Charles Feinberg:

There is here a union of church and state. A beast of the revived Roman Empire, a political power and the woman are in definite confederacy. This religious system is the inheritor of all the Babylonian idolatrous practices. You can read of this tremendous system and its similarity to Babylon of old and a number of older works that have been known among the students of the word of God for many years. One of them, only one, is that by Hislop, Hislop to Babylon. It'll give you enough of the general idea, there are a number of other works on it as well that you can find in your public library or in a library that has a religious section.

Actual Babylon of old is typical of religious and political Babylon. Remember the origin of that Babylonian kingdom. It was under Nimrod, his very name Nimrod means rebel, a descendant of the Cursed Cain and of Canaan coming down from Cain. Ancient Babylon was never the center of the Roman Empire But we're going to find this particular corrupt system of Romanism heading up all corrupt religious systems of whatever kind from all time. It doesn't know God in actuality. In verse 3 we find this one sitting upon a scarlet colored beast. Civil power is going to be subject to this woman in her sway. She's going to utilize her religious authority to take over and to take control of all peoples and nations. She's going to dominate the beast king in the bargain. Such as the world power of this awful coming system.

In verse 4 the beast defies the corrupt woman, both are energized by Satan against God and His truth. You'll notice that she has a golden cup. There's outward grandeur, outward beauty.
There's wealth, there's splendor, but it's full of abominations within, inward corruption and filth. That's why we mentioned that this system is the heading up of all corrupt religious systems from the beginning of time on. Here is a picture of the professing church in the time of the Tribulation when left by the Holy Spirit and controlled by Satan.

In Verse 5 we read a Mystery Babylon, not literal Babylon we must make that clear and we must emphasize it. It is mystical, spiritual Babylon. The Mystery of Iniquity is seen in its final form. Babylon means confusion. It meant confusion in Genesis 11, it does here in the Revelation Chapter 17 and 18 as well as the height of all iniquity, the very peak of it. Her followers are innumerable. She is the source of all corruptions and perverseness. And here comes out her true, basic, devilish character. "She is drunk with blood". That characterizes this awful Pagan system, here's the visible Church persecuting, drunk with what kind of blood? Killing whom? The saints of God, the martyrs of Jesus not pagan empires. Notice that, it's not pagan empires as in the days of the early Christian centuries. No wonder John Marveled. He was astonished at the church of which he was then a member should become so debased and so degenerate, so demon-like, so devilish-like in a coming day. Oh, friend flee from any system that does not give Christ his rightful place. Trust Christ alone.

Now in Chapter 17 verses 7 to 15, we come to the second division of this great chapter. I'm reading from verse 7 of chapter 17, "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 beast that thou sawest was, and his not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition”, here is quite a bit of detail coming now, "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. And here is
the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. 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 on a short space. And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition. 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. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These 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. And he saith unto me, the waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues."

In the seventeenth chapter we've just now been reading concerning the doom of mystical Babylon, now we have the explanation for the angel, quite a detailed one, can be involved if we don't take it step by step. Here is an explanation by the angel in verses 7-15, just as a description of Babylon was given in the first six verses. What a fitting explanation on the part of the angel it explains in detail all these things which were shown in the first six verses. You'll remember it was an angel who showed these things to the Apostle John. It was one of the seven angels that had the oversight and had the particular task of pouring out the seven bowls of God's wrath unmixed with any of his mercies.

The Angel then must explain to John the details of the mystery. What is this beast that he saw which was in his not and is about to come up out of the abyss and to go into perdition? We believe this is the same beast that we find in the first part of revelation 13, 13:1-10. It's the beast of the early part of this chapter upon which the woman mystery, symbolical, mystical Babylon, the mother of harlots, and the abominations of the earth upon which she was riding. The first
reference is the ancient Roman Empire and its imperial form in John's Day. It was later destroyed in AD 476. That's the empire, the beast as he was. The ancient empire in its imperial form in the time of the Apostle John. It was later destroyed so it was and then is not. It has no present existence in the political world. You may look throughout the length and breadth of the world and you not find this particular system as declared here and described here. But notice it is yet to come. Whence does it come out of the abyss? Satan is going to see to it that is revived and will fulfil his purpose. The beast as to its human origin is from the nations and comes up out of the sea, chapter 13 verse 1. But as to his supporting undergirding power, it's the reviving of the devil himself. It's a satanic revival. Now notice his final doom, the final doom of the Roman Empire and its last king the beast King is perdition. We read that read that particular truth in verse 8 and we'll see it yet in verse 11. It takes the very wisdom of God to understand it, the very wisdom from God. The very wisdom which God gives us to understand this, to comprehend it fully. It does require wisdom. In No means sort of wisdom. You can't go glibly at it and think you can get it. No it requires wisdom.

On the world scene you can see these things beginning to take shape. What things? Why the things we've been seeing coming All the while. We've been them coming on all the way from the 6th chapter on. God is graciously, even in our time, beginning to give us a little foreshadowing and the shadows are assuredly lengthening. We read that the seven heads of seven mountains upon which the woman sitteth, this is the center of her authority, the seven hills city of Rome here are headquarters for this woman and from the description we know it's not ancient Babylon but ecclesiastical Babylon. The seven kings are the seven types of government on which the woman sits. The seven heads of seven mountains on which the woman sits and the Seven Kings. Five are fallen, one is, the others not yet come. And when he cometh he must
continue a little while. We have just that many types of rule in Roman history: Kings, consuls, dictators, rulers, Rulers in the number of ten, or ruled by ten men, and military tribunes. The one that it refers to when John was on Patmos, the one that's referred to when John was on the island of Patmos is the imperial form of government. Then there is one not yet come. Notice the Roman Empire under a new head, his government is going to have ten kingdoms never equaled before. This has never been seen before in the Roman Empire. Ten Kingdoms all subject to the beast. It's a counterfeit of the Universal Kingdom over which our Lord Jesus Christ is going to rule. They are subject to the beast but for a little while.

The human revival of the empire in Chapter 13 verse 1 in the tribulation is followed by this hellish revival in Chapter 17 Verse 8. It's so complete in itself as to be called an eighth form. Eight is the number of resurrection. It is of the seven. There's going to be a valid connection between the last two stages of the beast in his history. How do we make that up? Well there were these five types of government in Roman history past. There's one that is the John knew in his own day that's the sixth one. The seventh one is the one yet to come the Roman Empire under the new head yet the age is going to come up out of the cellar. It's going to have a connection with it and yet it's going to be distinct enough to be thought of as the eighth. In verse 12 we read of the ten kings. That's the form in which the Empire will be revived, it never existed that way before we’ve already indicated. We read of it in Daniel chapter 12, Excuse me, Daniel 2 and 7. That's why we know that there is a future, tremendous revival of this empire in store for the world. We notice in Verse 13, "The Beast shall war against the lamb, the lamb shall overcome them". But before the warring they have one mind. These ten horns have one mind. They give their power and authority unto the beast, they are subject to the beast, completely under his sway. They make war against the lamb, just exactly the outcome of that. The extent of it, the seriousness, the
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gravity of that war against the lamb. We're going to see in the 19th chapter, verses 19-21, that's the war of Armageddon. Here you see it by way of anticipation. There's certain ones, with the lamb. All are redeemed in heaven, not angels but saints, they're called chosen faithful. The heart has power over people's multitudes and nations and tongues. Rome's power is colossal and widespread.

Now our last verses, our last verses here in Revelation chapter 17:16-18, "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. 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. And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth." Revelation 17:16-18. We come now in our study to the last portion of the seventeenth of the revelation. We are dealing with the judgment of God on ecclesiastical, spiritual Babylon. In verses 16 to 18 of this chapter we have the actual doom poured out. In verse 16 we have the beast and his underlings apparently tired of this ecclesiastical domination, the beast and his underlings finally turn against the apostate system of Rome and accomplish God's wrath on her. Hers is like the fate of Jezebel of old where you have fire here as the means of her destruction. We know that literal Babylon was to be destroyed with water. Jeremiah the prophet says so in Chapter 51. But mystical Babylon, mystery Babylon is destroyed by fire. It's indicated here and Chapter 18 verse 8.

God's prophetic utterances will be accomplished no matter how unlikely. Any word of God, any prediction, any foretelling of the word of God, no matter how unlikely it may seem of accomplishing, it will be accomplished. As our Lord Jesus said in his day, "the word of God cannot be broken, it will not be broken". All is under God's direct control at all times. Let's never
see secondary agents but God moving primarily, the only safe advice for any unsafe person in
the light of these prophetic facts is to flee to Christ and make sure of heaven. Right here and now
to know these things is one thing, to know Christ is quite another thing. We must hear the voice
of God through these amazing prophetic truths.

The Eighteenth chapter the book of Revelation deals with the doom of commercial
Babylon. This chapter carries on the thought of the judgment of God upon this system, Babylon.
Here we have a picture of the judgment of God that is going to be poured out on so-called
Christian civilization in its social and economic commercial aspects. Have you noticed how
within the last half century you find religious features, aspects of life, becoming inseparably
bound up with social, commercial aspects? You find these things here indicated as to their end in
doom. Now some folk laud civilization to the skies. Civilization does have many, many benefits
but civilization from God is no better than no civilization at all. Civilization Ever since the time
of Cain has strangely enough followed a path apart from God. Genesis 4 you'll find cities there,
property, music, skilled art, all the rest but apart from God, oh that these might be captured for
God and for the truth.

Now in Revelation 18:1-3, “After these things I saw another angel coming down out of
heaven, having great authority; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried with a
mighty voice, saying, Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, and is become a habitation of demons,
and a hold of every unclean spirit, and a hold of every unclean and hateful bird. For by the wine
of the wrath of her fornication all the nations are fallen; and the kings of the earth committed
fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth waxed rich by the power of her wantonness.”
We hear the voice of the angel in the first three verses. Notice what has happened here, Babylon
has become a habitation, a prison for every unclean spirit, and unclean, hateful bird. Another
angel appears in verse one. Not one with the bowls of Wrath of God as in 17:1. He has great authority and the earth was lightened with his glory. Now there are degrees of authority among the angels. There are angels of a certain rank then there are other angels of higher rank. There are principalities and powers which are good principalities and powers as well as evil ones. The highest rank of all in the angelic sphere is the Archangel Michael. The angel now under discussion definitely comes with the highest authority of all, for he lightens with his presence with his glory all of the earth. In all probability this is the Lord Jesus Christ, the same one of Chapter 8 verse 3, and Chapter 10 and Verse 1. In Chapter 8 verse 3, He's the angel priest. In chapter 10, verse 1, he is the angel redeemer. In Chapter 18 verse 1 he's the angel avenger of his own.

In Verse 2 we find that Babylon is fallen. Not by way of anticipation now, but in actuality. Chapter 17 speaks of Babylon's doom as brought about by the kingdoms and the Beast. Here it is seen as directly issuing from Christ. What a serious thing that this Babylon has become, it's become the nesting place of every unclean spirit and unclean hateful [inaudible], the awful degenerate state of the professed bride of Christ. Think of it, they've become a habitation of demons like the abyss is. The higher one is exalted in the realm of the spiritual, always notice this, that the higher that a person is exalted in the realm of the spiritual, the greater the doom when he falls. It's the whole, the stronghold of all the evil agencies of Satan, just as in the parables of the kingdom of Matthew 13. Babylon is a veritable cesspool of religious corruption. It would throttle everything. It would make way only for its untruths and for its defiance of the living God. You notice verse 13 indicates that all the nations are fallen, her seductions have been universal. She’s caught captured the attention of the world by her display and ritual and by her easy means of salvation. It's not the heads of the Ten Kingdoms because they're her Destroyers
but the other kings of the earth who lament her fate. There are those outside the ten kingdoms. There's always a class that tries to mix the church with commerce. There's a commercial side, definitely so, to Mystery Babylon. Our duty is definitely to come out, to have nothing to do in our own day and age with anything that denies the glorious truths, the basic fundamental truth of the word of God.

Now notice verses 4 and 5 of the 18th chapter of Revelation. "I heard another voice from heaven, saying, come forth, my people, out of her, that ye have no fellowship with her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues: for her sins have reached even unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." There you have verses 4 and 5. The eighteenth chapter of the Revelation continues on with this doom of economic or commercial Babylon. Spiritual, ecclesiastical, mystical Babylon has itself intertwined with commercial Babylon. The voice of the angel, read all in the first verse, first three verses, tells us the awful state of apostate Christian headed up in Rome. Then the fact is stated that it had been a prison of unclean spirits, unclean hateful birds. The warning to escape follows in verses four and five that we just read. What's the meaning of that warning, "Come forth my people out of her"? This is applicable friend, of course, to all God's children at all times. As far as apostate, God dishonors him. God denying systems of concern. God wants us to have nothing to do with him but you see this is speaking specifically at the time of the Tribulation so it's not speaking to the church. God has an earthly people as well as a heavenly. Babylon is doomed and an escape from her is the only way of safety. And the remnant of that tribulation time is going to head, going to be heeding this warning which is given them. God always prepares a way of escape when any of his believing ones have to go through a trial. God did it for Noah when he went through the waters of the flood. God will do it here for the tribulation remnant from Israel and from among godly gentiles.
We read that Babylon's sins have reached even unto heaven. Remember the first Babylon wanted to build a tower to heaven in Genesis 11:4. Here the mystical counterpart of the first literal Babylon heaped her sins to heaven. God remembers only judgment can now be her portion. God brings her sins into remembrance. Verses 6 to 8, "Render unto her even as she rendered, and double unto her the double according to her works: in the cup which she mingled, mingle unto her double. How much soever she glorified herself, and waxed wanton, so much give her of torment and mourning: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall in no wise see mourning. Therefore in one day shall her plagues come, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire; for strong is the Lord God who judged her." God is seen judging her. Notice Babylon's pride and punishment in verses 6-8. Here is the law of complete recompense, "render unto her even as she rendered". Pay her back in coin. It's the Old Testament law of an eye for an eye isn't it? And here we have a devil. She glorifies herself, that's her pride. Her judges here stated to be God himself. This is her final desolation. This is the fall of the city where she has had her see. It's well known that all Southern Italy is of a volcanic character. God may use this natural phenomenon to bring about his appointed judgment.

And now from verse 9 on through 19 and even 20. From the ninth verse on through the nineteenth verse they set forth a universal lamentation for Babylon. You can read it. What a list. The Kings of the earth feel this loss most because of their intimacy with, their dependence upon this system. It’s their very livelihood. They have made many many commercial contacts. They have vested interests as we say today and here they see everything in one hour come to naught. Her doom is going to be swift and speedy and the only way God can make that clear to you and me is to put it under the time that we know upon earth for in one hour, a very brief time, is thy
judgment come. Notice the picture from verse 11 on. There doesn't seem to be much lacking does there? This is a tremendous merchandise mart.

This system has had a stronghold and a stranglehold on the commercial channels of the world. The most remarkable entry of all though in this catalogue is the souls of men, the lives of men. And there you have it stated as clearly as it could ever be, "and the souls of men", the end of the thirteenth verse. Oh how hideous, how unspeakably sad that corrupt Rome has traffic in the souls of men. That Kings weep and mourn because their own interest and trade are affected we say. Here we see a combination then of the religious with the commercial. It begins with gold and ends with souls. How true we see in areas today where a corrupt ecumenical worldwide system seeks to dabble in all matters of finances and commercial ventures and enterprises in order to make her corrupt way felt. Begins with gold, ends with souls and the list includes costly garments, costly raiment, costly furniture, costly perfumes, costly food, costly equipage. But worst of all, we repeat we can't forget it, the most valuable of all, men's souls and bodies.

There are attempts today to set up a financial system. We have a world bank. We have many other things that have been instituted in recent years since World War II. There are attempts to set up financial systems that will embrace the world. But they cannot stop World War, no. from all this it can be seen that Babylon in the future will not only be a great religious system but, never forget it, a great commercial system as well. The merchants of these things who are made rich shall stand a far off for the fear of her torment. Her doom is visible, is manifest to everybody. There is so much of morning in this chapter. It is because some people have more concern for the commercial, for the outward, for the financial, for the material, for the economic, for the temporal than they do for the everlasting, for the spiritual, for the godly, for the moral, that judgment could be only understood from God's viewpoint. When the world
mourns it's not because they're mourning about things that really matter but it's because some things affect them in trade or in commerce, trade or in commerce. Somebody as well said, "If you want to hear them yell, if you want to hear some folk on Earth Cry out their loudest, just touch them where it hurts the most, in their pocketbook." Well my dear friends, the commercial side, the pocketbook side of Religious confusion Babylon is commercial Babylon. As we have it here in Revelation Chapters 17 and 18. But while Earth is mourning, it's interesting to look at verse 20 just a moment, in verse 20 we have rejoicing in heaven, "rejoice over her thou heaven and ye Saints and ye Apostles and ye prophets". Notice how wide that rejoicing is to be, "For God hath judged your judgment on her". Rejoicing in heaven, that's a remarkable sentence. Earth may mourn, Heaven rejoices. It just shows how out of tune, how out of keeping, How out of step with Heaven Earth can be. The Saints rejoice And Earth mourns. All who have suffered at her cruel hands rejoice in God's judgment.

My dear friends, the book of the revelation is full of judgments of certain systems, of certain countries, of certain parts of the world. But remember there is a final judgment called the lake of fire and that's for any soul who's turned Christ away, who said I will not have him. I don't need him. I can go it on my own. And in that coming hour in the Great White Throne judgment it will be sad. Because that individual will be allowed to go on his or her own. No robe of righteousness to cover the ungodliness, the wicked nakedness. No advocate to plead, no good words that come in, or works that come into the accounting. There, suspended before God. You don't want that friend. You want to be in the company of redeemed. Trust Christ, the Bible tells you how. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. It's just as real, it’s just as simple as for you to have leaned in your mother's arm,
upon her, when she carried you, when she protected you, when she cared for you, when she loved you. Christ says, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest". If you're unsaved, do it. If you are saved, realize that you are now in his embrace you have come unto him and he'll care for you. "He careth for his own". And Peter tells us we are to, "cast all our care upon him for he careth for you". May the Lord abundantly bless you and yours.

[End Part 2]