A couple of quick reminders. Thresher Media Group is a 501c3 *public charity*, and we rely entirely on donations from our listeners. If the Spirit leads you, please support this ministry. It is easy to do, just go to the website, threshermediagroup.com and click the "Donate" tab in the header.

I would also encourage you to go to Amazon and pick up a copy of "Liberating the Book of Revelation, Returning to the Source of the Message." This book is intended to help us all know what the Spirit said and how He said it. This book is focused not on interpreting the book of *Revelation*, that is what this podcast is for, but on accurately representing the book of *Revelation* in the manner in which the Spirit originally spoke it to John. It is available in all formats: hardback, paperback, e-book format, and as an *audible*.

In our last podcast, we saw the mystery of the woman, the great Harlot, and the Beast. This demonstrated how deep this woman's apostasy is in the soul of every man, woman, and child. Even the Apostle John, in the midst of this amazing vision, and after all he had been shown, was awe struck and admired this woman. We also studied the epithet of the Beast that he was, and now is not and is now about to now come out of the Abyss and now go to destruction, and how all will be amazed and admire this Beast.

EP143 Revelation 17 verse 9-10

The Beast's Kingdom

Revelation 17:9-13

Here is the mind which is **now** having wisdom. The seven heads **now** are seven mountains on which the woman **now** chooses to sit, and they **now** are seven kings; five fell, one **now** is, the other has not yet come; and when he may come, he **now** must remain a little while.

The Beast which was and **now** is not, is **now** himself also an eighth and **now** is one of the seven, and he **now** goes to destruction.

The ten horns which you saw **now** are ten kings who have **now** not yet received a kingdom, but they **now** receive authority as kings with the Beast for one hour. These **now** have one mind, and they **now** give their power and authority to the Beast.

The Mind Having Wisdom

The Spirit loves to explain mysteries with mysteries, and this one just also happens to be a brain twister of a mystery. In so doing, He makes **understanding** a privilege reserved for those who have the wisdom of God. In fact, He says it, *"Here is the mind which is now having wisdom."*¹ This is the same wisdom that drives ones understanding to obey the command to calculate the number of the Beast.² Here now is

¹ "has wisdom" is rendered in the *present active participle*

² Revelation 13:18

wisdom.

Fiction Alert

FICTION ALERT

A Revised Roman Empire

It is said that Rome has always been known as the city built on seven hills, not seven mountains, but seven hills. With that said, various Bible teachers, who seem to want a certain outcome, tend to play loosely with this text and they conclude that, though specifying mountains, this passage must be identifying the 7-hills of Rome. And this one little modification has kick-started a whole line of **End Times** presuppositions regarding the place which Rome (or better said, a revised Roman Empire) plays in the overall **End Times** narrative. Practically every teacher who deals with this passage emphatically states that in the **End Times** there will be a revised Roman Empire. Perhaps we should call this antiwisdom.

Oddly, there are many cities that claim to be built on 7 hills, in fact, there are approximately 99 cities around the world that are famed for being built on 7 hills, including such places with possible **End Times** connections like Jerusalem, Moscow, Mecca, Tehran, Amman, as well as Washington DC. Again, there are approximately 99 cities that can make this claim, but certain Biblical experts have decided that it must be speaking of the seven hills of Rome, and they conclude that there will be a revised Roman Empire, not even that there might be, but that there will be. Clearly, they have a presupposition that they insert into the text to achieve an outcome. What the angel reveals to John in this vision is not even contextualized to Rome.

Rather, the woman **now** chooses to sit on the seven heads which **now** are seven mountains. But wait, we were told in **17:1** that this woman specifically "*now* chooses to be sitting on many waters." Is she sitting on heads or waters? That answer is both. The mixture of imagery may be a bit much. But the idea is thankfully cleared up within our text.

The angel tells us in **17:15** that "The waters which you saw where the harlot **now** chooses to sit, are **now** peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues ..." This would indicate that these seven heads which now are seven mountains, upon which "the woman now chooses to sit" are spread across the globe and are not centralized to or around the city of Rome. And being rendered in the *present* tense, we know that this has been a reality every moment of now from the time of John through our now. Thus, this idea of a *revised* Roman Empire is fallacious, fictitious, and inspired by an agenda driven presupposition rather than from the **Codex** itself. This is a common problem when one does not follow the **Code** and the **Codex**.

Again, with the use of the *present* tense, this passage is not addressing what will be in the **End Times**, but what is, even now.

Hills versus Mountains

This fiction brings us to an odd twist brought about by the purveyors of the fiction, which in this specific instance happens not to be the Biblical translators, but the teachers of the most propagated **End Times**

narratives.

The Spirit used the word "mountains," the translators also correctly used the word "mountains," then why do teachers of this fiction substitute "hills" for mountains by concluding this passage must be addressing the seven hills of Rome? As we have learned, there are those who do not believe the Spirit is always exacting and precise. They practically ignore the **Code** and take liberty with what the Spirit said, and they use it for their purposes, whatever those purposes may be.

Though in this instance the translators were correct in rendering the "seven mountains," perhaps some of their other creative approaches which distort the **Code** has been the training ground for some of these teachers who substitute their antiwisdom for the wisdom of the Spirit.

In this passage, the Greek word at issue is "**oros**." This word is used 65 times in the New Testament and is translated as "mountains" in all but 3 passages, where it is rendered in some translations as "hills." Yet, in those other passages where it is translated as "hills," contextually the word choice simply does not make sense.³ And let us keep in mind, there is a very specific Greek word for "hills" (**bounos**"). If the Spirit intended us to understand these seven mountains as hills, as these teachers suggest, he would have used the word "**bounos**" and not "**oros**." After all, the Spirit is always extremely precise.

As to these teachers' training grounds for utilizing their own antiwisdom, one of the three passages in which translators substituted mountains for hills is in a very familiar passage in *Luke 4:29*. The people of Jesus's hometown, Nazareth, were filled with "*thumos*" intense, hot passionate rage over something Jesus said. They were not just mad; they were furious, as "*thumos*" is the word used to describe the **Great Wrath of God** poured out in the 7-vials of wrath. Therefore, they rose up to thrust or eject Jesus out of the city to the precipice of the "*oros*" on which the city had been built, to literally cast him down a cliff.

Getting tossed off a hill may result in some scrapes and bruises, possibly a concussion, and perhaps even a broken bone or two. But if you are enraged with wrath and want to kill someone, you push them off the cliff of a mountain. If the Spirit meant to say that they tried to push Jesus off a hill, He would have instructed Luke to use the word "**bounos**" and not "**oros**," and the whole scene would have been far less dramatic.

So why do some of the translators insert hills for mountains? Who knows, but three times out of 65, many make this substitution and assert their authority over that of the Spirit of God.

By way of some extra information, the elevation gain around the city of Nazareth is over 1,433 feet, which is an elevation gain more akin to mountains than hills.⁴ Just to put things into perspective, this is taller than the Empire State Building by approximately 200 feet. The Empire State Building stands at 1,250 feet. In the transcript are a few pictures of the spot that is assumed to be the precipice they were going

³ See Matthew 5:14; Luke 4:29, 9:37. Contextually, in each of these verses, there is no clear reason why the English translators chose to ascribe "hill" to the word for "mountain" ("oros"). Mountain is the meaning of this Greek word, and it best fits the context of each scenario.

⁴ https://www.mypacer.com/routes/332846/nazareth-slopes-forest-hiking-trail-northern-district-israel



to toss Jesus from, which supports the idea of a mountain instead of a hill.

Moreover, it was not that Luke was unfamiliar with the word "**bounos**," for the Spirit led him to use both words when he wrote in *Luke 3:5*: "*Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain ("oros") and hill* ("bounos") shall be brought low." And in Luke 23:30, "Then they will begin to say to the mountains ("oros") 'fall on us,' and to the hills ("bounos") 'cover us.'"

Why in just these three instances did most of the Biblical translators interpose "hills" for "mountains" when there is a specific word for "hills"? We do not know for sure, but they did not believe the Spirit was always precise when He spoke His words through the Biblical authors.

In like manner, in our passage, these teachers follow this pattern of antiwisdom and just leap from "seven mountains" to the seven hills of Rome to substantiate a view they have about Rome and its role in the **End Times**.

Regardless of the means and the madness for arriving at their conclusion, they suppose that Rome must be where this woman sits. And it is from this assumption that they make a direct and unabashed link to the Catholic Church. They conclude that it is in the literal city of Rome where this harlot will take up her residence exercising great power through the Catholic Church, and it will be where the Beast will rule over a revived Roman Empire.

Yet, if the Spirit literally meant "hills" to be interposed for mountains, then one must figure out what to do with the image of the seven heads, and the seven kings. They must be part of this picture that is centered in Rome. Are they also to be understood literally? If so, who are these 7-kings. What about the 10-horns? Since the mountains and the horns are both descriptors pertaining to the seven heads, you cannot really decouple them from each other and take one as literal and one as a metaphor. So, if the seven "*oros*" are to be understood as the literal seven hills of Rome, what are the 10 horns, or better yet, who are the 10-horns?

Who are the Mountains?

If the mountains are tied to geographic Rome, then it forces us to choose six of these seven kings and attach them to the ancient rulers of Rome (the 5 that were and the 1 that "is" during the time which John was writing), all of which seems quite meaningless in terms of its importance to the narrative.

For instance, if we are correct in assuming that Domitian was the ruling Emperor when John was imprisoned (the one who "is"), he was the eleventh emperor of Rome out of roughly 70 emperors who ruled Rome. Thus, there is no non-arbitrary way to decide on which five of the previous ten emperors this image addresses. Even then, what would it add to the narrative? And keep in mind, there has been no ancillary content in the **Revelation** narrative; everything the Spirit has revealed has been critical to the

overall narrative. And what about the one to come who will reign only a little while? Good luck with that one, you have 59 emperors to choose from.

Therefore, it is more than difficult to conclude that we are to understand the mountains as literal hills of the city Rome and the kings as literal emperors of Rome, especially given the metaphoric nature of this image of the Beast. Besides, such an interpretation, we will find, is wholly inconsistent with the **Code**.

HERE IS THE MIND WHICH IS NOW HAVING WISDOM.

This statement is remarkably like what we read in the letter to the churches. The Spirit made the point that not just anyone can understand what He is communicating. All the religious **fiction** that surrounds the **End Times** makes that point abundantly clear. Unless one **is now having** ears to hear what the Spirit now says to the churches, they may understand the words, understand the Greek, and even come through with well-reasoned and refined sermons and messages, but they will not truly know what the Spirit is communicating.

Likewise, this next part of this passage cannot be understood unless one **is now having** wisdom. Once again, this begs a particularly important question. **How does one get wisdom?**

The **Codex** is clear. The fear of **Yahweh** is the beginning of wisdom, the instruction for wisdom, and it is the beginning of knowledge.⁵ This then begs the next question, what is the "fear" of **Yahweh** (the Fear of the Lord). The fear of **Yahweh** is to hate all evil, for pride, arrogance, and the evil way, and the perverted mouth God hates.⁶ And it is by the fear of **Yahweh**, or the hatred of evil, that one keeps away from evil.⁷

This might all seem a bit circular, but the point is that if **Only God is Good**, then all else is not; all else is evil including all our attempts to be good like God. The Fear of the Lord is fundamentally rooted in the belief that **Only God is Good** and the realization that we are always 100% desperate for Him and His goodness.

This wisdom is discovered when we begin to *detest* all that is within our being that does not derive from the divine, particularly our *instinctual religious wisdom*. As Jude said, *"hating even the garment polluted by the flesh."*⁸

Throughout this study, we have beat home the point that all our acts and deeds that have not been done by Jesus living in and through our lives are flat-out evil, especially all our religious acts, as those are the most deceiving. But there are so, so, so many within Christendom who do not hold to this truth and who do not live according to this truth. They are far too busy trying to do it right for God. And sadly, they will never have the mind of wisdom to understand, for they simply do not fear the Lord.

IF ONLY GOD IS GOOD, THEN ALL ELSE IS NOT—IT IS EVIL. THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF

⁸ Jude 23

⁵ Proverbs 9:10, 15:33, 1:7

⁶ Proverbs 8:13

⁷ Proverbs 16:6

WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE AND IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE MIND THAT IS NOW HAVING WISDOM

7-Heads, 7-Hills, 7-Kings

Here is the mind which is **now** having wisdom. The seven heads **now** are seven mountains on which the woman **now** chooses to sit, and they **now** are seven kings; five fell, one **now** is, the other has not yet come; and when he may come, he **now** must remain a little while.

The Beast which was and **now** is not, is **now** himself also an eighth and **now** is one of the seven, and he **now** goes to destruction.

Now Choses to Sit

Let's break this down. It is colloquially said that this woman "rides the Beast," for when John first saw her, she was choosing to **now** be sitting on the Beast.⁹ The Spirit drills down into this image and gives us more detail as to what John saw. This woman **now** chooses to sit on the seven heads which **now** are seven mountains. and they **now** are seven kings. This is an important detail. She is not sitting on the back of the Beast riding him like a horse, donkey, or mule. Rather, she now chooses to be sitting on the seven heads or seven mountains, and this Beast is even now carrying her.¹⁰ This is an incredible statement on where this woman derives her power and authority. Her authority in this world is not innate to her being (she is not a head, she is not a king); rather, her authority is derived from those upon whom she relies upon for access to this world.

According to the **Code**, mountains ("**oros**") provide us a picture of "kingdoms" or fiefdoms of rule and authority. Thus, this woman of apostate religion now chooses to sit on seven kingdoms, and it is upon these powerful platforms of worldly authority, that she spreads her vile apostate forms of religion across the many waters, which "are **now** peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues …"

The Seven Heads

Oddly, the reference to these "seven heads," "mountains" and "kings" are all rendered in the *present* tense. These seven heads **are** seven mountains, and they **are** seven kings. Thus, according to the **Code**, this cannot be speaking of past rulers of the Roman empire or a future ruler of a Revised Roman Empire. The **Code** demands that they all exist at the same time, from the now of John's day-and-age to the now of ours.

This passage is not speaking about what was or what will be, it is addressing what is – the *present* platform of authority from which this woman intoxicates mankind with her religious seductions.

THE CODE FORCES US TO VIEW THESE IMAGES THROUGH THE SPIRITUAL REALM AND NOT THE PHYSICAL REALM. IN THE SAME WAY THAT THE BEAST (THE EIGHTH KING) AND THE WOMAN WHO IS NOW SITTING ON THE BEAST ARE SPIRITUAL ENTITIES, SO

⁹ Revelation 17:3

¹⁰ *Revelation* 17:7, "carries" is rendered in the *present active participle*, it is a current and continuing action.

TOO ARE THESE HEADS THAT ARE MOUNTAINS THAT ARE KINGS.

In addition, with the number *seven* used so prominently and with there being *three* defining attributes, according to the **Code**, this image speaks of a complete (7) leadership structure that is perfect (3) in its construct.

This is a picture of seven spiritual angelic rulers who are leaders in the Beast's kingdom. They are known as Princes or Kings, and they rule over their respective kingdoms spread out amongst mankind. The heads (or authorities), the kings and their kingdoms, are inextricably related, and one cannot talk about one without talking about the other. The heads, the kings, and their kingdoms (symbolized by "mountains") are a unified picture.

As in our prior discussions of Spiritual Princes, these seven "*heads*" are an image of angelic Princes, likely similar in stature to Michael and Gabriel, and they rule over other spiritual beings, they are kings, and the "*mountains*" are an image of the territory over which they govern.¹¹ Perhaps these seven heads are the authorities who supervise the **Kings of the Earth**, those rulers who will be manipulated by the frog like spirits of demons to come to Jerusalem for war.¹²

7 = Completion
3 = Perfection
Heads = Leadership
Kings = Dominion over others
Mountains = fiefdoms

So where did the kingdom of the Beast get these seven kings? Let's backtrack a bit. In **Revelation 12:3-**4, the Spirit explained, "Then another sign was caused to be seen in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon now having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems." We learned that this was a picture of these seven kings who in effect form the dragon's inner circle of spiritual power—his strategic counsel of leaders.

Then in **Revelation 13**, we learned that the dragon (Satan) gives his throne, power, and great authority to the Beast. Shortly after the Beast is released from the Abyss, the dragon will hand the rule and control over this inner circle of Spiritual Princes to the Beast, thereby supercharging the Beast making him indominable to challenge by other demonic entities.

Now, this image is what we might call the **endgame**, when all these seven Spirit Princes (kings), who comprise the dragon's inner-circle of royal authority that rules over nations and groups of nations, support the Beast (who is an eighth but also one of the seven). This speaks of what now is and continues to be **when** the Beast is released from the Abyss and then rises on to the scene from the *sea* of humanity.

¹¹ See explanation of territorial Princes in *Revelation 16:14*

¹² *Revelation* 16:13-14

Keep in mind, as of now, the eighth head (who now is one of the seven) **now is NOT**. He is still locked away deep in the Abyss. Upon his release from the Abyss at the blowing of the Fifth Trumpet, and with the fealty of the other heads, the Beast will mobilize his kingdom to carry-out the dragon's purposes.¹³

And the woman who rides the Beast (apostate religion) even now chooses to sit upon these heads, these kings, and their kingdoms. And she will continue to sit upon the *peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues* until the time that she is no longer useful to the Beast. When the Beast is finished with her, this kingdom will turn on her and destroy her.

Again, her power and authority in this world are not innate to her being. Rather, it all comes by way of these seven-heads, for she sits upon their power and authority. Thus, it can be taken away from her when they decide they are done with her.

5 Have Fallen

.. five fell, one **now** is, the other has not yet come; and when he may come, he **now** must remain a little while." These five have not died, they have not expired, or become deceased, they have fallen, literally, they fell.¹⁴

The Greek word translated as fell ("*pipto*") is likened to something falling or descending in flight. Jesus used this same word when He said: "*I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightening*" and "*And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shaken*."¹⁵

Oddly, this is the same Greek word used when Jesus said that those in Ephesus had "*fallen*" away from His *agape* love, or in effect had gone apostate. It is also the same word when describing this woman who rides the beast, "*Fell, Fell is Babylon the great*,"¹⁶ This word "fall, fell, fallen" is used in the **Codex** both literally and figuratively.

Being rendered in the *aorist active indicative*, we are to understand the "fall" of these five kings as a past event, and as a statement of fact. Five of these angelic Princes **fell**. Let's consider what this might be communicating.

- (1) They fell from the heavenly realms to the earth. Satan literally swept them with his tail and threw them down to earth (as surprising as it may be, the dragon is still causing angels to fall from their place in heaven to his kingdom of darkness, and he continues to sweep his tail of deception to keep them in their place).¹⁷
- (2) They fell away from their rightful position as servants of **Yahweh** and gone apostate to serve Satan. They still are kings, but they are kings who fell from their original place, position, and assignment.
- (3) They fell from their position of prominence amongst mankind. We will discover that the one thing which connects all these kings is their desire to be adulated or worshipped not just by mankind in general, but most specifically by the people of God—those who should bow only before Yahweh

¹³ See discussion on Revelation 12:3, the 7-heads, Chief Princes, and 7-Diadems, and Revelation 13:1

¹⁴ Note: **Psalm 82** speaks of how God stands in the Assembly and judges in the midst of these spiritual rulers or kings. He addresses their unjust rule and partiality to the wicked. He tells these rulers, these gods, that they in turn will be judged for their inadequate rule, hence they will die just like mere men.

¹⁵ Luke 10:18; Mark 13:23

¹⁶ Revelation 14:8

¹⁷ Revelation 12:3

and who should worship only **Yahweh**. Throughout the Biblical history, these kings have all manifested themselves to humanity as "gods" and have demanded worship and acquired a following of loyal servants.

Looking back at history, however, it seems that **Yahweh Sabaoth** (the Lord of Heaven's Armies) permits these angelic beings to acquire the adulation and worship of mankind for limited periods of time before He says no more and cuts them off from their platform of prominence among His people. As a result, they fell from their place of centrality and importance amongst those who dwell on the earth. Their time for self-glorification amongst mankind has passed. This does not mean that their impact on this world has passed, just their ability to manifest themselves to mankind as gods who must to be worshipped has passed.

Typology of Worship

We are dealing with spiritual beings, angels of such immense power and glory that they are referred to as kings. And what do we know about kings? They love adulation and love to be honored, worshipped even.

To establish our typology, let's begin with the eighth who is one of the seven (the Beast).

The Beast takes his position of authority from within the midst of true believers (which the **Codex** refers to specifically as the "Sanctuary" of God, not the Temple) and he even now claims to be God, and is worshipped as God.¹⁸ In addition, the second beast (the False Prophet) has caused those who are now dwelling on the earth to make an image of the Beast that it may speak and he causes others to worship the image. This explains why there are so many denominations within Christendom, over 45,000, each believing they are worshiping Jesus, when all along most have been listening to the image of the Beast and worshipping this false messiah who now claims to be God. The False Prophet also even now makes the earth and those who are now dwelling in it to, in the future, worship the Beast.¹⁹

In the future, when the Beast is released from the Abyss, he will possess the man we call the Antichrist, or as it is said in the **Codex**, he (the Beast) is given a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies. And he is given authority to act for 42 months (which is 3.5 years) and all who are now dwelling on the earth will worship him.²⁰

This eighth king is all about garnishing the **worship** of mankind and obtaining some level of obeisance from the people who should be worshipping **Yahweh** alone. At his core, the Beast wants to stand in the place of Jesus and function as a substitute. In fact, the Greek word we have translated as "Antichrist" can mean either "*against*" Christ or "*instead*" of Christ. Honestly, both are appropriate and accurate. The Beast presents himself to be worshipped not as "another" Christ but as the Christ. Even now he claims that he is now God.

And it is this picture that establishes our typology enabling us to understand the mystery of the five who have fallen, the one who is, and the one who is yet to come. **It is all about worship**.

Let's stop here and we will pick up with the identification of the 5-gods who have fallen.

¹⁸ 2 Thessalonians 2:1-9. See also 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:21

¹⁹ *Revelation* 13:11-15

²⁰ Revelation 13:5-10

I am glad you "tuned in" and have been "ready to listen."