As I'm sure you know, one of the top stories today is the Vatican's shocking announcement that Benedict XVI will soon resign as Pope. As a result, I am receiving inquiries about whether Benedict XVI might be the 7th head who continues "a short space" (see Revelation 17:10). Here's my view. First, if you aren't familiar with the teaching of all major Protestant reformers, including John Calvin, John Wesley and Charles Spurgeon on the identification of the Roman Church as the "little horn" (Dan. 7:8), the "beast" (Rev. 13:2) and the "Mother of Harlots" (Rev. 17:5), I highly recommend that you carefully study my book, *End Time Delusions*, available from White Horse Media.

The context of the particular scene in Revelation 17 is that John is
taken "in the spirit into the wilderness" (verse 3) where he sees "the Mother of Harlots" (verse 5) *already* "drunken with the blood of the saints" (verse 6). Thus the point of reference here is not the the papacy's rise, but rather the period of her deadly wound (see Revelation 13:3) when she is "in the wilderness" of relative obscurity compared to her former glory. The pure "woman" of Revelation 12 was also in obscurity "in the wilderness" during the 1260-day/year period (Revelation 12:6) of papal persecution.

The papacy's "wilderness" time began with the "deadly wound" (Rev. 13:3) when Napoleon's army took the Pope captive and abolished the papacy in 1798. *Thus, the period around 1798 seems to be the reference point of Revelation 17.* From that standpoint, "there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he comes, he must continue a short space" (Revelation 17:10). Notice, these are "seven kings." In prophecy, a "king" represents "a kingdom," not one person (for proof, see Daniel 7:17,23). From the standpoint of 1798:

**Five are fallen:** Babylon, Persia, Greece, Pagan Rome, Papal Rome.

**One is:** In 1798, America (Rev. 13:11) *had arrived.*

**The 7th is coming, and will continue a short space.** I believe this will be "the image of the beast" (Rev. 13:15) set up in Protestant America at the close of time.

**The 8th** is the beast "that was" (Papal Rome during the 1260 years), "is not" (in 1798 the papacy had been wounded), yet who "shall ascend out of the bottomless pit" (verse 8, when the deadly wound is "healed"). The 8th is "of the seven" (the papacy is one of the seven) and will "go into perdition" (verse 8).

So, NO, Benedict XVI is *not* the 7th head. But, prophecy predicts that the Papacy's wound will heal (Rev. 13:3) and that a revived papacy will work closely with America to form the image of the beast in the closing moments of time. Rest assured I am watching the news closely.

To learn more, read or watch *End Time Delusions* (book/DVD), and *The Great Controversy*, available from White Horse Media (1-800-782-4253).

I also recommend you watch our two new *His Voice Today* TV programs, *Mystery Babylon Part 1* (click picture below) and *Part 2* which just aired coast-to-coast on The Walk TV.
Also, our board met yesterday and voted for White Horse Media to move forward by faith to produce a new 3-part broadcast called "The 3 Biggest End Time Issues" about the Mark of the Beast, Spiritualism, and Christ our Righteousness, which will also be available inexpensively on DVD for distribution like the leaves of autumn.

We need your prayers and support to make it happen.

Let's be among "the called, and chosen, and faithful" (Revelation 17:14).

We're almost home!

Steve Wohlberg
Speaker/Director, White Horse Media

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