"Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed {acts of} immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality." And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, and on her forehead a name {was} written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. When I saw her, I wondered greatly."
Views of the Harlot

Scripture often uses the term “harlot” to describe spiritual fornication. Jerusalem was called a harlot in Isaiah 1:21, Tyre was in Isaiah 23:16-17 and so was Nineveh in Nahum 3:4. So in the greatest sense, this harlot is described as such because of the fact that she is able to influence the world into great abomination, blasphemies against the Lord and wholesale persecution against His saints. It is also important to note that the woman is “put up with” for a while by the beast and the ten kings (fallen angels) under his rule until she is eventually devoured by both.

Many scholars hold the view that the harlot which is “mystery Babylon” is the Roman Catholic Church who through the centuries has been drunk on the blood of the saints and also is adorned with the riches accumulated over the centuries. The communion “ritual” of the Eucharist practiced by the Roman Catholic Church is seen as represented by the golden cup of abominations. Indeed through history kings and rulers have benefited greatly from the overwhelming power wealth and extortion that the Roman Catholic system has wielded. Dave Hunts “A Woman Rides the Beast” provides incredible insight and historic examination of the exploits and blasphemies throughout the history of the Roman Catholic System.

Many of the reformers also held to the view that the whole Papal system represented the antichrist and that it would be a future Pope who would eventually fulfill the role of the final beast spoken of throughout scripture. This system has had a great influence over countless billions of people from all over the world and even today maintains a following of over 1.1 billion people, the Jesuitical arm of influence has permeated many of the modern worlds leaders, governments, social movements and religions and is one of the primary champions of the ecumenical movement pervasive in the world today.

Another view as to the actual location of this great city is viewed from a more literal understanding to be literal Babylon in Iraq. The prophecies concerning the final destruction of Babylon give exact geographic and ethnic ties to the area of Ancient Babylon that extended from Mesopotamia down through the Arabian peninsula known today as Saudi Arabia. In speaking of the future total destruction of Babylon, Isaiah 21 refers to “the burden against Dumah” (v11), “the burden against Arabia” (v.13) and “all of the glory of Kedar will fail” (v16). All of these are geographic locations are in Saudi Arabia. In fact throughout the entire
book of Isaiah references are made to Kedar, Tema, Dedan and Dumah. Muhammad is believed to have descended from Kedar who is a son of Ishmael. Babylon was extended by Nabonidus south to Medina and he introduced the worship of the moon god to Arabia.

Psalm 137: 7-8 calls Edom the “daughter of Babylon” and Isaiah 34 deals with the future destruction of Edom and her burning oil as a result of final judgment carried out by Christ in defense of Jerusalem:

“For the LORD has a day of vengeance, A year of recompense for the cause of Zion. Its streams will be turned into pitch, And its loose earth into brimstone, And its land will become burning pitch.”

 Isa 34:8,9 (NASB)

In his book “God’s war on terror”, Walid Shoebat puts forth the wine as the oil that most of the nations of the world are “intoxicated” with. He sees the world engaging in the antichrist religion of Islam because of their addiction to her oil and great wealth. He compares the chalice of Revelation 17 with the cup of Jeremiah 51: “Babylon has been a golden cup in the hand of the LORD, Intoxicating all the earth. The nations have drunk of her wine; Therefore the nations are going mad.” (Jer 51:7)

Shoebat states that it is ironic that the very oil that harlot uses to entice the world and export her antichrist system will be used against her in the “double portion” judgment levied against her. As her oil wells and riches go up in tall black towers of smoke, the world will mourn.

Islamic prophecy speaks of a future destruction of Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia by the “real” and “devoted” Muslims who view commercial Saudi Arabia as unfaithful to true Islam. Many Muslim theologians are looking for the Mehdi (messiah) who will defeat Europe, lead the Islamic armies and rule the world from Jerusalem because Mecca will be destroyed.

Another interesting note is that according to Revelation 18:11, the merchants of the earth will mourn because in her destruction they will no longer be able to sell their goods to her. Today Saudi Arabia has amassed great wealth due to oil exports and actually imports all of the goods.
mentioned in Revelation. Even the wine is imported although it is done in secret. Walid summarizes his view on Saudi Arabia as the harlot in this statement:

“Arabia does not allow citizenship for immigrants, Rome does. Arabia persecutes the saints, Rome doesn’t. Arabia promotes beheading, Rome doesn’t: “and I saw the souls of the martyrs who were beheaded.”... Who desires to behead us today? Where is biblical Edom? Mecca exerts more spiritual influence of false theology on more people than any other city on earth. Today major universities such as Harvard, Cambridge, Georgetown and many others have been bought by Saudis to create Islamist friendly indoctrination programs. Saudi Arabia exports radical Islam to every nation in the world. Why are we having so much trouble today with radical Islam? It’s because Saudi Arabia has exported Wahabism throughout the world. Today we have over a billion people who bow down daily toward an image in Arabia while no one bows down toward Rome or even Jerusalem. Arabia is on a desert, Rome isn’t. Arabia has oil, Rome doesn’t. Arabia imports slaves, Rome doesn’t. Arabia imports all of the specific merchandise in Revelation 18, Rome doesn’t.”            Walid Shoebat - God’s war on terror - pg 417

Some problems with this view

There some problems with this view of Islam being the final world religious system. The Islamic world as a whole is very strict in forbidding many of the forms of immorality that are used to describe this harlot. In 18:7 she is said to be living sensuously and in 18: 23 she is judged based on the exporting of sorcery to the nations. If Islam did achieve world domination, there would be no valid reason for them to ratify a covenant with Israel that would allow for the Jewish temple and sacrificial system to be rebuilt.

One of the common views of prophecy scholars is that the whole system of Islam and the Arab nations will be brought to its knees in their great defeat in the war of Eze 38 and 39 where scripture describes the armies that come up against Israel as being humiliated and sent home. As a result Israel becomes “puffed up” in her belief that she is favored by God (in her current state) and the covenant is ratified between her and the nations to allow her to dwell in “a land of unwalled villages”, and rebuild her sacrificial system through a new temple. One of the best contemporary work on the Ezekiel 38 and 39 war “Israelectione: the ancient blueprints of the future Middle East” written by Bill Salus.

The history of “Mystery Babylon”

Regardless of where this harlot city is located, the most important aspect to understand is the religious identity. The whole world will be deceived by her sorcery and when the history of the geographic Babylon is studied it is easy to see why this title is given to the one world religion and her capitol city. Consider just some of the events that came out of the region of Mesopotamia throughout history:

- It is the origin of the fall of man
- The place in which the angels of Genesis 6 touched down to corrupt all flesh
- The first world ruler - Nimrod attempted to unify man to achieve “godhood”.
- Babylon is the birth place of all of the ancient Pagan religions and has always been associated with the “mystery of iniquity” because of the demonic influence that it is under.
It is the birth place of the ancient “mother - child” cult put in place by the demonic realm to counterfeit the promised seed of the woman in Genesis 3:15. She is known as the “Queen of Heaven” and is represented by ancient pagan goddesses and gods such as the Egyptian goddess Isis who nurses Horus, and the Assyrian-Babylonian goddess Ishtar who nurses the god Tammuz.

Unfortunately even Israel became caught up in the Ishtar cult as they burnt sacrifices and poured out drink offerings to the queen of heaven (Jer 44:15-19; 20-27) and Ezekiel refers to their worship of Ishtar and Tammuz as the “women were sitting there and weeping for Tammuz” (Ezek 8:14).

In the book and accompanying video “Queen of All” the modern day phenomenon of Marian Apparitions is looked at detail and it is amazing to note the supernatural “angel of light” aspect. The most significant detail is that those who embrace and worship the apparition are encouraged in ways that draw them away from the true gospel and those from all walks of life, whether it be social, economic or political influences, embrace her with open arms and faith.

The false spirit encourages ecumenism and the prosperity of man through a new age of enlightenment to come. It is very possible that this is just one part of a very complex puzzle that will all come together to unite the nations under the “Queen of heaven”.

The harlot over Europe - a return to Nimrod

As many have looked for the revival of the last faze of the Roman system as fulfillment of prophecy, the formation of the European Union out of what was called the European Common Market is seen as the groundwork for this to become reality. While the current situation has been in flux, the final vision of the globalists who are in power is to have the globe segmented into 10 regions through which the goal of unifying the world under a common economic, social/religious and political order can be brought to pass. The visionaries in charge of it’s development have likened its significance and aim to be likened unto what Nimrod tried to accomplish in the plains of Shinar thousands of years ago. The EU headquarters building design is said to be modeled after the ziggurat structure that was being built there under the unified efforts of man.

While there are many cultic and mystical icons associated with those individuals and organizations who are the top
leaders, the most easily recognizable symbol by Christians is that of the depiction of a woman riding a beast. The use of this imagery is seen all throughout the various sculptures and currencies associated with the planning of the EU.

As we have seen before Satan, the great red dragon, was depicted the same way as this scarlet beast having seven heads and ten horns. As we will continue to see, the beast has Satan as its power and therefore the two are like unto the same. The angel describes the final beast “who was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss...”. We have seen that the abyss is, in particular, the deepest part of hell reserved only for the specific angels who perpetrated the perverse acts described in Gen 6. Humanity in ancient times worshipped these angels and their offspring as gods. This clearly describes the supernatural power behind this final beast that deceives those who dwell on the earth.

Mountains are used in the Old Testament to represent governments. This is particularly true in Daniels vision in chapter 2. Additionally they are seen here as kings. Each kingdom has a king at the top. The five fallen kingdoms are Egypt, Assyria (both prior to Daniels vision), Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. At the time of Johns vision, the Roman empire was the sixth empire. In Daniels 70 weeks prophecy in chapter 9, Jesus is prophesied to be “cut off by the people of the prince who will come” leading to the widespread view of a revived Roman empire as the

The Harlot Explained to John

The beast which carries her

(17:7-8) “And the angel said to me, "Why do you wonder? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come."

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The seven empires she influences

(17:9-10) “Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is {one} of the seven, and he goes to destruction.”

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final or seventh empire. But at the time of John, the Roman empire was and the angel says “the other has not yet come”. Even though there will be elements of the Roman system, the last of these Satanically influenced kingdoms will be different from what has been seen before. In regards to the “people of the prince that shall come”, Jesus died at the hands of the earth dwellers whose prince is Satan; both the Jewish establishment and the Roman executors killed Christ, not just the Roman government.

The counterfeit resurrection of the beast (Satan’s seed)

(17:11) "The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction.”

This can seem to be a bit confusing but lets break it down. Since the beast is one of the seven he also is a world ruler or “king” yet he is also described as an eighth that was and is not but then comes up out of the abyss. This speaks to this ruler that has a peaceful, brilliant rise to power and then suffers what appears to be a fatal wound (is not). But remember that when he “comes back to life” his emergence is from the abyss, the same place where the fallen angels who sinned are contained. It will be upon this “resurrection” that he will perpetrate the abomination of desolation and demand to be worshipped as the only god.

The final appearance of the beast and his ten kings

(17:12-14) "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast. These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.”

Remember that these are the same as the ten toes we looked at in Daniel 2 who “mingled themselves with the seed of men”. Notice how they come to power only at the same time that the beast has his false resurrection, yet they “are” ten kings. This further supports the final ten kings over the ten divisions of the final global empire will not simply be men, but will replace those who were initially put in charge over the ten regions. They will give full support and cooperation to Satan’s seed for the purpose of stopping the return of Christ.

The global influence of the harlot

(17:15) “And he said to me, "The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.”

This false religious influence of the harlot will be in place for the world to be deceived. As Paul tells us in 2 Thessalonians the world will be given a deluding influence to believe the lie. This lie will be promoted most strongly by the world wide ecumenical harlot that rides on its back but that romance will be soon ended. As those who used her influence to gain worship and recognition will reveal the true disdain they have for natural humanity.
The destruction of the harlot - the romance ends

(17:16-17) “And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire. For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled. The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.”

The harlot is false religion that has played her part since Nimrod and will manifest in her fullness during the final years appointed to test the earth. It will be through her that the beast, false prophet and the mark are promoted and she will become adored by the earth dwellers as the signs and wonders produced by those she points to entice the world. The irony is that as she equates Israel to the widowed wife of God, she herself will become not widowed but devoured by those she courted.

The true reality of Satan and the fallen angels feelings toward man is absolute hatred; even the earthdwellers who fall completely for their lies will become the Object of their mocking vengeance. Satan’s “son” will demand to be the only object of worship as he and the fallen angel / kings will completely dissolve any other form of religion amongst man. All man and fallen angel rulers will align under the false Christ. The last part of 17 leads us to the economic side of the final world religion which is centered in a great city covered in 18.

Two Women Contrasted

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*Chart from Chuck Missler’s commentary on Revelation; pg 210*