

Revelation, Part 22

Last session we saw the background history of Mystery Babylon and identified it as an apostate religious system of idolatry. Now we will get more information about this “woman riding the beast” and the beast itself.

The Meaning of the Woman and the Beast

Rev 17:7 But the angel said to me, “Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. 8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

9 “Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. 10 There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. 11 The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.

12 “The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. 13 These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. 14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”

15 Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. 16 And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. 17 For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. 18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.”

John has the woman and the beast explained to him.

Rev 17:7 But the angel said to me, “Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.

“Why did you marvel?” The question carries a sense of wonderment and implied by the need for an explanation suggesting John did not grasp what he was seeing. The question suggests John needed an explanation of the woman and the beast, but he should not have needed such.

Rev 17:8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

The beast referred to here should be seen as the Revived Roman Empire. “The beast the woman was sitting on previously existed, currently does not exist, and will (future) ascend out of the abyss.” First, note that the source of power is “out of the abyss” and that speaks of Satan. Satan is the driving force behind this beast the woman is riding. The fact that the beast was, now is not, and will ascend (“come up” in some translations) in the future is another indication of what was introduced in Revelation 13:3, the “mortal head wound” when interpreted as the previously “long dead” Roman Empire that comes “alive” again. What was “is not (at that time)” refers to the fact that the Roman Empire was fragmented at the time of the vision, but it “will ascend” and come alive again. I believe the Abomination of Desolation when the “image” speaks will be the pivotal event that captures both of these ideas of the Roman Empire coming back and the miraculous “resurrection” of Antichrist from the “dead”. The survival and revival of both the world ruler and his empire will impress the world as being supernatural and will lead to the worship of Antichrist and Satan.

About the “Revived Roman Empire”.

We throw this term around rather casually. What we are referring to is not a literal revival of the old Roman Empire but the coming together of a ten-nation confederation that is made up of nations that once were part of the old Roman Empire, and its capital *appears* to be located in Rome, at least initially. Is the current United States of Europe, the EU, the basis for this entity? Quite possibly so.

Seven Mountains

Rev 17:9 Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.

The “seven mountains” reference immediately brings up images of Rome, the “city on seven hills,” and many expositors do go there, which leads them to take the position that the “woman” (Babylon, as the religious system) is headquartered in Rome. (Yes, this gets confusing, because we will be viewing Babylon in more than one context: as a religious system, politically/economically, and as a city.) The problem is Rome does not sit on seven hills; there are actually more than seven. Furthermore, the passage goes on to clarify the issue for us and says the seven mountains aren’t speaking of a city but are really seven heads or leaders. When used in certain contexts in Scripture, such as here, the word “mountain” is not a mountain or prominent elevation on the earth made of rocks and soil but instead often refers to kingdoms, regal domains, empires, or established authority. Some examples:

Ps 30:7 Lord, by Your favor You have made my mountain stand strong;

This is a song of David concerning his kingdom and “my mountain” here refers to his reign.

Jer 51:24 “And I will repay Babylon
And all the inhabitants of Chaldea
For all the evil they have done
In Zion in your sight,” says the Lord.

25 “Behold, I am against you, O destroying **mountain**,
Who destroys all the earth,” says the Lord.
“And I will stretch out My hand against you,
Roll you down from the rocks,
And make you a burnt **mountain**.”

Jeremiah is speaking of the destruction of Babylon during the end times and calling it a “mountain,” referring to its dominion during that time.

Let’s look at Daniel 2:35. This is the image of the great idol that Nebuchadnezzar saw in a dream and Daniel interpreted. It is associated

with the kingdoms that will soon follow that of Nebuchadnezzar. The last image is of a “stone not made with hands” (Christ) coming down and striking the feet of the great statue and destroying it but look at the language used.

Dan 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a **great mountain** and filled the whole earth.

The “stone that struck the image became a great mountain” is referring to Jesus Christ and His government or administration during the Kingdom (Millennium). It “filled the whole earth”.

In this context, the seven hills of Revelation 17:9 do not refer to Rome as the city or even the empire, nor does it refer to Papal Rome. It does, however, refer to seven successive political entities or governments — mountains.

Seven Kings

Rev 17:10 There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. 11 The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.

We have a problem with the translation and the word “there,” which is the third-person plural pronoun and should be translated as “they”. Many translations do translate it as “They are also...,” meaning the seven mountains are also seven kings, which is the more accurate translation. “Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come.” Starting from the beginning, these kings are Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, and Greece. They are all history to the vision — fallen. One is still existing during John’s time. That would be what remains of the Roman Empire, and one is not, and that would be Revived Rome.

These seven entities were all ridden by the harlot in one form or another, as Estar and Tammuz of the Babylonians and Assyrians, Isis and Horus of Egypt, Aphrodite and Eros of Greece, and Venus and Cupid of Rome. Who knows what form Babylon will take in revived Rome?

All of these political entities — these mountains — sold their souls to this system of idolatry. The Great Harlot is said to be carried by them — all of them! They are her devotees and support the woman. They are her lovers. Spiritual harlotry has been the pet of these empires throughout history and will be during the Tribulation.

Rev 17:11 The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.

One “has not yet come” and “is himself also the eighth” refers to both the Revived Rome and the Antichrist. The thinking is that the seventh is the Revived Roman Empire that has sway during the first three and a half years of the Tribulation, but Antichrist turns on the harlot (the woman) and destroys her. The eight beast is what then comes out of that process, the world empire of Antichrist where he demands worship as god, the ultimate form of idolatry. This takes place at the Abomination of Desolation. The seventh, Antichrist, and the Revived Roman Empire of the first three and a half years of the Tribulation become the eighth at the Abomination of Desolation through the Great Tribulation to the end.

Rev 17:12 “The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. 13 These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.”

These ten kings are not the same as the seven kings. The seven rule sequentially throughout human history and are political entities here represented as “kings”. The “ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet,” however, rule concurrently and are the ten kings or “kingdoms” that make up the Revived Roman Empire. They are seduced by and use the harlot with the beast for a short while, “one hour”. They give over their power to the beast eventually, and that is the beginning of the eighth and final form of the Roman Empire.

Rev 17:14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.

Ultimately, they make war with the Lamb—Armageddon. The temporal focus will be the destruction of the Christians and Jews. At the end of the War of Armageddon and the Second Advent, it will be a physical/spiritual contest.

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

The “waters” are identified as “peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues”. Control will be exerted over most if not all of the earth, at least for a little while, but probably not in every aspect of life, and never completely. Control will be more symbolic than real in many areas of the world, as testified by the rebellious nature of some of the world’s member nations during this period and the War of Armageddon.

Babylon Destroyed

Rev 17:16 And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

The ten kings turn on the harlot and destroy her. Lots of graphic word pictures here — “make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire”. “Make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh” probably means exposing her as a fake and stripping away her power. Burn her with fire speaks of judgment. Halfway through the Tribulation, the ten-nation federation we have been calling the Revived Roman Empire and Antichrist will come to hate the “woman,” Babylon the idolatrous ecumenical religion left after the Rapture took all true Christians. This world church movement, which rules the first half of the seven years, is thus brought to an abrupt end. It will be replaced by the final form of world religion which will be the worship of the world ruler, Satan’s substitute for Christ.

Rev 17:17 For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.

Here we see the real reason behind the destruction of this world system of idolatry: divine judgment. God frequently uses evil to judge evil. He did so with Israel several times. Israel was destroyed twice by political entities

much more evil than she had become. The underlying reason behind these destructions was idolatry and the evil associated with it. Though it may not seem so, all of this is under God's complete control. The actors are acting out the parts God is permitting them to play in His plan for mankind.

Rev 17:18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.

We have been speaking of "the woman," Babylon, as an idolatrous system of worship. In chapter 17, we are seeing its manifested as an ecumenical religion that forms from the remnants of "Christians" and other religions left behind after the Rapture of the True Church. In Revelation 17:17 and 18 we see her killed. The ten horns (kingdoms) "will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire." Sounds pretty dead to me. THAT Babylon is the "world church," that apostate ecumenical system of idol worship that supported Antichrist through its manipulations of the ten kings. Then chapter 17 concludes with "the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth." "That great **city**?" Hold that thought.

Babylon Destroyed Again?

Rev 18:1 After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. 2 And he called out with a mighty voice, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast. 3 For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living."

In chapter 18, we see further revelation on the destruction of Babylon by another angel coming down from heaven. The power and glory of this angel were such that the earth was illuminated by his splendor (18:1). For me, that suggests this "angel" is Christ at the Second Advent. The angel's message is summarized: "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!" We then witness details of the destruction of this "great city" in chapter 18.

Is this another expanded view of the same destruction mentioned in Revelation 17:16–17? I don't think so. The opening statement in 18:1,

“after this,” implies that what comes next follows what was previously revealed in chapter 17. A comparison of chapters 17 and 18 reveals that these are different events. The woman in chapter 17 was associated with religious and political power but was not the political power itself, and her destruction brought no mourning from the earth. By contrast, the destruction of Babylon in chapter 18 brings loud lamentation from the earth’s political and economic powers. Instead of being destroyed and consumed by the 10 kings, as in chapter 17, in chapter 18 the destruction seems to come from an earthquake (18:21) and fire (18:8). It is probable that this is an enlarged explanation of what was described in Revelation 16:19–21.

Rev 16:19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. 20 And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found. 21 And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail because the plague was so severe.

Here we have “the great city” called “Babylon” and a picture of the judgment at the Second Advent. And I now remind you that in the last verse of chapter 17, the woman was suddenly described as “that **great city** which reigns over the kings of the earth”. We went from Babylon (the woman) being viewed as a system that controlled the ten kings and the beast (Antichrist) to it being a city. What was destroyed in Revelation 17:16-17 was the system, which we defined as an ecumenical religion that formed after the Rapture. But what we see in Revelation 16:19-21, 17:18, and chapter 18 is a “great city” being destroyed.

Chapter 18 goes on to describe the destruction of that “great city” Babylon, not in terms describing a religious system, but more as describing a city. For example:

- She is a "**dwelling place** for demons, a **haunt** for every unclean spirit, a **haunt** for every unclean bird, a **haunt** for every unclean and detestable beast.” (v 18:2)
- She is described as, “You **great city**, you **mighty city**, Babylon!” (18:10)
- She is “the **great city** that was clothed in fine linen, in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold, with jewels, and with pearls!” (18:16)

- Sailors watched her burn, and she is described as “**What city** was like the **great city?**” (18:17)
- And as “the **great city** “ in (18:19, 21)
- In verses 22 and 23 we see **some of those** who inhabit and work in this “**great city**”

Babylon in chapter 18 is not quite the same Babylon seen in chapter 17, and the destruction of Babylon in chapter 18 is not the same destruction of Babylon in chapter 17. Babylon in chapter 18 is a real city. We are dealing with two events, and both involve the destruction of Babylon. The first Babylon in chapter 17 is the Babylon that rode the beasts, the ten nations, and promoted Antichrist. THAT Babylon was destroyed halfway through the Tribulation by the ten kings and Antichrist. The Babylon of chapter 18 is another (but the same) Babylon and is here seen as a “great city”. Confused? The original apostate religious system was called Babylon because of its origins and association with the city of Babylon. This is a case of a city being so associated with the apostate religious system Babylon that it is called “Babylon” in Scripture.

In the middle of the Tribulation, the emphasis on Babylon shifts from the woman riding the beast to the city Babylon. They are the same, in the sense both are apostate and both are deeply involved in idolatry. They are merely different manifestations of the same basic idolatrous system. But what city is this “new” Babylon?

Expositors mainly see that answer as one of two possibilities: that would be Rome or a rebuilt Babylon on the Euphrates River in Iraq. Right off, I am excluding a rebuilt Babylon from the possible answers for various reasons. A rebuilt Babylon in Iraq had indeed been the dream of Saddam Hussein, and he even began the process of developing the site. That dream ended with the Gulf War. I do not believe it is likely Babylon on the Euphrates will be rebuilt or that it could ever become the industrial/economic might described and destroyed in Revelation 18. Nor do I see the Antichrist taking up residence there as his capital city, as many propose. As I said in an earlier session, the closest I can see Antichrist even getting that place is when he takes up residence in Jerusalem. I see no scriptural evidence of Babylon, Iraq being the capital of Antichrist. Furthermore, the Euphrates River is barely navigable and only by small vessels. The location of Babylon is so far upriver, and the river so shallow, the possibility of it being a thriving seaport is very unlikely.

Ancient Babylon is indeed the mother of idolatry and the fountainhead of the false religion of idolatry that has spread all over the world since the Flood. But that is about as far as it goes. Ancient Babylon will not again become the home of this idolatrous system, but other cities will, as we have previously demonstrated. Mystery Babylon moved from Babylon to Pergamos and around the Mediterranean Sea then to Rome and outward from there. It is today all over the world. During the Tribulation it will *initially* be headquartered in Rome, or wherever the capital of this ten-nation federation happens to be, probably Rome. Then the ten-nation federation and Antichrist turn on her and destroy her in chapter 17. But the witch ain't dead! She merely assumes another apostate form and headquarters in another city.

I am comfortable identifying Babylon, the city, as most likely Rome during the first half of the Tribulation because of the “woman’s” influence on the EU or revived Roman Empire, and Antichrist who seems to be making his early headquarters there. With the destruction of the woman (Babylon) riding the beast (ten nation revived Roman Empire), the focus of the Tribulation shifts dramatically to home-in like a laser on Israel.

Chapters 17 and 18 effectively cover all of the Tribulation from right after the Rapture to the Second Advent in the context of Babylon. First she, as the apostate ecumenical religion, controls the ten nations and Antichrist only to be destroyed by them halfway through the Tribulation. That is all of chapter 17. That version will be replaced by her “evil twin” Babylon, “the great city,” and the idolatrous system of worship that will be associated with it. That is chapter 18. I submit that the adulterous prostitute we see destroyed in chapter 18 is Jerusalem. For at least the second half of the Tribulation and perhaps all of it, Jerusalem is Babylon, and that is the Babylon destroyed in Revelation 18.

The scriptural evidence supporting this is, in my opinion, pretty strong. Let's look at some of those passages, but first, my thanks to Dr. Regan Ewing and Chris White for their exhaustive work in this area. Much of what follows comes from their efforts.

The Great City

This term is used extensively in Revelation 17 and 18 to describe Babylon. It first shows up in Revelation 17:18 “...the great city that has dominion

over the kings of the earth.” Such is stated as if the reader is expected to understand which city is “the great city”. While the term is used a lot in reference to Babylon in Revelation 17 and 18, it appears only twice more in this 22-chapter book.

Rev 11:7 And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them, ⁸ and their dead bodies will lie in the street of **the great city** that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, **where their Lord was crucified.**

Here “the great city” is clearly understood to be Jerusalem “where their Lord was crucified”. It appears again in Revelation 16 in reference to the Seventh Bowl Judgment and the great earthquake.

Rev 16:19 The **great city** was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath.

Note that “the great city” was split into three parts, and “the cities of the nations fell”. The term “cities of the nations” is a reference to cities in Gentile nations, and “the great city” is contrasted with them, thus it must be Jerusalem. This passage also seems to harmonize with one in Revelation 18:21 “...Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence.” Zechariah 14:4 tells us Jerusalem is split in two by an earthquake at the Second Advent. Splitting the city into three parts in Revelation 16:19 likely refers to the population as suggested in Ezekiel.

Ezek 5:1 “And you, O son of man, take a sharp sword. Use it as a barber’s razor and pass it over your head and your beard. Then take balances for weighing and divide the hair. ² A third part you shall burn in the fire in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are completed. And a third part you shall take and strike with the sword all around the city. And a third part you shall scatter to the wind, and I will unsheathe the sword after them. ³ And you shall take from these a small number and bind them in the skirts of your robe. ⁴ And of these again you shall take some and cast them into the midst of the fire and burn them in the fire. From there a fire will come out into all the house of Israel.

This passage speaks of the Second Advent and splitting the population of Jerusalem into three parts using a shaving metaphor. The “small number and bind them in the skirts of your robe” statement refers to those who are the remnant of believers that are delivered through the final siege of Jerusalem. They are bound to the robe of our Lord. All the others die.

We have one other possible reference in Revelation 14.

Rev 14:20 And the winepress was trodden outside the city

Everyone assumes “the city” is Jerusalem, but the only city mentioned in the previous context is Babylon. Is John assuming we will understand “the city” here is Jerusalem as Babylon?

Jerusalem’s Harlotry

The woman in Revelation 17 and 18 is depicted as a harlot, and repeatedly throughout the OT Israel and Jerusalem are charged with adultery — chasing after other gods. Jerusalem is called a “harlot” hundreds of times in Scripture and always in a spiritual context. One cannot commit adultery unless one is married and, in this case, married to God. Only Jerusalem is said to have been married to God. (But now divorced and God will remarry her).

Jer 3:8 “She saw that for all the **adulteries** of that **faithless** one, Israel, I had sent her away with **a decree of divorce**. Yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but she too went and **played the whore**.⁹ Because she took her **whoredom lightly**, she polluted the land, committing **adultery with stone and tree**.¹⁰ Yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah did not return to me with her whole heart, but in pretense, declares the Lord.”

Ezek 16:35 “Therefore, O **prostitute**, hear the word of the Lord: ³⁶ Thus says the Lord God, Because your lust was poured out and your nakedness uncovered in your **whorings with your lovers, and with all your abominable idols, and because of the blood of your children that you gave to them**,³⁷ therefore, behold, I will gather all your lovers with whom you took pleasure, all those you loved and all those you hated. I will gather them against you from every side and will uncover your nakedness to them, that they may see all your nakedness.³⁸ And I

will **judge you as women who commit adultery and shed blood are judged,**

Ezek 23:37 For they have committed **adultery**, and **blood is on their hands**. With their **idols they have committed adultery**, and they have even **offered up to them for food the children** whom they had borne to me.

Her Forehead

Rev 17:5 And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: “Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth’s abominations.”

Jeremiah uses similar language to describe Israel.

Jer 3:3 ...yet you have the forehead of a whore; you refuse to be ashamed.

Jerusalem (Judah) has the forehead of a whore, one unashamed of their sins of idolatry and is beyond blushing.

Synagog of Satan

The letters to the seven churches in the beginning of Revelation seem to be focused on idolatry, and notice particularly the comments to the church at Philadelphia.

Rev 3:9 Behold, I will make those of the **synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not...**

“Those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not” implies these are apostate Jews. The Judaism in view has to be considered as paganism.

If the Babylon at end of chapter 17 and all of 18 represents apostate Jerusalem, then chapter 18 certainly links much of her sin to compromise with other nations. Furthermore, the Jerusalem leadership was certainly guilty of the ultimate pagan compromise with Rome, the rejection and crucifixion of Christ Himself. This would more than qualify as a sufficient basis for seeing Jerusalem as having committed adultery with Rome’s paganism, and as having rejected the true God.

Her Adornment

Rev 18:16 ...the great city that was clothed in fine linen, in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold, with jewels, and with pearls!

These can be seen as priestly garments or some specific use in the offerings. Josephus wrote that the veil covering the temple gate (which was over 80 feet high and 24 feet wide) was “a Babylonian curtain, embroidered with blue, and fine linen, and scarlet, and purple.”

“Gold, silver, and precious stones” is seen used in Daniel 11 as offerings needed to worship Antichrist, and the place he will demand such worship is in the temple in Jerusalem.

Dan 11:38 He shall honor the god of fortresses instead of these. A god whom his fathers did not know **he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones** and costly gifts.

Other items in that list in Revelation 18:11-13 are required to resume the daily sacrifices in the temple.

The Blood of the Saints and Prophets

Rev 18:24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth.”

While it can certainly be claimed that Rome is responsible for the spilling of much blood of the saints, the same cannot be said of them regarding the blood of the prophets. Only Jerusalem holds that title, as seen in the very words of Jesus.

Luke 11:50 so that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, can be charged against this generation, 51 from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary.

Luke 13:33 for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.’ 34 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! (also Mat 23:37)

And as for the blood of the saints, Jerusalem, having embraced Antichrist as Messiah and as his headquarters in the Great Tribulation, will indeed be guilty of the blood of the saints, all those who have rejected the mark of the beast.

Mat 23:34 Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, 35 so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth.

No other city has this kind of blame put on it. As we pick through Revelation 18 verse-by-verse next session, we will see more details on some of this concerning Babylon = Jerusalem.

In the last half of the Tribulation, with the help of the False Prophet, Antichrist presents himself as the long-awaited Messiah come to establish the expected Kingdom. Jerusalem and all of Israel will embrace him as such. Worship of Antichrist will be the ultimate form of the Babylonian Mysteries. Jerusalem, as Babylon the city, will have blood on their hands as they help in eliminating those who reject the mark of the beast and refuse to worship “messiah” Antichrist. Little do they realize they will be participating in their own ultimate holocaust.

But among these apostate idol worshipers in Babylon the city will be that “small number bound in the skirts of the Lord’s robe” (Ezek 5:3). Refusing the mark and belonging to God, they will be delivered out of destroyed Babylon into the real Kingdom.