

# Chapter 17 - Part I

## The Religion of the Tribulation & The Worship of the AntiChrist

### I. Understanding the Scope of Sin!

Creation Changed - Sin and evil affected all aspects of life.

Every social system was marred - political, economic, military, and religious

\* If the devil and demons took a vacation and stopped influencing the world, there would still be a struggle with sin because it is a fallen creation.

\* God's plan of redemption must include the cleansing and freeing of all system of life -

Revealed - Judged - Destroyed - Remade

Evidences:

Plant Life, Animal Life, Climate, Microorganisms - Redemption of all!

Chapters 17 - 19 - A detailed account of how these systems on earth got more corrupt during the tribulation period and how God judges and destroys them.

### II. The First of These Is Religion!

We must go back to earliest events in human history. Places, people, and things you know but what about the significance of them?

Before looking at the history, identify key characters in this passage.

### III. Great Harlot - The religious system of Babylon expands during first half of the tribulation.

(v.15) Many Waters - People, Multitudes, Nations, and Tongues

(v.12) Ten Horns - Rulers of the Earth

Scarlet Beast - System of Government, Politics, Under the leaders of the Antichrist

Seven Heads - Seven Mountains - Rome, the religious center of the world!

Seven Rulers - Julius Caesar, Tiberias, Caligula, Claudius, Nero, Domitian, 7th is the Antichrist

### IV. History - Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and abomination of the earth!

Genesis 10: After the flood - Genealogy of Noah

Nimrod - More Details - World Ruler

Built the city of Babel "Gateway to God"

Chapter 11: Speak the same language! Built a city and tower to reach into heaven!

Built to study the stars - to get a word from the stars - astrology

Why do this?

Nimrod, the first emperor, had a wife name Semiramis, who was goddess of or mother of idolatry.

Her evil, ungodly influence upon a people of one language → Influence on many nations (languages)

Principle of all idolatry , astrology, sorcery, the occult, atheism, new age, secular humanism and false religions.

She (Semiramis) controlled Nimrod - most influential person over the kingdom. Kills Nimrod; Rules with Son

“Semiramis (harlot) - “a virgin sprang from the sea”  
Had illegitimate son, Tammuz (from sunbeam)

Tammuz killed by a wild board. For 40 days Semiramis wept.  
After 40 days, gods gave Tammuz life!  
Feast of Ishtar - Easter  
Ishtar eggs - “new life”

Mother/child worship - many false religions:

Phoenicia	Ashtaroth and Baal
Egypt	Isis and Horus
Greek	Aphrodite and Eros
Rome	Venus and Cupid

Constantly confronted the nation of Israel.

Scripture condemned practices.

Jeremiah 7:18 44:17-19, 25

Ezekiel 8:14 I Kings 18 and Jezebel

The purpose of idolatry and false religions is to disturb and distract from the truth of God’s salvation.

Satan offers multitudes of options for the religious to seek to keep them from the truth!

When Babylon was defeated and their temples destroyed, the high priest fled with a group of followers and “sacred” vessels to Pergamos, and then to Italy, ????? Mysteries, and eventually Rome became the headquarters of Babylonism.

Look at this Babylonian influence on the church in the past and today.

The Roman church sought to be accepted by false religious practices so things were adopted into practices.

→ One of the major issues of the Reformation!  
The Purifying of the Church back to Scripture!