

There is a connection between the beast and the harlot:

Revelation 17

17 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying ^[a]to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,

If the beast is over the nations and is a politically motivated power, then the harlot is a religion. A harlot is someone who commits fornication. This religion will give people what they want and will be a one world religion. The beast is over a one world government. The kings of the earth will play along with this harlot who is a one world religion.

Many waters means that this religion will be around the world.

² with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

Harlotry or fornication in scripture is what Israel did when she worshipped other gods. She committed adultery with them. The kings of the earth and the inhabitants of the earth will be made drunk with the wine of her fornication. Every existing religion will be dumped into the mix. It will be as new age as you can imagine. This actually old age. The first time it happened was in the days of Nimrod. It happened again with Babylon. The Babylonians encouraged all the gods to be worshipped from every part of the empire. The temple in Babylon was filled with temple prostitutes because sex with the prostitutes was part of their worship. I read one commentary that said that all the women of Babylon were required to serve as a temple prostitute at least once in her life.

³ So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast *which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.*

I found two totally different ideas about wilderness here. On the one hand wilderness is the place where we are totally dependent on the mercy of God. John was carried away in the Spirit into the wilderness. He was dependent on God to give him this revelation of the last days. However, the wilderness itself is a place of chaos. The wilderness is the whole world, at this time, because the Beast and the Harlot have killed every disciple of Jesus Christ and the world itself, after the bowl judgements, is devoid of any covenant people.

The woman sits on the beast. Again, the beast can be both a person and an empire. The beast is the power over the empire. The woman rides, essentially, on top of the political part of the empire. It is a one world theocracy.

The scarlet beast was full of names of blasphemy. This beast is full of the opposite of the character and law of God. It is a counterfeit of God. 7 Heads and 10 horns looks like God's numbers. But it is blasphemy. It is a counterfeit. The 10 horns are 10 kingdoms and therefore 10 kings.

⁴ The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of ^[b]her fornication.

This purple signifies royalty. Purple, scarlet, gold, precious stones, and pearls are all associated with royalty, wealth, and power. However, her golden cup is full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. Her fornication is idolatry. It looks great to men, but it is really filthy and is in contrast and conflict with holiness. Filth is made into the new purity.

⁵ And on her forehead a name was written:

**MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT,
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS
OF THE EARTH.**

Babylon is associated with the first exile. Babylon reminds us of God's judgement. Babylon is always associated with the blatant idolatry of Israel. Now Babylon is over all the earth.

⁶ I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

What this harlot is drunk with is the blood of the saints. She enjoyed the killing of the holy. She killed everyone who was associated with Y'shua. When Yochanan sees her he is amazed, marvels, is mystified at the blatant un-holiness and filthiness of what is being proclaimed as holy. The whore and the beast have murdered all of the disciples of Jesus Christ and they made it look like they did a holy thing. You see this today. There were people who celebrated when Billy Graham died. Any time people who testify for Jesus die evil people gleefully celebrate it. That's all that will be left on earth and they will get drunk on blood celebrating the death of every disciple of Y'shua.

⁷ But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? I will tell you the ^[c]mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.

The angel says why did you marvel? Marvel implies the mystery. Why were you mystified? The mystery of the woman and the beast that carries her, possesses her.

⁸ The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to ^[d]perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from

the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and ^eyet is.

The beast was, is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit. There are three tenses. Past, present, and future. Was means that this satanic prince was active, is not active now because he was confined to the abyss, but will be again when he rises from the abyss. This is a good place for a reminder that what John sees isn't necessarily in chronological order. Some think this is more of a snapshot of the whole 7 years of tribulation. We find out the home of this beast. He ascends out of the bottomless pit. He will go to perdition or destruction.

⁹ "Here *is* the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.

In order to proceed we need wisdom which is the Holy Spirit and Jesus. The seven heads are seven mountains. Are these seven continents? Seven empires? Seven actual mountains? Well, the seven heads likely seven emperors who ruled over seven empires. Nimrod, Babylon, Persia, Assyria, Greece, Rome, and room for one more. Lots of people try to pin this one on the Vatican. But the heads are 7 governments over 7 geographical areas.

¹⁰ There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, *and* the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time.

Each of the governments has a ruler, a king. Five of these have already fallen. At the time John sees that five empires had fallen. Nimrod, Egypt, Assyria, Babylon/Persia, Greece are the fallen. Rome is the one that is. The seventh one is for a short time. Seven years is the short time.

¹¹ The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to ^fperdition.

The beast who was, goes away, and then is again. So the beast is the seventh and the eighth. Going back to Daniel tells us that the seventh beast is unique. He will be possessed by Satan himself. He and the empire that he controls.

One thing to consider is this. If you think we are in the last days, the seventh empire has already come and manifested itself. From a Jewish perspective the holocaust was the seventh. The third reich was the seventh empire. That empire is prophetic and the eighth is going to even be worse. From the perspective of evil, wiping out the Jews is the end of God's plans. The eighth will share many characteristics of the seventh because they are the same. It will look undefeatable, but it will not stand.

¹² "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. ¹³ These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

Don't look at nations today. The nations have changed radically over the years. Persia was huge compared to Iran today. Kush was powerful compared to Ethiopia today. This will be one government globally, one religion globally. The kings of the earth will give their power and authority to the beast. Every empire in scripture was against the Jewish people and opposed God and His plans. However:

¹⁴ These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those *who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.*"

The Lamb here is absolutely the Passover lamb. They are opposed to Y'shua. They are opposed to redemption. Redemption means payment is made and His kingdom comes. Israel ushers in the Messiah and brings in the Kingdom of God. All of this has happened over and over. That is the cyclical nature of prophecy.

The Lamb overcomes them. How? This empire is supernatural. It is powerful. It is global. It is ruled by the beast and Satan. How can the Lamb overcome this empire? He is the Lord of lords and King of kings. He is God. He is God with us. There is nothing stopping Him from being complete in victory now because there are no heads of grain with the tares, with the look alike, counterfeit weeds. There is no covenant protection for God to remain true to if His faithful covenant people are all dead. It will be a wipeout.

All of the called, chosen, and faithful are with Y'shua. Called is an invitation. If you are invited you have to respond. If you respond with a yes, you are chosen. The called and chosen are faithful. Covenant loyal.

¹⁵ Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues."

This is a description of the world. It includes everyone left on earth. The harlot is all about the religion. It is all about this false religion. It is a religion where every person does what is right in their own eyes. I saw something on a gaming platform the other day called the platinum rule. It said it was superior to the golden rule. The golden rule was from Jesus. Do unto others as you would have others do unto you. The platinum rule is do unto others and they want you to do unto them. Essentially, it means cater to everyone's craziness, selfishness, childishness, perversions, etc. There is no maturity in it. There is no purity or holiness in it. It is totally selfish and has no rules, boundaries, or correction. But in a moment the religion will flip from do what you want, everything goes, worship whomever or whatever you want, to worship the beast only. Then everything goes crazy.

¹⁶ And the ten horns which you ^[a]saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

The change happens because now the beast demands singular worship and the kings were happy doing whatever they wanted, worshipping however they wanted, being worshipped themselves. That was all fine until Satan centralizes the rule of worship to himself. The world is going to burn this religion down out of the chaos it created and more importantly -

17 For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. 18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.”

The selfishness that the world expected was suddenly controlled by the beast because all of it has been about centralizing worship on him anyway. God allowed this to happen. He didn't cause sin. God doesn't sin. He doesn't tempt us. He allows people to give in to total degradation to fulfill His purpose because in the end they were going to get wiped out. He didn't cause it. Selfishness without boundaries, ethics, morals, godly instruction will eventually lead to total destruction.

The letter for this week, chapter 17 is peh, the 17th letter in aleph bet. Numerical value is 80. Its meaning is mouth. The character is closed or open when used at the end of a sentence. The mouth is used to blaspheme God, it is used by the harlot to drink the blood of the saints. It is used by the world to worship the beast. And the mouths of the 10 kings are closed by the beast when it wants worship for itself alone. Their response will be to burn the harlot down. God's word prevails. The words of God are fulfilled. Everything God speaks must happen.