

THE MYSTERY OF MYSTERY BABYLON REVEALED

Mystery Babylon (Rev. 17) and *literal / commercial Babylon* (Rev.18) are steeped in mystery. Listed below are twenty-five contrasts and seven similarities between the two Babylons. Is this one city or two?

25 Contrasts Between the 2 Babylons(1)

Mystery Babylon

1. **Symbolic** (Rev. 17)
2. A *mystery* (17:7)
3. All **details** need to be **explained** (Rev. 17)
4. Called *the woman*
5. Sits on **many waters** [peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues (17:1, 15)]
6. Sits on a **scarlet colored** (bloodstained) **beast**, full of names of blasphemy, having **7 heads** and **10 horns** (17:3-7)
7. Sits on the **7 heads** of the **7 mountains** (kingdoms with kings: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece [the 5 which are fallen]; Rome in John's day [the one that is]; *revised Rome* [the 10 horns which are yet to come]; and *revived Greece* [the *Antichrist*, which is the 8th world kingdom which shall come out of the 10-horn kingdom of *revised Rome* (17:3, 7-12)])
8. Commits *fornication* (religion) **with kings** of the earth; **inhabitants of the earth drunk** and **corrupted** with wine of her fornication (17:2; 19:2)...**fornication without wrath**
9. **Reigns** [forcibly] **over the kings of the earth** (17:18)
10. Is a *mother* with the name: *Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth* (17:5)
11. Is drunk with the **blood of the saints, servants, and the martyrs** of Jesus (she persecutes God's people [17:6; 19:2])
12. Something **new** to John (17:1-7)
13. A **wonder** to John (17:6)
14. **Mystery revealed by a redeemed man** (17:1, 7; 19:9-10)
15. **Not mentioned** by the prophets
16. **Makes herself rich** (17:4)
17. **Destroyed by the 10 horns** (17:12-17)
18. **Men rejoice** over destruction (17:16-17)
19. **God puts in hearts of 10-horn kings to destroy** (17:15-17)
20. **Burnt with fire** (17:16)

Literal Babylon

- literal** (Rev. 16:17-21; 18:1-24)
- actual (16:19; 18:1-24)
- nothing explained** (16:19; 18:1-24)
- calls herself a *queen* (18:7)
- does not sit (18:1-24)
- does not sit; no names (18:1-24)
- does not sit (18:1-24)
- commits *fornication* (greed) **with kings** of the earth; **all nations have drunk of** the wine of the wrath of her fornication (14:8; 18:3, 9)... **fornication with wrath...**
- the **10 horns give their power** to the beast [the *Antichrist* (17:17)]
- is not a *mother*; its name is *Babylon* (18:2)
- in her was found the **blood of holy apostles, prophets, saints, and all that were slain on the earth** (she persecutes everybody [16:6; 18:20, 24; c/p. vs. 18:13])
- not new** to John
- no wonder** to John (18:1-24)
- several speak about (18:1-20)
- mentioned many times** by the prophets
- makes others rich** (18:3, 9-19)
- destroyed by God** (18:5-20)
- men lament** over destruction (18:9-19)
- God destroys by own sovereign will** under **7th vial of wrath** (16:19; 18:5-20)
- burnt with an unquenchable fire in one hour**, with **plagues of death, mourning** and **famine** coming in **one day** (18:8-10, 17)

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| 21. Destroyed completely (17:16) | experiences torment and sorrow (18:7) |
| 22. Judgment for corrupting the earth (19:2) | judgment for sin |
| 23. No articles of commerce mentioned | 30 articles of commerce mentioned (18:11-14) |
| 24. Not inhabited by God's people | inhabited by God's people (18:4) |
| 25. No drugs | deceives nations with sorceries (drugs) (18:23) |

ENDNOTES:

1. This list is taken in part from *Dakes Annotated Reference Bible*, by Finis Jennings Dake, Dake Bible Sales, Inc. (1963), Lawrenceville, Georgia 90246, page 299, note (d), column 4.

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Seven Similarities of the 2 Babylons(2)

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Seven Similarities of the 2 Babylons(2)

1. Both commit **fornication with kings** of the earth (17:2; 18:3, 9)
2. Both **shed blood of saints** (17:6; 18:24)
3. Both have **cups of sin** (17:4; 18:6)
4. Both are called a great city [as is also Jerusalem (17:18; 18:10-21; c/p. 11:8)]
5. Both are **called *Babylon the great*** (17:5; c/p. 14:8; 16:19; 18:2)
6. Both are **clothed in scarlet and purple** and decked with **precious stones** (17:4; 18:16)
7. Both are **made desolate** (17:16; 18:19)
8. Both are called the ***great whore*** (17:1-3; 19:2)

Mystery Babylon

In Revelation, chapter 17, *Mystery Babylon* is defined as: ***a great whore [prostituting] city***:

1. That **sits upon many waters** [many peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues],
2. With whom the **kings of the earth** have committed fornication, and
3. [With whom] the **inhabitants of the earth** have been made drunk with the wine of her **fornication**
4. Who **sits upon a scarlet colored [bloodstained] beast**:
 - a. Full of the **names of blasphemy**,
 - b. Having **7 heads**, which are the **7 mountains** (7 mountain kingdoms) **on which the woman—the *great whore [prostituting] city—sits, and***
 - c. Having **10 horns**, which are **10 kings**:
 11. Which have receive no kingdom as yet, but
 12. Which receive power as kings one hour with **the beast** (the eighth mountain kingdom with a king),
 13. Who have one mind,
 14. Who God has put in their hearts
 - aa. To fulfill His will and
 - bb. To agree to give their kingdom unto the beast (the eighth mountain kingdom/king),
 15. Who make war with the Lamb and are overcome by Him, and
 16. Who hate the ***great whore [prostituting] city***, and
 17. Who make the ***great whore [prostituting] city*** desolate by burning her with fire,
 - d. **That was, and is not, and yet is**,
 - e. Who ascends out of the bottomless pit and goes into perdition [destruction],
 - f. Of whom the whole world wonders after whose names are not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world,
 - g. **Who is the eighth king** [kingdom with a king] and
 - h. Who is **of the seven** [kingdoms with kings, 5 of which are fallen in John's day, one is, and the other not yet come], and
5. That is **arrayed in purple and scarlet color**, and
6. [That is] decked with gold and precious stones and pearls,
7. Having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication, and
8. **Upon her forehead a name written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH**,
9. Who is **drunken with the blood of saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus**,
10. Who is **hated by the 10-horn kingdoms with kings**
11. **Who the 10-horn kingdoms make desolate and naked, eat her flesh, and burn her with fire**,
12. Who is that **great city which reigneth over the kings of the earth**.

From this a shorter definition would be:

Mystery Babylon is a great whore [prostituting] city that sits upon many waters [peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues], 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. She also sits upon a scarlet colored [bloodstained] beast, full of names of blasphemy, having 7 heads and 10 horns, who is the eighth king [kingdom with a king] and of the seven [heads] [5 of which are fallen—in John's day—one is, and the other not yet come], and is arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication, and upon her forehead a name written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH, who is drunken with the blood of saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus, and is hated by the 10-horn kingdoms with kings who make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. She is that great city which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

The Mystery of Mystery Babylon Revealed

The great whore [prostituting] city of Mystery Babylon sits upon the eighth scarlet colored [bloodstained] kingdom of the Antichrist. But, she is of the seven mountain kingdoms(3) who have persecuted or will yet persecute God's people [prophetically speaking and in context, Israel]. She can be traced back to Babel [Babylon], the city which Nimrod attempted to build in rebellion against God (Gen. 10:8-10; 11:1-9). She is defined as...that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth (Rev. 17:18).

The great mystery of Mystery Babylon is that she has existed as a great city [which reigneth over the kings of the earth] in every kingdom which has oppressed God's people. In the Roman Empire [the 6th kingdom to oppress God's people], Rome was that great city. In the Revised Roman Empire [the 7th kingdom which is about to oppress God's people], Rome—or at least the Vatican City portion of Rome—is the only great city inside the old Roman Empire at this writing which could conceivably posture itself into a position to oppress God's people in the territories formally ruled by Rome [see also [Endnotes #28](#) and 29 on Revelation 17:18, *The Chronological Revelation*].

For worship of the Antichrist to begin under the direction of the false prophet (Rev. 13:11), this great city and its influence has to be destroyed. This is done by the 10-horn kings at the middle of Daniel's 70th week of years (Rev. 17:16; Dan. 9:24-27). These 10-horn kings then give their kingdoms to the Antichrist (Rev. 17:17), and form the Revived Grecian Empire—the eighth kingdom and final kingdom to oppress Israel (Rev. 17:10-11).

Here is the great mystery: the eighth kingdom must also have its Mystery Babylon: that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth—a literal Babylon—which is destroyed by God under the 7th vial of wrath (Rev. 16:19; Chapter 18; 19:2-3). Although the Antichrist will desecrate the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem (Dan. 9:27), Jerusalem is not the headquarters of the Antichrist. It cannot be because the spiritual name for Jerusalem is Sodom and Egypt (Rev. 11:8), and not Babylon the great (Rev. 14:8; 16:19; 18:2, 10, 21).

Further, literal Babylon must be in the territories formally ruled by Greece. This excludes Italy and Rome. The only Babylon left is the literal Babylon, which is presently being rebuilt by Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

ENDNOTES:

2. Ibid.

3. Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and Revised Rome to come.

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