

Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#)

>

[Other](#)

>

[Share on Facebook](#)[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

Revelation 17 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Revelation 17 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Revelation 17 explains the judgment of the corrupt city that had become spiritually unfaithful to God. John is shown the relationship between the woman and the Roman beast that carried her. The vision reveals how political power and apostate religion worked together until the time came for judgment.

† The prophets often described covenant unfaithfulness as prostitution. In this chapter that same language is used to expose a city that once belonged to God but had become corrupt and violent toward the saints (Isaiah 1:21; Ezekiel 16:15).

† Jesus warned that the blood of the prophets would come upon that generation. Revelation now reveals how that judgment unfolded during the events leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 (Matthew 23:35-36).

Revelation 17:1

One of the seven angels who had the bowls came and spoke with me and said, Come here and I'll show you the judgment that is coming on the great prostitute who sits over many waters.

† The many waters represent large populations and nations under the influence of the corrupt city (Revelation 17:15; Isaiah 17:12).

† Prophets often used the image of prostitution to describe covenant betrayal and religious corruption (Jeremiah 3:6-9).

† This introduction prepares the reader to see the coming judgment against the persecuting city (Matthew 23:37).

Revelation 17:2

The kings of the earth committed immorality with her, and the people of the earth became intoxicated with the wine of her corruption.

† The image shows political alliances between religious leadership and earthly rulers (John 19:15).

† The intoxicating wine symbolizes deception and spiritual corruption spreading among the nations (Jeremiah 51:7).

† Those who rejected the Messiah aligned themselves with worldly power rather than with God (Acts 4:26-27).

Revelation 17:3

He carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast full of blasphemous names, with seven heads and ten horns.

† The beast represents the Roman imperial power that dominated the region during the first century (Daniel 7:7).

† The seven heads correspond to the line of Roman Caesars who ruled during that time (Revelation 17:9-10).

† The woman sitting on the beast shows a partnership between apostate religion and imperial power.

Revelation 17:4

The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet and decorated with gold, precious stones, and pearls. She held a golden cup filled with disgusting things and the impurities of her immorality.

† Purple and scarlet were colors associated with wealth, authority, and temple leadership (Exodus 28:5).

† The golden cup shows outward religious beauty hiding inward corruption (Matthew 23:25-27).

† The prophets used similar language when exposing the hypocrisy of corrupt leaders (Jeremiah 51:7).

Revelation 17:5

On her forehead was written a mysterious name: Babylon the Great, the mother of prostitutes and of the disgusting things of the earth.

† Babylon becomes a symbolic name for the corrupt covenant city that persecuted God's people (Revelation 18:24).

† Prophets often renamed cities to reflect their spiritual condition (Isaiah 1:10).

† The name exposes the city as the center of widespread spiritual corruption.

Revelation 17:6

I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God's people and with the blood of those who testified about Jesus, and when I saw her I was greatly amazed.

† Jerusalem had a long history of killing prophets and persecuting the righteous (Matthew 23:35-37).

† The early church experienced persecution from the same religious leadership (Acts 7:52).

† The phrase drunk with blood emphasizes the scale of violence against believers.

Revelation 17:7

The angel said to me, Why are you amazed? I'll explain the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, the one with seven heads and ten horns.

† Apocalyptic visions often require explanation because they use symbolic language (Daniel 7:16).

† The angel prepares John to understand the historical meaning behind the symbols.

† The explanation will identify the rulers and powers connected to the prophecy.

Revelation 17:8

The beast you saw once existed, now it isn't, and it is about to rise out of the abyss and go to destruction. Those who live on the earth whose names are not written in the book of life will be amazed when they see the beast that once existed, now isn't, and yet appears again.

† The language reflects the turmoil in the Roman Empire following Nero's reign and the temporary collapse of authority (Revelation 13:3).

† Many people believed the imperial power had fallen, yet it appeared again with renewed authority.

† Those outside the book of life are those who follow worldly power rather than God's kingdom.

Revelation 17:9

This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.

† Rome was famously known as the city built on seven hills (Virgil, Aeneid 6.783).

† The imagery identifies the imperial system connected with the prophecy.

† The woman sitting on these hills shows her dependence on Roman authority.

Revelation 17:10

They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is ruling now, and the other hasn't yet come, but when he comes he must remain only a short time.

† The line of Roman emperors places the prophecy firmly in the first century.

† The one who is refers to the emperor ruling when the vision was given.

† The short reign refers to the unstable leadership that followed Nero.

Revelation 17:11

The beast that once existed and now isn't is also an eighth king, yet he belongs to the seven and he is going to destruction.

† The eighth grows out of the line of the seven rulers, continuing the same imperial authority.

† This shows continuity rather than a completely new empire.

† The prophecy anticipates the rulers connected to the destruction of Jerusalem.

Revelation 17:12

The ten horns you saw are ten kings who haven't yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for a short time.

† These represent regional rulers and allied authorities supporting Roman campaigns (Daniel 7:24).

† Their authority is temporary and connected to the war against Jerusalem.

† The prophecy highlights the coalition of power involved in the coming judgment.

Revelation 17:13

These rulers share one purpose and give their power and authority to the beast.

† Roman forces united under imperial command during the Jewish war.

† Political unity allowed the empire to crush the rebellion.

† Scripture shows God using nations to carry out judgment against corrupt systems (Isaiah 10:5).

Revelation 17:14

They will fight against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called, chosen, and faithful.

† The Roman authorities persecuted the followers of Christ (Acts 4:27-28).

† Even under persecution believers remained faithful to the Lamb.

† Christ's authority stands above every earthly ruler (Daniel 7:14).

Revelation 17:15

Then he said to me, The waters you saw where the prostitute sits are peoples, crowds, nations, and languages.

† Waters frequently symbolize large groups of people in prophecy (Isaiah 17:12).

† The statement confirms the widespread influence of the corrupt system.

† The religious leadership affected many nations through their authority.

Revelation 17:16

The ten horns and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will

make her desolate and naked, they will devour her flesh and burn her with fire.

† This describes the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 (Luke 21:20-22).

† The empire that once cooperated with the city eventually turned against her.

† The imagery reflects prophetic judgment language used throughout the Old Testament (Ezekiel 16:37).

Revelation 17:17

God placed it in their hearts to carry out his purpose by agreeing to give their kingdom to the beast until God's words are fulfilled.

† God directs history even through the actions of powerful empires (Isaiah 46:10).

† The fall of Jerusalem fulfilled the warnings given by Jesus.

† Prophecy shows that God's purposes cannot be stopped.

Revelation 17:18

The woman you saw is the great city that ruled over the kings of the earth.

† In the first century Jerusalem held enormous religious authority in the region.

† Jesus described Jerusalem as the city that killed the prophets (Matthew 23:37).

† The prophecy points to the city judged during the events of AD 70.

Historical References

† Josephus recorded the siege and destruction of Jerusalem by Roman armies (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6).

† Tacitus described the Roman campaign against the Jewish nation (Tacitus, Histories 5.13).

† Eusebius documented how believers fled Jerusalem before the city's destruction (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5).

How It Applies To Us Today

† Revelation 17 reminds us that religious hypocrisy and corruption will not escape God's judgment.

† God sees injustice and persecution, and he brings accountability in his time.

† Believers today are called to remain faithful to Christ even when the world opposes them.

Q & A Appendix

Q: Who is the woman described in Revelation 17?

A: She represents the corrupt covenant city that persecuted the prophets and saints (Matthew 23:35-37; Revelation 18:24).

Q: What does the beast represent in this chapter?

A: The beast represents the Roman imperial rulers who dominated the region during the first century (Daniel 7:7; Revelation 13:1).

Q: When was this prophecy fulfilled?

A: The judgment described in Revelation 17 was fulfilled when Rome destroyed Jerusalem in AD 70 (Luke 21:20-22).

Q: What are the seven mountains mentioned in Revelation 17:9?

A: The seven mountains identify the city connected with the Roman imperial system, widely known in the ancient world as the city built on seven hills (Revelation 17:9-10; Daniel 7:7).

Q: Why is the woman called Babylon in Revelation 17:5?

A: Babylon is a prophetic name used to describe a city that had become spiritually corrupt and persecuted God's people, just as ancient Babylon once did (Revelation 18:24; Matthew 23:35-37).

Q: Why does the beast turn against the woman in Revelation 17:16?

A: The same political power that supported the corrupt city eventually carried out God's judgment against it, which happened when Rome destroyed Jerusalem in AD 70 (Luke 21:20-22; Ezekiel 16:37).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

© Fulfilled Prophecies - Dan Maines.

Source Index

† Revelation 17; Matthew 23:35-37; Luke 21:20-22; Daniel 7:7, 14, 24; Isaiah 46:10; Isaiah 17:12; Jeremiah 51:7

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6; Tacitus, Histories 5.13; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5

[Share on Facebook](#)

Links

Facebook Link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.