

Chapter 17

[**Chapters 17 through 20**] disrupt the flow that was maintained in [**Chapters 14 through 16**]. Though this chapter picks up where [**Chapter 16**] ends, with the wicked, i.e., the devil and his angels, defeated and waiting for their adjudication at the final judgement, it spans the time beginning with the first of the seven heads of the beast whose deadly wound was healed, and ending with the judgement of the woman sitting on it's back. She will be weighed in the balance and found wanting, as was Belshazzar. [**Daniel 5:27**]

But hopefully, all who read this will be able to exclaim as did Job;

“Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know my integrity.” [**Job 31:6**]

[1] **And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come here; I will show unto you the judgment of the great whore that sits 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.**

As was stated above, the flow of events is temporarily interrupted here with one of the seven angels preparing to show John “the judgement of the great whore that sits upon many waters.”

The identity of this woman should be commonplace by now, however, this chapter introduces other defining characteristics that should broaden our concept of her, and increase our awareness of her capacity to deceive; for the many waters on which she sits “**are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.**” *see [**Verse 15**]

Remember the “hundred and forty and four thousand which were not defiled with women?” They were not deceived by this whore, “for they are virgins.” [**Revelation 14:3-4**] They will have had no intimate relationship with her or her offspring harlots; instead of being spiritually inebriated “with the wine of her fornication, they follow the Lamb wherever he goes.” They were not “made drunk with her intoxicating delicacies! This is referring to spiritual drunkenness, i.e. idolatry.

Isaiah said this of “the multitude of all the nations that fight against mount Zion”:

“All you that do iniquity, stay yourselves, and wonder; for ... you shall be drunken, but not with wine; you shall stagger, but not with strong drink. For, behold, the Lord has poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep. For, behold, you have closed your eyes, and you have rejected the prophets, and your rulers; and the seers he has covered **because of your iniquities.** [**Isaiah 29:7-10**] They have been made drunken with her idolatrous doctrine and stagger because of their iniquities.

This woman is spiritual Babylon:

[**Revelation 14:7-8**] ... And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

[**Revelation 18:1-3**] ... **Babylon the great is fallen**, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, ... [3] **For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication**, and **the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her**, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. *Babylon is the whore of [**Verse 1**]. *see [**Chapter 18**]

There is an interesting definition in the dictionary to the act of fornication that should be considered as it applies to the scriptures, and especially to this woman and her suitors:

Fornication: [in the Bible] (Figurative.) **idolatry**.

Idolatry:

1. the paying or offering of divine honors to any created object.
2. (Figurative.) **the worship of a person or thing; great love or admiration; extreme devotion.**

[**D&C 1:3c-e**] ... **every man walks in his own way**, and **after the image of his own god**, whose image is in the likeness of the world, and **whose substance is that of an idol**, which waxes old and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon the great, which shall fall.

[**2 Nephi 6:71**] Wo unto those that worship idols: for the devil of all devils delights in them.

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

[4] **And the woman was 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;**

The wilderness into which John was taken was not a physical wilderness like the one the Israelites wandered in for forty years; this was a spiritual wilderness that can't be seen with the natural eye. This wilderness can only be reached by being "carried away in the spirit, as was Jesus.

[**Matthew 4:1**] Then Jesus was **led up of the Spirit, into the wilderness**, to be with God.

[**D&C 85:17**] Behold, that which you hear is as the voice of one crying in the wilderness; **in the wilderness, because you can not see him**: my voice, because my voice is Spirit; my Spirit is truth.

The woman sitting upon the scarlet colored beast represents the church which was shortly to hold control over the Papal States. Notice that this woman is arrayed differently than the one in [**Chapter 12**]; Yet she claims to be the same woman! But instead of being preyed upon by the dragon, or the beast with seven heads and ten horns, she is sitting upon it!

There is a reason the beast is "scarlet colored." There is a reason the woman is "arrayed in purple and scarlet." And there is a reason she is "decked with gold and precious stones and pearls?"

It is commonplace that colors are used in describing moods or feelings, *e. g.*, a sad person is said to be blue, a jealous person is green with envy. A coward may be called yellow, and it can be said that an angry person sees red. And in talking to Isaiah, the Lord associated the colors scarlet (red) and crimson (purple) with sin.

[**Isaiah 1:18**] Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord; **though your sins be as scarlet**, they shall be as white as snow; **though they be red like crimson**, they shall be as wool.

Scarlet: a bright red color; **Crimson**: a deep purplish red color, a deep-red. [Webster]

The dragon, symbolic of the devil, having seven heads and ten horns of [**Revelation 12:4-8**] was red! So what does that tell us then, about the “**scarlet colored beast, having seven heads and ten horns**,” on which the woman sits? He got his power from the dragon, i.e., the devil. [**Rev 13:4**]

Another interesting event in which purple and scarlet seemed to be significant is as follows:

[**Exodus 26:31-33**] And you shall make a veil of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen ... you shall hang up the veil under the taches, that you may bring in there ... the ark of the testimony; and the veil shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy.

The significance of this veil and its color of blue, purple, and scarlet is that it symbolized that veil which keeps man out of God's presence, which is sin. But when Jesus was crucified, the veil was split from top to bottom, manifesting that he had overcome the power of sin which separates man from God, thus bringing him back into his presence.

[**Matthew 27:54-57**] Jesus when he had cried again with a loud voice, saying, Father, it is finished, your will is done, yielded up the ghost. [**55**] And behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

* see also [**Mark 15:42-43**] [**Luke 23:46**] [**D&C 36:11b-c**] & [**D&C 108:10b-c**]

Another event that is noteworthy is that the “holy garments,” made for Aaron and his sons to wear while performing their service in the holy place, were of blue, purple, and scarlet. [**Ex 39:1**]

It might also be significant that blue denoted royalty in the sense that those who wore it held noble positions, or positions of supremacy or mastery over others:

[**Ester 8:15**] And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white.

[**Ezekiel 23:6**] talks of captains and rulers, which were clothed with blue.

[**Jacob 3:22-25**] The Jews were a stiff-necked people; and they despised the words of plainness, and killed the prophets, and sought for things that they could not understand. [**23**] Wherefore, because of their blindness, which blindness came by looking beyond the mark, they must needs fall:

[24] For God has taken away his plainness from them, and delivered unto them many things which they can not understand, because they desired it. [25] And because they desired it, God has done it, that they may stumble.

And “because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie; That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” [2 **Thessalonians 2:9-12**]

These last two scriptures, in principle, apply to all times. They were relevant to the Israelites of old, and all those who came before and after them. God requires obedience to the same principles by all peoples, multitudes, and nations, and tongues; at all times! [**Ecclesiastes 3:14-15**]

And if today, man places his own ideas of how things ought to be above the truths of God, he will send him strong delusions just as he did in to those of former times!

The Israelites had no clue that the colors, scarlet and crimson, (red and purple) were analogous to that which keeps man out of God’s presence. Even the door to the tabernacle were of these colors; the robe the priesthood wore were of these colors; it seems that everything in the tabernacle were of these colors, and these colors were, as has been seen, the colors of the beast and the whore!

One other scripture should be considered where the color purple is used to make a statement; look at what the soldiers did to Jesus just before he was crucified:

[**John 19:1-6**] ... And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, [3] And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands. [4] Pilate therefore went forth again, and said unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that you may know that I find no fault in him. [5] Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate said unto them, Behold the man! [6] When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. [**Matthew 27:29-33**]

The chief priests had to have been infuriated when they saw Jesus wearing the purple robe! That was the color worn by the high priest! To them, it was the color of the nobility of the priesthood; but not to Jesus, who incessantly rebuked and admonished them, while at the same time, rejecting their religion. *Unknown to Pilot, as a type and shadow, the sins of the world was put upon Jesus!

Now lets look at that part of [**Verse 4**] which states that the woman was “decked with gold and precious stones and pearls.” * see [**Revelation 21:10-11, 18-20**]

These precious gems relate differently to the celestial city than they do to the whore. The gold and precious stones, because of their singularity, are a part of the priceless beauty of the holy city; but because of their earthly value, the great and abominable church and her off springs lust after them.

[1 Nephi 3:140-144] I beheld this great and abominable church; and I saw **the devil that he was the foundation of it.** [142] And I also saw gold and silver, and silks, and scarlets, and fine twined linen, and all manner of precious clothing; and I saw many harlots. [143] And the angel spoke unto me, saying, Behold **the gold, and the silver,** and the silks, and the scarlets, and the fine twined linen, and the precious clothing, and the harlots, are the desires of this great and abominable church;

And now, the last part of [Verse 4]; **“having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication.”** * **Fornication:** [figurative] idolatry.

* **Flashback*** Speaking of Babylon, we saw in [Revelation 14:7-8] that:

“she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” [Revelation 18:1-3]

[Galatians 5:19-21] Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these, Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, [20] Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, [21] Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like; of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that **they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**

[1 Corinthians 10:20-21] The things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God; and I would not that you should have fellowship with devils. [21] **You cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils; you cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.** *ref [Matthew 6:24] & [Luke 16:13] “... You cannot serve God and Mammon.”

[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.**

What a contrast to the righteousness of the woman portrayed in [Chapter 12], the true Church, the Comforter, the Bride of Christ! All those who worship the beast are deceived by the harlot's doctrines, and they, with their many faces, have always sought to destroy the true saints and prophets of God who testify against their evil deeds; they “are made drunk with the wine of her fornication;” they are mentally and spiritually inebriated with the blood of the saints and martyrs of Jesus.

And if she is the “MOTHER OF HARLOTS,” who are the harlots? Well, to whom did she give birth? She gave birth to the many Protestant churches in existence today, for they can only trace their lineage back to her!

* Notice the similarity between that which an angel showed John and what was shown to Nephi:

[1 Nephi 3:219-225] And it came to pass that *the angel* said unto me, Look and behold that **great and abominable church,** which is the mother of abominations, **whose founder is the devil.** [220] And he said unto me, Behold, there are save **two churches only:** [221] The one is **the church of the**

Lamb of God, and the other is **the church of the devil**; [222] Wherefore, whoso belongs not to the church of the Lamb of God belongs to that great church, which is the mother of abominations; [223] And **she is the whore of all the earth**. [224] And I beheld *that she sat upon many waters*; [225] And she had dominion over all the earth, **among all nations, kindreds, tongues and people**.

[1 **Nephi 7:26-32**] ... [31] And the great whore, who had perverted the right ways of the Lord; yes, that great and abominable church, shall tumble to the dust, and great shall be the fall of it. [32] For behold, saith the prophet, The time will speedily come, that Satan shall have no more power over the hearts of the children of men. [2 **Nephi 12:22**]

[1 **Nephi 3:206-207**] And that great pit which was dug for them **by that great and abominable church, which was founded by the devil and his children**, that he might lead away the souls of men down to hell; [207] Yes, that great pit which was dug for the destruction of men, shall be filled by those who dug it, unto their utter destruction, saith the Lamb of God.

[2 **Thessalonians 1:6-9**] Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; [7] ... when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, [8] In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; [9] **Who shall be punished with destruction from the presence of the Lord**, and from the glory of his everlasting power.

[**Isaiah 29:8-9**] Even so shall the multitude of all the nations be that fight against mount Zion. [9] For, behold, all you that do iniquity, stay yourselves, and wonder; for you shall cry out, and cry; yes, you shall be drunken, but not with wine; you shall stagger, but not with strong drink.

[2 **Nephi 12:12-16**] There shall be many which shall teach ... false, and vain, and foolish doctrines, and shall be puffed up in their hearts, and shall seek deep to hide their counsels from the Lord; and their works shall be in the dark; and **the blood of the saints shall cry from the ground against them**. [3 **Nephi 4:38-42**] [2 **Nephi 11:61-67**] [**Ether 3:94-96**]

[**Hebrews 3:13-14**] [13] But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. [14] For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end;

[**Hebrews 3:13-14**] Help each other to stand firm in the faith every day, while it is still called “today” and beware that none of you becomes deaf and blind to God through the delusive glamour of sin. **JBP**

[**Galatians 6:7-8**] Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap. [8] For he that sows to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that sows to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

[7] **And the angel said unto me, Wherefore did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and ten horns.**

The angel is now going to tell John the mystery of the woman, the beast, the seven heads and ten horns. Hopefully we shall unravel the mystery of the woman's relationship with the beast which carries her. The woman has been previously identified as the Papacy, but beginning with [Verse 9] of this chapter we will see that she was around long before then, exerting her influence upon the world, incognito as various religions, with numerous doctrines and practices. The "beast" has been defined in [Chapters 12 & 13] as world powers through which Satan works to deceive people, whether it be through governments or through churches. This metaphor, as presented in previous chapters, did not deal with the woman and her alliance with the beast, it only dealt with the beast. The reason is that, in this chapter, the woman (*or church*) seems to be controlling the beast.

Incognito: with one's name, character, rank, or other recognizable characteristics hidden.

In previous chapters the seventh head was shown to be the Papacy, but now the abominable woman is also shown to be the Papacy. This is a unique situation where church and state were the same, thus:

the Papacy = the church as the only religious organization during that time, and;
the Papacy = the seventh head (kingdom) of the beast as the prevailing world power of that time.

One of the Hebrew definitions of the word "beast," and the only definition that is metaphoric or figurative is; "an idol." And, since we are dealing with a highly metaphorical book, this definition seems to be suitable as it relates to the "beast" wherever it appears in this book.. This beast, or idol, or even precepts, which carry the woman is somewhat enigmatic, for the Lord said that:

"Every man walks in his own way, and after the image of his own god, whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose substance is that of an idol." [D&C 1:3e]

The devil promotes his "doctrines," of which some are in the likeness of the world, through the great and abominable church and her offsprings which he and his angels founded.

[2 Nephi 11:90-94] The Gentiles are lifted up in the pride of their eyes, and have stumbled, because of the greatness of their stumbling block, that they have built up many churches; [91] Nevertheless they put down the power and the miracles of God, and preach unto themselves, their own wisdom, and their own learning, ... And there are also secret combinations, ... according to the combinations of the devil, for he is the foundation of all these things; yes, the foundation of murder, and works of darkness; [94] And he leads them by the neck with a flaxen cord, until he binds them with his strong cords for ever.

Flax: a fiber derived from the flax plant from which linen is made.

Flaxen: made of flax. pale yellow in color. [Webster]

Jesus, when speaking of the time of his return, made this statement that will be true to the end of time; "whoso treasures up my words, shall not be deceived." [Matthew 24:39] [Mark 13:43]

[8] The beast that you saw 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.

Now notice this; “the beast that was, and is not; shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition.” Remember, we saw the following in [Revelation 13:1] concerning this beast:

“And I saw another sign, in the likeness of the kingdoms of the earth; a beast rise up out of the sea, and he stood upon the sand of the sea (*false doctrines*), having seven heads and ten horns; and upon his horns ten crowns; and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.”

The beast of this chapter also “has the seven heads and ten horns.” [Verse 7]

They are the same beast; the only difference is that John sees them in [Chapter 17] from a different perspective than [Chapter 13]. **note: In [Chapter 13:1] the ten horns are crowned, but in [Chapter 17:12] they are not.* The “sea,” and the “bottomless pit” are the same place!

The angel who rules over the bottomless pit is the devil himself. *see [Revelation 9:1-11]

He will be bound in the bottomless pit for the 1000 year millennium. [Revelation 20:1-3]

He will ascend out of the bottomless pit at the end of the millennium. [Revelation 11:7]

He will go into perdition, i.e., destruction from God’s presence [Verse 8] *see [2 Thes 1:7-9]

Perdition: [noun] 1. final spiritual ruin; damnation. 2. utter loss or destruction; complete ruin.

The strange and mysterious statement “the beast that was, and is not, and yet is, and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit,” has the ring of a riddle; for how can anything “be and not be” at the same time?

Now imagine this; **whether the beast “is,” or “is not,” depends upon who is looking at it!**

Lets present a scenario in which there are two groups of people; one group is righteous and the other group is wicked. Which of the two groups will be able to see and recognize the beast? “The wicked group,” someone replies! Wrong! They do not perceive the beast as a beast at all! To them, the beast does not exist! Instead, they see good times; they see glamour; they see excitement, they see wealth and power! They live according to the wisdom of the world and lust for worldly things! For things pleasing to the carnal mind! They don’t [Ephesians 6:12] “wrestle against principalities, and powers, and rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places;” no! they revere them! They are the religious leaders of the world! They are the ones who fight against God’s kingdom! They are those who “shall wonder, whose names are not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world.” They shall worship the beast. (*Would they worship it if they perceived it as a beast?*) Their names were never written in the Lamb’s book of life! [Revelation 13:8] To them, the beast does not exist; he “is not!”

And – this has been true throughout the history of man; thus we have “**the beast that was!**”

But, the righteous see the beast for what he is; to them he exists, i.e., he “**is!**” They follow Jesus and keep his commandments. That which is disgusting and offensive to God is also disgusting and offensive to them. They refuse to embrace false doctrines, nor do they live for the pleasures the world offers; they live for that which the kingdom of God offers. For Jesus said; “My kingdom is not of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now is my kingdom not from here.” [John 18:36]

False and corrupt doctrines, worldly lusts, immorality, and all other ungodly acts **are** “the beast” to the righteous, and rightly so, for they recognize the beast for what it is. Remember, the dragon, who according to [Revelation 12:8 & 20:2] **is the devil**, gives his power to the beast!

In the study of [Chapter 10] we saw this:

“And the Angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them; [20] And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and **it was a cloud and darkness to the Egyptians, but it gave light by night to the Israelites.**” [Exodus 14:19-20]

There is a great allegory and truism in the fact that this cloud appeared as darkness to some but as light to others. The wicked and the righteous always perceive the truth differently!

[9] And here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sits.

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

Now, lets add another dimension to the description of the woman:

[2 Nephi 7:20-24] ... **he that fights against Zion, i.e., the kingdom of God ... shall perish: [24] For they are they who are the whore of all the earth.** [Alma 2:8-9]

In previous chapters, all seven heads had been established as kingdoms, as part of the beast, because of the time frame which the vision represented. For instance, in [Chapter 12] the time being depicted was 570 A.D. *more in [Verse 12] of this chapter* But the time being depicted in this chapter is the time in which John is living, probably 95 A.D., or later according to some scholars. And because of that, the seven heads, (kingdoms) have not all appeared, because there was yet a kingdom, or head, yet to appear after John’s time, namely the Papacy.

So lets look at the time being depicted in [Verses 9 & 10], which is John’s time; five of the kingdoms had fallen, which were the Egyptian - Assyrian - Babylonian - Persian - Grecian
(Dates overthrown) 1070 B.C. 612 B.C. 539 B.C. 331 B.C. 146 B.C.

The “One is,” is Rome, which fell in 570 A.D. and the “one yet to come,” is the Papacy.

Following is a brief description of the woman as she sat on each of the “**Five fallen kingdoms;**”
Egypt: The ancient Egyptians believed that various deities (gods and goddesses) influenced every aspect of nature and every human activity. They therefore worshiped many deities. The main god was the sun god Re. The Egyptians relied on Re and the goddess Rennutet for good harvests. The most important goddess was Isis. She represented the devoted mother and wife. Her husband and brother, Osiris, ruled over vegetation and the dead. Horus, son of Isis and Osiris, was god of the sky. He was called the lord of heaven and was often pictured with the head of a falcon.

In each Egyptian city and town, the people worshiped their own special god in addition to the major deities. For example, the people of Thebes worshiped Amon, a sun god. Amon was later identified with Re and called Amon-Re. Amon-Re in time became the chief deity. Other local deities and their main centers of worship included Ptah, the creator god of Memphis; Thoth, the god of wisdom and writing in Hermopolis; and Khnum, the creator god of Elephantine. Many deities were pictured with human bodies and the heads of animals. Such a head suggested a real or imagined quality of the animal and made identification of the deity easy. **The woman was there.**

Islam is the official religion of Egypt today. About 90 percent of the Egyptian people are Muslims – followers of Islam. They do not believe that Jesus is the Son of God. **She is still there.**

Assyria: Assyrian religion was closely related to the earlier Sumerian and Babylonian religions. They believed that many gods directed human destiny and controlled the sky, the earth, water, storms, and fire. The Assyrians also believed in good and evil spirits, and in magic.

The chief god of Assyria was Ashur, or Assur, whose name was the same as the Assyrians' name for their country and most important city. The Assyrian king served as both the ruler and the chief priest, and the people considered him Ashur's governor on the earth. (Does this sound familiar?)

Assyrians worshiped other gods, including Nabu, the god of learning and patron of scribes (writers); Ninurta, god of war; and Ishtar, the goddess of love. The goddess Ishtar was so famous in Nineveh that her statue was once sent from there to Egypt to help cure the Egyptian king of an illness. Assyrians offered food and precious objects to the gods. Priests tried to foretell the future by examining the innards of sacrificed animals and by observing and interpreting things in nature such as the weather and flights of birds. **The woman was there.**

Assyria was an ancient country on the upper Tigris River in Mesopotamia. It covered the northern part of present-day Iraq. About 95 percent of Iraq's people are Muslims. **She is still there.**

Babylon: Babylonians believed that changes in nature and in the fortunes of people were ruled by events that occurred in the heavens among the many gods. On earth, the king reigned as the representative of the gods, especially blessed by them. The chief Babylonian god was Marduk. Babylonian religions combined scientific observation of the sky and the weather, prayer to the various gods who were believed to be in control of these things, and magic. This eventually led to the study of astrology.

Sumerian religion was adopted in part by the Semites. But the Semites emphasized the gods of their own cities rather than earlier Sumerian gods. Babylonians never really rejected earlier gods, however, so the number of gods they worshiped grew into the thousands. There were patron gods and goddesses of each city-state as well as gods representing such things as the sun, moon, and stars, the weather, crops, rivers, and the land. **The woman was there.**

Babylonia was an ancient region around the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in what is now southeastern Iraq. The region centered around the ancient city of Babylon, which stood about 60 miles south of present-day Baghdad, Iraq. About 95 percent of Iraq's people are Muslims. More than half of the country's Muslims are Shiites (members of the Shiah branch of Islam). The other Muslims belong to the Sunni division. **She is still there.**

Persia: The Persians believed in gods of nature, such as the sun and sky. The people believed the gods had social powers. Mithra, the god of light, for example, controlled contracts. The Persians had no temples. They prayed and offered sacrifices on mountains.

Zoroaster (or Zarathustra), a prophet who lived sometime between 1400 and 1000 B.C., reformed the ancient religion. He preached a faith based on good thoughts, words, and deeds, emphasizing a supreme god called Ahura Mazda, "the wise spirit." Zoroaster's followers, called Zoroastrians, gradually spread his religion throughout Persia. The teachings of Zoroaster are found in the Gathas, part of a holy book known as the Avesta. **The woman was there.**

Ancient Persia was a land that included parts of what are now Iran and Afghanistan. The name Persia came from Persis, the Greek name for the region. The Persians themselves called the region the land of the Aryans, from which the name Iran comes. About 99 percent of the Iranian people are Muslims. About 95 percent of them belong to the Shiah branch of Islam, which is the state religion of Iran. Most of the rest belong to the Sunni branch. **She is still there.**

Greece: The Greeks believed that certain deities (gods and goddesses) watched over them and directed daily events. Families tried to please household deities with offerings and ceremonies. Each city-state honored one or more deities as protectors of the community and held annual festivals in their honor. They believed that their deities could foretell the future. People flocked to shrines called oracles to consult priests and priestesses. Deities supposedly spoke through the priests and priestesses to answer questions and reveal the future. The most important oracle was at Delphi. Sick people visited shrines dedicated to Asclepius, the god of healing, in hope of being cured.

Greek deities greatly resembled human beings, except for their immortality and superhuman powers. For example, they showed such emotions as love, jealousy, and anger. The chief deities lived on Mount Olympus and were known as Olympians. Zeus and his wife, Hera, ruled over Olympus. Other Olympians included Aphrodite, goddess of love; Apollo, god of music and light; Ares, god of war; and Athena, goddess of wisdom. **The woman was there.**

Today about 98 percent of Greece's people belong to the Greek Orthodox Church. Greek Orthodoxy is the nation's official religion, but everyone has freedom of worship. Other religious groups in Greece include Roman Catholics, Jews, Protestants, and Muslims. **She is still there.**

“**One is:**” In other words, one kingdom is standing as John is seeing this vision, which was –

Rome: The earliest Romans believed that gods and goddesses had power over agriculture and all aspects of daily life. For example, Ceres was the goddess of the harvest, the goddess Vesta guarded the hearth fire, and the god Janus stood watch at the door. Even Jupiter, who later became the supreme Roman god, was first worshiped as a sky god with power over the weather.

During the 300's B.C., the Romans came into increasing contact with Greek ideas. They then began to worship Greek gods and goddesses. They gave them Roman names and built temples and shrines in their honor.

The government controlled the religion of ancient Rome. Priests were government officials, who were either elected or appointed to office. They performed public ceremonies to win the favor of the gods and goddesses for the state. **The woman was there.**

By A.D. 100, many Romans had lost interest in their religion. They became attracted to the religions of the Middle East, which appealed strongly to the emotions. Some of these religions promised salvation and happiness after death. Christianity, one of the Middle Eastern religions, gained a number of followers.

Today About 95 percent of Italy's people are Roman Catholics. **She is still there.**

The five kings have now been identified that had risen and fallen before John's time, represented by five of the seven heads of the beast. The “**one that is,**” the sixth kingdom that existed during John's time, has been identified as Rome. “**The other that is not yet come**” has been identified in [Chapters 12 & 13] as the Papacy; for that was not only the next power, it was the only major power that emerged shortly after the fall of the Roman Empire. * review [Chapter 12 & 13] *

Does not this statement now make more sense; “**The beast that was, and is not, and yet is?**” The beast (false doctrines), promoted by the woman (church or churches) during the times of the seven kingdoms (heads), is the beast that “**was,**” in other words, it was the beast of their times. And though each kingdom was different, with their religious leaders promoting their many gods, their doctrines were of the same origin and essence, for John was told that this beast “**shall ascend out of the bottomless pit.**” But do they see themselves as coming from there? Certainly not!

Though the doctrine of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, and et cetera, were of the same origin and essence, they were not the exact same doctrine, per se, as the one of John's time; yet they were. Only the cosmetics of the religions changed as one power was replaced by another. The “**beast that was, and is not,**” merely perpetuated the woman, i.e., the church, and embraced the many flavors of the same doctrine which she proclaimed to each of the seven kingdoms!

[11] And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eight, and is of the seven, and goes into perdition. *ref [Verse 8]

Lets look again at the definition of “perdition” in order to better understand it’s meaning.

Perdition: [noun] 1. final spiritual ruin; damnation. 2. utter loss or destruction; complete ruin.

Now, lets simplify [Verse 11] by substituting one of it’s meanings like this;

“And the beast ... goes into final spiritual ruin!” He “goes into damnation or utter destruction!”

Those who “believe not” shall be raised “unto eternal damnation; for they can not be redeemed from their spiritual fall, because they repent not, for they will love darkness rather than light, and their deeds are evil, and they receive their wages of whom they list to obey.” [D&C 28:12c-d]

[D&C 76:4a-c] Thus saith the Lord, concerning all those who know my power, and have been made partakers thereof, and suffered themselves, through the power of the Devil, to be overcome, and to deny the truth, and defy my power; [b] they are they who are the sons of perdition, of whom I say it had been better for them never to have been born; [c] for they are vessels of wrath, doomed to suffer the wrath of God, with the Devil and his angels, in eternity, concerning whom I have said there is no forgiveness in this world nor in the world to come.

[2 Thessalonians 2:3-4] Let no man deceive you by any means; for there shall come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; [4] Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

[1 Timothy 6:9] They that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. [2 Peter 3:7]

[2 Thessalonians 1:7-10] ... the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, [8] In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; [9] Who shall be punished with destruction from the presence of the Lord,

Notice that the eighth kingdom, is not represented by a head. Because the eighth beast is the powers of darkness and doctrines of today; it is world power, with its many powers and sub powers, and many churches and splinter groups, which collectively have the same mind set as the seven heads that existed previously; thus he “is of the seven.” This beast lurks in the minds of those who fight against the fullness of Jesus’ gospel, restored to earth in these the latter days.

[D&C 34:3d-e] The time is speedily coming that great things are to be shown forth unto the children of men; but without faith shall not anything be shown forth except desolations upon Babylon, the same which has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. [e] And there are none that does good except those who are ready to receive the fullness of my gospel, which I have sent forth unto this generation.

[D&C 42:4-5a] It shall not be given to anyone to go forth to preach my gospel, or to build up my church, except he be ordained by some one who has authority, and it is known to the church that he has authority, and has been regularly ordained by the heads of the church. [5a] And again, the elders, priests, and teachers of this church shall teach the principles of my gospel which are in the Bible and the Book of Mormon, **in which is the fullness of the gospel.**

Lets again emphasize that those who are evil do not see this beast as a beast. Only those who are righteous perceive the beast for what it is. And if any today are numbered among those who cannot perceive the beast, it may be because, instead of embracing the “fullness of the gospel, which the Lord sent to us, i.e., the Bible and the Book of Mormon,” they reject them and say that they did not come from God, and that they are not relevant to this generation!

[12] And the ten horns which you saw 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.

[Chapters 12 & 13], has it that the ten kings represented by the ten horns are the ten kings that, over a period of time, conquered the Roman Empire. The reason they “have received no kingdom as yet” is because these conquests were not completed until roughly 470 years after John’s time, until 570 A.D. when the Lombards, who became the tenth horn, invaded and conquered northern Italy. The religious authority prevalent with each of these seven kingdoms is now portrayed to John as a woman sitting upon the heads of each of the kingdoms. [Verse 9]

The beast and woman have been around in some fashion, since the beginning of man, but the inference here is to the final conflict. We are still at the end of the little season when Satan and his angels have been defeated, and John is being shown the judgement of the great whore.

[15] And he said unto me, The waters which you saw, where the whore sits, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

Where else would she sit? A church can not thrive, nor even survive, without the people who support it! Every church, regardless of time and geography, exists and have existed because of the people who supports it’s doctrine, of which some supported because it supported them.

Now, here is where it gets a little tricky; for it is true that the waters where the whore sits are “peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues;” But, it is also true that John “saw *the* woman sit upon a **scarlet colored beast**, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns?” [Verse 3] So how can this be?

The abominable church sat upon and existed, and still exists today, upon doctrines established either by man or by the devil. [D&C 46:3c] “... for some are of man, and others of devils.”

The people who embrace and live by these doctrines, **are the waters.**

This agrees precisely with the scripture read earlier from:

[1 Nephi 3:222-228] Whoso belongs not to the church of the Lamb of God belongs to that great church, which is the mother of abominations; [223] And she is the whore of all the earth. [224] And I looked and beheld ... that she sat upon many waters; [225] And she had dominion over all the earth, among all nations, kindreds, tongues and people.

This agreement between the book of Nephi and the book of Revelation is remarkable!

The church, i.e., the whore of all the earth, could not exist without the doctrine, i.e., the beast; and the beast nor the woman could exist without evil people to endorse and support them. People think and do according to their nature; those who are evil think and do evil things, while those who are righteous think and do that which is righteous.

[Proverbs 23:7] For as he thinks in his heart, so is he!

[Matthew 7:26-29] Even so every good tree bring forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree brings forth evil fruit. [27] **A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit; neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.** [28] Every tree that bring not forth good fruit, is hewn down, and cast into the fire. [29] **Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them.**

“Behold, ... there are many spirits which are false spirits, which have gone forth in the earth, deceiving the world: and also Satan has sought to deceive you, that he might overthrow you. *And again, Behold, I the Lord have looked upon you, and have seen abominations in the church that professes my name. Thus the Lord commands us to do* “all things with prayer and thanksgiving, that we may not be seduced by evil spirits, or doctrines of devils, or the commandments of men, **for some are of men, and others of devils.**” [D&C 50:1b-2a] [D&C 46:3c] [1 John 4:1-3]

[16] **And the ten horns which you saw 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 has put in their hearts to fulfill his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.**

[18] **And the woman which you saw is that great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.**

That the ten horns “shall hate the whore,” as stated in [Verse 16] is a matter of history. For centuries there were constant struggles between church and state for supremacy. It was not until the Reformation that the Papacy was finally stripped of its beastly powers. They hated the whore for controlling the minds of the people in religious matters, as well as the power she held in temporal matters. “God has put in their hearts to fulfill his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.” So, the beast is still alive and kicking!

Highlights

[now one should be able to interpret these metaphors]

[verse 1] ... the great whore ... sits upon many waters;

[verse 15] The waters ... where the whore sits, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

[verse 3] ... I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast, having seven heads and ten horns.

[verse 7] ... the beast that carries her has seven heads and ten horns.

[verse 9] The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sits.

[verse 10] there are seven kings; five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he comes, he must continue a short space.

[verse 8] The beast ... shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition;

[verse 8] The beast was, and is not; and yet is.

[verse 11] the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eight, and is of the seven, and goes into perdition.

[verse 8] 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.

