

REVELATION 17:1-18

I. TWO BABYLONS I

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REVELATION 17:1-18



OPENING PRAYER

We take a few moments of silence to prepare for the study of God's Word. Then I will pray out loud.

Dear Heavenly Father, we owe You everything and yet, often, we forget and do not acknowledge our debt. May we always be aware that all blessings come from You and may we have the wisdom because of Bible teaching stored in our souls, to depend on You with all our hearts, with all our minds and with all our strength. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

REVIEW

Vocabulary

CLASS ACTIVITY BEGINS IN REVIEW



Activity enhances review and aids understanding of symbolic Babylon at the same time. Class Activity continues throughout lesson. Encourage discussion and help students distinguish between real and symbolic characters.

FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

The following characters should be familiar to us: the apostle, John, God the Father, God the Holy Spirit, God the Son, Many angels, The Lamb that looked as if it had been slain, 144,000 Jewish Witnesses, Some creatures under an altar, Abaddon, A swarm of Scorpion-Locust-Demons, Two witnesses from heaven, An angel presenting the gospel to the world at high noon, An army of two hundred thousand men, A woman, A Great Red Dragon, A Man-Child, 1/3 of the stars, Michael, the Archangel, The remnant or the woman's off spring, A Beast out of the sea, A Beast out of the land.

Distribute and call attention to the list of characters. Instruct students to place an "R" to the right of the real characters and an "S" to the right of those symbolizing something else. When you get to the woman on the list, remind students how important it is to recognize she represents the nation of Israel, therefore she will receive an "S" to the right of her listing. Refresh memories by reviewing facts taught in Chapter 12. Follow the same procedure with the dragon, the two beasts the remnant, the archangel, Jesus Christ, etc.

The great harlot and the beast, upon which she rides, are at the end of the list, as they are introduced in this session. Begin teaching the current lesson when you reach

these two characters (Class Activity is complete at the conclusion of this study of Babylon.)

Summary

The Sixth Goblet described aspects of Armageddon, the final event of the Tribulation. The Seventh Goblet described the aftermath of Tribulation judgments. Chapters 17, 18, and 19 describe the destruction of the world's religious system at the pouring out of the Goblet judgments. In Revelation 15:1, seven plagues picture a liquid fire poured out from heaven. Angels carry the plagues, but a voice from heaven directs them to be poured over the earth. (Rev. 16:2) upon those who had the mark of the beast. They are from God.



Students should refer to their charts summarizing three sets of Tribulation judgments. Charts were distributed in a previous lesson.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Remind students that God's Church Age children leave earth before the Tribulation begins. God's children of the Church Age do not experience these judgments. The judgments purify and prepare God's creation for the coming reign of His Son.

I. TWO BABYLONS

Three word means "confusion". Three sets of judgments take place during the Tribulation. Satan, indwelling Antichrist, inspires the horrible time of judgment, but that does not imply the judgments are not God's wrath upon **unbelieving** humans (**REVELATION 16: 14; EZEKIEL 38: 1 - 11; and 14 and 16; DANIEL 11: 36 - 45; JEREMIAH 50:35-46**).



Satan is evil and he enjoys it. He is anti-God, anti-Semitic and anti-Christian. God allows Satan's cruelty to attract man's attention and give the human race one more chance to turn to God. Christ controls history and uses the events to accomplish His will, plan and purpose.

The seventh Goblet Judgment declared "It is done", informing us that the Tribulation judgments were over. Point to the approximate time of the great harlot's judgment and do not forget the brevity of the second half of the Tribulation. In this lesson, history does not advance with the judgment of the great harlot, but we are taken back and given details about the judgment upon a city characterized by evil Babylon. Events during that short three and a half year period tumble over each other and overlap as they occur.



THE LAW OF RECURRENCE
IS IN EFFECT, AGAIN.

encouraged Antichrist's followers to commit horrible atrocities with her. The harlot is drunk with power (ISAIAH 63:6; JEREMIAH 51:6-12) and the world is her partner in evil.



b. REVELATION 14:8 reported Babylon's fall, but supplied no details.

REVELATION 14:8 And another angel, a third one, followed saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality."



c. Identification.

1) A worldwide religious system is centered in a city whose character is like Babylon of old. After all true Christians are removed at the Rapture, it will be easy for the world's religions to unite under one counterfeit, central system during the Tribulation.

2) Scripture says Babylon is rebuilt in its splendor and will flourish during the Tribulation, (ISAIAH 13:20-22). Still, this symbolic controlling city does not necessarily refer to literal Babylon. "Babylon" symbolizes a city where Satan's religious program is centered. A rebuilt Babylon could be that city. So could Rome, Italy.



3) "Babylon" remains essentially the same in character no matter what form it takes. Its two objectives are always the same: 1) to achieve a worldwide governmental system, which denies Christ's right to rule and 2) to achieve a worldwide religious system, which denies Christ as Redeemer.

4) Never forget, religion is Satan's counterfeit claim that salvation can be earned or deserved by some meritorious human work instead of as a gift by faith alone in Christ alone. The name Babylon symbolizes a powerful, evil religious system. Religion is based on working to gain approval from God (PHILIPPIANS 3:18, 19), but salvation and the spiritual way of life are both by God's grace. Religion is anti-grace.



5) During the Tribulation, world religion centers in one city. The ancient city of Babylon depicts its character. Most probably, Rome is the literal city from which the harlot wields her religious authority. The city of Babylon was never part of the Roman Empire, but Babylon was located where Iraq is now.

6) After removal of believers at the Rapture, Rome's facilities could easily convert into a powerful center for religion, commerce and

politics. It is not our purpose to argue concerning the actual city. Whole books have been written about it and circumstances change every few years. Our purpose is to better understand the book of Revelation. It is enough to know the characteristics of this future city will be those of evil Babylon of old.

7) Scripture teaches a worldwide, anti-grace, religious system controls and dominates world politics and commerce during the Tribulation. Religion is responsible for the wealth and success of commercial Babylon.



8) **CHAPTER 17** deals with the religious system. **CHAPTER 18** deals with the commercial center. Wherever the commercial center is located it has the same evil characteristics as Babylon of old: the reason for the heading “The Two Babylons”.

2. COUNTERFEIT WORSHIP

a. Definition.

Counterfeit worship is any worship conducted apart from God's directions. God told Adam and Eve how to worship correctly. He left an instruction book (the Bible, His Word) so all humans could know how to worship. Instructions are available. If one does not follow God's directions, there is no true worship. It is counterfeit and Satan likes it.

b. Origin.

Satan inspired counterfeit worship in the Garden of Eden and Cain followed it. Adam's son, Abel, worshipped God, God's way, but Cain attempted to approach God in his own (Cain's) way. Cain worshiped God with his own good works: Satan's counterfeit form of worship.



GENESIS 4: 3-5 So, it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the Lord of the fruit of the ground. And Abel on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering; but for Cain and for his offering He (God) had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.

VERSE 8b And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

CAIN KILLED HIS BROTHER, ABEL, OVER WORSHIP.

3. COUNTERFEIT WORSHIP SYSTEM

a. Definition of a counterfeit worship system.

Any system of worship contrary to the teaching and direction of God's Word is counterfeit. Cain was the first to practice counterfeit worship. Later, at the tower of Babel, Satan set up a counterfeit worship system. Many people, dripping with pride in themselves and with inordinate esteem for creation instead of the Creator, began to participate. Satan fostered this worship to confuse and pull man away from worship of the Creator. Man was encouraged to exalt himself and "nature".

b. Origin of counterfeit worship system.

1) Ancient Babylon operated under a counterfeit system of worship (**GENESIS 4:1-5; GENESIS 11:1-9**); Ryrie Bible notes p. 22, 23.



2) Builders of the tower of Babel were religious about getting together to impress God with their own power, but God told them to do just the opposite. The builders of the tower of Babel were involved in a one world movement, which God hates. They built a tower in direct defiance of God's command to scatter throughout the earth... all in the guise of worshipping Him.

GENESIS 9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "**Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.**"



GENESIS 11:4 And they said, "**Come let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name; lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.**"

3) In **GENESIS 11:4** men wished to build a tower reaching into heaven and bringing glory to themselves. Notice in **GENESIS 11:5** (*read*) they did not come close to reaching God for God had to come "**way down**" from heaven to get a close look at what they were doing.



c. Babylonians.

1) Babylonians built a tower into heaven and worshipped the sun, the



moon, the stars, the zodiac and astrology (worshipping creation instead of the Creator). Religion has continued to exist and has even crept (little by little) into the Churches of the Church Age. Religion promotes idolatrous ritual designed to steal the minds of God's children from the ***simplicity of the gospel*** and the Spiritual Life. It is Satan's deceptive, counterfeit. There is no need for idolatry or meaningless ritual in true worship of the true God.

CHRIST IS THE TRUTH. RELIGION IS THE LIE.

2) The Tribulation is the most religious period of all human history. Men will say "We will take care of (and worship) ourselves. We do not need God. We do not want God."

d. Tribulation inhabitants.

Satan is behind all religious, counterfeit worship. It comes to full stature during the Tribulation. As long as the Holy Spirit remains on earth, Satan's activity is restrained. However, when the Holy Spirit departs with the Church at the Rapture, there is no restraint upon Satan's evil program. The presence of even a small group of believers restrains evil, but all believers are gone before the Tribulation begins. The Tribulation is a time of counterfeit worship such as the world has never known. Religion fosters pet programs of political and religious leaders and helps them achieve their goals for attaining power and wealth.



II THESSALONIANS 2:7, 8 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains (*the Holy Spirit*) will do so until he (*the Holy Spirit*) is taken out of the way. And then that lawless one (*Antichrist*) will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming.



(The term "lawless one" in II THESSALONIANS, refers to Antichrist who is revealed after the Rapture and signs a peace treaty with Israel.)

B. HARLOT CONNECTION

1. DEFINITION

Harlot is another word for prostitute or a woman who is immoral and unfaithful. She pretends to be a man's wife, though she is not married to him. She is the direct opposite of a faithful wife. In this case it is another of God's symbolic characters and she teaches the unfaithful nature of religion.

TRUE WORSHIPPERS WORSHIP THE ONE TRUE GOD.
IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH.
COUNTERFEIT WORSHIPPERS WORSHIP
FALSE GODS AND SATAN.

2. CLASS ACTIVITY

The following activity is a continuation of Review Page activity. Review page lists characters accompanied by symbols. Each true character is identified on the review page by the letter "R" (for real) out to the side. Those symbolizing something should be identified by the letter "S" and the item they stand for should be described.

The harlot symbol should be listed at the end of the character symbols.

OR: The harlot could be set up on a separate page and distributed to students separately.

Call attention to the word, "harlot". Tell students not to write anything next to the word "harlot". We want to discuss more about what the harlot symbolizes and learn of her activities.



3. RELIGIOUS BABYLON

REVELATION 17:1 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I shall show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters..." ("waters" stand for Gentile nations).

a. One of the seven angels who had the seven goblets.

1) There is no question to which group this angel belongs: he is one of the seven who helped pour God's wrath onto the earth, one of God's judgment angels (**REVELATION 15:1, REVELATION 16:1**).

2) God is preparing to judge the great harlot. We need to know her identity and her offenses.

b. The great harlot.

Handle the last two characters the same way other characters were





treated. Tell students to place an “S” to the right of “The great harlot”. She symbolizes something more than an evil woman. Students should not write anything else in the explanation box at this time.



1) The word “great” does not always refer to something large in a **good** sense. In the case of the dragon back in **REVELATION 12: 3**, it meant “large, dominating, having superior strength and authority ***in a bad way***”. The same meaning applies to this harlot. Her evil influence is widespread.

Tell students to write, “having world wide religious attention and influence in an evil way” to the right word “great”.

Display the Harlot symbol.



2) An harlot pretends to be a wife. This particular harlot is pretending to be the wife of Jesus Christ. She symbolizes the unfaithful nature of the religions of the world that practiced spiritual immorality with her.

Suggest students write, “counterfeit, unfaithful, immoral pretender” to the right of the word, “harlot”. Suggest students add their own notes to help them remember what they learn.

4) The phrase “who sits on many waters” is next in our text.

“**Sitting**” pictures authority and signifies direction. The harlot controls, directs and rules the symbol upon which she sits.

“**Many waters**” speaks of the Gentile nations of the world. The harlot represents religion: unfaithfulness against the reality of Jesus Christ.

“**Sitting on many waters**” tells us the religious center controls and directs the Revived Roman Empire and indeed the nations of the world at this time.



REVELATION 17:15 And he said to me, “The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues”.



Students should show on the Activity Page that “who sits on many waters” tells us “Religion and evil both rule and are supported by the world’s citizens.”

4. RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY



REVELATION 17:2 with whom (*the harlot*) the

kings of the earth committed acts of immorality and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality.



a. Acts of immorality.

1) The phrase “**With whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality**” tells us the world joined her in spiritual unfaithfulness.

2) The rulers and leaders of the nations of the world are hopelessly fascinated with a religious city that pretends to be the bride of Christ. All religions of the world have come together under her banner. The world is intoxicated with Satan’s religious system. They adore it.

Write, “The leaders of the world join the religious system.” to the right of the phrase “with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality.”



b. Those who dwell on earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality.

1) “**Those who dwell on earth**” are those who do not believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and are “comfortably settled down” in the devil’s world.

2) **Made drunk.**” Unbelievers in the Tribulation are dizzy with the excitement offered by false worship. Most of the world eagerly joins the same religious system. The citizens of the world are completely fascinated with religion and ritual. Their lives revolve around evil activities that result in blasphemous, idolatrous, religious frenzy.

(JEREMIAH 51:7)

3) The ancient Babylonian religious system (Satan’s counterfeit worship) begun in the Garden of Eden. That same religion has never ceased to exist and has invaded the true church in the Church Age. It is with us, today. It crept in reflecting Satan’s deceptive nature. Satan promotes worship of anything other than God and incorporates ritual and idolatry designed to distract people from the simplicity of the gospel and the truth of the Spiritual Life as it rests in Jesus Christ.

4) Satan’s system of worship comes to full stature in the Tribulation. The Tribulation is the most religious period in human history.

(GENESIS 10:10; 11:9; ISAIAH 13:19-20; JEREMIAH 50-51)

5) The city the harlot represents is one of the most evil cities ever to exist. **CHAPTER 17** describes this city. **CHAPTER 18** describes



commercial Babylon.

THE LEADERS OF THE WORLD AND THEIR GOD REJECTING PEOPLE ARE COMPLETELY WRAPPED UP IN THIS CITY AND HER RELIGIOUS SYSTEM. THEY ADORE HER AND ARE PRACTICING SPIRITUAL IDOLATRY AND IMMORALITY WITH HER.

6) It is difficult to imagine (even an organization this corrupt) distorting God's perfect plan of salvation in such a horrible way, until you remember that the harlot is a pretender, Satan's counterfeit, a copy of the true Church, deliberately designed to deceive and defraud.

5. SITTING ON THE SCARLET BEAST

REVELATION 17:3-5 And he (*the angel*) carried me (*John*) away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality. And upon her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."



a. Sitting.

The word "sitting" or "riding" symbolizes control. Since the harlot pictures the blasphemous, bloody city which is the religious center of the world, the word "riding" tells us an evil city controls multitudes of people (Check REVELATION 17:18).



Write, "Controlling, guiding and influencing" in the space next to the word "sitting" on the Review Page.

b. Scarlet Beast.

1) The color scarlet speaks of sin.

ISAIAH 1:18b Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow.



2) The word used in REVELATION 17:3 for "beast" refers to a wild thing. It is not a sweet living creature like the four living creatures in

heaven in Chapter 4, but a ruthless beast with all accompanying wickedness.

On review Page write, “A ferocious creature full of bloodshed, death and sin” in the space next to the scarlet beast. Since the harlot is the city controlling the religious system, it becomes clear that her mode of control is evil.



c. The beast has seven heads and ten horns.

1) In Scripture, seven means full and complete. Head symbolizes authority. Seven heads tell us the authority of this beast is complete: it encompasses the whole world.

It is interesting to note that, because the city of Rome was built on seven hills, the title “seven hills” is often used for the Roman Empire.



2) The number ten speaks of responsibility. Horns picture power.

THE SCARLET BEAST WITH SEVEN HEADS AND TEN HORNS
SYMBOLIZES THE ALL-ENCOMPASSING POWER AND
RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TEN NATIONS
IN THE REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE AND THE WORLD.

3) The ferocious beast pictures both the Revived Roman Empire and its Dictator. For a time religion seems to have authority over both Antichrist and his empire. Antichrist uses religion to achieve his goal of ruling the world, then turns on the religious system (the scarlet beast) and the city which controls her (the harlot) when he is through with her.

Suggest students write, “The Revived Roman Empire and its Dictator; Antichrist” in the space next to the phrase “seven heads and ten horns.”



d. Her clothing.

The woman’s clothing is described as: purple, scarlet colored, adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls. It teaches this religious , commercial and political system is important in the eyes of the world. It is extremely wealthy in worldly goods and its attractiveness is dazzling to those settled down and comfortable in Satan’s world. Purple, scarlet, gold , precious stones and pearls are the colors and possessions of people of great wealth. This city is wrapped in the garb of worldly, prosperity and notoriety. She is impressive to say the least.



Tell students to write “The religious headquarters city is influential and wealthy beyond imagination” next to “the woman’s clothing.”

e. The cup she is drinking.

1) The Harlot “drinks and keeps on drinking” from a golden cup, filled to the brim with unbelievable abominations. Ritual and immoral worship service is pictured here. **Religion is often intoxicating, but never fully satisfying.**

2) When one’s thirst is never quenched, one continues to drink. Religion never satisfies the true longings of the soul. The goblet is beautiful from the outside, but its contents are filthy, poisonous and deadly.



Display the goblet symbol. “Continuous immoral ritual and abominable acts because they never satisfy” should be written next to “the cup she is drinking.”

g. The name on her forehead.

1) The woman’s name (plastered on her forehead with arrogant pride) is “Babylon, the great, the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth”.

2) The harlot is branded. The city of the harlot church wears her shameful title on her forehead (it is a popular fad at this time) bragging about housing this evil religious system. The brand on the thinking part of her anatomy symbolizes her “thinking” is spiritually warped and twisted. It further tells us she does not hide her character, but flaunts it pompously. The world knows her and does not care. The world willingly gets drunk with her, knowing exactly what she is.

3) True believers proudly bear the name of Jesus Christ upon the forehead, which really means wise believers “think” about Jesus Christ and have His thinking in their minds (**I CORINTHIANS 2:16**). Satan’s followers proudly wear Satan’s mark. And think about him...as does the harlot.



On the Review Page, write “arrogant evil religious thinking” in the space next to the “name on her forehead.”



REVELATION 17:6, 7 And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. And when I saw her I wondered greatly. And the angel said to me, “Why do you wonder? I shall tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.”

In VERSE 7, the angel promises to explain more, then proceeds to add to our knowledge in the last eleven VERSES of CHAPTER 17. As usual, we count on the Bible to tell the truth. The angel's testimony is in verses 8-10. Use Daniel's Image Chart to help explain these verses.



REVELATION 17:8-10 The beast that you saw was and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. (*description of the Roman Empire and its Dictator*) And those who dwell on the earth will wonder, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come. Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits (*Rome*), and they are seven kings, five have fallen (*are under Antichrist's rule*), one is (*Roman Empire of John's time*), the other has not yet come; (*Revised Roman Empire and Antichrist*) when he comes (*Antichrist*), he must remain a little while.



4) The angel confirms the Revived, Revised Roman Empire will dominate the world during Antichrist's reign. The angel confirms the woman riding the beast is the city dominating the religious system (for a time). Unbelievers are impressed with the system. Seven heads and mountains represent the Roman Empire, over which seven kings rule.

REVELATION 17:11-14 And the beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth, and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction. And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. These have one purpose and they give their power and authority to the beast. (DANIEL 7:8) These will wage war against the Lamb and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings (*and the smiting stone*), and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful (*true believers*).



5) The Revived Roman Empire is a ten nation confederation. In cooperation with Antichrist, the leaders of the other nations fight against the Lord Jesus Christ, but Christ and His loyal followers win.

REVELATION 17:15-18 And he said to me, "The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are





peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot (*after they are through using her to accomplish their own purposes*) and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire. For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God should be fulfilled. And the woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.

6) The nations of the world and their commercial systems, prompted by Antichrist, turn against the religious system with bitter hatred and totally destroy it. God uses the nations of the world to accomplish His purpose of judging the evil, counterfeit system of worship represented by the harlot and the beast she rides.



7) **Additional Memory Verse:** Since **EPHESIANS 6:10-12**, from previous session, is longer and more involved than usual, it could use extra attention, if time permits. Paraphrase and visuals are in previous lesson.

7. CLASS ACTIVITY

ANSWER OUR FAVORITE QUESTIONS.

WHO?

QUESTION: Who is symbolized by Babylon in Chapters 17 through 19 of the book of Revelation? What sort of people does the great Harlot represent?

Babylon pictures the character of the ruling city where arrogant, selfish, Christ rejecting creatures drunk with the pleasures of Satan's religious realm, cavort, practice their wickedness and spread their influence.

People are saturated with the character of Satan's world and drunk with power and excitement. They enjoy soaking up the pleasures of this powerful, religious, commercial and political city fashioned by men. Babylon was a city in Biblical times. (GENESIS 11:1-9) Babylon is a city in existence today. It has always been located in the same place: in the nation of Iraq, but Babylon of old symbolizes the character of Satan's far reaching influence

*in the Tribulation something more than a literal city.
The citizens are unlike Abraham. He looked for a city fashioned by
God.*

**HEBREWS 11:10 ...for he was looking for the
city which has foundations, whose architect and
builder is God.**

ANSWER: The citizens of the evil city and the people of the world
involved in the activities of the religious system.

WHERE?

QUESTION: Where is the symbolic city located?

*Definitely on earth. Possibly the literal city of Rome or Babylon is in mind.
Whether symbolic or literal the spirit of Babylon is still competing with the
spirit of Jerusalem. One is God's city and one is Satan's city. The two cities
picture the conflict between good and evil.*

ANSWER: The city is located on earth, perhaps Rome or Babylon.

WHAT?

QUESTION: What does Chapter 17 describe? Chapter 17 pictures the
false religious system of the Tribulation.

*It is the center and directing authority of world religion. Religion
dominates the Revived Roman Empire. It is full of the occult, full of
humanism and lots of new age thinking.*

ANSWER: The powerful, evil religious system of the world.

WHEN?

Consult the chart of the judgments of the Tribulation.

*Compare REVELATION 15:1; REVELATION 16:1;
REVELATION 17:1 Descriptions of the end of the Tribulation. The
judgment is complete. An angel from heaven announces the
accomplishment. (REVELATION 18:1) In REVELATION 19:1
when the judgments are finished the report returns to the heavenly
scene again.*

QUESTION: When do these events occur?

*Seals, Trumpets and Goblets record judgments on earth during the
Tribulation. All three judgments with the exception of the first*

horseman, seem to occur during the Great Tribulation. Notice how they overlap and often describe the same events. This fits with the view that the three sets of judgments are three different viewpoints of the same judgments.

ANSWER: The judgments occur for the most part during the Great Tribulation (the last three and a half years of the Tribulation) with the exception of the first seal (which occurs during the first three and a half years.)

WHY?

QUESTION: Why are these events happening at this particular time?

First, the Tribulation is a Jewish Age and Israel is receiving judgment for her attitude of rebellion against God. Second, those comfortable in Satan's world are also under judgment. God is purifying His creation in preparation for the return of the King.

ANSWER: God's wrath is poured out on God rejecters to prepare the way for the King and to get unbelievers attention and afford them one more opportunity to turn to Him and be saved. But they will not.

WHAT FOR?

QUESTION: What is God's purpose in judging God rejecters?

God is purifying His creation: preparing it for the perfection of the reign of His Son during the Millennium and for eternity future.

ANSWER: To purify His creatures and His creation.

BY THE END OF THE MILLENNIUM, HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE TOTALLY PURIFIED AND READY TO RETURN TO ETERNITY WITH GOD'S PURPOSES ACCOMPLISHED: GOD HAS BEEN GLORIFIED AND SOME OF HIS CREATURES HAVE CHOSEN TO LOVE HIM.

AT THIS POINT IN OUR STUDY, AT THE END OF THE TRIBULATION, RIGHT BEFORE THE MILLENNIUM, THE POINT IS...

THE KING IS COMING!

Even so, come Lord Jesus.



8. SONG: *"Look at This World", words and music in Student*

Songbook. or "The King is Coming", or "Coming Again", Great Hymns of the Faith,

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, We thank You for the assurance that The King is coming back and there will be perfect justice, perfect government and peace on earth, at last. Creation longs for this triumphant achievement. Because of Your grace, the doubt and turmoil in the souls of Your children can be removed. We can count on Your Word and trust in Your promises and have peace in our souls even while we live in the Devil's world. Thank You for this study. Thank You for Your faithfulness.

In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

