

Introduction to Revelation Chapter 17

Revelation chapter 17 introduces one of the most symbolic and mysterious visions in the entire book. In this chapter, the apostle John is shown the judgment of a figure described as “the great prostitute” or “Babylon the Great,” a powerful symbol representing a corrupt religious and political system that has influenced the nations of the world. This chapter shifts the focus from the direct judgments of God in the previous chapters to the exposure and eventual destruction of the spiritual system that has led humanity into rebellion against God.

John is carried in the Spirit into the wilderness, where he sees a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that is covered with blasphemous names and has seven heads and ten horns. The woman is dressed in luxurious clothing—purple and scarlet—and adorned with gold, precious stones, and pearls, symbolizing wealth, power, and influence. In her hand she holds a golden cup filled with abominations and impurities, representing the corruption and spiritual deception she spreads among the nations.

The woman is called “Babylon the Great, the Mother of Prostitutes and of the Abominations of the Earth.” She is portrayed as intoxicated with the blood of God’s people, revealing her history of persecuting the faithful. Throughout history, systems that oppose God have often combined political power, false religion, and moral corruption, and this vision portrays the final and most complete expression of that rebellion.

The scarlet beast on which the woman rides is closely connected to the beast described earlier in the book. This imagery points to a partnership between political authority and false religion during the last days. However, the chapter also reveals that this alliance is temporary. Eventually the very powers that support this corrupt system will turn against it and bring about its destruction as part of God’s sovereign plan.

Revelation 17 emphasizes the seductive nature of spiritual corruption. The world system symbolized by Babylon appears attractive, powerful, and prosperous, yet it is fundamentally opposed to God and destined for judgment. The chapter calls believers to spiritual discernment, reminding them not to be captivated by worldly power, wealth, or false religion.

Ultimately, this vision prepares the reader for the dramatic fall of Babylon described in the following chapter. It serves as a reminder that although evil systems may dominate the world for a time, God’s justice will prevail, and every structure built on rebellion against Him will eventually collapse under His righteous judgment.

Heavenly Father,

As we open Your Word and study Revelation chapter 17, we come before You with humble hearts, asking for wisdom and understanding. This chapter reveals the dangers of deception, corruption, and the powerful influence of systems that oppose Your truth. Help us to see clearly what Your Word is teaching.

Lord, give us discernment so that we are not drawn in by the false attractions of this world—its power, wealth, or false religion. Keep our hearts faithful to Jesus Christ and grounded firmly in Your truth.

Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, help us understand the deeper meaning of this vision and strengthen our commitment to live in holiness and obedience. Remind us that no matter how powerful evil may appear, You remain sovereign and Your justice will ultimately prevail.

We place this time of study in Your hands and ask that Your Word transform our hearts.

In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.

Revelation 17:1–2

“(1) One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, ‘Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits by many waters. (2) With her the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.’”

The Context:

After the final "Reset" of the seventh bowl, one of the angels takes John aside to give him a "close-up" look at **why** the world's system had to be destroyed. He introduces a new character: **The Great Prostitute**.

In the Bible, God often describes his relationship with His people as a marriage. Therefore, "adultery" is the word used when people who should belong to God give their love, worship, and loyalty to money, power, and false gods instead. This "Prostitute" is the embodiment of everything that seduces people away from the Creator.

The Meaning of the "Many Waters" and the "Wine":

In simple American English, we might say, "The angel showed John the corrupt system that had seduced the entire world. She sat in a position of global influence, and the world's leaders sold their souls to be near her, while regular people became addicted to the 'lifestyle' and the lies she offered." John uses these symbols:

- **"Sits by many waters":** This signifies **Global Influence**. Later in the chapter (v. 15), we are told the waters represent "peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages." This system isn't just in one city; it's a global network of greed and corruption.
- **"Commit adultery":** This signifies **Political and Spiritual Betrayal**. The "kings of the earth" (the leaders) made deals with this corrupt system to gain power and wealth, turning their backs on what is right and holy.
- **"Intoxicated with the wine":** This signifies **Mass Deception**. Just like a drunk person can't think clearly or see reality, the people of the world became "drunk" on the promises of the system—wealth, pleasure, and independence from God. They were so "high" on the world's offerings that they couldn't see the judgment coming.

The Core Lesson:

The world's system is seductive, but it is a trap. This passage warns us that the "system" (Babylon) doesn't usually look scary; it looks attractive. It offers "wine"—pleasure, status, and ease. But that pleasure comes at the cost of our loyalty to God. This teaches us that **we have to be careful about what we "thirst" for, because the world is very good at offering us a drink that will eventually make us lose our way.**

The Illustration: The Glamorous Scammer

Imagine a person who moves into a neighborhood. They are incredibly charming, they wear the most expensive clothes, and they throw the most amazing parties. Everyone wants to be their friend. Soon, the town leaders are making secret business deals with them, and everyone else is trying to live just like them.

But then it's revealed that the "glamour" was funded by a massive scam that destroyed people's lives. The parties were just a distraction to keep people from noticing the theft. That is the "Great Prostitute." She looks like the "High Life," but she is actually a soul-crushing system of rebellion.

The "Glory" Reflection:

- **The "Sober" Check:** Am I "clear-headed" about the world, or have I become a little "drunk" on the desire for more money, more stuff, or more fame?
- **The "Loyalty" Check:** If my life is a "marriage" to God, am I being faithful to Him, or am I "flirting" with the values of the world's corrupt system?
- **The "Attraction" Check:** Do I see the "Great Prostitute" for what she really is—a system that will eventually be punished—or am I still mesmerized by her "jewelry"?

The angel is leading John into the wilderness to see this woman more clearly. She is sitting on a scarlet beast covered in names that insult God.

Revelation 17:3–4

“(3) Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. (4) The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries.”

The Context:

John is taken into the **wilderness** to get a clear, unobstructed view of this system. In the Bible, the wilderness is often a place of testing or a place where the "masks" of the world are stripped away.

Here, the "Great Prostitute" (Babylon) is seen riding the **Scarlet Beast** (the same monster from Chapter 13). This shows the relationship between the two: the Woman represents the corrupt *culture, economy, and religion* of the world, while the Beast represents the *political and military power* that carries her.

The Meaning of the Jewelry and the Cup:

In simple American English, we might say, "John saw the world's corrupt system looking incredibly wealthy and successful, riding on the back of a violent government. She looked like royalty, but the 'expensive drink' she offered was actually full of disgusting, immoral choices." John highlights these symbols:

- **"Dressed in purple and scarlet":** This signifies **Wealth and Status**. In the ancient world, purple and scarlet dyes were incredibly expensive. Only the elite and the royal could afford them. This system is not "begging" for attention; it is the "High Life" that everyone dreams of reaching.
- **"Glittering with gold... and pearls":** This signifies **External Beauty**. She is stunningly attractive. This reminds us that evil rarely looks "ugly" at first. It looks like a luxury cruise, a high-limit credit card, or a gold-plated throne.
- **"A golden cup... filled with abominable things":** This signifies **The Great Bait-and-Switch**. The cup is gold (beautiful on the outside), but the contents are "filth." This is the perfect picture of sin: it offers a "golden" experience, but once you drink it, it poisons your soul.
- **"Names that insult God":** This signifies **Open Defiance**. The system isn't just ignoring God; it is actively replacing Him and claiming His titles for itself.

The Core Lesson:

Don't be fooled by the "glitter." This passage shows us that the most dangerous enemies of our souls aren't the ones that look like monsters, but the ones that look like **supermodels**. The world's system tries to buy our loyalty with "pearls and gold." This teaches us that **we must look past the "clothing" of a system or a lifestyle and look at what is inside the "cup."** If it leads us away from Jesus, it is "filth," no matter how gold the cup looks.

The Illustration: The Poisoned Banquet

Imagine being invited to a massive mansion for a feast. The table is solid gold, the chandeliers are diamond, and the host is wearing a million-dollar outfit. They hand you a beautiful, heavy gold goblet filled with what looks like the finest wine.

But as you look closer, you see that the "wine" is actually mixed with slow-acting poison and waste. The host doesn't care about your health; they just want you to stay at the table so they can control you. The "Great Prostitute" is that host. She uses the "glitter" to hide the "poison."

The "Glory" Reflection:

- **The "Cup" Check:** What am I "drinking" from lately? Is it the truth of God's Word, or am I sipping on the "filth" of worldly gossip, greed, or pride?
- **The "Glitter" Check:** Am I chasing the "gold and pearls" of this world so hard that I'm forgetting the "white robes" of righteousness God wants me to wear?
- **The "Beast" Check:** Do I see how the "culture" (the woman) and "politics" (the beast) often work together to try and push God out of our lives?

The woman has a mysterious title written on her forehead that explains exactly who she is.

Revelation 17:5–6

“(5) The name on her forehead was a mystery: ‘Babylon the Great, the Mother of Prostitutes and of the Abominations of the Earth.’ (6) I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God’s holy people, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished.”

The Context:

In the ancient world, it was sometimes a custom for prostitutes to wear a headband with their name on it. Here, the "Woman" carries her identity right on her brow. But it's labeled a **"mystery"**—not because it's impossible to understand, but because it has a deep, symbolic meaning that requires spiritual wisdom to decode.

Then, John sees something that makes his jaw drop. This "glamorous" woman isn't just a seducer; she is a **murderer**. She is literally "drunk," not on wine, but on the lifeblood of Christians.

The Meaning of the "Name" and the "Drunkennes":

In simple American English, we might say, "She wore a label that identified her as the source of all the world's spiritual unfaithfulness and filth. John was shocked to realize that her 'success' and 'power' were built on the suffering and death of those who stayed loyal to Jesus." John highlights:

- **"Babylon the Great":** This signifies **The Archetype of Rebellion**. "Babylon" started at the Tower of Babel—man's attempt to reach heaven without God. Throughout the Bible, Babylon represents any system (be it Rome in John's day or modern global systems) that uses its wealth and power to defy God.
- **"Mother of Prostitutes":** This signifies **The Source of Corruption**. She is the "original." Every other idol, every other "get rich quick" scheme, and every other false religion is a "child" of this main system of rebellion.

- **"Drunk with the blood of the holy people":** This signifies **The Cruelty of the System**. The world's "Babylon" system hates the truth. It survives by silencing the "whistleblowers"—the people of God who say, "This is wrong." To the system, the death of a martyr is like a glass of wine—it makes them feel powerful and satisfied.
- **"I was greatly astonished":** This signifies **The Deceptive Nature of Evil**. John wasn't just "scared"; he was *amazed*. He was likely shocked that something so beautiful and wealthy (the woman in gold) could be so monstrously evil and bloodthirsty.

The Core Lesson:

The world's "success" often has a hidden cost. We see the glittering cities, the billion-dollar industries, and the powerful leaders, and we are "astonished" by their glory. But Revelation pulls back the curtain: often, that glory is built on the exploitation and persecution of the righteous. This teaches us that **we shouldn't envy the wealth of a system that is fueled by the suffering of others.**

The Illustration: The Haunted Mansion

Imagine walking past a mansion that is the talk of the town. The gardens are perfect, the lights are bright, and the music is enchanting. You find yourself wishing you lived there.

But then, the owner invites you into the basement, and you see that the entire foundation is built over a graveyard of the people the owner cheated and killed to get that money. Suddenly, the mansion doesn't look beautiful anymore; it looks like a horror movie. You aren't "envious" anymore; you are "astonished" that you ever wanted to be a part of it. That is what John experienced when he saw the Woman's "drunkenness."

The "Glory" Reflection:

- **The "Envy" Check:** Do I ever get jealous of people who get rich or powerful by cutting corners or hurting others? Do I remember that their "cup" is full of filth?
- **The "Testimony" Check:** Am I a "witness for Jesus" (v. 6)? If the world's system were to look for "blood" to drink, would I be someone they considered an enemy because of my faith?
- **The "Mystery" Check:** Am I asking God for the wisdom to see through the "mysteries" of the world's lies so I can stay focused on the Truth?

The angel sees that John is confused, so he offers to explain the "mystery" of the woman and the beast she rides.

Revelation 17:7–8

“(7) Then the angel said to me: ‘Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns. (8) The beast, which you

saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because it once was, now is not, and yet will come.”

The Context:

The angel sees John’s confusion and steps in as a guide. He explains that the **Beast** has a strange "lifespan." It seems to have a history of living, "dying," and then coming back to life.

This is the ultimate **counterfeit of Jesus**. Jesus died and rose again to give life; the Beast "dies" and returns from the **Abyss** (the bottomless pit of demons) to bring destruction. This "comeback" is so impressive that everyone who isn't grounded in God's truth will be completely fooled by it.

The Meaning of "Once Was, Now Is Not, and Yet Will Come":

In simple American English, we might say, "The devil’s power-system has appeared in history before, then it seemed to disappear, but it’s going to make a terrifying comeback from the pits of hell before it is finally destroyed for good. People who don't know God will think it's a miracle, but it's just a trick."

- **"Once was":** This signifies **The Long History of Evil**. It refers to the great empires of the past (like Egypt, Assyria, Babylon) that tried to wipe out God's people.
- **"Now is not":** This signifies **The Illusion of Victory**. There are times in history when it looks like evil has been defeated or that "man has outgrown" his need for violent dictators and godless systems.
- **"Yet will come":** This signifies **The Final Imitation**. Just before the end, the Beast system returns with a "resurrection" that mimics Christ. It will look like the "only hope" for a world in crisis.
- **"Out of the Abyss":** This signifies **The Demonic Source**. This final version of the Beast isn't just "human politics"—it is fueled directly by the power of hell.

The Core Lesson:

Don't be impressed by the "comebacks" of evil. The world loves a good "strongman" or a system that promises to fix everything. When a leader or a movement seems to "rise from the ashes" and save the day, the world is "astonished." But this passage teaches us that **if a system doesn't come from the Throne of God, it doesn't matter how miraculous it looks—it is heading for destruction.** ---

The Illustration: The Zombie Empire

Imagine a terrifying monster that used to roam the woods. One day, the villagers hunt it down and "kill" it. Everyone celebrates. For years, they live as if the monster is gone forever.

But then, a dark magician goes into the "Abyss" and brings the monster back to life. It looks the same, but it's stronger and more vicious than before. Some villagers are so amazed that it's back that they start worshipping it as a god. But the wise villagers remember that it's still just a monster, and its "new life" is a fake. The Beast is that "Zombie Empire."

The "Glory" Reflection:

- **The "Book of Life" Check:** The verse says those whose names are in the "Book of Life" won't be fooled. Is my security found in being "on the list" of Jesus, or am I looking for security in worldly leaders?
- **The "Astonishment" Check:** Am I easily impressed by "powerful" movements in the world, or do I test everything by the Word of God?
- **The "End" Check:** Do I keep in mind that no matter how much "power" the Beast seems to have, his final destination is already decided? (He is "going to his destruction.")

The angel is about to get even more specific, explaining what the "seven heads" and "ten horns" actually mean in the world's geography and history.

Revelation 17:9–11

“(9) This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. (10) They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for only a little while. (11) The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.”

The Context:

The angel pauses and says, “**This calls for a mind with wisdom.**” He’s signaling that we need to look beneath the surface. He explains that the "Seven Heads" of the Beast have a double meaning: they represent **geography** (seven hills) and **history** (seven kings/kingdoms).

To John’s first readers, "seven hills" was a clear code for **Rome**, which was famously known as the "City on Seven Hills." But the "kings" represent the long line of world empires that have tried to play God throughout human history.

The Meaning of the Seven Kings:

In simple American English, we might say, "The power behind this evil system has lived through many different empires. Some are gone, one is in power right now, and one more is coming. But the final version—the Beast himself—will be like a 'reboot' of all of them combined, and he won't last long before God destroys him."

- **"Five have fallen"**: Most scholars believe these are the great empires that oppressed God's people before John's time: **Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, and Greece.**
- **"One is"**: This was the **Roman Empire**, which was in power while John was writing Revelation.
- **"The other has not yet come"**: This refers to a future world power that will emerge before the very end.
- **"The eighth king"**: This is the **Antichrist/The Beast**. He isn't a brand new thing; he "belongs to the seven," meaning he carries the DNA of all those old, God-hating empires, but he is the final, most concentrated version of them all.

The Core Lesson:

Evil is a "repeat offender." History isn't just a random series of events; it's a spiritual battle that keeps showing up in different "costumes." Whether it was Pharaoh in Egypt or Caesar in Rome, the spirit of the "Beast" is always the same: it wants to be worshiped and it wants to control your life. This teaches us that **we shouldn't be surprised when the world acts like a "Beast"—it's just the latest version of an old story.**

The Illustration: The Masked Villain

Imagine a villain in a long-running movie series. In the first movie, he's a pirate. In the second, he's a corrupt businessman. In the third, he's a space dictator. The "costume" changes every time, but if you look closely at his eyes and his methods, you realize it's the **same guy** in every movie.

The "Seven Kings" are the different costumes. The "Eighth King" is when the villain finally takes off the mask and shows his true face. He looks powerful, but because you've seen the "script" (the Bible), you know that the movie ends with his defeat.

The "Glory" Reflection:

- **The "Wisdom" Check:** Am I asking God for "spiritual wisdom" to see the patterns of history, or am I just reacting to the daily news?
- **The "Perspective" Check:** Does it help me stay calm to know that the "Beast" of today is just a temporary "king" who "must remain for only a little while"?
- **The "Destruction" Check:** Do I live with the confidence that the "Eighth King" is already "going to his destruction"? The end of his story is already written.

The "heads" have been explained; now the angel turns his attention to the "ten horns," which represent a future coalition of leaders who give all their power to the Beast.

Revelation 17:12–14

“(12) The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who will receive authority as kings for one hour, along with the beast. (13) They all have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. (14) They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen, and faithful followers.”

The Context:

The angel now explains the **"ten horns."** In the Bible, horns symbolize power and strength. These represent a future coalition of ten leaders who emerge just before the end.

The most terrifying part of this scene is their **unity**. They don't fight each other for power; they willingly hand their authority over to the Beast. They have a single, dark agenda: **to make war against the Lamb.**

The Meaning of the "One Hour" and the "Lamb's Victory":

In simple American English, we might say, "These ten leaders will emerge on the world stage, but their power will be incredibly short-lived—just 'one hour' of total global influence. They will unite to attack Jesus, but they are going to lose, because Jesus is the ultimate Ruler of the universe, and His followers are the ones who stay true to Him." John highlights these points:

- **"One hour":** This signifies **The Briefness of Evil**. While the Beast's reign feels long to those living through it, in the eyes of eternity, it is nothing more than a brief "hour." Evil is a flash in the pan; the Kingdom of God is forever.
- **"Give their power and authority to the beast":** This signifies **The Final Global Consolidation**. For the first time in history, all human power centers unite under one leader. It is the ultimate merger of the world's governments against God.
- **"Wage war against the Lamb":** This signifies **The Great Irony**. They think they are fighting a human rebellion; they don't realize they are actually trying to fight the Creator of the universe.
- **"The Lamb will triumph":** This signifies **The Certainty of the Outcome**. Notice the contrast: the kings have "power," but the Lamb has "victory." The battle is decided before it even begins.
- **"Called, chosen, and faithful followers":** This signifies **The King's Army**. Jesus doesn't win alone. He is accompanied by His people—those who were "called" by Him, "chosen" by grace, and stayed "faithful" even when the world got dark.

The Core Lesson:

Numbers do not equal truth. Even if every government in the world unites against God, they are still a minority compared to the King of Kings. You don't need to fear "global trends" or "united powers" if you are on the side of the Lamb. This teaches us that **the most important thing in your life is not which "side" you are on in the world, but whether you are one of the "called, chosen, and faithful" followers of the Lamb.**

The Illustration: The Child and the Storm

Imagine a toddler trying to fight against a massive tidal wave. The toddler has his fists up, yelling and making faces. He feels strong because he's standing his ground. But the ocean doesn't even notice him.

The Ten Kings are that toddler. They are gathering their armies, sharpening their swords, and shouting at the heavens. They feel so powerful. But they are fighting a "Lamb" who is actually the Ocean of Eternity. They think they are the aggressors, but they are already defeated by the very nature of who they are fighting.

The "Glory" Reflection:

- **The "Faithful" Check:** Do I view myself as a "faithful follower" of Jesus, or am I just a "casual observer"? What does it look like for me to be faithful in my daily life?
- **The "Fear" Check:** Do the events of the world make me fearful of what "leaders" might do, or do I rest in the fact that the Lamb "will triumph"?
- **The "One Hour" Check:** When I feel overwhelmed by the pressure of this world, do I remember that it is only for a "short hour" compared to the eternity I will spend with the King?

The kings have been explained. Now, the angel shows John how the system will eventually turn on itself.

Revelation 17:15–18

“(15) Then the angel said to me, ‘The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages. (16) The beast and the ten horns you will hate the prostitute. They will leave her ruined and naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. (17) For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to hand over to the beast their royal authority, until God’s words are fulfilled. (18) The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.’”

The Context:

This is the ultimate "plot twist" of human history. The "Great Prostitute" (the world's system of greed, luxury, and false religion) and the "Beast" (the world's political/military power) were partners for a long time. But in the end, **they turn on each other.** The political power (the Beast) realizes it no longer

needs the cultural/religious system (the Woman). The system that seduced the world is suddenly ripped apart by the very force that was supposed to protect her.

The Meaning of the "Turn" and the "Great City":

In simple American English, we might say, "The angel explained that this system wasn't just in one place—it ruled over everyone, everywhere. But it was doomed to be destroyed by its own allies. The Beast and his ten kings would eventually get sick of her, strip her of everything, and burn her to the ground. Why? Because God arranged it that way to bring about his final justice."

- **"Waters... are peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages":** This signifies **Global Reach**. The system isn't limited to one country; it is a global culture of materialism and rebellion.
- **"They will leave her ruined and naked":** This signifies **The Self-Destruction of Evil**. Evil has no real loyalty. When the political system finds it more useful to destroy the cultural system than to use it, it will do so without a second thought.
- **"God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose":** This signifies **Divine Control**. This is the most stunning part: even when the Beast is being evil and destroying the Woman, he is *still* unwittingly fulfilling God's plan. God is the one holding the leash.
- **"The woman is the great city":** This signifies **The Power Center**. In John's day, this was Rome. In our day, it represents the heart of the "system" that opposes God—the place where the world's wealth, pride, and defiance of God are concentrated.

The Core Lesson:

God is in control, even when the world seems to be falling apart. We often look at global chaos—wars, political infighting, the collapse of institutions—and think, "God has lost control." This passage tells us the exact opposite: **Even the evil actions of the Beast are being used by God to set the stage for the final judgment.** Nothing is happening outside of His ultimate plan.

The Illustration: The Cannibalistic Fire

Imagine a campfire. The wood is the "Woman" (the world's system). The flames are the "Beast" (the political power). For a while, the fire (the Beast) needs the wood (the Woman) to exist. But eventually, the fire consumes the wood until there is nothing left. The fire didn't "love" the wood; it just used it until it was gone. That is how the Beast eventually destroys the world's system. He uses it to build his power, and then he discards it.

The "Glory" Reflection:

- **The "Alliance" Check:** Do I realize that the world's "alliances" are fragile? People or systems that seem powerful today can turn on each other tomorrow. My only "sure" ally is God.

- **The "Sovereignty" Check:** Does it comfort me to know that even the "Beast" is fulfilling God's purposes? Nothing surprises Him.
- **The "Investment" Check:** If the "Great City" (the world system) is destined to be "ruined and naked," why would I want to invest my life in it? Am I building my life on something that lasts?

The End of the System

The Woman is destroyed, and the system is stripped bare. The path is clear for the final climax.

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the truth revealed in Revelation chapter 17. Through this passage we see the danger of spiritual deception and the temporary power of systems that oppose You. Yet we are also reminded that Your justice will prevail and that every power built on rebellion against You will ultimately fall.

Lord, help us to keep our hearts pure and our faith firmly rooted in Jesus Christ. Guard us from being influenced by the false values and temptations of this world. Give us wisdom to recognize truth, courage to stand for righteousness, and perseverance to remain faithful to You.

As we leave this time in Your Word, let its message stay in our hearts. Help us to live with discernment, humility, and devotion to You each day.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.