

Devo #29 – The judgments of the Tribulation

THE DESTRUCTION OF RELIGIOUS BABYLON (Revelation 17:1-6). Antichrist's religion, is described as the great harlot and mother of harlots (5). That means that Babylon has been, and still is, the source of all false religions. She has had, and will have, an intoxicating effect on the whole world (1-2). Antichrist's religion will ally itself with the major world religions, including apostate Christianity, and it will be an influence in the alliance of political leaders under Antichrist. This world religion is symbolized as a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, wearing gold and precious stones, with a chalice of abominations and fornications. The beast refers both to Antichrist and his government (3). The harlot (religion) will come riding the beast. That means she will direct and control the political affairs of the world (4). Antichrist's government will be religion-friendly. The fact that she is dressed in purple and scarlet and decked with jewels speak of her royal status and her wealth. (4) She is called Mystery Babylon The Great (5), which stands for Antichrist's pseudo-religious system. Mother of Harlots (5) means she has prostituted the truth. She is the originator of false religion (Genesis 10:10:11:9). She has persecuted and martyred the saints (6).

THE INTERPRETATION OF ANTICHRIST'S RELIGION (Revelation 17:7-18). The Beast (Antichrist) is described as a previous king (8). "He was, is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit" (8). This refers to Antichrist's "resurrection" after he is mortally wounded (13:1, 3). After his so-called resurrection, Antichrist will become possessed by a great demon from the abyss. The beast has seven heads which represents seven mountains (9). This is a symbol of seven kingdoms (10). These mountains are the seven great world empires that have ruled over Israel: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and the kingdom of Antichrist (See Daniel 2:37). There are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come (10). When John wrote, Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece had come and gone. Rome was in existence, and Antichrist's kingdom had not yet come. When it comes, it will be brief, and it will end in destruction. "The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition (11). Antichrist's kingdom is both the seventh and eighth kingdom because of his mortal wound and resurrection. Antichrist is the seventh king before the resurrection and the eighth king afterwards. Antichrist's kingdom will be a confederacy of ten kings. These will be sub-rulers divided into ten administrative regions. This will be a revived Roman Empire, along with a universal revival of Babylonian religion. This is Mystery Babylon.