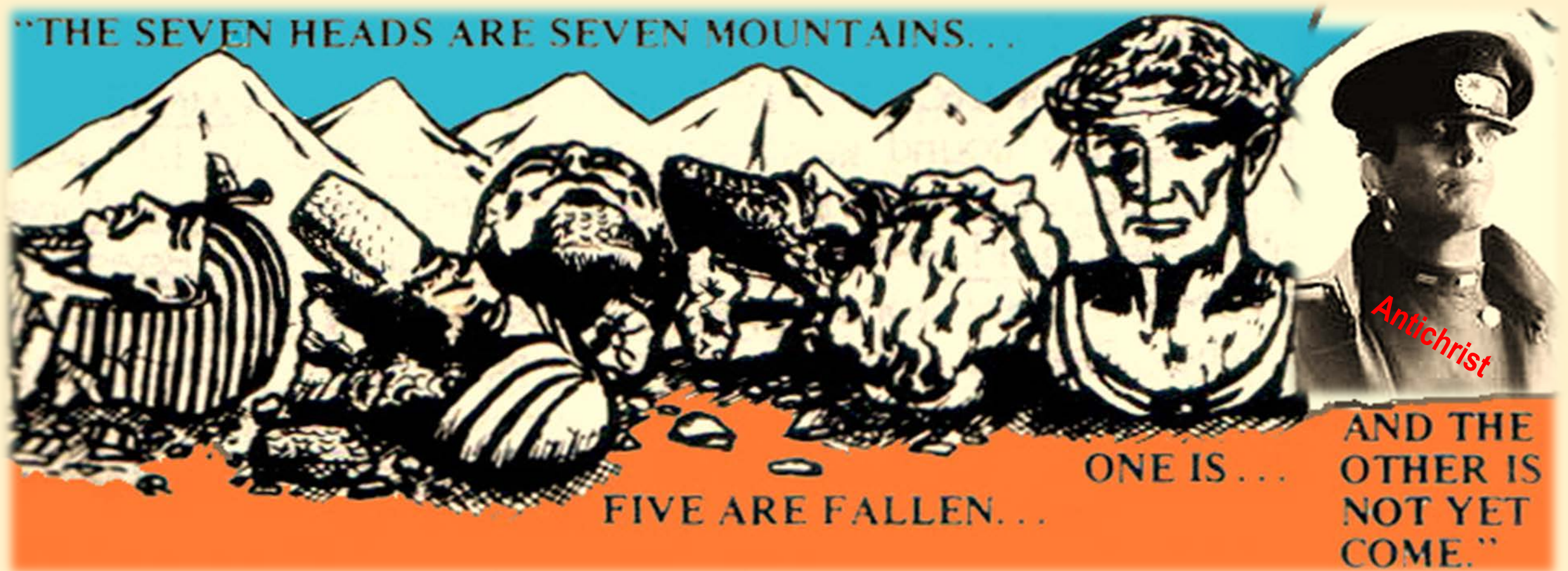
REV.17:9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

There has been much speculation around this passage. Some have suggested that the seven mountains represent the seven hills of ancient Rome, and hence by inference that Babylon is the Roman Catholic Church that is headquartered on one of those hills, the Vatican. But a close reading equates the seven mountains with seven kings and hence kingdoms.

This Babylon comes riding on the back of the seven-headed Beast, on the back of the seven empires which you will remember are Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, and finally the Antichrist empire. The Catholic Church wasn't even around during the time of the first five empires, so the Catholic Church is not this Babylon, even though she has been a manifestation of that whore at times, especially during the Middle Age period. This harlot is Mystery Babylon. She is not that readily or easily identified.



REV.17:10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.



The seven heads are also typified as kings. Literally the original word used here in the Greek is powers, in other words, also symbolising kingdoms, not just the heads of the kingdoms, but kingdoms, World powers. And here he describes specifically the seven great empires who ruled the Mideast and Israel.

" There are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come."



Now that really pinpoints the chronology of this! It couldn't be more specific! It says five are fallen. Five great empires had preceded John's Day: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and when John was being told this, what great Empire was in his time? Rome. So the five that are fallen are all the ones before Rome. The one that was, or as He says, ***"one is,"*** meaning right then in John's Day was Rome.

Illustrated by Nathaniel Anani
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*"And **the other is not yet come**; and when he cometh, he must **continue a short space**."*

--That's obviously the Antichrist Government! It had not yet come in John's Day. Also, the passage specifically identifies it by saying *"he must continue a short space"*. Most of these other Empires lasted for hundreds of years, Rome for a thousand! But when the Antichrist comes, he's only going to last seven years!

Of course, he's had hundreds of years of preparation and actual plotting and planning to bring about his empire. But he's not going to actually start ruling the World until the last seven years.
(Dan.9:27)

Although the Beast with its seven heads symbolises all the governments that have ruled Israel and the Mideast, he is finalised, epitomised and summed up in the final Antichrist government that will conquer, it seems, most of the World. This seventh head (the Antichrist) is on the same body, it has the same nature as all of them. The body in a sense is Satan himself, as we learned in chapter 12 about the Dragon. Each of these heads is just a different manifestation of the Devil's governments and the Devil's hellish systems of the World. And he's the final one, so he's called the Beast. He is the Beast in its fullness, he is the Beast in its final fruition, this final Antichrist. He's the summation of all false governments.



He even has the different characteristics of the different

governments, partly like a leopard and a lion, etc., so that he's a little bit of all of them. (*Dan.7:3-7; Rev.13:2*) So these seven Empires are nothing more than seven manifestations of the same Beast, out of which come these heads.

REV.17:11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is *the eighth*, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

Very strange statement here, because you notice there's only one Beast, but there are seven heads on this Beast. That has been a most mysterious scripture, it is really quite a mysterious puzzle here, like a conundrum or riddle. Again, we don't have to understand every detail at this time. Following are two possible interpretations:



THE 8TH

1) A passage in Revelation 13 suggests that the Antichrist (the seventh head) gets mortally wounded somehow:

**** Rev.13:3** *And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.*

And in later on this same chapter 13 verses 12-14 we read that the Antichrist has a false prophet who *“causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the ... Beast [the Antichrist], whose deadly wound was healed ... telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the Beast who was wounded by the sword and lived”*



This assassination attempt on the Antichrist seems to be the pivotal moment in his satanic career. A ***“deadly wound”*** is one that you die from. If he doesn’t die from it, it cannot be said he was ***“wounded to death”***. This ***“head,”*** in other words, is definitely dead. The Antichrist has been killed. End of story? No! He comes back from the dead. His ***“healing”*** is such a ***“miracle”*** that ***“all the world marvels.”***

Verse 8 stated that ***“those who dwell on the earth will marvel ... when they see the Beast that was, and is not, and yet is.”***

This Beast of Revelation has only seven heads. So where does this eighth one pop up from? Somehow an eighth personality has entered the equation. When the Antichrist first rises to power and confirms the seven-year Covenant, he is a man and the head of the seventh great empire. (*Dan.9:27*)



But he is not yet really completely anti-Christ; he hasn't yet been fully possessed of the Devil. But at some point, during his rule, most likely three and a half years after confirming the

Covenant, he is killed and resuscitated. This “*resurrection*” would serve as his credentials to divinity. That could be when...*the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 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 The.2:3-4).

It seems that it is at this time that the Antichrist becomes possessed completely by Satan. He looks like the very same man, the seventh head, only he is now the eighth, the Devil himself. At this point, his behavior changes for the worst. And that would explain this change and why suddenly he breaks the Covenant, profanes the altar, places the Abomination of Desolation, the Image of the Beast and causes himself to be worshipped--which sound like the Devil all the way through!

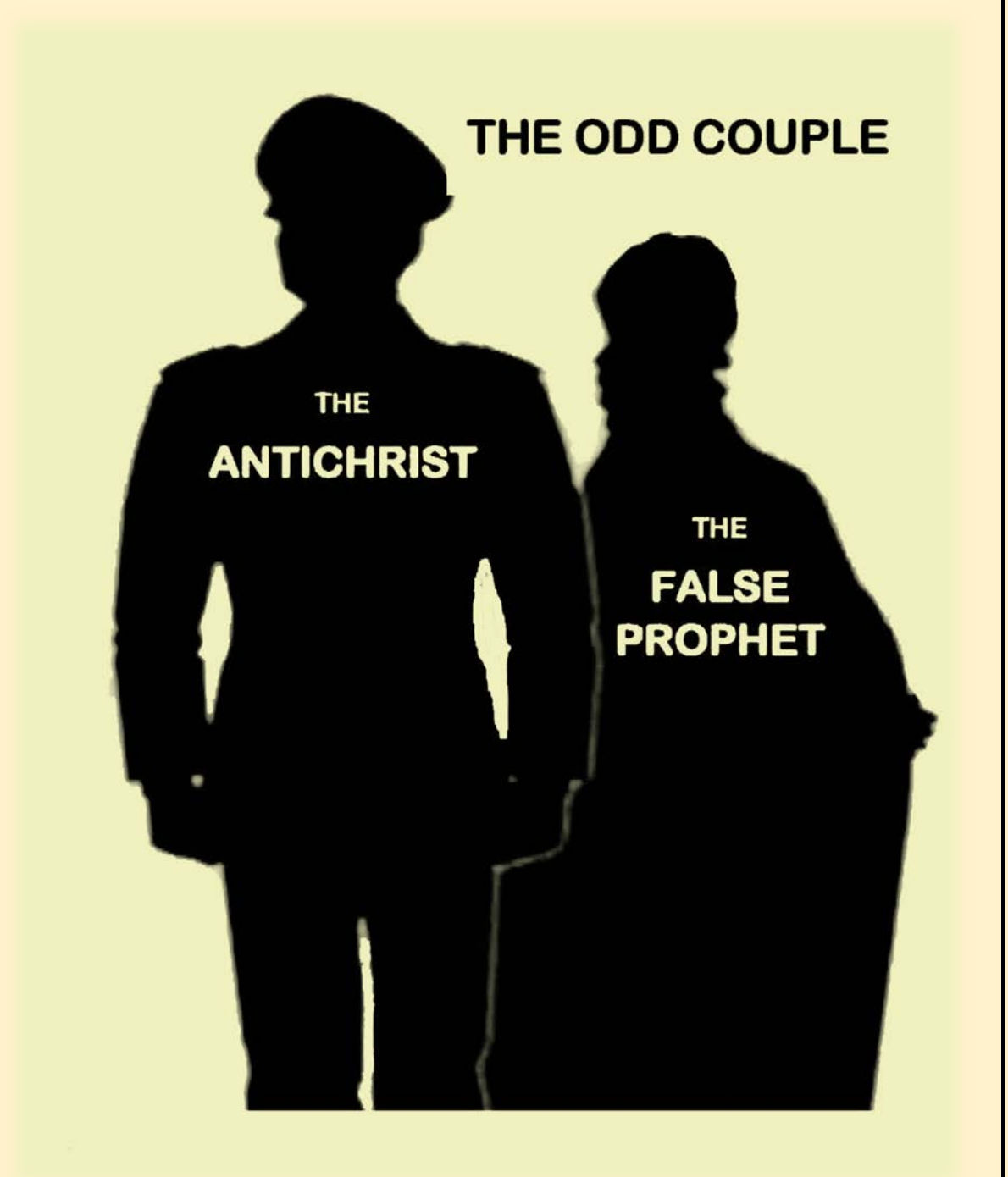
...and goeth into perdition.

**** 2TH.2:8** And then shall *that Wicked be revealed*, whom the Lord *shall consume* with the spirit of his mouth, and *shall destroy* with the brightness of his coming.



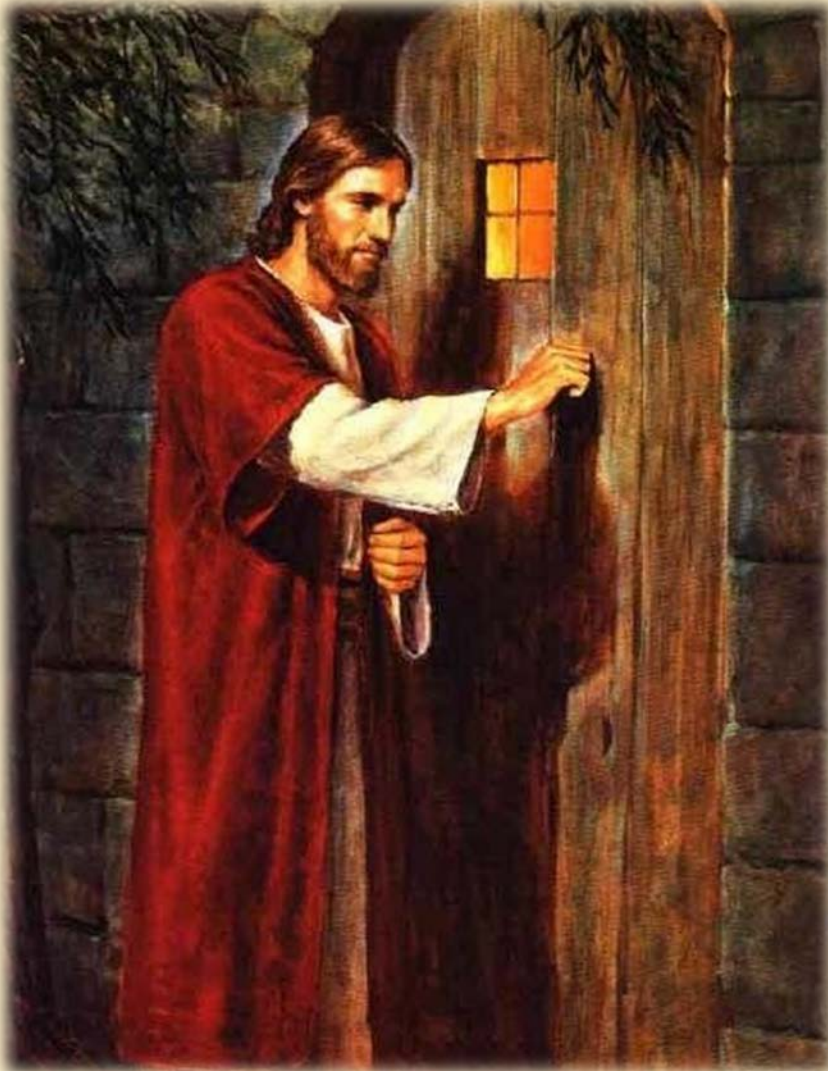
2) Another possible solution to this 8th Head/Beast mystery: Revelation chapter 13 pictures two Beasts – one from the “sea”, the Antichrist, and one from the “earth”, the False Prophet. These two collaborate, and together they rule the world in its final days. The Sea-Beast resembles the other Beasts of history – a warlike empire with a strong leader. The Earth-Beast is different and takes care of the economic administration of the world; he also becomes its guiding religious influence, chiefly by promoting worship of the Antichrist. If the Sea-Beast (Antichrist) is regarded as the 7th Head of the Beast, then the other Earth-Beast (False Prophet) could be that mysterious 8th Head who is attached to the 7th Head by virtue of the fact that they work closely together.

Interestingly, both 7th and 8th Heads/Beasts are pictured as going “*into perdition*” (v.11), which seems to identify them with the Beast and the False Prophet who also are pictured as going into perdition, only it’s worded as being sent to the “*lake of fire*”.



**** REV.19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. (Rev.20:10)**

Don't miss part 2 of this chapter 17 of Revelation as we will explore the identity of the 10 horn-nations on the Beast's head.



You can receive Jesus at this very moment. It is a free gift of God. Jesus says:

“Behold, I stand at the door (of your heart), and knock: if any man hears my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” Rev.3:20

Please pray this simple prayer:

"Jesus, please forgive all my faults and sins. I accept that You are the Son of God and that You died for me. I invite You into my heart and life. Thank you for your gift of eternal life and please fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Help me to read and understand Your Word. Amen"

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