420 THE APOCALYPSE [cH. xvii. 1  
  
2. The answer is that RomE pagan succeeded to  
the place of the ancient Babylon as the capital of the  
fourth Gentile empire, after the sovereignty was re-  
moved from Babylon. She took the place of Babylon  
in her idolatry, and in the proud elevation of her empe-  
rors to equality with Godhead. She occwpies also the  
same place as it regards Israel. She was the instrument,  
in God’s righteous hand, of carrying captive the Jew,  
of desolating the sanctuary and city of the Most High.  
That Rome is meant, is confessed by most. Her place  
on seven hills is proof positive. Also the point of  
time at which John regards her is clear, from the  
series of the emperors which is given. “One is.”  
This is its point of contact with John’s day.  
3. But Christianity was now abroad, and had been  
for years presented to Rome, when John wrote. Its very  
remarkable that Jesus, when addressing His seven churches,  
sets them all in Asia, and does not then own specifically  
any church of His at Rome ; though Paul by the Spirit  
had done co forty years before. This seems to hint that  
the candlestick had already been removed thence.  
The entrance of the Gospel, and the destruction of  
Jerusalem and her temple, brought on the position of  
things here supposed. Christianity, after long perse-  
cution, was nominally received by Rome. It became  
the religion of the empire. Rome was nationally  
Christian. Instead of being a Church, or an assembly  
of the called out from the evil world around, she was in  
profession wholly Christ’s, His chief city and Church.  
Coincidently with this, the temporal government  
was removed from Rome to Constantinople ; and by  
frequent incursions of the barbarians, Rome was brought  
to the lowest stage of depression. The Grecian emperors  
retained the rule over it, with greater or less power,  
till the year a.p. 726.  
The occasion of the rupture with Constantinople is