

What follows represents the unedited lecture notes of Pastor Merritt's teaching of The Book of *The Revelation*. Please feel free to reproduce all or part for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Last week we completed a study of Rev 14:6-7 and when time expired we had just begun to analyze Rev 14:8.
2. Before we continue I want to provide "1Jo 1:9 time" as may be necessary.
3. Let's first look at an expanded translation of Rev 14:1-7.

Expanded Translation

Rev 14:1 I looked up and saw Christ as the Lamb of God standing in heaven on Mount Zion, the millennial city of God, and with Him was the original 144,000 Jewish Evangelist; they had the name of God the Father on their foreheads.

Rev 14:2 Then I heard a sound from heaven that was like a roaring flood of loud thunder accompanied by the music of many harps.

Rev 14:3 And I also heard a new song being sung before the throne of God and standing before that throne were the four special angels earlier seen; and with them were the Church Age saints earlier raptured. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had functioned so nobly during the Tribulation.

Rev 14:4 All of those before the throne were declared to be pure and perfect; interestingly, only the 144,000 could learn the song, for they had been preserved as God's special representatives. The 144,000 were called the first fruits of God. They had refused to worship in the whore church. In heaven they could be seen following the lamb wherever He went. The whore church was that very popular ecumenical body headquartered in Rome and allied with the Antichrist. This was the very large and wealthy "Christian church" to which many nominal and real Christians belonged.

Rev 14:5 The 144,000 were as pure as the driven snow and worthy of special praise.

Rev 14:6 Then I saw another angel. He would sweep across the sky dipping down in slow descent to the earth. He would periodically announce the good news of Christ's impending return when He would judge all those living on planet earth. His message was made clear to all people of every race and nation; they could all hear thus mankind was once again without excuse.

Rev 14:7 The angel shouted, "Worship and honor God! The time has come for Him to judge everyone. Kneel down before the One who created the heavens and the earth, the oceans, the seas, the rivers and every stream."

4. Now let's see what we can learn from verse eight:

KJV

Rev 14:8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

NIV

Rev 14:8 A second angel followed and said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries."

Principles:

1. The prophetic cameo continues.
2. First we saw an event to occur on Mount Zion when the Lord begins His Millennial reign; there He could be seen with His beloved 144,000 Jewish Evangelist.
3. Now we have the preview of the false religious system of Rome falling; the actual fall to be discussed later.
4. Babylon as used here according to some represents both a false religious system and the capital city of the one-world government in Rome.
5. Revelation 17 and 18 make both of these identifications. That Babylon is Rome has been earlier discussed. Let me quickly review:
6. In Daniel's chapter two and seven there were five Empires predicted; four of which came to pass, i.e., Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome.
 - 6.1 Though Rome is not listed as the fourth per se, we have seen it historically, the Roman Empire followed on the heels of Greece; the fifth is yet to come as a revived fourth Kingdom the Rome of the Tribulation.
 - 6.2 Keep in mind there has not been another "World Empire" since Rome and there will not be another until the Revived Roman Empire. Let's review what the Scripture says about the Empires of Planet Earth.

Daniel Chapter Two—in part

Dan 2:38 ... Thou art this head of gold.

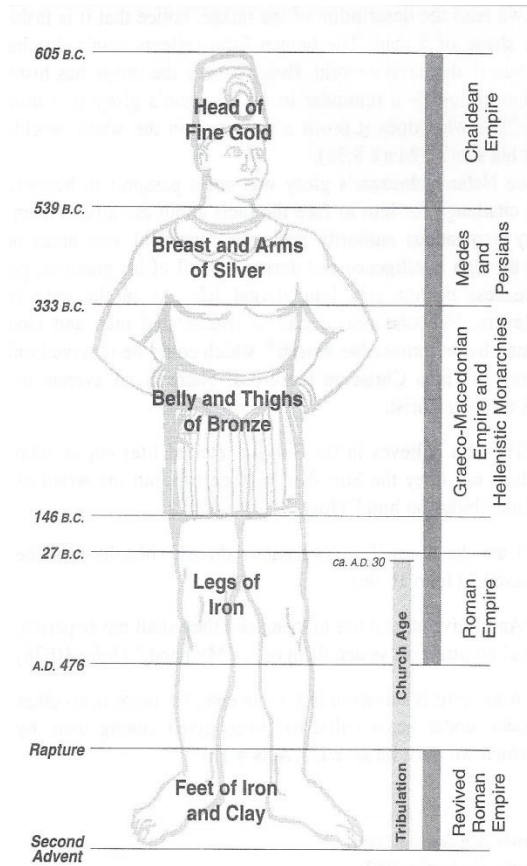
Dan 2:39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

Dan 2:40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

Dan 2:41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay ...

Dan 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Dan 2:45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.



NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S IMAGE

Daniel Chapter Seven –in part

Dan 7:2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

Dan 7:3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

Dan 7:4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

Dan 7:5 And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

Dan 7:6 After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

Dan 7:7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

Dan 7:8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things ...

Dan 7:17 These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.

Dan 7:18 But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even for ever and ever.

Dan 7:19 Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet;

Dan 7:20 And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.

Dan 7:21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

Dan 7:22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

Dan 7:23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

Dan 7:24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

Dan 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

Dan 7:26 But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.

Dan 7:27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

7. The false religious system mentioned at point three on page two (the false religious system of Rome) this system is characterized as the ancient city of Babylon; this because its religion was based on black magic, witchcraft, and astrology.

8. This religion will have its headquarters in Rome during the first half of the Tribulation. As we will see later there is some doubt that only the city's fall is in view here.

9. It is the judgment of John Walvoord: "only the religious system of Babylon is seen falling here."

10. The pronouncement of verse 8 is by a second angel also seen flying in mid heaven, saying Babylon has fallen.

11. The repetition of the phrase "is fallen" is for emphasis.

11.1 Prophetically, "Babylon" sometimes refers to a literal city, sometimes to a religious system, sometimes to a political system, all stemming from the evil character of historic Babylon.

12. The announcement here is prophetic as both the actual fall of Babylon as a religious system and the city itself comes later; John is seeing a prophecy of what will happen and therefore specific chronology is difficult to ascertain.

12.1 Let it be said here that near the middle of the Tribulation to kick off the Great Tribulation the ecumenical, i.e., religious Rome is destroyed and then later near (in point of time) the Second Advent, the city falls.

13. "BABYLON THE GREAT" in chapter 17, refers to the apostate church which will hold sway in the first half of the seventieth week of Daniel or as we know it the first three years of the Tribulation. Chapter 18 refers to the Antichrist and his political system falling.

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 shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

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.

Rev 17:3 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.

Rev 17:4 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:

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

14. An expanded translation of verse 8 is now in order:

Expanded Translation

Rev 14:8 A second angel was next seen; He cried out to the people of the earth a great prophecy of what would later take place: "Fallen! Fallen is ecumenical Rome.

15. "BABYLON THE GREAT" in chapter 17, refers to the apostate church which will hold sway in the first half of the Tribulation; the destruction of the city of Babylon as the new home of the Antichrist's kingdom is described in chapter 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 shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

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.

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

16. Dr. Dwight Pentecost in his book "Things to Come," has put together a compilation of the historical identity of BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS. Much of what he has written is a quote from H.A. Irionside.

"The woman is a religious system, who dominates the civil power, at least for a time. The name upon her forehead should easily enable us to identify her. But in order to do that we would do well to go back to our Old Testament, and see what is there revealed concerning literal Babylon, for the one will surely throw light upon the other ... we learn that the founder of Bab el, or Babylon, was Nimrod ... Nimrod ... was a grandson of Ham, the unworthy son of Noah ... Noah had brought through the flood the revelation of the true God ... Ham on the other hand seems to have been all too readily affected by the apostasy that brought the flood, for he shows no evidence of self-judgment ... And the name (the sunburnt one) indicates the state of the man's soul ... Ham begat a son named Cush, the black one, and he became the father of Nimrod, the apostate leader of his generation. Ancient lore now comes to our assistance, and tells us that the wife of Nimrod bar Cush was the infamous Semiramis the First. She is reputed to have been the foundress of the Babylonian mysteries and the first high priestess of idolatry. Thus Babylon became the fountainhead of idolatry, and the mother of every heathen and pagan system in the world. The mystery religion that was there originated spread in various forms throughout the whole earth ... and is with us today ... and shall have its fullest development when the Holy Spirit has departed and the Babylon of the Apocalypse holds sway.

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