

The meaning of Babylon

In chapter seventeen of the book of Revelation, we read that the apostle John saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast with seven heads and ten horns. The name of the woman is 'Babylon the great'. She has risen up from the 'sea of the peoples' to rule over the nations of the earth. She is clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls. She is called the 'mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth'.

Over the course of church history, there have been many theories concerning the meaning and identity of Babylon the great. Since the Reformation, many have assumed that Babylon is the Roman Catholic church. The Catholic church has sat on top of the kings of the earth and the nations of the world since the fourth century. Even though the Catholic church may continue to have significant influence and power, the religious head of Babylon in the seventh world kingdom will include all of the world's religions. And more than this, world religion will only be one of seven heads of Babylon. It is important to recognise that the principle of Babylon is much larger than religion.

Babylon is a centralised administration over the nations and kings of the earth. It has been established by the nations to promote peace and posterity, and to prevent the scattering of the nations of mankind upon the earth. This administration was first established by the nations of the world at the tower of Babel. The nations rejected the authority of God's firstborn to be His administration over the nations, and replaced it with their own administration. This administration is likened in Scripture to a harlot that sits as a mother upon the individual nations of the world. This misappropriated administration is called 'Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots'.

References:

Rev 17:1-5, 18
Gen 11:4

Further Study: Zechariah 5**Daily Proverb:** Proverbs 2

The source of the nations

All the nations of the world have been predestined to become the inheritance of Jesus Christ in the kingdom of God. Before the foundation of the world, the Father declared, 'I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain ... You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession.' The administration of Jesus Christ, the Firstborn over all creation, is God's administration over the nations. In the beginning, Adam was created to be the helper to the Son and given the mandate to be the head of all nations. God gave him 'dominion' over all flesh and the natural creation. Adam was called to be the father of all mankind. God said to him, 'Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it'. It is apparent from this command that God always intended to bring forth a multitude of nations from Adam.

We recall that God placed Adam in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. We know that He placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden, but God also caused *every tree* that is pleasing to the sight and good for food to grow. These trees were 'prophetic types' of the nations and kingdoms of the world, with their own unique characteristics. All the nations of the earth had their source in Eden. They did not just arise as a consequence of the fall. For example, the Lord declared concerning Assyria, 'The cedars in God's garden could not match it, the cypresses could not compare with its boughs, and the plane trees could not match its branches. No tree in God's garden could compare with it in its beauty.' Adam tended the trees in the garden of Eden in recognition of the mandate that God had given him over the nations of the world.

References:

Psa 2:6-9, 15
Gen 1:28
Eze 31:8

Further Study:

Ezekiel 31

Daily Proverb:

Proverbs 3

The capacity of each nation

The Scripture records that a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden. From Eden, it divided into four rivers that watered the four regions of the ancient world. The river from Eden was watering the four corners of the known earth. In type, the life for the whole world was coming out of Eden. The four rivers represented the unique grace and provision of God for every nation. We also read that the region of Havilah, watered by the Pishon River, was known for its gold, bdellium and onyx stone. The precious stones and minerals represent the capacity given by God to each nation, according to His grace and provision and their predestination and name. In a similar way, we recall that twelve precious stones set in the breast piece of the high priest were inscribed with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.

We read in the book of Acts that God has ‘made from one blood every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation’. He has ordained when and how each nation will be established, blossom and come to full fruit and power. He has determined to give unique abilities and capacities to the people in each nation. And He has entrusted each nation with specific resources according to the ‘boundaries of their habitation’. The prophet Ezekiel used the symbolism of precious stones and minerals to describe the capacity of each nation to trade and generate increase. Nations are able to use the capacities and resources which they have received from God to generate increase for the kingdom of God. Or they can use these very same capacities and resources to generate increase and wealth within the administration of Babylon. We are reminded that the apostle John saw the woman, Babylon, adorned with ‘gold and precious stones and pearls’.

References:

Gen 2:10-14
Exo 28:21
Act 17:26
Rev 17:4

Further Study:

Ezekiel 27

Daily Proverb:

Proverbs 4

The mandate of the firstborn

In the beginning, the mandate of being the head of the nations belonged to Adam. He was given this mandate as the helper to the Son who is the Firstborn over all creation. When Adam fell, he lost his dominion over the natural creation, but the mandate of the firstborn to be the head of the nations remained. The command of God to be 'fruitful and multiply and fill the earth' remained, and the mandate of being the head of the nations was given to Cain as Adam's firstborn son. When Cain rejected his predestination, he lost this mandate and proceeded to establish an alternate civilization away from the presence of God in the land of Nod.

After the Lord brought the corruption of mankind to a complete end with the judgement of the flood, He re-established the command given to Adam with Noah. He commanded him to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. The nations corrupted this mandate when they joined together to build the tower of Babel in the days of Nimrod. At this time, the administration of Babylon was first established over the nations of the world. It was established by the nations of the world as their *alternative* to the administration of God over the nations.

The blessing of the firstborn was recovered by Abraham when he was blessed by Melchizedek. We recall that Abraham received this blessing when he was returning from the defeat of the kings. He had become the 'king of kings'. However, Abraham did not want to be joined with the spirit of Babylon in any way. He refused to be enriched by the king of Sodom and the nations of the world. Rather, he paid a tithe of all to Melchizedek in recognition that God is the possessor of heaven and earth. From this point forward, the blessing of the firstborn and the mandate of being the head of the nations belonged to Abraham and his descendants.

References:

Col 1:15
Gen 4:16
Gen 9:1

Gen 11:3-4
Gen 14:18-20

Further Study:

Daily Proverb:

Genesis 14

Proverbs 5

The firstborn nation

The Lord revealed to Abraham that his descendants would be subject to bondage in Egypt for four hundred years, but afterwards, they would be delivered as the Lord's firstborn people. We are reminded that the Lord instructed Moses to say to Pharaoh, 'Israel is My son, My firstborn'. The Lord delivered the nation of Israel to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. He had chosen them to be a 'special treasure *above all* the peoples who are on the face of the earth'. The nation of Israel should have become the 'head of the nations'. Moses declared, 'The Lord will make you the head and not the tail, and you only will be above and you will not be underneath, if you listen to the commandments of the Lord your God, which I charge you today, to observe them carefully'.

When the whole house of Israel was united and ruled by king Saul, and then king David, it was the head of the nations. David sat upon the throne of Israel as the 'king' over all the kings of the earth at that time. However, he evidently understood that his throne and authority belonged to Jesus Christ. It was David who beheld, by revelation, the Father say to the Son, 'Sit at My right hand until I make all Your enemies a footstool for Your feet'. The nation of Israel remained as the head of the nations during most of the reign of king Solomon. Many of the surrounding nations contributed towards the building of the temple. Jesus said that even the queen of Egypt came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon. However, as soon as the administration of God was corrupted among the nation, this mandate was lost. The ten northern tribes were conquered and scattered by the Assyrians, and Judah was later taken captive to Babylon.

References:

Gen 15:13 Deu 14:2
Exo 4:22 Deu 28:13
Exo 19:5 Psa 110:1
Deu 7:6 Luk 11:31

Further Study: Deuteronomy 7

Daily Proverb: Proverbs 6

The Lord's sovereignty

When Judah returned to Palestine after the seventy years of captivity, the mandate of being the head of the nations was restored and given to Zerubbabel. Joshua was restored to the office of the priesthood and Zerubbabel was restored to the office of the kingship as the governor of the nation. Under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Joshua, the Jews should have become the head of the nations again and delivered this mandate to Christ when He came in the flesh. However, they allowed the horns of the nations to scatter them and this mandate was lost once more. The Jews became subject to the Greek empire and later the Roman empire.

The principle we observe throughout history is that whenever God's firstborn people corrupt His administration, they forfeit their mandate as the head of the nations and become subservient to the kingdoms of this world. God has deemed that this will be the case for 'seven periods of time' throughout history. Seven times throughout history, He will use the kingdoms of this world as an instrument of judgement in His hand, for the purpose of judging and chastening His firstborn people.

It is important to note that even though God has subjected His firstborn people to various Gentile kingdoms throughout history, He still uses His messengers to exercise His authority over the nations of the world. For example, the Lord used Moses to invoke His judgement upon the kingdom of Egypt. He used the prophet Isaiah to invoke judgement upon the kingdom of Assyria. The prophet Daniel invoked the judgement of God upon the kingdom of Babylon. The authority of God's word has always demonstrated His sovereignty over the nations of the world and the affairs of men. In the time of the end, we know that the Father will activate an administration which will judge the seventh world kingdom and establish the church of the firstborn as the head of the nations.

References:

Zec 3:4-7

Zec 4:6-9

Exo 15:9-10

Isa 10:24-26

Dan 4:25

Further Study:

Daniel 5

Daily Proverb:

Proverbs 9

The church of the firstborn

We know the blessing of the firstborn now belongs to the church. The 'church of the firstborn' has been established on Mount Zion. Jesus Christ has made us to be a 'kingdom of priests' to His God and Father. However, the mandate of being the head of the nations will not be recovered by the church until the time of the end. In the Scriptures, the 'rod of iron' is the symbol of the authority of the firstborn over the nations. Jesus Christ said to the overseeing messengers of the lampstand church in Thyatira, 'He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds *until the end*, to him I will give authority over the nations, and he shall rule them with a rod of iron'.

The church will be subject to the kingdoms of this world until the conclusion of the seven times prophecy. In the time of the end, God will establish His eternal kingdom to replace the seven preceding kingdoms. This kingdom will gather all nations into one and endure forever. In the book of Daniel, this kingdom is likened to a 'stone cut without hands' which will grow into 'a great mountain which fills the whole earth'. This kingdom will be established by offering and it will become the head of the nations in the time of the end. This brings us to a key point. We can readily identify the spirit of Babylon among the nations of the world today as the seventh world kingdom emerges. The church must remain sanctified to the Lord and remain separate from the world. The church must remain separate from the world, so that it can be the messenger *to the world*. If the church tries to be relevant to the world or tries to regain headship over the nations before the end, it will join itself to the harlot. This will produce the worst possible manifestation of Babylon in the earth.

References:

Heb 12:22-23

Rev 1:6

Rev 2:26-27

Dan 2:34-35

Further Study:

Colossians 1

Daily Proverb:

Proverbs 10

The principle of Babylon before the flood

The *administration* of Babylon was not established until after the flood at the tower of Babel, but we can identify the *principle* of Babylon among the nations of the world before the flood. As we have considered, the right to be the 'head of the nations' belonged to Cain as the firstborn son of Adam and Eve. Even though he was conceived after the fall, he was still predestined to receive the blessing and mandate of the firstborn. The blessing of the firstborn included the dual mandate of kingship and priesthood. As mankind multiplied on the earth, Cain was predestined to be the priest at the gate of the garden of Eden to receive the offerings of those who came to call upon the name of the Lord. He was, likewise, predestined to be the 'king of kings', the head over all the nations of the earth.

When Cain came of age, we know that he rejected his predestination. He forfeited the blessing of the firstborn and the right to be the head over the nations. Cain went away from the presence of God and settled in the land of Nod, which means the 'land of vagrant wandering'. He took all of the natural ability and grace which had been given to him by God, according to his identity and predestination as a son of God, and went out to make a name for himself in the wilderness of the world. Instead of being the head of the nations in the land of Eden, he went out from the presence of God and tried to be the head of the nations in the land of Nod. He built the first city of mankind and named it after his firstborn son. He evidently presumed to still possess the mandate of the firstborn and the capacity to give it to his son. We could say that the building of this city was the very earliest manifestation of the spirit of Babylon in the earth.

References:

Gen 4:1-2, 16-17

Heb 11:4

1Jn 3:12

Jud 1:11

Further Study:

Genesis 4:1-17

Daily Proverb:

Proverbs 11

Two lines of descendants

The descendants of Cain continued to live away from the presence of God. The presumption and self-righteousness of mankind reached a climax in the sixth generation. Lamech declared, 'I have killed a man for wounding me; and a boy for striking me'. He had evidently taken upon himself the right to be the judge, jury and executioner. This is the self-righteous nature of the spirit of Babylon. It proclaims itself to be the guardian of civilisation for the common good of all. The Scripture records that Lamech had three sons and one daughter. His first son was the father of all those who dwelt in tents and kept livestock. His second son was the father of all those who played the lyre and the harp. His third son was the father of all those who made implements of bronze and iron. These were the great farmers, the great entertainers, and the great craftsmen of the ancient world.

In the days of Lamech, the Lord established a new lineage when He gave Adam and Eve another son. His name was Seth. Eve rejoiced at this time and testified, 'God has appointed me another seed in the place of Abel, for Cain killed him'. The fact that Seth was born in the place of Abel, and not in the place of Cain, is significant. God did not give the mandate of being the head of the nations to Seth. He and his descendants were required to walk in the stead of Abel as a faithful remnant in the earth. They called on the name of the Lord by bringing offering to the gate of the garden of Eden. For this reason, the descendants of Seth were called the 'sons of God'. In contrast to this, the descendants of Cain were called the 'sons of men'. In the same way as today, the sons of God were called to maintain their sanctification in the world so that they could be *messengers* to the sons of men.

References:

Gen 4:20-23, 25-26

Gen 6:2

Heb 11:4

Heb 12:24

Further Study: Genesis 4:17-26

Daily Proverb: Proverbs 12

The mighty men of renown

As time progressed, and the sons of men began to multiply on the face of the earth, we read that the sons of God (the descendants of Seth) saw that the daughters of men (the descendants of Cain) were beautiful. The principle of Babylon in the world had built a highly sophisticated and attractive civilisation by this time. The sons of God decided to take wives for themselves from among these women. Instead of living in the faith of Abel, the sons of God decided to go 'the way of Cain'. They forsook the fellowship of offering in the land of Eden and decided to join the principle of Babylon that had been established in the wilderness of the world. The fruit of these marriages produced what the Scripture calls 'the mighty men of renown'.

The principle of Babylon before the flood reached its peak at this time. The mighty men of renown were the most influential and notable of all those who lived in the ancient world. They would have been the great thinkers, the great innovators, and the great leaders. The mighty men of renown had no interest in making offering to apprehend their name and predestination from God. They were preoccupied with making their own name in the world. For this reason, God looked down and saw that the thoughts and intentions of the heart of all men were evil continually. This means every person was motivated by their own conscience according to their own knowledge of good and evil. Their preoccupation was their 'own good' and working together for the 'collective good of man'. These are the defining characteristics of Babylon. It is significant that Jesus said, 'Just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will also be in the days of the Son of Man'.

References:

Gen 6:1-2, 5
Luk 17:26-27
2Pe 3:3-6

Further Study:**Daily Proverb:**

Genesis 6

Proverbs 13

The tower of Babel

Immediately after the flood, God restated the mandate which He had given to Adam in the beginning. He blessed Noah and his sons and said, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth'. All of the descendants of Noah, who are recorded in Genesis chapter ten, are the fathers of the nations of the world. The chapter concludes with the words, 'They are the families of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, by their nations; and out of these the nations were separated on the earth after the flood'. For this reason, this chapter is often called 'the table of the nations'. It would appear that there are seventy nations in all. These seventy nations have been sown into all the earth to become a great multitude of nations.

In the time of the end, God will gather a great multitude from every nation and give them an inheritance as part of the twelve tribes of the 'true Israel of God'. It has always been God's intention to give the multitude of nations an inheritance among the twelve tribes of Israel when He gathers Jew and Gentile in one body. Moses declared, 'When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when He separated the sons of man, He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel'.

In the years following the flood, there is little doubt that the descendants of Noah knew that they needed to spread out and fill the earth. God had commanded Noah to do this. However, there was evidently some resistance among the people to this command. In the same way that Cain travelled toward the east and settled in the land of Nod, the descendants of Noah travelled toward the east and settled in the plain of Shinar. In the plain of Shinar, the nations of the world conspired together to establish the administration of Babylon in the earth.

References:

Gen 9:1

Gen 10:32

1Co 12:13

Deu 32:8

Further Study:

Genesis 11

Daily Proverb:

Proverbs 16

The goals of Babylon

The fathers of the nations said to one another, 'Come let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the earth'. In this statement, we observe the four major reasons why the nations of the world established the administration of Babylon. Firstly, the administration of Babylon was established because the fathers of the nations did not recognise the sovereignty of God. They did not want to submit to the order of authority that He had established in the earth. The fathers of the nations of the world built a city to be the headquarters of an alternate administration.

Secondly, the administration of Babylon was established with the goal of reaching the heavenly places. The nations wanted an administration which could recover the dominion lost by Adam in the beginning. They wanted an administration which could control our natural environment and control the fate of mankind on this earth. Thirdly, the administration of Babylon was established by the nations who wanted the prerogative to use the resources they had received from God to define their own name and build their own legacy. Finally, the administration of Babylon was established to guard against anarchy and to maintain unity and peace among the nations of the world.

How successful can this administration of Babylon over the nations and kings of the earth be? We are reminded that the Lord looked at the tower of Babel and exclaimed, 'Behold they are one people, and they all have the same language. This is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.' Babylon is able to achieve any goal from an earthly perspective, but despite its most valiant attempts, it can never reach the heavenly places. The pinnacle of human achievement has been frustrated by God. He has put a limit upon the administration of Babylon.

References:

Gen 11:1-4, 6

1Co 2:6-8

Col 2:8

Jer 17:5-6

Further Study: 1 Corinthians 3**Daily Proverb:** Proverbs 17

The administration of Babylon

Even though the Lord scattered the people from the tower of Babel, the administration of Babylon has remained over the nations of the world since that time. It was formalised by king Nebuchadnezzar. Nebuchadnezzar was a unique and important person in the history of the world. He was the king of *the nation* of Babylon, but he was also the 'king of kings' as the sole head of *the administration* of Babylon over all nations.

We know that the administration of each nation has been corrupted. The nations of the world do not recognise the sovereignty of God and His firstborn administration. The administration of each nation could be described as a 'harlot'. However, the administration of Babylon is something more than this. It is not the administration of any one nation. It is the administration that has been established by the nations of the world to replace the administration of God's firstborn over all nations. Babylon is a harlot administration which sits on top of all of the harlot administrations of the various nations of the world. For this reason, Babylon the Great is called '*the mother of harlots* and of the abominations of the earth'.

The administration of Babylon which was formalised by king Nebuchadnezzar has been progressively amended throughout history, but it has continued to sit on top of the nations of the world. When Darius the Mede conquered *the nation* of Babylon, he continued *the administration* of Babylon by establishing a hierarchy of regional representatives. The key amendment to the administration of Babylon at that time was the introduction of the 'rule of law'. The 'rule of law' and the need for the nations of the world to be submitted to international law is still a central tenet of the administration of Babylon in our day. The nations submit to this administration for the same reasons that they conspired together to build the tower of Babel.

References:

Dan 2:37.

Dan 6:1-2.

Gen 11:4.

Rev 17:5, 18

Further Study:

Daniel 1

Daily Proverb:

Proverbs 18

The Most High God rules

At the height of his power, king Nebuchadnezzar had a prophetic dream in which he saw a tree in the midst of the earth and its height was great. He then beheld an angel descend from heaven and command that the tree be cut down. When Daniel interpreted this dream, he declared that the great tree represented the king. The dream was fulfilled twelve months later when the king declared, 'Is this not *Babylon the great*, which I have built myself as a royal residence by *the might of my power* and for the *glory of my majesty*?' Immediately, he heard a voice from heaven and he was driven away from mankind to dwell with the beasts of the field for a period of seven years.

'Seven periods of time' passed over king Nebuchadnezzar to teach him that the Most High rules in the affairs of men and He gives it to whomever He chooses. He sets over it the 'lowest of men'. The 'seven times' signify that God has ordained seven world kingdoms throughout history to achieve His purpose and teach the nations and kings of the earth this lesson. When king Nebuchadnezzar regained his senses, he honoured the 'King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride'.

The rulers of the world who are 'humble in heart' will recognise that the Most High rules in the affairs of men. However, the 'arrogant in heart' will presume that they have risen to power by their own strength; and furthermore, they are free to devour the inhabitants of the earth in any way they choose. For this reason, each world kingdom has been revealed as a beast. The rulers of these kingdoms have had an appetite for power which cannot be satisfied. They have refused to abide within the limit that God has placed upon them. This has precipitated their judgement at the hands of the next world kingdom.

References:

Dan 4:16-17, 25, 30, 37

Further Study:

Daniel 4

Daily Proverb:

Proverbs 19

The first interpretation of seven heads

The apostle John saw the woman, Babylon, sitting on a scarlet beast with seven heads and ten horns. The seven heads are the administration of Babylon over the nations. The ten horns are the kings who will emerge from the ten groups of nations in the seventh world kingdom. They will give their authority and power to the beast when the eighth world kingdom emerges. When he was explaining these things to John, the angel said, 'Here is the mind which has wisdom'. The implication is clear. We need heavenly wisdom so that we can properly discern the difference between the heads and the horns. Further to this, there are two distinct interpretations of the seven heads.

In the first case, we know there will be seven times throughout history when a certain kingdom emerges to become the 'head' of the nations of the world. These kingdoms are what we would call the seven heads of the 'historical beast'. Since the days of Nimrod, the administration of Babylon has always ruled over these kingdoms of the earth. In this way, the seven heads are also likened to seven mountains upon which Babylon sits. They are also seven kings. John was told that 'five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while'.

The Scriptures reveal that these seven kingdoms are Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and a seventh world kingdom. When the apostle John received this revelation, five of these historical kingdoms had already risen and fallen. Hence he was told, 'Five have fallen'. John lived during the reign of the Roman empire. For this reason, he was told that 'one is'. The seventh world kingdom had not yet come. It is emerging in our day from the sea of the nations. It will be a divided kingdom and will only remain for 'a little while' in comparison with all the kingdoms that have gone before it.

References:

Rev 17:3, 9-10, 12-13
Luk 4:5
Rev 11:15

Further Study:**Daily Proverb:**

Revelation 17

Proverbs 20

Difference between a head and a horn

The seventh world kingdom will be the seventh head of the historical beast, but it will also have seven heads. It is important that we make a distinction between the meaning of 'a head' and 'a horn'. 'A head' is not the same as 'a horn', and vice versa. 'A head' is an administrative headquarters. 'A horn' is a king or a leader of a nation or group of nations. The critical point in the seventh world kingdom is that there will be seven crowns on the seven heads, but the ten horns will be uncrowned. On a much smaller scale, we observe this principle in many of the democratic nations of the world today. In Australia, we vote for members of parliament. The party that holds the majority in the House of Representatives forms the government and then elects the prime minister. We could liken the prime minister to 'a horn' and the parliament to 'a head'. The prime minister is the leader, but the primary power resides in the parliament. The crown is on 'the head', not on 'the horn'.

In the United Kingdom, even though each new monarch is crowned during their coronation ceremony, they are no longer 'a horn' with a crown from a scriptural perspective. We could say that the crown has been progressively removed from the English monarchy since the signing of the Magna Carta. The president of the United States has much more power than the English monarch in real terms. The president is elected directly by the people. This means they have a certain mandate and authority that is not possessed by many other heads of state. We could almost say that the president of the United States is 'a horn' with a crown. A president does possess executive powers, but this power is still limited by the Constitution. A president can be impeached and removed from office if they act beyond their authority. In this regard, they do not have a crown in the truest sense.

References:

Rev 17:3

Rev 12:3

Rev 13:1

Dan 8:8-9

Further Study: Daniel 6

Daily Proverb: Proverbs 23

Seven heads

The primary authority of the seventh world kingdom will be expressed through seven administrative headquarters of seven international bodies. Each international body will have an administrative headquarters in a particular city. We are reminded that Babylon is the great city which rules over the kings of the earth. The 'great city' of Babylon will be manifest in 'seven cities' in the earth. Babylon will exercise authority over the nations of the world through the headquarters which are located in these seven cities. This is the significance of the seven heads which are 'crowned'.

Can we identify these seven heads in the world today? There are many international bodies which have emerged in the world since the inception of the United Nations in 1945. The exact shape and name of many of these organisations is still evolving. However, the seven heads will most likely cover the following areas in some form: international law and human rights, international peace-keeping, international religion, international sport and culture, international education, international health and science, and international finance. We would liken the media to 'a mouth', rather than one of the heads.

There are some obvious examples of international organisations in each of these areas. The International Court of Justice is the primary judicial arm of the United Nations, and its headquarters are located in the Hague. The headquarters of the United Nations Security Council is in New York city. The headquarters of the World Council of Churches is currently in Geneva. However, we would expect that the headquarters for world religion will end up being in Jerusalem. It has been the intention of the United Nations to make Jerusalem an 'international city' for many decades. With respect to the other heads of Babylon, there are some obvious international organisations in each of these areas. For example, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are international financial organisations.

References:

Rev 12:3

Rev 13:1

Rev 17:3

Rev 17:18

Further Study: Revelation 18

Daily Proverb: Proverbs 24

The ten horns

It was revealed to the apostle John that the seventh world kingdom will have seven heads and ten horns. The ten horns represent the regrouping of the nations of the world into ten multicultural nations. These groups of nations will function as common markets. Each common market may have a common currency. The European Union with its 'common market' is the best example of what each of these ten groups of nations may look like. We note that there are a number of other 'groups of nations' which have been formed and are being formed in the world today. For example, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has been formed for many years with the goal of becoming a common market in the very near future. When the seventh world kingdom has fully emerged from the sea of the nations, there will be ten groups of nations in all.

In Daniel chapter eleven, these ten multicultural nations or common markets are called 'fortresses'. They will be 'political and economic' fortresses which will be created among the nations of the world by agreements and alliances. The strength of the ten political 'fortresses' will be the strength of their alliances and their control over economic power and resources. Each of these groups of nations will elect a president. These ten presidents will be the ten kings of the seventh world kingdom. They will not have 'crowns' because they will be subject to the authority of the seven administrative headquarters of Babylon over the nations. They will not have any power beyond the mandate they have received as elected representatives of the people. In the seventh world kingdom, the primary mode of government among the nations of the world will be democracy. Of course, there has been a significant trend towards democracy in the world for many years now and this will only continue in the years ahead.

References:

Dan 2:44
Dan 7:24
Rev 17:12-14
Dan 11:38

Further Study:

Daniel 7

Daily Proverb:

Proverbs 25

Iron and clay

In the vision of king Nebuchadnezzar, the feet and the toes of the statue were made 'partly of iron and partly of clay'. This reveals that it will be a divided kingdom. The strength of iron will be mixed with common clay. The different metals in the statue seen by king Nebuchadnezzar, represent the strength and glory of mankind in each kingdom. They also represent the various 'governmental principles' employed by each kingdom. For example, the governing principle of the Babylonians was an 'absolute monarchy', whereas the governing principle of the Medo-Persians was the 'rule of law'. The seventh world kingdom will be unique because it will be the mixture of iron and clay. Daniel declared, 'It will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, in as much as you saw the iron mixed with common clay'. And he continued, 'They will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery'.

The strength of iron was the primary characteristic of the sixth world kingdom. The strength of the Roman republic was its democratic form of government. In the same way, the seventh world kingdom will be composed of democratic republics. Leaders and heads of state will have legitimacy as democratically elected representatives of the people. However, the strength of this iron will be mixed with the weakness of clay. The clay represents the weakening impact of the 'principle of the little horn' among the nations. The principle by which the little horn works is 'according to the working of Satan'. We are reminded that Satan is the one who has 'weakened the nations'. The emergence of the seventh world kingdom will be characterised by an uneasy alliance and then a power struggle between Babylon, the kings of the earth, and the principle of the little horn.

References:

Dan 2:33, 41, 43
2Th 2:9
Isa 14:12

Further Study:

Daniel 2

Daily Proverb:

Proverbs 26

The weakening principle of the little horn

When we consider the feet and the toes of the statue, the 'clay' represents the principle of the little horn. It is the spirit of antichrist which is already at work in the world. We are reminded that the principle of the little horn is 'after the working of Satan'. Satan has been a liar and a deceiver since the very beginning. The spirit of antichrist is, likewise, a deceiving influence in the church and in the world. We read in the book of Daniel that the little horn 'will cause deceit to succeed by his influence'. The principle of the little horn uses the deceit of diplomacy to weaken, undermine and usurp the strength of Babylon and the nations of the world.

As the seventh world kingdom is rapidly emerging from the sea of the nations, we clearly observe the conflict between the spirit of Babylon and the spirit of antichrist in the world today. The strength of Babylon is the 'common good' of the majority of people. This is the philosophy behind democracy. It is the rule of the majority, for the sake of the majority. In complete contrast to this, the principle of the little horn is the fierce advocate for minority and special interest groups. The principle of the little horn progressively erodes and removes the rights of the majority for the sake of the minority. We could identify many examples of this in the world today.

The strength of the administration of Babylon is based on formulating and then upholding a 'common law' for the sake of the 'common good'. The philosophy of Babylon is that the common good is more important than any one individual's good. The philosophy of the little horn is the promotion of individual rights above all else. This is progressively becoming the philosophy of our education system. Of course, ultimately, this principle manifests itself as 'lawlessness'. Lawlessness is the major characteristic of the spirit of antichrist.

References:

2Th 2:9 Mat 24:12
 Dan 8:25 1Jn 2:18
 1Jn 4:3 2Jn 1:7

Further Study:

1 John 4

Daily Proverb:

Proverbs 27