

CHAPTERS 17 & 18:

In Chapters 17 & 18 God provides 'us' with a more detailed discussion about the two sides of what the Bible calls Babylon (during the seven year tribulation period): **Chapter 17 Primarily Focusing on** → **'The Spiritual or Religious Side'** & **Chapter 18 Primarily Focusing on** → **'The Economic or Governmental Side'** → and the judgment of each.

NOTE → **Chapters 17 & 18 should be considered an interlude & judgments chapter. My view of them containing both interlude & judgment characteristics will be obvious when you read and study each.**

Chapter 17 speaks more about **'Spiritual or Religious' Babylon** → **defined as: 'The Woman'**, whereas,

Chapter 18 speaks more about the **'Economic or Governmental' Babylon** → **defined as: 'The City'**.

However, both chapter 17 & 18 will speak to both of these two sides of what the Bible calls → Babylon; because they are so interwoven during the 'Seven Year Tribulation Period'. I really like the way Clarence Larkin opens his words on the 17th & 18th Chapters of Revelation:

"The seventeenth chapter speaks of a "Woman" and this "Woman" is called, "Mystery, Babylon the Great, The Mother of Harlots And Abomination of the Earth." The eighteenth chapter speaks of a "City", a literal city, called "Babylon the Great". That the "Woman" and the "City" do not symbolize the same thing is clear, for what is said of the "Woman" does not apply to a city, and what is said of a "City" does not apply to a woman. The "Woman" is destroyed by the "Ten Kings", while the "Kings of the Earth" in the next chapter, "bewail & lament" the destruction of the "City", which is not destroyed by them, but by a mighty earthquake and fire. Again, the "Woman" is destroyed "Three and a Half Years BEFORE THE CITY"; and the fact that the first verse of chapter eighteen says--

“after these things”, that is after the destruction of the “Woman”, what happens to the “City” occurs, shows that the “Woman” and the “City” are not one and the same.”

Note: I pretty much agree with everything Clarence Larkin said, accept there could be some question as to the timing of the destruction of → **‘Babylon—the Woman’**.

Throughout the history of the church many Christian leaders have presented their views of how these two chapters should be interpreted. Some have been very dogmatic about their interpretation and some not as strongly opinionated. In our effort to interpret these two chapters I believe we:

First→ Need to keep an open mind.

Second→ Always be aware that the Book of Revelation was written with a great deal of symbolism.

Third→ Keep in mind that the descriptions within this book were written so that it would transcend time.

Fourth→ And most important→ Always accept the words ‘As Written’ if the rest of the surrounding words being written in the specific section do not indicate some type of ‘symbolism’. Symbolism could be indicated by the word → ‘LIKE’ – if something is ‘LIKE’ something else, it is ‘symbolism’.

As I have said before many of the **‘items or events described’** in the Book of Revelation **had not been invented or created during much of the last 2,100 years so people would not have been able to correctly understand the actual item being described or discussed.** However, God through John’s words wrote the Book of Revelation in such a way that the overall meaning would still be the same regardless of what time period you lived in→ **Only the God of Creation could do this.**

Again, always keep in mind two things when trying to interpret the Book of Revelation:

One→ Some of the specific descriptions or events written within the Book of Revelation cannot & will not be made known to the people of the earth until the seven year period known as the 'Tribulation Period' has begun.

A good example would be→ the identity of the antichrist will not be made known to the world until the Rapture of the church and the Holy Spirit changing its primary function as protector of the Church of Jesus Christ; 2 Thess. 3-9, quoted; 6-7, "Now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one holding it back will continue to do so till it is taken out of the way."

Another would be the actual countries involved in the '**Revived Roman Empire**' as described in Daniel, Chapters 2 & 9. Therefore, some things will not be made known until they actually happen!

Two→ Some of the specific prophecies about events that will take place during the '**Seven Year Tribulation Period**' have been '**sealed up or hidden**' from men living during the pre-tribulation period and even possibly during some of the '**Seven Year Tribulation Period**' itself. We know this because the Book of Daniel makes this very clear in at least three places→ Dan. 12:9, "He replied, 'Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end.'" & Dan. 12:4, "But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end.'" & Dan. 8:26, "The vision of the evening and morning that has been given to you is true, but seal up the vision, for it concerns the distant future." Remember in Rev. 5:1 we see the Lamb, Jesus Christ, opening the '**Seven Seal Scroll**', which many scholars believe is one or all of the '**sealed up words in Daniel**', "Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals." As a matter of fact we see Gods word being '**sealed up**' even during the first half of the seven year tribulation period, Rev. 10:4, "And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, 'Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down.'" However, after all of the events, which were prophesied in the Holy Bible, have come to pass exactly as they were prophesied; and time is no more and the '**Final Creation**' has taken place nothing

will be hidden or sealed up from Gods saints; Rev. 22:10, “Then he told me, ‘Do not seal up the words of this prophecy of this book, because the time is near’.”

These same concepts are seen in Isa. 29:11 & Dan. 9:24.

J. Vernon McGee, in his commentary on Revelation list what he believes are the ‘Key’ question as it relates to a correct understanding of these two chapters, 17 & 18, which are as follows:

One→ “Are there two Babylon’s, and are they in two different geographical locations?”

Two→ “Are they representative of two systems?”

Three→ “Are they two literal cities, or are they the same?”

I also think J. Vernon McGee summarizes the ‘core meaning’ of these two chapters very well, which is as follows:

“Ecclesiastical Babylon is destroyed by the ‘wild beast’.”

“Commercial Babylon is destroyed by the return of Jesus Christ.” Not sure about the exact timing of this assumption: may be questionable?

“Ecclesiastical Babylon is hated by the beast.”

“Ecclesiastical Babylon is destroyed at the beginning of the last three and one half years of the Great Tribulation.” Again, not sure about the exact timing of this assumption: may be questionable?

Commercial Babylon is destroyed at the end of the last three and one half years of the Great Tribulation—that is, the very end. Zechariah 5:5-11, also has something interesting to say in this connection.” Again, this may be not exactly at the very end but close to the end of the ‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’.

There are other scholars, like Clarence Larkin, who believe Chapter 17 begins what they believe to be the last ‘Seven Dooms’, which ends with Chapter 20: 10 within the Book of Revelation. I will list below what he believes to be the last seven dooms:

ONE→ [“The Doom of Ecclesiastical Babylon”, Rev. 17: 1-18](#)

TWO→ [“The Doom of Commercial Babylon”, Rev. 18: 1-24](#)

[Three interval events take place between the second & third doom:](#)

- [Rev. 19: 1-7→ The Hallelujah Chorus,](#)
- [The Marriage of the Lamb, Rev. 19:8-10,](#)
- [The Battle of Armageddon, Rev. 19: 11-19](#)

THREE→ [“The Doom of the Beast & the False Prophet”, Rev. 19:20](#)

FOUR→ [“The Doom of the antichrist nations”, Rev. 19:21](#)

[Four interval events take place between the fourth & fifth doom:](#)

- [Satan bound for 1,000 years, Rev. 20: -3,](#)
- [The First Resurrection, Rev. 20: 4-6,](#)
- [The Millennium, Rev. 20: 4,](#)
- [Satan is tuned loose after the 1,000 year Reign of Jesus Christ, Rev. 20:7-8,](#)

FIFTH→ [“Doom of Gog & Magog”, Rev. 20: 7-9,](#)

SIXTH→ [“Doom of Satan”, Rev. 20: 10,](#)

SEVENTH → [“The Doom of the Wicked Dead→ The Great White Throne Judgment”, Rev. 20: 11-15](#)

I think it is worth noting that all of the events that these scholars presented will actually happen and → there are actually seven events (surprise) and → they are actually the last seven things to happen before the –New Jerusalem, Heaven and Earth, however, I am not sure this is anything more than a list of ‘Events’ and not sure what it means if anything?

CHAPTER 17:

Now we will begin our more detail study of Revelation Chapter 17, which primarily covers the → **'Spiritual or Religious Side of Babylon → The Woman'**. My NIV Bible calls chapter 17 → **'The Woman on the Beast'**.

NOTE → **Again, Chapter 17 should be considered both an interlude and judgment chapter.**

Before we begin I will warn you that there are a variety of 'Characters' discussed in Chapter 17 and they are not always called by the same name. Therefore, even though it may appear a little redundant I will try to provide you with a 'key' to the different descriptions for the same person or group. Hopefully we can use this 'key' as we move through the 18 verse of chapter 17.

ONE → The **Angel** showing John this portion of his vision → Verses 1, 3, 7, 15

- 1) Verse 1a, "One of the seven **angels** who had the seven bowls..."
- 2) Verse 3a, "Then the **angel** carried me away in the spirit..."
- 3) Verse 7a, "Then the **angel** said to me..."
- 4) Verse 7b, "**I** will explain..."
- 5) Verse 15a, "Then the **angel** said to me..."

TWO → **John** the actual **'Writer of the Book of Revelation'** → Verses 1, 3, 6, 7, 12, 15, 16, 17

- 1) Verse 1a, "...said to **me**..."
- 2) Verse 3a, "...angel carried **me**..."
- 3) Verse 6a, "**I** saw that the woman..."
- 4) Verse 6b, "**When I saw** her, **I was greatly** astonished."
- 5) Verse 7a, "...said to **me**: 'Why are **you**...'"
- 6) Verse 7b, "...to **you**..."
- 7) Verse 12, "The ten horns **you (John) saw**..."
- 8) Verse 15a, "Then the angel said to **me**..."
- 9) Verse 15a, "...**you** saw..."
- 10) Verse 16a, "...**you** saw..."

11) Verse 17a, "**...you saw...**"

THREE→ This begins the description of **'The Woman'**, which depicts→ **'The Spiritual or Religious'** side of Babylon, which will be led by the **'False Prophet'**→

Verses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 15, 16, 18

- 1) Verse 1b, "**...the great prostitute...**"
- 2) Verse 2a, "**With her...**"
- 3) Verse 2b, "**...her adulteries.**"
- 4) Verse 3b, "**...a woman sitting on...**"
- 5) Verse 4a, "**The woman...**"
- 6) Verse 4b, "**She...**"
- 7) Verse 4c, "**...her adulteries...**"
- 8) Verse 5a, "**...her forehead...**"
- 9) Verse 5b, "**Mystery, Babylon the Great, The Mother Of Prostitutes, And of The Abominations of The Earth...**"
- 10) Verse 6a, "**...the woman...**"
- 11) Verse 6b, "**...saw her...**"
- 12) Verse 7b, "**...mystery of the woman and the beast she rides...**"
- 13) Verse 9b, "**...on which the woman sits.**"
- 14) Verse 15b, "**...where the prostitute sits...**"
- 15) Verse 16a, "**...the prostitute.**"
- 16) Verse 16b, "**...bring her to ruin and leave her naked...**"
- 17) Verse 16b, "**...will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.**"
- 18) Verse 18a, "**The woman...**"

FOUR→ This begins one of the descriptions of the **'unsaved people'** of the earth→ Verses 1, 2, 8, 15

- 1) Verse 1b, "**...who sits on many waters.**"
- 2) Verse 2a, "**...the inhabitants of the earth...**"
- 3) Verse 8b, "**The inhabitants of the earth...**"
- 4) Verse 8c, "**...when they...**"
- 5) Verse 15a, "**The waters...**"
- 6) Verse 15b, "**...are people, multitudes, nations and languages.**"

FIVE→ This begins the description of **'all the leaders of the many nations of the entire earth'**, Verses 2, 18

- 1) Verse 2a, "...the **kings of the earth...**"
- 2) Verse 18b, "...the **kings of the earth'**."

SIX→ This begins the description of the **'Governmental or Economic'** side of Babylon led by the **'antichrist'**, Verses 3, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17

- 1) Verse 3a, "...a scarlet **beast...**"
- 2) Verse 7b, "...the **beast** she rides..."
- 3) Verse 8a, "The **beast...**"
- 4) Verse 8b, "...and go to **his** destruction."
- 5) Verse 8c, "...see the **beast...**"
- 6) Verse 11a, "The **beast** who once was..."
- 7) Verse 11b, "...is **the eighth king.**"
- 8) Verse 11d, "**He** belongs to the seven..."
- 9) Verse 12b, "...along with the **beast.**"
- 10) Verse 13b, "...to the **beast.**"
- 11) Verse 14a, "**They...**" In this case they word "**They...**" indicates the **'ten or seven kings and the antichrist or beast'**.
- 12) Verse 16a, "The **beast...**"
- 13) Verse 16b, "**They...**" In this case the word "**They...**" again indicated the **'ten or seven kings and the antichrist or beast'**.
- 14) Verse 17a, "...**their hearts...**" Again, in this case the word "...**their...**" indicates the **'ten or seven kings and the antichrist or beast'**.
- 15) Verse 17b, "...**beast...**"
- 16) Verse 17b, "...**their power...**" Again, the word "...**their...**" indicates the **'ten or seven kings and the antichrist or beast'**.

SEVEN→ This is the first mention of **'saved people who had been martyred during the seven year tribulation period'**, Verse 6,

- 1) Verses 6a, "...with the **blood of the saints,** → **the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus.**"

EIGHT→ This is thought to be the 'Primary City of the Woman', Verses 9, 18

- 1) Verse 9b, "The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits."
- 2) Verse 18a, "The great city..." I think this is speaking about both the 'specific city where the apostate church resides' and 'the apostate spiritual system of the false prophet'.

NINE→ This is thought to be a description of the 'Revived Roman Empire' → , (speaks about either specific kings or the entire system) Verses 9, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17. NOTE: You will notice that number 6 above & 9 are somewhat interwoven

- 1) Verse 9c, "They are also seven kings."
- 2) Verse 12a, "The ten horns you saw are ten kings..."
- 3) Verse 12b, "...authority as kings..."
- 4) Verse 13a, "They have one purpose and will give their..."
- 5) Verse 14a, "They..." In this case the word "They..." indicates the 'ten or seven kings and the antichrist or beast'.
- 6) Verse 16a, "...the ten horns..."
- 7) Verse 16b, "They..." In this case the word "They..." again indicates the 'ten or seven kings and the antichrist or beast'.
- 8) Verse 17b, "...their hearts..." Again, in this case the word "...their..." indicates the 'ten or seven kings and the antichrist or beast'.
- 9) Verse 17b, "...their power..." Again the word "...their..." indicates the 'ten or seven kings and the antichrist or beast.'

TEN→ This is a description of 'Jesus Christ', Verse 14

- 1) Verse 14a, "They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is the Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his..."

ELEVEN→ This is speaking about a specific group of people: the Raptured Church & the people saved & martyred during seven year tribulation period, Verse 14

- 1) Verse 14b, "...called, chosen and faithful followers."

TWELVE→ This is speaking about **'God the Father'**, Verse 17

- 1) Verse 17a, "For **God**..."
- 2) Verse 17a, "...to accomplish **his** purpose..."
- 3) Verse 17b, "...until **Gods words** are fulfilled."

Now that we have developed what I call a **'reference key'** to assist our study of Chapter 17 we can begin a more detailed verse by verse study of this chapter.

Before we begin I would like to reemphasize that Revelation Chapter 17 is primarily focused on: **Defining the 'Religious/Spiritual' Side of Babylon and From Whom It Gets Its Power and Their Ever Evolving Relationship' → antichrist.**

CHAPTER 17:

Verses 1 & 2:

We will analyze verse 1 & 2 together as they both speak to one, scene in John's vision or one thought process.

Verse (1) **"One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls → came to me and said, → 'Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, → who sits on many waters. (2)→ With her the kings of the earth committed adultery → and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries'."**

I will break these two verses down into their basic components to make it easier to understand, as follows:

PART 1) **"One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls..."** I do not think there can be any question who this angel is→ It is one of the **'seven angels'** involved in chapter 16, Rev. 16:1, **"Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, 'Go pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the earth'."**

PART 2) “...came to me and said...” One of the ‘seven angels that poured out the seven bowls of God’s wrath’ in chapter 16, now comes to John and makes an additional statement to John.

PART 3) In the next part of this verse the ‘angel’ tells John what he is going to show John; “...Come, I will show you → the punishment of the great prostitute...” I do not think there can be any question about what John is going to see, which is → “...the punishment of the great prostitute...”

PART 4) The last part of verse 1 provides the reader with a description of who “...the great prostitute...” rules over or has influence over and → who she committed these sins with! “...who sits on many waters?” Meaning the “...great prostitute...sits on...” or ‘rules over’ → “...many waters.” And the meaning of “...many waters.” is provided in verse 15 of this chapter, “Then the angel said to me, ‘The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages’.” Therefore, the meaning is simple → ‘The great prostitute’ rules over the entire earth; every person and nation. This was made clear in Revelation, Chapters 12 & 13. NOTE: the following sequencing of events:

Event One → Dan. 9:27, The antichrist comes to power at the beginning of Daniel’s 70th week and Satan provides him with his power, Rev. 13:2b. “The dragon gave the beast his power & authority.”

Event Two → Rev.12:7-17, Satan is kicked out of heaven at the mid-point of the seven year tribulation period. At this point in time God the Father has provided Satan with absolute power to rule the entire earth for the last three and one half years of the seven year tribulation period, through the antichrist.

Event Three → Rev. 13: 12a, at the beginning of the ‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’ the antichrist empowers the ‘False Prophet’ with all of his power, “He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast...”

Event Four → What Type of Power and Authority → World Wide Power & Authority → Rev. 13: 15a, POWER → “He was given power...” AUTHORITY → “He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to

receive the mark on his right hand or his forehead, so no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark ...”

Verse 2:

“With her the kings of the earth committed adultery → and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adultery.”

Verse 2 provides the reader with additional information and details about the ‘Relationship’ that existed between both the governments and people in general of the world and also the “...great prostitute...” meaning ‘One World Religion’.

PART 1) “With her the kings of the earth committed adultery...” I think the simplest way to explain this statement is → During this period there will be an ‘unholy alliance’ between → Religion & Government, with ‘Religion’ being headed up by the ‘false prophet’ & ‘Government’ being headed up by the ‘antichrist’. Remember this process was first attempted by Satan at the ‘Tower of Babel’. I think the Tower of Babel should be known as Satan’s first attempt at two, ‘Anti-God Movements’: ONE → A One World Governments and Two → A One World Religion (to include all false religions).

NOTE 1:

The ‘HUMAN CONCEPT’ (meaning human desire to have) of an ‘interwoven relationship’ between: Government → Religion → Human gods → and a One World Human Empire have existed since the ‘Tower of Babel’. This concept has existed throughout most of the world’s recorded history and surfaced in many World Empires → Egypt’s — Pharaoh’s, Assyria, Babylon — Nebuchadnezzar, Roman — Cesar’s.

This same ‘interwoven concept’ currently exists in many major religions: Holy Roman Church, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Socialism, Communism, and Humanism. These world religions have since their beginning tried to develop a system that combined → Government → Religion → Human Men either declaring themselves to be a god or speaking for God.

Last, there are many smaller sub-sets of this concept spread all over the world, just waiting to surface and spread the 'spirit of the antichrist'.

NOTE 2:

Remember in his seven letters to the church in Revelation Chapters 2 & 3, Jesus Christ warned the church about these very concepts. In his letters Jesus Christ called it, Rev. 2:6b, **"You hate the practice of the Nicolaitans which I also hate."** And again in Rev. 2:15b, **"...the teaching of the Nicolaitans..."** (The Doctrine of the Nicolaitans = The church had committed illicit unification of the church and state which constituted fornication. Remember the church is the bride of Jesus Christ, therefore, cannot be the bride of another, like the state/government.) Jesus Christ again condemns the **"...teachings of the Balaamism..."** → The second of these concepts that Jesus Christ also condemns is that of **'Balaam' or 'Balaamism'**, Rev. 2:14, **"Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teachings of Balaam..."** (Balaamism = Idolatry & sexual immorality entering the church through acceptance of pagan doctrines) Remember the ultimate outcome of these two unbiblical & un-Godly practices within the church of Jesus Christ was what he created the, **'The Holy Roman Church'**. Satan's effort to transition the **'Church of Jesus Christ'** to the **'Church of Satan'** has been in the works for over 2,000 years. I will list the chronology of his effort:

1) Zero-70 AD → The Bible tells us in many places that **'false teachers'** will creep into the church and try to destroy the **'sound doctrine'** of the **'teaching of Jesus Christ'**, Matt. 7:15-23. And the **'spirit of the antichrist'** is already in to world, 1 John 2:18. They are also called **'wolves in sheep's clothing'**.

2) 70-170 AD → **The Church in Ephesus: Known for → Lost its first love but Solid Doctrine** and hated the practice of the Nicolaitans/wicked men/false teachers.

3) 170-312 AD → **The Church in Smyrna: Known as Persecuted Church; Constantly under attack by, "...synagogue of Satan..."** Based on the churches future time line Satan appears to have made major inroads into the doctrine of the church during this period. For results see church at Pergamum.

4) 312-606 AD → The Church in Pergamum: Known as the ‘sexually immoral church’; during this church period many ‘false doctrines’ became part of the Christian Church. Three primary events happened during this period that would ‘destroy many’ of the church original doctrines of Jesus Christ:

ONE: Roman Emperor Constantine de-criminalized Christianity in 310 AD and by about 325-330 AD Christianity had become the official state religion: Outcome → during this process many pagan doctrines and rituals were incorporated into Christianity, to make it more acceptable to ‘the many’. Sounds like today!

TWO: The Council of Nicea was held in 325 AD: Outcome → the clergy now comes between laity and God;

THREE: In 606 AD the first Pope was crowned/ordained → [\(606 AD Sabinian, the bishop of Rome dies and is replaced by Boniface III. Phocas writes to the new bishop of Rome, Boniface III and through imperial decree of the Roman government proclaims Boniface III, as the ‘Head of all the Churches’ & ‘Universal Bishop’. Phocas transfers the title from Constantinople to Rome > Boniface III, Bishop of Rome, title: ‘universal Bishop’; Catholicism is formally born in its final evolved form ...”\)](#)

5) 606 -1,517 AD → The Church of Thyatira: Known as the ‘Papal Church’; this church was known for a religious belief emphasizing the power of the priest as an essential mediator between God and men. Satan had been trying to separate God from men since the → (Birth, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the church in Ephesus), remember, ‘The Doctrine of the Nicolaitans & Balaamism’. He-Satan had now accomplished his mission → The Church of Jesus Christ had now become so mixed in its doctrines that it could be viewed as either **‘The Church of Jesus Christ or The Church of Satan’. These were truly sad days for creation & humanity!**

6) 1,517-1,750/1,800 AD → The Church of Sardis: Known as the Reformed or Protestant Church; On Oct. 31, 1,517 AD Martin Luther nailed his ‘95 theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg. Martin Luther’s primary complaint with the church was its acceptance of the practice of what was known as

'indulgences' and that the 'Bible was the only source of divine revelation from God and not the Pope'. As I have said many times before; there is no question in my mind that → God sent the Holy Spirit to the world during this period to touch the hearts of men who would listen and a 'Great Revival' was started that would carry the world into the 'End-Times'. However, keep in mind that both God and Satan made many moves or adjustments during this 'church period' to try and counter the others moves. God was always one step ahead of Satan but Satan did: and is doing his best to 'destroy Gods Church' during this and all periods. I will list what I believe to be the key steps taken by both Satan & God during this period;

Satan's Actions→ When God sent the Holy Spirit into the world to touch the hearts of men, who would listen and begin what became known as the 'Protestant Reformation', Satan also sent 'evil spirits' into the world to 'attack the intentions of their hearts'. The outcome of this was many of the newly created protestant domination's quickly returned to many of the very evil practices of the Papal Church and fell away from the sound doctrines taught by Jesus Christ.

God's Actions→ God made adjustments to history to counter Satan's moves but I think these three were the most effective in stopping Satan's efforts, they are as follows:

- 1) Discovery of the 'printing press' in 1,450-1,500 AD**
- 2) Martin Luther's 95 theses in 1,517 AD**
- 3) Opening the door to America for the Pilgrims in 1,621 AD**

The results of these three moves by God was → that the 'Reformed Church' grew & flourished in America, which lead to the 'Church in Philadelphia' better known as the 'revival or evangelism church'. A secondary results of these events is that today Europe is only about 2-3% Christian and dropping.

7) 1,750/1,800 -1,900/1,960 AD→ The Church of Philadelphia; **Known as the Revival/Evangelism Church. During this period the gospel of Jesus Christ was preached over most of the known and unknown world.** I believe this process

will be completed by the, Rev. 14:6, “...angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth...”

8) 1,900/1,950 → To end of the church age → The Church of Laodicea; Known as the ‘lukewarm Church’. Most scholars believe that this church will become the corner stone of the ‘global church’ lead by the ‘false prophet’.

The reason I took the time to again outline the church age was to demonstrate to you how God is always in control: What Satan started at the **Tower of Babel** moved through most if not all of the major world empires & religions → **Including Christianity.** It will come to a **CONCLUSION/END** at what we call the **Battle of Armageddon,** Rev. 19:11-21 & again in Rev. 20:7-10.

The other way to state this is **‘What started at the Tower of Babel’** will end with the following actions by the people of the earth, “With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.” **THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON—and Rev. 20:7-10**

I like to look at this in terms of → **What God starts God finishes!**

PART 2) “...and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.” The meaning of this portion can best be explained as follows: Remember the church will have been raptured at the beginning of this seven year tribulation period and the remaining people of the world ‘will be hungry for every kind of sin known to humanity (and they will invent some new ones—Romans 1:30b, “...they invented ways of doing evil...” There will be nothing holding Satan & his demons back from invading every soul on the earth, because the church and Holy Spirit will have been removed, (see 2 Thess. 2: 7). NOTE: However, keep in mind that there will be many people saved during this period: the Bible is not specific about how this process works, but it is my opinion it will involve a combination of → man’s freewill and The Holy Spirit’.

Now I will list the steps of this process; as follows:

Step One → The Church & Holy Spirit are removed from earth—the RAPTURE

Step Two → The “...inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated...” the people of the earth become so sinful & depraved that they appear to be “...intoxicated...” with sin & depravity. I believe the words of Romans 1:18-32 provide us with at least a basic understanding of how the people of the earth will react to the removal of the Church of Jesus Christ & the Holy Spirit. Also, I think this process will go from zero to wide open in a very short period of time: like overnight!

Step Three → The “...great prostitute...” will actually promote this type of sinful depravity through the ‘Global Religious Order’ or Global Church’ → “...with the wine of her adulteries.” It appears to me that God inserted the word “...intoxicated...” above and now “...wine...” to indicate to the reader that many/most of the people of the world during this period will ‘have lost control of their actions’. Romans 1:21 tells us that there comes a point in time when men become so depraved that God will, “Therefore, God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts...” Also, 2 Thess. 2:11, “For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.”

Verses 3-5:

Again, we will analyze verses 3-5 together as they all speak to one scene or one thought process in John’s vision.

Verses: (3) “Then the angels carrier me away in the Spirit → into a desert. → There I saw a woman → sitting on a scarlet beast → that was covered with blasphemous names and → had seven heads and ten horns. (4) The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, → and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. → She held a golden cup in her hand, → filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. (5) → This title was written on her forehead: → ‘MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT → THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND THE ABOMIMANTIONS OF THE EARTH’.

Remember in verses 1-2 John provides the reader with four key pieces of information that will make what he is going to say in verses 3-5 much clearer, which is as follows:

- 1) Identifies the 'angel speaking' → "One of the seven angels..."
- 2) Identifies 'John as the writer' → "...said to me..."
- 3) Identifies the 'subject to be described in the next verses' → "...I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute..."
- 4) Begins to identify the 'relationship between the prostitute' and the 'people/kings of the earth' → "...with her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries." & 'identify her (prostitute) primary sin' → "...adultery..."

Now in verses 3-5 John continues to provide the reader with additional detail about what he has stated in verses 1-2. I will break down verses 3-5 into their basic sub-sets to try and make them easier to understand, which is as follows:

VERSE 3:

"Then the angel carried me away in the spirit → into a desert. → There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast → that was covered with blasphemous names and → had seven heads and ten horns."

PART 1) "Then the angel carried me away in the spirit → in to a desert." To me verse 3a is what I would call a 'transition or travel' verse. Remember John was physically on the Isle of Patmos when he wrote the Book of Revelation, but was able to move back and forth between 'heaven & earth → in the future', therefore, he was able to actually observe and record future events in both heaven and earth. John now describes this 'transition or travel' as; "Then the angel carried me away in the spirit..."

The remainder of verse 3a provides the reader with the location of where the angel carried John while in the spirit, “...into a desert.” Meaning John traveled from heaven to “...a desert.” On earth and the timing is—yet future.

PART 2) “There I saw a woman → sitting on a scarlet beast → that was covered with blasphemous names and → had seven heads and ten horns.”

In verse 3b “There I saw a woman...” John begins the process of providing the reader with specific details about the “...the woman...” (false prophet/one world religion) and “...the scarlet beast...” → (antichrist/one world government) This verse provides us with a basic picture of the world power structure during this period of time: (Government & Religion; with Government enforcing Religion) I will provide additional word that will clarify some of the ‘symbolic words’ used in this verse, that should help clarify their meaning.

1) “There I saw a woman...” Meaning, after the angel carried John away in the spirit, into a desert on earth, John now sees a woman. The ‘woman’ is symbolic for the ‘One World Religion’ led by the ‘False Prophet’. Remember the identity of the “...woman...” is identified for us in verse 18, “The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.”

2) “...sitting on a scarlet beast...” To me the important piece of information within these five words is as follows:

John tells us that the “...woman...” (The Religious side of Babylon led by False Prophet) is drawing or getting his/its ‘power’ from another source and not its own, because it is “...sitting on...” or drawing its power from another → “...a scarlet beast...” or the leader of the Governmental/Economic side of Babylon, led by the antichrist. Rev. 13: 12 makes it very plain where the ‘False Prophet’ is receiving his/its power, “He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf...” This relationship is also spelled out in Rev. 17:18, “The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.”

3) The last portion of verse 3b “...that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns.” begins to describe some of the attributes or characteristics of the “...scarlet beast...” → (Governmental/Economic side of

Babylon, led by the antichrist). I will break this portion of the verse down into its three basic sub-sets, which are as follows:

First Attribute: “...That was covered with blasphemous names...” Meaning, this new ‘World Religion, led by the False Prophet’ will be ‘totally against the God of Creation’. It will be “...covered...” or totally consumed with anything and everything that → **is not of God or against God: “...covered...”** → **NO ROOM FOR ANYTHING OF GOD.**

We also know from this statement that the ‘World Religion, led by the False Prophet’ will constantly speak out against ‘The God of Creation’ “...with blasphemous names...” Everything about this **‘World Religious System’ will be ‘ANTI→ GOD.** If you go back to the end of the → 1) the ‘Seal Judgments’ Rev. 6: 15-17, and → 2) the end of the ‘Trumpet Judgments’, and → 3) Rev. 9: 20-21 & at the death of the ‘Two Witnesses’, and → 4) Rev. 11: 9:10 & at the end of the ‘Bowl Judgments’, and → 5) Rev. 16: 21b; you will see actually how **‘ANTI—GOD’** the world really is at this point in time.

Second Attribute: The last part of this verse, “...and had seven heads and ten horns.” begins to provide the reader with some insight into the “...scarlet beast...” (World Government/Economic side of Babylon): Meaning → the ‘structure of the antichrist empire’. In verses 9-13 John provides us with a much more detail analysis of these words, “...seven head and ten horns...” so I will wait until we get to verse 9-13 before we jump into this subject.

VERSE 4:

“The woman → was dressed in purple and scarlet, → and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. → She held a golden cup in her hand, → filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries.”

In **verse 4** John provides the reader with many of the ‘Personal, Characteristics’ of the “...woman...” → (‘The World Religious System’). **Again, notice the amount of ‘symbolism’ that John is using to paint this picture of the “...woman...”** →

'The World Religious System'. I will go through each sub-set and provide relevant details but the first two things that come to my mind when taking about the **"...woman..."** → 'The World Religious System' is; **1) very rich in worldly things, and; 2) hates anything of God.** I will now break this verse down into its basic subsets, as follows:

PART 1) **"The woman..."** 'The World Religious System'

PART 2) **"...was dressed in purple and scarlet..."** The system was dressed in the colors of → Royalty & Nobility & Extreme Wealth. This **"...woman..."** (World Religious System) had developed her own 'system' of "adultery..." to **such a level of perfection that 'her' wealth and power knew no bounds!** This issue will create a big 'RIFT' between → the 'False Prophet/World Religious System' & the 'antichrist/ World Governments, Economic System' at the mid-point of the Seven Year Tribulation Period. We will discuss this more in the future.

PART 3) **"...and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls."** Part of the 'demeanor or character of a 'Prostitute' is to try to make yourself more appealing to the one you are trying to 'lure in'. This situation will be no different, the majority of the world's population will view the **"...woman"** → World Religious System as an organization that will allow people to have fun and do as they please with no regard for the 'Commandments of God'. Any and all sin's will be permitted and even encouraged: perversion will have no limits, See Romans 1: 11-32 for a basic description of the actions of men. **Also, extreme hatred of God and his people will be encouraged/required.**

PART 4) **"She held a golden cup in her hand..."** I think this is just a continuation of (3) above → showing off her extreme 'wealth' to the world in an effort to 'lure' them in to her 'web of sin'.

PART 5) **"...filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries."** John now tells us 'WHAT' the **"...golden cup in her hand..."** was filled with. I think John was trying to impress upon the minds of the reader the extent to which this 'World Religious System' was anti or against God. I will give you my opinion on the

words but you need to read the scripture and decide for yourself the meaning of these words:

a) “...filled...” Meaning completely full and no room for many thing else like something of God,

b) “...filled → with abominable things...” Meaning, things that are against God or actions that are displeasing to God or not of God: Also, “...things...” that would be appealing to and unsaved world; like unlimited sin, perversion, based on a world with ‘NO GODLY RULES’, you get the idea.

c) The “...golden cup in her hand...” was also, “...filled...” with “...the filth of her adulteries.” Again, to me these words reiterate how the “...woman...” keeps her sinful actions ‘front & center’ on the world stage. She flaunts her “...wealth & power...” in front of the entire world; she also makes it known that she requires all of the people on the earth to live the sinful life she does or there will be negative repercussions; she makes her sinful lifestyle look appealing to the eye and last she keeps “...the filth of her adulteries...” ‘Front & center’ in the ‘Face of God’ and heaven, as she knows she is free to do as she wants for 7 years.

VERSE 5:

“This title was written on her forehead: → ‘MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT → THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.’”

In verse 5 John continues to define the “...great prostitute or woman...” and provides us with three additional pieces of information about ‘her’, which is as follows: 1) “This title was written on her forehead: 2) MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT 3) THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” There has been much written about these words which I will try to condense and list below:

PART 1) “This title was written on her forehead...” I believe that there are two important points that we need to understand within these seven words, which are as follows:

FIRST: God through John's words is telling the reader that the one being spoken about; "...the woman or prostitute..." has a "This title..." and wants to be identified to the world by "This title..." which are the words to follow:

"...MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

SECOND: Now God through John's words is telling the reader that the one being spoken about; "...the woman or prostitute..." is very 'proud' of her 'position & accomplishments' because she is wearing her "...title...on her forehead..." for all to see. This 'title' identifies her with all of the sinful acts listed in: **The Book of Revelation & The Holy Bible in General** → Must be quite a list!

THIRD: The idea or concept of 'marking on the forehead' will be very common place during the seven year tribulation period. There are many places within the Book of Revelation where the concept of 'marking' is used. I will list some of these for your review:

- 1)** Rev. 7: 3b-7 → The sealing of the 144,000 Jewish men; "...put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God."
- 2)** Rev. 13: 15-17 → The False Prophet will be required the unsaved world to take the mark of the beast to survive; "He was also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark..."
- 3)** Rev. 14: 1-5 → A 144,000 of the Lamb who sang a new song; "Then I looked and there before me was the Lamb, standing Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name written on their foreheads."
- 4)** Rev. 14: 9-12 → The Third Angel; "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand..."
- 5)** Rev. 15: 1-8 → The 'Overcomers'; "And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name."

6) Rev. 16: 2→ Second Bowl Judgment; **“The second angel poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly and painful sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped his image.”**

As you can see the issue of ‘marking or sealing’ is used a lot during the ‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’. It is my opinion that it is highly likely that during the last half of the seven year tribulation period the majority of the people living on planet earth will have **‘The Mark of the Beast’ or ‘The Seal of God’ or ‘They Will be in Hiding’**.

Next John begins to actually write the words of the **“title”** of the **“...woman and prostitute...”** I will add some historical biblical details around each of these words to provide more clarity.

PART 2) “MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT” → Meaning, I believe God intends to share with humanity something that was previously ‘NOT’ know → with ‘known’ being defined as something not previously stated in scripture. I have decided to use the words of Clarence Larkin, from his book ‘The Book of Revelation’ because I believe it clarifies this subject better than I ever could: **“MYSTERY! Where have we heard that word before, and in what connection? Paul calls the church a ‘Mystery’ because it was not known to the Old Testament Patriarchs and Prophets, Eph. 3: 1-21. That Christ was to have a ‘Bride’ was first revealed to Paul (Eph. 5: 23-32), and the ‘Mystery’ that Antichrist is to have a ‘bride’ was first revealed to John on the Isle of Patmos. The name of Antichrist’s ‘bride’ is ‘Babylon the Great’.** Some may ask why give to a ‘bride’ the name of a ‘City’? The answer is that it is not unusual in the scriptures. When the same angel that showed John in this chapter ‘Mystery, Babylon the Great’, came to him in chapter 21: 9-10 and said→ **“Come hither, I will shew thee the Bride—‘The Lamb’s Wife’”** he showed John , **instead of a woman, that great City, the ‘Holy Jerusalem’** descending out of Heaven from God. Here we see that a **‘city’ is called a ‘bride’ because its inhabitants, and not the city itself, are the bride. ‘Mystery, Babylon the Great’, a ‘bride’ of Antichrist, then, is not a literal city, but a ‘System’, a religious and apostate ‘System’.** As the Church, the Bride of Christ, is

composed of regenerated followers of Christ, so 'Mystery, Babylon the Great', the bride of Antichrist, will be composed of the followers of the 'False Religions'.

PART THREE) "THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" I have always believed that these eleven words **actually define the concept of 'Babylon'**. I will break down these words into their basic sub-sets to make them easier to understand.

1) "THE MOTHER..." Meaning the **'Beginning of Something'** and that **'Something'** was Babylon! I have decided to use the words of Skip Heitzig from his book, **'You Can Understand the Book of Revelation'**, because I believe it clearly explains the issue;

"Clear back in Genesis 10, a man by the name of Nimrod is mentioned (verses 8-9). He is four generations removed from Noah; his grandfather was Ham, the wicked son of Noah. After the flood, God told Noah's family to multiply and cover the face of the earth. But some of Noah's descendants, including Nimrod, thought they had a better plan. When they came to a plain in the land of Shinar, they said to one another, **"Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."** (Genesis 11:4). Notice their rebellion: Whereas God had told them to **"fill the earth"** (Genesis 9:1), they decided to stick together in their city, **"lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."** They acted in direct disobedience to a clear, divine command. These people, led by Nimrod, conceived their city in open rebellion against God. Their whole philosophy was built on the idea of exalting themselves and degrading God. We could say it was the first human city built on the philosophy of secular humanism. They called it Babel, which later became Babylon." Again, I would say this sounds like the **'Beginning of Something'**.

2) "OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" The next nine words define **'What This Something' → WAS!** It was the beginning of three very anti—God Issues or Activities, which have and will continue throughout time until the end of the **'Seven Year tribulation Period'** and then again at the **'End of the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ'**. I will list them below:

FIRST → This was Satan's first attempt **through the actions of men** to create a **'ONE WORLD RELIGION SYSTEM'** that was based on Satan being the god of this religion and for that matter the world! Satan would have been the **'false god'** and the **'ONE WORLD RELIGION'** would have been the **"prostitute"** or **'false religion'** & **'HUMANITY'** would have been the **'ADULTRIER'** → **Not the 'True Bride of Jesus Christ'** → **This is the exact event that will take place during the 'Seven Year Tribulation Period'** (as described in Rev. 13, focus on verses 11-18).

SECOND → And again, this was Satan's first attempt **through the actions of men to create** a → **'ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT & ECONOMIC SYSTEM'**. Remember **the first thing God said to Noah and his family after telling him to come out of the 'ark' is** → Gen. 8: 21b-22; **"Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. 'As long as the earth endures, seedtime & harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease'."** (I only put this in because I believe the highlighted portion, sets the stage rather well for the **'heart of men during the tribulation period'**.) The second thing God said to Noah and his family, which was actually a command, is in Gen. 9: 1, **"Then god blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth'."** The people of the earth lead by Nimrod, Gen. 10: 8-9, rebelled against Gods command and decided to build their own **"POWER CENTER' → ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT & ECONOMIC SYSTEM'**, Gen. 11:1-9, focus on verse 4, **"Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth'."** ← notice this last statement is in direct rebellion to Gods command. Again, this was Satan's first attempt, through the actions of men to create a **'ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT & ECONOMIC SYSTEM'**, which actually come into existence during the **'Seven Year Tribulation Period'**, see Rev. 13:1-10, focus on verse 7b, **"And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation."**

THIRD → This **'UNHOLY ALLIANCE'** that began under **'Nimrod'** at the **'Tower of Babel'** will be completed during the **'Seven Year Tribulation Period'**. The **'UNHOLY ALLIANCE'** that I am speaking of is the **'ONE WORLD RELIGIOUS SYSTEM'** taking over the worlds religious system's because of the **'power'** it was given by the leader of the **'ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT & ECONOMIC SYSTEM'**. We saw this explained in Rev. 17: 3b, **"There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast..."** **This description is of the 'False Prophet' riding in on the coat tail of the power of the 'antichrist'.** This relationship is further defined in Rev. 17: 7-8.

NOTE:

Always keep in mind that → any being that wants to control the world/all of humanity must control → RELIGION & GOVERNMENT and → Satan knows that better than anyone else.

Verse 6a:

"I saw that the woman was drunk → with the blood of the saints, → the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus." In verse 6 John reverts back to defining the actions of the **"...woman..."** except this time John is talking about the actions of the **"...woman..."** as it relates specifically to Gods people → this would be the people who refuse the **'mark of the beast'** and are saved during this very harsh seven year period. I think it is also interesting that these specific words could be taken **'literally or symbolically'** → **The Literal meaning would be that they 'actually shed their BLOOD' rather than take the 'mark of the beast' & 'Symbolically' – meaning the shed Blood of Jesus Christ—meaning their 'testimony'.** I have broken this verse down into three basic sub-sets to make it easier to understand and discuss:

PART 1) “I saw that the→ woman was drunk...” Meaning the “...woman...” was ‘intoxicated’→ meaning the “...woman...” had ‘consumed a large amount of something’. The next part of the verse defines or describes what that ‘Something Is’→

PART 2) “...with the blood of the saints → the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus Christ”

The next two statements in verse six describe→ ‘What That something Is—That She Was Intoxicated With’ →

1) “...with the blood of the saints...” and

2) “...the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus.”

During this period, → Anyone who has the ‘Seal of Jesus Christ’ and not the ‘mark of the beast’ will be hunted down by the governments of the earth and murdered or starve to death or die of plagues or exposure or some other very harsh method.

Note 1: If you go back to #1 above you will notice I used the word ‘Intoxicated’, meaning ‘The Amount’ the “...woman...” had consumed and what she consumed was “...the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus Christ.” Now go back to verse two and you will see the word used to describe the amount of ‘evil & sin’ “...adulteries...” the unsaved ‘inhabitants of the earth’ had consumed→ “...the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.”

Note 2:

Also, I think it is worth pointing out at this time how God is using the ‘Symbolism of Alcohol & Intoxication’ to describe this situation. God knew that ‘Alcohol & Intoxication’ would be an example that men would never get past and would be understood in every generation.

Verse 6b:

“When I saw her, I was greatly astonished.”

To me God through John’s words now begins to ‘Repeat→ Except in More Details’, what he has already said in the first six & one half verses of chapter 17. This process of ‘Restating, Except in More Details’ appears to go through the end of Chapter 17. Again, this is just my opinion but appears to be correct.

I believe that if you look closely at the actual words used by John, it appears God was trying to impress upon the reader the harsh reality of what this period will actually be like → “When I saw her → I was greatly astonished.” Many times if you hear about a gruesome car accident you do not get the ‘fully reality’ of the situation as if you were actually there to see the actual dead bodies and blood. This is also true for ‘war’ → you can talk about it and feel bad for the participants, however, if you are a participants, it is ingrained in your mind, heart and soul forever. It appears that this is the point, mentally, where John is in his vision! He now actually feels the ‘harsh reality’ of the people living during this period.

Verse 7:

“Then the angel said to me, ‘Why are you astonished? → I will explain to you the mystery of the woman → and of the beast she rides, → which has seven heads and ten horns’.”

PART 1) “Then the angel said to me, ‘Why are you astonished?’”

In the first part of verse 7 the angel actually verbalizes John’s ‘physical & emotional reaction’ → back to him in the form of a question, which John had already stated in verse 6b → “When I saw her, I was greatly astonished.”

Now, 7a, → Now it appears the angel makes it clear for the reader — ‘the change in Johns—Physical & Emotional Condition: “Then the angel said to me, ‘Why are you astonished?’”

PART 2) "I will explain to you the mystery of the woman..."

Next the angel tells John that he is going to **"...explain..."**, **or you could say → Clarify** for John **"...the mystery of the woman."** → **"I will explain to you the mystery of the woman..."** Remember as we said previously → **A mystery is something not previously know: I also think this should be taken as a 'statement of fact' → given it is from an 'angel' directly from the throne room of God the Father.** Up until the time, **The Book of Revelation' was written, I do not think it was known exactly → How the 'One World Religious System' was going to be created or From where it would draw its power!**

PART 3) "...and the beast she rides → which has seven heads and ten horns."

Now in this portion of the verse God through Johns words tells us **'Some of the Mystery' of "THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES"** and the angel uses the same basic description he used in verse 3b to describe the **'beast'**: verse 3b → **"There I saw a woman setting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns."** Now verse 7 → **"...and of the beast she rides → which has seven heads and ten horns."** Again, we will talk more about this when we get to verses 9-13.

Verse 8:

"The beast that you saw → once was → now is not → and will come → up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. → The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world → will be astonished when they see the beast, because he → once was → now is not → and yet will come."

In verse 8 God through John's words begins to provide the reader with additional details about the **"...beast..."** first mentioned in verse 3b as **"...a scarlet beast..."** I also think it is important to notice that God opens the verse & closes the verse by stating the same facts about the **"beast" → "...once was → now is not → and will come..."** I will break the verse down into its basic sub-sets to make it easier to understand: Note → Remember this is some **'symbolism'** and some **statement of fact.**

PART 1) “The beast you saw...” Meaning the ‘beast’ first mentioned in verse 3b, as the “...a scarlet beast...” or ‘The antichrist’ → which is the ‘Leader of the One World Governments & Economic System’. Remember this is ‘symbolism’.

PART 2) “...once was → now is not → and will come...” There are a variety of opinions by many scholars as to the meaning of these words:

OPINION 1) This group of scholars believes that these three statements are speaking about actual ‘life’ of the ‘antichrist’ → **the person**:

“...once was...” → The antichrist will physically come on the world scene, as a man, shortly after the rapture of the church or at the beginning of the ‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’;

“...now is not...” → At the middle of the ‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’ the antichrist will receive a ‘mortal wound’ but will come back to life or be healed by Satan, Rev. 13:3; “One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed.” (Note: This passage is used by some scholars to justify their view that the antichrist was really killed and not just wounded.)

“...and will come...” → This is talking about the time period after the ‘antichrist is restored to life’.

The basic chronology of these events during the ‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’ would be as follows:

“...once was...” talking about the ‘first three & one half years’ of the ‘seven year tribulation period’

“...now is not...” talking about the ‘mid-point’ of the ‘seven year tribulation period’ → “...fatal wound...” indicating human death.

“...and will come...” talking about the ‘last three & one half years’ of the ‘seven year tribulation period’, indicating the time Satan resurrected the antichrist.

OPINION 2) There are some scholars who believe that there is a ‘secondary’ meaning to “...once was, now is not, and will come...” They believe that these

words are also talking about the 'Governmental & Economic System' that the antichrist will create, which will be based on the 'Revived Roman Empire'. The chronology of this is as follows:

"...once was..." this is speaking about the original time of the Roman Empire → (100BC to 476AD West & 1,453 AD East)

"...now is not..." which is speaking about the period from when the Roman Empire was destroyed until when it will be revived by the antichrist;

"...and will come..." this is speaking about the → 'Revived Roman Empire' during the → 'Seven Year Tribulation Period'—led by the antichrist.

NOTE: I believe that the words & timing fit their interpretation but if you read the rest of verse 8 I believe their interpretation falls apart, Rev 17:8b, **"...and will → come up out of the Abyss and go to HIS DESTRUCTION."**

- 1) A system or empire cannot go into the Abyss;
- 2) John uses the pronoun → "his" to describe the → "beast" indicating the → "beast" → being spoken of is a person.

PART THREE: **"...and will come → up out of the Abyss and → go to his destruction."**

1) Some scholars believe that these five words were put in to indicate from where the antichrist will come from, **"...the Abyss..."** after he receives **"...a mortal wound..."** and then returns to rule the world for the last three & one half years of the 'Seven Year Tribulation Period'. **NOTE:** This view would mean that the antichrist would have actually died at the mid-point of the 'Seven Year Tribulation Period' and descended into 'Hell'—'The Abyss' and then was resurrected by Satan to 'Rule the Earth' during the last half of the 'Seven Year Tribulation Period'.

2) **"...and go to his destruction."** Again, many scholars believe that these words describe the 'final outcome' for the antichrist, as described in Rev. 19:20b, **"The two of them (antichrist and false prophet) were thrown alive into the lake of burning sulfur..."**

PART FOUR: “The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world → will be astonished when they see the beast, because he → once was, → now he is not, → and yet will come.”

In the second half of verse 8 John moves away from describing the actions of the **“beast”** and now begins to provide the reader with a description of how the unsaved people of the world will take or react to the events going on as it relates to the, Rev. 13: 3b, **“...but the fatal wound had been healed.”** Again, I will break this down into its basic sub-sets:

Rev.17:8b, **“The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world → will be astonished when they see the beast, because he → once was, → now is not, → and yet will come.”**

PART 1) “The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world...” To me the meaning of these words is very simple and straight forward as they are specifically talking about the people who are living on the earth during the ‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’ → who are unsaved? For many people the definitional problem come in by the way John describes these people → **“...whose names that have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world.”** Verses like this are the ‘cornerstone verses’ used by the people who believe in the ‘Concept of Predestination’. I personally do not believe in the ‘Concept of Predestination’ as currently defined: (Meaning God selecting who he wants to be saved and the rest will be condemned to hell for all of eternity). I will share with you in a separate lesson my support for my beliefs, as I think this view would render the ‘Concept of Freewill, Gods Infinite Love for ALL of His Creation, and His Limitless Grace’ a Lie. Just to name a few **Basic Bible Concepts!**

NOTE: However, I will tell you my opinion about this issue is based on → The fact that **God is Omnipresent and Omniscient.** Just by the definition of who God is means that God already knew before man was created – who would be saved and who would not be saved. **And His foreknowledge does not affect mans – freewill.**

PART 2) “...will be astonished when they see the beast...” In these words John provides the reader with ‘The Reaction’ of the unsaved world. They will be “...astonished...” by the event that brings the ‘antichrist’ back to life after “his mortal wound is healed”, which is again re-stated in the remaining words of this verse.

PART 3) “...because → he once was → now is not → and yet will come” To me the word, “...because...” makes it clear to the reader that the next words are the reason the ‘unsaved world’ is or was “...astonished... → because → he once was → now is not → and yet will come.”

Verse 9:

“This calls for a mind with wisdom → The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits → They are seven kings.” Again, I will break this verse down into its basic sub-sets to make it easier to understand:

PART 1) “This calls for a mind with wisdom.” To me this statement is very simple to understand, ‘Meaning the scripture that we are currently reading REQUIRES “...a mind with (spiritual) wisdom.” However, the real question is → How does our “mind” obtain this “wisdom”? Again, we need scripture to define scripture;

Prov. 2:6, “For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding...”

James 1:5, “If any of you lack wisdom, → you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”

James 3:17a, “But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure...”

Prov. 15:33, “Wisdom’s instruction is to fear the Lord, and humility comes before honor.”

For a good understanding of **“wisdom”** you need to read all of Proverbs chapter 2; I like verses 9-10 best, **“Then you will understand what is right and just and fair—every good path. For wisdom will enter your heart→ and knowledge will be pleasant to your→ soul.”**

Therefore, the answer is → **Wisdom comes from God**, either through his divine word or directly. Man then has the opportunity to convert this **‘wisdom’** into **“knowledge”** which is **“pleasant to the soul.”** Seems simple!

In 2 Thessalonians Chapter 2 Paul also talks about this same very time period and this same issue, except he here Paul defines **“wisdom”** as **“truth”**, 2 Thess. 2:10b, **“They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.”**
Also read verses 11 & 12.

I also like the way Paul clarifies this issue→ **“wisdom & knowledge”** for Timothy in, 1 Tim. 6: 20-21, **“Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called KNOWLEDGE, which some have professed and in doing so wandered from the faith.”** **This is what has happened in the past and is happening today→** **‘False Knowledge’ or ‘False Doctrines’** are being called **‘Enlightened Knowledge’** and leading people away from the **‘TRUTH OF GODS WORD’**.

PART 2) (discussed second) **“The seven heads** →(discussed first) **are seven hills** → **on which the woman sits.”** I will reverse the order of the words in this part of the verse because I think it makes it easier to understand.

FIRST DISCUSSION: The majority of scholars believe that the **“...seven hills** → **on which the woman sits.”** is speaking about the **‘City of Rome’**. In many historical documents the **‘City of Rome’** has been referenced as being the city that was built on **‘seven hills’**.

NOTE→ Many Jewish scholars also state that the **‘City of Jerusalem’** was built on seven hills, which are defined as follows: Information from internet

But strange as it may seem, the City of Jerusalem as it existed in the time of Christ Jesus was also reckoned to be the "City of Seven Hills." This fact was well recognized in Jewish circles. In the Pirke de-Rabbi Eliezer, an eighth century midrashic narrative (section 10), the writer mentioned without commentary (showing that the understanding was well known and required no defense) that "Jerusalem is situated on seven hills" (recorded in The Book of Legends, edited by Bialik and Ravnitzky, p. 371, paragraph 111). And, so it was. Those "seven hills" are easy to identify. If one starts with the Mount of Olives just to the east of the main City of Jerusalem (but still reckoned to be located within the environs of Jerusalem), there are three summits to that Mount of Olives. The northern summit (hill) is called Scopus [**Hill One**], the middle summit (hill) was called Nob [**Hill Two**], the highest point of Olivet itself, and the southern summit (hill) was called in the Holy Scriptures the "Mount of Corruption" or "Mount of Offence" [**Hill Three**] (II Kings 23:13). On the middle ridge between the Kedron and the Tyropoeon Valleys there was (formerly) in the south "Mount Zion" [**Hill Four**] (the original "Mount Zion" and not the later southwest hill that was later called by that name), then the "Ophel Mount" [**Hill Five**] and then to the north of that the "Rock" around which "Fort Antonia" was built [**Hill Six**]. And finally, there was the southwest hill itself [**Hill Seven**] that finally became known in the time of Simon the Hasmonean as the new "Mount Zion." This makes "Seven Hills" in all.

I do not think our scripture passage is talking about Jerusalem; however there are those that do. To me given the other scripture on this issue that describes what will be going on in at this point in time—again I think these words are talking about the 'City of Rome'—Capital of the One World Religious System'.

SECOND DISCUSSION) "The seven heads are..." Many scholars over the years have tried to apply their own interpretation to these words; however, the interpretation is actually within the verse itself:

The Question → "The seven heads are →

The Location of the "Seven Heads is seven hills" →

Defines who is setting on the "seven hills" → on which the woman sits. →

Defines who “The seven heads are” → They are seven kings.”

a) This number will be directly related to the ‘Seven Remaining Kings of the Revived Roman Empire’—remember the antichrist killed three of the original ten.

b) This number relates to ‘specific rulers’ living during the time of the first church and the last would be the ‘antichrist’: **PAST KINGS** refers to: Julius Caesar, Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, and Nero: **PRESENT KING** refers to Domitian, who was living during the time of John: **FUTURE KING** refers to the antichrist. This view seems to me to be a bit of a stretch?

c) This number relates to the ‘Seven Specific World Empires’ listed in the Bible, which are:

PART THREE) **“They are also seven kings.”** These words actually are the first part of verse 10 so I will include them with verse 10 discussion.

Verses 9b-10-11:

Verse 9b: **“They are seven kings.”** **Verse 10:** **“Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; → but when he does come, he must remain for a little while.**

Verse 11: **The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eight king. → He belongs to the seven and → is going to his destruction.”**

Verses 10 & 11 should be viewed as one concept or thought process, therefore, we will analysis them together. I think it is obvious that verse 9b is also very closely interwoven into verses 10 & 11; some Bible translations include it in verse 10—as we will do.

However, we need to make sure we understand that verses 9b & 10 are → speaking about **“Seven Kings”** and verse 11 is speaking about **“The Beast”** and his relationship to the **“Seven Kings”** and **“The Beast”** is actually the **“eight king”**.

Actually if you read verse 9 & then verses 10-11 you will find that verses 10 & 11 provide the reader with more specific details about the words in verse 9,

chronological order as follows → “...seven heads => seven hills => seven kings => eighth king...”

Again, verses 10 & 11 should be read or studied as one thought process as verse 11 is a continuation of what God begins to explain in verse 10.

VERSE 9b:

“They are seven kings.” Many scholars over the years have developed many views about the meaning of these words; I will present the most common:

FIRST VIEW: This group believe that these words are describing the ‘seven remaining kings’ of the ‘Revived Roman Empire’ after the ‘antichrist’ kills three; as described in Dan. 7: 8, “While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which can up among them; and three of the first horns were unrooted before it.” Also Dan. 7:24, “The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After then another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings.” Therefore, leaving 7 original kings! However, the words in verse 10 appear to make this view hard to justify.

SECOND VIEW: This group base their view on the ‘Seven Major Empires’ discussed in the Bible, which are → 1) Egypt, 2) Assyria, 3) Babylon, 4) Persia, 5) Greece, 6) Roman, 7) Revived Roman Empire.

THIRD VIEW: This group believes that the Six Roman Emperors which were in power during the early church period: 1) Julius Caesar, 2) Tiberius, 3) Caligula, 4) Claudius, 5) Nero, 6) Domitian (would be considered the “...one is...” as referenced in verse 10) & # 7 would be the ‘antichrist’. However, this does not address the “eight king” of verse 11?

FOURTH VIEW: There are others who have determined that these words represent the following: “...the seven kings represent seven forms of the government of Rome. Five of those had come and gone, and in John’s day, the sixth was in power. These five forms of government are said to be the government of Rome by kings, consuls, dictators, decemvirs, military tribunes,

and emperors. The seventh form of government, still future, would be that of a great confederacy headed by the Beast.”

VERSE 10:

PART ONE: “Five have fallen (first five) → one is (sixth) → the other has not yet come (seventh) → must remain for a little while.”

I think the best way to understand verse 10 is to view it as a more complete definition of the last words in verse 9, “They are also seven kings.”, which is also another definition for describing the first part of verse 9; “seven heads => seven hills => seven kings”.

Now if you go back and first read verse 9, “This calls for a mind with wisdom. → The seven heads are → seven hills → on which the woman sits. → They are also seven kings.” And now read verse 10, “Five have fallen, → one is, → the other has not yet come; → but when he does come, → he must remain for a little while.” I think it becomes clear that verse 10 is establishing the ‘Time Frame’ in which all these events have happened or will happen in the future → Five Past → One Present → Some Number Yet Future “other” → meaning one or more.

PART TWO: In the last part of verse 10, “...but when he does come, → he must remain for a little while.” I think God provides the reader with additional information about this “other” king which is yet future. To me this last part of verse 10, “...he must remain for a little while.” Is a key indicator as to the ‘Time the Antichrist will be on This Earth’ → Seven Years → The Time of the Tribulations on Earth?

However, keep in mind that this statement does not mention or indicate anything about → the ‘potential mortal wound’ of the antichrist at the mid-point of the seven year tribulation period or his ‘potential resurrection after his potential mortal wound’ or the potential issue that Satan will possess his body after his potential resurrection. But verse 11 will provide us with more information about some of these issues.

Now God through John's words in verse 11 clarifies for us what He/God meant when he used the word "other" in verse 10 and more insight into the words "...he must remain for a little while." at the end of verse 10; plus additional information about, who the "...eighth king..." is in verse 11 and additional attributes of his past and his future!

VERSE 11:

"The beast → who once was → and now is not → is an eighth king. → He belongs to the seven → and is going to his destruction."

Now in verse 11 the "...eighth king..." is identified as the "...beast..." better known as the 'antichrist' → and he will be the culmination of 'Power and Authority' of the first → "...(ten)—seven—(kings)..." Remember I said above verse 10 is speaking about "kings" and verse 11 is speaking about the "beast"— antichrist.

Now we will break this verse down into its basic sub-sets:

PART ONE: "The beast..." Based on the overall words in these verses & Revelation Chapter 13, most scholars believe there can be no question that they are describing the 'antichrist'.

PART TWO: "...who once was..." Again, some scholars believe these words speaks to the fact that the "beast" or antichrist will have received a 'mortal wound' and with his death so will his 'kingdom die'. However, with his (the antichrist) resurrection so will the "eight king" (physical human king) arise as well as an 'eight kingdom', which will rule the entire world for the 'last three and one half years of the seven year tribulation period'. However, it is my opinion that there—'will not be any interruption in the kingdom/authority/rule of the antichrist', as this time period (his death) will be brief! If their view is correct.

NOTE: I think these words do support scholars who believe that the "fatal wound" received by the antichrist will be "mortal" and he will be resurrected.

PART THREE: "...and now is not..." Again speaks to the issue of → the period of time when the antichrist is 'physically death' before his "mortal wound" has been healed by the Dragon or Satan → with Gods permission.

PART FOUR: “...is and eight king.” To me there is no question that these words are speaking about **the antichrist**, however, the real question become how scholars define this “eight king” based on or as he would relate to the remaining words in verse 11 & 9-10 for that matter. I will list some of the more popular views below:

1) Same as (verse 9b, First View above) except in verses 10-11 the “eight king” would be identified as → The seven remaining kings after the antichrist killed three; **plus** the antichrist which makes **‘eight’**, as described in Dan. 7: 8 & 24.

2) Same as (verse 9b, Second View above) except in verses 10-11 the “eighth king” would be identified as → The **‘culmination or a combining of all the power’** of the first **‘Seven Great World Empires’** → Egypt → Assyria → Babylonian → Persia → Greek → Roman → Revived Roman; (meaning the Revived Roman Empire during the firsts half of the seven year tribulation period). Then the **‘eighth king’** could be the antichrist during the last half of the seven year tribulation period and after → **‘the antichrist mortal wound + Satan being expelled from heaven + Satan restoring the antichrist to life and potentially incarnating his body’**.

3) Similar to (verse 9b, Third View above) in terms of the “eighth king” would be the → **‘Culmination of all the anti-God and evil leaders the world has ever produced prior to the ‘Second Coming of Jesus Christ’, which would actually be ‘The antichrist’**.

4) **My personal opinion is** I believe this “eight king” will be some combination of → all of (1+2+3) and more! He will be like → **‘a type of evil’** ← the world has never seen before and will never see again, which I believe the next part of verse 11 makes clear → “He belongs to the seven...”

PART FIVE: “He belongs to the seven...” Again, I believe these words speak to all of the above:

(1) => Leaders of the Revived Roman Empire bowing (willingly submitting) to the **‘Evil Leadership; the antichrist’**,

(2) => A culmination of World Leadership dedicated to making themselves gods **and denying that the God of Creation is the true God.**

(3) => **A single man** (the antichrist/Satan) demanding all of humanity to accept and **bow the knee to him as the one and true god.**

(4) => **'A type of evil'** → the world has never seen or experienced before with the power to rule & enforce, all men, as he sees fit.

PART SIX: **"...and is going to his destruction."** Again, I think God put these words in because He/God wants His saints and all future reader to know how all this will end for this **'unholy being'** known as the **'beast or antichrist'**.

God has made it known to all of creation through **'His Inspired Word'** better known as **'THE HOLY BIBLE'** → **'This unholy being known as the antichrist'** → **"...is going to his destruction."** With **"destruction"** Meaning he/antichrist will end up, **"...thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur."** Rev. 19:20b.

Again based on these last five words in verse 11, **"...is going to his destruction."** I think God summarizes for: His saints, all unsaved people and all future readers → How this situation will work out for **"the beast"** & **'his—FOLLOWERS'**. Also think if you go back and read verses 7b-11 I think you will see how God turns all of these negatives into a positive → If you are a saved person; see Romans 8:28, **"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him..."**

NOTE: **Remember one of the primary purposes of the 'Seven Year Tribulation Period' is to get unsaved men and women to be saved, so that they will not perish.**

Verse 12:

"The ten horns you saw are → ten kings, → who have not yet received a kingdom, → but for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast."

Again, in verse 12 we find God providing the reader with more detailed information about what He/God has previously stated in verse 9-11. Except this time it appears to me that God is speaking—prophetically. If you read the entire verse it appears to me to be saying that this is something—**YET TO HAPPEN!** Read and make up your own mind.

The Topic of this Verse:

“The ten horns you saw are...” God now continues his discussion that he began in Rev. 17: 3b, **“There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns.”** The **“...ten horns...”** in 17:3b are the same **“...ten horns...”** which are mentioned in our verse 17:12. This same description is again mentioned in verse 17:7b, **“...seven heads and ten horns.”**

Also, keep in mind exactly how this verse is written: **“The ten horns you saw** (meaning past tense or you previously **“saw”**) → **are...”**

In the rest of this verse God begins to provide the reader with **‘specific descriptions or information’** about **“...the ten horns you saw...”**, which are as follows:

Specific Descriptions & Information → about the **“Ten horns”**

1) They are **“...ten kings...”** The next portion of verse 12 confirms for the reader that the **“...ten horns...”** being spoken of in Revelations chapter 17 represent the **“...ten kings...”**

2) **“...who have not yet received a kingdom...”** This portion of verse 12 now tells or confirms for the reader that the **“...ten horns...”** which are actually → **“... ten kings/kingdoms...”** will not **“...receive a kingdom...”** → **until somewhere in the future.** Remember when John was writing these words all of this was **‘Prophecy—Yet Future Events’** and God is trying to communicate to ‘all future readers’ → How the future would unfold!

However, we know for sure that these **“ten kings”** will for sure at some point in time **“receive a kingdom”** because of the little word **“yet”** and most important → **because God gave us this word.**

3) **“...but for one hour will receive authority as kings along → with the beast.”** I believe the last part of verse 12 conveys to the reader a description of the **‘time period’** in which these **“...ten kings...”** will rule or be **‘kings’**: **“...but for one hour will receive authority as kings...”** and who they will **‘rule’** with → **“along with the beast.”** Again, I will break section # 3 into its basic subsets, which are as follows:

First:

The word **“...but...”** I believe was put in to make sure the reader would know that the last part of this verse should be connected to or is providing additional information about the first part of this verse.

I also think based on the definition of the word **‘but’** and the way it is used within this verse, God is telling the reader and in reality Satan himself that **‘his reign will be limited’** and the time period will be **“one hour”** or **‘seven earth years’**—see Dan. 9:27. Again, read for yourself and make up your own mind.

Second:

The next words of this verse, **“...for one hour will receive authority...”** now begin to provide the reader with **‘specific information’** about the **‘time period the “ten kings” will rule and have “authority”**. Keep in mind the order that these **“...ten kings...”** have been interwoven throughout Revelations Chapter 17, through verse 12, which is as follows:

Called **“...ten horns...”** at the end of verse 3

Again, called **“...ten horns...”** at the end of verse 7

The next time the **“...ten kings...”** are mentioned is verse in verse 12, which identifies the **“...ten horns...”** as **“...ten kings...”** → **“The ten horns you saw are ten kings...”**

I have stated above how I view the next part of this verse **“...for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast.”** However, many scholars do not even try to interpret this portion of verse.

John MacArthur in his book **‘Revelation, The Christian’s Ultimate Victory’** states that he believes this portion of the verse is talking about the last **‘Three & One Half Years’** of the **‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’**. He used verse like Rev. 11:2b-3, **“They will trample on the holy city for 42 months. And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.”** & Rev. 12:6 & 14 & 13:5 He also uses verse like Rev. 18: 10b, **“Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour your doom has come!”** plus Rev. 18:17 & 19

I would not even begin to be dogmatic about the meaning of “...one hour...” → except for it appears to me, to be God providing the reader with some kind of time measurement and we are talking about → **‘The Seven Year Tribulation Period’**. I also back up my opinion with the next words in Revelation Chapter 17, verse 13, **“They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast.”** This will be exactly the purpose of this **‘Revived Roman Empire’**:

First → under “ten kings” then,

Second → under “seven kings”

Third → plus the antichrist as ultimate leader, Dan. 7:24, **“The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another kings will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings.”** Also, see Daniel 7: 8a: and if you want to see how this **‘Revived Roman Empire’** led by the antichrist treats or reacts to God and his people read verses 8b & 25. Again, just my opinion; read and make up your own mind!

Also, there are two primary schools of thought on → Who are these **‘ten kings’**. I will list them below:

VIEW ONE: Some scholars believe these **“...ten kings/kingdoms...”** are the ones mentioned in Daniel Chapter 7 and → **Will rule with the antichrist for the full**

'Seven Year Tribulation Period.' Based on other scripture this view does not seem reasonable.

VIEW TWO: The second group of scholars believe that these **"...ten kings/kingdoms..."** are also the ones mentioned in Daniel chapter 7 but → **will only rule for some portion of the first three & one half years → with the antichrist.** Then the antichrist **'will kill three of the ten kings' → leaving the remaining seven plus the antichrist, which will equal eight in total.** I will provide scripture to support this view, which I believe is correct. I think if you go and read Daniel 7:7b-8 & then read Daniel 7:23-24 you will find at the beginning of the **'Seven Year Tribulation Period'**, when the antichrist begins his rule of the **'Revived Roman Empire'**; he, the antichrist, starts out with **'Ten Kings'**. However, sometimes during this **'Seven Year Tribulation Period'** he, the antichrist, will **"uproot" or "subdue"**, meaning → **kill, three of the original ten kings.** (The identity of these three kings is not made known.) Dan. 7: 1-14, is talking about Daniels dream of the four beast and our verses, Dan. 7: 7b-8, are specifically focused on the **'forth beast' → "It was different from all the former beast, and it had ten horns. While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully."** Daniel 7: 15-28 is actually the verses that provide the reader with the interpretation of Daniels dream of the four beasts. We will focus on Dan. 7: 23-24, which focuses on the fourth best, **"He gave me this explanation. → The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on the earth. → It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling down and crushing it. The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them → another king will arise, → different from the earlier ones; → he will subdue three kings."**

I will analyze these two verses, Dan. 7: 23-24 because I believe they provide relevant information about some of the timing issues as it relates to the 'Seven Year Tribulation Period'.

POINT ONE: Remember, Dan. 7:23-24, begins by telling the reader the 'Primary Reason For Dan. 7:23-24' → **"He gave me this explanation."** Remember Dan. 7: 7b-8 was the original dream of Daniel and Dan. 7; 15-28 was the **"...explanation..."**

POINT TWO: **"The forth beast is a forth kingdom that will appear on earth."** which is speaking about the coming 'Revival of the Roman Empire' → led by the antichrist.

POINT THREE: **"It will be different → from all the other kingdoms and → will devour the whole earth, trampling down and crushing it."** The words within this portion of the verse provide the reader with three specific details, which are as follows:

1) "It will be different..." meaning, this **"...fourth beast/king/kingdom..."** will be like 'No Other king or kingdom' that has ever existed. Also, I think it is worth mentioned that the word **"...different..."** is used twice within these two verses.

2) "...from all the other kingdoms..." I think these words define who this **"...fourth beast/king/kingdom..."** will be **"...different..."** from! Again, I think this is confirming how 'different' this **"...fourth beast/king/kingdom..."** will be in terms of → **there has never been another like it!**

3) "...and will devour the whole earth, trampling down and crushing it." In the last portion of this sentence God appears to begin to provide the reader with some of the 'Characteristics or Attributes' of this **"...fourth beast/king/kingdom..."** and I think these words provide the reader with a 'Very Good Picture' of → **How the Earth Will Look After 7 years of the antichrist and Gods Judgments.**

Remember this period of time will be the worst that human race has ever experienced. I think Matthew makes this very clear in: Matt. 24:22, **"And except**

those days had been shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." However, I do not think these people can complain as they were told ahead of time and provided with a way to escape this period → Through the shed blood of Jesus Christ/Rapture.

SUB—NOTE on 1, 2, and 3 above:

God has provided us with scripture in the Book of Daniel that tells us that there will be five great world empires: Babylonian→ Persian→ Greek→ Roman→ Revived Roman Empire. However, if you go back and actually look at the history of the world you will find that the 'first four of these empires' were only world empires in terms of the lands that were directly associated with the country of Israel during the 'Old Testament Period' through the time of the first Roman Empire. This fifth empire spoken of in the Book of Daniel → "It will be different from all the other kingdoms" The question is: How will it be different? The answer is simple it → "...and will devour the whole earth..." Meaning it will be the first truly 'Global Empire', it will literally rule the 'Entire Globe'. Scripture makes it plain that there will only be two → 'Truly Global Empire' → The first will be led by the antichrist for the last three and one half year of the 'Seven Year Tribulation Period' and the second will be 'The 1,000 Year Reign of Jesus Christ after his Second Coming'. Note: The Kingdom of Nimrod at the Tower of Babel might be considered the 'First World Empire' but encompassed only a fraction of the earth as people had not spread out and covered the earth at this point in time.

However, I think it is also interesting that the worst period of time the human race has ever experienced → will be followed by 1,000 year of the best time the human race has ever experienced. Again, just my opinion!

POINT FOUR: It (The Revived Roman Empire) will be led by 'Ten Kings' → "The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom." I believe that 'The Revived Roman Empire & The Ten Kings' will be 'very weak' in terms of their power and control at their inception but very rapidly solidify their power and control. The antichrist will play a big part in this process.

POINT FIVE: “After them...” To me this makes it very clear that the ‘Roman Empire’ will be ‘Revived’ and the ‘Ten Kings’ will come to some kind of power before → the antichrist comes on the world scene. I base this on the next words within this sentence.

POINT SIX: “...another king will arise...” Meaning there will actually be an ‘Eleventh King’ (the antichrist or little horn) that will come up within the ‘Revived Roman Empire’ sometime after the ‘Revived Roman Empire’ has come onto the world scene.

POINT SEVEN: “...different from the earlier ones...” I believe God put these words in to let the reader know that this “...another king...” will not be what I would consider a ‘normal man’ but a man totally consumed with sin. He would be what I would call a completely ‘demon possessed man’ (maybe many demons) with NO Godly qualities left within his heart, mind or soul. Remember this is the second time the word “...different...” has been used to describe this “...fourth beast...”

POINT EIGHT: “...he will subdue three kings.” Meaning at some point in time, “...another horn, a little one...” meaning the antichrist’ will kill three of the original kings and assume control or leadership of the ‘Revived Roman Empire’. It is also my opinion that this event will signal the ‘BEGINNING OF THE SEVEN YEAR TRIBULATION PERIOD’.

End analysis of Dan. 7:24-24, I hoped this helped everyone to better understand the players and events of this period. I think it also demonstrates for men the ‘Detail Precision’ with which God provides men with, His Word—over a 2,600 + year span.

Now I will list what I believe to be the chronological order of events on earth as it relates to the ‘End Times Period’ with a special focus on → Dan. 7:23-24, in terms of → people & events, as they relate to the ‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’.

First Major Event → This event will be just prior to the beginning of the; Seven Year Tribulation Period → THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH.

Second Major Event → Next it appears that there will be a small period of time between the Rapture of the Church & the Beginning of the Seven Year Tribulation Period → timing unknown, but most scholars believe it to be somewhere between several months & several years.

Third Major Event → I believe the antichrist will come on the world scene sometimes during this 'small period of time between the Rapture of the Church and the Beginning of the Seven Year Tribulation Period'. Based on the arrangement of the words within these two verses it would appear the inception or beginning of the 'Revived Roman Empire' & 'The Introduction of the antichrist on the World Scene' → may or may not occur at exactly the same time.

NOTE: I believe that the antichrist will be somewhere with the governmental structure while the 'Revived Roman Empire' is being formed—and some EVENT will happen that will catapult him onto the world scene. Again, just my opinion!

VERSE 13:

"They have one purpose → and will they give their power and authority → to the beast."

Again, in verse 13 we will see God through John's words providing the reader with additional information about the "...ten kings..." and their relationship to the antichrist, which has been one of the key topics of Chapter 17. Verse 13:

"They have one purpose → and will give their power and authority → to the beast." The meaning of this verse, to me, is very straight forward, which is as follows:

My translation broken down into its basic sub-sets:

- 1) **"They..."** meaning the **"Ten Kings"**
- 2) **"...have one purpose..."** meaning they were created or put in power by **'The God of Creation'** for one **"...purpose..."**
- 3) Which is → **"...and will give their power and authority..."** Meaning they were created for one reason by the **'God of Creation'**, which is → **'to give it away to someone else so that he can → FULFILL GODS PURPOSE FOR HIM'!**
- 4) Last, we are told who they were created to given their **"...power & authority..."** to and it was → **"...to the beast..."** Or we could say **'the antichrist'**.

Conclusion→

My words/opinion: The sole purpose of the 'Revived Roman Empire' with 'Ten Kings' is to provide a platform for the antichrist to be raised to power and eventually to world power, to fulfill Gods plan for HIS CREATIONS → to include: Satan, the fallen angels of heaven, the loyal angels of heaven, the unsaved, the saved people of the earth → but again just my opinion!

VERSE 14:

They will make war → against the Lamb, → but the Lamb will overcome them → because he is the Lord of lords and King of kings → and with him will be his called chosen and faithful followers."

I think verse 14 provides the reader with two important facts, which are as follows:

First Fact: Providing the reader with additional information about the actions of these **'Revived Roman Empire/Ten Kings/the antichrist'** and the

Second Fact: Providing the reader with information about the outcome of the **"...war..."** that is being described in the **'First Part'** of verse 14. Again, this appears

to me to be very simple and straight forward. I will break these words down into their basic sub-sets, as follows:

Part One:

“They will make war → against the Lamb...”

NOTE: The reason I split these words into two bullets above, is because there will be so many **‘wars’** during the **‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’** that I wanted you to be sure you knew exactly → **What war we were talking about—just some humor.**

This **“WAR”** is described in many places within scripture; however, I will limit our reference to the primary one in the Book of Revelations, which is describing the battle or war → **‘Known as Armageddon’**. This would also be called **‘The Second Coming of Jesus Christ’**! I have also **‘keyed by number & underlined’** below some of the primary concepts of the scripture passage listed below → which provides the reader with more detailed information about the **‘Battle of Armageddon’ & ‘Second Coming of Jesus Christ’**.

I will define the ‘numbered key’ for below:

- (0) **Indicating Judgment**
- (1) **Indicating the Riders Name**
- (2) **Indicating Power → The Power of Creation & The Power to Undue-Creation**
- (3) **Indicating Specific Details about the ‘beast/antichrist & false prophet → and their eternal future**
- (4) **Indicating Specific details about the earthly situation of the unsaved, of the earth, during the time of the → ‘Battle of Armageddon & Seconding Coming of Jesus Christ’**

TEXT: Rev. 19: 11-21,

“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, (1) whose rider is called Faithful and True, (0) with justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. (1) He has a name written on him that no one but he himself knows. He is dressed in a robe that is dipped in blood, (1) and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven are following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. (2) Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron scepter. (0) He treads the wine-press of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

(1) ‘KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS’.

And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried out in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, (0) ‘Come, gather together for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great’. (3) But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. (4) With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. (0 & 3) The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. (0 & 2) The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, (0) and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.”

SUMMARY→ as it Relates to Part One:

In Rev. 17:14, God through John's words tells the reader that 'the unholy trinity' is going to 'make war' against God's "Lamb" at what we call the → Battle of Armageddon.

In Rev. 19: 11-21, God through John's words provides additional facts about the 'NAME' of this "LAMB" → "...whose rider is called faithful and true..." & "...the word of God..." & "...King of kings & Lord of lords..."

PART TWO:

“...but the Lamb will overcome them...”

I believe that this is basically as statement of ‘Physical’ fact provided by God through Johns words, which tells the reader the **“Lamb”** will **“overcome”** the **‘unholy trinity’**. Again this appears to be straight forward to me but some modern scholars try to **‘spiritualize’** the meaning → eventually, good over evil!

PART THREE:

“...because → He is the Lord of lords and King of kings...”

1) **“...because...”** I think God put this word in to let all readers both present (time of John) and future exactly the **‘REASON WHY’** the **“Lamb”** will **“overcome”** the **‘unholy trinity’**, which is clearly stated in the last part of this statement.

2) **“...he is Lord of lord and King of kings...”** The last part of this section provides the reader with **‘THE REASON WHY’** the **“Lamb”** will **“overcome”** the **‘unholy trinity’**. And it is **“...because he is the Lord of lords and King of kings.”** The **“Lamb”** is the → **‘Son of God → Jesus Christ → Savior of all of Creation’**. There is no greater power in all of creation. If you go back and read Revelation Chapter 4 you will find heaven asking the question: **“Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?”** → Then the reply from heaven (all of chapter 4) focus on verse 12, **“In a loud voice they sang: ‘Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength, and honor and glory and praise!’”** Also, read Revelation Chapter 22.

PART FOUR:

“...and with him will be → His called, → chosen → and faithful follows.”

I believe these words were inserted by God the Father to make men aware that He → God is going to make good on his promise/prophecy that the raptured (Christians) of → **‘The Church of Jesus Christ’** will be part of the group of **‘Saints’** that will return to earth with Jesus Christ at His **‘Second Coming’**. Now I will break this verse down into its basic sub-sets, as follows:

ONE: “...and with Him will be...” These five words tell the reader that God is now going to define for the reader → who will be with Jesus Christ at His ‘Second Coming’.

TWO: “...His called *His* chosen and *His* faithful followers.” I added two extra “HIS” to help focus us on exactly who will be coming with Jesus Christ at ‘The Second Coming of Jesus Christ’. There has been a lot of scholars who have developed, what I call very complex theories about the meaning of these three groups, however, I believe the meaning is very straight forward and simple: **It is three different ‘Descriptions’ included in one group/body of people → which is the Church of Jesus Christ.** I will provide scripture to support my opinion, as follows:

1) “...His Called...” Romans 10:13; There are many verses within scripture that speak about this issue but I like this one → “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

2) “...His chosen...” Again, there are many verses within scripture that speak about this issue but I like these → John 15:16a, “You did not chose Me , but I chose you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.” Also, 1 Peter 2:9, “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God...”

3) “...His faithful followers.” Again, there are many places within scripture that speak about Jesus Christ → ‘CALLING’ people to ‘FOLLOW HIM’, but I like this one: Mark 1:17, “Come, follow Me, ‘Jesus said’, and I will make you fishers of man.”

NOTE:

However, I would like to make it clear that I believe in Revelation Chapter 17, verse 14, God the Father through John’s words is focusing the reader’s attention on the ‘New Testament Saints’ and probably the ‘Tribulation Saints/Martyrs’; “...his called→chosen→and faithful follows.”

Whereas in Revelation Chapter 19, (also verse 14), **"The armies of heaven → were following him, → riding on white horses → and dressed in fine linen, → white → and clean."** Appears to be talking about a lot larger group of **'Saints'** **(where Saints is defined as all people who → obey God and believe and that the God of Creation and His Son Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven)**. I believe that this → **'larger group'**, meaning → **"...armies of heaven..."** is composed of three (possibly four) sub-groups, which are as follows:

- 1)** The people of the Old Testament that are, what we would call **'Saved'**, some scholars do not believe that this group will be part of this army, but will remain in heaven until the creation of the New Heaven, Earth and New Jerusalem,
- 2)** The people of the New Testament that were **'saved through the Blood of Jesus Christ' → this would be the saved people of the Church of Jesus Christ,**
- 3)** Tribulation Saints, meaning people who died during the **'Seven Year Tribulation Period'** and placed their eternal destiny in the **'Blood of Jesus Christ'**.
- 4)** **And I believe it will contain a Fourth Group → All of the angels, loyal to God the Father, in heaven.** Again, just my opinion!

VERSE 15:

"Then the angel said to me, → 'The waters you saw, → where the prostitute sits, → are the peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.'"

Again, I will split this verse into four parts as I believe that it is providing the reader with four separate specific pieces of information about the relationship between the, **"...waters..."** & **"...prostitute..."** mentioned in Revelation Chapter 17, verse 1, **"Come, I will show you the punishment of → the great prostitute, → who sits on many waters."**

Note: Remember the word **"...prostitute..."** in this verse means → **'The False Religion of the World, led by the False Prophet'**.

Again, I believe that these words in Revelation Chapter 17, verse 15 were put in by God the Father to clarify or define for the reader the meaning of the words in

Revelation Chapter 17, verse 1. I will split this verse into what I believe to be the 'THREE' basic sub-sets or primary subjects of this verse, which are as follows:

POINT ONE: "Then the angel said to me..."

I believe **'angel who is currently doing the talking'** is the same as the one in verse 1 → **"One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, 'Come..."** see verses: 1, 3, and 7, now verse 15

POINT TWO: "The water you saw..."

In the next part of this verse the **"angel"** begins the process of defining for John some key information about the **"...the prostitute..."** or **'One World Religious System'**.

POINT THREE: "...where the prostitute sits..."

Next the **"angel"** tells the reader **"...where the prostitute sits..."** which is on **"The water..."** This is actually a repeat of information, as it was provided to the reader in verse 1b, **"...Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters."**

POINT FOUR: "...are the people, multitudes, nations and languages."

Last the **"angel"** defines for the reader exactly → Who or What → the **"...waters..."** are that John was looking at and **'Whom the Prostitute Rulers Over and has Authority Over'**!

NOTE: I think is interesting that in Verse 1, God sends His **"angel"** to inform the reader about the **"...punishment of the great prostitute..."** And now in this verse God sends this same **"angel"** to provide the reader with a definition of, **"...where the prostitute sits..."** (Also described in verse 1) → which is → **"...the people, multitudes, nations and languages."** → which will include all of the people of the earth at this point in time: (excluding the saved people.)

VERSE 16:

“The beast → and the ten horns you saw → will hate the prostitute. → They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; → they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.”

In the previous verse; verse 15, God through John’s words provided the reader with additional information about → **“...where the prostitute sits...”** with the word **“...prostitute...”** meaning the **‘False Religion of the World, led by the False Prophet’**, which was **“...on many waters...”** Then verse 15 also provided the reader with the definition of the word **“...waters...”** with the word **“waters”** meaning the **“...the people, multitudes, nations and languages...”** of the world at this point in time. Another words → the entire earth and all of the people living on the earth.

Now in verse 16 God through John’s words is going to provide the reader with additional information about → The **‘Relationship that has Developed (During the First Three and One Half years of the Tribulation Period) Between’** the **“beast”** or antichrist & the **“prostitute”** or false prophet.

Note → Keep in mind that their relationship during the **‘First Half’** of the seven year tribulation period was very close as the antichrist needed the false prophet to help solidify his control of the world and set up his **‘One World Government/Economic System’**. I think this is a great example of → **Why humanity can never trust anything that Satan says or is selling and it is only the ‘Word of God’ that can be 100% trusted while we are on this earth.**

Now I will begin our detailed analysis of verse 16:

“The beast → and the ten horns you saw → will hate the prostitute. → They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; → they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.”

POINT ONE: “The beast...” Meaning the antichrist, leader of **‘The One World Government/Economic System’**,

POINT TWO: “...and the ten horns → you saw...” Meaning the original **‘ten kings’** of the **‘Revived Roman Empire’** → Verse 12, “The ten horns you saw are ten kings...” Also see Dan. 7: 24

Note: I believe this statement warrants a deeper study outside of what we are doing. My point is, this one statement, possibly could shed some light on the timing of → When the antichrist kills the “three kings”! Just food for thought!

POINT THREE: “...will hate the prostitute.” I believe that there are two **‘KEY’** pieces of information within this portion of the verse; that explains some of the inter-action that will be going on during the **‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’**—between the antichrist, the false prophet and governmental structure of the **‘Revived Roman Empire’**.

First: The **‘Revived Roman Empire (ten/seven kings) & the antichrist’** will over time begin to “...hate...” the **‘false prophet and his ‘One World Religious System’** or “...prostitute...” → I think for different reasons but they will jointly still “...hate...” the “...prostitute...”. Reasons:

Reason for Satan/antichrist “hating” the **‘antichrist/One World Religious System’** → Remember the antichrist/Satan wants to be viewed by the world as a **‘god’** and the **‘False Prophet/One World Religion’** will be standing in his/antichrist way of accomplishing this. I think the Bible provides us with three key points on this issue:

a) Timing of → When Satan and his fallen angels are expelled from heaven to the earth, Rev. 12:8-x, “But he (dragon and his angels) was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.”

b) Timing of → When Satan **‘Proclaims himself to be god’,** Dan. 9:27, “He (Satan) will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven’, but in the middle of that ‘seven’ he will put an end to the sacrifice and offering. And one who

causes desolation will place abominations on a wing of the temple, until the end that has been decreed is poured out on him.”

c) The EVENT of Satan actually ‘Proclaiming himself to be god’, 2 Thess. 2:4, “He opposes and exalts himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, and even sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.”

Therefore, I believe that the ‘False Prophet and his One World Religious System’ will be in direct conflict with the objective of Satan/the antichrist, which is to be ‘WORSHIPED’. Simply put the ‘False Prophet’ and his ‘One World Religious Organization’ will become a major road block or like third thumb—to Satan achieving his ultimate objective, which is ‘TO BE WORSHIPED’. Therefore, he, the ‘antichrist’ and his ‘system’ will have to (not sure how all this will work out) but words like—make adjustments—refocused his partnership with the false prophet—modified his relationship with the false prophet—erased the false prophet—murdered the false prophet; all of these words/concepts I think could be used to describe what will take place, between the antichrist/Satan and the false prophet at the mid-point of the ‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’!

Reason for the “the ten horns/kings...hating” → The ‘False Prophet/One World Religious System’ is because:

One of the primary reasons the ‘Revived Roman Empire (ten horns/kings)’ came to power so quickly and with so much power, is because of the ‘Power & Authority’ the ‘False Prophet/One World Religious System’ accumulated—very quickly, (I think this speaks to the issue of the hearts and souls of many of the people living during this period).

However, all of this being said, I believe the reason for the ‘Revived Roman Empire/Ten/Seven Kings’ “hating” the ‘False Prophet/One World Religious System’ is much simpler—it will be all about ‘POWER & MONEY’. Revelation Chapter 13; 11-18 makes it very clear that the ‘antichrist’ has, at the mid-point of the ‘Seven Year Tribulation Period → Control of the Economic & Financial System’ → Rev. 13: 15-17, “He was given power to give breath to the image of the first

beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. He ALSO FORCED EVERYONE, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, (meaning, total control of all of the economy) which is the name of the beast or the number of his name."

Again, the **'False Prophet'**, at the mid-point of the **'Seven Year Tribulation Period'**—I believe will be extremely **POWERFUL**.

Therefore, I believe that at this point in the **'Seven Year Tribulation Period'** (actually the mid-point) the **"ten horns/ten kings"** (which is the One World Governmental System) will want to take back the **'POWER & MONEY'** they have lost to the **'False Prophet/One World Religious System'** and based on the remaining words of this verse it appears it will be an **'Unfriendly Transition'**? See the words in point four below, which is actually the **'Topic of Revelation Chapter 17' → The Destruction of the 'False Prophet/One World religious System by 'the antichrist and the One World Governmental System'.**

POINT FOUR: **"They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked → they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire."** I have combined these two descriptions because I believe they are speaking about the same action/event/judgment; just describing them in different ways.

I believe that God through John's words is now providing the reader with a word/visual/mental description of just how much hate has developed between → **'The False Prophet'** and the **'antichrist/kings of the Revived Roman Empire'**, and that this will all happen at the middle of the **'Seven Year Tribulation Period'**.

When I first wrote the above words I was puzzled as to how all of this could happen this fast, however, after the events of the last several years I now believe men are very capable of developing an extreme amount of hate in a very short period of time. Now I understand how this much hate could have developed between the; **'One World Religious System of the False Prophet'** & the **'Revived Roman Empire Led by the antichrist'** → **in such a short period of time!**

Also, I think if you really look at the specific words used by God you can see the **'intense hate'** that must have existed between these two opposing **'Systems'** → When you use words like → **"ruin → leave her naked → eat her flesh → burn her with fire"**, I think that would qualify as someone who **'Really, Really hates the other person/system'**! Again, I do not think there can be any question as to the relationship between these two **'Systems'** at the mid-point in the **'Seven Year Tribulation Period'**!

J. Vernon McGee points out that this is very similar to many examples within the Bible where God uses people/systems that He/God brings into power to be His **'Divine Instrument of Judgment'**: to judge other groups of sinful people or systems. He uses Isaiah 19: 5-19 as an example of how He/God used Assyria to judge Israel for their sin and then used Babylon to judge Assyria. In our example God uses → **'The Revived Roman Empire led by the antichrist to judge the False Prophet and his One World Religion System & then uses the 'Seconding Coming of Jesus Christ' to judge 'The Revived Roman Empire led by the antichrist'**.

Note: Keep in mind God **'HAD'** (past tense) all this worked out before He/God even created Heaven → or Satan and the angels → or Earth/Creation and humans. **Not bad for a God who many say: Today God is no longer relevant!!!!**

VERSE 17:

"For God has put into their hearts → to accomplish his purpose → by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule, → until God's words are fulfilled"

It appears to me that in verse 17, God through John's words, recaps for the reader the **'macro or conceptual'** meaning of verse 16b. Remember verse 17 is at the **'macro'** level and does not speak to the **'specific actions described in the actual words of verse 16b'**, which are obviously **'Symbolic'**. Also, our current verse, verse 17, I believe completely legitimizes J. Vernon McGee's view of verse 16b. To me verse 17 makes it very clear that God is using the **'Revived Roman Empire led by the antichrist'** as a → **'Divine Instrument of Judgment'** on the → **'One World Church, led by the False Prophet'**: And if you think about it the **'One World**

Government/Economic System/Unsaved People' → Is actually beginning the process of bring judgment on themselves → One part of the unholy trinity for God. → **He Satan/antichrist is acting as 'A Divine Instrument of Judgment' on 1/3 of his 'unholy trinity'. However, → he/Satan/antichrist does not even realize that the 'God of Creation' is the one making these events happen → only an Omnipotent & Omnipresent God could do this → not a created being!**

Also, when God repeats words or concepts in scripture I think all people should perk up and take notice or listen very closely → and that is exactly what verse 16 & 17 are doing.

I will break this verse down into its basic subsets. However, I am going to use the Greek Translator translation because I believe it is easier to understand (However, I will put the NIV translation next to the Greek Translator in each section in blue letters), which is as follows:

Greek Translator Translation:

"For God gave into their hearts → to do His mind, and to act in one mind, → and to give their kingdoms to the beast, → until the words of God shall be fulfilled"

NIV; "For God has put into their hearts → to accomplish his purpose → by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule → until God's words are fulfilled."

Not many scholars provide an opinion on the meaning of this verse; therefore, I will give you mine. Again, this is my opinion, therefore, you need to read and make up your own mind. Also, remember this verse is referencing the words in verse 16.

PART ONE: **"For God gave into their hearts..."** → "For God put into their hearts..."

I believe that God put these words in for three reasons:

1) To let **ALL READERS** know that God has a master plan for His Creation and that He is always in **TOTAL CONTROL of His Creation and where it is going/heading**, even to **'the point of allowing'** the **'Minds & Hearts of all Unsaved People'**, even

the **'World Leaders & Satan & the antichrist & False Prophet'** to let them make **'Sinful Mistakes'** that will eventually doom them to **'The Lake of Fire'**. I clarify this in # 3 below.

2) To make sure **'His People, Saved People'** know that He/God is in **'TOTAL CONTROL'** of even these very harsh & savage times and the **'Heavenly Beings/People'** who are creating these events.

3) Last, I think this is a good example of what happens when you refuse God for the last time → **Gods Scripture in Action**; 2 Thess. 2: 10b-12, **"They perish → because they refuse to love the truth and so be saved. → For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion → so that they will believe the lie and → so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth → but have delighted in wickedness."** Also, see Romans 1:18-32.

NOTE: Has God ever done this type of **'Event'** before and the simple answer is → **YES**, many times. Read Genesis Chapter 6, which tells the story about Noah and the flood. However, to me the real question is → **'Why Would or How Could God'**, knowingly → **Condemn People to Hell?** Given God the Creator of EVERYTHING → Clearly states in John 3: 16, **"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that who so ever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."** or 2 Peter 3:9b, **"The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you → not wanting any to perish → but everyone to come to repentance."** or 1 Tim. 2: 3-4, **"This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."**

As these three verses have stated **'God does, "...not want any to perish..."** but they are also very clear about what is required by God if → **"...eternal life..."** is to be obtained:

1) "...who so ever believes in Him..."

2) "...but everyone to come to repentance."

the 'Kings of the East' to enter Israel & to implant in their minds a desire to attack Israel. Therefore the word "Water" is used to describe the 'BARRIER' that is blocking their way and not 'literal water'.

My other point is → With modern technology moving an army across a river would not be a major issue, however at this point in the 'Seven Year Tribulation Period' I am not sure → How much Modern technology there will be left in the world → If Any?

Remember this is just my personal opinion on this issue!

7th BOWL JUDGMENT

The 'Seventh Bowl Judgment' is in reality the 21st and final judgment (of 20 actual judgments). So some scholars believe that this judgment is one and the same as the 'Second Coming of Jesus Christ', however, I do not agree with their view based on the actual words within this judgment. However, I do believe that the 'Second Coming of Jesus Christ' will happen at the end of this judgment; so I guess it does not really matter how you view this judgment: one and done or a two-step process.

Seventh Bowl Judgment → I will just highlight the primary destructive words used in Rev. 16: 17-21, "...flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earth quake... the cities of the nations collapsed... every island fled away and the mountains could not be found... huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds fell upon men." I am not sure how you would be able to calculate the death toll but it would appear there would be very little left to fight the 'Battle of Armageddon', unless you were underground! However, just for our purpose of calculating a final number I will use 20%, death toll → remaining people on earth → $.826 \times .2 = .165$: $.826 - .165 = .661$ Billions people remaining on earth just before the Battle of Armageddon.

Now that we have established a picture for you of the situation that earth is in at this point within the 'Tribulation Period' I will go back to Revelation Chapter 18, starting with verse 2:

2) The Babylon Empire, I could not find in the bible the exact date 'The Babylon Empire' fell to 'The Persian Empire' but history records this as happening somewhere between 540-530 BC. The prophet Daniel wrote the Book of Daniel between 600-530 BC.

3) The Babylon being described in this verse (Rev. 18:2), that is the Capital City of the antichrist and representing the 'One World Governmental/Economic System', is a 'Yet Future Event/Prophecy' from our current time period.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION→

Verse 2b-3→ Provides the reader with 'Specific Information or Attributes' about, what we would call 'The Babylon System', composed of → The One World Government and Economic System with its capital in the rebuilt City of Babylon';

"She has become a home for demons and → a haunt for every evil spirit, → a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird. → For all nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. → The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and → the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries."

Before we go any further I would like to draw your attention to the specific words, "Home & Haunt" as I believe that they are the key to understanding the→ 'Over-All' meaning of these two verses.

The word "Home" means→ 'Ones place of Residence'

The word "Haunt" means→ To visit often & to visit or inhabit as a ghost

The bottom line is the city of "Babylon" is being portrayed as the home or a place that "Demons & Evil Spirits" visit frequently. Also, I think this definition would also extend to the entire kingdom of the antichrist and even the entire world: during this period.

Now I will break these verses down into their basic sub-sets, which is as follows→

no shepherd will rest his flock there. But desert creatures will lie there, jackals will fill her houses; there the owls (predatory bird) will dwell, and there the wild goats will leap about. Hyenas will howl in her strongholds, jackals in her luxurious palaces. Her time is at hand, and her days will not be prolonged.”

Both Isaiah chapters 13, 14 & 47 (written ~ 712 BC) and Jeremiah chapters 50 & 51 (Written ~ 595 BC) speak about the destruction of Babylon → also see Isaiah chapter 21 and remember the Book of Daniel actually records these events: written between ~ 534—607 BC. And Jeremiah Chapter 25 talks about the ‘70 Year Captivity of the Jews in the City of Babylon’.

Side-Note: Many scholars believe that these and other prophecies about the fall of Babylon are talking about when Persia conquered Babylon. Therefore, when reading ‘Prophecy Scripture’ on this or any other subject make sure you → clearly understand the words and context of what is being said and the period that is being talked about. Some scripture talks about the destruction of Babylon but does not mention → ‘IF IT WILL BE REBUILT’. Then in other scripture it talks about the destruction of Babylon and → CLEARLY STATES IT WILL NEVER BE REBUILT’ and this is the ‘Time Period/Destruction’ that we are talking about in verses 2-3 above. However, if you read all of the scripture that discusses this subject there is a lot of commonality within these scriptures.

I will quote a small example, as follows: Isa. 47: 7-xx, “You said, ‘I will continue forever—the eternal queen!’ But you did not consider these things or reflect on what might happen. Now then, listen, you wanton creatures, lounging in your security and saying to yourself, ‘I am, and there is none besides me. I will never be a widow or suffer the loss of children.’ Both of these will overtake you in a moment, on a single day: loss of children and widowhood. They will come upon you in full measure, in spite of your many sorceries and all your potential spells. You have trusted in your wickedness and have said, ‘No one sees me.’ Your wisdom and knowledge has misled you when you say to yourself, ‘I am, and there is none besides me.’ Disaster will come upon you and you will not know how to conjure it away. A calamity will fall upon you that you cannot ward off with ransom; a catastrophe you cannot foresee.” These words were actually

written by Isaiah in ~ 712 BC and were describing the destruction of Babylon by the Medes & Persians in ~ 530 BC but the actual words/description would certainly appear to be relevant for Revelation Chapter 18 as well. My opinion is that many times when God provides us information on **'Yet Future Events'** He/God provides us **'Specific Pieces of Information'** that will cover more than one event → Only an Omnipresent & Omnipotent God can do these types of things.

Example:

Isa. 47:9, **"Both of these will overtake you in a moment, on a single day..."**

Rev. 18:8, **"Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her..."**

Keep in mind that in ~530 BC the Medes & Persians conquered Babylon in "One Day" and Rev. 18:8 tells us the "O great city, O Babylon" will be also be destroyed in "one day".

Again, only an Omnipresent & Omnipotent God can do these things 100% of the time.

FOUR→ God now changes the subject matter and now begins talking about BABYLON'S RELATIONSHIP with three specific groups: NATIONS→ KINGS→ MERCHANTS/SEA CAPTAINS. To me this list appears to be in a descending order of 'Power', just my opinion!

NATION: FIRST LEVEL→ Rev. 18:3, "For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries." This statement clearly states that

"For...ALL THE NATIONS have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries."

Meaning that 'ALL NATIONS' on planet earth have committed

'ADULTRY/SPIRITUAL FORNICATION' → Balaamism (see Letter to the Church in Pergamum) with the 'ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT/ECONOMIC SYSTEM' of

Satan, the antichrist and the false prophet: See Revelation Chapter 13; focus on

verses 7b-8a: **"And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and NATION. ALL INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH WILL WORSHIP THE BEAST..."**

KINGS: SECOND LEVEL→ Rev. 18:9, **“The KINGS of the earth who committed adultery with her...”** Again, this statement clearly states that→ **“The KINGS of the earth committed adultery with her...”** I can see no other way to interpret this statement other than exactly what it says! **‘ADULTERY → SPIRITUAL FORNATION → BALAAMISM’ (See Letter to the Church in Pergamum) with the ‘ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT/ECONOMIC SYSTEM’ of ‘SATAN, the antichrist and the false prophet**→ Again, see Revelation Chapter 13: 7b-8a and Rev. 19:19a, **“Then I saw the beast and the KINGS OF THE EARTH and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse (Jesus Christ) and His army...”**

MERCHANTS: THIRD LEVEL→ Rev. 18:15, **“The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her...”** This is the third group listed→ **An** is describing the **‘MONEY or ECONOMIC’ side of → Satan → the antichrist→ the false prophets: “ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT/ECONOMIC SYSTEM’** See Rev.13: 16 **“He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive the mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark which is the name of the beast or the number of his name.”** **I would say that this is what you would call a captive audience!**

SEA CAPTAINS: Part of Third Level—‘Money or Economic’ Rev. 18:19b, **“Woe! Woe, O great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth!”**

CONCLUSION→ Again, these verses are specific details about specific groups and their relationship with→ **THE CAPITAL CITY OF BABYLON** but would also be the same **‘RELATIONSHIPS’** that would exist with→ **‘THE ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT/ECONOMIC SYSTEM, led by Satan/antichrist/false prophet.**

VERSES 4-8→

I think verses 4-8 should be viewed as God providing the reader with additional information on→

(1) GOD CALLING HIS PEOPLE OUT OF BABYLON BEFORE HIS JUDGMENT FALLS,

(2) METHOD GOD USED TO MEASURE BABYLON'S SINS,

(3) GOD DEFINES SOME OF BABYLONS SINS AND THE RESULTING JUDGMENTS,

(4) GOD DESCRIBES TWO CONDITIONS OR METHODS WHICH WILL BE THE 'FINAL JUDGMENT' FOR THE 'GREAT CITY OF BABYLON'→ REPERSENTING 'THE ANTICHRIST → ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT/ ECONOMIC SYSTEM'

Verse 4, "Then I heard another voice from heaven say: Come out of her my people, → (so that you will not) → (share in her sins), (so that you will not) → (receive any of her plagues)..."

Verse 5, "...for her sins are piled up to heaven, → and God has remembered her crimes'."

Verse 6, "Give back to her → as she has given; → pay her back double → for what she has done. → Mix her a double portion → from her own cup."

Verse 7, "Give her as much torture and grief → as the glory and luxury she gave herself. → In her heart she boast, → 'I sit as a queen; → I am not a widow, and → I will never mourn'." NOTE THE USED OF THE WORD "I" THREE TIMES in verse 7.

Verse 8, "Therefore, in one day → her plague will overtake her; → (death, mourning and famine) → She will be consumed by fire, → for mighty is the Lord God → who judges her."

Again, I think these 5 verses are split into 4 parts, which are as follows:

PART 1 → GODS COMMAND TO HIS PEOPLE →

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ONE SPEAKING:

Verse 4a → “Then I heard another voice from heaven say:”

Meaning, these words are being spoken by a different ‘Heavenly Being’ than the one that spoke the words in verses 1-3. We know this is a ‘Heavenly Being’ because the “voice” is “from heaven’. Also because this ‘Heavenly Being’ is not specifically defined as ‘another angel’, many scholars believe that the words are being spoken by Jesus Christ. A second reason would be that → the one doing the talking is talking about ‘JUDGMENT ON THE CITY OF BABYLON’, which is the CAPITAL of ‘THE ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT—ECONOMIC SYSTEM’. We know that Jesus Christ will be the one to destroy the armies/kingdom of the antichrist at ‘The Second Coming of Jesus Christ’: see Revelation Chapter 19, verses 11-21.

THE ACTUAL COMMAND → Verse 4b → “Come out of her my people...” To me this is a straight command by the ‘Heavenly Being’ (based on these words it appears it is actually—Jesus Christ) doing the talking. Also, based on the wording of this statement I do not think there can be any doubt in anyone’s mind that the statement is directed at → ‘Save People’. Also, I think the other point is the actual words being used → “my people”. Indicating the people being spoken to are the ‘Children of God’ and more specifically → ‘People Saved through the BLOOD of JESUS CHRIST’ → “my people”. This is also additional support for the scholars above who believe that this is Jesus Christ who is speaking.

GODS REASON & LOGIC FOR HIS COMMAND →

Verse 4c → “... so that you will not → share in their sins, → so that you will not → receive any of her plagues...” Again this begins the ‘Reasoning’ or ‘Logic Portion’ of this verse: why “my people” should “Come out of her”. To me this is a ‘Two Step Statement’ →

STEP ONE→

“...so that you will not → share in their sins...” **To me this speaks to a ‘specific issue’, which is “SIN”.** In these verses God identifies or defines six specific sins; verse 7, (1) **“...as the glory and luxury she gave herself.** → (2) **In her heart she boast,** → (3) **‘I sit as a queen;** → (4) **I am not a widow, and** → (5) **I will never mourn’.** → (6) **“...glory & luxury & boast...”** Again, note the three **“I’s”** in this verse. Also, now go back and read the words in Isaiah 47:7-11.

The bible has always been very clear that God always provides his people with a warning (normally many warnings) before He brings JUDGMENT on them for their sin. I also believe that God has provided the rest of the world with many ways that they should know that there is a ‘DIVINE CREATOR’ and that they should ‘Seek out His Guidance’ for the way they should live and relate to Him! Therefore, nothing that has ever been created can say that they had no way to know and therefore, should not be held accountable for their sins: Romans 6: 16, **“Don’t you know that when you offer yourself to someone to obey him as slave, you are slave to the one whom you obey—whether you are slave to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness.”** Also see Romans 1: 18-32

There has been much discussion about this verse in terms of, should it be taken as speaking about a **‘Spiritual Issue’ or ‘Physical Issue’.**

SPIRITUAL ISSUE→ **These scholars believe that God is telling ‘His People’ that even though this will be a very ‘HARSH’ time that they cannot ‘PARTICIPATE in the SINS of the World/Babylon System’. Meaning, they may be in the world, but cannot be of the world.**

PHYSICAL ISSUE→ **These scholars believe that God is telling ‘His People’ to ‘PHYSICALLY COME OUT OF THE PHYSICAL CITY ON BABYLON’ because it is going to be destroyed. An example of this would be ‘The Story of Lot’→ God ‘Physically Called Lot out of Sodom before it was ‘COMPLETELY DESTROYED’: Gen 19.**

My Opinion→ Is that this verse is speaking to both → 'The Spiritual & Physical Issue'. To me this would appear to be the type of 'Guidance' that a 'HOLY GOD' would provide to HIS PEOPLE'. Also, I think there are several other facts within this issue that we should discuss: I think these words would be speaking to three specific groups of people:

1) People who are already saved → The bible does not tell us how large this group of people will be, during the last days/months of the 'Seven Year Tribulation Period', however, we do know there will be the 144,000 Jewish evangelist, Rev Chapter 7 & 14). We also know that many saved people will have been 'MARTYRED' during this period, see Rev. 6:9-11 & Rev. 7: 9-17→ verse 9→ **"great multitude"**.

2) The Jewish People → GODS CHOSEN PEOPLE; see Zech. Chapters 12-14, I like this one, Deut. 4:30-31, **"When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in the latter days you will return to the Lord your God and obey Him. For the Lord your God is a merciful God, he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your forefathers, which He confirmed to them by oath."** You talk about a great verse for the Jewish people to hold on to→ this is it?

3) Unsaved People who have not received the 'Mark of the Beast' and the Holy Spirit is speaking too, I like this verse→ Romans 10:9, **"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord', and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."** Also, God does not want any to perish, which I think would also cover the 'Tribulation Period' up to the time 'JESUS CHRIST, OPEN THE HEAVENS AND RETURNS TO EARTH' → I like this verse as I think it gives 'Great Hope To ALL' even those living during the time of the Tribulations, 2 Peter 3:9, **"The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some would understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to PERISH, but everyone to come to repentance."** For 'THE GOD OF CREATION' to make this→ PROMISE to His CREATION has got to 'PROVIDE ALL WITH GREAT HOPE'.

NOTE: I have said before that I believe that all people at this point in the 'Seven Year Tribulation Period' would either be 'SEALED BY GOD or 'MARKED BY SATAN', however, based on these verse it would appear I was wrong! We can discuss more in class.

STEP TWO→

"...so that you will → not receive any of her plagues..." Again to me this speaks to a specific issue, which is "plagues" better known as JUDGMENT. In verses 4-8 God provides us with words like→ "double portion" & "torture & grief" & 'death, mourning and famine" & "consumed by fire", which should provide the reader with a good description of the type of Judgment that is to come upon the earth. However, if you go back and read the entire Book of Revelation you will find that God has already sent 20 very severe Judgments during this 'Seven Year Period' on this very sin-filled world → Led by the antichrists, ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT/ECONOMIC SYSTEM, with its capital in the 'GREAT CITY OF BABYLON'. This process will conclude with the 'Second Coming of Jesus Christ'; see Rev. 19: 11-21. However, Revelation Chapter 18 describes JUDGMENT this way, Rev. 18: 10b, "Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour your doom has come."

Given all of this it appears to me that God is 'Telling His People to PHYSICALLY leave the 'City of Babylon' if they are currently living within its boundaries, as total destruction is going to be 'sudden/quickly/immediate. And I think it goes without saying that if they are sharing in the sins of Babylon—they must repent and stop these actions immediately.

PART TWO→

METHOD GOD USED TO MEASURE "her sins":

Verse 5: "...for her sins are piled up to heaven, and → God has remembered her crimes"

To me God in verse 5 appears to be providing the reader with two key methods that He/God is using to measure the 'Rebellion/Sin' of this 'Great City of Babylon', which I think is also being used to describe specific 'Characteristics & Attributes of → 'The One World Government/Economic System' of the antichrist.

1) **"...for her sins are → (piled up to heaven...")** The first thing that comes into my mind is → How much patience God has when it comes to giving his Creation many chances to repent and be saved: see 2 Peter 3: 9 above.

I think this must be 'A VERY BIG PILE' as the distance from 'Earth to Heaven' is un-measurable given that are in two different 'Dimensions'.

2) **"...God has → (remembered her crimes.)"** These three words appear to me to encompass 'ALL OF THE SINS & REBELLION' that is being described in the entire Book of Revelation and based on the 'SITUATION & CONDITIONS' on planet earth → "her crimes" appear to be → INFINITE.

I think the other way to look at these words "her crimes" is that God is now using 'LEGAL TERMS' to describe "SIN". All of this 'REBELLION & SIN' should be considered as → Gods Creation breaking His Laws, Commands & Decrees.

And the last would be that → God has infinite patience but He also has 'An Infinite Memory!

PART THREE →

GOD BEGINS TO DEFINE SOME OF HER 'REBELLION & SIN & THE RESULTING JUDGMENTS' → Verses 6-8

Verse 6 → (1) **"Give back to her → (as she has given); →(2) pay her back → (double for what she has done).** → (3) **Mix her a double portion → (from her own cup)."**

There are three specific sections or statements within this one verse that speak to her 'Rebellion & Sin' and the resulting 'Methods of Judgment'.

However, in this verse God list the 'Judgment' first and then the 'Sin', which is somewhat unusual.

1) Judgment Defined → **"Give back to her** → then, the sin defined → **as she has given..."** The JUDGMENT or RESULTS of her sin is → 'She made 'Rebellion & Sin' appealing to the men & women of the earth, therefore, leading them away from Salvation & God, therefore she will receive, **"...as she has given"** → 'ETERNAL SEPERATION FROM GOD'. I think the other way to look at this is that 'She/Babylonian System' lead the people of the earth to their death/destruction so she will be destroyed—first the 'City' and then the 'System'—Lake of Fire.

2) Judgment Defined → **"...pay her back double for** → then, sin defined → **what she has done."** JUDGMENT or RESULTS of her sin → Again, she made 'Rebellion & Sin' appealing to men & women of the earth, therefore, bring GREAT HARM & DESTRUCTION TO ALL OF CREATION; to include 'PHYSICAL & SPIRITUAL CREATION & ALL OF HUMANITY AND EVEN THE EARTH/LAND' → leading them away from Salvation & God.

I am not sure how you can **"...pay her back double..."** when the penalty is the 'Lake of Fire', but I would not want to be the one finding out?

3) Judgment Defined → **"Mix her a double portion from** then sin defined → **(from) her own cup."** JUDGMENT or Results of her sin is defined as an equal amount as → 'She filled **"from her own cup"**, which full to the top of the cup. And again she made Rebellion & Sin appealing to men & women of the earth → 'SHE FILLED HER CUP WITH INIQUITY/SIN AND FORCED IT ON THE EARTH & ITS PEOPLE' → which always brings 'SEPERATION FROM GOD. I think the other way to look at the word **"cup"** is that it has a finite volume and when its volume is filled there is no more room , so something has to be done → Which I think falls under the 'REAP WHAT YOU SOW' concept: Gal. 6:7, **"Do not be deceived; God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life."** Also I like this verse

from Obadiah which really speaks to this time period, Oba. 1:15, **“The day of the Lord is near for all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you; YOUR DEEDS WILL RETURN UPON YOUR HEAD.”**

SIDE NOTE→ To me there can be no question that within these verses God is making it very plain for all readers that; **He—God is going to bring JUDGMENT on the ‘City of Babylon’, which is the Capital City of → The antichrist One World Government/Economic System’ because of their ‘Great Sin’, which is something that I think we should take as FACT.**

However, keep in mind that the judgment of these two ‘SYSTEMS’ will be implemented at two different times: Revelation Chapter 18→ The Capital City of Babylon will be destroyed sometimes in the months just prior to the ‘Second Coming of Jesus Christ: Revelation Chapter 19:11-21→ The One World Government/Economic System will be destroyed at the ‘Second Coming of Jesus Christ’.

However, I think there is another ‘MAJOR POINT’ that God is making within these verse, which is → NOTICE THE CHANGE IN GODS TONE AS IT RELATES TO HIS RELATIONSHIP TO HIS CREATION. In my opinion there are at least ‘FOUR MAJOR CHANGES’ taking place or have taken place, which are as follows:

- 1) The time of Grace is almost over and the time of Judgment is NOW,**
- 2) This point in time will be very similar if not exactly like the ‘Days of Noah’: both humans & demonic being will both be walking the earth at the same time.**
- 3) Gods ‘End Solution’ for the days of Noah and → Gods ‘End Solution’ for the end of the Tribulation Period will be exactly the same.**
 - a) The ‘End Solution’ during the time of Noah was that all unsaved people died in the flood and the saved people were kept alive; via the ark to re-populate the earth**
 - b) The ‘End Solution’ during the time of the antichrist will be exactly the same→ At the Battle of Armageddon all unsaved people will be killed and the ‘Saved**

People' will remain alive to re-populate the earth during the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ.

4) The words within these verses certainly do not sound like the words of Jesus Christ during His 'LIFE ON EARTH'! I think the major reason for this is that we are witnessing the beginning of the 'TRANSITION' that is about to take place → God the Father is beginning the 'TRANSITION PROCESS' that JESUS CHRIST will go through at this point in time: at least from a human point of view. When Jesus Christ came to the earth the first time He came as a 'LAMB TO BE SLAIN FOR THE SINS OF ALL HUMANITY' and now He is getting ready to 'COME AS KING, LORD OF LORDS, to rule with and Iron scepter.

CONCLUSION →

I think all of these changes in tone and transition are the MAJOR POINTS within these verses → which is that God the Father is getting ready to:

First → Let His People (saved) know that changes are coming and that they will be positive for saved people, see verse 4,

Second → to let the unsaved world know that their time of power is about to be over,

Third → Let all of 'CREATION' know that 'The God of Creation' is a JUST GOD and a GOD of JUSTICE; just like the way Abraham was 'justified by his faith/righteousness' even though it was about 2,000 year before → 'The Actions of Jesus Christ Paid the Price for ALL OF HUMANITIES SINS'. It also, puts the unsaved people on notice that → They will not be able to escape their sins at the 'GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT'.

Therefore, I think we need to read these verses and understand that they carry both a literal/specific meaning as well as a spiritual/implied meaning. Again, this is just my opinion → you need to read and decide for yourself!

Verse 7 →

“Given her as much torture and grief → as the glory and luxury she gave herself.
→ In her heart she boasts → ‘I sit as queen; → I am not a widow, and → I will
never mourn’.”

This verse continues speaking about the ‘Rebellion & Sin’ committed by the ‘City
of Babylon’ but would also be indicative of the entire kingdom of the
antichrist → ‘ONE WORLD GOVERNMENTAL/ECONOMIC SYSTEM’ and the
‘Resulting Judgment’. This verse appears to be broken into two basic sub-sets, which
are as follows:

1) Judgment Defined → “Give her → as much torture and grief then sin
defined → as the glory and luxury she gave herself.” Again, I think this verse is
talking about ‘A MAN REAPING WHAT HE SOWS’; (see Gal. 6:7 & Oba. 1:15
above) except this time the sin is defined as “...as the glory and luxury she gave
herself.” And the JUDGMENT is defined as “...torture and grief...” It is my
opinion that based on ‘THE WAY THE CAPITAL CITY OF BABYLON → AND THE
ANTICHRIST → ONE WORLD GOVERNMENTAL/ECONOMIC SYSTEM: OPERATED,
LIVED AND FOCUSED ON TAKING CARE OF THEMSELVES ONLY’ the payback
“...torture and grief” is going to be off the charts in terms of both ‘HUMAN &
SPIRITUAL PAIN & HEART—ACHE’ → ‘Actually Total Physical Destruction and
both Physical and Spiritual Death—Eternity in ‘The Lake of Fire’.

2) Sin Defined → I think in this portion of verse 7 God changes His format → This
time God first defines her sin → “In her heart she boasts then, God defines
Judgment as SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS → ‘I sit as a queen; → I am not a widow,
and → I will never mourn’.” Before we go any further I think it is worth noting
that each of the three statements describing her ‘Spiritual Blindness’ start with
the words → “I sit → I am → I will” Again all three start with the word “I”
which indicates to me that what is being described as ‘SOMEONE OR
SOMETHING’ that is → ‘TOTALLY SELF-CENTERED or SELF ABSORBED
AND HAS NO ROOM FOR GOD IN THEIR HEARTS’.

Side point: Now let's go back and read Isaiah 47:7-11 and see how the words compare?

NOTE—1: Verses 6 & 7 both begin with the words, **“Give back to her...Give her as much...”**, which appears to me to be **‘A Different Speaker’** than the one in verses 4-5. I will list the speakers by verse (my opinion):

- 1) Verses 1-3, **“...another angel...”**
- 2) Verses 4-5, we defined the speaker as **Jesus Christ**, (assumption)
- 3) Verses 6-7a, to me appears to be a different speaker, which is not defined— they are asking God to bring judgment for **her/Babylon's sins** → I believe this speaker/group could be the martyred saints of the **‘Fifth Seal Judgment’**, **“How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?”** Or the martyred saints speaking in, Rev. 7:9-11 & **“These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”** Or it could be some other part of heaven or some other unnamed group from earth. Again I am not sure who this group is, but I think it is a separate being/group from the **“another angel”** & **Jesus Christ**.
- 4) Verse 7b, the subject appears to me to go back to listing the **‘Sins of Babylon’**, which I believe, is the same speaker as 4-5—**Jesus Christ** or it could be the original angel in verses 1-3.
- 5) Verse 8, In verse 8 it appears to me to be another change in speakers, which could be: the first angel (**“had authority/the earth was illuminated by his splendor/mighty”**) or **Jesus Christ**: my reasoning is simple → the speaker in verse 8 appears to have **‘Great—Authority & Power’** → as they are making a **‘Statement of Fact’**, which is → that because of the **‘Sins of Babylon’** as listed in verses 2-5 & 7b (**it/the great city**) will be destroyed; **“She will be consumed by fire...”**, which I do not think could be made by **Martyred Men!**

PART FOUR→

**GOD DESCRIBES TWO CONDITIONS OR METHODS WHICH WILL BE THE
'FINAL JUDGMENT' FOR THE 'GREAT CITY OF BABYLON' →
REPERSENTING 'THE ANTICHRIST → ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT/
ECONOMIC SYSTEM'**

Verse 8 →

"Therefore → in one day → her plagues will overtake her: → death, mourning and famine. → She will be consumed by fire, → for mighty is the Lord God → who judges her."

Again, this verse appears to be speaking about six specific topics, which are as follows:

ONE: The first word in this verse is the word **"Therefore..."** (Greek Translation: **"Because of this..."**) which I believe God put in as a **'Transition Word'** which ties all of the sins listed in verses 1-7 to the **'Judgment'** that is about to come upon the **'City of Babylon'**.

TWO: The next three words define the time period of her judgment, **"...in one day..."** Based on these words it would appear that the judgment will be swift and sever. As we have discussed before I am not sure if this time period **"...in one day..."** is literal or symbolic but I am sure it will be **'Sudden or Quick'** in terms of how men view time

THREE: The next five words, **"...her plagues will overtake her..."** again tells the reader that **'All of the Sins that She has sown are now Coming Home to Roost/Judgment'**. The **'Webster's Dictionary'** defines the word **"plagues"** as follows: **'a disastrous evil, affliction or calamity; also an epidemic disease causing a high rate of mortality'**. And that appears to be exactly what is happening → **'To O Great City of Babylon'**. Again, 'She' is reaping what she has sown—affliction, calamity & death.

FOUR: The next four words, I believe, summarizes for the reader some of the 'Results that HER SINS Brought on the People of the Earth', **"...death, morning and famine."** To me this is just a more detailed description of # 3 above.

FIVE: The next six words define 'How this Great City—Babylon' will be DESTROYED; **"She will be consumed by fire..."** God used 'Water' in the days of Noah and now will use **"fire"**, which I think is similar to what He did to Sodom & Gomorrah. Also, I think that the words **"She will be consumed by fire..."** somehow will tie in to the 'The Second Coming of Jesus Christ', recorded in Rev. 19:11-21. However, I view 'The Second Coming of Jesus Christ' as a **'Two Part Process'**. I believe that Jesus Christ will be the one to destroy the **'City of Babylon'**, but this will happen just prior to **'His Second Coming'** with the armies of heaven—Rev. 19:11-21. Again, just my opinion!

SIX: I think the next six words provide for the reader two very important pieces of information:

1) **"...For mighty/strong is the Lord God..." which I believe indicates or defines for the reader that the 'ONE' bringing these judgments has the 'Authority and Power to Implement' them, which is the **'One & Only God/the God of Creation'**.**

2) The second part of this sentence makes it clear that it is 'The God of Creation' that is implementing these judgments, **"...who judges her."**

BASIC SUB-SETS→

Again, I think that the words **"She will be consumed by fire..." tie in to the 'The Second Coming of Jesus Christ—Parts One & Two', recorded in Rev. 19:11-21. The world was destroyed by water in the days of Noah and most scholars believe at 'The Second Coming of Jesus Christ' it will be destroyed by **"FIRE"**. Therefore, it is also my opinion that at the 'Second Coming of Jesus Christ' the armies of the antichrist will also be destroyed by **"fire"**.**

CONCLUSION→

Again to me there is no question that verse 8 completes the ‘Judgment Process of the Capital City of Babylon of the antichrist → One World Government/Economic System’ being described in verse 4-8, which I believe will be completed with → ‘The Second Coming of Jesus Christ—Parts One & Two’; Rev. 19:11-21 → a few days to several months apart.

THE NEXT SECTION IN REVELATION CHAPTER 18 →

SPEAKS ABOUT HOW THREE SPECIFIC GROUPS WITHIN THE WORLD WILL REACT TO THE DESTRUCTION OF “O GREAT CITY, O BABYLON”:

The verses in this section are from verse 9 to verse 20 and are broken into three specific sections or sub-groups, which are as follows:

- 1) “The Kings of the earth” → verses 9-10; → Political Power
- 2) “The Merchants of the earth” → verses 11-17; → Profit Power
- 3) “Every sea captain” → verses 18-20; → Global Power

When reading each of these sections keep in mind that the wording within each section should be taken ‘Literally’, but may also have a ‘Secondary Meaning’ → I will explain as we go through each section.

SECTION ONE → POLITICAL POWER

This section speaks about how the “kings of the earth” reacted to the destruction of ‘The City of Babylon’ and is covered in verses 9-10.

VERSES 9-10 →

Verse 9 → “When the kings of the earth → who committed adultery with her → and shared her luxury → see the smoke of her burning, → they will weep and mourn over her.” Verse 10 → “Terrified at her torment, → they will stand far off → and cry: ‘Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! → In one hour your doom has come!’”

As I have said above in Chapter 18, verses 9-10, God now changes 'Topics' and begins to describe → 'How the "kings of the earth" react to the TOTAL DESTRUCTION of the 'City of Babylon', which is the 'CAPITAL CITY OF THE ANTICHRIST → ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT & ECONOMIC SYSTEM'.

However, before we begin discussing the specifics of these verses I would like to 'Paint a Picture for you of HOW → the Kings and the World views or see's this 'Capital City → O, Great Babylon'.

At this point in time the City of Babylon is the →

- 1) Capital City of the antichrist: One World Government/Economic System → Meaning the Capital of the WORLD,
- 2) The Financial Center of the World—not New York,
- 3) The Fashion Center of the World—not Paris,
- 4) The Literary & Art Center of the World—not London,
- 5) The Center of 'WORLD GOVERNMENT' to include all CORRUPTION & 'Lobbyists'—not Washington DC,
- 6) The Center of the World Entertainment—not California,
- 7) AND AT THIS POINT IN TIME → BABYLON WILL BE THE CENTER OF THE WORLD RELIGION → BECAUSE THE ANTICHRIST WILL RESIDE THERE → THE god/MAN ON EARTH

I could list more but you get the idea!

Now I will break each of these verses down into its basic sub-sets to make them easier to understand, as follows:

Verse 9 →

"When the kings of the earth → who committed adultery with her → and shared her luxury → see the smoke of her burning, → they will weep and mourn over her."

- 1) **“When the kings of the earth...”** Meaning the rulers of the nations of the earth, which at this point in time will include ‘ALL’ of them?
- 2) **“...who committed adultery with her...”** Simply Meaning → All of the rulers of the earth: worshiped → ‘Satan/antichrist’ through the ‘ONE WORLD RELIGIOUS SYSTEM → LATER TO BE COMBINED WITH THE → GOVERNMENTAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEM → LED BY THE ‘god MAN, THE ANTICHRIST’ → **“ADULTERY”!**
- 3) **“...and shared her luxury...”** Meaning → they completely bought in and indulged in her ‘SIN’ → Agreeing 100% to: ‘Complete Separation from the God of Creation’.
- 4) **“...see the smoke of her burning...”** I am not completely sure ‘Why God Put these Words In, Except to me it appears to be an Additional Visual Description of the ‘TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF BABYLON’ that **“...the kings of the earth...”** were physically observing. Also, I think God used the words **“smoke of her burning”** to again clarify that the destruction will be by **“fire”**. Again, just my opinion
- 5) **“...they will weep and mourn over her.”** Meaning → Again I think God is providing the reader with a ‘Word Picture’ of the → ‘MENTAL DISTRESS’ → **“...the kings of the earth...”** will be suffering at the sight of ‘BABYLON’S DESTRUCTION’ → **“burning”**. However, keep in mind that this **“weeping and mourning”** will be because of the loss of their **‘Power Source’** and not because there was any love between them.

Verse 10 →

“Terrified at her torment, → they will stand far off → and cry: → ‘Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon city of power! → In one hour your doom has come!’”

- 1) **“Terrified at her torment...”** Simple Meaning, the **“kings of the earth”** are ‘Petrified’ at the idea that the ‘Capital City: Babylon, of the antichrist ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT/ECONOMIC SYSTEM & ONE WORLD RELIGIOUS SYSTEM, which has been UNSTOPPABLE up to this point in the ‘Seven Year Tribulation

Period' → HAS NOW BEEN TOTALLY DESTROYED → AND THIS WAS DONE BY THE → 'GOD OF CREATION' → THEIR WORST ENEMY!

2) "They will stand far off..." Simple meaning → They will not come to help this city: O Babylon → they want no part of Babylon's problems → there does not appear to be any honor between sinners; you get the idea!

3) "...and cry..." I think they are "crying" not as one would cry for the loss of a 'love one' but because of the loss of the "...Power—Luxury..." that Babylon had provided the "the kings of the earth". In the Greek Translator the word "cry" is not included but in the NIV translation it is added.

4) "Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon city of power!" I believe that in this statement God is providing the reader with has three specific points about "Babylon", which are as follows:

a) "Woe! Woe..." In the Bible and especially in the Book of Revelation the word 'Woe' always means → Judgment and Destruction and because the word 'Woe' is used twice I believe God is making sure we know it will be 'TOTAL DESTRUCTION'. Also remember that God began this Chapter in verse 2b by delivering this same 'Prophecy' about the 'City of Babylon' except the first time He used slightly different words, with the same meaning, → "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great".

b) "O great city..." I believe that God put these words in so the reader would understand → Just How Great everyone in the World thought the 'O GREAT CITY OF BABYLON' really was. I do not think (the city or the antichrist) → 'ARROGRANCE HAD ANY BOUNDS OR LIMITS' during this period, (last 3 ½ years).

c) "O Babylon, city of power." Again, I think the meaning of these words are a repeat of the previous statement → Except this time, I believe that God is using them as a way of tell us; using different words → that Babylon/antichrist believes → his/antichrist "POWER" has no 'Bounds or Limits. And I also think

the **"...kings of the earth..."** also have this impression or opinion of Babylon → again just my opinion.

5) **"In one hour your doom has come!"** Now God stops talking about → How the **"...Kings of the earth..."** are reacting to 'THE TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF THE CAPITAL CITY OF BABYLON' and 'Their Original opinion of the POWER of the City of Babylon' and now provides the reader with → THE TIME FRAME OF THE DESTRUCTION OF → O GREAT CITY—BABYLON → THE CAPITAL CITY OF THE ANTICHRIST ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT/ECONOMIC SYSTEM & RELIGIOUS CENTER. There is no question in my mind that this one event will shake to world leaders and people of the earth → because they know 'THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST' is coming → SOON → SUDDENLY → QUICKLY!

1 day vs. 1 hour reconcile

CONCLUSION:

I think these two verses provide you with a good understanding about → How the **"kings of the earth"** reacted to 'THE TOTAL DESTRUCTION' of the antichrist Capital City of Babylon → IT APPEARS WITH—GREAT SADDNESS BECAUSE THE WORLDS WEALTHIEST AND GREATEST SIN CITY WAS DESTROYED AND THEIR PARTNER IN ADULTRY/SIN/POWER → BUT NOT SAD ENOUGH TO HELP HER IN HER HOUR OF DISTRESS!

SECTION TWO → PROFIT POWER

This section speaks about how the **"...merchants of the earth..."** will react to the destruction of 'The City of Babylon' and is covered in verses, 11-17.

Verse 11 **"The merchants of the earth → will weep and mourn over her → because no one buys their cargoes any more..."** **Verse 12** → **"...cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble;"** **Verse 13** **"...cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat;**

cattle and sheep; horses and carriages and bodies and souls of men.” Verse 14
→ “They will say, ‘The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your riches and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered’.” Verse 15 → “The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her → will stand far off, terrified at her torment. → They will weep and mourn...” Verse 16 → “... and cry out: → ‘Woe! Woe, O great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls!’ Verse 17 → “In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!”

In my opinion, God has broken ‘**Section Two**’ down into four basic sub-sets to better convey specific pieces of information to the reader → sub-set 1, verses 11-13 → sub-set 2, verse 14 → sub-set 3, 15a → sub-set 4, verses 15b-17. An each of these specific sub-sets appears to provide the reader with a unique perspective of the ‘Relationship’ that existed between the “...merchants of the earth...” and the ‘O Great City of Babylon/antichrist, One world Government/Economic System’.

Now we will begin the detail break-down of verses 11-17, as follows:

VERSE 11 →

“The merchants of the earth → will weep and mourn over her → because no one buys their cargoes any more...” Detail breakdown as follows:

- 1) “The merchants of the earth...” God in verse 11 begins by providing the reader with the reactions to ‘THE DESTRUCTION OF BABYLON → THE CAPITAL CITY OF THE ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT/ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND RELIGIOUS SYSTEM’ by a second group → and this group is identified as “...THE MERCHANTS OF THE EARTH...” which is composed of the ‘Profit System’ of the world during this period.
- 2) “...will weep and mourn over her...” It appears their first reaction is to “...weep and mourn...” Again, I believe God is describing the ‘MENTAL DISTRESS’ that the “The merchants of the earth...” will be feeling when they see ‘THE CAPITAL CITY OF BABYLON’ → TOTALLY DESTROYED. I also believe that their “weeping and mourning over...” will be for their own personal loss of business and profit and not for “...her...”, ACTUAL DESTRUCTION. Also I believe this one

event will throw the entire world into 'Utter Chaos'. **NOTE**→ These same words were used in verse 9 above to describe the way the "...kings of the earth..." reacted.

3) "...because no one buys their cargoes any more..." I think God concluded this verse with these words to put the 'icing on the cake' in terms of understanding the meaning of this verse → "The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn because" → (Not because they just lost a good friend or love one but because they now find themselves in a business position where)→ "no one buys their cargoes any more..." They are broke and will never again live in→ "luxury". Remember this 'One City' was the center of all 'Commerce' for the entire world.

Verses 12 & 13→

I think verses 12 & 13 should be analyzed together, because they appear to focus on one thing, which is 'Defining the' "cargoes" of "The merchants of the earth..." I have divided these groups into their basic categories with 'arrows', which we will discuss separately: breakdown as follows:

Verse 12: "...cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; → fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; → every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble;"→ **Verse 13** "...cargoes of cinnamon and spices, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, → of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; → cattle and sheep; horses and → carriages; → and bodies and souls of men."

CATEGORY 1, verse 12→

VALUABLE → **STONES & METALS:** "...cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls..." To me these are all 'Items' that speak to the issue of 'Great Wealth' or you could say 'Items for the Very Wealthy' and from a "merchants" stand point these would be items that would generate → 'Big Profits'. Also, keep in mind that these items would speak to 'Great Wealth' in the time of John as well as today!

CATEGORY 2, verse 12→

VALUABLE → CLOTHING & HOME DECORATING MATERIAL: “...fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth...” Again, to me these words would be used to describe the type of material that would be used to make **‘Clothing for Wealthy People’** as well as, the type of material that would be used to make **‘Furniture and Curtains in the Homes of the Wealthy!’** Again, this description would transcend time.

CATEGORY 3, verse 12→

VALUABLE → A LIST OF SCARCE MATERIALS, THAT WOULD BE USED IN LUXURY LIVING: “...every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble...” Again, if you look at the list of items listed and then think about the time period in which this document was written, I do not think there can be any doubt that they are items that **‘ONLY THE WEALTHY’** would possess. Again, this description would transcend time.

CATEGORY 4, verse 13:

VALUABLE→ FOOD—SPICES: ITEMS USED IN LUXURY LIVING “...cargoes of cinnamon and spices, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat...” Again, if you look at this list these are items, I think they speak to items that only the **‘Very Wealthy’** would possess in the day that John wrote the Book of Revelation → meaning, **‘Items for the VERY WEALTH’** and especially at this point in the **‘Tribulation Period’**. I would like to point to two scriptures as a reference to the value of some of these items:

1) At the birth of Jesus; the gifts of the Magi; Matt 2:11b, “Then they opened their treasures and presented them to Him with gifts of gold→ (see our verse 12) and of incense→ (frankincense) and of myrrh.”

2) At the burial of Jesus, Luke23:52-55, “Going to Pilate, he asked him for Jesus body. Then he took it down and wrapped it in linen cloth→ (see our verse 12) and placed it a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been

laid. It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how His body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices → (see our verse 13) and perfumes → (like →) Cinnamon → (see our verse 13).

CATEGORY 5, verse 13 →

VALUABLE → OTHER ITEMS ONLY OWNED BY WEALTHY PEOPLE “...cattle and sheep; horses and carriages/chariots and of bodies...of men” The primary way the wealth of someone during the time of John’s writings was measured was by → the amount of live-stock that they owned and the number of servants or slaves that they owned. Note: there were others but these were some of the primary.

CATEGORY 6, verse 13 →

VALUABLE → ITEMS TO SATAN “...AND THE (BODIES AND SOULS) → (note: both words being plural) OF MEN”

I HAVE CHANGED THE FORMAT OF THIS LAST SECTION AND REPEATED THE WORD “BODIES” BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT THESE ARE THE TWO PRIMARY WAYS THAT SATAN MEASURES HIS → ‘SUCCESS’. I CANNOT SAY THAT IT WAS NOT ALSO THE WAY “MERCHANTS” MEASURED THEIR SUCCESS BUT I KNOW IT WAS SATANS.

REMEMBER SATAN HAD THREE PRIMARY GOALS DURING THE ‘SEVEN YEAR TRIBULATION PERIOD’ →

- 1) GET ALL OF HUMANITY (BODIES) ON THE EARTH TO WORSHIP HIM,**
- 2) CAUSE ALL HUMANS (SOULS) LIVING ON THE EARTH DURING THIS PERIOD TO REJECT GOD AND THEREFORE SPEND ETERNITY IN HELL.**
- 3) OR → HAVE ALL HUMANS PHYSICALLY DIE BEFORE THEY COULD ‘REPENT AND BE SAVED’, WHICH WOULD ALSO ‘DOOM THEIR SOUL TO HELL’.**

Again, just my opinion, so read and make up your own mind.

SUMMARY of VERSES 11-13:

Again, these three verses appear to be listing many of the **“cargoes”** provided to the people of the earth by **“the merchants of the earth”** during this period. And it is quite obvious that **‘the merchants and the group that they are servicing’** → **ARE LIVING LARGE!**

VERSE 14:

NIV → **“They will say, → ‘The fruit you longed for is gone from you. → All your riches and splendor have vanished, → never to be recovered’.”** **KJV** → **“And the fruit that thy soul lusted after → are departed from thee, and → all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee and → thou shalt find them no more at all.”** **Greek Translator** → **“And the ripe fruit of the lust of your soul went away from you, and → all the fat things, and the bright things went away from you, and → you will find them no more, not at all.”** I have provided three translations to help you clarify the meaning of verse 14.

In verse 14; God through John’s words seems to stop His specific listing of the **‘types of cargoes → the luxury’s’** that Babylon used to lead the entire world into **‘ADULTRY and SIN’**. And now appears to provide the reader with a more in-depth look at → What the Merchants of the Earth thought about → **Babylon & her Sin-filled Life Style’** → To me the words in the Greek Translator speak volumes about this city → **“And the RIPE FRUIT of the LUST of YOUR SOUL...went away from you, and you will find them no more, not at all.”**

Her ‘TOTAL DESIRE’ was for HUMAN—PHYSICAL THINGS—LUST and NOTHING FOR THE THINGS OF GOD! However, **keep in mind that these were also the ‘Desires of the Hearts’ of the “Merchants”.**

Now I will break this verse down into its basic sub-sets, and will use the translation that I think provides the best interpretation: as follows:

1) NIV: “They will say...” Indicating the **‘Merchants’** are the ones doing the talking.

2) Greek Translator: "...And the ripe fruit of the lust (sin defined) of your soul went away from you." Indicating that the merchants believed that all the sinful and worldly things that the 'City of Babylon' desired during this period and they (merchants) also desired (lust of your soul) had been lost → to destruction.

3) NIV: "All your riches and splendor have vanished..." Now God through John's words re-peats what He just stated: "...And the ripe fruit of the lust of your soul → WENT AWAY FROM YOU." All of the 'Worldly Things' that Babylon fought and killed to acquire: plus Complete Rebelled against 'The God of Creation' → is now gone: "vanished"!

4) NIV: "...never to be recovered." God ends this verse by repeating for the 'Third Time' that → All that Babylon/antichrist/unsaved people of the earth held in such 'HIGH VALUE' was gone → "...never to be recovered."
Greek Translator: "...and you will find them no more, not at all." To me the worst part of this is that → All the material/physical things that this group put their faith in → In terms of where they will spend eternity is GONE → "...never to be recovered." This will truly be a SAD Day for many people when they stand before God at → 'THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT SEAT'.

VERSE 15a:

"The merchants who sold these things → and gained their wealth from her → will stand far off, → terrified at her torment." It is my opinion that God through John's words is trying to provide the reader with four specific pieces of information about → 'The Merchants', which are as follows:

1) "The merchants who sold these things..." To me this statement is referencing the items listed in verses 12 & 13 → "cargoes" and who it was that was selling these items.

2) "...and gained their wealth from her..." Again, God through John's words is stating a 'Fact' about where the "merchants" acquired their wealth, with "her" being defined as 'The Capital City of the One World Government/Economic System—Babylon the Great'.

3) “...will stand far off...” Again, God through John’s words is clearly stating that the merchants who gained their wealth from Babylon will do nothing to help her in her hour of distress → This will be a time of: ‘every man for himself’. Does this sound a lot like the reaction of the “Kings” in verse 10? This may even sound like the “merchants” of ‘ALL TIMES’.

4) “...terrified at her torment.” I think this statement again clearly conveys the fact; that during this period men will daily demonstrate they have no ‘HONOR or COURAGE or WILLINGNESS TO STAND UP FOR WHAT THEY BELIEVE IN → OR THEIR FAMILY, FRIENDS & EVEN THEMSELVES. Again, this is exactly how the ‘Kings of the Earth’ reacted when they saw the ‘Destruction of Babylon’: except this time God reverses the order; compare verse 10 to verse 15a.

I believe this will be a ‘MAJOR REASON’ that so many people will take the ‘MARK OF THE BEAST’. I think God is making it clear with these types of words, why this condition will be so prevalent during this period: my opinion is ‘Complete Self-centeredness & FEAR’. Also, I think during this period people in general will be both → PHYSICALLY & SPIRITUALLY WEAK!

VERSE 15b-16:

Verse 15b, “They will weep and mourn...” → Verse 16 “...and cry out: → ‘Woe! Woe, O great city → dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls!’ Again, these verses continue with the process of God conveying to the reader → the distress → the attitude and → the character of the “Merchants” who are watching the ‘TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF BABYLON’. I will break these verses down into their basic subsets, as follows:

1) “They will weep and mourn...” Again, I think God is conveying through John’s words just how ‘Distressed & Sadden’ the “Merchants” are about the ‘DESTRUCTION’ of ‘The City of Babylon’. However, remember the words in verse 15a above, they “will stand far off” meaning they are not sad enough to get involved or to help in any way. Also, if you go back to verse 11 you will find the “The merchants of the earth...” have already used these same words → “The

merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her...” However, I think it is interesting that their ‘Distress & Sadness’ is NOT → Actually because of the ‘Physical Destruction of Babylon’ but rather because of their ‘LOSS OF PROFIT’, which is spelled out in verse 11b, “...because no one buys their cargoes and more...”

Also, if you go back to verse 9 you will find → “the kings of the earth” did the same thing → “...they will weep and mourn over her...” I would say these are both what you would call a ‘great bunch of friends to have’.

Also, looking forward to verse 19 it also states that the “Sea Captains” reaction is exactly the same.

Verse 16:

2) “...and cry out...” I think God uses these three words as a lead in to the last portion of this verse to let the reader know ‘The Intensity of the EMOTIONAL STATE that “THE MERCHANTS” are in at this point in time. I do not think there can be any question that when any normal person hears that someone has, “cried out” that we are talking about a very ‘EMOTIONAL SITUATION’. However, in the original Greek the words: “cry out” are not included but in the NIV translation that are added—not sure why unless it is to bring attention to the next five words.

3) “Woe! Woe, O great city...” These are the exact same words that “...the kings of the earth...” used in verse 10b and again I think they speak to ‘DESTRUCTION of O Great City—Babylon’. However, I do think it is worth noting that in verse 10 God followed these words up with → Defining the time required to destroy ‘The City of Babylon’ → “In one hour your doom has come.” → whereas in verse 16, the statement is immediately followed up by describing the “luxury” of the ‘City of Babylon’ that was spelled out in verses 12-13. This could be because when God is referencing the “kings of the earth” He/God is talking about the ‘Power’ portion of the antichrist kingdom and when He/God is talking about the “merchants of the earth” He/God is talking about the ‘Profit’ portion of the antichrist kingdom. Just my opinion!

4) **"...dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearl."** God once again describes or defines **'The Luxury that Babylon had Acquired/Stolen from the people of the earth at their expense'—poverty—famine and—death.** Again, go back to verses 12-13 and you will find the specific words being used to describe **'The City of Babylon' → Indicating "luxury".**

Verse 17a:

"In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!" These words have the same basic meaning as the words God used in verse 10b to describe the **'Time Required to Destroy the City of Babylon'**: verse 10b **"In one hour your doom has come."** Also, see verse 19b, which talks about the same words being used by the **"Sea captains"; "In one hour she has been brought to ruin!"** However, in our verse I think God provides the reader with additional information about Babylon, which is as follows:

1) "...such great wealth has been brought to ruin!" In verse 10b God simply stated the **'Time Frame in Which Babylon Would be DESTROYED'**, whereas, in verse 17 God talks about → **What will Happen to Babylon's Physical Wealth.** The first thing that comes to my mind is when Jesus Christ talked about → The Biblical Concept of → **'Things of Value'** that can pass through death and you can take to heaven. Things such as the **'Five Crowns'**:

1) INCORRUPTIBLE CROWN → Those who win victory over the world and the flesh and Satan, 1 Cor. 9:25;

2) CROWN OF REJOICING → Those who win souls for Jesus Christ, 1 Thess. 2:19;

3) CROWN OF ETERNAL LIFE → Those who will endure the pain of the world and still be faithful to death/martyred, James 1:12 → Also, see Rev. 2:10;

4) CROWN OF GLORY → Those who 'shepherd the flock', 1 Peter 5:4;

5) CROWN OF RIGHTENOUNESS → Those who 'pray and hope' for the 'SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST', 2 Tim. 4:8

I think this verse also speaks to the 'The Biblical Concept' as described in:

1) Matt. 7:24-27, 'THE WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDER',

2) 1 Cor. 15:35-58, 'THE IMMORTAL BODY OF THE SAVED PERSON CAN ENTER HEAVEN, BY BECOMING IMPERISHABLE WHEREAS THE IMMORTAL BODY OF THE UNSAVED PERONS CANNOT ENTER HEAVEN BUT ONLY HELL, See 1 Cor. 15:50-56.

All of the worldly wealth that men can have or control on this earth cannot enter heaven. Why? → Because this earth has been tainted by 'SIN': This is exactly why God will completely 'DESTROY THE OLD HEAVEN & EARTH' and create a 'NEW HEAVEN & EARTH & NEW JERUSALEM', (Rev. Chapters 21 & 22) which will never be touched by sin

I think you get the idea as to why; God through John's words describes 'The Destruction of Babylon' as → "...such great wealth has been brought to ruin!"

SECTION THREE → GLOBAL POWER

This section speaks about how the people who make their living 'On the sea (global transportation supporting the antichrist global empire) will react' to the destruction of 'The City of Babylon' is covered in verses 17b-19.

VERSE 17b:

"Every sea captain → and all who traveled by ship, → the sailors, → and all who earn their living from the sea, → will stand far off."

Section three completes the descriptions the 'Destruction of Babylon' provided by God through John's words. I believe that this section was put in by God to focus the reader on the issue of 'Global Power' that this BABYLOIAN SYSTEM will possess. FOR A THOUSAND YEARS IT HAS BEEN SAID → HE WHO RULES THE SEA, RULES THE WORLD → WW II WAS PROOF OF THIS THIS.

NOTE: I think God uses “the sea” to make this point because people of this age would not understand ‘air power’ or even the ‘internet’ for that matter.

Remember these are the words spoken by the people of the sea describing their ‘EMOTIONS’ as it relates to the ‘DESTRUCTION OF BABYLON’: verses 17b-20.

Now we will break down verse 17b, as follows:

1) “Every sea captain...” meaning → ALL, “...sea captain...” who earn their living by working on the sea would be included in this statement. I also think these words speak to the leaders of things that move on the “sea”.

2) “...and all who travel by ship...” meaning → ALL the people who “travel” by the sea/ship would be included in this statement, which would include two groups:

a) The people traveling on ‘passenger ships’,

b) and ‘the people who work on these ships’.

Note: Today I think this group of people would also include ‘air travel’, as I think it mean all ‘Global Travel’ at the time it was written, again just my opinion—you need to read and make up your own mind.

3) “...the sailors...” meaning a specific class of people: ‘The men and women who actually work on the ships’. Today this would include the people who work in the ‘Airline Industry’—global travel—and again just my opinion.

4) “...and all who earn their living from the sea...” I think God put these words in to clarify that ‘ALL PEOPLE WORKING WITHIN THE INDUSTRY OF ‘SEA TRANSPORTATION’ WILL LOOSE THEIR ABILITY TO “...EARN THEIR LIVINNG...”. Again, today this will also include the people in the ‘Airline Industry’—again just my opinion. This will be a very large number of people and will have a major impact on their families.

5) “...will stand far off.” Meaning that they may be saddened by the ‘Destruction of Babylon’ but they will do nothing to help her/Babylon in her time of need. We are told that they will “weep & mourn” in verse 19 but again they want no part of

this 'Destruction Judgement'. Sounds a lot like the reaction by the → "kings and the merchants".

VERSES 18-19:

We will analyze verses 18 & 19 together as they speak to the same issue → 'The people of the sea's reaction' to this judgment!

"When they see the smoke of her burning, → they will exclaim, → 'Was there ever a city like this great city'." Verse 19a "They will throw dust on their heads, and → with weeping and mourning..." Verse 19b "...cry out: 'Woe! Woe, → O great city, → where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth!'" Verse 19c "In one hour she has been brought to ruin!"

Again, I believe that God through John's words is now providing the reader with a basic mental picture of how this group of people will react and their emotions about this event. I will break these verses down into their basic sub-sets, as follows:

Verse 18:

"When they see the smoke of her burning, → they will exclaim, → 'Was there ever a city like this great city.'"

1) "When they (defined—all the people/families who earn their living on the sea—global movement)

2) "...see the smoke of her burning..." which to me means → the moment 'they become aware' of the fact that 'Babylon has Fallen' and has been 'TOTALLY DESTROYED'. Remember, Babylon is where they "...earn their living..." (and verse 19b) became rich through her wealth..." verse 17b.

3) "...they (see above definition) "will exclaim..." Meaning, this is where we, the reader, will begin to read or hear about their (group defined in verse above) comments about this event.

First → They will "see" meaning they became aware of the actual situation—destruction,

Second → How they physically reacted “will exclaimed”, which I think means— they begin to make verbal sounds, conveying some type of ‘emotion’.

Now we begin the list of specific emotions both → ‘Physical and/or Mental: Distress’ as to what they were “exclaiming” about.

First Specific Emotion →

‘Mental Distress’ → “Was there ever a city LIKE this great city...” Meaning, the ‘people of the sea’ could not remember or did not believe that there was ever a city “LIKE” Babylon. NOTE → Also; when reading these verses; keep in mind these words are in the form of a question. This city ‘Babylon’ was like no other city that had ever existed. Remember → **IT WAS THE CAPITAL OF THE ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT, ECONOMIC SYSTEM OF THE ANTICHRIST AND AT THIS TIME THE CENTER OF THE → ONE WORLD RELIGIOUS SYSTEM’.**

Therefore, the answer to their question → “...was there ever a city like this great city...” The answer would be → NO.

NOTE → Today this would be like if every → MAJOR FINICAL CENTER & THE CAPITAL OF EVERY MAJOR COUNTRY’ WAS TOTALLY DESTROYED AT THE SAME TIME. The worldwide chaos would be incalculable.

Again, there has never been a city like ‘The Babylon’ being talked about in this verse.

Verse 19:

Verse 19a, “They will throw dust on their heads → and with weeping and mourning. Verse 19b cry out: ‘Woe! Woe, → O great city, → where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! Verse 19c In one hour she has been brought to ruin!”

In verse 19a God through John’s words begins to provide the reader with a more detailed description of ‘the physical distress and emotional reaction’ of ‘the people of the seas’ because of the ‘Destruction of Babylon’.

Second Specific Emotion →

'Physical Distress' Verse 19a begins this process by describing more of the 'Physical Distress/Reaction' **"They will throw dust on their heads..."** Which would be understood by the people living during the time of John, as it was customary action taken by people living during this time period, when they were **"mourning"** for → What we would consider a 'Personal Loss'. Again, when these words are used in scripture they are normally used to → 'describe—physical distress or great emotional distress or even physical pain'. I like this example: Jonah 3: 6 **"When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself sackcloth and sat down in the DUST."**

They, (**"the people who made their living on the sea"**) knew both 'physical & financial destruction' had come upon them and there was → **NO ESCAPE!** Other examples: Josh. 7:6, 1 Sam. 4:12, 2 Sam. 1:2 & 15:32, Job 2:12

Third Specific Emotion →

'Emotional Distress/Reaction' **"...and with weeping and mourning..."** To me this is a straight forward statement about: How they (**people or earn their living on the sea**) are 'Emotionally Distressed and Reacting' to this event. Again, I think this should be considered an 'Outwardly Emotional Reaction' to an event that has caused very deep emotional **PIAN!**

Verse 19b:

"...cry out: Woe! Woe, → O great city, → where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth!"

In the next part of verse 19 it appears to me that God through John's words is letting the reader know that **"...all that earn their living from the sea..."** are now increasing their level of → 'Physical & Mental Distress/Emotion' at an accelerating rate, as the gravity of this event is beginning to set in!

FOURTH SPECIFIC EMOTION →

Additional Physical & Mental Distress Lead-in verse 19a “**They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning→**” now verse 19b “**...cry out...**” Again to me these words “**...cry out...**” indicates that what has happened to ‘The Great City of Babylon’ is starting to sink in and “**...all that earn their living from the sea...**” are now moving from making simple/composed statements like “**Was there ever a city like this great city...**” to a complete ‘Physical and Mental/Emotional Melt-Down’→ “**...cry out...**” In verse 19a the Greek Translator actually includes the words “**cry out**”.

FIFTH SPECIFIC EMOTION→

Additional Physical & Mental Distress Next the words “**cry out**” are what I would consider the lead-in words to the remainder of verse 19b, beginning with the words: “**Woe! Woe...**” Again, I think God is speaking to the ‘Greatness or Just How Much Babylon was → A One of a Kind City (Worshipped) → as determined by the people living on the earth at this point in time.

To me the remaining words in verse 19b does not demonstrate any type of Emotion, it is just a ‘simple Statement of fact’ “**...where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth!**” which to me is the people doing the talking within this verse; “**...all who earned their living from the sea...**”. I think the other way to look at this section of verse 19 is it is just a repeat of the last part of verse 17! Again, you read and decide.

SIXTH SPECIFIC EMOTION →

Probable more Mental than Physical → (I would say more like **DISBELIEF**) In verse 19c “**In one hour she has been brought to ruin!**” I think were put in by God to reiterate the Biblical Concept described in Mark 8:36, “**What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?**” Also, how quickly material/worldly things can be taken away from you, however, ‘Spiritual Crowns’ are forever. It is also a ‘Statement about a Period of Time’.

NOTE→

Remember God used these same basic words when He/God was describing the 'Reaction of All Three EARTHLY Groups:

First Group: Rev. 18:9, "The kings of the earth..." → Rev. 18:10b "In one hour doom has come!"

Second Group: Rev. 18:11, "The merchants of the earth..." → Rev. 18:17a "In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!"

Third Group: Now our verses, Rev. 18: 17, "Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living by the sea..." → Rev. 18: 19b "In one hour she has been brought to ruin!"

Again, sounds like everyone on earth has the same thoughts and opinions.

As a matter of fact if you go back and review the sections that includes these words → as it relates to each of the 'Three Groups' you will find many similarities but also specific differences. I am not sure exactly why God did this, however, what I do know is when God restates something 'THREE TIMES' → He/God wants you to take note and remember!

Re-Cap→

SAME OPENING STATEMENT FOR ALL THREE GROUPS:

Rev. 18:9: "When the kings of the earth..." → Rev. 18:10b: "Woe! Woe, O great city..."

Rev. 18:11a: "The merchants of the earth..." → Rev. 18: 16a: "Woe! Woe, O great city..."

Rev. 18:17b: "Every sea captain and all who travel by the ships, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea..." → Rev. 18:19a "Woe! Woe, O great city..."

DIFFERENT DESCRIPTION ABOUT EACH GROUP:

Rev. 18:9: “When the kings of the earth...” → Rev. 18:10b “O Babylon, city of power!” → Representing → POLITICAL POWER

Rev. 18:11a “The merchants of the earth...” → Rev. 18: 16b “...dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls!” → Representing → PROFIT POWER

Rev. 18:17b “Every sea captain and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea...” → Rev. 18: 19b “...where all who had ships on the sea became rich from her wealth!” → Representing → GLOBAL POWER

TIME REQUIRED FOR DESTRUCTION, WITH SOME SPECIFIC DETAILS:

Rev. 18:9 “When the kings of the earth...” → Rev. 18:13c “In one hour → your doom has come.”

Rev. 18:11a “The merchants of the earth...” → Rev. 18: 17a “In one hour → such great wealth has been brought to ruin!”

Rev. 18: 17b “Every sea captain and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea...” → Rev. 18:19c “In one hour → she has been brought to ruin!”

I think in this last section God is making it clear that → ‘ANYTHING ‘PHYSICAL OR MATERIAL’ THAT MAN CAN CREATE HE/GOD CAN DESTROY OR TAKE AWAY → GIVEN HE/GOD IS THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS → MORTAL/PHYSICAL AND HEAVENLY/SPIRITUAL.

SECTION FOUR →

I have broken verse 20 out as a separate section because I believe this section/verse will provide the reader with a good overview of → ‘How Heaven will React to the Destruction of Babylon’; whereas, verses 21-24 appear to continue on the topic of describing → THE DESTRUCTION OF BABYLON’.

Verse 20: "Rejoice over her, O heaven! → Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets!"

Note: I think these words are being spoken by the angel we first saw in verse 1 of chapter 18; "After this I saw another angels coming down from heaven. He had great authority and the earth was illuminated by his splendor." Again, just my opinion!

I believe this verse is speaking to two separate groups and is basically a 'Command or could even be seen as a REWARDS' to two basic groups, which are as follows:

1) "Rejoice over her, O heaven! I think the first group is simple given the name of the group is stated → "O heaven!" or we could say 'All of Heaven' or 'Heaven in General'.

However, I think there is a, what I would call → 'Secondary Issue' being revealed. Remember, at this point in the 'Seven Year Tribulation Period', Satan and his angels (1/3) have been cast to earth and heaven is now free of → heavenly beings which have sinned. Also, remember they (Meaning Satan and his angels and the unsaved people of the earth) have just watched the COMPLETE DESTRUCTION of their 'Worldly Capital—Babylon'. Again, I would think this would make the → 'Non-Sinful Heavenly Beings' very happy and also, re-assured them that they chose the correct side of this war. I think it would also be imperative that every being that has ever been created needs to understand → THIS WILL BE A WAR. Therefore, it is my opinion that this angel that → "...had great authority and the earth was illuminated by his splendor." Is telling heaven that it is time to "Rejoice..." because the 'War' is almost over and 'their side has/will win'.

2) "Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets." The second group defined, in this portion of the verse, is more specific → It is the people who have lived on the earth, since time began, and that have been loyal & served God and for that, they have been 'Persecuted and Killed' by 'Satan & his people'. I think the verses listed below speak about the promise that 'God/Jesus Christ' made to this group and our verse clearly states how they will react at the → 'Complete of that

Promise'. I like these verses because they are also in the Book of Revelation but there are many more scattered throughout the Holy Bible: Rev. 3:5b, Church in Sardis, **"I will never erase his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before My Father and His angels."** & Rev. 3:21, **"To him who overcomes, I will give him the right to sit with Me on My throne , just as I overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."** & Rev. 20: 6-7, **"He said to me; 'It is done, I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End'. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all of this, and I will be his God and he will be My son."** **POWERFUL VERSES**

Last, I think both of these reactions should be viewed as **→ ANTICIPATED EVENT BY BOTH GROUPS.** Just my opinion!

SECTION FIVE →

Section Five covers verses 21-24 and speaks about 'Two Issues':

1) God providing the reader with a 'Specific Example' of the 'Completeness of the Destruction' of the 'City of Babylon': contained in verse 21 (again using the **'framing process'** and,

2) Then God provides the reader with 'Additional Specific Details' → About the 'Completeness of this Destruction', verses 22-24.

Note: Verse 21 is a 'Specific Example of Destruction', whereas, verses 22-24 are 'Specific Details About The After-effects of the Destruction'.

Part One: Verse 21 → 'Specific Example of Destruction':

"Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder → the size of a large millstone and → threw it into the sea, → and said: → 'With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, → never to be found again'."

I have broken this verse down into six basic subsets to make it easier to understand.

ONE: "Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder..." I think God is providing the reader with several important facts about → The Primary Subject of this **Chapter: 'DESTRUCTION OF BABYLON'**; these facts are as follows:

a) "Then..." this is the next thing John observes in his vision,

b) The next thing John observes is "...a mighty angel..." meaning a 'heavenly being with great authority', like the one in verse 1,

c) And the action of this "...mighty angel..." is "...picking up a boulder..." with the word "boulder" → God is painting a visual picture in the mind of the reader indicating 'a large stone that can be used to smash things to pieces'.

TWO: In the next part of this verse God through John's words provides the reader with additional information about the → Actions of this "mighty angel" as it relates to the "boulder". I will break these words down, as follows:

a) The first thing God does is provide the reader with a visual picture of the "...boulder..." which is → "...the size of a larger millstone, and..." Remember in many of these chapters God is using 'The Farming Process' as the example. Also, remember, 'The Farming Process' is something that will transcend time and everyone can understand.

b) However, I think there are two specific pieces of information within these words, which is as follows:

1: God has stated that the boulder is "...the size of a LARGE..." I think the word indicates → Large scale DESTRUCTION;

2: God now goes back to the 'Farming Process' and tells the reader that the "boulder" is "the size of a large MILLSTONE..." with a 'farming millstone' being a stone → **THAT GRINDS SOMETHING IN TO DUST!**

Again → TOTAL DESTRUCTION

THREE: The next portion of this verses states, “...and threw it into the sea...” In this portion of verse 21 I believe God is completing a visual/mental picture in the minds of the reader, as follows: “...a mighty angel...” → (a heavenly being with the authority/power to do whatever God has sent him to do), “...picked up a boulder...” → (indicating force and action), “...the size of a large millstone...” (Providing the reader with: size and magnitude of the object), “...and threw it in to the sea...” So what picture should we get by these last words → “...and threw it into the sea...”? To me there are several implications to these words, which is as follows:

a) When a ‘large stone’ hits the water’s surface it first sends out ripples all around → I believe these ripples would represent the words of the → “Kings of the earth... and; The merchants of the earth ...and; The sea captains, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea...” covered in verses 9-19.

b) The next thing that will happen when a ‘large stone’ is thrown into the water is it begins to sink. The reason for this is → the sheer weight of the ‘large stone’ is greater than the water; therefore, gravity pulls the ‘large stone’ to the bottom of the water. I think this is analogist with → The enormous weight of rebellion and sin that is within Babylon will pull it down to hell → departing from Gods sight for ever.

Again, these are just my opinions, you need to read for yourself and decide for yourself the meaning of these words.

FOUR: To me the next two words within this verse, “...and said...” are ‘transition words’. Meaning God wants the reader to ‘transition’ the ‘actions by the mighty angel’ → to the DESTRUCTION of BABYLON’.

FIVE: In the last part of this verse God ‘Completes the idea of Transitioning the Actions of the Mighty Angel → to the Destruction of Babylon: “With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, → never to be found again.”

Again, I think these words tie together all of the words in verses 9-19 and 21.

Now, we will look at number FIVE above in detail:

ONE: “With such great violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down...” To me there are three basic sub-sets within these words, which are as follows:

1) I think God is telling the reader through John's words that the destruction of Babylon will be “With such great violence...” that it could only come from the **Creator—God the Father,**

2) Next God through John's words repeats the identity of **‘What will be destroyed** → “With such great violence...” and it is, “...the great city of Babylon...”

3) I think in the last part of this phrase God through John's words, restates for the reader the idea of **‘TOTAL DESTRUCTION’** → “With such great violence...will be thrown down...” Again, both of these statements indicate **‘Destruction’.** Note: this is confirmed in the last section of this verse, below.

TWO: “...never to be found again.” I think the most important part of this statement is the finality of the destruction of “...the great city of Babylon”. The reason I point this out is → this is not the first time the city of Babylon has been destroyed, therefore, it is obvious that it will have been rebuilt if it will be **‘Totally Destroyed’** during the **‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’.** The other way to look at this issue is: **‘If it is ‘Totally Destroyed’— “...never to be found again.”** Then this must be the last time it will be; either, re-built or destroyed!

For more meaning to the words, “...never to be found again...” Go back to the beginning of chapter 18 and read **‘Scriptural & Worldly History of Babylon’.**

PART TWO: VERSES 22-24 → ‘Specific Details About the After-effects of the Destruction’:

These three verses are broken into two separate sub-sections, as follows:

Subset One of Part Two →

Verses 22-23a: Speaks about **‘Six Specific Actions/Events/Things’** that you would find in normal everyday life that are gone forever in the **‘City of Babylon’**. As a matter of fact after the destruction of the **‘City of Babylon’** there will be **‘NO NORMALCY’** left in the entire world.

Verses 22-23a:

Verse 22 → (1) “The music of harpists and musicians, flute platers and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again. → (2) No workman of any trade will ever be found in you again. → (3) The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again. Verse 23a → (4) The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. → (5) The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again. → (6) Your merchants were the world’s great men.”

I will provide you with a few comments as to, what I believe are the implications of these specific word phrases → Remember, **‘No Normalcy will be left in the Entire World’**. I think these verses speak to the **‘Normal Activities’** that would be found in a person’s **‘NORMAL DAY’**!

FIRST WORD PHRASE:

“The music of the harpists and musicians, flute players and trumpeters, will never be heard again.” Most scholars believe these words indicate → There will no longer be any **‘Entertainment in the World’**. There will be no reason for the people of the world to be happy and celebrate, to go out and have fun → because the **‘Center of the World Government’** has been **‘Totally Destroyed’**.

NOTE: Many scholars believe that the **‘Second & Third Word Phrase’** both speak about **‘Industry’**, however, I do not 100% agree with their interpretation and believe they should be split into two specific areas, as follows:

SECOND WORD PHRASE:

“No workman of any trade will ever be found in you again.” Most scholars believe these words indicate that **‘Industry’** in general will come to a complete stop all over the world. There are even some scholars that believe that **‘All Industry’** will be stopped because → the **‘One World System’** will be so interwoven into society that without the **‘Head’ → ‘The City of Babylon/Power’** **the rest of the ‘Body’ → ‘The Rest of the World’ will not be able to function.**

I agree with this interpretation.

THIRD WORD PHRASE:

“The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again.” I believe that this word phrase **SPECIFICALLY** speaks about **‘The World Food Supply’**. I believe that the people of the world will so traumatized by this **‘One Event’** that they will no longer be able to function, even to the point of stopping **‘Food Production’**. Also, keep in mind that based on the chronological order of events, as listed in the **‘Book of Revelation’** we cannot be more than several months away from the **‘Second Coming of Jesus Christ’** → therefore, **‘The Worlds Food Supply’** will be almost **ZERO** anyway. Again, I think God put these specific words in to let the reader know → **Food Supply will be adversely effected!**

Verse 23a:

FOURTH WORD PHRASE:

“The light of a lamp will never shine in you again.” Many scholars believe that this word phrase is referencing the **‘PHYSICAL CONCEPT OF LIGHT’** as described in Matt. 5:14-15, **“A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it in its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.”**

(Note: If you read all of Matt. 5:13-16 you will see Matthew is talking about ‘The Church/Christianity’ being the ‘salt & Light’ to the world → meaning: ‘The Good News of Jesus Christ/Salvation for all Men’. However, in our **‘Word Phrase’** they

are using it to describe 'The Physical Concept of LIGHT', which they believe is the same analogy, being used in both; Matt. 5:13-16 & Rev. 18:23a.

However, in this 'Word Phrase' it appears to me that that; God through Johns words is telling the reader and the → PEOPLE OF THE ENTIRE WORLD WHO HAVE LIVED SINCE THE TIME OF JOHNS WRITING UNTIL THIS EVENT HAPPENS: that → 'This Light' being spoken of in Rev. 18:23a that is illuminating the world during this 'Seven Year Period' → is the 'THE LIGHT OF EVIL—PURE SATANIC' and it has been → 'PUT OUT FOREVER' → "...will never shine in you again."

Also, remember this 'LIGHT OF EVIL—PURE SATANIC' that has 'Guided & Directed the World for 'Seven Years' was the 'Center of the One World Government' and → Now it is GONE; EVERY ASPECT OF SOCIETY WILL BE WILL BE IN TOTAL TURMOAL → THE LIGHT IS OUT.

I think that all of these interpretations apply in one way or the other to the meaning of these words, however, we all know that the 'Light of the World is Jesus Christ', John 8:12, "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows 'Me' will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life'." Also see John 9:5 & John 1: 4-9 However, we also know that Jesus in these verses was talking about 'Spiritual Life—Mortal & Eternity' and not physical light. POINT BEING → At the moment of 'Destruction' all the people residing within 'The City of Babylon' will never again see the 'Beautiful Sun that God Created' or the 'Light of a Lamp at night', which is all sad but the main point is that they would no longer have access to the opportunity to 'Repent and be Saved because of Jesus Christ—the Light of the World'. Again, this will truly be a sad day for many people, but those who are saved will have no reason to be sad, except for the fact that they will know that the people who were not saved are now 'Separated from God Forever' !

Last, I think these verses speak about a period in 'The Seven Year Tribulation Period' as described in Rev. 16: 17-19, "The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, 'IT IS DONE!' then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of

thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has occurred since man has been on the earth, so tremendous was the quake. The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of His wrath.” I have enlarged several words within these verses that I believe speak directly to Revelation Chapter 18 in general and specifically to our verses.

FIFTH WORD PHRASE:

“The voice of the bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again.” Most scholars believe that these words should be taken literally, meaning → the state of the world will be so bad, and that marriage will not be on anyone’s mind. This will truly be a time when ‘Survival’ will be major objective of everyone, every—second, minute, hour, day → you get the idea.

The other literal way to interpret these words is → “The voices of the bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again.” Is because → All the people who lived in ‘The City of Babylon’ will be DEAD.

However, based on the ‘Seven Year Period’ that we are talking about → I believe that there is a least one other issue within these words that God is trying to get across to the reader, which is → It is my opinion that somewhere during the ‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’ → Marriage will completely abandoned and ‘Open Sexual Relationship of ALL TYPE will be ‘REQUIRED BY SOCIETY & THE ONE WORLD RELIGIOUS ORDER & ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT’. This will truly be a time of ‘Sexual Lust & Human Depravity’.

SIXTH WORD PHRASE:

“Your merchants were the world’s great men.” Most scholars believe that these words are talking about → ‘The Leaders of Commerce & Industry’ of the earth.

This word section ends with the word “men” therefore; scholars believe it is talking about:

First→ the **‘Leaders’** who are being talked about and

Second→ the **‘Commerce & Industry’** itself.

However, to me the real question within these words is → Based on the way that they are written: **‘What is God really saying to the reader’?**

To me the answer is simple:

God is saying through John's words that **‘All of the “...great men...” of the Earth’ are focused on making money and self-centered desires** → and not men who are focused on **‘SEVERING AND WORSHIPING GOD, THE CREATOR. They are severing & worshiping → created things: Satan and things of this earth.’**

If this sounds like the large corporation of the earth today, you would be correct! Do you ever wonder why, in America, during the 1,960's & 1,970's the American government was so aggressive in implementing our **‘Antitrust Laws’** and since then they are so **‘AGGRESSIVE’** at not enforcing our **‘Antitrust Laws’** but in **‘CREATING GLOBAL CORPORATIONS’**—the answer is **‘Money, Power, Corruption and Greed’**—just a thought?

Subset Two of Part Two →

In verses 23b-24 God through John's words reverts back to pointing out **‘Specific Evils/Sins that Babylon’** has **‘DONE TO THE HUMANS of the Earth and Against God’** → During the **‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’**. I am not sure why God has gone from **‘Describing the Destruction of Babylon’** to **‘Again Describing the ‘Sin and Evil’ that Babylon has done!’** However, the **‘One Biblical Concept’** that would seem to fit this situation is → **‘UNREPENTANT SIN ALWAYS BRINGS JUDGMENT’** and God may want to point this out for people who are reading this Book; both before the Rapture, as well as, during **‘The Seven Year Tribulation Period’**.

Again, we would only be guessing as to why He did this!

Verse 23b → (1) “By your magic spells all the nations were led astray Verse 24,
→ (2) In her was found the blood of the prophets and of the saints → (3) and all who have been killed on the earth.”

FIRST SIN DESCRIBED →

“By your magic spells all the nations were led astray.” I believe that there are many places within the Holy Bible & the Book of Revelations that support this concept and these words, however, I will limit my support of this view to three specific quotes, which are as follows:

1) Miracles → Rev. 13: 3, “One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished...”

2) Signs → Rev. 13: 13, “And he performed great miraculous signs even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of men.”

3) Demonic Possession → Rev. 18:2b, “She has become the home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit...”

All of these actions are what the Bible calls → “...magic spells or sorcery...” which is exactly → one of the Primary Methods that Satan has used throughout history and will continue to use during the ‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’ to lead the people of the world ‘AWAY’ from God.

SECOND SIN DESCRIBED →

Verse 24a: “In her was found the blood of the prophets and the saints...”

Given the ‘Specific Words used by God’ I believe that He/God intended these words to be taken, by the reader, in two ways → Present Time (The Seven Year Tribulation Period) & Past Times (Adam & Eve to beginning of the ‘Seven Year Tribulation period’). I will break these two sub-sets down to make it easier to understand:

PRESENT TIME → Defined as during the time period of the ‘Seven Year Tribulation’. I believe that there are many places that we could point to in

Revelations that would validate this statement but I will limit our discussion to three:

1) Rev. 6: 9-11, Sixth Seal Judgment, **“...I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.”**

2) Rev. 7: 9-17, Martyrs, focus on verses 9 & 14, **“...there before me was a great multitude that no one could count...These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”**

3) Rev. 11:7, Prophets (Two Witnesses) **“Now when they had finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss, will attack them, and overpower and kill them.”**

Other verses that I believe meet this description would be: Rev. 13:7, 15 & 17:6 & 19:2.

PAST TIMES → Defined as all of the time from → **Adam & Eve to the time of the Beginning of the ‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’**. Remember the words within this section → **“In her was found the blood of the prophets and of the saints...”** Remember →

First, Satan brought sin into the world during the time of Adam & Eve, see Genesis Chapters 2 & 3 and

Second, The spirit of the antichrist entered the world during the life of Jesus Christ, see 1 John and

Third, the above two ‘beings’ (Satan & antichrist) began the process; **“in her was found the blood of the prophets and saints...”** that will be completed during the **‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’**, see Genesis Chapter 11.

Actually these words have been being fulfilled since the time of Adam & Eve, but will not come to completion until the time of the **‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’**.

THIRD SIN DESCRIBED→

Verse 24b: It is my opinion that Revelation Chapter 18 ends with a 'Biblical Concept' that has been in existence and used by Satan since Satan entered the world during the time of Adam & Eve → "...and of all who have been killed on the earth." This concept has three parts and can be summarized as follows:

Part 1: Caused men to live in sin and provoke God into Judging/killing them, before they can 'Repent and be Saved'→ JUDGMENT by GOD,

Part 2: Have unsaved men kill other unsaved men before they can be saved → MEN FALLING to the DECEPTION by SATAN,

Part 3: Have men kill all saved men before they can spread the 'Good News of Jesus Christ' and be saved → MEN FALLING to the DECEPTION by SATAN.

Note: I also think verse 24 could have a two—fold meaning → 'Spiritual & Physical'.

SPIRITUAL/PHYSICAL →

1) The first group would be in 24a, "In her was found the blood of the prophets and of the saints." Meaning the 'Physical Death' of many 'Saved People' who have lived on this earth.

2) The second group would be in 24b, "and of all who have been killed on the earth." Meaning all 'Saved & Unsaved People' who ever lived, as everyone 'Physically' dies unless you are 'Raptured'. To me this would carry a 'Spiritual Meaning'—if you die/killed before you 'Repent and are Saved' you will be condemned to 'The Lake of Fire' for all of eternity.

However, the 'Saved People' will only die physically but will be 'Raised Spiritually to Eternal life'. Whereas, the 'Unsaved will be Condemned to 'The Lake of Fire for ALL ETERNITY'

This concludes our study of Revelation Chapter 18; "The Fall of O Great City of Babylon". Again, based on the chronological order of Revelation it appears this

will happen within the last several months/days of the 'Seven Year Tribulation Period'. We will now begin our study of Revelation Chapter 19, which covers:

- 1)** The general response from Heaven because they know the 'Seven Year Tribulation Period' is about to come to an end,
- 2)** The 'Wedding Supper of the Lamb (Jesus Christ) and His Bride (the Church),
- 3)** The 'Second Coming of Jesus Christ' and the 'Battle of Armageddon'.

SPECIAL NOTE:

However, before we close out our study of Chapter 18 I would like to discuss one last issue, about some of the words used within this chapter that do not seem to be 'consistent' and many, non-Christian, people have tried to say that these words prove the Holy Bible has 'inconsistencies' which therefore, invalidates the entire Bible.

However, keep in mind that, all most all 'Biblical Scholars' believe that there is no inconsistency within these words as they are all describing what should be considered → 'a very short period of time'. I will list the verses involved and then provide you with various quotes from other scripture that can be used to explain the way this type of language should be interpreted.

Verses Involved:

Rev. 18: 8a, "Therefore, in one day her plagues will overtake her..."

Rev. 18: 10b, "In one hour your doom has come!"

Rev. 18:17a, "In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!"

Rev. 18: 19b, "In one hour she has been brought to ruin!"

If you read all four verses above it is obvious that verse 8a states the time period to be **"In one day"**, where the other three verses use the words, **"In one hour"**. Again, many people have pointed out this; as a major inconsistency within scripture.

I will share with you my opinion based on my research.

First:

To me there is no question that the **'Primary Topic'** of Revelation Chapter 18 is God providing the reader with **'The Description of the Total Destruction of 'The City of Babylon' (the capital city of the 'One World Government/Economic System)'**. I believe this **'Description'** is broken down in to **'Five Specific Topical Subsets'**:

1) It tells us that, **'Babylon—The Capital City of the One World Government/Economic System' will be 'Totally Destroyed'** at some point very close to the end of the **'Seven Year Tribulation Period'**.

2) This **'Destruction Process'** will happen **'Very Quickly'** compared to the amount of time it took **'her/Babylon/antichrist' to accumulate:**

One, the amount of power she now possesses,

Two, the amount of physical wealth she now possesses.

3) A warning by God, telling His people to come out of the **'Physical City of Babylon'** & could also mean **'Spiritually'** come out of her: **"Come out of her my people."**

4) How three specific groups of people reacted to this **'Destruction Event'** → **"kings—merchants—sea captains"?**

5) Last in verses 21-24 God provides the reader with a **'Specific Example' of 'The Speed & Magnitude'** with which this event will take place.

Second:

We know based on our knowledge of other scripture that God provides the reader with 'Information & Examples' through the use of both 'Literal & Symbolic' Language'.

We also know that sometimes God imparts information to His 'saints' that will come in the form of a 'Prophecy or Statement of Fact' or 'Parable' or even a 'Physical Example'.

In Revelation Chapter 18 I believe that God is providing the reader with both 'A Statement of Fact & 'An Example' and it is being done in both 'Literal & Symbolic Language'.

Third:

First → I will talk about both the issue of; 'Literal & Factual Statements'. I think we can say, based on the words within Revelation Chapter 18 that → 'The City of Babylon will be Totally Destroyed', which I stated as our 'First Point' in our 'Topical Subset' group above. I base this on the following words; "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great." And "Therefore in one day...She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her."

As I have said above, it appears to me that if something is "...consumed by fire" with "consumed" being defined as 'totally or completely destroyed' "by fire..." and the 'duration' is defined as "one hour" → Then we can say with confidence that it is 'A Literal Statement of 'FACT'. And that the 'Action of this FACT' will occur 'QUICKLY'.

Second → I will talk about what I consider to be the 'Symbolic Language' within Revelation Chapter 18. To me there are two types of 'Symbolism' used in the Holy Bible:

One → is used when God tells the reader that the language or statement coming is going to be 'symbolic', there are many example within the Bible, however, I will use two out of the Book of Revelation: (1) Rev. 16:13, "Then I saw three evil

spirits (that looked like frogs); (they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet)." → And Rev. 9:3, "And out of the smoke locusts came down upon the earth and (were given power like that of scorpions) of the earth."

Further on in the **'Fifth Trumpet Judgment'** God provides the reader with many **'Symbolic Examples'** of these "locust"; Rev. 9:7-10, "The (locust looked like horses) prepared for battle. On their heads (they wore something like crowns of gold), and (their faces resembled human faces). Their hair (was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth). They had breastplates (like breastplates of iron), and (the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle). They had tails and (stings like scorpions), and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months."

In all of these verses and many more God provides the reader with **'Symbolic Language'** that will allow the reader to **'Paint a Mental Picture'** in their mind that will allow them to have some comprehension of what He—God is trying to tell or describe to them. Many if not all of these **'things—events'** have never happened before on earth. Therefore, men would have no way of understanding what will actually be happening, if God did not provide them with examples that have seen and do understand.

This is what I think we are seeing—hearing in verses:

Rev. 18:8a: "Therefore in one day..."

Rev. 18:10b: "In one hour..."

Rev. 18:17a: "In one hour..."

Rev. 18:19b: "In one hour..."

All of these verses (Rev. 18:8a & 10b & 17a & 19b) to me speak to the issue of **'Quickness—Suddenness'** and **'Not a Duration of Time'**. Therefore, the key to understanding this issue is → Determining if these words are being presented by God to indicate the **'Quickness—Suddenness'** of the **'Destruction of O Great City of Babylon'** or is God talking about the **'Duration or Time Period'** of the **'Destruction of O Great City of Babylon'**. I will provide you with similar examples of other events recorded within scripture below that use this type of **'Symbolic/Literal Language'** and then you should read and make up your own mind!

Example One:

Daniels prophecy about Israel and their future (as a nation) is being described by God through Daniels words as → **'Seventy Sevens or Weeks'**. In this scripture God provides Israel with a **'basic glimpse'** at their future and is using **'symbolic language'**. Each of these **'sevens'** represents a **'seven year period'** with a total of (70 X 7 = 490 years) however there are large gaps of time between some of these periods. Therefore, to me this example represents **'A Period of Time or Duration'** and for sure **'Not a Quick Event'**. See Dan. 9:24-27

Example Two:

Example on **'Duration of Time' not quickly:** I know there has been a lot of controversy over, exactly what a **'Day'** was during the creation process. Some people have said that a day to God could be 1,000 years to us; however, I take scripture at **'Face Value'** unless the scripture indicates otherwise. That being said let's look at the scripture: Gen. 1:5b, **"And there was evening and there was morning—the first day."** These same words are repeated after God finished His work in the first six days of creation—the seventh day God rested.

To me these words are very specific as they specifically spell out a day as it was described in the days of the **'Old Testament'**, therefore, I believe these **'Days of Creation'** are talking about → **'A Duration of Time—One Earth Day'**.

Example Three:

To me in Revelation, Chapters 21 & 22, when Jesus makes the statements (three times), **"I am coming quickly."** is not speaking to either the issue of **'Quickly or Duration of Time'** but **'Assurance to His Saints'**, because it is speaking about **'the accuracy or finality of God's word/prophecy.'**

Example Four:

In 1 Cor. 15:51-52a, **"Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet."** Paul is conveying to **'the saints'** (of all time periods) the **'Quickness or Suddenness'** of **'Jesus Second Coming'**. Keep in mind this scripture is talking about the **'Suddenness of the Rapture'** to all the people of the earth. Also see, Matt. 24:40-44, Matt. 25:13 & Luke 12:40, thief in the night, 1 Thess. 5:2

I would like to quote the scripture passages I have listed above and see if you see the same pattern that I noticed within these words:

Matthew 24:40-44, **"Two men will be in the field, one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. Therefore, keep watch; because you do not know on what DAY your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an HOUR when you do not expect Him."**

To me there is no question that these verses are speaking about the **'Quickness or Suddenness'** of the event—**Jesus Christ 'Second Coming'**. However, notice it uses both the words; **"DAY & HOUR"** to describe this one event: **"...because you do not know the DAY your Lord will come."** and **"...because the Son of man will come at an HOUR when you do not expect Him'**. Therefore, based on the opinions of the **'people who not believe in God's word'**, these verses would also be inconsistent. However, we know from other parts of God's Holy Bible that the **'Concept of Suddenness or Quickness'** is correct!

Matthew 25:13, **“Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the DAY or the HOUR.”** In this one verse God again uses both terms **“DAY & HOUR”** back to back to describe this one event, even though we know that it will happen **‘Suddenly or Quickly’**, **“...in a flash—in the twinkling of an eye...”** Does that make this incorrect also: We know it does not because we are talking about a **‘Biblical Concept’**, which is **‘Suddenness & Quickness’?** Luke 12:40, also uses this same word, **“HOUR”**, **“You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at and HOUR when you do not expect Him.”**

1 Thessalonians 5:2, **“...for you know very well that the ‘Day of the Lord’ will come LIKE a thief in the night.”** To me this is just another version of the same message, which speaks about the **‘Second Coming of Jesus Christ’**. Therefore, based on this verse and the subject matter that we are discussing, I think we can make the following statements:

- 1) We know this verse is **‘symbolic’** because it uses the word, **“LIKE”**
- 2) We know it is speaking about the **‘Second Coming of Jesus Christ’**, because it uses the words **“the Day of the Lord”**.
- 3) We know when a **‘thief’** enters a house he enters **‘quickly or suddenly’** and does not take an **“hour or a day”** to enter, even though we are again talking about the **‘Second Coming of Jesus Christ’**.
- 4) Again, this verse—words are conveying a **‘Biblical Concept’** to the reader and using **‘Symbolism’** to convey the meaning.

Now I would like to quote for you what I consider the scripture that should be used to determine → How to understand specific words when interpreting the subject of the **‘Second Coming of Jesus Christ’**, Matthew 24:36, **“No one knows the Day or the Hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”** As you can see both words **“Day or the Hour”** are being used to describe this one event—even though the event will happen **“...in a flash—in the twinkling of an eye...”**

My last point is that if you read Revelation Chapter 18 you will notice that it appears that the **‘being’** speaking in Rev. 18:8 is **either Jesus Christ or some other**

heavenly being with great power and they are: making a point to heaven and the earth that God is 'Now Bringing Judgment (Total Destruction) on Babylon—and it by "FIRE"', whereas, in verses 10b, 17a & 19b, it is the unsaved leaders of the earth: "kings of the earth...merchants of the earth...sea captains" who are watching from "a far off" and commenting on the 'Time Frame in Which the City of Babylon' is being destroyed. Again, two different speakers (Heavenly Being and Three Separate Groups within the antichrist Organization'.

My point to all of this is that God many times uses a variety of words within scripture to describe the same event or action, however when you compile all of these words/verses together you come up with 'One Biblical Concept' which ties together perfectly with all other uses of this 'Biblical Concepts'. Also, many of the writers of the Bible and especially 'Prophecy' came from different backgrounds/cultures and education levels, therefore, would be using slightly different words to describe the same event or action: but they are all read together → they form one 'Comprehensive Biblical Concept'.

Also, ever prophecy that has come to pass and is now history has come to pass 'Exactly as Prophesied'.

Therefore, my opinion is that the word difference of "DAY & HOUR" does not demonstrate any 'inconsistence' with Revelation Chapter 18: and I base this on all the other ways scripture uses similar words to describe different outcomes.

Also, I think you must always read → all of the surrounding scripture → to determine exactly what God is trying to convey to you with His words!