

**Mount Up Wednesday**  
**The Wednesday Night Bible Study Ministry of**  
**East Mount Zion Baptist Church**  
**Dr. Brian A. Cash, Lead Pastor**  
**Kathy Booker, Exec. Pastor and Facilitator**

**It is Done**

**Introduction of the Last Plagues** (Rev. 15:1-8 )

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**The bowls of Wrath**

The seven bowls of wrath are divine, apocalyptic judgments described in [Revelation 16](#) that are poured out by angels upon the earth during the final, rapid stage of the tribulation. These judgments target followers of the Antichrist, including festering sores, turning seas and rivers into blood, intense sun heat, darkness, and a massive earthquake.

**The Seven Bowls (Revelation 16):**

- **1st Bowl:** Festering, ugly sores afflict those with the mark of the beast.
- **2nd Bowl:** The sea turns to blood, destroying all marine life.
- **3rd Bowl:** Rivers and freshwater springs turn to blood.
- **4th Bowl:**  
The sun scorches humanity with intense, fire-like heat.
- **5th Bowl:** Total darkness covers the kingdom of the beast.
- **6th Bowl:** The Euphrates River dries up, preparing the way for the Battle of Armageddon.
- **7th Bowl:** A massive earthquake and hailstones destroy the "great city," marking the end of the judgments.

### **Key Aspects:**

- **Purpose:** These bowls represent the culmination of God’s wrath against sin and the persecution of his people, often following the seven seals and seven trumpets.
- **Context:** These events occur just before the second coming of Christ.
- **Symbolism:** Similar to the plagues in Egypt, these judgments are righteous retribution, with the bowls—likely [phiale/patera type bowls](#)—representing a rapid, pouring out of judgment.
- **Response:** Despite the plagues, many individuals refuse to repent, cursing God instead. (AI Summary)

### **The Harvest (Rev. 14:14-20)**

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### **The Doom and Fall of Babylon (Rev chap 17 and 18)**

As a religious system, Babylon came into being long before Christianity, but in Satanic imitation it anticipated the coming true Messiah. According to religious history and legend, the Babylonian religion was founded by the wife of Nimrod (a great-grandson of Noah), named Semiramis. She was a high priestess of idol worship, and she gave birth to a son who she claimed was conceived miraculously. The son, named Tammuz, was considered a savior. Many ancient artifacts remain with the familiar motif of the mother Semiramis holding the savior-infant Tammuz, which predate Christianity. It was also said that Tammuz was killed by a wild beast and then miraculously brought back to life. Baal was the local, Canaanite name for the Babylonian Tammuz.

ii. The Bible makes specific mention of some of the features of the classic religion of Babylon:

- Ezekiel protests against the ceremony of weeping for Tammuz ([Ezekiel 8:14](#))
- Jeremiah mentions the heathen practice of making cakes for the queen of heaven ([Jeremiah 7:18](#)) and offering incense to the queen of heaven ([Jeremiah 44:17-19](#), [44:25](#))

**Who sits on many waters:** Here, Babylon **sits on many waters**; that is, she presides over many nations (compare with [Revelation 17:15](#)). She has a universal, international character.

i. This is unification of all false, idolatrous religion, with representatives from apostate Catholicism, Protestantism, as well as a smorgasbord of other religions of the world.

ii. "The woman pictures false religion that will dominate the world in the tribulation period." (Hocking) Many people like to identify this **great harlot** with the Roman Catholic Church, but false religion is not limited to any one church.

iii. "That Rome and the Romish system are involved, may readily be admitted; but that this is all, and that the sudden fall of Great Babylon is simply the fall of Romanism, or the utter destruction of the city of Rome, must be emphatically denied." (Seiss)

**The inhabitants of the earth were made drunk:** Religious Babylon intoxicates kings and peoples.

**Made drunk with the wine of her fornication:** The idea of **fornication** often has strong associations throughout the Bible with idolatry. Since this is a well-accepted religious system, it is likely to appear as attractive and spiritual, though not necessarily moral.

"Her position, that of riding the beast, indicates on the one hand that she is supported by the political power of the beast, and on the other that she is in a dominant role and at least outwardly controls and directs the beast." (Walvoord)

ii. Her association with blasphemy and the dragon's beast are clearly seen from God's perspective. But to the people of the earth she will look quite religious, and have the "faith" everybody wants.

c. **The woman was arrayed:** The woman is clothed with emblems of luxury (**purple... gold and precious stones**) and government (**scarlet**). Yet she offers idolatry (**abominations**) and impurity (**filthiness of her fornication**) in this sumptuous setting.

i. **Purple** and **scarlet** were colors of splendor and magnificence; the dyes to make fabric these colors were rare and costly.

ii. "We find in the course of church history that one of the deadliest marks of ecclesiastical corruption is the lust for temporal power." (Barnhouse) Purple and scarlet were the colors of *rulers*, whether economic or political.

d. **On her forehead a name was written:** The name on her forehead identifies her in more ways than one. Roman prostitutes frequently wore a headband with their name engraved upon it.

i. "In spite of all her glamour she is nothing but a prostitute." (Johnson)

ii. There is a stark contrast between the woman of [Revelation 12](#) (representing Israel, God's people), and this woman (representing idolatrous, false religion).

iii. "These two Women, thus related, and set over one against the other as opposites and rivals, must necessarily be interpreted in the same way. As Antichrist corresponds to Christ as a rival and antagonist of Christ, so Great Babylon corresponds to the Woman that bears the Man-child, as *her* rival and antagonist." (Seiss)



The "seven heads and ten horns" are symbolic figures from the Book of Revelation in the Bible, representing powerful, anti-God political systems and rulers, with the heads often signifying successive empires (like Egypt, Rome) or rulers, and the horns representing kings or kingdoms that wield authority. They appear on beasts described in Revelation, which draw power from the dragon (Satan) and oppose God's people, symbolizing worldly power structures that challenge divine rule.

## Biblical Context

- [Revelation 12:3:](#)

A great red dragon (Satan) has seven heads and ten horns with seven crowns.

- [Revelation 13:1:](#)

A beast rises from the sea with seven heads, ten horns, ten crowns on its horns, and blasphemous names on its heads, combining features of previous beasts in Daniel.

- [Revelation 17:9-10:](#)

An angel explains the symbolism: the seven heads are seven mountains (Rome) and also seven kings (past, present, and future rulers).

- [Revelation 17:12:](#)

The ten horns are ten kings who receive authority for a short time with the beast.

## Symbolic Meanings

- **Seven Heads:**

- Often interpreted as powerful historical empires or governments that have opposed God.
- Can also symbolize the city of Rome, known as the "city on seven hills".

- **Ten Horns:**

- Symbolize kings or kingdoms that receive power and authority, often a final confederation of rulers.
- Represent a unified political power that aligns with the beast against God.

## Overall Meaning

Together, the seven heads and ten horns symbolize the comprehensive, dominant, and rebellious earthly powers and rulers that, throughout history and into the end times, oppose God and persecute His people, drawing their power from Satan. (AI Summary)