

## Revelation Chapter Seventeen 17

We are going to look at Revelation 17. As we open the bible to Revelation 17, let us bow our heads in a word of prayer. Heavenly Father we thank thee for thy holy spirit which directs the study of thy holy word and which also helps us to retain its information in our hearts. And we pray today that as we consider the symbolism that is found here that we may use the bible as its own interpreter of its own symbols, that we may find truth and understanding according to thy goodwill, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Revelation 17 is actually a wrap up of that which has gone before it and it is a revelation indeed regarding end time events. It is a mosaic of the symbolism of chapters 12 through 16. It presents basically four different pictures within that chapter. Those pictures, first of all we see counterfeit religion carried along and supported by Satan himself. Then the next big picture that we see is a personation of Christ by Satan in which he pretends to be the Lord himself. We then see a picture of Satan working with the kings of the earth in order to set up a universal death decree to annihilate God's people. And then the fourth scene is an introduction really to chapter 18 where there is the fall of Babylon.

Now before we can actually get into the symbolism and look at it we need to consider several things about the timeframe that is involved here. And we need to also consider some problems that are inherent within the chapter. As I mentioned it brings together the symbolism from chapter 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 and it takes the various symbols that are presented there and it sort of wraps them up into one package to give us end time events in a unified manner. So as we look at this we need to realize that John very rapidly changes from the dragon of Daniel 12 to the beast of Revelation ... I'm sorry, Revelation 12 to Revelation 13 and then it continues on to pick up in reference, the woman of Revelation 12, contrasting her to this other woman of Revelation 17, so that we are going to get all these symbols brought together.

Now before we look at those symbols in detail I would like to have you look at the chart so that we can get a general overall view of what we are going to do in regard to time placement here of Revelation 17. So I'm going to work now with the chart. The title of the chart is a correlation of seals, plagues, and trumpets. The seals, the plagues, and the trumpets make one unified picture of the very last events in the history of our world. And a correlation, the word correlation has to do with how it all fits together.

So as we looked at the study last evening we discovered that in Revelation 4 and 5 it brings to us a view of the investigative judgment which began in 1844 and with the opening of the book or the books, then the seals were opened at chapter 6, so we looked at seal number 1, number 2, number 3, number 4 and we discovered that seal number 5 has to do with martyrs and as Helen White has explained, that after the martyrdom then goes out the message of Revelation, the angel of Revelation 18 in which a multitude are brought out of Babylon, called out of Babylon. As soon as that work is finished we come to the close of Probation. As soon as Probation is closed we have both plagues and trumpets which correlate together and there is plague 1, everything is in its sequence. And we find that in chapter 6 where it speaks of the seals, in the fifth seal, those who have been martyred cry out, "How long until you will avenge our blood?"

And so we find the first three judgments and the plagues and the trumpets are actually blood judgments. So we come through plagues and trumpets 1, 2 and 3 then we found that plague 4 and 5, these two are mentioned in just the trumpet number 4, it mentions the sun and the darkness which follows. Then we found that plague number 6 and trumpet number 5 correlate together, both of them speak of the work of evil angels gathering the kings of the earth to the battle of Armageddon. When we come to the battle of Armageddon we have plague number 6 ... I'm sorry, plague number 6, the gathering of the kings of the earth to set up a universal death decree. And when that decree is ready to go into effect then God chooses that time to deliver his people. So here we have the voice of

God deliverance. Back here we had the close of Probation, over here the voice of God deliverance. Then follows plague number 7 and that is divided in two in the trumpets so that there is the great holocaust of trumpet 6 and trumpet 7.

Now what we are going to look at in the seals and the trumpets and the whole thing that is brought to a head in Revelation 17 is this section right in here where it shows how in plague 6 and 7 they are making ready for a death decree and how Satan himself appears and counterfeits the coming of Christ and how the voice of God brings about then the fall of Babylon which occurs here in plague 7 and trumpet 7. And then this seal here is the one where they cry for the rocks and the mountains to fall on them and over here there's a half hour of silence when Jesus comes.

Alright, now when we know that we are dealing with this last section here in chapter 17, it makes it easier for us to know then what we're going to see. So now that we have considered this in regard to the timeframe or the time setting, now let's look and see what it says in Revelation 17. [silence] It says here in verse 1, there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials. Now those vials are the seven plagues, so one of these plagues is vitally brought to view in Revelation 17. And he said, "Come hither I will show thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters.

So we're going to look at a woman - the figure of a woman, a symbolic woman, she's spoken of as a whore, and down in verse 6, it says that she has a name, her name is ... I'm sorry, verse 5, her name is written on her forehead, it is Mystery Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth. So here we're looking at a woman. She is not a good woman, she is a very bad woman. It says in verse 2 that the kings of earth have committed fornication with her, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he says, "He carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness and I saw the woman sit on a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns." So now if you were to draw a picture of this you would have a woman who is sitting on a scarlet colored beast. Now if you look back in Revelation you'll find that in chapter 12 it mentions there that Satan himself, that old dragon, it says, a great red dragon.

So the dragon is red in color. He is red here, he is scarlet over here, same color. And he is of a different color than the beast of Revelation 13, because the beast of Revelation 13 has a body like a leopard. So that would be tan in color with spots on it. So we have two different beasts in 12 ... I should explain that a dragon is of course a beast - an animal. So these different beasts are animal creatures, we have one that's red and one that is like the body of a leopard. So there are two different colors and we are going to find that John brings both of these beasts into the picture. But he does it without telling us that he's going to do it. So we have to use our previous knowledge of the symbols in order to understand where the change comes in.

And now we're going to look first of all at this woman, who she is. I had an interesting question come to me just before I came to this lecture right here. And the question was, how do we know the difference between the beast of Revelation 13 and the woman who is called Babylon? Both of them are bad but what's the difference between the two? And I said when we finish we lecture I hope that it will make all of that plain. So we're going to look at this woman right now.

First of all we have to understand that there are two women brought to view. The one over in Revelation 12 is known by a verse in Revelation ... I'm sorry, Galatians 4:26 where it says that new Jerusalem which is above, is free, and she is mother of us all. So we're looking at her, Jerusalem who is a mother and she's called that great city. Now here in Revelation 17 we have her counterpart and this woman has a name and she is called that great city and she is known by the name of Babylon. So you have Jerusalem, the city of peace and you have Babylon, the city of confusion. Now we know that a woman represents a church. So these two prophetic symbols represent the universal church of all time and the good woman is the universal church of all time and the bad woman is a universal church of confusion of all the different kinds of religions that are confused and in error, a universal

confusion of all the false churches from all the ages.

So we have these two women, now there are some things about these two women that are very much alike in the symbolism. Both of them are a woman, Revelation 12, this is the story of the good woman, Revelation 17, she's a bad woman. But both of these women are mothers, Revelation 12:2 it says that she brought forth a man child, verse 5. Verse 17 says she's mother of us all, who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus. But the bad woman in 17:5 is called a mother of harlots. So it's not just one church or one system, it is all, she and her daughters are all the confusions of false religion. They both have a name, one is called Jerusalem, one is called Babylon. They both have daughters, and the daughters of the good woman are called daughters of Zion or daughters of Jerusalem, that you find in Song of Solomon 2:7 and 11, many verses there. And then the other of course is the mother of harlots, she has daughters but they're called harlots. Now both of them hold an executive position because in Revelation 12 it says the good woman has a crown on her head and about Babylon in Revelation 18:7 she sayeth, "I sit a queen." So she also takes position of royalty.

Now both of these women are clothed, it describes their clothing. It says in 12:1 that the good woman is clothed with the son, that is the son of righteousness that shall rise with healing in his wings. But in Revelation 17:4 it says the bad woman is arrayed in purple and scarlet color and the good woman in 12:2, it says she is like a bride adorned for her husband. And in 17:4 it says the bad woman is decked out, good term, decked with gold and precious stones. Now in both of these women are spoken of as a great city, in 21:10 it speaks of the good woman as that great city but in Revelation 17 it says the same thing, that Babylon is that great city, many, many people gathered together, and both of them existed during the 1260 day period, the good woman fled into the wilderness, about the woman of Revelation 12, I'm sorry 17:12 and 6 it says that she was drunken with the blood of the saints and the martyrs and so she was there in the wilderness but she was drinking of the blood of saints and martyrs while the true woman fled.

Both of these women have merchandise. The one woman, the good woman, to her Jesus said in verse 3:18 of Revelation, "I counsel thee to buy of me." So she is buying, there is merchandise and in Isaiah 55:1 it says, buy wine and milk, referring to doctrine and the truths of the scripture. So the good woman is fed with ... and she buys the wine and the milk. Matthew 25:9, it says them that sell and buy, that was those who were to buy the oil for the 10 virgin parable. And so in Song of Songs 3:6 it says that the good woman is decorated or perfumed with all the powders of the merchant. So the merchant and the merchandiser are spoken of in regard to the good woman. But from Babylon it says all nations of the earth or the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her and it says in Revelation 18:13 she deals in the souls of men. So she deals in slavery, buying and selling.

Both of these women have a house and it says in Song of Songs, I would lead thee into my mother's house, that's of the true bride, and it says come and drink of the wine that which I have mingled. So the good woman spoken of is wisdom, mingles the wine and sets the table for all to eat thereof. But the bad woman, it says of her, all nations have drunk of the wine of her fornication. So they both have a house and they both have a table and one has good food and drink and the other is evil

Alright, they both have a priesthood. And so all of these are references here, we have to know the symbols from Revelation 12 clear over to 17. So now let's consider a little bit, not only the woman that is brought to view in Revelation 17, the bad woman, but let us talk now about the red or the scarlet beast on which she sits. A serpent is a beast, we always refer to them as an animal or a beast and so we find that Satan is represented in three different forms, first of all he is spoken of as a serpent, he came as a serpent to the Garden of Eden and there in Genesis 3 he is spoken of as a deceiver, the serpent with a split tongue represents the deceiver, the serpent deceiver. But when you come to Revelation 12, there he is a great dragon and he persecutes, he makes war with the woman so there he is known not only as a deceiver, but also as a persecutor. When you come to Revelation 17 there we find him as he tries to personate Christ, he is spoken of there as a beast and beasts represent kings or kingdoms.

We go back to Daniel and it says these four beasts are four kingdoms. So here where he is spoken of directly as a

beast in Revelation 17, here is not only a deceiver and a persecutor but here he comes and attempts to take the position of Christ, king of king and lord of lords. So we need to realize that he is a deceiver. And in those three capacities he is not only a speaker of deceit but he is like a false prophet, he is a speaker, the word prophesize means to speak. And he is a priest in the fact that in judging and persecuting he sets himself up as a priest in a priesthood with the ability to judge. And then also as a king, he is attempting to become the king of kings and to put up a universal kingdom.

So we look now and we see that Babylon has a name, she's called Mystery the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth. So I'm just going to read about that now, right from Revelation 17 so that we may see now what the bible has to say about this. Verse 3, so he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast. So here she is sitting, this Babylon, this confusion of religions, all false religions in a conglomerate picture. She is sitting and riding on and being supported by and carried along by the devil himself. And then it says, verse 4, the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication.

Alright, it has always been the policy of false religion to link arms or hands with the powers of state, with the kings of the earth, to get the kings of the earth to persecute those who will not conform to the false ideas that are being taught. So she has always in all ages been part and parcel with the kings of the earth and so it speaks of that as the wine of her fornication. Now it says upon her head, for her forehead there was a name written 'Mystery Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth'.

Now why is she spoken of as a harlot? Because she sells herself and has no true husband. You see, the true church has a husband, that is Jesus Christ, but Babylon does not have Jesus Christ as her husband so she looks around and she gets her support and her strength from the kings of the earth, and therefore she goes to all of them, therefore she is spoken of as a harlot. It tells more about this woman, it says, I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints and with the blood of martyrs of Jesus. And he said, "This picture of her amazed me" he said, "I wondered with great admiration." The word here admiration does not mean that he felt that she was a good thing to look at. The word here really means that he was just amazed at how she could prosper and generate so much interest in the people and how she could be carried along and so successful down through the ages.

So then verse 7, the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and the beast that carries her which hath the seven heads and ten horns." That's exactly the way that Satan is referred to in chapter 12 verse 3, the seven heads and ten horns. Now he begins to describe the beast, who is this beast? Who is Satan? Where did he come from? What is he now? And what is he going to do? So he's talking about Satan, this is not the leopard-like beast, he's still talking about Satan himself although he's called a beast here, but it says the beast that thou sawest was, and is not and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit and go into perdition. [silence]

Now in order to understand what this means here, about that he was and is not, we have to look back in scripture to find out what Satan was. It says in both Ezekiel and Isaiah that Satan was the cherub, the covering cherub, and it says he was perfect in the day he was created and that it was because the pride of his heart caused him to be lifted up and it was because of that that he fell. So we know that Satan was beautiful, because he was lifted up because of his beauty.

Now beauty is always visible, if you can't see it, it isn't there as far as beauty is concerned. But it said because of his beauty his heart was lifted up. So he was visible. Is he visible today? No, we cannot see him and so he was visible and as where he came from in heaven, but today he has to live in a different dimension in which he is invisible to us. But there is a key statement here in verse 8, and we need to look at this very carefully. It says he was, let us say visible and is not now visible and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit or that dimension of invisibility and go into perdition, he will finally come to his end, and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder or be amazed, whose names were not written in the book of life and the foundation of the world when they do what? What does your bible say they will do? It says they ... when they behold, the word is to look and to see and to be

visible. You can't behold something if it's not visible. It says that the people whose names are not written in the book of life will behold him, they will see him, he will become visible.

I'll read that again, those 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. Yes, you don't see him, he was visible, he is not visible now but he will be visible and it says, even though he's not visible now, yet he is very active in our world today. So when we look at this we have to realize that this is the first picture that we have viewed. We have seen now false religion riding along, Satan carrying her and he is the one who will finally become visible.

Now, let me read about this crowning act where he becomes visible, it says, and I read from Great Controversy 6:24, as the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. Now the word is not impersonate, the word is personate, an impersonator, you know who he is, but he just acts like or talks like somebody else, so that they usually have them on shows where they come in and they look like and sort of act like a president or some figure and they have mannerisms and things they do that you know all the time who they are but they just look like someone else or sound like someone else. That's not the word that's used here. The word is personate, he will appear as Christ himself.

Now, I'll read it further. The church has long professed to look to the savior's advent as the consummation of our 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 through 15, the glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld.

You see this is not an impersonation where people know that it is Satan just acting like Christ, no, it will be such that he will pretend that he is Christ and appear as Christ as actually described in Revelation. The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed, the shout of triumph rings on 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 and full of melody, in gentle compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious heavenly truths which the savior 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 hell of 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 the light and truth, this is the strong almost overmastering delusion. I read there from Great Controversy 6:24.

So we know now that we have seen the first picture. Now what does it mean to ascend out of the bottomless pit? It says he will come out of the bottomless pit. This is not merely a chaotic condition of the world as we read about it in Revelation 20, but it seems to be in other parts of the scripture that the bottomless pit is the habitation of Satan and his evil angels, they are bound it says in Jude and in the Book of Peter, in chains of darkness and obscurity and can emerge only with God's specific permission. And so it says he will come out of the bottomless pit but he will go back down into perdition very shortly.

Alright, now we come to the next portion, the next picture in Revelation 17. It says here, here is the mind that hath wisdom. Now why do you need to have wisdom, a special wisdom in order to progress here? Well the reason is, I believe, is that he is ... John is changing horses in the middle of the stream, what I mean is, he's shifting over from the great red dragon, now he begins to talk about the beast of Revelation 13, in other words he is combining all these symbols into one picture. He's showing how the dragon and the beast of Revelation 13 and this harlot woman of all the different bad religions of the world, how they all come in together into the final crisis.

So now we're going to look at the next verse. Let us realize now that we're shifting over from Satan to that beast with the seven heads in Revelation 13, it says the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sitteth.

Now seven heads are seven mountains. Some people have thought that this referred to the seven hills on which Rome is established. But the beast actually was a sequence of kingdoms, Babylon, Medopersia, Greece, Rome, Papal Rome, and the sixth head, atheist economism and coming down to the seven head, then we have the final one world government or one world order with the papal head. But we look and we say, what is this seven heads or seven mountains?

Well if you want to know what a symbol means, actually you and I have no right to put our own interpretation on it. We have to go right back to the scripture to find the meaning of mountains. And so if you go back to the very first outline of Daniel - Daniel 2, you will find there that he saw a great stone cut out of the mountain and it filled the stone and the mountain filled the whole earth and that was to represent the kingdom - the kingdom of Christ that would finally be established.

So as we look at a mountain we need to realize that a mountain can also represent a kingdom. So here it says, there are seven ... it says there are seven heads, there are seven mountains, seven heads are kingdoms, the seven mountains are kingdoms, here you have like a double lock, I don't know if your doors are ever like ours but sometimes you have to adjust one lock but it still won't open until you turn the other lock. And so this is like a double locking the door. The heads are kingdoms, the mountains are kingdoms, they both have to open to show you that you're talking about kingdoms and to reinforce the idea for the third time, the verse continues to say, there are seven kings, I'm reading from verse 10, the seven heads are seven mountains and there are seven kings or kingdoms.

So we're talking here about the seven headed beast of Revelation 13, it says five have fallen, one is, the other not yet come. Alright, right up until the present time we know the five that were fallen, Babylon, Medopersia, Greece, Roma, Papal Rome, and then there was one that is, it still is actually but it has in essence fallen, given way to the last one, the one world order. So we see that it says, and when he cometh, that is the seventh head ... when he cometh, he must continue a short space. And so we know that according to Daniel 12, it says that abomination that makes desolate will be established for 1,290 literal days. So that is a relatively very short time.

Now let's look at verse 11, and the beast which thou sawest, the beast that was and is not even he is the eighth and is of the seventh and goeth into perdition. Right, here is a very fast action, this beast, who is this eighth head? [silence] Let me suggest here that Satan is referred to as having seven heads, the beast of Revelation 12 verse 3, it says the dragon - the great red dragon had seven heads. Let me explain what they were. They were attempts to establish a kingdom. First of all Satan tried to establish a kingdom in heaven. And he was cast out. Next - the next head he tried to establish a kingdom in the Garden of Eden but along came the flood. So that came to an end. He tried a third time, he started at the Tower of Babel but the Lord saw what would happen and he came down and confused the languages. So that great world order was put out of commission.

Then we look at the time of Christ, he thought he would take the king in order to possess the kingdom but Christ was victorious. Then the fifth time that he attempted was in the papal supremacy where he thought he would take the Christian church and deform it so that all those followers of Christ would be murdered and he would annihilate them from the earth but finally the pope was taken prisoner and that kingdom was broken.

Now we have one other time when he will attempt to the sixth effort is at Armageddon when he will attempt to draw all the kings of the earth together in order to set up a universal death decree. Now that will not be successful either because at midnight God will deliver his people. There is only a seventh opportunity for him and that comes after the millennium at the time of Gog and Magog, at the end of the battle, at the end of the millennium. So this is seven heads, and the sequence of kingdoms is very important. But not only does Satan have seven attempts to set up a worldwide universal empire, but the seven heads will also come to an end, the papal system, it says he shall come to his end and none shall help him. But who is this eighth head? We need to notice that in Revelation 17:11 and the beast that was and is not, that is Satan himself, we've already described him, we know who he is, even he is the eighth, that is he is the eighth head, and is of the seven.

No one has lived long enough to be of all seven kingdoms, from Babylon, Medopersia, Greece, Rome and so forth down to the end. No one has lived long enough to be of all seven except Satan, he has lived long enough, he has [inaudible], he promoted the work and each of these seven who are persecutors of God's people, and he says, "And he goeth unto perdition." So at the end of time he will be destroyed.

Now we're going to look at another picture. We have seen the personation of Christ, how he comes as Jesus and how he will sit really with the kings of the earth. Let's take a look at this, verse 12, and the 10 horns which thou sawest, are 10 kings which have received no kingdom as yet but received power as kings, one hour with the beast. These are the kings of the earth gathered together to Armageddon, the battle to set up the universal death decree and it says these come together. And it says that verse 13, these have one mind and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. So the kings of the earth, in order to set up a universal death decree, it says they will give their strength and power to the beast, that is to the beast of the papacy and it is my understanding that at the very end of time, that Satan in his appearance will be with these kings and push them and direct them into that universal death decree, he will be there visibly with them.

And then it says, verse 14, they shall make war with the lamb. Now Jesus said, "Whatever you have done to the least of these, you have done it unto me." So we are looking here at making war with the lamb, that is with God's people, those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus, the lamb shall overcome them, that is that the voice of God, he will deliver his people and bring retribution to the wicked, for he is lord of lords and king of kings and they that are with him are called chosen and faithful. He says the waters which you saw where the whore sitteth are peoples' multitudes, nations and tongues.

Now, it said before that the woman, this bad woman is riding along on Satan, he is carrying her. But here it says she is sitting on the waters. Now how can she sit on the dragon and also sit on the waters? This is a question which we need to address right here. In the first place there are two ways of sitting on something. A queen presides, she sits on her throne and presides over multitudes and nations, in that sense she sits as a queen. But if she's being supported and carried along, she's carried along on the dragon beast. So we have two pictures of her here, one, she is carried by Satan and the other is that she presides over the multitudes and the nations.

Alright then it says there is a change of the picture here, verse 16, the 10 horns which you saw upon the beast, and it said there were 10 kings that sit with the beast, it says suddenly their action changes, they are no longer supporting and working with the beast because as I showed you here on the chart, [silence] right here where the beast is sitting with the kings of the earth to generate the ... I'm sorry, the evil spirits go forth to the kings of the earth to enact a legislation to destroy the people of God, right at this point there is the voice of God that delivers them. This is where verse 16 picks up, right here. As soon as the voice of God has delivered his people, right there, there is a change of the attitude of the kings of the earth. They no longer support Babylon, they recognize that they have been duped, that they have been deceived, and so what they do is that they turn on false religion, they turn against Babylon.

And it says here in verse [silence] 16, the 10 horns which you saw upon the beast, these shall hate the whore and shall make her desolate and naked and eat her flesh and burn her with fire. This is not literal fire, this is not the burning up of some city, some place in the world, this has to do with the final fall of Babylon, which is described in the next chapter, chapter 18. This introduces the fall of Babylon, for God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will and to agree and to give their kingdom unto the beast until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

I would like to read here kind of a r sum  of a 30 day crisis and deliverance of God's people. Between the 1260 and 1290 day timelines of Daniel 12, there is a 30 day difference, this 30 days describes the ascending and descending action in the last act of the drama of the final crisis and final deliverance, and this 30 days is divided into two 15 day periods, it is the voice of God deliverance that divides those two spans of time. These two literal day periods ... two 15 literal day periods are spoken of as one hour of literal time and these two periods are

involved with that final universal death decree, leading up to it, the voice of God as the coup de theater or the coup de tat, everything is overturned and suddenly everyone is aware that false religion has led them astray and the last is a descending action or spoken of as the fall of Babylon.

Now, I would just like to conclude here by looking at Second Peter 1:19, It says we have also a more sure word of prophecy, when to you do well that you take heed as a light that shineth in a dark place until the day dawn and the day star arise in your hearts. It is the purpose of prophecy to help us to understand where we are and to understand how the Lord will deliver his people and thereby we gain confidence in the day star or Christ, the son of righteousness. God has not left his people to stumble through the darkness of the final crisis and the plagues and the trumpets and the reign of the beast and the pressure of the image of the beast, and the passages of laws, contrary to the law of God, through fines and imprisonment and martyrs deaths without the surety and hope and comfort and knowledge that is furnished in the prophecies. Their way will be illuminated by the bright lights of the timeline of Daniel 12 and the information found in the correlation of plagues and trumpets and seals and each fulfillment from the passage of the national Sunday law in the US and each further advancing item that is spoken of in these timelines, when God's people see these things, they will look up, and Jesus said, "When you see these things look up for your salvation draweth nigh and they will know their deliverances is at hand."

And like one friend called, when she read these things, she said, "Oh" she said, "Jesus is coming to get us." And that is true. So likewise, Matthew 14:24, 33, so likewise when you see all these things, know that it is near, even at the door, every prophetic utterance will have its weight, nothing will be cast aside, each fulfillment will define exactly where God's people are in the prophetic time clock and hope and faith will be turned to joyous expectation. And as it says in Isaiah, we will go forth like those who are blowing trumpets in the night to a joyous celebration. This is I think the total picture of Revelation 17 and it ends by saying, the woman which thou sawest is that great city, that universal false conglomerate of all religions which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

As review, we saw her riding this dragon, we saw the dragon as one who personates Christ. We saw the kings of the earth reigning together with the beast and with Satan, the eighth head and we saw the fall of Babylon in this chapter.

This chapter is full of meaning and it should give us hope and comfort because it has a way that it can be understood and it fits right together with the total picture that you have seen in the chart so far.

Let us bow our heads. Heavenly Father we thank thee for the blessings which you have given to us in your holy word, because they give us pictures of that which is to occur and we know that we are coming into the final generation and that we need to prepare our hearts for that which is to come. Please add your blessing to this study, everywhere it goes in Jesus' name. Amen. [silence] [silence]