



Revelation 17

Part 3

Now we get to the end of the chapter.

- We have seen that
 - Babylon was shown as a woman sitting on the beast.
 - She represents the last false religion
 - She has the support of the beast (antichrist)
 - She is the mother of all harlots.
 - Last we see John marvel at her.

NOW vs 8-18

- This section will explain to John what he is seeing.
- Verse 8.
 - This is in contrast to Revelation 1:8
 - The LORD is, which was, and which is to come
 - This version says which was, and is NOT, and yet is.
 -
- Beast = a revived world empire (a political and spiritual system opposed to God).
- “Was, and is not, and is to come” mimics God's eternal title (Rev 1:8), showing a counterfeit of Christ.

Where does he come from?

- Abyss = demonic origin (Revelation 11:7).

Revelation 9:1-2 — The Key to the Bottomless Pit

“Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit...”

- A fallen angel is given authority to open the Abyss.
- Smoke and demonic locusts come out, bringing torment to those without God's seal.
 - We believe these to be the fallen angels from Gen 6:1-4, 2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 6

Where will he go?

- Into perdition.
 - Final destruction.

The Greek word is “apōleia” (ἀπώλεια), which can mean:

- Destruction
- Ruin
- Waste
- Perishing
- Eternal damnation

It's often used in the context of someone who is:

- Destined for judgment
- Opposed to God
- Heading toward eternal separation from Him

- Perdition is the opposite of salvation.
- It is not just physical death—but eternal separation from God in hell or the lake of fire.
- It describes the final destiny of Satan, the Antichrist, the False Prophet, and all who reject Christ.

Term

Meaning

Perdition

Eternal ruin or damnation

Son of perdition

One doomed to destruction (Antichrist, Judas)

Go into perdition

Final destiny of rebellion—eternal judgment

Timeline summary.

- The Abyss is opened earlier (Rev 9)—letting out demonic forces.
- The beast comes up from it—possibly in a spiritual sense (possession, power, false resurrection).
- Satan doesn't get thrown in until after Jesus returns—so they are two separate uses of the Abyss at different times.

Event	Chapter	Notes
Satan cast from heaven	Revelation 12	He then empowers the beast (Rev 13:2)
Beast rises from the Abyss	Revelation 17:8	Likely possessed by a demon from the pit
Satan is bound	Revelation 20:1–3	This is <i>after</i> Christ returns (Rev 19) and sets up His Kingdom

Not a possession of Satan.

When we say that Satan empowers the beast, we're referring to Revelation 13:2, which says:
"The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority."

Here's a clear breakdown of what that means:

"Power" = Supernatural ability and influence

- The beast (Antichrist) doesn't rise to power on human effort alone.
- Satan gives him miraculous signs, influence over nations, and deceptive abilities.
- Just as the Holy Spirit empowers Jesus' ministry, Satan is counterfeiting this by empowering his "messiah."

Throne the Authority.

"Throne" = World dominion or authority

- The beast receives a political throne—he becomes a world ruler.
- Satan is referred to as the "god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4) and "prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2), and he offers his dominion to the beast.
- It mirrors what Satan tried to offer Jesus in Matthew 4:9:
"All these [kingdoms] I will give You if You will bow down and worship me."

"Authority" = The right to rule and command obedience

- The beast can legally operate (in a spiritual sense) with Satan's full backing.
- This includes authority to persecute the saints (Rev 13:7) and to deceive the nations.

A Key Turning Point: The Beast's "Resurrection" (Rev 13:3–4)

“One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled...”

- The beast appears to die and come back to life—a counterfeit resurrection.
- After this, the world worships the dragon (Satan) and the beast.
- This could mark the moment when Satan fully possesses or enters the Antichrist, just as:
 - Judas was possessed by Satan before betraying Jesus (Luke 22:3).
 - This would also align with the “man of sin” being fully revealed (2 Thess. 2:3–4).

2 Thessalonians 2:9

“The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders.”

- The “lawless one” (Antichrist) operates with Satan’s direct supernatural power.
- The Greek phrase *“by the activity of Satan”* (*energeia tou Satana*) implies intimate, internal energizing—supporting the idea of possession.

To sum it up.

Satan is the source of power, but the Antichrist is possessed by a spirit from the Abyss—possibly one of Satan's highest-ranking demons.

- The spirit from the Abyss may enter the Antichrist after a fatal wound (Rev 13:3).
- Satan orchestrates the entire event and remains the ultimate source of deception and authority (Rev 13:4).
- Whether Satan himself indwells him literally, or through his top servant, the effect is the same:
The beast becomes a fully satanic vessel, empowered both politically and spiritually.

NOW we get the details.

- Here is the mind which has wisdom.

1.A Spiritual Alert

- This is a call for deeper understanding—not everything in Revelation is surface-level.

- It echoes earlier phrases in Revelation like:

“Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast...” (Rev 13:18)

These phrases are like spiritual highlighters: "What comes next needs discernment from God."

2.Requires God-Given Insight

- The “wisdom” here is not human reasoning but Holy Spirit-led discernment (see 1 Corinthians 2:14).
- The mystery of the woman and the beast isn’t obvious—it’s symbolic, requiring prophetic and scriptural insight to decode.

The third.

3. Used Before a Prophetic Puzzle

- In Revelation 17:9–10, this wisdom is needed to understand:
 - The seven heads = seven mountains (possibly Rome, or seven kingdoms).
 - The seven kings = prophetic sequence of empires.
- Without a “mind that has wisdom,” one might misread the prophecy literally or shallowly, missing the layers of symbolic meaning.
- This is a clue for us to
 - Slow down
 - Pray for discernment
 - Consider Old Testament prophecy and symbolic language

“The seven heads are seven mountains... also seven kings.”

- Seven mountains = Often interpreted as Rome (city of seven hills), or symbolic of global power structures.
- Seven kings = historical or prophetic kingdoms:
 - Five have fallen (e.g., Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece),
 - One is (Rome at the time of John),
 - One is yet to come (a future kingdom, likely the Antichrist's).

Daniels vision.

Metal	Kingdom	Description
Head of Gold	Babylon	Glorious, wealthy empire (Daniel 2:38)
Chest of Silver	Medo-Persia	Inferior, divided rule (Dan. 5:28, 8:20)
Belly of Bronze	Greece	Swift conquest under Alexander (Dan. 8:21)
Legs of Iron	Rome	Strong, crushing power (Dan. 2:40)
		Mixture of strength & weakness (future global alliance?) In Daniel 2:44,
Feet of Iron & Clay	Divided Rome / Final Kingdom	a stone cut without hands (Christ's kingdom) crushes all these and sets up the eternal kingdom.

Daniel 7

Beast

Lion with wings

Bear raised up

Leopard with 4 wings & heads

Dreadful Beast with 10 horns

Kingdom

Babylon

Medo-Persia

Greece

Rome + Final Kingdom

Traits

Majestic but eventually humbled

One side stronger (Persia),
devours many

Speed and division after
Alexander's death

Crushing, terrifying, with a **little
horn** (Antichrist) rising from it

Revelation 17:3, 7–13 – The Beast

Symbol

Scarlet Beast

7 Heads = 7 Mountains/Kings

10 Horns

Beast "was, is not, and will ascend"

Description

Represents the **final world empire**, full of blasphemy

Seven sequential kingdoms

10 kings who rule briefly with the beast

Possibly a **resurrected empire or leader** empowered by the Abyss

Let's compare

Daniel	Revelation	Connection
Babylon (gold/lion)	Babylon (Rev 17 woman)	Same name—represents worldly glory, idolatry, and persecution
Medo-Persia	—	Not directly mentioned but part of the 7 kings system
Greece	—	Same as above—part of prophetic sequence
Rome (iron/beast)	Beast with 10 horns (Rev 13 & 17)	Strong connection; both crush, devour, and rule with authority
Divided Rome (feet of iron/clay)	10 horns (10 kings)	Both refer to a final global coalition , unstable and short-lived
Little horn (Antichrist)	Beast from the sea (Rev 13), Scarlet Beast (Rev 17)	Same person/system— blasphemous, persecutes saints, exalted by Satan

What it looks like from Daniel along side Revelation.

Stage	Daniel 7	Revelation 17
Rise of 10 kings	10 horns = 10 kings	10 kings receive authority briefly
Rise of Antichrist	Little horn rises and subdues 3	Beast rules with full authority
Kings' role	Initially divided	Submit to the beast and help destroy Babylon
Final outcome	Judgment of the beast and horns	All are destroyed by Christ at His return (Rev 19)

VS 11

- The beast will be the final ruling power as he is ruling through the 7th ruler (the antichrist)
- This could mean the final world ruler (Antichrist) arises out of the previous empires but becomes a distinct eighth power.
- He is destined for destruction.

The 10 horns.

“The ten horns are ten kings...”

- Ten rulers will receive authority for one hour (short time) with the beast.
- They are unified in purpose: to give power to the beast (Antichrist).
- Represents a coalition of nations or global alliance.
- They have one mind and give all their support to the beast.
- They will make war with the LAMB.
- Called, chosen, and faithful = true believers who return with Him (Revelation 19:14).

Vs 15

“The waters... are peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages.”

- Confirms that the woman (Babylon) sits on or influences the entire world.
- Babylon is global in reach—both religiously and economically.

The turning of the tide.

“The ten horns... will hate the whore.”

- In a twist, the very powers that supported Babylon will turn on her.
- They destroy her (burning and stripping her) showing internal collapse.
- God uses evil kings to fulfill His purpose, showing His sovereignty even over rebellion.

God puts it into their hearts.

God is Sovereign Over Human Decisions

- The ten kings and the beast are wicked, but God permits and directs their actions to fulfill His ultimate plan.
- "Put it in their hearts" means God influences or steers their decisions—not by forcing evil, but by allowing their desires to align with His prophetic timeline.

Similar examples:

- Pharaoh's heart was hardened (Exodus 9:12).
- Cyrus was stirred up to rebuild the temple (Ezra 1:1).
- Judas fulfilled prophecy, yet acted by choice (John 13:27).

God Uses the Wicked to Accomplish His Purposes

- The beast and kings hate the harlot and destroy her (false religion).
- This may seem political, but it's really part of God's judgment on Babylon (Rev 17:16–17).
- Even Satan's kingdom is not outside God's control.

Summary

Phrase

"God put it in their hearts..."

"To fulfill His purpose..."

"To be of one mind..."

"Until the words of God are fulfilled"

Meaning

God directed their choices to fulfill prophecy

God's judgment on Babylon and the setup for Christ's return

God allowed a global alliance under the Antichrist

Every prophecy will happen exactly as God said

Does this violate free will

- No, it doesn't violate free will—rather, it shows how God's sovereignty works through human choices, even evil ones, without overriding them.

God's Sovereignty and Human Free Will Work Together

Scripture repeatedly shows that:

- Humans act freely according to their desires,
- But God works through those choices to fulfill His plan.

Examples:

- Pharaoh (Exodus 9:12): God hardened his heart, but Pharaoh also hardened his own heart (Exodus 8:15). His rebellion was his own choice.
- Judas (John 13:27): Satan entered Judas, but he had already chosen betrayal (John 12:6). He fulfilled prophecy, but wasn't forced.
- Pilate, Herod, and the Jews (Acts 4:27–28): They crucified Jesus "according to the purpose of God," yet they are held responsible.

Revelation 17:17 – Influencing, Not Forcing

“God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose...”

This means:

- God allowed and guided their actions toward a specific end.
- He didn't override their will; He used their existing pride, ambition, and hatred to accomplish His judgment on Babylon.
- Like a master chess player, God uses even the enemy's moves to checkmate evil.

The Ten Kings Freely Choose Evil

- They willingly give their power to the beast (Rev 17:13).
- They hate the harlot (false religion), likely out of self-interest or power struggle.
- God channels their rebellion to fulfill prophecy—just as He does with nations throughout history (Daniel 4:17).

God Is Just

- God never causes sin, nor forces people to commit evil (James 1:13).
- But He can permit, restrain, or direct it for His righteous purposes—without violating moral accountability.