

Revelation Chapter 17

Catholic disclaimer:

- I was baptized as an infant into the Roman Catholic church.
- Catholic means “universal” in Latin.
- There is a difference between the institution and the people.
- The Roman Catholic church has a dirty and bloody history.

Explain history of Roman Catholic church: Noah → Ham → Cush → Nimrod:

- Nimrod: (Let us rebel) **Genesis 10:9** “He was a mighty hunter against God.”
- Nimrod’s wife: Nimrod, Semiramis, virgin birth, Tammuz, Saturnalia, killed and resurrected three days later on the celebration of Ishtar (“goddess of life”), (rabbit / fertility & eggs / new life), Queen of Heaven, woman & child halos prior to Jesus & Mary.
- The beginning of the false religious system under Nimrod in Babylon.

Joshua 24:15 “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Revelation 14:8 “Babylon is fallen, is fallen”

- Chapters 17 & 18: are parenthetical chapters, which describe in greater detail the judgments upon Babylon. Each of these chapters depicts the fall of Babylon, first religious Babylon then political / commercial Babylon.
- Thyatira was know as the Papal church, given over to immoral practices and idolatry. Thyatira literally means “continual sacrifice” – symbolized by the crucifix.

Revelation 2:18-25 ¹⁸And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; ¹⁹I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. ²⁰Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. ²¹And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. ²²Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. ²³And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. ²⁴But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have

not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. ²⁵But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.”

Jeremiah 1:10 “See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.”

V: 1 Judgment:

Galatians 6:7-8 ⁷“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap. ⁸For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

- Great whore:

Nahum 3:4 “Because of the multitude of the whoredoms of the well-favored harlot, the mistress of witchcrafts, that selleth nations through her whoredoms, and families through her witchcrafts.”

- Whoredom speaks not only of physical harlotry, but of spiritual fornication. Joining ourselves to other God, making ourselves one with them, false religious systems.
- Many waters:

Revelation 17:15 “And he saith unto me, the waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

V: 2 Kings of the Earth, Spiritual fornication. Un-holy union. (Given over, drunk w/ power)

Genesis 10:8-10, 11:1-11 Nimrod (let us rebel), Babel, scattered.

- History of the Popes, immorality and misconduct physically and spiritually.

Halley's Bible Pocket Handbook: Pope innocent III who was the pope from 1198 to 1216, the most powerful of all the popes, claimed to be, and this was the first time, the **Vicar of Christ or the vicar of God**, the supreme sovereign over the church and the world.

Webster's: vicar –

1. A cleric in the Anglican Church acting as priest of a parish in place of the rector.
2. A cleric in the Episcopal Church whose charge is a chapel in a parish.
3. A Roman Catholic ecclesiastic representing a bishop.
4. A person who is authorized to perform the functions of another; deputy.

(Halley's cont)

He claimed the right to depose kings and princes and that all things on earth and in heaven and in hell are subject to the Vicar of Christ. He brought the church into supreme control of the state. The kings of Germany, France, and England, and practically all of the monarchs of Europe obeyed his will. He even brought the Byzantine Empire under his control and never in history has any one man exerted more power.

He ordered the two crusades. He decreed the transubstantiation. He confirmed **oracular confession**.

(Oracular confession: making pronouncements by special inspiration or authority; divine inspiration, in-fallibility.)

He declared that Peter's successor can never in any way depart from the Catholic faith. He declared Papal infallibility. He condemned the Magna Carta. He forbade the reading of the Bible in the common languages. He ordered the extermination of the heretics. He instituted the inquisitions. He ordered the massacre of the Albigenses.

More blood was shed under his direction and that of his immediate successors than any other period in the history of the church except in the Papacy's effort to crush the reformation in the 16th and 17th centuries. One would think that Nero, the beast, had come back to life in the name of the lamb."

Revelation 14:8 "And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

Psalms 103:8-11 "8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. 9 He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger forever. 10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the Heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him."

V: 3 Scarlet colored beast:

Revelation 13:1 "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy."

Revelation 12:3 "And there appeared another wonder in Heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads."

- Full of the names of **blasphemy**. The pope's claim to hold on the earth the place of God, to have a supreme authority over the human conscious, to have power to forgive sins, to grant indulgences and obedience to them is necessary for salvation. (**Blasphemy: Speak against, curse, revile, mis-represent God**).
- The scarlet colored beast, or red, the color of the beast and the harlot and the ten headed dragon in chapter 13. It is the color of the papacy. The papal throne is scarlet. It's born by twelve men dressed in scarlet. The cardinal's hats and robes are scarlet. Originally, it was Satan's color.

V: 4 Arrayed: (contrast to the Godly woman)

1 Timothy 2:9 “In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;”

- Purple and scarlet: Rome & the Catholic church.

Proverbs 5:3-5 “For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell.

Ezekiel 28:13 (speaking of Lucifer / Satan) “Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

- A cup in her hand:

Jeremiah 51:7 “Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD'S hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.” (Drinking human blood causes insanity)

- A cup full of abominations and filthiness:

History of some of the popes, again out of Halley's Bible Pocket Handbook, his section on church history.

1. Adrian II, 865-872; John VIII, 872-882; Marinus, 882-884. With these popes began the dark period of the papacy. The two hundred years between Nicholas I and Gregory VII is called by the historians, “[The midnight of the dark ages.](#)”
2. Bribery, corruption, immorality, bloodshed make it just about the blackest chapter in the whole history of the church.
3. Sergius III, A.D. 904-911, was said to have had a mistress, Morozia. She and her mother, Theodora, and her sister filled the papal chair with their paramours and bastard sons and turned the papal palace into a den of robbers called in history, “[The rule of the harlots,](#)” 904-963.
4. Anastasius III and Lando and John X was brought from Ravenna to Rome and made pope by Theodora for the more convenient gratification of her passion. He was smothered to death by Morozia, who then in succession raised to the papacy Leo VI, Stephen VII, and John XI, her own illegitimate son. Another of her sons appointed the four following popes, Leo VII, Stephen VIII, Martin III, Agapetus II, and John XII. A grandson of Morozia was guilty of almost every crime. He violated the virgins, the widows, high and low. He lived with his father's mistress, made the papal palace a brothel, and was killed while in the act of adultery by the woman's enraged husband.

V: 5 Quite a title, to be taken literally.

- Mystery:

2 Thessalonians 2:7 “For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.”

- Babylon the great: Confusion (languages); spiritual fornication; whoredom; man made religion.

- The mother of harlots:

Proverbs 7:6-23 ⁶“For at the window of my house I looked through my casement, ⁷And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding, ⁸Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house, ⁹In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night: ¹⁰And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtle of heart. ¹¹(She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house: ¹²Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.) ¹³So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him, ¹⁴I have peace offerings with me; this day have I paid my vows. ¹⁵Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee. ¹⁶I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt. ¹⁷I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. ¹⁸Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves. ¹⁹For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey: ²⁰He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed. ²¹With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. ²²He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; ²³Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.”

- The opposite of the word of God: Psalm 19:7-11
- Abominations of the earth:

Proverbs 6:16-19

Galatians 1:8 “But though we, or an angel from Heaven preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”

Luke 16:14-15 ¹⁴“And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him. ¹⁵And He said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.”

- When Constantine was converted and declared that Christianity would be the religion of Rome, he signed the edict of toleration, which ended the many years of severe persecution by the Roman government against the church.
- Thousands, in fact they estimate as many as six million believers were martyred during the first two hundred fifty years of the church's history as the Roman government sought to wipe out this new sect that they looked upon as a danger to Rome.
- Even though Constantine declared that Christianity was to be the official religion of Rome, it was already very much a paganized culture. The Babylonian influence, the religions of Babylon had heavily influenced the Romans. Many of their practices were borrowed from the Babylonian religion, including Saturnalia & Ishtar, it was blended – or adulterated.

V: 6 Drunk with the blood of the saints: Jesuits, crusades, history of the Popes; Halley's.

- The inquisition by the Catholic church especially at the time of the reformation by Martin Luther, it is estimated that there were some nine hundred thousand believers, followers of Jesus Christ, who were killed by the Jesuits in their holy war in their endeavor to stamp out Protestantism.

Revelation 13:15 “And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.”

- Admiration (KJV) = astonishment.

V: 7 The angel will reveal the “mystery” of the woman and of the beast.

V: 8 The beast that was and is not and shall ascend, or as it is later stated in this verse “the beast that was, and is not, and yet is”

1. Something that was, like the Roman Empire as an example.
2. That same thing that no longer is, like the Roman Empire.
3. And something that will be again, revived, like if the Roman Empire came into being again.

- There is some discussion as to whether this revived empire will be the Roman Empire or if it will be a revived Babylonian empire. The truth is that they are one and the same aside from geography.

V: 9 The mind that has wisdom:

Proverbs 28:5 “Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things.”

Psalm 107:43 “Who is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD.”

- Rome is built on 7 hills and refers to itself in feminine terms.

V: 10 7 kings, 5 are fallen, 1 is, 1 other is not yet come. When he (the one) does come it will be for a short time.

- Empires or powers that are mentioned in the Bible, world kingdoms:

Daniel ch.'s 2 & 7 (Babylonian, Persian, Grecian, Roman) + 2 + 1

1. Lion = Babylonian Empire.
 2. Bear = Medo-Persian Empire.
 3. Leopard = Grecian Empire.
 4. 4th, dreadful, terrible, 10 horns – notable emperors = Roman Empire.
 5. Egyptian Empire
 6. Assyrian Empire
 7. Revived Roman Empire, described as being iron mixed with clay and more dreadful and terrible than the rest.
- 7 empires:
 1. 5 are fallen – gone: (Babylonian, Persian, Grecian, Egyptian, and Assyrian)
 2. 1 is: Roman Empire was operating when the prophesy of this book was written.
 3. 1 is yet to come for a short time: The Roman Empire dissolved after the writing of the book of Revelation but is currently in the process of being restored.
 - Kings vs kingdoms:
 1. Caesar Nero was one of the 5 Roman Emperors that had passed from the scene at the time of the writing of this book. He had turned a corner and become a “beast” in the eyes of the church due to his cruelty to the church. In a way he is a candidate to be the anti-Christ because of his fierce opposition to the church.
 2. Nero was possessed, he died, but the demonic spirit that possessed him is possibly incarcerated in Ghenna and will be allowed to possess the next emperor and will with the same spirit persecute the church in a similar manner with the same cruelty.

V: 11 the beast that was, and is not.

Revelation 13:3 “And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.”

- Perdition / Ghenna, destruction, waste – hell.
- Different parts of Hell
 1. **Abusso**: bottomless pit.
 2. **Sheol / Hades / Tartarus**: center of the Earth, demonic angels incarcerated.
 3. **Ghenna / perdition**: outer darkness, place of final judgment away from God.
 4. **Abraham’s bosom**: place of comfort until Messiah came, currently vacant.

V: 12 A group of world leaders, from Western Europe, a confederation of which the EU is a predecessor. They are empowered for a short time.

Daniel 7:20 “And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.”

- In the end they will be gathered to the valley of Megiddo – where they will be trounced.

V: 13 One mind: (Rev. 16:13: 3 unclean spirits like frogs, dragon, beast, false prophet)

Matthew 12:25-26 “And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?”

V: 14 War with the Lamb: - Armageddon

James 4:4 “You adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”

Psalms 2: 1-2 “Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against His Anointed...”

- The Lamb shall overcome them! **Revelation 19:11-21**

1 Corinthians 15:55-57 “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 John 5:4 “And whosoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”

Hebrews 2:14 “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is the Devil;”

John 16:33 “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me you might have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

- Called & chosen:

Matthews 22:14 “For many are called, but few are chosen.”

John 15:16 “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”

1 John 4:19 “We love him, because he first loved us.”

- Made in the image of God, we have the power of choice.

Chosen of God.

- God chooses who's going to spend eternity with him.
- Well, we have choice. And the interesting thing is that God has given you a choice who you want to spend eternity with. It's really your choice. You have the power of self-determination. God has given you that. You can chose to spend eternity with God in the Kingdom of God, or you can choose to rebel against God and find your destiny in Ghenna where Jesus said it was prepared for Satan and his angels.
- Your choice. It's one of those interesting anomalies that it is your choice, and yet when you choose to follow Jesus, he says you didn't choose me, I chose you and ordained you that you should be my disciple.
- You say but how do I know if he chose me or not? Well, it's very easy to discover. Just choose to follow Jesus. Choose to surrender your life to him and you'll discover that he chose you.
- You say, but what if I don't want to choose him? Well then, maybe he didn't choose you.
- But that doesn't take away from the fact that you have the choice.
- Now, because He is omniscient, He is God, and he knows all things; he knows those that will make that choice.
- So we've been chosen in him from the foundations of the world. Names written in his book of life from the foundations of the world. And if you will just choose to follow Jesus, you will discover the wonderful truth that God chose you.

- If you choose not to follow Jesus, then one day you'll come to the horrible realization that you weren't chosen. But you can't blame Him because he chose you from the foundations of the world that we should walk before him in holiness and love.

- Faithful:

Romans 1:17 "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith."

Hebrews 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

John 3:36 "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

V: 15 Explaining what was described in verse one about the great whore that sits upon "many waters."

- The Bible is intended to be taken literally unless symbolism is used to illustrate a specific point.

V: 16 "Eat her flesh, burn her with fire" – destroy the whore, religious Babylon.

2 Kings 9:30-37

Deuteronomy 32:35-39 ³⁵To me belongeth vengeance, and recompense; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste. ³⁶For the LORD shall judge His people, and repent Himself for his servants, when He seeth that their power is gone, and there is none shut up, or left. ³⁷And He shall say, where are their gods, their rock in whom they trusted, ³⁸Which did eat the fat of their sacrifices, and drank the wine of their drink offerings? Let them rise up and help you, and be your protection. ³⁹See now that I, even I, am He, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of My hand."

- Multitudes of people have set their “faith” and hope in gods that cannot save them from Hell.

Isaiah 45:20 “Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save.”

V: 17 God can and does use the ungodly to accomplish His purposes.

V: 18 The woman is that “great city” which rules over the kings of the earth.

- Rome / the Roman Catholic Church has made and deposed kings and kingdoms for a long time.