

SEVEN KINGS / EIGHT KINGS

Seven Kings / Eight Kings — In the 17th chapter of the book of Revelation it mentions that there are SEVEN KINGS. Then it states: “*Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time*” Revelation 17:10).

Since this Scripture was written in the 1st century (around 96 A.D.) the “*one is*” is referring to the ROMAN EMPIRE since this was the king/kingdom (empire) that was in power at the time that this Scripture was written.

The “*five have fallen*” is referring to FIVE BEASTLY GENTILE KINGS/KINGDOMS THAT HAD PRECEDED THE ROMAN EMPIRE but were no longer in power (such as the Babylonian Empire, Mede-Persian Empire, and Greek-Macedonian Empire).

And then, the other beastly king/kingdom that “*has not yet come,*” is referring to the FINAL REVIVAL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE AND ITS LEADER (THE ANTICHRIST) IN THE END-TIME!

But then in the very next verse (Revelation 17:11; GNT) an EIGHTH KING is introduced: “*And the beast that was once alive, but lives no longer, is itself an eighth king who is one of the seven and is going off to be destroyed.*”

This Scripture is simply explaining that the seventh king (the Antichrist) will be killed. But he will not remain dead, as God *will* allow him to be revived. Then when the Antichrist comes back to life he will technically be an eighth king. But this verse also mentions that he is also “one of the seven” since before being killed he *was* the seventh king. Therefore, he is technically *both* the seventh king *and* the eighth king.

But he will not reign long, as Jesus Christ will swiftly return to destroy him! (Revelation 17:10-11, 19:19-20)

Revelation 17:7-11 — NLT — “Why are you so amazed?”

the angel asked. “I will tell you the mystery of this woman and of the *beast* with seven heads and ten horns. The beast you saw *was alive but isn't now*. And yet he will soon come up out of the bottomless pit and go to eternal destruction. And the people who belong to this world, whose names were not written in the Book of Life from before the world began, *will be amazed at the reappearance of this beast who had died*. And now understand this: The seven heads of the beast represent the seven hills of the city [Rome] where this woman [the Roman Catholic Church] rules. They also represent seven kings. Five kings have already fallen [by the 1st century A.D. five beastly kingdoms had already fallen], the sixth now reigns [the Roman Empire in the 1st century since this Scripture was written around 96 A.D.], and the seventh is yet to come [the final beastly king who will appear in the end-time], but his reign will be brief. [GNT:] And the [7th] beast that was once alive, but lives no longer [for he was killed], is itself an eighth king [because he will come back to life!] who is [also] one of the seven [for he was the 7th] and is going off to be destroyed [by Jesus Christ at His return].”

See also: Beast