

deception and blasphemy against righteousness and truth. Both make the people of the earth *drunk* and both cause them to commit *fornication* (cf. Rev 17:2 & 18:3). The harlot's wine is her false religious teachings, which captivate the world as the leader of "Christianity." Millions of people follow her and are deceived into thinking she represents Jesus Christ. Likewise, the beast's system has affected the entire world with the wine of materialism, causing mankind to place all forms of idols and lusts ahead of God. "In God we trust" has become a hollow slogan that was originally established as a bastion of faith and hope. Both are also *arrayed in purple and scarlet and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls* (cf. Rev 17:4 & 18:16). *"And on her forehead a name was written:*

***MYSTERY,
BABYLON THE GREAT,
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.
(Rev 17:5 – NKJV)***

These names tell us that this figure represents a mystery, which includes multifaceted characters. To solve the identities of this mystery requires clues from other portions of the Bible. Babylon is first introduced in Genesis 10 and 11 and is well known throughout Scripture for being in opposition to God. Some of the important prophecies concerning Mystery Babylon can be found in Jeremiah 50-51, Isaiah 18, Habakkuk and Daniel (to name a few). Relevant examples include:

"Your mother shall be utterly shamed, and she who bore you shall be disgraced. Behold, she shall be the last of the nations, a wilderness, a dry land, and a desert." (Jer 50:12 – ESV)

This is a prophecy that the nation that birthed this New Babylon will be in existence and witness the total destruction of this great country at the close of the tribulation period.

“Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD'S hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.” (Jer 51:7)

This shows how the Lord used this great nation at one time as his instrument (i.e. golden cup) to proclaim the Word of God. In the end, however, New Babylon causes the world to be led astray by offering them the wine of materialism and greed.

The prophecies in Daniel provide some of the most important keys in solving the mystery surrounding the identity of the beast in Revelation. In Daniel chapter 2, we are given the 4 great empires (Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greek, and Roman) that span some 2,600 years, until the very end of the tribulation period (Dan 2:44). Some contend that the 4th empire is the Seleucid kingdom (Syria / Iraq), which is seen as part of its legs/feet (Seleucid/Ptolemaic reign). Nevertheless, Daniel 7 presents a different perspective and provides the most important clues regarding the true identity of the beast in Revelation. Daniel 7 describes 4 beasts (lion, bear, leopard with 4 wings, and a 4th more terrifying beast with 10 horns + a little horn – Dan 7:3-8).

Daniel sees 4 beasts: Heads

1 st Lion (England)	1
2 nd Bear (Russia)	1
3 rd Leopard (below)	4
4 th Diverse BEAST	<u>1</u>
	7

*“After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it **four wings of a fowl**; the beast had also **four heads**; and dominion was given to it.”* (Dan 7:6)

(Egypt with Syria, Iraq, Jordan & Saudia Arabia or Iran?)

Daniel’s 3rd beast has 5 nations with only 4 leaders (heads).¹ These nations, along with England and Russia are **present** when

Daniel's 4th beast appears (which is the beast in Rev 13, 17-18):

*“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a **fourth** beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it **was diverse from all the beasts that were before² it; and it had ten horns.** (Dan 7:7)*

Daniel's **four** beasts have 7 heads and 10 horns; exactly the same as John's beast described in Revelation 13:1: “...And I saw a **beast** rising up out of the sea, having **seven heads and ten horns...**” Is this just a coincidence?³

② **Mystery Explained (Rev 17:7-18)**

The angel then tells John the clues to solve the mystery surrounding the harlot seen riding on the beast with 7 heads and 10 horns (Rev 17:7). On the facing page is a summary of the key verses, along with this author's speculation of the identity of the nations involved.

Verse 8 – At the time John wrote this, the beast that “was” and “is not” must be Babylon, which fell in 539 B.C. It could not be Rome since the Romans came into power in 63 B.C. with Pompey's occupation of Jerusalem.

Verse 9 – This verse will be discussed latter on in this section.

Verse 10 – The 7 kings include the 5 who have fallen (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia and Greece, + Rome (which was in power at the time John wrote this), leaving the Beast, who has not yet come (which we believe is the New Babylon).

Verse 11 – The Beast that “was” and “is not” is one of the 7 that are listed. From verses 8 and 10 above we see this must be from the Beast named New Babylon (the 7th). The actual Beast (Antichrist) is the “*little horn*” which comes out of the 7th one listed (*cf.* Dan 7:7-8). This “*little horn*” is the 8th and will be destroyed at the very end (*cf.* Rev 19:20).

Mystery of Woman, Beast and 10 Horns

“7) *But the angel said to me, ‘Why 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 the ten horns.*

8) *The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel... when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.’*

Beast	Beast	Beast
<u>Was</u>	<u>Is Not</u>	<u>Will Ascend</u>
Babylon	Babylon	<i>New Babylon</i>

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

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.’*

5 Kings	One	Not Yet
<u>Have Fallen</u>	<u>Is</u>	<u>Come</u>
Egypt, Assyria Babylon , Persia Greece	Rome	Beast (<i>New Babylon</i>)

11) *The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.*

<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
5 Kings	One	Not Yet	He is of
<u>Have Fallen</u>	<u>Is</u>	<u>Come</u>	<u>The 7</u>
Egypt, Assyria Babylon , Persia Greece	Rome	Beast (<i>New Babylon</i>)	Little Horn (comes out of the 7)
		[7 Heads & 10 Horns]	

“18) *And the woman* whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.’*

(Rev 17:7-11, 18 – NKJV)

* Cities = New York City and Rome: the Headquarters for the United Nations and the Roman Catholic Church.

Verse 9 – This verse, along with verse 18, reveal that the 7 heads are 7 hills or mountains upon which their headquarters are located.⁴ Verse 9 states that understanding the true identity of this important city calls for wisdom. We know these cities will be the headquarters of the Beast and the harlot. Since the city of Rome is well known as “*the city on 7 hills,*” we know this is where the harlot is located.

The Beast will rule from the center of economic and political power. New York City is probably the greatest commercial and banking center in the world. It is also the headquarters for the United Nations, which will become the global government to place all sovereign nations under its control, in order to bring in the New World Order (NWO). Interestingly, New York will become “*the city on 7 mountains,*” since the Beast will have dominion over “*the seven continents*” of the world. Both the Beast and the harlot will rule the world from their strategic command centers: New York and Rome.

The Antichrist (Beast) will rule with “10 horns,” the actual identity will not be speculated here. These 10 horns will turn on the harlot and destroy her headquarters located in Rome:

*“And the **ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.**”* (Rev 17:16 – NKJV)

Why these 10 horns annihilate her is not given. Chapter 13 of Revelation shows that the harlot (false prophet) will carry out the execution of believers (Rev 13:15-16). Perhaps the 10 horns will be horrified over the death of millions and seek vengeance.

*“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.”*
(Rev 17:6 – NKJV)