

Revelation 17

Chapter 17 of 22 · 18 Verses · Authorized King James Version

The Woman and the Beast

¹ And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

² With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

³ So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

⁴ And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

⁵ And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

⁶ And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

⁷ And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

⁸ The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

The Mystery Explained

9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

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

16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Angel — ἄγγελος (Angelos)

Angel, messenger

The Greek **angelos** (ἄγγελος) means angel or messenger. Angels announced Christ's birth (Luke 2:9-14), ministered to Him (Matthew 4:11), and will accompany His return (Matthew 25:31).

Blood — αἷμα (Haima)

Blood

The Greek **haima** (αἷμα) denotes blood. Christ's blood 'cleanseth us from all sin' (1 John 1:7), securing 'eternal redemption' (Hebrews 9:12) through His once-for-all sacrifice. Believers have been 'purchased with his own blood' (Acts 20:28).

Kingdom — βασιλεία (Basileia)

Kingdom, reign

The Greek **basileia** (βασιλεία) means kingdom—both the realm ruled and the exercise of royal authority. The 'kingdom of God' is central to Jesus' teaching, representing God's saving rule breaking into history.

Lamb — ἄμνος / ἄρνιον (Amnos / Arnion)

Lamb

The Greek **amnos** (ἄμνος) means lamb. John declared Jesus 'the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world' (John 1:29). In Revelation, Christ is the slain Lamb (arnion) who alone is worthy to open the scroll.

Lord — Κύριος (Kurios)

Lord, Master

The Greek **Kurios** (Κύριος) means 'lord' or 'master,' used both for human masters and divinely for God the Father and Jesus Christ. Its application to Jesus affirms His deity, as it translates YHWH in the Septuagint.

Spirit — πνεῦμα (Pneuma)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Greek **pneuma** (πνεῦμα) means spirit, wind, or breath—the immaterial aspect of persons. The Holy Spirit (Pneuma Hagion) is the third person of the Trinity, dwelling in believers.

Word — λόγος (Logos)

Word, reason, message

The Greek **Logos** (Λόγος) means word, reason, or message—the rational principle underlying reality. John identifies Christ as the eternal Logos: 'In the beginning was the Word' (John 1:1).

CROSS REFERENCES

Revelation 17:1 **Judgment:** Revelation 15:1; 16:19; 19:2; Isaiah 1:21. **Parallel theme:** Revelation 21:9; Isaiah 57:3; Jeremiah 2:20; 51:13

Revelation 17:2

Creation: Revelation 14:8; Jeremiah 51:7. **Kingdom:** Revelation 17:17; 18:3; 18:9. **Parallel theme:** Revelation 3:10; 18:23

Revelation 17:3

Parallel theme: Revelation 12:3; 12:6; 12:14; 17:4; 17:18; Daniel 7:8; 7:20; 7:25. **Spirit:** Revelation 21:10; Ezekiel 8:3

Revelation 17:4

Parallel theme: Revelation 14:8; 18:12; 18:16; 19:2; 1 Kings 14:24; Jeremiah 51:7; Lamentations 1:9; Ezekiel 24:11; 24:13; Daniel 11:38

Revelation 17:5

References Babylon: Revelation 14:8; 16:19; 18:2; 18:21. **Parallel theme:** Revelation 17:7; 19:2; Isaiah 3:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:7

Revelation 17:6 **Holy:** Revelation 13:7; 16:6; Daniel 7:25. **Parallel theme:** Revelation 2:13; 13:15; Habakkuk 1:13. **Blood:** Revelation 12:11; Acts 22:20

Revelation 17:7 **Parallel theme:** Revelation 17:8

Revelation 17:8 **Parallel theme:** Revelation 3:5; 3:10; 11:7; 17:11; Daniel 7:11; Matthew 25:34; John 17:24; Ephesians 1:4; Titus 1:2

Revelation 17:9 **Parallel theme:** Revelation 13:1; 13:18; 17:3; 17:7; 17:18; Daniel 12:4; Hosea 14:9; Matthew 13:11; 24:15

Revelation 17:11 **Parallel theme:** Revelation 17:8

Revelation 17:12 **Parallel theme:** Revelation 12:3; 13:1; 17:16; 18:10; 18:17; 18:19; Daniel 7:20. **Kingdom:** Daniel 7:24

Revelation 17:13 **Parallel theme:** Revelation 17:17; Ezekiel 38:10; Philippians 1:27; 2:2

Revelation 17:14

Parallel theme: Revelation 3:21; Matthew 22:14; Romans 8:30. **Kingdom:** Revelation 16:14; Daniel 2:47; 1 Timothy 6:15. **Faith:** Revelation 1:5; 2:10. **References Lord:** Deuteronomy 10:17; Jeremiah 1:19

Revelation 17:15

Parallel theme: Revelation 10:11; 11:9; 17:1; Psalms 65:7; Jeremiah 51:13; 51:55

Revelation 17:16 **Parallel theme:** Revelation 18:8; 18:19; Leviticus 21:9

Revelation 17:17 **References God:** Revelation 10:7; 2 Corinthians 8:16. **Kingdom:** Ezra 7:27; Proverbs 21:1. **Parallel theme:** Revelation 17:13; Psalms 105:25; Jeremiah 32:40; Luke 22:22; John 13:2. **Word:** John 13:18

Revelation 17:18 **Parallel theme:** Revelation 16:19; 18:2

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