

Grace Bible Church
Tree of Life
A Weekly Review
Week Ending 101815
The Doctrine of the Pivot. Part 5.

Doctrine of the Pivot; Part 18. The Pivot of Believers as related to the Whore of Babylon also known as Babylon the Great.

Point 5. America and Biblical Prophecy and the Role of the Pivot in the Last Days.

And we began with a simple but important question. Can it really be true? Is America found in Bible prophecy? And when I say found, I do not mean will it still be around in the last days, I mean will it have a prominent place in the fulfillment of prophecies concerning the last days?

Point 5 in our doctrine is basically found in Rev 13 concerning the two beasts that are mentioned. First of all, in the last days we are told that there will be two beasts that are a part of prophecy found in Rev 13 called the First Beast who comes out of the sea in Rev 13:1 and the Second Beast in Rev 13:11, that comes out of the earth. And so look at Rev 13:1, where the apostle John writes concerning the First Beast: **And he [in context, a reference to the dragon also known as Satan in Rev 12] stood on the sand of the seashore. And I saw a beast [this is the first beast] coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems or crowns, and on his heads were blasphemous names. And I saw another beast [different than the First] coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke as a dragon.**

We continue with our first two questions which I believe need to be identified and answered.

And here they are:

- a. Who the First Beast in Rev 13:1-10 refers to.
- b. Who the Second Beast in Rev 13:11-18 refers to.

Now, it may also be surprising, but there are many believers who believe that the United States is found in prophecy in the book of Revelation as having a major part in end-time events. I will try to explain the reason why many believe that it is and then leave it up to you to come to your own conclusions. You may disagree on this and you have every right to do so. I'm just going to assume that if the First Beast refers to the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) and the Papacy and the Second Beast refers to the USA, and the principles that we are noting have certain applications and interpretations to look for.

However, in the end you will have learned who and what the First Beast will be like, and who and what the Second Beast will look like, and what he does. So that the only thing left for you to do is to come up with the organizations that the beasts refer to!

Here is a quick run-down of the 18 principles concerning what we are going to study in this passage.

1. Two world powers called beasts who are symbolized in Rev 13 and we are going to note who and what they refer to?

2. How the first Beast who probably refers to the RCC and the papacy lost its world influence and power that it once possessed?

3. A new nation is predicted to arise around the same time the First Beast was being removed from its world-wide power and influence.

What was and is the significance of the First Beast, RCC and the pope "coming up out of the

earth? “

5. This will lead us to our fifth question which is what nation is symbolized by its two lamb-like horns and absence of crowns?

6. What does it mean in Rev 13:11 says that the Second Beast (USA) will speak “as a dragon “?

7. What will this Second beast specifically do that will cause it to speak as a dragon?

8. How will the Second Beast (if it’s the USA) use force and manipulation and even utilize the death sentence which will be passed?

9. Will there be a government or a one world power that can really control the buying and selling of the people, if there is, who is it and how do they do it?

10. How strong and influential is the papacy today and how does it reveal its strength?

11. How strong and influential is the United States today, and how does it reveal its strength?

12. What are the factors in the USA that will set the stage for a worldwide law to execute those who refuse to violate the enforced law?

13. As world conditions worsen, what will Satan do to deceive the masses and will he deceive ALL the nations in the earth?

Which, as will see, may not really mean all the nations!

14. Will there be counterfeit revivals happening against the genuine worldwide revival sponsored by God’s end-time people or the pivot of the Tribulation period?

In fact, I will prove to you through-out the scriptures where the pivot of believers actually come from in the Tribulation period since all believers are removed at the Rapture. I’ll give you a hint. It has to do with Crisis Evangelism and **Rev 7:4, And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:** Also remember the first 3.5 years of the Tribulation Period is said to be a time of peace and prosperity, even it is a false peace and false prosperity, but there is the doctrinal principle of 2Ch 14:7, when God gives rest, it’s time to build.

15. We will also note how the Second Beast (USA) imposes the death sentence on its enemies and convince people that God is with them?

16. Then we will see how believers can we be safe from these powerful end-time deceptions?

17. What are you willing to do when this happens and you may be around in the beginning stages before the Rapture.

18. Then we will end this point in our doctrine of the Pivot with you being able to answer “What is the conclusion that you have come to and what are you willing to do because of it? “

Our first point of consideration is the fact that: **Two world powers are symbolized in Revelation chapter 13. What is the first power? Answer: The first power refers to Rome and the Roman Papacy.**

Now, we have spent enough time on documenting who the First Beast refers to which is the Roman Catholic Church and what Rev 13:1 refers to when it says; **Rev 13:1, And he** [a reference to Satan

who is mentioned at the end of the 12th chapter] **stood on the sand of the seashore. And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names.**

If this was our main subject and not the role of the pivot in the last days, I would spend hours teaching you why I believe that the First Beast mentioned in this passage is also related to the Great Whore of Babylon or none other than the Roman papacy or the RCC and the place of the Pope. If we look at Rev 17 and chapter 18, this principle will be easily discerned by comparing scripture with scripture because there are at least eight major descriptions that the beast and the great whore of Babylon are intimately related because they are not as some say, one and the same. In fact, before I prove this to you I'll just give you this much info so far so that you can understand what I mean when I say the Great Whore of Babylon are not one and the same but they are intimately related-though the intimacy is evil!

John is going to tell us in **Rev 17:3, And he [one of the angels] carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman [and then notice what this woman is doing] sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.**

Rev 17:7, And the angel said to me, "Why do you wonder? I shall tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.

Q: What is the main symbol of this woman riding the beast?

A: It is a clear symbol of a uniting of church and state with the church the one being in control.

This study about the whore of Babylon is such an important one because of the time in which we are living in, and as you look at this with open eyes, you have to have God guide you and teach you His truth. The final judgment is soon to fall upon this world and also upon Spiritual Babylon, so you really need to find out who the whore is to make sure you are not joined with her and also not receive her plagues.

A lot of people today believe that Babylon is Islam. Some people even believe that Babylon is a literal city like New York. But I want to show you from the Bible why this cannot be right. For example, in Rev 17, Babylon is guilty of committing FORNICATION and is a WHORE. What is fornication as it is used in the Bible in connection with God? Well, we need to find out the BIBLICAL meaning of fornication. In the Bible, many times fornication is used referring to the act of committing adultery against God by mixing with other Pagan nations and pagan practices (traditions) and going after other gods. Even the apostle James warned the Jews of the early church not to fall into this trap when he said in **Jam 4:4, You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**

Note that he called them adulteresses and not adulterers because he is talking to the church and therefore the bride of Christ who is a she not a he. Look at how God described this in the book of Ezekiel speaking to His people:

Eze 16:26-32, "You also played the harlot with the Egyptians, your lustful neighbors, and multiplied your harlotry to make Me angry. Behold now, I have stretched out My hand against you and diminished your rations. And I delivered you up to the desire of those who hate you, the daughters of the Philistines, who are ashamed of your lewd conduct. Moreover, you played the harlot with the Assyrians because you were not satisfied; you even played the harlot with them and still were not satisfied. You also multiplied your harlotry with the land of merchants, Chaldea, yet even with this you were not satisfied. How languishing is your heart," declares the Lord God, "while you do all these things, the actions of a bold-faced harlot. When you built your shrine at the beginning of every street and made your high place in every square, in disdaining

money, you were not like a harlot. You adulteress wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband!”

God’s people in the Old Testament committed fornication against God and became a whore. And this is the important Biblical point. When God is talking about people committing adultery and being a whore in a prophetic, spiritual sense, like He is in Revelation, He is talking about people committing adultery AGAINST HIM. Cheating on Him with their love for the world or the cosmos as it were. And the only people who can be guilty of committing fornication (or adultery) against God today are believers. Those who are outside the Christian faith CANNOT commit adultery against God because they are not married to Him. Only Christians can commit adultery against God, because Christ Jesus is the husband (Bridegroom) and the church is His wife (bride).

So Babylon the Great HAS to be a professing Christian church. Do you see this vital truth? So why can’t this be Islam? Because Islam rejects Jesus Christ as it’s Savior and therefore Muslims are not married to Christ. He is not their husband. Therefore they cannot commit adultery against God and be a whore, because they are not married to Him in the first place. Also Islam does not have the proper system of organization or the global political reach to be able to have control over “all the kings of the world.” Plus Muslims can’t agree amongst themselves and are constantly warring against each other. In fact, as we noted recently, more Muslims have been killed by other Muslims than by Jews.

There is only ONE religion which is regarded as the mother church who has the world political reach to be Babylon! **And here is more proof.** In Rev 18 we read about the judgment of the Whore of Babylon. Look at **Rev 18:21, And a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “Thus will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer.”** By the way sometimes a city is mentioned referring to the literal city but that does not exclude further implications regarding political and religious systems connected with the city.

Then it says concerning the great whore of Babylon in **Rev 18:23 and the light of a lamp will NOT shine in you any longer; and the voice of the bridegroom and bride will not be heard in you any longer; for your merchants were the great men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery.** Whether we take this symbolically or literally, there is only one kind of place this could be talking about.

If we take this symbolically, then the bride and Bridegroom is a Biblical reference to Jesus Christ and His church; Joh 3:29; 2Co 11:2.

Joh 3:29, “He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. And so this joy of mine has been made full.

2Co 11:2, For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.

If we take this literally, then where do we see brides and bridegrooms? Normally in our dispensation, in a Church. But even more than that that the great whore of Babylon in Rev 18:23 is told that “the light of a lamp will **NOT** shine in you any longer;” meaning at one time the light of the lamp was shining in the spiritual Babylon as the light of the world. And the voice of the bridegroom and bride will not be heard in you any longer; which refers to the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ, the bridegroom, and the voice or the doctrines of the Church who is the bride, will also no longer be heard.

Which means once again that this could not be a reference to Muslims nor a reference to their mosque. It is a reference to Jesus Christ and His bride called the Church. So, the Great Whore of Babylon who has committed fornication has to be a Christian organization that was once based upon the Christian faith having nothing to do with Islam or the Muslims. Also note that Babylon cannot be America or any other country, because Bible prophecy clearly portrays a country as a BEAST, not a woman.

Dan 7:23, “Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth,

God has given us a number of identification marks so that we do not need to second guess who the whore of Babylon is, also known as Babylon the Great. But first, just to confirm before we get into the various identification marks of Babylon, a woman in prophecy represents a church. The Lord is the Husband of His church and the Church is His Bride.

The woman in Rev 12 represented the prophecy before the Church-age began where Satan tried to destroy the Jews and also Satan does the same thing after the Rapture, he tries to destroy the Jews again. Both times Israel is called a woman, but not the Bride because the Bride is not around when Satan tries to destroy the Jews. However, the pure Church of Christ, also found in Eph 5, is the same as the woman in Rev 17 who represents a fallen, apostate church. Remember how Eph 5 reveals the church as the true bride of Christ. Paul ends that chapter concerning husbands and wives by saying in

Eph 5:32, This mystery [Christian marriage] is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the Church.

So if the whore of Babylon represents a church, then it obviously cannot simply be a city like New York or any other religion like Islam. It HAS to be a professed Christian church. In fact, one Theologian, Cardinal Gibbons in his book called “Faith of our fathers” said - *“The penetration of the religion of Babylon became so general and well known that Rome was called the ‘New Babylon’.”*

So, what is the main symbol of this woman riding the beast? It is a clear symbol of a uniting of church and state, with the church the one being in control. Let’s look at the other identification marks of Babylon the Great to find out exactly who this whore is.

Identification Marks of the Whore of Babylon

- Rev 17:1, “Come here, I shall show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,”

So this church, the whore of Babylon, sits upon many waters. What does this mean? Well, if we let the Bible interpret itself, we can find out the answer, Rev 17:15.

Rev 17:15, And he said to me, “The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.”

So, the waters represent the people and nations around the world. Now, if you sit upon something, then you are being supported by that object. So this is a church that has WORLDWIDE support from all different people and nations. The Roman Catholic Church is the biggest church in the world with over 1 BILLION members?

- Rev 17:2, “the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality.”

It was Adolf Hitler who made this statement: ***“I learned much from the Order of the Jesuits, Until now, there has never been anything more grandiose, on the earth, than the hierarchy of the organization of the Catholic Church...I transferred much of this organization into my own party.”***

So this is a church that has influenced kings throughout the past 2000 years and continues to have diplomatic relations with nations all over the world. We know from history that the Popes of the RCC certainly had authority over the kings of the earth, which is how the Catholic Church was able to have so many killed during the dark ages and inquisitions. It is the ONLY religious institution that can have diplomatic relations with the kings of the world.

Rev 17:2, with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, [and then notice next] and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality.”

The inhabitants of the earth have certainly been made drunk with the false teachings (wine) of the Catholic Church. Images, crosses and adoration; intercession of Mary; Prayers to Mary and the saints; Mass; Confession to priests; Purgatory; Prayers for the dead; Holy water; Lent; Penances; Celibacy of the clergy; etc. None of these are Biblical institutions. Instead they are borrowed from Paganism and have been adopted by the harlot church of Rome.

Rev 17:3, “I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.”

This beast is the same as the red dragon we find in Revelation chapter 12. Rev 12 tells us that the dragon is Satan, that old serpent called the devil. But we need to add some logic to this. Why does the dragon have seven heads and ten horns? The same as the beast in Revelation 13? And Revelation 17 tells us that those ten horns represent kings and-or kingdoms.

Logic would tell us that this dragon does not only represents Satan, but also a civil power. But which civil power? Rev 12:4 perhaps gives us a strong clue, **Rev 12:4b, And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.** So the dragon waited for this child to be born to kill him. And who is the child? Well, Revelation 12:5 tells us that he was *caught up to God and His throne*. There is only one MALE child who ended up going to Heaven and more specifically to God’s own throne, and that of course was Jesus Christ.

So this child whom Satan wanted to devour as soon as He was born was Jesus. And who did Satan **use** to try and kill Jesus when He was born? Well, he didn’t try to use the JEWS because under Roman law they couldn’t use capital punishment even if they wanted to. So, who did Satan try and use? He tried and used The king of ROME, who, of course failed, even though a Roman ruler, Herod had all male infants killed; Mat 2;16. So this red dragon also represents Rome.

So which civil power does Rev 17 tell us the woman gets her seat and authority from? It is Rome! And who did the Roman Catholic Church get her seat and authority from? Also Rome! So who is the whore of Babylon? It is the Roman Catholic Church.

No other church, religion, kingdom or institution matches her like the Papal Church of Rome does. And God is calling His people out of Babylon and the other fallen churches of the world (Babylon’s daughters). It’s not just the Roman Catholic Church that God is calling His people out of. There is a great ecumenical movement happening today that is uniting all churches and faiths together. And if your church accepts this ecumenical movement, then you need to come out of that church also.

Rev 17 says that Babylon has daughters, and her daughters are the apostate churches that came out of the RCC during the reformation. This refers to those churches who may have left the catholic church only to become fallen apostate in other areas through legalism, religion, and the different cults that have emerged even from the reformation.

Rev 17:4, And the woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality,

The main colors of this church, the whore of Babylon, is Purple and Scarlet, and it is also a very wealthy church that is decked out with gold and precious stones.

Did you know that the main colors of the Bishops and Cardinals in the Catholic Church are Purple and Scarlet?

Did you know that the Roman Catholic Church is one of, if not the most wealthiest institution in the world?

Did you know that the Vatican is decked out with gold and precious stones? Did you know that some of the coins that the Vatican has had produced has images of a woman with a golden cup in her hand on them. Blatantly boasting of who she is! This cup full of abominations is also a symbol that the sins of this church are so great and full that it is now a fallen, apostate church that can never be the Church of Jesus Christ.

The sins of the Roman Catholic Church are immense, with its idolatry, murder, child abuse and so on, that she has committed throughout her history, and continues to commit. And when the mark of the Papal Church is enforced upon the world, the message of Rev 18:2 will go out to the world, and her fall into apostasy will be complete!

Rev 18:2, And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! And she has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird.”

Rev 18:21 tells us of her final destiny: **And a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “Thus will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer.”**

Rev 17:5 and upon her forehead a name was written, a mystery, “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. “

Notice the word *mystery*, the whore of Babylon is shrouded in mystery. There is certainly a lot of mysterious behavior that goes on with the Papacy. What about Babylon the Great being the “MOTHER of harlots”? Did you know that many of the apostle churches that now even claim to be Protestant churches CAME OUT of the RCC? Did you know that many of them are now going back to the Catholic Church? There is no other church that has harlot daughters like the Papal Church of Rome does. And she is even regarded as the “mother” church.

Literal Babylon from the Old Testament is the original mother of abominations, but the RCC is the spiritual mother of abominations that took on many of the Pagan customs of original Babylon. And if you really want to be shocked look up the shocking list of the Vatican crimes against children!

Rev 17:6, And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus.

So this church, the whore of Babylon is drunk with the blood of the saints. It says that she is **DRUNK** with the blood of God's people. So this church is guilty of not just killing a few Christians. Did you know that the RCC has caused millions and millions of Christians to be persecuted and brutally murdered? Yes, this woman is the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) indeed!

Rev 17:18, "And the woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth."

Many people look at this verse and proclaim that it is New York because it certainly seems like it is Sodom and Gomorrah. Or it's Hollywood! Maybe even Chicago because of crime. Or maybe Miami because of lust, drugs or materialism. They totally disregard all the other characteristics of Babylon, which show that the whore of Babylon cannot just be a literal city like New York. However, if we take ALL the identification marks together, including this city one, then we can see who it is. We know from the evidence that Babylon the Great is a church. So how can we bring this church and city together?

What is the one city which is also a church that reigns over the nations of the world? What one city, which is also a church has diplomatic relations with virtually all the world's nations? The answer is Vatican City. The Papacy is so influential and powerful that nearly every major country consults her before making major policy moves.

Rev 17:6, And when I saw her, I wondered greatly.

This verse is tied in with the persecution by this power upon God's people. But John already saw great persecution upon God's people at the hands of Pagan Rome when he was alive. So why the astonishment? Because John sees an actual professed Christian church doing the persecution and killing God's people. This was an astonishment to John! The angel showed him the blood that the Roman Church, a professed church of Christ, was to spill in the name of Jesus. This was perplexing and an astonishment to him.