

Daniel & Revelation End-time Prophecies Sermon Series
Study #68: The Beast That Was, Is Not & Yet Is
Revelation 17:8 - 18
Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

In our study in Revelation 17:1 – 7 Papal Rome is depicted as a great whore sitting on a red seven-headed beast with a golden cup in her hand full of abominations. We learned that the seven-headed beast in Revelation 13 is the same beast in Revelation 17. The great whore represents Papal Rome's apostate religious power and the beast that the whore is sitting is their worldwide political power. The red-colored beast is linked to the red dragon, Satan in Revelation 12. Satan is the red inner core of the beast that gives the great whore her power seat and great authority.

Revelation 17 gives us more details about the beast of Revelation 13. Revelation 17 gives a clear picture that Papal Rome is the mother of all apostate churches and the head of Babylon. Revelation 17 also shows us how much Satan is behind this false church system.

Also note we learned from our previous study that the vision that John sees in Revelation 17 is in our day and time. The reason why the beast is seen in the wilderness represents the power it has in the USA in the last days. Papal Rome uses the superpower platform of the USA to have direct influence on all the governments of the world, especially through the United Nations.

In Revelation 17:6 John saw the demonic persecution power of Papal Rome at the end of time. This part of the vision really caught his attention.

Revelation 17:6

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.

What was the angel's response to John's reaction to the vision?

Revelation 17:7

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.

Remember in verse 5 the Papal Rome is called "Mystery."

Mystery (Greek): mustērion [moos-tay'-ree-on]

From a derivative of μύω muō (to shut the mouth); a **secret** or "mystery" (through the idea of silence imposed by initiation into religious rites): - mystery

Mystery = secret.

The angel in verse 7 says that he will show John the main secret of Papal Rome's power.

What is the secret of Papal Rome that the angel reveals to John in vision?

Revelation 17:8

8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and **go into perdition (ruin or destruction)**: and **they that dwell on 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.

Revelation 17:8 clearly reveals the brain, organs, and bones of the beast - Satan himself. Remember, he is the one that gives power to the beast.

Satan is the secret of Papal Rome's power. It does not matter how they present themselves outwardly to the world, the system is demonic because it is set up and run by Satan.

Notice: If the false church system of Papal Rome did not get to ride on its independent nation status powered by Satan with worldwide influence, its deceptions to deceive the religious as well as the non-religious world with its false doctrines (wine of Babylon) would not work!

Let's study details of the verse 8. It is talking about the inner core of the beast Satan.

How do we know? Who ascends out of the bottomless pit?

Greek: Bottomless Pit (abussos) Thayer's Greek definition: **1) unbounded 2) the abyss**

The "bottomless pit" is a depiction that God has restrictions on Satan. Satan does not have free reins to do what he wants, because if he did he would totally destroy this world in an instant. In Revelation 16 during the scenes of the fifth trumpet these restrictions are let loose. The scenes of the fifth trumpet which lines up with the fifth plague of Revelation 16

Revelation 9:1-5

- 1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of **the bottomless pit**.
- 2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.
- 3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.
- 4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.
- 5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be **tormented five months**: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.

As we learned in our previous studies these locusts is a description of demons coming out of the pit.

Verse 11 reveals Satan, the destroyer as the leader coming out of the bottomless pit.

Revelation 9:11

11 And they had a king over them, *which is* the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon (destroying angel), but in the Greek tongue hath *his* name Apollyon (Destroyer/Satan).

Satan is Apollyon and Abaddon = Destroyer

Revelation 9:1-4, 11 links the Destroyer, Satan, to the "bottomless pit" and "**perdition**" (destruction / ruin) in Revelation 17:8.

Remember in the fifth trumpet / plague Satan and his demons have no restrictions to torment those who have not the seal of God for five months!

Satan will be in destruction mode, to ruin and destroy the lives of those whose names are NOT written in the lamb's book of life, but instead have the mark of the beast.

Go back to Revelation 17:8

The last part of Revelation 17:8 says

"they that dwell on the earth shall wonder (admire), 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.**

Remember Revelation 17:8 is referring to Satan that came out of the bottomless pit. In the last part of the verse it continues to talk about him as the inner core of the beast.

Who will wonder after the beast?

Those whose names are not written in the book of life. These are the same ones who have the mark of the beast.

Revelation 17:8 links perfectly with Revelation 13:3, 4.

Revelation 13:3-4

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.

4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

What does Revelation 17:8 mean when it says “who was, is not, and yet is?”

Notice what does those who wonder after the beast do at the end of verse 8?

It says “when they (those who are not written in the book of life) **behold** the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.”

(Greek) “Behold” = **Thayer Definition:** 1) to see, discern, of the bodily eye.

This word “behold” here is talking about physically seeing with your eyes.

Currently, Satan is not visible for the world to see. God does not allow him to show his face to us, but he is real. The Bible clearly reveals this. For centuries Satan has worked his evil craft through people, kings, leaders, false churches, and governments. But in the future at the very end of time Satan will be permitted to physically reveal himself.

Before Satan's rebellion in heaven, known then as Lucifer, he was visible for ALL the universe to see. But after his rebellion, those made lower than the angels were not allowed to see Satan visibly. Remember at the garden of Eden, Satan used a snake to deceive Eve at the tree of knowledge of good and evil. She was not allowed to see him as he was.

Going back to verse 8 when it says that “when...”

- **they behold = (physically see)**
- **the beast = (Satan-inner core)**
- **that was = (visible before his rebellion in heaven), and**
- **is not = (currently not visible to the world), and**
- **yet is” = (will be visible to the world in the future at the very end of time).**

Again Revelation 17:8 is referring to Satan himself the inner core of the beast and not Papal Rome. Papal Rome is the face and skin of the beast that is currently visible to the world, Satan is the inner core that gives them power. But one day soon the skin of the beast will be pulled off and the world will wonder and stand in amazement and awe.

As we read earlier concerning the fifth trumpet / plague in Revelation chapter 9 at the very end of time Satan will be loosed out of the “bottomless pit”, visible, and unrestrained to torture and deceive those who have received the mark of the beast.

During the sixth plague in which millions are killed, right before the seventh plague falls, Satan will perform his greatest act ever, he will appear visible to the world as the angel of light, impersonating himself as Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords. All the world, governments and leaders will wonder in amazement.

2 Corinthians 11:13 - 14

13 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

14 **And no marvel (do not wonder); for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.**

“As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. The church has long professed to look to the Saviour's advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation. Revelation 1:13-15. The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air: "Christ has come! Christ has come!" The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed His disciples when He was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths which the Saviour uttered; he heals the diseases of the people, and then, in his assumed character of Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and commands all to hallow the day which he has blessed. He declares that those who persist in keeping holy the seventh day are blaspheming his name by refusing to listen to his angels sent to them with light and truth. This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion.” (Great Controversy, p. 625)

He will tell the world how he “blessed and ordained ” Papal Rome's Sunday Sabbath and that those who keep the 7th day Sabbath are still under the “old covenant” and are in violation. He will say that the reason why the world is in chaos (due to the plagues) is because of his displeasure of the “violators of God's Holy Sunday Sabbath.” He will then rally the world to legislate a universal death decree to kill all who are still keeping the 7th day Sabbath.

Only those who are sealed with the seal of the living God, faithful to Jesus and keeping all of God's commandments including His seventh-day Sabbath, will not be fooled by Satan's impersonation of Christ.

What was Jesus warning to us about this false impersonation of Himself in the last days?**Matthew 24:23-27**

23 **Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here *is* Christ, or there; believe *it* not.**

24 **For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect.**

25 **Behold, I have told you before.**

26 **Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, *he is* in the secret chambers; believe *it* not.**

27 **For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**

What are more things that the angel reveals to John concerning the scarlet colored beast with seven heads and ten horns? What does the seven heads on the beast symbolize?**Revelation 17:9, 10**

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

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.

Starting here in verse 9 there is a transition from talking about the inner core of the beast to talking about the outer part of the beast's “skin and face”. So from verse 9 the focus is on Papal Rome the outer part of the beast.

Verse 9 says the seven heads = seven mountains.

What are those seven mountains?

Verse 10 gives the answer: “**And there are seven kings**”. Kings are over kingdoms or nation. So the seven heads on the beast represent seven kingdoms or nation.

These seven mountains or kingdom lifted up themselves in Rebellion like Satan did in heaven.

Isaiah 14:13-14

13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Remember the outer core (skin and face) of the beast in Revelation 17 represents the same leopard like beast in Revelation 13 who also had seven heads and ten horns, Papal Rome.

Those seven kingdoms are nations and governments that Satan has used to promote his evil plan against God and His people. The seven kingdoms we studied in Daniel and in Revelation 13 are the same kingdoms.

Remember Bible prophecy is consistent and uses “the repeat and enlarge” method. There is no difference here in Revelation 17, God is repeating what He revealed in Daniel and in Revelation 13 and we will see in the following verses He will give us clearer understanding of what will take place at the very, very, very, end of time.

Remember in Daniel 2 God revealed the rise and fall of earthly kingdoms before the establishment of His everlasting kingdom.

In the context of end time prophecy what was revealed to Daniel about these seven kingdoms?

(Daniel speaking to king Nebuchadnezzar before he tells and interprets the king's dream)

Daniel 2:28, 29

28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in **the latter days**. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

29 As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came *into thy mind* upon thy bed, **what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.**

First of all God reveals here that the dream the rise and fall of earthly kingdoms are in the context of the “latter days”, end times. Then in verse 29 it reveals that the prophecy of the rise and fall of these kingdoms will begin “hereafter” from this point forward (Babylon until end of time).

In the context of end time Bible prophecy, what kingdom did God reveal would fall first? Babylon!

Which kingdom should we start the count of seven? Babylon (From Babylon moving forward).

The rise and fall of the seven kingdoms that we studied in the book of Daniel are the same exact seven kingdoms in Revelation 13 and 17.

1-Babylon, 2-Medo-Persia, 3-Greece, 4-Pagan Rome, 5- Papal Rome, 6- USSR (an atheist empire), 7-Papal Rome Head of World Government (now)

VERY IMPORTANT: When John is give more information about this seven headed beast in Revelation 17 he is learning more about it in the context of the future end of time, as if he is present.

What happened the first five kingdoms?**Revelation 17:10**

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.

Fallen:

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

Who is “one is”? Remember John is given information into the future as if he is present.

“One is” - sixth Empire – USSR [1917 - 1989]

Who is “the other is not yet, he must continue a short space”?

The seventh empire - Papal Rome head of the World Government. The seventh empire rule will be very short compared to the other empires.

According to Daniel 12:11 Papal Rome (the abomination that maketh desolate) will rule as head of the one world government for 1290 days (3 ½ years). We studied this in detail in our Daniel 12 study.

Daniel 12:11

11 And from the time *that* the daily *sacrifice* shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, *there shall be* a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

What additional information does the angel give John about that seventh kingdom? Will there be an eighth? Who will head it?**Revelation 17:11**

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

Revelation 17:11 is almost identical to Revelation 17:8 when Satan is revealed as the inner core of the seven headed scarlet colored beast.

Revelation 17:8

8 The beast that thou sawest **was (visible in heaven), and is not (not visible)**; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and **go into perdition**.

Like Revelation 17:8, verse 11 is talking about the inner core (the power behind) the scarlet colored beast with seven heads. **Satan is of the seventh empire because he is the brains of it, Papal Rome is the skin and face.**

Verse 11 also reveals that Satan is the eighth empire, meaning the head. Remember, as we studied earlier Satan will physically impersonate Christ during the sixth plague.

During the sixth plague when Satan impersonates Christ, he will visibly take head as the eighth of the one world government and rally the all nations to pass a universal death decree against all who refuse to submit to the false Sunday Sabbath. The world will be so mesmerized by this impersonation of Christ that they will worship Him as King.

This is what Satan has been seeking since the fall of Adam and Eve! Satan wanted the earth to be his kingdom forever! It appears that he has achieved his goal! The whole world worships and gives ALL government power and religious power to Satan, but in their mind they think it is Christ.

Who are those “ten” horns on the scarlet colored beast that Satan will rule over during his eighth kingdom?

Revelation 17:12

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

Horns = kingdoms. The number ten represents “a whole” meaning all the divisions of the earth.

At the beginning phase of the feet of the image in Daniel 2, it is referring to divided Europe in which the fifth empire, Papal Rome rises out of. But at the very, very end of the phase of the image right before the stone destroys the feet of the image it is referring to the ten divisions or kingdom that received power as kings for one hour with the beast.

These ten divisions are probably divided by its military strength and powers like the United States, China, Russia, France, England, Germany, Canada, Spain, Japan, etc... Or the world can be divided into ten regions based on physical territory.

These kingdoms will have power as kings with Papal Rome and Satan as head of the kingdom impersonating Christ for one hour.

Remember since the context of the text is symbolic the time prophecy is also symbolic and we must use the day for a year principle.

To translate one hour of symbolic time to literal time you must do the following:

A symbolic day represents one symbolic year of 360 literal days.

1 hour = 1/24th of a symbolic day.

360 literal days ÷ 24 = **15 literal days**.

In other words, all the nations of the earth with Papal Rome and Satan (visible) head impersonating Christ will have power for a literal 15 days.

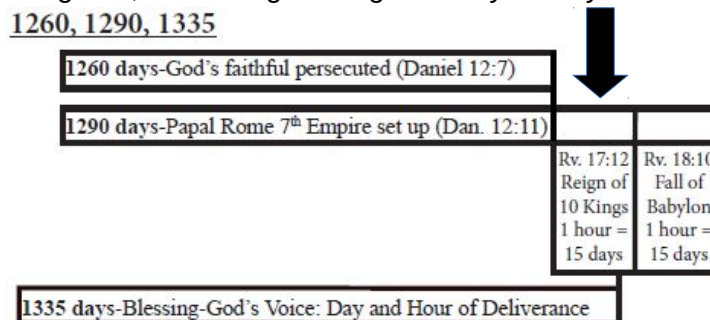
What will they do against the people of God?

Revelation 17:13, 14

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.

These ten kings of the earth are unified with one mind to worship and give all their power and strength to the **one mind** behind this eighth kingdom, Satan. Eighth kingdom only 15 days



Remember in the sixth plague, millions of people are killed by Satan and his evil demons. But Satan will impersonate Christ. He will gather his army to battle God. During the sixth plague, all nations with one mind with Satan as the master will pass a universal death decree against all God's living people at the end of time who would not receive the mark of the beast. But during the seventh plague, God wins and his people are delivered!!

At the very end of time what will the ten horns, all the kingdoms of the earth do to the whore that sits on the beast?

Revelation 17:15 - 18

15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, **these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.**

17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and **give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.**

18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city (Babylon), which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

Verse 18 reveals again that the woman is that great city which is known as Babylon. She which will rule over kings of the earth, nations, peoples, multitudes, and languages as also revealed in verse 15. This is what Papal Rome's world rule looks like.

But verse 16 reveals that the ten horns, kings of the earth will turn on the whore, the religious power of Papal Rome, and destroy her!

They will leave her "naked" by exposing her deceptions and corruption. They will eat her flesh, by dismantling her wealth and riches and burn her, total consume or destroy her as a religion and empire. This will bring about the final destruction of Babylon in which we will learn more in Revelation 18 study!

At the very end of time Papal Rome and Satan's fraud will be fully exposed, but that will come too late for all who received the mark of the beast. Jesus is revealing the fraud now so you will not get caught up in the deception. Now is the time to study Daniel and Revelation.... leave the world behind....

Revelation 18 is God's final appeal.... what are you going to do? Learn more next study.