

**THE GREAT HARLOT  
REVELATION 17:1-6  
October 5, 2008 Sunday Evening**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Babylon is reviewed as a political and religious Satanic system which opposes the one true God. Those two systems will be destroyed during the Tribulation, and then afterward, Jesus the Lord of Glory will reign on earth.

**1. HER SYSTEM EXPOSED vs.1-6**

**a. The scope of her influence vs.1**

*Many waters*=the great masses of people and nations vs.15

- The scope of her influence will be felt all over the world.
- During the Tribulation religious activities will flourish.

**b. The nature of her influence vs.2**

*Committing fornication*=the kings of the earth will make an unholy alliance between the church and the state

- When one rejects the genuine, he is wide open to the counterfeit.

*Made drunk*=passionately intoxicated with the harlot

**c. The power of her influence vs.3**

*Beast*=the Anti-Christ and the revived Roman empire

*Scarlet*=the color of Satan in all his evil influence

*Full of the names of blasphemy*=this reveals how far religion will depart from the living God

- The Great Harlot will encompass all those false religions which will follow her into destructive fornication. She is the one-world church.

*She rides upon the beast*=this reveals the fact that the one-world religion will control the Anti-Christ for part of the Great Tribulation

*10 horns=10 kings who rule during the Tribulation*

*7 heads=7 mountains*

- Two views:

This might refer to the city of Rome built on seven hills revealing that the one-world church originates in Rome.

This could mean seven consecutive world empires throughout history.

d. The wealth of her influence vs.4

*Purple=royalty*

*Scarlet=luxury*

- This gives the idea that the harlot is attractive and draws admirers to her bedroom of fornication.

*Jewels=depicts her wealth poured out before her by the rich and poor alike*

*Cup of filthiness=her character and life are symbolic of a false religion*

e. The mystery of her influence vs.5

*The name on her forehead=a mark of identification*

*Babylon: According to early church history, the name Babylon was a code word among believers depicting the city of Rome .*

f. The results of her influence vs.6

*Drunk with the blood of saints=the harlot is a murderer*

- This tells us that religious persecution will be prevalent during the Tribulation and thus many of the saints of God will be killed.

*I marvel=the sight of such unrestrained wickedness is the true nature of the woman, and God permits her to exist--an astounding amazement according to John*