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They Will Make War Against the Lamb, But the Lamb Will Overcome Them

17: 6b-14

They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them **DIG: What do the seven heads and ten horns represent? Why does the beast kill three kings? Why do the remainder of the kings and the beast join forces? What will be the result? What is the mind of wisdom and how can it be obtained?**

REFLECT: There are many problems with man made false religion in this life that we need a mind with wisdom. Religious busy work that feels full and alive but is, in truth, empty and dead? Satanic strategy appears impressive and effective but is, in reality, impotent and deceptive? What wisdom do you need to ask God for right now?

Satan chose Babylon, the second most mentioned city in the Bible, to control the world. It will be the center of worldwide religion, worldwide government and worldwide commerce during the last days. **When John saw the woman, he was greatly astonished** by the horrifying vision (17:6b). **The woman** looked so magnificent **dressed in purple**, but her intent was so evil as **she was filled with abominable things (17:4)**. **Then the angel** said to me: **Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman** (one world religion) **and of the beast she rides** (one world government), **which has the seven heads** (see below) **and ten horns (17:7)**. **The angel** revealed that the **ten horns** was a part of the Fourth Beast (**to see link click [Av](#) - The Ten Division Stage: The Ten Kingdoms Stage**).

Then **the angel** gives a lengthy description of **the beast** that **John saw**. **He** will be the **antichrist**, who **once was** alive, then seemed to die. Up until that point, **the beast's** political and economic empire will coexist with the false religious system headed by the false prophet. After **his** counterfeit resurrection, however, **and** being indwelt by a powerful demon **out of the Abyss (9:1-2, 9:11, 11:7-8, 20:1-3)**, **the beast** will turn on the false religious system and destroy it. **He** will allow only one religion - the worship of **himself (Dani'el 9:27b)**.

At that point **the antichrist** will be the acknowledged ruler of the world. **He** will appear to have reached the climax of **his** power and ready to prevent the coming of **the Messiah** and **His Kingdom**. Yet, in reality **he** will be one of the first to die (**Habakkuk 3:13-14a; Second Thessalonians 2:8**), in the seventh stage of the Campaign of Armageddon. Instead of ruling the earth, **he** will be the main prisoner in hell, going **to his** eternal **destruction (19:20) in the lake of burning sulfur (20:10)**.

The beast's counterfeit resurrection and swift **destruction** of the false religious system **will** shock unbelievers, those **inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world (17:8)**. Only believers in **Jesus Christ** will not fall for the antichrist's deception (**Matthew 24:24**).

When the **angel** says: **This calls for a mind with wisdom**, **he** invites **John** and **his** readers to pay close attention to what comes next. **The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits (17:9 NKJ)**. Unfortunately, too many people stop here and ignore the following verse, and consequently conclude that the **seven mountains** represent Rome, for Rome is a city sitting on **seven mountains**. However, a number of cities in the Near East also claim to sit upon **seven mountains**. So this is not enough to identify Rome as the place to which this passage refers. But the identification of Rome becomes totally unwarranted if the verse is seen in its complete context. The fact that **the seven heads** are said to be **seven mountains** shows that these **mountains** are to be taken symbolically. As mentioned before, whenever the word **mountain** is used symbolically, it is always a symbol of a king, kingdom, or throne. This is the case here. In fact, the very next verse interprets the meaning of the **seven mountains**. The train of thought continues on.

The seven mountains represent something other than real **mountains**, they are also **seven kings**. The city of Rome is not in view here, the **seven kings** are. **Five** of the **kings** had already **fallen** by **John's** day, **one** was still present at that time, and **one** more was **yet to come (17:10a)**. If this refers to the city of Rome, then five of **the mountains** should no longer be in existence, one should be there now, with another to rise in the future! The context makes this an impossible interpretation to be **mountains**.

While both the **ten horns** and the **seven mountains** are representative of **kings**, there is a difference between **them**. The **ten horns** are **kings** that are **contemporary** with each other. They all rise and reign at the same time. But **the seven heads** are different, they follow one another in a **chronological** sequence. With this information, we can figure out what **the seven heads** represent.

Scripture's explanation of scripture is always the best way to understand any passage.

Dani’el 7 gives understanding of who four of these **kingdoms** were. **Dani’el** sees each **kingdom** in a vision, represented by an animal. **Dani’el** gives a short explanation about what **he** sees which can be matched with facts for previous world **kingdoms**. **The first kingdom** is Egypt; **the second kingdom** is Assyria; **the third kingdom** is Babylon pictured as a **lion** in **Dani’el 7:4**; **the fourth kingdom** is Persia pictured as a **bear** in **Dani’el 7:5**; and **the fifth kingdom** is Greece pictured as a **leopard** in **Dani’el 7:6**.

When **John** received **his** vision **five had fallen** - that is the **five kingdoms** had already come and gone. “**One is**” meaning that **the sixth kingdom** was actively in power in power at the time **John** received his vision. From this, we know that **the sixth kingdom** is the Roman Empire, which ruled over Judea for **John’s** entire life. On **the seventh kingdom**, scripture says: **the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while.**” **The seventh kingdom** must come some time after the Roman Empire falls. Also, it is emphasized that the king of this kingdom must remain **a little while**, a relatively short time. While we cannot be definite, the Nazi regime does fit the qualifications for **the seventh kingdom**. Though the Nazis held power for only about twelve years, it only took them about seven years (the 1939-1945 Holocaust) to murder the six million Jews! The Nazis *outdid the six earlier kingdoms* in killings of the Jewish people, but **God** who is **Almighty** turned the tables on Hitler and used the death of so many Jews to create a deep sympathy toward the surviving Jewish population. This opened the door for the nation **Isra’el** to regain a state of *self-rule in their biblical homeland*, which began on May 14, 1948. This re-gathering of **Isra’el** to **their** biblical **Land** is a fulfillment of prophecy (**Isaiah 66:8**; **Ezeki’el 37:21-22**; **Jeremiah 16:14-15**, and **Amos 9:14-15**). **God** is Sovereign - even when evil appears to be in control.

After describing the **beast’s** apparent death and resurrection (**17:8**), **John** tells us that **the beast** is also an **eighth king**. **The beast that was and is not - he himself is the eighth, and is one of the seven, and is heading for destruction (14:11)**. Yet **he belongs to the seven** because **chronologically he** is the last of **the seven heads** to appear in history and is going to his destruction (**17:11**). However, **he** is also an **eighth king** in his relationship to **the ten horns**. The **ten horns** represent **ten** kingdoms that come out of the One World Government Stage. These **ten** are **contemporary** and rule together. But as **the antichrist** consolidates **his** power **he** kills three of the **ten kings**, with the other **seven** submitting to **his** authority. **The beast** is **contemporary** with those **seven**, making him an **eighth**.³⁷⁹

Then ten horns you saw will be ten kings. We cannot know them because they **have not yet received a kingdom**, since they are a part of **the beast’s** future world empire. During

the Great Tribulation **will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They will have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast (17:12-13). But Christ**, with the aide of the **sheep** Gentiles (see [Fc - The Sheep and the Goats](#)) will destroy Babylon, the capital city of **the antichrist**, during the Great Tribulation (see my commentary on [Isaiah Di - I Have Commanded My Holy Ones](#)).



The Bible refers to **Yeshua Messiah** as the eternal **King**. This section speaks of the end times when earthly **kings** will fight to establish **their** own authority during the Great Tribulation. We don't know who **they** are, but we do know **the One** they cannot overcome: **They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because He is Lord of lords and King of kings - and with Him will be His called, chosen and faithful followers (17:14). The Lord Jesus Christ is Adonai Ha'Adomim, KING of kings and LORD of lords**, and **He** will reign forever and ever. Our **God** is **LORD of lords**; there is no other master. **His** grace continues forever. **He** has come and **He** will come again.

Nothing that happens on earth is outside **God's** control. This message must have been a great comfort to believers who were being forced to witness the martyrdom of their fellow believers. Through the different circumstances of successive emperors and military commanders, they might have to lay their lives on the line, but they could be confident that **ADONAI** was in charge.

From the fact that **Messiah** is **King of kings and Lord of lords**, His followers also receive their unchanging identity: **Those with Him will be His called, chosen and faithful followers. As the sheep of His pasture (Psalm 100:3)**, we are **called** to follow **Him** wherever **He** goes (**Mark 8:34**), united with **Him** in love, beloved sons and daughters who are filled with **the Holy Spirit**.



We are **chosen** just as **He** chose the Jewish nation long ago to receive the revelation of who **God** is and how **He** made us to live in a community of believers with **Him** and each other. We have been set apart for **His** loving purpose, hand-selected and formed through the experiences and relationships of our lives to worship **Him**.

We are **faithful** in response to the trustworthiness of the One who is incapable of being **faithless**. **If we are faithless, He will remain faithful, for He cannot disown Himself (Second Timothy 2:13).**

More important, however, than being **called, chosen and faithful** is what comes first: **Those with Him**. We are united with the **King of kings and Lord of lords (John 6:56, 17:21-23; Romans 7:4, 12:5; Ephesians 4:25, 5:30; First John 4:15, 5:20; Jude 1)**! What more could we ask, imagine or hope for?

King of kings and Lord of lords, at all times and events are in Your hands. Thank You for uniting Yourself to me through faith. Let Your courage and Your love, live in me.³⁸⁰