

"mother of harlots and abominations" as precisely as she fits the other. Much of the cause can be traced to the unbiblical demand that her priests be celibates. The great apostle Paul was a celibate and recommended that life to others who wanted to devote themselves fully to serving Christ. He did not, however, make it a condition for church leadership as the Catholic Church has done, thereby imposing an unnatural burden upon all clergy that very few could bear. On the contrary, he wrote that a bishop should be "the husband of one wife" ([1 Timothy 3:2](#)) and set the same requirement for elders ([Titus 1:5,6](#)).

#### **Reigning Over the Kings of the Earth:** [Revelation 17:18](#)

The angel reveals to John that the woman "is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth" ([Revelation 17:18](#)). Is there such a city? Yes, and again only one: Vatican City. Popes crowned and deposed kings and emperors, exacting obedience by threatening them with excommunication. Though the current Pope lacks the power to enforce such brutal claims today, his Church still retains the dogmas which authorize him to do so. And the practical effects of his power are no less than those of his predecessors, though exercised quietly behind the scenes. The Vatican is the only city which exchanges ambassadors with nations, and she does so with every major country on earth. Ambassadors come to the Vatican from every major country, including the United States, not out of mere courtesy but because of the pope is the most powerful ruler on earth today.

#### **Drunk With the Blood of the Saints:** [Revelation 17:6](#)

John also notices that the woman is drunk and not with an alcoholic beverage. She is drunk with "the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus..." ([Revelation 17:6](#)). The picture is a horrible one. It is not merely her hands that are red with this blood, but she is drunk with it! The slaughter of innocents who, for conscience' sake, would not yield to her totalitarian demands has so refused and exhilarated her that she reels in ecstasy. One thinks immediately of the Inquisitions (Roman, Medieval, and Spanish) which for centuries held Europe in their terrible grip. To wring out confessions from these poor creatures, the Roman Catholic Church devised ingenious tortures so excruciating and barbarous that one is sickened by their recital.

The remnants of some of the chambers of horror remain in Europe and may be visited today. They stand as memorials to the zealous outworking of Roman Catholic dogmas which remain in force today, and to a Church which claims to be infallible and to this day justifies such barbarism. They are also memorials to the astonishing accuracy of John's vision in [Revelation 17](#).

#### **The Destruction of the Harlot**

[Revelation 17:16](#) tells us the Antichrist will take all of the Catholic Church's wealth and goods leavening it in ruins.

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### **One World Religion Mystery, Babylon The Great, Mother of Harlots**

The rapidly approaching world order will (initially) be an integrated mix of governmental and religious authority. The world will not only come under the control of a one world government, but it will also be subject to control from a one world religion. On the heels of the Rapture and the War of Gog and Magog, the world will experience the supernatural in a way it will have no context other than religion to make sense of. The coming one world religion will exploit the desire for answers to obtain power and wealth. It will play a key role (at least initially) in bringing about and maintaining total control over people by the Antichrist. Read [Revelation 17 & Revelation 18](#).

#### **Who is the Harlot?**

The Book of Revelation speaks at great length in chapters 17-18 about the fall of "Babylon

the Great” ([Revelation 18:2](#)) which has led many fine Bible scholars to mistakenly conclude that the Bible is actually talking about the ancient city of Babylon. Could the ancient city of Babylon be rebuilt and then destroyed? Yes it could, but the destruction of Mystery Babylon in the book of Revelation is not the destruction of the rebuilt ancient city of Babylon.

This kingdom is personified as “the great whore” ([Revelation 17:1](#)) who has seven heads and ten horns and, according to [Revelation 17:5](#) bears the title “Mystery Babylon”. This woman is described as being “drunk with the blood of the saints... who bore testimony to Jesus” ([Revelation 17:6](#)). The seven heads are “seven hills on which the woman sits” ([Revelation 17:9](#)), and the ten heads are the “ten kings” who are yet to come ([Revelation 17:12](#)). The woman herself is “the great city that rules over the kings of the earth” ([Revelation 17:18](#)). There is little doubt that John is talking about Rome, the great city that ruled the world of his own day.

This city must not only have shed the blood of the martyrs, be located on seven hills, and commit political-religious fornication with the leaders of the world, but it must also be seen, when on fire, from the sea. There is no other city on earth that fits the fourfold criteria mentioned. Only Rome qualifies. The very fact that John calls her identity a mystery should be enough to indicate that he does not intend us to take Babylon literally as many tend to do.

### **A Closer Look at the Harlot**

Quoting from sections of "*A Woman Rides the Beast: The Roman Catholic Church and the Last Days*", David Hunt:

#### **Immorality With Kings of the earth:** [Revelation 17:1-2](#)

The first thing we are told about the woman is that she is a "whore" ([Revelation 17:1-2](#)), that earthly kings "have committed fornication" with her (verse 2), and that "all the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication" (verse 3). Fornication and adultery are used in the Bible in both the physical and the spiritual sense. Of Jerusalem God said, "How is the faithful city become a harlot!" ([Isaiah 1:21](#)). Israel, whom God had set apart from all other peoples to be holy for His purposes, had entered into unholy, adulterous alliances with the idol worshiping nations around her. She had "committed adultery with stones and with stocks [idols]" ([Jeremiah 3:9](#)); "and with their idols have they committed adultery" ([Ezekiel 23:37](#)). The entire chapter of [Ezekiel 16](#) explains Israel's spiritual adultery in detail, both with heathen nations and with their false gods, as do many other passages.

#### **The Great Wealth of the Harlot:** [Revelation 17:3-4](#)

The incredible wealth of this woman caught John's attention next. She was dressed "in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication" ([Revelation 17:4](#)). The colours of purple and scarlet once again identify the woman with both pagan and

Christian Rome. These were the colours of the Roman Caesars with which the soldiers mockingly robed Christ as "King" (see [Matthew 27:28](#) and [John 19:2, 5](#)), which the Vatican took to itself.

The “golden cup [chalice] in her hand” again identifies the woman with the Roman Catholic Church. The Roman Catholic Church possesses many thousands of solid gold chalices kept in its churches around the world. Even the bloodstained cross of Christ has been turned to gold and studded with gems in reflection of Rome's great wealth. Rome has practiced evil to gather her wealth, for the "golden cup" is filled with "abominations and filthiness." Much of the wealth of the Roman Catholic Church was acquired through the confiscation of the property of the pitiful victims of the Inquisitions. Even the dead were exhumed to face trial and property was taken from their heirs by the Church.

#### **The Mother of Harlots & Abominations:** [Revelation 17:5](#)

The more deeply one probes into the history of the Roman Catholic Church and its current practices, the more impressed one becomes with the amazing accuracy of the vision John received centuries before it would all be lamentable reality. John's attention is drawn to the inscription boldly emblazoned upon the woman's forehead: 'MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH' ([Revelation 17:5](#)) Sadly enough, the Roman Catholic Church fits the description