

Revelation Class 11 (Revelation 16-17)

“The Bowl Judgements”

Recap:

Last week’s lesson was a very sobering as we took time to discuss
When God’s patience has reached a limit and His wrath poured out
On a world that has chosen to rebel against him even after

- Having the sky ripped open, where people can see Jesus on the throne
- The cosmic events that have been prophesied
- All the warnings from the 144,000
- The testimony of the two witnesses
- The angels flying through the heavens warning people

EVEN THEN, Many people will choose to align themselves with Anti-Christ
By taking on the Mark of the Beast, worshipping the beast
And ultimately wage war against Jesus.

As I studied, I tried to slow down and ask the question...

“Jesus what will go through your mind as you strike people in judgement?”

Because His execution of judgements won’t be based on **WHIMSICAL EMOTION**

This is harder for me to imagine or preach as we all are used to the love and graceful Jesus
But even as we read in Revelation 14, Jesus carried a sickle ready to harvest
reading the preview of Armageddon, with vast amounts of blood
From the enemies of God

Psalm 90:11 (NLT), “Who can comprehend the power of your anger? Your wrath is as awesome as the fear you deserve.”

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: IS GOD A MORAL MONSTER?

Isn’t it unfair? God is not picking on someone His own size?

1. The Defense Approach

- such as drowning most of humanity (Gen. 7.23)
- scorching cities (Gen. 19.24-29)
- sanctioning war (Num. 31.1-2)
- commissioning genocide (1 Sam. 15.1-3)
- and killing large numbers of people (2 Sam. 24.15; 2 Kgs. 19.35).
- not to mention answering Elisha’s prayer to maul the kids who were making fun his baldness. **2nd Kings 2:23-24 (MSG), “²³ Another time, Elisha was on his way to Bethel and some little kids came out from the town and taunted him, “What’s up, old baldhead! Out of our way, skinhead!” ²⁴ Elisha turned, took one look at them, and cursed them in the name of God. Two bears charged out of**



the underbrush and knocked them about, ripping them limb from limb—forty-two children in all!

THE MEASURING STICK OF MORALITY

God is perfect, God is good- all the time, and all the time God is good.

God is wiser than us and His ways are higher than our ways

To His defense: (These may not make you FEEL good)

He is the one who takes life and give it. (Even Satan had to ask permission)

Deuteronomy 32:39b (NLT), "I am the one who kills and gives life..."

There is no such thing as an innocent person,

Romans 3:10, "None is righteous, no, not one;

God's foreknowledge... He knows who will choose him

- We love this point when it benefits us, but it helps us understand as well those who will experience His wrath.
- **Psalm 139:16** ESV, "Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them."
- **1 John 3:20** ESV, " For whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything

2. The Good Reason Approach

You look at different civilizations that were judged and understand the culture when babies are being offered to gods like Molech, burning to death...

The priests would bang drums so their parents couldn't hear the cries.

Even waiting for years for these evil nations to turn...

This approach focuses on the reasoning...

IF YOU UNDERSTOOD, God's judgement makes more sense.

If these evil nations continued to exist and practice, their influence would impact Israel

Even when God would judge evil nations, He still gave opportunity

Even as we see in Revelation, for people to get away... choose life.

We see this with the Kenites (1 Samuel 15:6)

Abraham (pleading for righteous people) in Genesis 18

On the basis of morality... **GOD TAKES NO PLEASURE IN THE DEATH OF THE WICKED**

Ezekiel 33:11 (NLT), "As surely as I live, says the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live. Turn! Turn from your wickedness, O people of Israel! Why should you die?"

3. The Greater Good Argument

“To illustrate the need for such drastic action, Martens cites the contemporary practice of killing herds of cattle when some are infected. ‘In several instances’, writes Martens, ‘thousands of cattle—surely not all of them infected [with mad cow disease]—have been slaughtered. The action was taken in order to arrest the spread of the evil and to safeguard the population’ (2008: 47). Martens applies this same logic to the flood narrative, and regards God’s destruction of the entire human race—save eight—as being necessary to preserve at least a remnant and to keep humanity from becoming ‘altogether unsalvageable’ (2008: 48).”¹

4. Progressive Revelation

This one focuses on an infinite God **SIMPLIFYING HIS MESSAGE FOR A CREATION** that can’t fully fathom God’s wisdom.



J.I Packer stated something similar, He stated that no one can ever say “I know God.”

- I can know my spouse
- I can know my hobby
- I can know sports stats
- but **I CAN NEVER SAY** I fully know an infinite being.

Main point: Israel tried to simplify an infinite being in a way they could understand.

An INFIINITE being communicating with a FINITE being...

5. Owing that you don’t have the answers

I can try to make sense of it, but some of it is hard for me to comprehend.

“This is the way in which God in his sovereignty chose to work within human history to accomplish his saving purpose for humanity and for creation, including me. I may not understand why it had to be this way. I certainly do not like it. I may deplore the violence and

¹ Seibert EA. Recent Research on Divine Violence in the Old Testament: (with Special Attention to Christian Theological Perspectives). *Currents in Biblical Research*. 2016;15(1):8-40. doi:10.1177/1476993X15600588

suffering involved, even when I accept the Bible's verdict that it was an act of warranted judgment. I may wish there had been some other way."

Here's one more on the house...

This question may be best reserved for answer and question night in Heaven.

If you emphasize relationship with God,

It's best to understand who you are in relationship with because

Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

God is a Holy God, mysterious, pure, righteous, merciful, graceful,
but we cannot forget that He is also wrathful.

His wrath is not based on ego, pride, or selfishness

His wrath is not an uncontrolled, temper-tantrum, that is uncalled for.

"God's wrath in the Bible is never the capricious, self-indulgent, irritable, morally ignoble thing that human anger so often is. It is, instead, a right and necessary reaction to objective moral evil"²

His wrath is not like that of an abusive father,

But that of a judge who administers justice

He knows the penalty and wages of sin and rather than

Write people off... He does to great lengths

Allow people to not be under the penalty of sin

I like to illustrate God's wrath with a lit match and a piece of paper.

If I bring the flaming match into contact with the paper, everyone knows what will happen. The flame will consume the paper. This requires no red in the face anger toward the paper. It is simply a law governing these two substances.

In exactly this way, when we speak of God's wrath, we are not describing red in the face anger such as we might exhibit. No, God in His purity and in His holiness is perfectly at peace. There is no rage in Him. Yet bring unholiness and sin into His presence and His holiness will consume that which is unholy and impure. Sin cannot abide in His presence. There is no compromise between God and sin any more than there can be a compromise between flame and paper.³



² J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, Pg. 151

³ <https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermon-illustrations/30354/i-like-to-illustrate-god-s-wrath-with-a-lit-match-by-allen-hern>

Hence, you can see His passion, intensity, and care
By sending Christ to drink from the cup of His wrath.
His sacrifice satisfied the wrath of God.

“All the judgements from the seals, trumpets, and bowls are appropriate punishments for sin. And they don’t even cover the cost, because for all those who remain in their sins, there is an eternity in hell waiting for them when this hell on earth concludes.”⁴

As we enter into chapters 16 and 17, we remember that God’s judgement is about to
Be poured out in full to a world that has rebelled inwardly,
And outwardly, by taking the Mark of the Beast.
You remember when we looked at the seal and trumpet judgements
God’s grace allowed for only a fraction of the world to be impacted
You’ll notice that in these judgements a totality of impact.

Revelation 16

Revelation 16:1-2, “Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, “Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.”² So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.”

Sores have been used before in judgements

- Satan struck Job with similar sores (Job 2:7)
- Plague in Egypt (Ex. 9:8-11)
- Threatened by God if Israel continued disobedience (Deut. 28:27,35)
- Promised to strike their enemies with these sores (Deut. 7:15)

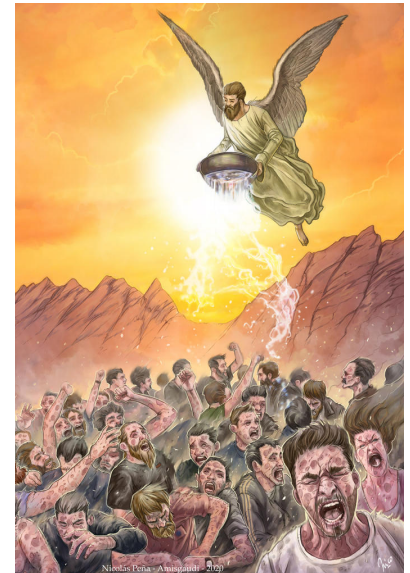
Let’s look at the symptoms

Deuteronomy 28:27 (LB), ““He will send upon you Egyptian boils, tumors, scurvy, and itch, for none of which will there be a remedy.”

God will give those who took the Mark with a Mark of judgement.

One commentator stressed the comparison between God and Satan
When it came to Job. Satan was granted permission to strike Job
Ultimately, Job was faithful and didn’t waver in his faith.

God is now dishing out the plagues unto the Anti-Christ’s faithful
They won’t turn to God as job did, but remain faithful to the Satan.



⁴ Amir Tsarfati, *Revealing Revelation*, Pg. 186

Revelation 16:3-7 ³ *The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea.* ⁴ *The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood.* ⁵ *And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say,*

*“Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was,
for you brought these judgments.*

⁶ *For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets,
and you have given them blood to drink.*

It is what they deserve!”

⁷ *And I heard the altar saying,*

*“Yes, Lord God the Almighty,
true and just are your judgments!”*



Once again a completeness to the judgement of God...
No grace, no mercy, no 1,000th chances...

A FINALITY TO HIS JUDGEMENT

100% of the sea and 100% of the fresh water.

Imagine the smell:

100% of aquatic life death

100% of wildlife that depends on fresh water, dead

It's hard to imagine the stench... but to help us get a perspective

We can read an account from a nurse during the civil war

“A sickening, overpowering, awful stench announced the presence of the unburied dead upon which the July sun was mercilessly shining and at every step the air grew heavier and fouler until it seemed to possess a palpable horrible density that could be seen and felt and cut with a knife ...”⁵

71% of the Earth (covered in water) now made blood

The dead on the earth from the judgements, possibly decaying in the open.

Death is all around and the thick smell is felt worldwide.

Imagine the impact of DEHYDRATION

100% of human life impacted greatly

Some studies suggest that a human can only survive without water for 3-days⁶

At this time, water rich foods will be affected (fruit, veggies, etc.)

⁵ <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/nurse-describes-smell-civil-war-180953478/>

⁶ <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/325174#risks>

“Dehydration happens quickly, causing extreme thirst, fatigue, and ultimately, organ failure and death. A person may go from feeling thirsty and slightly sluggish on the first day with no water to having organ failure by the third.”

Revelation 16:8-9 ⁸ *The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire.* ⁹ *They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.”*

“Another serious consequence of the sun’s intense heat will be the melting of the polar ice caps. The resulting rise in the oceans’ water level will inundate coastal regions, flooding areas miles inland with the noxious waters of the dead oceans. Widespread damage and loss of life will accompany that flooding, adding further to the unspeakable misery of the devastated planet. Transportation by sea will become impossible.”⁷

The combination of heat, dehydration, stench of death, with no relief.
Even then... John records that they **STILL** curse the name of God.
Why?!?! Remember, the people who are facing this judgement
Are being judged for taking the Mark of the Beast.

Worshipping the Anti-Christ who mocked God...

Revelation 13:5-6 (NLT), ⁵ *Then the beast was allowed to speak great blasphemies against God. And he was given authority to do whatever he wanted for forty-two months.* ⁶ *And he spoke terrible words of blasphemy against God, slandering his name and his dwelling—that is, those who dwell in heaven.”*

You become what you worship...

Revelation 16:10-11, ¹⁰ *The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish* ¹¹ *and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.”*

God’s judgement impacts the Anti-Christ and his kingdom...

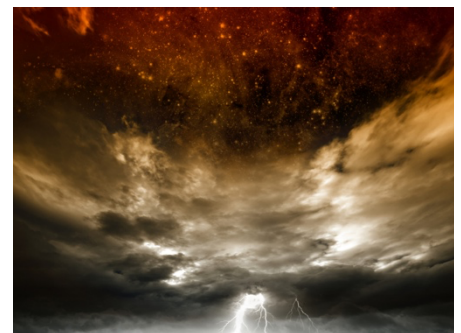
Special note: At this time, the Anti-Christ is empowered by Satan.

Satan, known as being

- an angel of light (2 Corinthians 4:6)
- Morning star, the dawn (Isaiah 14:12)

Even his light will be dimmed and impacted.

He is helpless to illumine the God imposed darkness



⁷ MacArthur, Revelation 12-2

Note: The knowing of tongues and gnashing of teeth is in anger
Someone needs to pay for this!

The anti-christ and the false prophet will gladly point where to send that anger.

Revelation 16: 12-16, ¹² *The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east.* ¹³ *And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs.* ¹⁴ *For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.* ¹⁵ *(“Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”)* ¹⁶ *And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.”*

Commentators believe that the Euphrates was considered a natural barrier

Against invaders from the East... if dried up, it would become a road

not all are fully agreed as to who the kings would come against (Israel or Anti-Christ?)

But they'd ultimately come to wage war against Jesus.

Psalm 2 (ESV)

**Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?**

² **The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying,**

³ **“Let us burst their bonds apart
and cast away their cords from us.”**

⁴ **He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.**

⁵ **Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,**

⁶ **“As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill.”**

⁷ **I will tell of the decree:
The Lord said to me, “You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.**

⁸ **Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.**

⁹ **You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.”**

¹⁰ **Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.**

¹¹ **Serve the Lord with fear,**

and rejoice with trembling.
¹² **Kiss the Son,**
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

What's up with the frogs?

Frogs were symbolic as being unclean... they are aquatic creatures without scales

Look where they are coming from? **THE MOUTH...**

- So far we have seen Fire come from the mouth of the two witnesses (Rev. 11:5)
- A double-edged sword will come from Jesus' mouth (Rev. 1:16, 19:15)

"The unclean spirits proceed from the mouths of the unholy triumvirate, suggesting the persuasive and deceptive propaganda which in the last days will lead men to an unconditional commitment to the cause of evil."⁸

Vs. 15...

1. Could be a note for those that would be reading and listening to this portion
2. A word of hope of any believers, surviving at this point.
3. Revealing Jesus, He places little nods like this... "everything is going to be ok."

Revelation 16:17-21, ¹⁷ The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" ¹⁸ And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake. ¹⁹ The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. ²⁰ And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found. ²¹ And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe."

It is done... no more warnings... it's here... God's **FULL WRATH.**

Poured the bowl into the air...

Possibly a direct judgement to Satan since he is the "prince of the air" (Eph.2:2)

The earthquake...

Those saints yet living on the earth during this time will understand Psalm 46 in a completely literal way: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into

⁸ Mounce, the Book of Revelation

the midst of the sea . . . The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved, He uttered His voice, the earth melted” (Ps. 46:1-2, 6)

Hailstones...

Could be literal or symbolic of the anti-Christ worshippers being stoned for blasphemy
One-hundred pounds, the size of a baby hippo

Revelation 17

Revelation 17:1-2, “Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, ² with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk.”

Babylon... can represent a political, economic, or religious system.

It is a system that is build up through demonic influence goes against God.

“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.”

Seated on many waters...

Believed to be in reference to her reach of influence.

If this is a religious system, many people state that this is in reference to Roman Catholicism
But truthfully, false religion is everywhere.

Sexual immorality...

Intoxicated with false promises and concepts that steer people away
From God and the life he desires for people to have.

Revelation 17: 3-6, ³ And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns.

This is a vision that may be confusing, but we look back and see how these

Descriptions were defined... a woman usually represented **A RELIGIOUS SYSTEM**

- The pregnant woman- Israel
- The bride of Christ- The church

- The harlot (woman) riding the Beast- Babylon (false religious system)

The beast was defined back in Revelation 13- as the Anti- Christ.

- This woman not only rides on the beast
- (showing her alignment with his political power)
- Sitting on the beast, shows how she can control the beast as well.

How do the people see her?

Revelation 17:4, “*4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality.*”

Purple and scarlet...

- Colors showing wealth as in John’s day
it would cost a lot for fabrics with these colors
- These colors are also colors rulers would wear
 - Political and economic control.



gold, jewels, and pearls...

shows her prosperity and luxury

Revelation 17:5-6, “*5 And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: “Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth’s abominations.”6 And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her, I marveled greatly.*”

On her forehead...

In John’s day, prostitutes would wear headbands with their names on it.

Some commentators believe that this religious system

Is larger than a branch of any religious system... meaning it’s not just one false religion

She has an impact and influence in all false religions.

Because she represents Satan’s religious system to sway, confuse, and draw people away.

Mother of all... (SOURCE)

Meaning that she has existed for a long time.

Prostitutes... spiritual adultery

“Spiritual adultery is unfaithfulness to God. It is having an undue fondness for the things of the world. Spiritual adultery is analogous to the unfaithfulness of one’s spouse...”⁹

Earth’s abominations

Idolatry- created to entice and steal affection, dedication, and focus

⁹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/spiritual-adultery.html> ([Jeremiah 3:20](#); see also [Isaiah 1:21](#); [57:8](#); [Ezekiel 16:30](#)).

This false religion was drunk with the blood of the saints and martyrs of Jesus....

Where John even marveled at this... (stare, awed, surprised)

Revelation 17: 7-8, “*But the angel said to me, “Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her.”*

⁸ The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.”

⁸ The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction...

- **was** - His original political appearance and rise ([Dan. 9:26-27](#)).
- **is not** - His death by a mortal wound ([Zec. 11:17?](#); [Rev. 13:3+](#)).
- **about to rise** - His miraculous recovery ([Rev. 13:3+](#)).
- **to perdition** - His destruction at the hands of Christ at the Second Coming ([Dan. 7:11](#); [11:45](#); [Rev. 19:19+](#)).

An interesting note, those whose names are ***not recorded in the book of life***

- It's not saying, their names got blotted out
- It's saying, they were never in there.
 - God, being all knowing, knew that their names wouldn't be written in the Book of Life.
 - So then why would God create them? An argument could be made, to give them a chance to make up their own minds.

Revelation 17:9-11, “*⁹ This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; ¹⁰ they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. ¹¹ As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction.*

We can get lost in the weeds of this verse, as there are many interpretations of it.

Is John writing about seven specific mountains?

Some would argue then that this is speaking of Rome

Others would take this further and state that the Pope is the Anti-Christ

Are the seven mountains, governments?

Since Rome is built on hills and not mountains.

Are they kings? Are they empires?

- **Five have fallen** refers to the five world empires before John's day:
- Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Medo-Persia, and Greece
- **One is** refers to the world empire of John's day: Rome

- **The other has not yet come** refers to the one world empire to come: a revival of the Roman Empire

No matter the viewpoint, there are weaknesses to say with absolute certainty, **THIS IS IT!**

Whether the anti-Christ runs a similar style of government,
Or shares similar characteristics with it

The main point, we can take away, is that his fate is clear

It goes to destruction...

Revelation 17: 12-14 , ¹² And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. ¹³ These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴ They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.

Many believe that the ten kings represent ten nations that form a confederation.

“They are ten kingdoms which shall arise out of the fourth great kingdom there: ten European powers, which in the last time, in concert with and subjugation to the antichristian power, shall make war against Christ. In the precise number and form here indicated, they have not yet arisen... What changes in Europe may bring them into the required tale and form, it is not for us to say.” (Alford, 1866)

Whatever these nations are... They will be unified and set to wage war against Jesus.

Revelation 17:15-16, ¹⁵ And the angel said to me, “The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. ¹⁶ And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire,

The idea here is that Babylon and the one-world religion will unite the world

It’s influence will reach the ends of the earth.

When the anti-Christ claims to be god, will get rid of the one world religion

And desire to be worshipped.

Revelation 17:17-18, ¹⁷ for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.¹⁸ And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth.”

God will give the world just what it wants: godless religion and godless rulers.¹⁰

¹⁰ <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/revelation-17/>