

The 6 Features of Empire from Revelation Ch. 17.
(Gorman, *Reading Revelation Responsibly*, pgs. 145-146).

1. A system of domination, that seduces the powerful with the promise of more power and intoxicates the common people with the promise of security, prosperity, and power (17:2).
2. It creates a pseudo-ecumenism of politics and religion, while blasphemously self-promoting its own grandeur, with claims only God can make (17:3-5).
3. It presents itself as aesthetically pleasing and full of benefits for its subjects, while masking its abuse and oppression of defenseless human beings, treating them like commodities (17:4).
4. Despite its claims of divine status, empire is always opposed to the true God, even to resorting to violence to silence the witness of the faithful (17:5, 14).
5. Empires grow, in part, because the conquered acquiesce (17:13).
6. Empires eventually die of a self-inflicted wound (17:16-17).