

THE BEAST & THE GREAT HARLOT
Revelation Chapter 17
Verse by Verse Commentary

By Joseph Edwards II

Updated 08/11/26

INTRODUCTION TO SYMBOLS

The Book of Revelation was written in spiritual symbols (Christ's "spirit" words, **John 6:63**) which have meanings which are different from what man's wisdom teaches (**1Cor 2:13**). The symbols are not to be understood literally. Also, the spiritual events that John relayed to us through these spiritual symbols do not happen out in the physical world - they happen within a person.

Because the Book of Revelation uses only spiritual symbols to teach its truths, it can be very difficult to understand. The reader must have a correct understanding of the truth of Christ along with an understanding of the meanings of the symbols in order to unlock the book's messages.

To begin, it is important to understand mankind's spiritual makeup. From the beginning, Christ created Adam and Eve with a marred spirit. It's flaw is the spirit's weakness. Because the spirit was weak, it quickly developed a carnal & religious spiritual nature. As a result, the mind also became carnal and religious as well.

Here is mankind's spiritual makeup:

MANKIND'S SPIRITUAL MAKEUP (PRE-SIN)

CARNAL MIND + CARNAL SPIRIT = ONE FLESH/CHILD OF GOD

MANKIND'S SPIRITUAL MAKEUP (POST-SIN)

CARNAL MIND + CARNAL SPIRIT = ONE FLESH/CHILD OF THE DEVIL

Below is a LIST of symbols which are related to mankind's spiritual makeup:

CARNAL MIND

OLD MAN

NUMBER "6"

CHILD OF THE DEVIL

SEVEN HEADED BEAST WITH 10 HORNS BUT NO CROWNS (Rev 17:3)

DANIEL'S FOURTH BEAST WITH 10 HORNS (Dan 7:7)

SEVEN

CARNAL MIND W/ SPIRIT OF ANTI-CHRIST

MAN OF SIN

NUMBER “666”

WORSENERD CHILD OF THE DEVIL

THE SEVEN HEADED BEAST WITH TEN HORNS & TEN CROWNS (Rev 13:1)

DANIEL’S FOURTH BEAST WITH 8 HORNS, 7 + 1 LITTLE HORN (Dan 7:8)

EIGHT

CARNAL SPIRIT

HARLOT

CARNAL SPIRIT W/ SPIRIT OF ANTI-CHRIST

HARLOT WITH A WORSENERD CARNAL & RELIGIOUS SPIRITUAL NATURE

GREAT HARLOT

THE NAME GIVEN TO THE CARNAL & RELIGIOUS SPIRITUAL NATURE OF THE CARNAL SPIRIT

GREAT HARLOT W/DEVILS (SPIRIT OF ANTI-CHRIST)

THE WORSENERD CARNAL & RELIGIOUS SPIRITUAL NATURE OF THE MARRED SPIRIT

SYNONYMOUS WITH MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT CITY

RED DRAGON WITH SEVEN HEADS AND TEN HORNS & SEVEN CROWNS

SATAN

SEVEN HEADED BEAST WITH TEN HORNS AND NO CROWNS

CHILD OF THE DEVIL

SEVEN HEADED BEAST WITH TEN HORNS AND TEN CROWNS

MAN OF SIN

APOSTATE BABE

KINGS OF THE EARTH

RULING BELIEFS & CHARACTER TRAITS OF THE HEART AND MIND

SEVEN HEADS/SEVEN MOUNTAINS

THE SEVEN HEADED BEAST’S PERFECTED CARNAL MIND

TEN HORNS

THE COMPLETE RULING BELIEFS AND CHARACTER TRAITS OF THE MIND

TEN HORNS WITH TEN CROWNS WHO ACT AS KINGS

THE ADDITION OF THE CROWNS ON THE HORNS REPRESENT THE BEAST’S RULING BELIEFS & CHARACTER TRAITS HAVE A NEW KING (SATAN) WHICH RISES TO POWER VIA THE SPIRIT OF ANTI-CHRIST WITHIN THE BELIEVER

THE SEVEN KINGS

PERFECTION OF THE RULING BELIEFS & CHARACTER TRAITS OF THE BEAST'S CARNAL MIND.

- **FIVE ARE FALLEN** – ADAM'S FALLEN BELIEF OF APPROACHING CHRIST BY FAITH ALONE – THE TRUE PATHWAY TO SALVATION.
- **ONE IS** – MANKIND'S BELIEF OF APPROACHING CHRIST BY OUR OWN "WORKS" (RELIGION)
- **ONE IS YET TO COME** – THE WORSENER BELIEF OF "WORKS" (RELIGION) WHICH OCCURS WITHIN A BELIEVER AFTER THE SPIRIT OF ANTI-CHRIST IS INTRODUCED INTO THE MARRED SPIRIT (GREAT HARLOT). THROUGH THIS WORSENER GREAT HARLOT, SATAN RULES THE BELIEVER FROM WITHIN, MAKING THEM "WORSE THAN THE FIRST" AND A MAN OF SIN, THE SON OF PERDITION

BEAST THAT IS THE EIGHTH WHO IS OF THE SEVEN

MAN OF SIN

APOSTATE BABE

- **SEVEN** - REPRESENTS THE BEAST IN ITS FALLEN SPIRITUAL CONDITION. IT IS CALLED THE OLD MAN/BEAST WITH TEN HORNS BUT NO CROWNS
- **EIGHT** - REPRESENTS THE BEAST AFTER IT HAS BEEN MADE WORSE THAN THE FIRST BY THE SPIRIT OF ANTI-CHRIST. IT IS CALLED THE MAN OF SIN/ BEAST WITH TEN HORNS AND TEN CROWNS

FALSE PROPHET

SPIRIT OF ANTI-CHRIST

SPIRITUAL MAKEUP OF THE MAN OF SIN

BEAST + FALSE PROPHET = MAN OF SIN

FATE OF THE MAN OF SIN

Rev 19:20 And the **BEAST** was **taken**, and with him the **FALSE PROPHET** that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a Lake of Fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the **remnant** were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

The Beast and the False Prophet (one flesh/Man of Sin) will be **TAKEN** and cast into the Lake of Fire when the Day of the Lord arrives to complete an elect person's conversion.

This is the same event described by Christ in the book of Luke:

Luke 17:34 I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed (one individual); the one shall be taken (Man of Sin), and the other shall be left (Child of God). 35 Two women shall be grinding together (one individual); the one shall be taken (Great Harlot), and the other left (divine spiritual nature). 36 Two men shall be in the field (one individual); the one shall be taken (False Prophet), and the other left (Holy Spirit).

The person who is “taken” is the Man of Sin.

The Man of Sin spiritually consists of:

- 1). a “head” which is Satan/the worsened carnal mind.
- 2). a “spirit” with a worsened carnal and religious spiritual nature (Great Harlot).
- 3). a governing spirit which is the spirit of anti-Christ/False Prophet.

The person who is “left” is the new child of God.

The child of God spiritually consists of:

- 1). a “head” which is Christ/the mind of Christ.
- 2). a “spirit” with a divine spiritual nature.
- 3). a governing spirit which is the Holy Spirit.

Since the elect person is born as a child of God PRIOR to judgment falling them, they will not be cast into the Lake of Fire. The man of sin (who they used to be) is the only one who is judged and cast into the Lake of Fire. As a result, the elect person will not experience wrath during their time of judgment. This concept is symbolized by the removal of the Man of Sin (and his spiritual components) from within the person and his subsequent casting into the Lake of Fire (symbolizes judgment).

Special Note: Since the mind is the “head” of the body, the terms used to symbolized the mind/head of a person (Christ, Adam, Man, Old Man, Man of Sin & New Man) are also frequently used to refer to the individual and not just to the mind.

For example:

When a person is converted, they will become a new creation. Christ will then become the new person’s head and they will function as the body.

Col 1:18 And he (Christ) is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

This new creation is called a child of God - but it is also called “Christ” since Christ is the head of the child of God.

CHRIST (Head) + CHURCH (body/church) = ONE FLESH/CHILD OF GOD/CHRIST

These verses apply:

Acts 4:26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for the ages of the ages.

Rev 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

This concept also applies to Rev 19:20 as it relates to the Beast and False Prophet being cast into the Lake of Fire. The Beast (Man of Sin) spiritually consists of a worsened carnal mind and a worsened marred spirit. The False Prophet represents the spirit of anti-Christ that is contained in the Man of Sin. In other words, the Beast and False Prophet spiritually makeup just one individual who is called a Beast/Man of Sin.

In contrast to the Elect not receiving wrath in the Lake of Fire, the condemned people of the final age will themselves be cast into the Lake of Fire where they will experience wrath. They have not been “born again” prior to their time of judgment commencing as the Elect were. For this reason, the condemned people of the final age will experience wrath during their time of judgment.

These verses apply:

Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Rev 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the SECOND DEATH.

Rev 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the SECOND DEATH.

Note: The Second Death is the spiritual death that all mankind pays to satisfy their sin debt.

Eze 18:4 Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

Christ, as mankind’s near-kinsman redeemer, purchased mankind’s sin debt at the cross. Mankind now owes our debt of death to Christ. Without mankind paying this debt of death to Christ, mankind cannot be converted. Collecting this payment of death is the primary purpose for Christ’s judgment upon mankind. For this reason, judgment is a necessary step in the

spiritual process which results in mankind's salvation. Without judgment, no one would be saved.

In the verses below, scripture gives further details about the judgment of the Elect.

Rev 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the FIRST RESURRECTION.

During the Elect's time of judgment, Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit and will not be allowed to tempt the new child of God. In the verses above, this judgment is given a new name called the Thousand Years Reign.

For more information on the Thousand Years Reign, please see my papers entitled "The Thousand Years Reign" and "The Day of the Lord".

Once the process of judgment is complete, the elect person will be fully converted. This entire process of conversion is called the First Resurrection. The First Resurrection is not the bodily resurrection - that resurrection will occur later at the end of this present age after all the Elect have been saved. The First Resurrection is the spiritual resurrection of each individual elect person. It will occur prior to their physical death in this age.

Earlier in Revelation chapter 19, the elect person's new birth occurred and was presented as taking place at the Marriage of the Lamb (Rev 19:7). Then in **Rev 19:9**, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb arrives.

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb represents when Christ feeds His new Bride the bread and wine of the New Covenant. The person can receive and be nourished by Christ's New Covenant truth now because the Latter Rain of the Spirit healed their spiritual blindness.

After the new Bride has received sufficient nourishment during the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, the truth of God's Word (the Sword) will begin the Thousand Year reign of Christ (it is "like" the Day of the Lord, **2Pet 3:8**) which will remove and slay the person's Great Harlot and False Prophet (**Mat 24:37-41**). This judgment is also called the Supper of the Great God (**Rev 19:17**).

After the First Resurrection is complete, the new child of God will be ready for testing. At this time, Satan will be let loose from the bottomless pit to tempt the child of God (**Rev 20:7-10**). Christ "typed" this time of testing when Satan came to Him in the wilderness after He fasted for

forty days in the wilderness. At that time, Satan tempted Christ three times which indicates that Satan's testing of the new child of God will be a spiritual process.

After the child of God passes Satan's testing, this verse will apply:

Rev 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

VERSE BY VERSE COMMENTARY OF CHAPTER 17

Now, let's get started on Revelation chapter 17:

Rev 17:1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the GREAT HARLOT that sitteth upon many waters:

The Great Harlot represents the carnal and religious spiritual nature of mankind's marred spirit. Adam & Eve were the first people to practice religion when they made aprons of fig leaves to hide their nakedness (**Gen 3:7**). It was for this reason (their spiritual adultery with Satan) that Christ cast them out of the Garden of Eden and ended their marriage relationship with Him.

Note: A person practices religion when they try to make themselves acceptable to God by adding their own "works" to faith (mixed wine/the crooked way/trying to serve two masters). When a babe follows the crooked way of Satan, they will fall from grace. Under the New Covenant, Jesus Christ is the one who does all the "works" of making a person acceptable to God. This is called the straight way.

The Great Harlot is also symbolized by the term "Mystery Babylon the Great City" and is "typed" by the city of Gomorrah.

The Great Harlot sits upon many waters to symbolize that her control and authority over all mankind.

The judgment of the Great Harlot is presented in detail in chapter 18.

Rev 17:2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

The kings of the earth are the ruling beliefs & character traits of the heart and mind of an individual.

The symbol "kings of the earth" is an equivalent symbol to the Ten Horns (no crowns) which is presented to us in the next verse (**Rev 17:3**).

The kings of the earth have committed spiritual fornication with the Great Harlot because they follow her ways.

Rev 17:3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

John, having already been converted, no longer dwells in the wilderness (the place where Satan dwells) so he has to be taken there. Once there, John sees a woman (the Great Harlot) who sits on a beast. The beast is scarlet in color which symbolizes its sinfulness. The beast also has seven heads and ten horns. They represent the following:

Seven Heads: The number “seven” represents perfection and the “heads” represent the beast’s mind. Combined, the seven heads represent the perfection of the carnality of the beast.

Ten Horns: The number “ten” represents completeness and the “horns” represent the beast’s ruling beliefs & character traits – similar to the kings of the earth. Combined, the ten horns represent the complete ruling beliefs and character traits of the beast.

With these symbols in mind, the beast presented in verse 3 represents mankind who is controlled by the carnal and religious spiritual nature (Great Harlot) of their marred spirit.

Notice that there is no mention of any crowns on the ten horns of the beast at this time. Since the crowns are not on the beast at this time, the beast is not reigning with Satan via the spirit of anti-Christ.

The beast presented in Rev 17:3 above is the same beast that is presented in Rev 13:1-9 with one exception. The beast in Rev 17:3 has not yet been indwelt with the spirit of anti-Christ.

Here is the beast presented in Rev 13:1-9:

Rev 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a Beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. 2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. 3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. 4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? 5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. 7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. 8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. 9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

The seven headed beast with the ten horns & ten crowns presented above represents an apostate babe who is in a worsened spiritual condition (indwelt with the spirit of anti-Christ). In this condition, the person is called a Man of Sin (a worsened child of the Devil).

Satan has been deceiving mankind ever since the Garden of Eden. However, now, Satan's influence originates from within the person rather than from without as it happened with Adam and Eve. This change makes Satan's deceptions very powerful and no match for mankind to resist him.

Continuing in Revelation chapter 13: The spirit of anti-Christ (False Prophet) is the second beast shown in the chapter.

Here are the verses:

Rev 13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. 12 And he exercises all the power of the first beast before him, and causes the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. 13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, 14 And deceives them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

The second beast exercises control over the first beast through the carnal and religious spiritual nature of the person's spirit.

The verse presented below applies:

Rev 18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils (spirit of anti-Christ), and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

Concerning the deadly head wound that was healed on the first beast; when a person receives the Early Rain of the Spirit and is called to be a saint, they will enter the church. At this time, Christ will strike a blow to the head of the new believer and give them a deadly wound. But since the death of the believer is a slow process, Satan will come and take advantage of the situation. Satan does this by sending the spirit of anti-Christ to the believer. The spirit of anti-Christ will completely deceive the person by masquerading as Christ. This event will lead to the Abomination of Desolation which will cause the babe to fall from grace. The deadly head wound will then be healed and the believer will become worse than the first (Mat 12:43-45).

Paul calls a babe in this worsened state a Man of Sin, the son of Perdition:

2Thes 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.

Because the babe's deadly head wound was healed, the babe does not take on a new head (Christ) but keeps the same head that they had before (Satan).

Rev 17:4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

The clothing of the Great Harlot represents her outward appearance which has the look of righteousness but is in fact a lie. Inwardly, the woman is drunk from her self-righteousness caused by her "works" based belief system. Purple and scarlet represent the royalty of mankind. The gold, precious stones and pearls represent the righteousness and truth of God.

Christ berated the Pharisees for having a similar beautiful outward appearance just as the Great Harlot exhibits. But inwardly, they are both full of "all uncleanness":

Mat 23:25 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. 26 Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. 27 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. 28 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

Rev 17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

The Great Harlot is given another name of MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT (CITY), THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS. What does this name tell us? What happened at the tower of Babel?

The account is given to us in **Genesis 11:1-9:**

Gen 11:1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. 2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. 3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. 4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. 5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men built. 6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. 7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. 8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. 9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel;

because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

The story of the Tower of Babel is a “type” for the Great Harlot’s belief in her own works. In the account presented above, God saw that mankind was of one mind & voice and that they were attempting to build a tower to heaven. The “one mind and voice” represents the power and control that Satan had over the Great Harlot since she was committing spiritual fornication with him. The tower represents mankind’s attempt to be equal with God and to spiritually dwell where God dwells. The Great Harlot teaches mankind that they can accomplish this feat by their own works (represented by the bricks).

Mankind also wanted to “make a name for themselves”. This represents the self-righteousness of mankind. This self-righteousness is also displayed by the Man of Sin who operates under a worsened “works” based belief system. The Old Man becomes the Man of Sin after the Great Harlot comes under the total influence of the spirit of anti-Christ.

2Thes 2:4 Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

The religious belief system that is produced by Mystery Babylon the Great City teaches mankind that salvation by works is not only possible but that it will make us equal with God. The Doctrine of Free Will is the foundational belief of this lie from Satan. Satan used this lie with Eve in the Garden of Eden and he is still using it to this day.

Gen 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

God is the only one who has a Free Will. Mankind does not have this level of power or sovereignty.

To stop this attempt to build a tower up to the heavens, God confused the languages so that mankind would be fractured. This confusion of languages resulted in the many different religions we see in the world today and in the many different church denominations/sects.

Rev 17:6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

The Great Harlot is who gives the kings of the earth (10 Horns) their beliefs and character traits. Those beliefs teach a believer (babe) to approach Christ by their own works rather than by faith alone. When this “crooked way” is coupled with the spirit of anti-Christ, the believer will commit the Abomination of Desolation and will spiritually die. In this way, the Great Harlot is drunken with the blood of the saints since she is the one who caused them to die.

Rev 17:7 And the angel said unto me, wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

The mystery of the woman is to be revealed to John, a called & chosen believer, who has been converted and given ears to hear & eyes to see. To keep the mystery concealed, it is revealed to John in symbols. Christ's spiritual language keeps the mystery of Christ hidden from everyone except those who have been chosen by Christ to receive it.

Rev 17:8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into destruction: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

The "beast that was, and is not; and yet is" represents the three stages of mankind's spiritual progression.

The verse also says the beast will ascend out of the bottomless pit. The bottomless pit represents the apostate believer's lack of a spiritual foundation. The only true foundation is Christ:

1Cor 3:11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

The beast will ascend out of the bottomless pit after it has been made worse than the first and is under the control of the False Prophet (spirit of anti-Christ).

Below are the three stages of mankind's spiritual progression:

1). THE 'WAS' STAGE OF THE BEAST

The "was" stage of the beast represents the FIRST stage of mankind in our fallen spiritual condition we have from birth. The beast presented in this chapter (without the crowns) is the "was" stage of the beast.

2). THE "IS NOT" STAGE OF THE BEAST

The "is not" stage is when Christ comes to an unbeliever and gives them a measured amount of the Holy Spirit (Early Rain, **Hos 6:3 & Job 37:6**). It is at this point that Christ gives the beast a deadly head wound. This is the point when the beast enters the "is not" stage.

Rev 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

3). THE "YET IS" STAGE OF THE BEAST

Since a new believer remains spiritually blind and carnally minded after receiving the Early Rain of the Spirit, they cannot receive the truth of Christ. This opens the door for Satan to easily &

quickly deceive them via the spirit of anti-Christ (**Mat 12:43-45**). Through this spirit, Satan masquerades as Christ and deceives the Great Harlot. From Satan's deceptions, the babe becomes worse than the first. This spiritual event leads to the Abomination of Desolation occurring within the believer. The believer then becomes a Man of Sin (the beast with ten horns & ten crowns). This is the "yet is" stage of the beast.

This verse also applies:

2Thes 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them a strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

The STRONG DELUSION comes via the spirit of anti-Christ and the LIE is the deception that Satan is Christ. Once the Great Harlot of the believer accepts this lie and begins following the ways of Satan instead of the ways of Christ, they commit the Abomination of Desolation. In other words, the deadly head wound to the beast is healed. The believer falls from grace. The beast then enters the "yet is" stage.

Rev 17:9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

As John stated, this section is for the mind that has wisdom. The only mind that has wisdom is the mind of Christ which resides in believers who have been converted and who walk by the Spirit and by Truth.

The seven mountains represent the perfected carnality of the mind of the beast. Since the verse says that the woman sits on these mountains, it teaches the same message as the Woman who sits on the beast. The woman is in full control of the mind of the beast.

Rev 17:10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

The symbol "seven kings" represents the ruling beliefs of the perfected carnal mind.

Verse 10 also breaks down the seven kings into three other symbols which carry their own spiritual message:

1. FIVE are fallen
2. ONE is
3. The OTHER is not yet come

1). FIVE KINGS ARE FALLEN

The first stage of mankind's ruling beliefs is symbolized by "five are fallen".

The number “five” symbolizes man’s relationship with Christ. The one true relationship comes by faith alone. After Adam sinned and tried covering his sin by his own works (apron of fig leaves), his belief in approaching Christ by faith fell.

Look at how the symbol five is used in the following story:

John 4:15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw. 16 Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. 17 The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: 18 For thou hast had FIVE husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.

The Samaritan WOMAN in these verses represents the marred spirit of mankind which we have from birth. She is representative of Eve (Adam’s marred spirit). Together, Adam and Eve are one flesh with Adam being the head/mind.

In the story of the Samaritan Woman, Christ described a certain kind of water (the Holy Spirit) that only He can give her. This water would cause her to never thirst again (verses not shown). In verse 15, she immediately asks Him for some of this life-giving water but Christ responds to her by telling her to “call thy husband”. Christ knows that the man she now has is not her husband and that she has had FIVE husbands in the past.

The symbol “five husbands” represents the past marriage relationship Adam had with Christ (the first husband). The symbol FIVE represents the way we approach Christ in our marriage relationship. Adam’s original relationship with Christ was founded upon faith.

Adam left his “first love” after he sinned and committed adultery with Satan. Instead of going to Christ in faith and asking for forgiveness, Adam tried to restore his marriage relationship by his own works (apron of fig leaves, religion). By turning to the crooked ways of Satan, the marriage ended.

As Adam left his first love, so will the church also leave their “first love”.

Rev 2:4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. 5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of its place, except thou repent.

The first works mentioned above are referring to approaching Christ by faith alone. Unless a believer returns to their first love by repenting of the works of their hands, they will die in their lost spiritual state (come unto thee quickly at the White Throne Judgment). Their candlestick will then be removed out of its place. On that day, Christ will say to the believer, “I never knew you” (Mat 7:23).

Because Adam has put away his first husband (applies to all who are “in Adam”) and is living with another man who is not his husband (Satan), the “five kings” (belief in Grace through Faith) that once ruled within Adam prior to his fall, are now FALLEN.

2): ONE KING IS

By now, you may have figured out what the next king represents. It is the king (ruling beliefs and character traits) that has ruled over our marred spirit since the fall of Adam. This is the same king that is responsible for all the various religions in the world. This king is the belief that tells us that the only way to restore our relationship with God is by our own works (religion). This false pathway to God rules within the carnal mind of mankind. The “one king is” will rule until the next king comes to power.

3): THE OTHER KING IS NOT YET COME

John goes on to say in verse 10: “and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space”.

The king (ruling beliefs & character traits) which has “not yet come” completes the full picture of mankind’s carnal beliefs which emanate from our carnal mind (Heads, Mountains). Our carnal mind is produced by our marred spirit. The marred spirit starts off being represented by the “woman” (Eve) but after Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden and tried to cover her sin by her own works, the woman became a harlot.

For the people who are given the Early Rain of the Spirit and are called to be saints, Satan will come to them with the same deceptions as he did with Adam and Eve. However, this time, Satan will deceive the person through their marred spirit (woman) with the indwelling of the spirit of anti-Christ which will make the babe’s marred spirit “worse than the first” (**Mat 12:43-45**). It is at this time that the marred spirit’s carnal and religious spiritual nature (Great Harlot/Mystery Babylon the Great City) will become the “habitation of devils” (**Rev 18:2**).

The new king who has “not yet come” is the same belief that has been ruling carnal mankind since Adam – salvation by works of the hand. However, this new king is worse (more carnal, more powerful & more deceptive) than the previous king (“One is”). This worsening happens because of the indwelling of the spirit of anti-Christ. This spirit causes a babe to fall away from faith and to spiritually fornicate with Satan. This spiritual event is the Abomination of Desolation which occurs within the believer. After the Abomination of Desolation, the babe falls from grace and becomes a Man of Sin.

The new king that has “not yet come” represents the “Depths of Satan” mentioned in the verses below:

Rev 2:21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. 22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into Great Tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. 23 And I will kill her children with death;

and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. 24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the DEPTHS OF SATAN, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

The above verses teach the same pathway to salvation which is taught throughout scripture. However, in these verses, Christ gives us a new spiritual term for what a babe experiences during their time of great tribulation (time in the wilderness between the Early and Latter Rains, **Mat 24:21**). During this time, Christ says the babe will experience the DEPTHS OF SATAN. Once they experience it, the believer will fall away and become a Man of Sin.

Rev 17:10 ends by saying that the last king will only continue for a “short space”. This matches Daniel 7:8 when Daniel presents the fourth beast who has ten horns. After three (a spiritual process) of the ten horns are removed, a little horn is added (now a total of eight). The “little” portion of the symbol represents that it will likewise continue for only a “short space”.

Rev 17:11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

The symbol “eight” represents the new spiritual condition of the beast. In this case, the spiritual condition is worse than the first.

The first beast which is mentioned in Rev 17:3 (the “was and is not” beast) is represented by the term Seven which is the perfected marred spiritual state of the beast which occurred after Adam’s fall. This is the beast with Ten Horns but NO Crowns.

This Beast with Ten Horns and Ten Crowns is the Eighth Beast and is the Man of Sin, the Son of Perdition.

Below are FOUR examples of the Eighth Beast:

1). JUDAS

Judas was referred to as the “**son of perdition**” by Christ.

John 17:12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

The common thread that links the last state of a babe with Judas’ last state is Satan’s direct involvement and deception from within the believer. Satan does this intervention by sending the spirit of anti-Christ to the believer (a babe).

Luke 22:3 Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.

Judas is a “type” of the Eighth Beast, the Man of Sin.

Satan’s direct rulership/deception over our marred spirit carries the numerical symbol of “eight” because it produces a worsened carnal state within the affected believer. However, Satan did not create anything new. All he did was to further corrupt what already existed within us; our marred spirit. Through Satan’s increased corruption of the marred spirit, the believer commits the Abomination of Desolation and is destroyed. Satan is not a creator; he is a destroyer.

Jer 4:7 The lion (Satan) is come up from his thicket, and the destroyer of the Gentiles is on his way; he is gone forth from his place to make thy land desolate; and thy cities shall be laid waste, without an inhabitant.

2). MATTHEW 12:43-45

Mat 12:43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. 44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. 45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

The spiritual symbol of an “unclean spirit” represents Satan's false truth. Since a new believer remains spiritually blind (**Mark 8:21-25**) after receiving the Early Rain of the Spirit, they cannot replace their worldly false beliefs with the truth of Christ. One unclean spirit leaves but comes back with SEVEN more (spirit of anti-Christ) since their house remains void of Christ’s truth. Now, instead of ONE unclean spirit within them, the new believer (a babe) now has EIGHT. The number “eight” is a spiritual symbol which represents a new spiritual condition. In this case, the new spiritual condition is worse than the first. Because of this worsened spiritual condition, the believer devolves into a Man of Sin/Seven Headed Beast with 10 Horns & 10 Crowns.

3). DANIEL 7:7-8 & 19-21

From what I have previously presented in this paper, we have seen how Satan enters and deceives the marred spirit of mankind, which in turn, deceives the carnal mind. We will now look at a few verses in Daniel which teach this same truth.

Dan 7:7 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 before it; and it had TEN horns. 8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another LITTLE horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

Dan 7:19 Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; 20 And of the TEN horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. 21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

The verses from Daniel chapter 7 speak concerning four separate beasts that have a combined seven heads. These four beasts represent the seven-headed beast from Revelation chapter 17 before it is made spiritually worse. The worsened spiritual state is shown with the change in the number of horns on the fourth beast.

The number “ten” symbolizes completeness.

The ten horns which are upon the fourth beast’s head represent the complete ruling beliefs & character traits of the carnal mind which come from the marred spirit. They include the lusts of the flesh, lusts of the eyes and the pride of life.

1John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

In **Daniel 7:8 & 20**, you will notice a change in the number of horns on the fourth beast. This change is symbolized by the uprooting of THREE of its ten horns to create a new spiritual symbol. With the fourth beast now having seven horns, it matches the same spiritual symbol of the beast in **Rev 17:11** before it was made worse and when it was “of the seven.”

Next, Daniel says that a “little horn” came up among the remaining seven horns. This event reflects the worsening of the marred spirit which controls the horns. The little horn that rises to power (the spirit of anti-Christ) is coupled with the seven remaining horns to make the number EIGHT. This change in leadership coincides with the change reflected by the eight unclean spirits in **Mat 12:45** and the rising to power of the beast that is “**yet to come**” who is the Eighth beast.

The word “little” in the symbol “little horn” describes the duration of Satan’s rulership of the Beast. This short period of time matches with **Rev 17:10** where it says the king “not yet come” will rule for only a “short space”.

Additional comments from Daniel: Daniel wrote concerning the Man of Sin frequently from the visions that the Lord gave him. In the verse below, after Daniel had just received one of those visions, he ended his writing with this prophetic comment:

Dan 8:27 And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it.

Daniel probably didn't even realize that the sickness he had experienced and subsequently recorded as scripture was in fact, prophetic.

This final statement of Daniel chapter 8 is a nice compact summary of the main message of the visions which Daniel received.

Here is the spiritual message of verse 27: **"Fainting"** is a symbol for the Abomination of Desolation. **"Being sick certain days"** is the symbol for the believer's short time in the wilderness as a Man of Sin, a time of great tribulation. **"Afterward I rose up"** is the symbol for the new child of God being born after the spiritually "sick" believer is given the Latter Rain of the Spirit. The new child of God rises up to be gathered to Christ in heaven (**Mat 24:29-31 & Rev 11:11-12**). **"Did the king's business"** is a symbol for reigning with Christ in the final age. Finally, the comment ends by saying **"none understood"** the vision. This is true because Daniel's vision was for the "time of the end"; a symbol which refers to the time when an Elect believer is converted and given "eyes that can see". And since there were no converted believers in Daniel's time, no one could understand the vision.

Dan 12:9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

Even today, very few understand the visions given to Daniel. They certainly are a part of the Great Mystery of Christ and His church (Eph 5:32).

What an amazing verse of scripture Dan 8:27 is!

4). ACTS 9:33-34

Acts 9:33 And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy. 34 And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.

Palsy is a disease which makes a person unable to walk. In the "type" presented above, a man with the palsy had kept to his bed for eight years. The term "bed" represents a believer's inability to walk by the faith and by the Spirit. The number EIGHT represents the new spiritual condition (worse than the first) that was keeping the believer lame.

In verse 34, the man with palsy is healed and is told to "arise, and make thy bed" – in other words, he was told to arise as a child of God and to walk by the faith and by the Spirit.

Symbolically speaking, all mankind will have to experience the sickness of palsy for eight years. Only when Christ appears to us with the Latter Rain of the Spirit will we be healed. This is the same portion of the pathway to salvation which is presented in scripture over and over again.

We will now continue with the next verse in chapter 17:

Rev 17:12 And the TEN horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

Again, the number “ten” is a symbol for completeness. The ten horns represent the complete ruling beliefs & character traits of the mind. As we saw in Daniel chapter 7 (the Little Horn) and in **Rev 17:10** (a short space), these ten kings will receive a kingdom for only a short time (one hour) with the Beast.

Rev 17:13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

The ten horns will have one mind: the mind of Satan. In other words, it is the worsened carnal mind of an apostate believer which is controlled by the spirit of anti-Christ (Satan) via the marred spirit.

Rev 17:14 These (ten horns) shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is LORD OF LORDS, AND KING OF KINGS: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

The phrase “these shall make war with the Lamb and the Lamb shall overcome them” refers to the spiritual war within the apostate believer between Satan’s lies and Christ’s truth. When the day of conversion arrives for an apostate elect believer, Christ will defeat Satan’s lies when Christ gives the believer the Latter Rain of the Spirit. With the Latter Rain of the Spirit, the believer’s spiritual blindness will be healed. Christ will then feed the believer His truth (Marriage Supper of the Lamb) which will defeat the lies of Satan.

The phrase “those who are with Him” are the new children of God who have just been born and gathered to heaven (spiritually speaking). They are called, chosen and faithful. They are also the Bride of Christ who is shown in Rev 19:14-20 to be reigning with Christ over the believer’s own judgment. This is the same spiritual war which is mentioned in Rev 17:14 above. Notice that the phrase “LORD OF LORDS AND KINGS OF KINGS” is used in both depictions of the war. There can be no doubt that the war mentioned in Rev 17:14 is the same war which is presented in Rev 19:14-20.

Rev 19:14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, **KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. 17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the **Supper of the Great God**; 18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. 19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse,**

and against his army. 20 And the Beast was taken, and with him the False Prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a Lake of Fire burning with brimstone.

After the Beast and False Prophet are cast into the Lake of Fire, the spiritual war will end.

Rev 17:15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

The Great Harlot's power extends to all mankind throughout the world because she is within all mankind.

Rev 17:16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

The ten horns upon the beast are the same ones who have power with the beast for "one hour" (v. 12). They are the same ten horns w/crowns which are on the Seven Headed Beast of Rev 13:1.

In verse 16, the ten horns w/crowns are said to hate the Great Harlot because they will make her "worse than the first (Mat 12:43-45). She will become the habitation of Devils (spirit of anti-Christ) and will "fall":

Rev 18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

Rev 17:17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

God's "will" for the ten horns w/ten crowns (ruling beliefs & character traits) is for them to "agree" (by the mind of Satan) and become the ruling beliefs & character traits of all apostate believers (the beast).

Rev 17:18 And the woman (Great Harlot) which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

The "great city" is referring to Mystery Babylon the Great city which is a synonymous symbol of "Great Harlot".

Rev 18:10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

The verse ends by saying the Great Harlot reigns over the ruling beliefs & character traits (kings of the earth/ten horns) of mankind.

SUMMARY

All the symbols and events which I have described in this paper are spiritual and they apply within mankind.

Since mankind was created with a marred spirit which has a carnal & religious spiritual nature, mankind's mind became carnal and religious as well. However, the carnal & religious spiritual nature of mankind is headed for destruction. During the conversion process, Christ will replace it with a divine spiritual nature that comes from having the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Then, from the new divine spirit, the carnal mind will be slowly transformed into the mind of Christ.

The first group of mankind to have this change made within them is called the Elect/First Fruits/Heirs/Saints. However, this change is not limited to just them. It will happen to ALL mankind someday.

The Word of God proclaims it:

1Tim 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; 4 who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Being changed spiritually into a child of God is mankind's salvation and it is Christ's work to make it happen (**1John 4:14**). And since Jesus Christ is mankind's God, it is certain to happen. What a glorious future God has planned for us all!