

Whore of Babylon



Babylon the Great, commonly known as the Whore of Babylon, refers to both a symbolic female figure and place of evil mentioned in the Book of Revelation in the Bible. Her full title is stated in Revelation 17 (verse 5) as "Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Prostitutes and Abominations of the Earth" (Ancient Greek: μ μ μ ; transliterated *myst rion, Babyl n h megal , h m t r t n porn n kai t n bdelygmat n t s g s*). Revelation 17 (verse 18) identifies the woman as a representation of "the great city which reigneth over the kings of the earth".[1]

Passages from Revelation[edit]

The "great whore" of the Book of Revelation is featured in chapter 17:

1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: 2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. 3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: 5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. 6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. 9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. 10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he comes, he must coroco

they will eventually be annihilated through various well-deserved violent punishments sent by the Israelite God Yahweh.[7]

Preterist interpretations[edit]

Some scholars[who?] interpret 'Babylon' as being based on historical places and events.[citation needed]

Rome and the Roman Empire[edit]

First Peter (1 Peter 5:13) implies the author is in "Babylon", which has been held to be a coded reference to Rome.[8][9][10] Many Biblical scholars[11][12] believe that "Babylon" is a metaphor for the pagan Roman Empire at the time it persecuted Christians, before the Edict of Milan in 313. According to Eusebius of Caesarea Babylon would be Rome or the Roman Empire:

And Peter makes mention of Mark in his first epistle which they say that he wrote in Rome itself, as is indicated by him, when he calls the city, by a figure, Babylon, as he does in the following words: «The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, salutes you; and so does Marcus my son.»(1 Peter 5:13)"[13]

Some biblical scholars recognize that "Babylon" is a cipher for Rome or the Roman Empire but believe Babylon is not limited to the Roman city of the first century. Craig Koester says outright that "the whore is Rome, yet more than Rome." [14] It "is the Roman imperial world, which in turn represents the world alienated from God." [15] Some exegetes interpret the passage as a scathing critique of a servant people of Rome who do the Empire's bidding, interpreting that the author of Revelation was speaking of the Herodians—a party of Jews friendly to Rome and open to its influence, like the Hellenizers of centuries past—and later, corrupt Hasmonians, where the ruler of Jerusalem or Roman Judea exercised his power at the pleasure of the Roman emperor, and was dependent on Roman influence, like Herod the Great in the Gospel of Luke. [citation needed]

In 4 Ezra,[16][17] 2 Baruch[18] and the Sibylline Oracles,[19] "Babylon" is a cryptic name for Rome.[20] In Revelation 17:9 it is said that she sits on "seven mountains", [21] typically understood as the seven hills of Rome. [22][23][24][25][26] A Roman coin minted under the Emperor Vespasian (ca. 70 AD) depicts Rome as a woman sitting on seven hills. [27]

According to the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, "The characteristics ascribed to this Babylon apply to Rome rather than to any other city of that age: (a) as ruling over the kings of the earth (Revelation 17:18); (b) as sitting on seven mountains (Revelation 17:9); (c) as the center of the world's merchandise (Revelation 18:3, 11–13); (d) as the corrupter of the nations (Revelation 17:2; 18:3; 19:2); (e) as the persecutor of the saints (Revelation 17:6)." [28]

Jerusalem[edit]



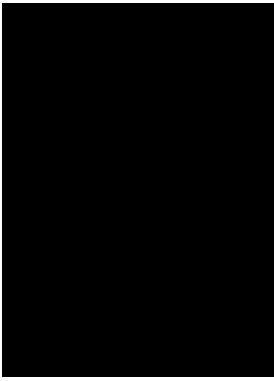
Biblical scholars such as Alan James Beagley, David Chilton, J. Massyngberde Ford, Peter Gaskell, Kenneth Gentry, Edmondo Lupieri, Bruce Malina, Iain Provan, J. Stuart Russell, Milton S. Terry[29] point out that although Rome was the prevailing pagan power in the 1st century, when the Book of Revelation was written, the symbolism of the whore of Babylon refers not to an invading infidel or foreign power. It refers to an apostate false queen, a former "bride" who has been unfaithful and who, even though she has been divorced and cast out because of unfaithfulness, continues to falsely claim to be the "queen" of the spiritual realm.[30][31][32] This symbolism did not fit the case of Rome at the time. Proponents of this view suggest that the "seven mountains" in Rev 17:9 are the seven hills on which Jerusalem stands and the "fall of Babylon" in Rev 18 is the fall and destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD.[33]

Several Old Testament prophets referred to Jerusalem as being a spiritual harlot and a mother of such harlotry (Isaiah 1:21; Jeremiah 2:20; 3:1–11; Ezekiel 16:1–43; 23, as well as Epistle to the Galatians 4:25). Some of these Old Testament prophecies, as well as the warnings in the New Testament concerning Jerusalem, are in fact very close to the text concerning Babylon in Revelation. This suggests that John of Patmos may well have actually been citing those prophecies in his description of Babylon.[34]

For example, in Matthew 23:34–37 and Luke 11:47–51, Jesus himself assigned all of the bloodguilt for the killing of the prophets and of the saints (of all time) to the Pharisees of Jerusalem. In Revelation 17:6 and 18:20,24, almost identical phrasing is used in charging that very same bloodguilt to Babylon. This is also bolstered by Jesus' statement that "it's not possible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem" (Luke 13:33).[35]

Historicist and idealistic interpretations[edit]

Catholic view[edit]



For medieval Spanish Catholics, the Whore of Babylon (Revelation, 17.4–5)[36] (a Christian allegory of evil) was incarnated by the Emirate of Córdoba.

In the most common medieval (Catholic) view, deriving from Augustine of Hippo's *The City of God* (early 5th century), Babylon and Jerusalem referred to two spiritual cities which were spiritually at war with one another, throughout all of history:

Babylon [from Babel] is interpreted confusion, Jerusalem vision of peace. ...They are mingled, and from the very beginning of mankind mingled they run on unto the end of the world. ...Two loves make up these two cities: love of God makes Jerusalem, love of the world makes Babylon.[37]

They also represented two principles at war with one another, inside each individual person, even inside seemingly worldly Christian monarchs; thus Augustine could boast approvingly, "...believing [Christian] monarchs of this world came to the city of Rome, as to the head of Babylon: they went not to the temple of the Emperor, but to the tomb of the Fisherman." [38]

Reformation view[edit]



The Whore of Babylon on the Back of the Beast. See Rev. 17.

Ku Klux Klan cartoon depicting the Whore of Babylon wearing the papal tiara, 1925

Historicist interpreters commonly used the phrase "Whore of Babylon" to refer to the Catholic Church. Reformation writers Martin Luther (1483–1546, author of *On the Babylonian Captivity of the Church*), John Calvin (1509–1564), and John Knox (1510–1572, author of *The First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstruous Regiment of Women*) taught this association.[39][40]

Most early Protestant Reformers believed, and the modern Seventh-day Adventist Church teaches, that in Bible prophecy a woman represents a church.[41][42] The connection noted on the seven hills of Rome is argued to locate the church.[43][44][45]

Identification of the Pope as the Antichrist was written into Protestant creeds such as the Westminster Confession of 1646. The identification of the Roman Catholic Church with the Whore of Babylon is kept in the Scofield Reference Bible (whose 1917 edition identified "ecclesiastical Babylon")

with "apostate Christendom headed by the Papacy"). An image from the 1545 edition of Luther's Bible depicts the Whore as wearing the papal tiara.[46][47]

Latter-day Saint view[edit]

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) views the Whore of Babylon and its Book of Mormon equivalent, the "great and abominable church", as having dominion over the entire earth and representing a powerful collection of groups and carnal individuals seeking wealth, sexual immorality, dominion, and the persecution or death of saints.[48] The Whore of Babylon, or the Devil's Church, consists of all organisations not associated with the followers of Christ or that are against his followers. Ultimately, the Whore of Babylon's fate is to be destroyed in the last days.[48][49]

Seventh-day Adventist view[edit]

Seventh-day Adventists believe that the whore of Babylon represents the fallen state of traditional Christianity, especially the fallen state of Christianity in the Catholic Church. Other churches (predominantly Protestant) are generally considered either part of the harlot or her daughters. Adventists further hold the view that the persecution of the "saints" in Revelation 17:6 represents the persecution of believers who rejected the doctrines which were introduced by the Roman Catholic Church because they were based on pagan Roman beliefs. The Persecution of anyone who opposed the Catholic Church during the Middle Ages, especially by the Inquisition, and the persecution of the Waldensians and the Huguenots are cited as examples of this persecution.[50]

Seventh-day Adventists interpret Revelation 17:18 as a prophecy about the false church, which has power over the kings of the earth. They consider the pope to be in apostasy for allowing pagan rituals, beliefs and ceremonies to come into the church. They consider the Papacy, as a continuation of the Roman Empire, to be a fulfillment of 2 Thessalonians 2:7: "For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way."[51]

Ellen G. White's *The Great Controversy* (1858) states that "Spiritual Babylon" would have worldwide influence, affecting "all nations", that the Imperial Roman Empire could not meet the criteria, because she wrote that it only had influence in the Old World. Like many reformation-era Protestant leaders, her writings also describe the Catholic Church as a fallen church, and it plays a nefarious eschatological role as the antagonist against God's true church and that the pope is the Antichrist.[52][53]

Jehovah's Witnesses view[edit]

Jehovah's Witnesses, whose early teachings were strongly influenced by Adventism but have since diverged,[54] believe that the Whore of Babylon represents "the world empire of false religion",[55] referring to all other religious groups including, but not limited to, Christendom.[56] Jehovah's Witnesses literature frequently refers to the "Great Harlot" of Babylon and the subsequent attack on her by the political powers, signaling the beginning of the "great tribulation".[57] They believe that the empire of false religion has persecuted God's people, and that "false religion" has committed "fornication" with the world's political and commercial elements, based on their interpretation of Revelation 17:1, 2.[58]

View in Thelema[edit]

Babalon (also known as the Scarlet Woman, Great Mother or Mother of Abominations) is a goddess found in the occult system of Thelema, which was established in 1904 with the writing of *The Book of the Law* by English author and occultist Aleister Crowley. The spelling of the name as 'Babalon' was revealed to Crowley in *The Vision and the Voice*. Her name and imagery feature prominently in Crowley's "*Liber Cheth vel Vallum Abiegni*".[59]

In her most abstract form, Babalon represents the female sexual impulse and the liberated woman. In the creed of the Gnostic Mass she is also identified with Mother Earth, in her most fertile sense.[60] Along with her status as an archetype or goddess, Crowley believed that Babalon had an earthly aspect or avatar; a living woman who occupied the spiritual office of the 'Scarlet Woman'. This office, first identified in *The Book of the Law* is usually described as a counterpart to his own identification as "To Mega Therion" (The Great Beast). The role of the Scarlet Woman was to help manifest the energies of the Aeon of Horus. Crowley believed that several women in his life occupied the office of Scarlet Woman, for which see the list below.

Babalon's consort is Chaos, called the "Father of Life" in the Gnostic Mass, being the male form of the creative principle. Chaos appears in *The Vision and the Voice* and later in *Liber Cheth vel Vallum Abiegni*. Separate from her relationship with her consort, Babalon is usually depicted as riding the Beast. She is often referred to as a sacred whore, and her primary symbol is the chalice or grail.

As Crowley wrote in his *The Book of Thoth*, "she rides astride the Beast; in her left hand she holds the reins, representing the passion which unites them. In her right she holds aloft the cup, the Holy Grail aflame with love and death. In this cup are mingled the elements of the sacrament of the Aeon."[61]

See also[edit]

- Anti-Catholicism
- Book of Daniel
- Great Apostasy
- Rastafari § Babylon and Zion

- The Two Babylons
- Woman of the Apocalypse

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BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

New International VersionThe name written on her forehead was a mystery: babylon the great the mother of prostitutes and of the abominations of the earth.New Living TranslationA mysterious name was written on her forehead: "Babylon the Great, Mother of All Prostitutes and Obscenities in the World."English Standard VersionAnd on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations."Berean Standard BibleAnd on her forehead a mysterious name was written: BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.Berean Literal BibleAnd upon her forehead a name was written, a mystery: Babylon the Great, the mother of the prostitutes, and of the abominations of the earth.King James BibleAnd upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.New King James VersionAnd on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.New American Standard Bibleand on her forehead a name was written, a mystery: "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."NASB 1995and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."NASB 1977 and upon her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."Amplified BibleAnd on her forehead a name was written, a mystery: "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES (false religions, heresies) AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."Christian Standard BibleOn her forehead was written a name, a mystery: BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE DETESTABLE THINGS OF THE EARTH.Holman Christian Standard BibleOn her forehead a cryptic name was written: BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE VILE THINGS OF THE EARTH. American Standard Versionand upon her forehead a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF THE HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.Aramaic Bible in Plain EnglishAnd upon her forehead was written: "Mystery Babylon The Great, The Mother of Harlots and of the Filth of The Earth."Contemporary English VersionOn her forehead a mysterious name was written: I AM THE GREAT CITY OF BABYLON, THE MOTHER OF EVERY IMMORAL AND FILTHY THING ON EARTH. Douay-Rheims BibleAnd on her forehead a name was written: A mystery; Babylon the great, the mother of the fornications, and the abominations of the earth. Good News TranslationOn her forehead was written a name that has a secret meaning: "Great Babylon, the mother of all prostitutes and perverts in the world." International Standard VersionOn her forehead was written a secret name: BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND DETESTABLE THINGS OF THE EARTH.Literal Standard Versionand on her forehead was a name written: "SECRET, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF THE WHORES, AND THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."New American BibleOn her forehead was written a name, which is a mystery, "Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth."NET BibleOn her forehead was written a name, a mystery: "Babylon the Great, the Mother of prostitutes and of the detestable things of the earth."New Revised Standard Versionand on her forehead was written a name, a mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of whores and of earth's abominations."New Heart English BibleAnd on her forehead a name was written, "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF THE PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."Weymouth New TestamentAnd on her forehead was a name written: "I am a symbol of great Babylon, the mother of the harlots and of the abominations of the earth."World English BibleAnd on her forehead a name was written, "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF THE PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."Young's Literal Translation and upon her forehead was a name written: 'Secret, Babylon the Great, the Mother of the Whores, and the Abominations of the earth.'Additional Translations ...

Context

The Woman on the Beast...4The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls. She held in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. 5And on her forehead a mysterious name was written: BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. 6I could see that the

woman was drunk with the blood of the saints and witnesses for Jesus. And I was utterly amazed at the sight of her...

Cross References

2 Thessalonians 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work, but the one who now restrains it will continue until he is taken out of the way. Revelation 1:20 This is the mystery of the seven stars you saw in My right hand and of the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. Revelation 14:8 Then a second angel followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, who has made all the nations drink the wine of the passion of her immorality." Revelation 16:19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. And God remembered Babylon the great and gave her the cup of the wine of the fury of His wrath. Revelation 17:1 Then one of the seven angels with the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters. Revelation 17:2 The kings of the earth were immoral with her, and those who dwell on the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her immorality." Revelation 17:7 "Why are you so amazed?" said the angel. "I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and ten horns.

Treasury of Scripture

And on her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

upon.

Revelation 7:3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

Isaiah 3:9 The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves.

Philippians 3:19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

MYSTERY.

2 Thessalonians 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come...

BABYLON.

Revelation 11:8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

Revelation 14:8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

Revelation 16:19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

THE MOTHER.

Revelation 18:9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

Revelation 19:2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

HARLOTS.

(5) And upon her forehead . . .--It was usual with harlots to wear their name on the forehead; but the name here is more than a name. Like the name impressed upon the foreheads of the saints, it is "the expression of her nature"--

"MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF THE HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

The word "mystery" is, perhaps, part of the name; it is, at any rate, a prefix which tells us that the name is not literal, but symbolical. Something lies behind, which will be made manifest in due time. (Comp. 2Thessalonians 2:7.) She is mother of harlots. Others, in smaller spheres, will follow her example; but she is the origin and type of all.

(6) And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints.--It is said later (Revelation 18:24) that in her was found the blood of prophets, and saints, and of all that have been slain upon the earth. The cruel spirit of persecution marked old Pagan Rome. She was drunk with their blood. It is not literally true that "all the blood shed on the earth" would be found in Rome, either Pagan or Papal; but it is spiritually true. Just as all the blood from righteous Abel to Zacharias was required of Jerusalem, so also of Babylon; for the spirit is the same spirit of hatred of holiness and love of worldliness. To slay one is to slay all, as to be guilty in one point of the Law is to be guilty of all; for it is not to mere acts, but also to the spirit and drift of men's conduct, that the Scriptures look. It is the Babylon spirit, whether dominant in Rome or in London, that kills the good. Wherever the

spirit of worldliness (in its widest sense) is to be found, there is the spirit of enmity with God and good, and there is the Babylon which has slain the saints.

And when I saw her, I wondered . . . --Rather, And I wondered when I saw her with great wonder (not "admiration" in our modern sense). Why did St. John wonder? Was it at the splendour or the blasphemous names? Hardly these; for he was familiar with the former in descriptions of Babylon given by the prophets, and with the latter from his own vision in Revelation 13. The wonder probably rose from the strange alliance of the woman with the wild beast. It was not wonderful to see the vision of a wild beast or monster dealing out death and slaughter, but to see a woman allied with the monster and drunken with the blood of the holy provoked astonishment. The woman, too, was a harlot. The prophets had spoken of Israel and Judah as harlots, where they had allied themselves with the world and its dark idolatries (comp. Isaiah 1:21; Jeremiah 2:20; Ezekiel 16:15; Hosea 2:5). Did he read in the form of the vision the hint that in the lapse of years the Church of Christ, like Israel of old, might fall from her high calling and become the ally of the world-power? The hint of it slumbered in the vision. . . .

Verse 5. - And upon her forehead was a name written. Omit "was." μ , "name," is dependent upon μ , "having," in ver. 4. This practice was customary with harlots (Juv., 'Sat.,' 6:123; Seneca, 'Controv.,' 1:2). In Revelation 14:1 and Revelation 7:3 the faithful members of God's Church have his Name in their foreheads; here the faithless ones, represented by the harlot, exhibit a spurious imitation. As God's Name marked the former as his, so the name Babylon, etc., marks the latter as belonging to the world (see on Revelation 16:19; 17:5; 18:2). The name consists of the words following, to the end of the verse. MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. The word "MYSTERY" may be

(1) part of the name, standing coordinately with "BABYLON" (Alford, Bleek, Hengstenberg, Vitranga, Wordsworth);

(2) a description of the following title, being thus in apposition with μ , "name" (Auberlin, De Wette, Dusterdieck, Ebrard);

(3) an adverb used in the same sense as in the last case (Stuart). Whichever view be taken, there can be no doubt that the purpose is to draw attention to the fact which is contained in the following words - a fact which might otherwise be exceedingly difficult to receive. For the rest of the verso asserts that the harlot is Babylon; that is, that the worldly portion of the Church, though nominally Christian, is in reality identical with the world, which is openly antagonistic to God. Indeed, the latter portion of the verse goes even further than this. This faithless (though outwardly Christian) portion of Christ's Church is the mother, that is, the cause of the existence of unfaithfulness to God. So true is it that the professing Christian who is worldly minded does more to cause in others disobedience and unfaithfulness to God, than he who openly declares himself in opposition to God, and even persecutes the faithful; cf. the words to the Church in Laodicea, "I would thou wert cold or hot" (Revelation 3:15). (On "ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH," see on ver. 4.) Parallel Commentaries ...

Greek

On $\epsilon\pi\iota$ (epi) Preposition Strong's 1909: On, to, against, on the basis of, at.

her $\alpha\upsilon\tau\eta$ (aut s) Personal / Possessive Pronoun - Genitive Feminine 3rd Person Singular Strong's 846: He, she, it, they, them, same. From the particle au; the reflexive pronoun self, used of the third person, and of the other persons.

forehead $\mu\epsilon\tau\epsilon\omicron\upsilon$ (met pon) Noun - Accusative Neuter Singular Strong's 3359: The forehead, front. From meta and ops; the forehead.

a mysterious $\mu\upsilon\sigma\tau\epsilon\iota\omicron\nu$ (myst rion) Noun - Nominative Neuter Singular Strong's 3466: From a derivative of muo; a secret or 'mystery'.

name $\mu\epsilon\tau\alpha$ (onoma) Noun - Nominative Neuter Singular Strong's 3686: Name, character, fame, reputation. From a presumed derivative of the base of ginosko; a 'name'.

was written: $\mu\epsilon\tau\epsilon\omicron\upsilon$ (gegrammenon) Verb - Perfect Participle Middle or Passive - Nominative Neuter Singular Strong's 1125: A primary verb; to 'grave', especially to write; figuratively, to describe.

Babylon $\beta\alpha\beta\upsilon\lambda\omicron\nu$ (BABYL N) Noun - Nominative Feminine Singular Strong's 897: Of Hebrew origin; Babylon, the capitol of Chaldaea (as a type of tyranny).

the η (H) Article - Nominative Feminine Singular Strong's 3588: The, the definite article. Including the feminine he, and the neuter to in all their inflections; the definite article; the.

Great, $\mu\epsilon\gamma\alpha\lambda\upsilon$ (MEGAL) Adjective - Nominative Feminine Singular Strong's 3173: Large, great, in the widest sense.

the η (H) Article - Nominative Feminine Singular Strong's 3588: The, the definite article. Including the feminine he, and the neuter to in all their inflections; the definite article; the.

mother $\mu\omicron\tau\epsilon\omicron\rho$ (M T R) Noun - Nominative Feminine Singular Strong's 3384: A mother. Apparently a primary word; a 'mother'.

of prostitutes $\mu\epsilon\tau\epsilon\omicron\upsilon$ (PORN N) Noun - Genitive Feminine Plural Strong's 4204: A prostitute; met: an idolatrous community. Feminine of pornos; a strumpet; figuratively, an idolater.

and $\kappa\alpha\iota$ (KAI) Conjunction Strong's 2532: And, even, also, namely.

of the $\tau\omicron$ (T N) Article - Genitive Neuter Plural Strong's 3588: The, the definite article. Including the feminine he, and the neuter to in all their inflections; the definite article; the.

abominations (BDELYGMAT N)Noun - Genitive Neuter PluralStrong's 946: An abominable thing, an accursed thing. From bdelusso; a detestation, i.e. idolatry.

of the (T S)Article - Genitive Feminine SingularStrong's 3588: The, the definite article. Including the feminine he, and the neuter to in all their inflections; the definite article; the.

earth. (G S)Noun - Genitive Feminine SingularStrong's 1093: Contracted from a primary word; soil; by extension a region, or the solid part or the whole of the terrene globe.

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Mother of Harlots – Israel My Glory

Babylon: Mother of Harlots

The world is careening toward a new order that does not bode well for the inhabitants of this planet. Quarrelsome nations are attempting to stem the tide of deterioration by creating a patchwork of alliances that will somehow bring to humanity a better day. This “better” arrangement is tending toward scrapping Judeo-Christian standards and values in favor of what is being touted as a more humane, tolerant, and creature-centered order. Political campaigning in the recent elections in America reflected the mood in a very dramatic way. Talk about family values, issues related to morality, and questions of character were hooted down by masses of self-indulgent people much more concerned about money than morality. Voters were constantly reminded by some candidates and the media that the overriding issues to be dealt with were jobs and the immediate economic environment. Issues related to historic patterns of conduct associated with the Judeo-Christian heritage were, to say the least, beside the point. Consequently, “right-wing Christians” were accused of pursuing a cultural war designed to oppress those with cont

Man consorted with Satan to build a city and a tower—Babel—that would be his gateway to the heavens. Self-conceived, self-constructed, self-fulfilling—the operative phrase was “let us” (Gen. 11:4). Three thoughts dominated the desire to break free from the dominion of their Creator: “let us build” let us ascend; let us establish dominion. In a word, rebellion was at the heart of the movement.

But there is another “let us” in the passage, and with it comes the clarifying revelation that it is always God who has the last word: “let us,” He said, “go down . . . confound their language . . . [and] scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth” (Gen. 11:7–9). In essence, we see the battle joined, a battle that will rage until the final rebellion following the Millennium (Rev. 20:7–10).

Man—Let us ascend God—Let us descend Man—Let us build God—Let us confuse Man—Let us have dominion God—Let us scatter

Babylon as an Empire

The ideal born on the plain of Shinar was imperialized in the Babylonian Empire. “The king [Nebuchadnezzar] spoke, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty?” (Dan. 4:30). One notes immediately that the spirit present in the ideal is embodied in the empire.

In the prophetic scheme of things, Babylon represented a prototype of the imperial structure and design that would rise in Babylon’s three successor empires. Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and Rome’s reconstituted end-time manifestation, although bearing individual characteristics, would all cherish the same desires: to ascend through idolatrous allegiance to false gods; to build grandiose monuments for their own glory; to create dominion by subjugating weaker nations and unifying them in their world system.

At the root of it all was, and is, rebellion against God. And although in secular historical records it evokes little more than a footnote, a common thread in Gentile-inspired history seems to be the need to subdue the Jewish people and establish dominion over their land, Israel.

Babylon invaded Israel, devastated Jerusalem, sacked and destroyed the Temple, and instigated three waves of captivity: 604 BC, 586 BC, and 535 BC.

Medo-Persia subdued Babylon in 539 BC and ultimately produced Haman during the reign of Xerxes (Ahasuerus) [522–486 BC] who attempted to destroy “all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus” (Est. 3:6).

Greece, following Alexander the Great’s death in 323 BC, was divided among his generals. The infamous Antiochus Epiphanes (175–164 BC)—archetype of the Antichrist who rose out of the Syrian segment of the empire—attacked Jerusalem, desecrated the Temple, forbade the Jews to worship Jehovah, and attempted to paganize Jewry. In short, he tried to destroy Judaism and repopulate Israel with pagans.

Rome had, by 146 BC, subdued remnants of the Greek Empire. Daniel 9:26 prophesied that the Romans would subjugate Israel, crucify Christ, destroy the Second Temple, and scatter the Jewish people across the face of the Gentile nations.

Babylon as a Global System

The final stage of the Babylon phenomenon moves from imperial to global proportions. The dominant vehicle in the transition is the reconstituted Roman empire prophesied as the end-time manifestation of the fourth empire revealed to Daniel (Dan. 7).

Scholars question, particularly in the wake of the Gulf War, whether the ancient city of Babylon will be rebuilt and become the center of commercial activity during the last days. Competent theologians have divided opinions on the subject. The important factor to consider, however, is not the city itself; it is the satanically crafted system that will challenge Jehovah and try to consummate what the Devil has attempted through all the lesser empires. Revelation 17 and 18 detail the destiny of the global Babylonish system that embodies the ideal and imperial designs seen in Scripture and throughout history.

On the plain of Shinar in ancient Babylon, the people who were rebelling against God built their Babel tower as the gateway to the heavens. Their religious efforts, which have afflicted humanity from that day to this, are traced through the mystery religions spawned at Babel and threaded through apostate religious systems throughout history. Full fruition of the satanic masterpiece is described in Revelation 17:4–5: “And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and bedecked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand, full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication; And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” She rises as the consummate manifestation of apostate religion without reality—a religion “drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus” (Rev. 17:6).

Apostate ecumenical Christianity, Islam, the Eastern religions, and earth worshipers will eagerly consort with the Mother of Harlots to form the Church Satan Built.

This harlot system will bring together world religions that are in opposition to Christ and His program. Apostate ecumenical Christianity, Islam, the Eastern religions, and earth worshipers will eagerly consort with the Mother of Harlots to form the Church Satan Built.

The beast (Antichrist) will carry the harlot (that is, have an alliance with the church that will, for a time, give the appearance that religion is calling the shots). This fiction will end when “the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the harlot, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire” (Rev. 17:16).

Intriguingly, it will be God who will put it in the hearts of these kings (ten horns) to destroy the religious harlot and give total allegiance to the beast (Rev. 17:7), who will lead her into catastrophe; for when the Antichrist destroys his religious competitor, he will declare himself divine and institute a cultic Devil worship such as the world has never seen (2 Th. 2:3–4).

Thus the stage is set for Satan's ultimate assault on his one remaining enemy: the Christ he is attempting to dethrone. "These [the Antichrist and his cohorts] shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them; for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings, and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful" (Rev. 17:14).

Three things are worthy of note as Daniel's "stone . . . cut out of the mountain without hands" (Dan. 2:45) crushes political Babylon.

(1) Lamentation: "Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour is thy judgment come" (Rev. 18:10). The tenor of the earth dwellers' lament is that their economic losses were more than they could endure. "The merchants of these things [gold, precious stones, pearls], who were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing" (Rev. 18:15).

The calamity of seeking affluence and economic security devoid of any association with or recognition of a beneficent God reaps the final catastrophe. A world long adrift on the sea of greed and materialism is finally exposed for what it is and brought down by God.

(2) Retribution: "Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her . . . Babylon [shall] be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all" (Rev. 18:20–21).

There is a pervasive feeling in our blood-sodden world that one day accounts will be settled once for all, that righteousness will triumph, and that God will make an end of all the machinations of a God-hating world system bound to work its own will and build a religious, political, and economic utopia. The summary phrase is found in the stark statement, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of demons" (Rev. 18:2). God hasten the day!

(3) Bankruptcy: Perhaps the most cryptic words are found in Revelation 18:5. Remembering the objectives embodied in the ideal empires and global phenomenon Babylon represents, the words reflect the pathetic bankruptcy of Satan's grand delusion: "For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." Perhaps this is the most fitting epitaph for the headstone of all, nations and individuals, who seek a better way—one devoid of "the way, the truth, and the life" (Jn. 14:6).



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Babylon



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Babylon: The Mother of Harlots

Revelation 13:1

"And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name."

The beast in the Book of Revelation is understood to refer to the Antichrist, the man of lawlessness. So, the whore of Babylon, whoever it is, is closely affiliated with the end-times Antichrist. The fact that the

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Revelation 17:1-3

"Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, 'Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication. Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns.'

Revelation 17:5

"And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

Revelation 17:9

"This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits."

Verse 10 goes on to explain that the seven hills represent seven kings or kingdoms, five of which have fallen, one that is and one that is to come. The whore of Babylon will have great worldwide influence over people and nations.

Verses 10-14 describe a series of eight and then ten kings who affiliate with the beast. The whore of Babylon will at one time have control over these kings but the kings will turn on her and destroy her.

Revelation 17:15

“Then the angel said to me, ‘The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.’”

The whore of Babylon is an evil world system, controlled by the Antichrist, during the last days before Jesus return. The whore of Babylon also has religious connotations – spiritual adultery with the beast being the focus of an ungodly, end-times religious system..

...more

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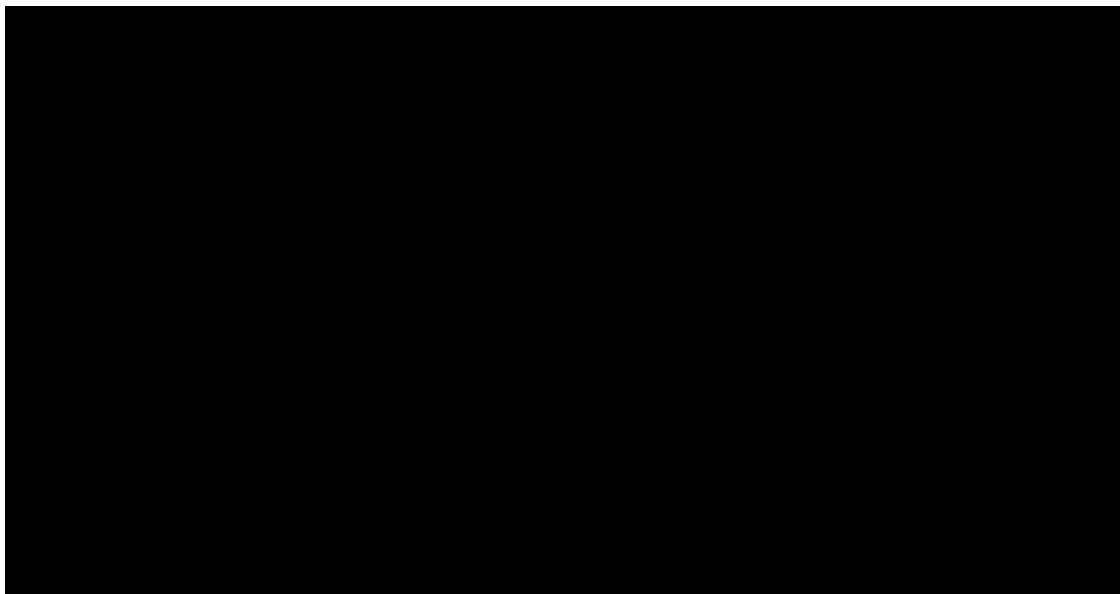
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Mystery Babylon The Mother of Harlots | William Branham

Who Is This Treacherous Woman

Below we have listed some verses out of Revelation 17 which will enable the reader to identify the clues provided by God to show who this woman is. The fact that we are dealing with a woman who according to Revelation 13 desires to be worshipped reveals that it will be a religious system.

Revelation 17:1-6, 9,15,18

1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand

full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

Let's see how The Vatican in Rome today resembles this Babylon:

"And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." (Rev 14:8)

No authority on earth has interacted with the world and its political systems more than the Vatican. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. (Rev 16:19) God will someday destroy spiritual Babylon with great anger because of its great wickedness.

"And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters" (Rev 17:1)

The Vatican (The Great Whore) is the religious system involved in deceiving the world; "many waters" refers to the nations of the world, the worldwide system of false religion controlled by one city, yet covering the entire earth. None other than the Vatican is involved in the ecumenical movement and religious tolerance and unity. Today the call is for "humanity" not Christ "Unity" and not separation from the world religions. This is the call of the Catholic Church of today.

"With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication" (Rev 17:2)

Religious fornication is the term God uses for a fallen entity that claims to be Christian but in reality is a traitor of everything that God ordained.

"So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns" (Rev 17:3)

The woman is the Catholic Church with its unity with fallen Christians and false religions of the world, supported by the antichrist. The "scarlet beast" is the power of the united governments under one ruler that will rule the world. This ruler (AntiChrist) will use this "Whore" to get power and to unite the world, yet in the end both will fall.

"And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication" (Rev 17:4)

Who else but the Catholic Church dresses in purple and scarlet, the colors of royalty. The golden cup is exactly what the Pope uses for the mass.

"And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. (Rev 17:5)

"Mystery" is "hidden" "not known to the world for a while". The Catholic Church and its organized religion is the worst of all the worlds false religions. It appealed to all religions for unity and they all look towards her. The Catholic Church even declared that Islam today is an Abrahamic faith and Muslims today see the Catholic Church honoring Islam. Even the Pope is seen kissing the Quran for the whole world to see. This is indeed an abomination.

"And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration" (Rev 17:6)

For a thousand years before Martin Luther there has always been an "Anti-Catholic" movement which was always separate from Catholicism and never even called themselves Protestants, or even persecuted Jews. Like the Jews in Europe millions of these Christians were put to death by burning and drowning. These believers were separate from "Protestants", a term which was way later attached to those excommunicated from the Catholic Church. These Christians who literally followed the Jewish Bible and paid for it by dying in the millions. Innocent III murdered far more Christians in one afternoon than any Roman emperor did in his entire region. The great historian Will Durant writes:

Compared with the persecution of heresy in Europe from 1227 to 1492, the persecution of Christians by Romans in the first three centuries after Christ was a mild and humane procedure. Millions of Christians were burnt at the stake by the Catholic Church, a cup of abominations that deserves the Biblical verses mentioned in scripture "drunken of the blood of the saints and the martyrs of Jesus" (Rev 17:6). St. Thomas Aquinas said: "They [Christians] have merited to be excluded from the earth by death."

“And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth” (Rev 17:9)

Rome today is called the city of seven hills and the Vatican (The Woman, Harlot) sits in Rome even until today.

“And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities (Rev 18:4-5)

We need to separate ourselves from the Catholic Church and any ecumenical movement related to her. Today we see many denominations falling right into the Catholic Church’s grip calling for unity and “tearing down the walls” which calls for destroying denominations intended to keep the Church intact.

Which Religious System

- a. Controls multitudes, nations and tongues?
- b. Has seduced kings and inhabitants of the earth. Is arrayed in purple and scarlet?
- d. Is bedecked with silver and gold? ,
- e. Is drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus? Sits upon seven mountains?
- g. Is a great city reigning over kings?

Unless the reader is, willfully ignorant it becomes obvious that the religious system herein described has to be the great church of Rome; the so-called eternal city of seven hills.

But Notice Revelation 17:15 describes her as a Mother, with harlot daughters.

If the mother is an illegitimate church, so also will be the daughters. A scant study of all protestant denominations will reveal that they actually came from the womb of Rome.

When Martin Luther was inspired by God to spawn the reformation it was a true revival. However, the followers of Luther instead of being led by the Holy Spirit into further light denominated on Luther’s message and gave birth to another organization. In such a way the first daughter was born and in the same manner every successive daughter came about.

Each church mixed their creed with God’s Word and like the mother strayed from God’s direct leadership to become a dead illegitimate organization. By the time of the Lord’s return Rome and her adulterous daughters are seen to have formed into a vast system able to control politics, religion and commerce.

From such the true ‘Bride of Jesus Christ will have to separate and heed the call of Revelation 18:4. “Come out of her my people and be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

WHY.ARE.WE.NOT.A.DENOMINATION? 58-0927

Quote- Now, now here’s your shocking point. You say, “Well, you ain’t hitting me, Brother Branham.” But let me just ask you something. Let’s go right back now to the 5th verse. And upon her head was... written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF ABOMINATIONS,... (or)... THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. What was she? W-h-o-r-e. And she was a m-o-t-h-e-r. What? M-o-t-h-e-r, she had begotten something. A mother of sons? Of harlots. What is a harlot? Same thing as a— as a whore: immoral woman. What made her immoral? Her doctrine.

She was pretending to be a Christian church, but was giving out manmade dogma. And here she said that she had... If she was the first organization, then seems like there’s some organizations come out of her. She was the mother of harlots. Is that right? A mother of harlots. Couldn’t be a mother now of boys. Couldn’t be a mother of... It had to be mother of women. And if they were women, they were churches. Now, let’s find out. What come out of the...

What was the first organization? Catholic church. What was the second organization? Luther. What was the third organization? Zwingli. What’d it come on down to? Calvin. And then it come into Anglican, and the Anglican on down into Methodist. The Methodists, what’d the Methodists produce? Out of there come Alexander Campbell. And out of Alexander Campbell come John Smith; out of Alexander Campbell was the Christian church, then they had four or five Church of Christ and all those other little isms run out.

Then here come the Baptist church, it had a lot of little pull outs. And out of the Methodist church come—out of the Methodist church come, first come, the Wesleyan Methodist, then they broke off four or five times. Then they come to another type of Methodist, and then they come off again, then they come to the Free Methodist. And—and then they come from that to the Nazarene. And from the Nazarene to the Pilgrim Holiness, and the Pilgrim Holiness on down. Just little “isms” running out like that, keep running on down, each one of them little—little starters back there, come right on down. And what did every one of them do? They finally wound up in Pentecost.

And what did Pentecost do? The same thing their mammy did; they went right back and organized. And what’d it become? A—a denomination. Walk into one; the first thing, “What’s your doctrine?” Boy, they comb you with a fine-tooth comb (See?), to find out what you are, what you believe. And if you don’t just tally right up with them, brother, you’re excommunicated right now. And that’s right. And don’t think just because

you say you're Pentecostal that you're secured. Brother, there'd be just as many Pentecost's off the road as there is on the road, I'm sure. See?

666

Revelation 13:16-18. "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or, sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred, threescore and six."

ARE YOU PART OF THE BODY OF CHRIST OR PART OF THE SYSTEM ?

If your faith is founded entirely on the Word of God, you are part of Him.

Matt. 4:4. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

WHAT IS THE SYSTEM? INSCRIBED IN THE VATICAN ARE THE LATIN WORDS WHICH TRANSLATED MEANS Instead Of The Son Of God

Imagine the blasphemy of a man, whether priest or pope, to claim to stand before the people "instead of the Son of God." The second chapter of II Thess. describes him well:

II Thess. 2:4. "Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. "

It becomes even more enlightening when one understands the numerical value of this blasphemous title.

There are no u's in the Roman language, just v's and the value of these numerals in this title totals 666! It is on this throne that the anti-christ will one day reveal himself.

Let us not be blind, it is-not by-chance that the major religious movements of today are leaning more and more to Catholicism. It is not by chance that the charismatic movement is becoming an adhesive to cement together Catholicism, Pentecostalism, and liberal Protestantism. It is not by chance that the Anglican church is trying to amalgamate with the Roman Catholic Church. Nor is it by chance that we have World Council of Churches with their one-world church thrust.

Though it is all very spiritual and much activity is taking place, remember the scriptures speak of two churches, one very large and illustrious and one very small and humble.

Don't be fooled for there is no such thing as "unity and being one" as far as God is concerned unless it is unity around the Word of God. In this hodge-podge, Catholics are still Catholics and each other respective church holds to their creeds with equal tenacity. There is little regard for basic scriptural fundamentals such as holiness, place of women, correct water baptism, error of infant baptism, and many others. In this mock revival the one dispensable element is the Bible itself.

I must also mention that scripture nowhere points to a vast end-time revival nor do they teach that the Living Saints at the time of his second coming will be any great number. (Luke 18:8) When the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith on "the earth?" . . . Just as in Noah's day (Luke 17:26) God will speak to the Laodicean Church and will call out individuals QY his prophet to join Christ, (THE WORD) on the outside of the church. Rev. 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and-he with me. " That faithful minority will represent His lovely but tiny end-time BRIDE.

Brothers and sisters please wake up to what is happening. We should all become increasingly alarmed. It is not our intent to offend the individual by this paper, but rather to warn everyone who claims faith in Christ to stay with the Word in these troubled times and to hearken to the voice of God's Prophet. (Rev. 10:7)

Who is Babylon the great, the mother of harlots (Revelation 17:5)?

Purpose of this article



In Revelation chapters 12 to 16, God's people are persecuted by a dragon (Rev 12:3), a beast from the sea (Rev 13:1; 17:3), a beast that comes out of the earth (Rev 13:11), and by an image of the beast that kills people who do not accept the beast's mark (Rev 13:15-16). The harlot Babylon is not mentioned, except briefly in Revelation 14:8. But then, at the end of Revelation 16, Babylon has to drink the cup of God's fierce wrath (Rev 16:19) and the entire Revelation 17 and 18 are devoted to explain who she is.

Revelation 17 symbolizes Babylon as a harlot who is sitting on a scarlet beast (Rev 17:1, 3, 5). The dragon makes war against God's people (Rev 12:17), the beast from the sea overcomes the saints (Rev 13:7), the beast from the earth deceives those who dwell on the earth with signs and wonders (Rev 13:13-14) and convinces the people to create the image of the beast that kills God's people (Rev 13:14-16), but Revelation 17 and 18 reveal that it is really Babylon who sits behind all of this:

"In her was found the blood of p s7)kR i Bui n d n

unite the people by exiling nations to Babylon. Babylon, therefore, symbolizes attempts to unite the world against God. The world's final attempt to unite against God will be when they gather the rulers and their armies at Armageddon "for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty" (Rev 16:14, 16; 19:19).

Babylon intoxicates people.

The angel said that Babylon "sits on many waters" (Rev 17:1). The angel explained the "many waters" as "peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues" (Rev 17:15). That she sits on the people means that "those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality" (Rev 17:2; cf. 14:8; 18:3, 23). In other words, she exerts an intoxicating influence on them, and the thinking of drunk people is confused.

Babylon is not another mighty world ruler.

The entity symbolized by Babylon is something substantially different from the world rulers because:

She is a woman and the kings are men, for example, "the woman whom you saw ... reigns over the kings of the earth" (Rev 17:18).

Her relationship with these men is described as immoral: "With whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality" (Rev 17:2). The implication is that her immoral relationship with the kings is a surprise and that we would expect her to have a moral relationship with the rulers; consistent with God's will. This is in contrast with relationships between the kings of this world, where we would not be surprised to find immoral behavior.

Babylon, therefore, is not simply a mighty world ruler.

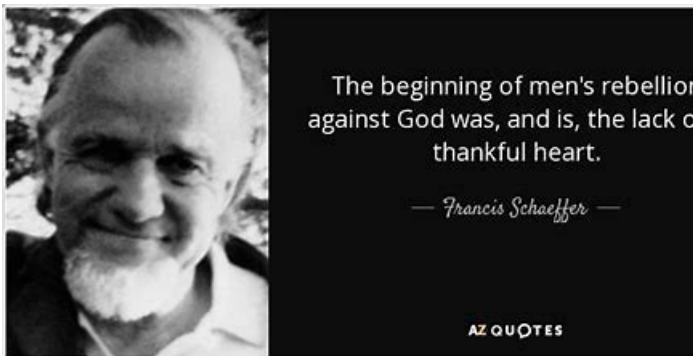
Babylon is worldwide and always exists.

For example, she sits on the "peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues" (Rev 17:1, 15). Revelation uses such four-fold lists to indicate ALL the people of the world. "ALL the nations have drunk of the wine ... of her immorality" (Rev 18:3; cf. 14:8), and she is guilty of ALL deaths of God's people who died for their faith (Rev 18:24 cf. Rev 17:6; 19:2).

That she always exists is also indicated by her description as the "mother of harlots ... of the earth" (Rev 17:5), and that she sits on all seven heads of the beast (Rev 17:9), because these seven heads are the seven phases of the beast, representing seven empires or ages from the time of the ancient prophet Daniel to the return of Christ.

The kings will burn her up with fire.

The same world rulers with whom she committed "acts of immorality" will turn on her and "burn her up with fire" (Rev 17:16-17). Babylon, therefore, is not some amorphous entity such as the power of money but symbolizes something specific that can be destroyed.



Babylon the Great symbolizes a timeless principle.

This section is a summary of the article with the same title. The purpose here is to explain the relationship between Babylon and the dragon, the beast from the sea, the false prophet, and the image of the beast.

She reigns over world rulers.

Babylon sits on a scarlet beast (Rev 17:3). In other words, she is distinct from this beast.

The scarlet beast has seven heads and ten horns. Both the heads and horns are explained as "kings" (Rev 17:9-10, 12). The seven heads are the seven phases of the beast and the ten horns symbolize an end-time coalition (Rev 17:12). The beast, therefore, is a composite symbol for the rulers of this world over time. Therefore, that she sits on them is explained as that she "reigns over the kings of the earth" (Rev 17:18). She reigns over the kings during all seven phases and during the end-time coalition.

Babylon is part of the sea beast.

While, in Revelation 17, Babylon is distinct from the scarlet beast, she is part of the sea beast. To explain: As previously mentions, in Revelation 13, four entities oppose and persecute God's people:

(1) The dragon, (2) The beast from the sea, (3) The beast from the earth – also called the false prophet (Rev 16:13, 19:20), and (4) The image of the beast (Rev 13:1-2, 11, 14).

Although Babylon is not mentioned at all in Revelation 13, she must be part of these four entities because:

While they persecute God's people, Babylon is guilty of their blood (Rev 18:24; 17:6).

The three angels (Rev 14:6-11) bring their warning messages during the crisis of Revelation 13 (compare Rev 14:9 to Rev 13:16) but they announce that Babylon is fallen (Rev 14:8).

During the seven last plagues (cf. Rev 15:1), the dragon, the sea beast, and the false prophet gather together t ,

the people of God when they are unfaithful to Him (e.g., Exo 34:15; Jer 3:6, 9, 20; Ezek 16:6-19; Isa 1:21-23; Hosea 1:2). Since Revelation is given to the church, the harlot in Revelation symbolizes false Christianity.

(3) The beast from the sea is Christian.

Another article identifies the sea beast as the church of the Middle Ages. As discussed above, the beast from the sea (Rev 13:1) is one instance of the timeless principle symbolized by the harlot (Rev 17:3), the church of the Middle Ages was one example of the harlot.

(4) The beast from the earth is Christian.

In Revelation 13, the image of the beast forces people to accept the mark of the beast (Rev 13:15-16). But it is the beast from the earth that convinces the people of the world to make that image of the beast (Rev 13:11, 14-15). There are several indications that the beast from the earth is a Christian entity. For example:

- - - It is “like a lamb” and, in Revelation, the lamb often (28 times) serves as a symbol for Christ (e.g., Rev 14:10).
 - It is also called “the false prophet” (Rev 16:13; 19:20; compare with Rev 13:12), and God’s people are called prophets (e.g., Rev 18:20).
 - The beast from the earth “deceives” with “signs” (Rev 13:13-14; 16:13), and Jesus said that “false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders” (Matt 24:24; 2 Thess 2:9).
 - It “exercises all the authority of the first beast” (Rev 13:12), which has been identified as the church of the Middle Ages.

(5) Only God’s people are persecuted.

Only God’s true people, namely those who refuse to accept the mark of the beast, are persecuted in Revelation 13 (Rev 17:6; cf. 18:24). The important point is that only false Christianity is able to identify and selectively persecute God’s true people because they are the people who persistently protest against the church’s blasphemous teachings and practices (Rev 12:11). Foreign nations and other religions are unable to distinguish God’s true people from the church in general.

(6) The enemy is inside the church.

The letters to the seven churches (Rev 1-3) contain many references to things mentioned later in Revelation, such as the tree of life and the second death (Rev 2:7, 11). For that reason, we can assume that the anti-God forces in the letters are early forms of Babylon.

In these letters, the enemy of the church is inside the church. For example, in Ephesus, there were “those who call themselves apostles, and they are not” (Rev 2:2; cf. 2:9; 14, 20). Therefore, Babylon is inside the church.

(7) Penalized as a daughter of a priest

In the law of Moses, the penalty for fornication was stoning (Deut 22:20-27). But there was an exception; when the woman was the daughter of a priest, “she shall be burned with fire” (Lev 21:9). Babylon will be burned with fire (Rev 17:16), implying that she will suffer the penalty reserved for the daughter of a priest.

Babylon’s other characteristics

Some of Babylon’s other characteristics are listed here – not to prove that she symbolizes false Christianity – but to show that they are consistent with that identification:

“Babylon is fallen” (Rev 14:8; 18:2), which means that she was previously something better, but has become corrupted.

John was “greatly astonished” when he saw the harlot (Rev 17:6). That means that what he saw was totally unexpected. If the church of Christ would become the intolerant and bloodthirsty persecutor of God’s people, that would be truly dumbfounding.

Babylon corrupts and intoxicates the people of the world (Rev 17:2; 18:3).

The main word in Revelation 13 and 14 is “worship” (13:4, 8, 12, 15; 14:7, 9, 11). This final conflict, therefore, may be described as a war over worship.

The beast dies but is revived (Rev 13:3). This implies a period of temporary incapacity. That can be explained: During the Middle Ages, the church was strong and killed thousands (millions?) of God’s true people. At the end of the Middle Ages, the beast was temporarily incapacitated when religious freedom became the norm in the Western world. In the end-time, the beast will be revived when the image of the beast is formed.

Babylon is more than the church.

As shown above, Babylon exists everywhere and for all human history. Consequently, Babylon, sitting on the beast, symbolizes a timeless principle, namely that false religion always dominates world rulers to force people to accept her doctrines.

Babylon, therefore, is NOT limited to false Christianity. However, in the Christian era, the institutional church has adopted that Babylonian principle and has become Babylon. Just as Israel killed the prophets, so the church, according to historians, has killed millions of God's people.

Conclusions

Christian civil war

Based on the above, it seems fairly clear that the end-time conflict, as described in Revelation 13, is a Christian civil war. God's true people are found in all denominations, but Revelation reveals to God's people that false Christianity is the true persecutor of God's people.

Unity of church and state

"The kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her" (Rev 18:3). Since Babylon represents false Christianity, "acts of immorality" symbolize alliances between church and state or even unity of church and state.

Your merchants were the great men.

Revelation 18, while still describing Babylon, is substantially different from Revelation 17. The last verse of Revelation 17 identified the woman as "the great city" and Revelation 18 continues to describe her as a city. As part of that symbolism, that chapter emphasizes commercial aspects and Babylon's merchant. For example:

"Your merchants were the great men of the earth" (Rev 18:23).

This section is a summary of an article that explains who Babylon's merchants are. For the following reason, this section identifies the merchants as the prophets of false religion:

(1) The merchants are part of Babylon.

Babylon sits on the kings and the peoples of the world (Rev 17:3, 15). In other words, she is distinct from the kings and the people. But the merchants, in contrast, are described as "your merchants" (Rev 18:23). The word "your" means that they belong to her. They are part of her and work for her. Therefore, since Babylon symbolizes false Christianity and since the merchants are part of her, they are the prophets of false Christianity.

(2) The merchants are not literally rich.

Babylon's merchants "have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality" (Rev 18:3). This does not refer to literal wealth because the merchants are "the great men" (Rev 18:23) and Revelation makes a distinction between "great men" and "the rich" (Rev 6:15).

(3) Buying and selling are symbolic.

In Revelation, buying and selling must be interpreted symbolically. For example:

To buy gold and white clothes means to accept salvation (Rev 3:18) and to purchase people means to save them (Rev 14:3-4; 5:9).

To be wealthy means to be saved and to be poor means to be lost (Rev 2:9; 3:17).

In the end-time, "no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark" (Rev 13:15). With the interpretation of buying and selling above, this would mean that nobody will be allowed to preach, except the people with the mark of the beast.

Conclusion: Babylon's sensuality

"The merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality" (Rev 18:3). Since Babylon is "the great harlot ... with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality" (Rev 17:1-2), "her sensuality" is what attracts the kings to her. "Her sensuality" refers to the power that religion has over the minds of people. "Kings" (political authorities) desire this power to strengthen their control over people.

Her "sensuality" is also the source of the merchants' wealth (Rev 18:3). The merchants' "wealth" is indicated by how many followers they have (how many people they have "purchased"). Her "sensuality" – the power that religion has over the minds of people – assures them of many followers.

Babylon is not a literal end-time city.

The literal interpretation of Babylon is that it refers to the ancient city Babylon that will be rebuilt on the banks of the literal Euphrates River, to become the literal political and commercial capital of the world. The section is a summary of the article that analyzes the arguments for this proposal.

Revelation uses Old Testament language.

To support the literal interpretation of Babylon, interpreters point out that Revelation, to describe end-time Babylon, draws both the name and imagery of ancient Babylon from the Old Testament. For example, in both the OT and in Revelation, Babylon dwells on "many waters" (Jer 51:13; Rev 17:1), is suddenly destroyed – on a single day (Jer 51:8, 30; Rev 18:8, 17) – by fire (Jer 51:30; Rev 17:16; 18:8), completely (Jer 50:39; Rev. 18:21), and deservedly (Jer 51:63-64; Rev 18:21).

The literal interpretation argues that Revelation repeats the Old Testament predictions of the destruction of ancient Babylon because the destruction of Babylon, which the Old Testament predicted, literally still lies in our future. However, for the following reasons, this argument is not accepted:

Tire language

Firstly, to describe Babylon, Revelation also draws language from the destruction of another mighty Old Testament city (Tire). For example, both Tire and Babylon in Revelation are women with daughters (Ezek 26:6; Rev 17:5) and will cease to be forever (Ezek 27:36; Rev 18:21). This argues against the literal interpretation of end-time Babylon.

Revelation changes the meaning.

Secondly, Revelation changes the meaning of the Babylon-imagery it borrows from the Old Testament. For example, the Euphrates River literally ran through the ancient city. For that reason, the Old Testament says that literal Babylon "dwell by many waters" (Jer 51:13). Similarly, in Revelation, Babylon "sits on many waters" (Rev 17:1), but now the "many waters" have become a symbol for the peoples of the world (Rev 17:15). Since Revelation changes the meaning of the Babylon-language it borrows from the Old Testament, such language must be interpreted symbolically.

In particular, in both the Old Testament and in Revelation, the Euphrates is Babylon's river (cf. Rev 16:12; 17:1, 5). For that reason, and since Revelation explicitly defines the Euphrates as a symbol (Rev 17:1, 15), Babylon must also be a symbol.

Jerusalem is a symbol.

Thirdly, if the Babylon of Revelation is a literal city, then ancient Babylon's great enemy (in both the Old Testament and in Revelation), namely the city Jerusalem, must also be a literal city. But Revelation uses the New Jerusalem as a symbol for God's people from both dispensations (Rev 21:9-10, 12, 14).

Place names convey qualities.

Translations of Revelation 17:5 print the name on Babylon's forehead in capital letters. In the NASB, we read: "a mystery, BABYLON THE GREAT." This means that "mystery" is not part of her name. Rather, her name is "a mystery." Consequently, Babylon is not her real name but a symbol.

Similarly, in Revelation 11:8, we read:

"The great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt."

"The great city" is Babylon (e.g., Rev 18:21). The word "mystically" means that what follows is a symbolic description of Babylon. "Sodom" emphasizes moral depravity and "Egypt" identifies "the great city" as the enemy of God's people. In other words, Revelation uses place names to communicate qualities. Since, in the Old Testament, ancient Babylon was the great enemy of God's people, the name "Babylon" also identifies this entity as the enemy of God's people.

Unfulfilled Prophecies

A second argument in support of the literal interpretation is that many prophecies of the destruction of ancient Babylon in the Old Testament have not been fulfilled. The Old Testament predicted that Babylon will be destroyed suddenly, violently, literally, completely, and permanently (Isa 13:1,

19 22; 14, 47; Jer 50:13, 35, 39 40; 51:8, 24 26) in the “Day of the Lord” (Isa 13:6 11; 13:1; 14:1 3; Jer 50:1 6) when there will be a disturbance in the sun and moon (Isa 13:10). These prophecies have never been literally fulfilled.

That, however, is consistent with the dual fulfillment of classical prophecies. For example, in a single prophecy, Joel 2:28-3:1 promised both that Jerusalem would be restored and that the Holy Spirit would be poured out. Only in hindsight are we able to distinguish between these events.

Similarly, in the wisdom and foreknowledge of God, the Old Testament prophecies of the fall of Babylon predict both the historical fall of ancient Babylon and the end-time destruction of the age-old and worldwide enemy of God’s people.

Symbols explain other symbols.

A third argument to justify the literal interpretation is that Revelation 17:18 explains Babylon as “the great city” and, if that is not a literal city, then one symbol (great city) explains another (Babylon). However, Revelation frequently explains symbols with other symbols. For example, the seven heads are seven mountains (Rev 17:9) and the beast is an eight head (Rev 17:11).

Revelation, therefore, often uses more than one symbol for the same reality. Jesus is both a lion and a lamb (Rev 5:5, 6) and the beast from the earth is also “the false prophet” (Rev 13:12-13; 19:20). In the same way, in Revelation 17:18, the harlot and the “great city” are two symbols for the worldwide resistance to God.

A different Babylon in Revelation 18

The Babylon of Revelation 17 is a harlot woman and seems to describe her as a spiritual entity, but Revelation 18 describes her as a city emphasizing commercial aspects. Therefore, literal interpreters propose that the harlot and the city symbolize two different things and that the Babylon of Revelation 18 is a literal city.

Two different names?

But how could this be possible if the harlot and the city have the same name? Therefore, the literal interpretation proposes that the names of the harlot and the city are different. In the KJV of Revelation 17:5, the harlot’s name is “Mystery Babylon” while the city is called “Babylon the great” (Rev 16:19; 17:18). However, in the NASB translation of 17:5, “mystery” is not part of her name. That this translation is correct is confirmed two verses later, where the woman herself is described as a “mystery” (Rev 17:7).

Two different exterminators?

Another justification for the view that the harlot and the city symbolize two different things is that the beast consumes the woman of chapter 17 (Rev 17:16) whereas God judges Babylon in chapter 18 (e.g., Rev 18:8). However, both are destroyed by God (Rev 17:17; 18:5, 8) through fire (Rev 17:16; 18:8-9, 18) and both will become an utterly desolate (Rev 17:16; 18:17, 19).

The harlot is the city.

Contrary to the literal interpretation, there are many indications that the harlot and the city are one and the same. For example:

- - The harlot is explicitly explained as the city (Rev 17:18).
 - The New Jerusalem is also both a woman and a city (Rev 21:9, 10).
 - Both are wealthy (Rev 17:4; 18:16, 19), deceive the nations (Rev 17:2; 18:24) and persecute God’s people (Rev 17:6; 18:20, 24).
 - Revelation 19 continues to describe Babylon’s destruction, but here she is again “the great harlot” (Rev 19:2-3).

Conclusion

This section has shown that the evidence for the literal interpretation is weak. Above we showed that Babylon has existed for all human history. That means that the ancient Babylon of the Old Testament is too young to be the Babylon of Revelation.

Is the Papacy the harlot of Revelation?



Another view is that the harlot Babylon symbolizes Roman Catholicism. This view may be justified as follows:

- (1) The Papacy's blasphemous claims, such as that the pope is the head of all churches, the judge of the living and the dead, the true vicar (substitute) of Christ, and the supreme teacher in the church.
- (2) The harlot Babylon is "drunk with the blood of the saints" (Rev 17:6). The Papacy's history was marked with the shedding of the blood of saints, for example, the slaughter of 20000 citizens of Beziers, France on July 22, 1209, nearly 1 million Waldensian Christians between 1540 – 1570 and tens, even hundreds of thousands of people during the Spanish Inquisition.
- (3) The harlot "reigns over the kings of the earth" (Rev 17:18). During the Middle Ages, "kings had to ... be in communion with the Pope, as essential conditions of their reigning lawfully; if these conditions were broken, of which the Pope was the judge, then ... he could ... declare their ruler unfit to reign" [Cath Dic, 257].
- (4) "The woman was ... adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls" (Rev 17:4), indicating her wealth. The Catholic Church, similarly, has untold wealth. It is "one of the greatest fiscal powers in the world" [Nino Lo Bello, The Vatican Empire, p.8].
- (5) According to Daniel 7, some power emanating from the Roman Empire will become the antichrist and will continue until the return of Christ. Historians inform us that the Roman Catholic Church descended from Rome and inherited its authority from the Roman Empire.



However, the Babylon of Revelation has always existed and is worldwide. It is the mother of all harlots and abominations of the earth, including ancient paganism, Chinese Confucianism, Asian Buddhism, Indian Hinduism, Shamanism and all the world's vast complex of "many gods and many lords" (1 Cor 8:5). Roman Catholicism is not "the mother of the harlots" (Rev 17:5).

We must also distinguish between the church of the Middle Ages and the Papacy. The identifications above describe the church of the Middle Ages. But that church no longer exists. It has broken up into many denominations (daughters?).

The church of the Middle Ages has been identified as the beast. In the end-time, when the image of the beast is formed (Rev 13:14), that spirit will be revived but we will be deceived if we expect the attack to come from the Papacy. We need to recognize that all people and denominations, to some extent, carry within them the Babylonian spirit. Given the right circumstances, cruel men will assume leadership positions in Protestant churches and transform the bride of Christ into the blood-thirsty persecutor of God's people.

Other Interpretations

The City Jerusalem

Some argue that the Babylon of Revelation is the physical city Jerusalem because:

The "great city," which is Babylon (Rev 18:10), is described in Revelation 11:8 as the place "where also their Lord was crucified." Literally interpreted, this is Jerusalem.

In Babylon "was found the blood of prophets and of the saints" (Rev 18:24). This is also what Jesus said of Jerusalem (Matt 23:35, Luke 11:50-51).

The color and adornment of the harlot (Rev 17:4) reflect the Jewish priestly colors of scarlet, purple, and gold (Exo 28:33).

Babylon has the name "mother of harlots" on her forehead while Judah had a harlot's forehead, and was a harlot (Jer 3:3-6).

But Babylon cannot be Jerusalem because it cannot be said that Jerusalem rules over the kings of the earth (Rev 17:18), or that Jerusalem has a dominating influence over the world's population (Rev 17:15), or that the merchants grow rich from Jerusalem's excessive luxuries (Rev 18:3). Since Israel did not even exist as a nation until the time of Jacob, it is obvious that she cannot be the mother or originator of harlots and of the abominations of the earth (Rev 17:5), corrupting the earth with her fornication (Rev 19:2).

The World

Some understand Babylon as all entrenched worldly resistance to God; the total culture of the world apart from God; the world with its cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes, and the boasting of what he has and does (1 John 2:16); the world's power, the world's riches; the world of lust, all that appeals to the flesh or the mind and entices and seduces us away from God.

This view properly accounts for Babylon's age-old existence and global influence but does not for characteristics such as:

- - - Babylon is something specific which the kings are able to kill (Rev 17:16).
 - She is the earthly counterfeit bride, exclusively opposed to God's people.
 - In Revelation, wealth is a symbol of a spiritual condition.

The Ancient City of Rome

In the Academic world, Revelation is generally seen not as predictions of the future, but as descriptions of events in John's time, presented in the form of a prophecy. General, the academic view is that Babylon is Rome of old and the Beast is Nero. This view is based on detailed and complex justifications, mostly based on writings from outside of the Bible.

This view makes John to be a liar because he writes that the things he saw "must soon take place" (Rev 1:1).

One of the major justifications is the assumption that the seven hills of Revelation 17:9 identify the topography of the ancient city of Rome. But these seven hills are defined as seven consecutive kings (Rev 17:10). (The KJV translation is misleading here in its inference that the seven mountains are different from the seven kings. The Greek says, "the seven heads are seven mountains ... and they are seven kings.") The seven heads, therefore, cannot be the Seven Hills of Rome.

Many other identifications of Babylon, as discussed above, disqualify Rome. For example, Babylon is destroyed after the temple in heaven is closed (Rev 16:19, 15:8), which happens after every person has made his or her final decision for or against God. (In the final crisis on earth, everybody will have to make a choice. On the one hand, the Image of the Beast will persecute all who do not accept the mark of the beast (Rev 13:15-16). On the other hand, God's message will be proclaimed with such power that the whole earth will be lightened (Rev 14:6).)

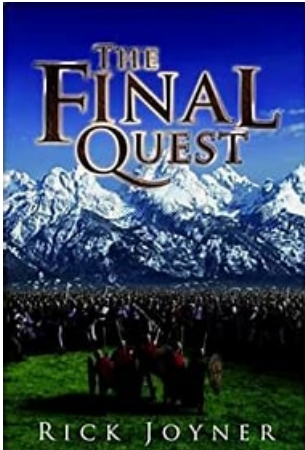
Books can be written to oppose this view, but it would not avail much, as academics attempt to compete in the scientific world, and science excludes the possibility of the supernatural. The scientific method, therefore, does not accept that God is able to make accurate predictions of the future. Should the reader be interested:

The article *When Daniel was written* provides ample proof that Daniel was written long before Antiochus Epiphanies IV, and even before the Greek Empire, which is specifically mentioned in Daniel 8:21.

The article on the *Fall of Rome* shows that Daniel correctly predicts HOW the Roman Empire will fall in the fifth century AFTER Christ, namely that it will be subdivided into many kingdoms which will be a continuation of it. This is excellent proof of God's supernatural ability to predict the

future.

Rick Joyner



In his book *The Final Quest*, Rick describes “The Prisoners.” They are a vast multitude of Christians. They were all wounded, and were guarded by Fear and Depression. The only food they received was Condemnation. When Condemnation hits a prisoner, he would stand up and march a little straighter for a while, and then slump over, even weaker than before.

Occasionally, a weak prisoner would stumble and fall. As soon as he or she hits the ground, the other prisoners would begin stabbing them with their swords (meaning, quoting Bible verses), scorning them as they did so. Their depression would then become even worse.

These prisoners thought that the vomit of condemnation was truth from God. These prisoners actually thought they were marching in the army of God! They naively accepted everything that happened to them as being from the Lord.

Then the voice of the Lord came to me saying, “This is the beginning of the enemy’s last day army. This is Satan’s ultimate deception, and his ultimate power of destruction is released when he uses Christians to attack other Christians. Throughout the ages he has used this army, but never has he been able to capture so many to be used for his evil purposes.

Articles in this Series

- - - Summary of these articles
 - Introduction: General characteristics.
 - She is a timeless principle that is present in all religious entities.
 - End-time Babylon is false Christianity.
 - Her “merchants” are her false prophets.
 - She is not a literal end-time city.
 - Is the Papacy the harlot of Revelation?

Other articles series

- - - The Four Major Interpretations of the 490 years of Daniel 9
 - The Seven Seals of Revelation
 - There is no evidence for everlasting torment in the Bible.

For further reading, I recommend Jon Paulien’s commentary. For general discussions of theology, I recommend Graham Maxwell, who you will find on the Pineknoll website.

Mystery Babylon, Mother of Harlots

by NemisiStar

Behold, I tell you a mystery! Babylon the Great has fallen, has fallen... The answer to the age old mystery is told in this documentary video illustrating the parallels of ancient Babylon and modern day Roman Catholicism. The prophecy of the dream Nebuchadnezzar had over 2,500 years ago, interpreted by the prophet Daniel, is complete. There is a direct connection from the beginning to the end to the “Whore of Babylon” in the Book of Revelation, chapters 17 & 18. Her time is up, her dominion is over, her priests are the most abase and she and all those connected to her are resurrected to everlasting shame. Prophecy of God fulfilled.

Babylon, the Mother of Harlots: Time To Come Out!

In the Bible, Babylon is not only an historical empire ruled by Nebuchadnezzar, but it is also a symbolic representative of Satan's kingdom – the mother of prostitutes:

MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH (Revelation 17:5 NIV84).

The Bible goes on to describe the depravity and corruption of Babylon, how its influence is so great that even God's people are caught up in it – but that God calls them out:

Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird. For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.

Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues" (Revelation 18:2–4 NIV84).

Why is Babylon, out of all the nations mentioned in the Bible, chosen to represent the mother of harlots, the queen of corruption, the progenitor of this end-time power that wars against God's people?

The central theme of the Old Testament is the coming Messiah. After Adam sinned, God promised that the Messiah, the Seed of the woman, would crush the serpent and save us (Genesis 3). The entire Old Testament is focused on this battle between God's agencies working to bring the Messiah through Israel and Satan's agencies working to prevent it. This is why we don't have a Bible account of what was happening in China or South America, not because God doesn't love those people, but because Jesus wasn't going to be born through those families.

Within this framework, various nations come to our attention as they become part of this Bible story arc – that is, as they interact with Israel. Babylon, and the other kingdoms we read about in Scripture, are highlighted because they are used by Satan to try to destroy the people through whom God would bring Jesus.

But why is Babylon specifically chosen as a symbolic representation of the detestable end-time system noted in Revelation? We see in history that other nations warred against Israel – the Hittites, Philistines, Assyrians, and Egyptians are just a few. Indeed, in Bible symbolism, Egypt is also used to represent one of Satan's agencies (Revelation 11:8). So why isn't Egypt the mother of harlots? Both Egypt and Babylon held the Hebrews as slaves. God delivered the Hebrews from the bondage of both. Why then is Babylon and not Egypt the mother of harlots? Because Egypt is different from Babylon in a specific way, which reveals why Babylon so accurately represents the end-time harlot and her daughters.

Unfaithful Nation

What is a harlot in Bible symbolism? It is an unfaithful woman who defiles herself spiritually with other lovers. A pure woman represents the righteous – the bride of Christ – but a harlot represents the betrayal of that relationship, an adulterer.

Think of what is represented by what a harlot does. (I am not trying to be unnecessarily graphic, but I do want you to consider the metaphor and what it represents.) The harlot is intimate with men who are not her spouse. She lets others, not her husband, enter her and deposit their seed. Thus, the harlot represents those people who are intimate with gods other than Jesus and who let seeds of lies and falsehoods about God into their hearts, all the while purporting to be loyal to Jesus.

Understanding the symbolism of the harlot, why is Babylon and not Egypt the mother of harlots? Egypt was led by Pharaoh, who denied God's existence: "Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go" (Exodus 5:2 NIV84).

But Babylon was led by Nebuchadnezzar, who – while he didn't initially know God – later accepted Him.

Now consider the sin of adultery: Can you commit adultery against someone you have never known? For instance, can you cheat on your spouse if you were never married? Thus, Egypt doesn't represent a harlot – those who accept Jesus but betray Him. Instead, Egypt represents those who never knew God, those who deny Him. Egypt represents the paganist, evolutionist, secularist, communist, etc.

Babylon represents those who accept God, the Christian, but they betray Him by allowing Satan's seed, or lies about God, into their heart. How?

What else is unique about Babylon compared to other nations of the world that attacked Israel and that perfectly reveals Satan's false worldly systems?

Of the various nations that warred against Israel, Babylon was the first to create a legal code, the Code of Hammurabi. In other words, Babylon is the first of these abusing nations to most accurately represent Satan's imposed-law methods and coercive legal government. It is this rule of law methodology, enforcement by the state, that the entire world has drunk and become intoxicated upon, such that the world believes the way to righteousness or justice is through the enforcement of the right legal code. This imposed-law worldview as a means of justice is the wine that intoxicates the world. And the Code of Hammurabi was a law enacted at the behest or with the authority of their god – in other words, the idea that this is how God operates, that it is by God's will, and that it is enforced through His power and consent. "In God we trust!" And when

Nebuchadnezzar accepted that Daniel's God was indeed God, he immediately passed imposed laws to kill anyone who spoke badly against God (Daniel 3:29).

Babylon is the mother of all the harlots and intoxicates the entire world on its wine that imposed law is the way to justice. And all the nations of the world accept her "seed," her ideas about law and justice, and commit adultery with her.

Wine is a perfect metaphor. Why? Because alcohol confuses the thinking, impairing judgment all the while making people feel good. The imposed-law methods of Satan, with its coercive enforcement, is the wine people ingest that confuses the thinking, impairing the judgment while making people feel good.

So, Babylon represents those who claim to worship God but betray the Creator God and instead give their love, affection, and hearts to a deity who functions like an imperial dictator, one who makes up rules like humans do and uses power to inflict punishment for sin, a god who requires legal payments to atone for sin. This false view will ultimately lead to the formation of the beast of Revelation, which will seek various forms of "justice" through human governments.

In his book *The Subversion of Christianity*, Jacques Ellul describes the process of how Christianity became subverted. He details the history of the church betraying the gospel of Jesus transforming hearts for a legal code that punished bad moral behavior.

Ellul writes:

The popes use laws to fight the corruption of the clergy ... the church's reaction to the encounter with immorality, its immense attempt to enforce law and morality, and its reply to loose conduct in the ethical fields is closely connected with the error of confusing the church and society. ... The perversion, then, was that of making the gospel into law ... the mistake was dealing with these on the moral and legal plane instead of following the example of Paul, who always works through the moral question to the spiritual question, gets back to the essence of the revelation in Christ, and from this derives some models of conduct that are consistent with faith and love. The church did not do this. It thus set itself on the same level as the world and treated moral matters on the moral plane (p. 88, 89).

He is saying that the gospel of Jesus deals with the corrupt hearts of people to actually transform hearts and minds, which resolves the sin problem and all injustice. But the church instead betrayed its trust by accepting the lie that God's law is like human law, advancing a system of moral justice through more law and legal enforcement.

Ellul continues:

Catholic Christianity becomes the state religion and an exchange takes place: the church is invested with political power, and it invests the emperor with religious power. ... We have to say very forcefully that we see here the perversion of revelation by participation in politics, by the seeking of power. The church lets itself be seduced, invaded, dominated by the ease with which it can now spread the gospel by force (another force than that of God) and use its influence to make the state, too, Christian. It is great acquiescence [acceptance] to the temptation Jesus himself resisted, for when Satan offers to give him all the kingdoms of earth, Jesus refuses, but the church accepts, not realizing from whom it is receiving the kingdoms. ... Christianity became the state religion. ... It is frightening to see how easily the church accepts all this. Hardly had it emerged from persecution before it itself began to persecute. ... The church is a political power but it is always at the service of the political power that is either in place or in the course of being installed. ...

It will be republican under a republic as it is monarchist under a monarchy. Irrefutable theological arguments are always found. A monarchical regime reflects the monarchical unity of God. A republic reflects the people that God elects for himself on earth. Democracy shows that God associates himself with the will of the peoples. The tradition was already well established when in the sixth century the idea was formulated that the acts of God in history were performed through the Franks. The church could then become National Socialists (the German Christians) when Hitler came to power. It could become communist (with notorious figures like Bereski and Hromadka) in communist countries. Each time it develops a theological argument to show that the power that has been set up is good. ... Once the church is ready to associate with instituted power it is obliged to associate with all and sundry forms of the state. ... When the church becomes socialist in the support of a socialist regime, it may stress the theological themes of poverty and justice. ...

The church's fault is to be found in the process of justifying political power and action (p.124–126).

Do you see the historical progression away from design law – away from truth, love, and freedom being restored in the heart through trust in God – to a system of imposed law, with rules and morality codes enforced externally? This is Satan's world, Satan's system of imposed law, and the church embraces it and teaches it as if it were God's heavenly kingdom, and all the world now embraces this method and commits adultery with her.

Babylon, the first nation interacting with Israel and enacting a legal code, perfectly represents the mother of harlots. And all the religions and nations of the world that embrace the imposed-law lie and teach that the God of heaven operates this way (imposes laws and inflicts punishments) are the daughters of this harlot – and in doing so, they betray their trust to God. They have accepted the seeds of Satan into their hearts.

Egypt represents Satan's other system, the system of godlessness, the people and states that deny God but also use imposed-law methods. They are also intoxicated on the wine of Babylon, the false legal views of how to achieve justice, but they have never known or claimed to know God and, thus, are not represented as a harlot. (These two opposing forces of Satan are also represented by the kings of the north and south in Daniel 11 – if you haven't read my blog on this, I encourage you to do so.)

Thus, in Bible symbolism, Babylon represents religious imperialism, the false god-construct of imposed law, and Egypt represents godlessness,

evolutionism, secularism, communism, and paganism. Both Babylon (the religious right) and Egypt (the liberal left) are part of Satan's kingdom. Satan pits these two systems against each other and tricks people into joining one or the other and to seek their view of justice through political and national powers and more imposed laws – but both systems are part of Satan's kingdom of imposed law and coercive enforcement.

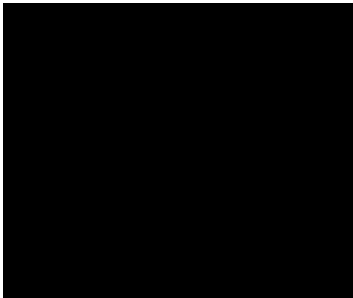
God's people are called out of Babylon. We are to leave the systems of imposed laws and imposed penalties, to stop seeking to achieve social justice through more laws, more rules, and more punishments. We are to seek justice by loving every person as God loves us them, to give glory to God by practicing His methods in our lives, because the hour in human history has come for people to make a right judgment about God, for people to worship Him as the Creator who made the heavens and earth and sea and whose laws are design laws, not imposed Babylonian-like rules.

People of God, come out of Babylon!

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Who Is The Mother of Harlots

Introduction



Revelation prophecies speak of Mystery Babylon the great, the Mother of Harlots, a woman in scarlet, purple and gold who rides on a strange beast and makes war against the saints of God and overcomes them for a period of time spoken of prophetically as 42 months, or 1260 days. As days in prophecy relate to years, this ruling power is shown to have uninterrupted reign for 1260 years. Symbolically a woman is a Church as we will see as we look at the prophecies. There is a vast distinction made between the true pure remnant Church of God and the Harlot Church also called Babylon.

In the Old Testament Babylon was a pagan nation who took God's people into captivity and defiled the Temple of God. They worshipped idols and their king, and trod the Word of God underfoot. This great city was finally destroyed, just as the prophets had predicted. Isaiah 45:1-3.

A King from the east named Cyrus diverted the waters of the river Euphrates, which ran beneath the walls of the great city of Babylon from one side to the other. There were large metal gates which went down to the river bed, but on the night when the people of Babylon were in a drunken state, having feasted and again defiled God by using the sacred implements from His Holy Temple to drink from, they forgot to lock these gates and the armies of Medo-Persia marched under the walls of Babylon and defeated that great city without resistance.

Is Babylon of Revelation literal or symbolic?

The Bible tells us that Babylon will never be rebuilt. Jeremiah prophesied that this city would be desolate forever. (Jeremiah 51:26; Jeremiah 51:39-43)

This tells us then that Babylon spoken of in Revelation is not the literal city which will be rebuilt, but rather it is symbolic of a ruling power who has defiled God by worshipping idols, breaking His Commandments and persecuting God's true followers.

As with all Bible prophecy the rule laid out in Isaiah 28:10 is applied. There are several chapters in Revelation that deal with mystery Babylon depicting her as a harlot woman, a beast with seven heads and ten horns, and the antichrist beast power that wars against God's faithful people. Each of the prophecies build upon each other and give further details. The chapters are not in chronological order.

Revelation 12 begins by showing us a woman clothed in the wondrous creations of God about to give birth to the male child, Jesus the Saviour, and the dragon with seven heads and ten horns, ready to devour Him. (Revelation 12:1-3) The symbology used here is the same as used by Daniel in explaining his vision in Daniel 7, which related to the reigning world power that would follow Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece, which was the Iron monarchy of Rome. (Daniel 7:3-7) (These beasts have a total of seven heads and ten horns).

This same beast power is again described in Revelation 13:1-7 As you can see the extra details we are given here is that the beast (which is symbolic for a ruling power) speaks great blasphemies against God and against His tabernacle. This information parallels Daniel's prophecy which described a 'little horn' which spoke 'great things' coming up from among the ten horns (the ten kingdoms of divided pagan Rome. Daniel 7:8)

Daniel goes on to tell us that this 'little horn' power would be different from the rest and would destroy three of the ten kingdoms when it came into power.

We do not have to guess that these beasts represent kingdoms and that horns represent kings because the angel Gabriel gives Daniel the

interpretation. (Daniel 7:23-26)

Daniel tells us that the 'little horn' which is synonymous with Mystery Babylon and the Harlot Woman, is a ruling power which is different from the powers before her. He tells us that she came to power, after emerging out of the ten kingdoms of the divided Roman Empire, and that she would destroy three of the ten kingdoms. This means that we have the distinct advantage over the Bible writers who were prophesying about the future, in that we can simply look up our history books and find out who it was that destroyed the three Roman kingdoms and hence identify who the Bible is speaking of as Babylon.

The three Roman kingdoms which were destroyed were the Vandals, the Ostrogoths and the Heruli. Which power destroyed them? History shows that it was the ruling Religious-Political power of the Papacy. In his book 'God Cares' Dr. Mervyn Maxwell, a theologian and historian summarises the overthrow of these three kingdoms. "The Catholic emperor Zeno (474-491) arranged a treaty with the Ostrogoths in 487 which resulted in the eradication of the kingdom of the Arian Heruli in 493. And the Catholic emperor Justinian (527-565) exterminated the Arian Vandals in 534 and significantly broke the power of the Arian Ostrogoths in 538."

Prophecy shows that Satan gave power to pagan Rome and through Herod tried to destroy the Son of God, as seen in Revelation 12, which also speaks of Satan's fall from heaven taking one third of the angels with him. (Revelation 12:4) Later in the chapter more details of the war in heaven are given. (Revelation 12:7-9)

Revelation also shows that Satan would give his power, seat and great authority to the Beast or Babylon. (Revelation 13:2) We know that Satan was working through the pagan Roman system, but did he give the Papal ruling power its seat? History again verifies this part of the prophecy. When Emperor Constantine built the new city Constantinople, which he named after himself, he left Rome and handed the seat of office in Rome to the Papacy. In the Vatican there is a tapestry on the wall about 75 feet long, and underneath the tapestry it says "The donation of Constantine to the Pope" What did he donate? He donated the city of Rome and the Church became a kingdom (beast). It was no longer just a religion it was now also a political power.

How did God's Church go to a ruling system known as Babylon?

The early Church held firm to the faith of Jesus and the doctrines of the scriptures and many were persecuted and killed for their faith over the following centuries. Christianity was an outlawed religion, but the more faithful Christians were martyred for their faith the more the Church grew. Satan then managed to pull off one of his most successful war plans on the Church, instead of opposing them through inciting the persecution, he



took on the guise of a sheep and sought to destroy Christianity from within. In 321 A.D. Constantine who was a pagan became Caesar in Rome and when he began to see the balance of power shift from paganism to the Church he passed the first law enforcing Sunday worship. This meant that Christians began breaking the fourth Commandment and observing the day to worship God, on a day that had previously only been used by the pagans to worship the sun god. Two years later Constantine joined the Roman Catholic Church and began mingling paganism and Christianity. He legalised Christianity, but brought so much paganism and idol worship into the Church that the pure faith of the early Church became lost. The new Babylon emerged, disguised as Christianity. As well as idolatry and changing the Sabbath, this new system of paganistic Christianity incorporated many of the pagan beliefs. The pagan deities with the trinity of Father, Mother and Child, took on the names of



Father, Mary and Baby Jesus, with the sun god clearly displayed behind their heads in much of the early Christian artwork. Sun dials became a prominent part of their architecture. Tradition and introduced religious doctrines began to replace the Holy Scriptures, and in fact the Bibles were left carefully chained inside the Churches so that they would not be accessible to any of the common folk. The promotion of one man as head of the Church, who became known as God on Earth, and the ordination of priests as mediators who purported to forgive sins, were just some of the anti-biblical doctrines introduced which sought to raise man higher and the standing of Jesus lower. They also invented paid indulgences and purgatory as a holding place for the dead, where if enough money was paid to the Church, the dead loved ones could progress closer to heaven, again a teaching deeply entrenched in paganism. The Papal power also had an army at its disposal to destroy any person or kingdom who would not bow down to her authority. Here are a few supporting historical quotes.

First Sunday Law enacted by Emperor Constantine - March, 321 A.D. "On the venerable Day of the Sun let the magistrates and people residing in cities rest, and let all workshops be closed." Source: Codex Justinianus, lib. 3, tit. 12, 3; trans. in Philip Schaff, History of the Christian Church, Vol.3 (5th ed.; New York: Scribner, 1902), p.380, note 1.

This was done through paganism and in favour of Sun worship. "The Church made a sacred day of Sunday ... largely because it was the weekly

festival of the sun; for it was a definite Christian policy to take over the pagan festivals endeared to the people by tradition, and to give them a Christian significance.” Source: Arthur Weigall, *The Paganism in Our Christianity*, p. 145. Copyright 1928 by G. p. Putnam's Sons, New York.

Doctor Alexander Hislop, in his classic work, *The Two Babylon's*, page 105, says this: “To conciliate the Pagans to nominal Christianity, Rome, pursuing its usual policy, took measures to get the Christian and Pagan festivals [that's the Sabbath and Sunday] amalgamated, and ... to get Paganism and Christianity now far sunk in idolatry in this as in so many other things, to shake hands.” He says further: “A glance at the main pillars of the Papal system will sufficiently prove that its doctrine and discipline in all essential respects have been derived from BABYLON.”

“The Pope is of great authority and power, that he is able to modify, declare, or interpret even divine laws. The Pope can modify divine law, since his power is not of man, but of God, and he acts as vicegerent of God upon earth...” — Lucius Ferraris, in *Prompta Bibliotheca Canonica, Juridica, Moralis, Theologica, Ascetica, Polemica, Rubristica, Historica*, Volume V, article on “Papa, Article II”, titled “Concerning the extent of Papal dignity, authority, or dominion and infallibility”, #30, published in Petit-Montrouge (Paris) by J. P. Migne, 1858 edition.

“The Pope and God are the same, so he has all power in Heaven and earth.” — Pope Pius V, quoted in Barclay, Chapter XXVII, p. 218, “*Cities Petrus Bertanous*.”

“He is a heretic who does not believe what the Roman Hierarchy teaches.” — *The American Textbook of Popery*, p 164 (quoting from the “*Directory for the Inquisitors*”).

“The church may by divine right confiscate the property of heretics, imprison their person, and condemn them to flames. In our age, the right to inflict the severest penalties, even death, belongs to the church. There is no graver offense than heresy, therefore it must be rooted out.” — *Public Eccliaistical*, Vol. 2, p.142.

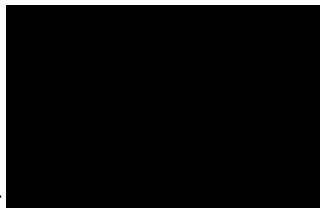
When confronted with heresy, she (Catholic Church) does not content herself with persuasion, arguments of an intellectual and moral order appear to her insufficient, and she has recourse to force, to corporal punishment, to torture.” — The Rector of the Catholic Institute of Paris, H.M.A. Baudrillart, quoted in *The Catholic Church, The Renaissance, and Protestantism*, p 182-183.

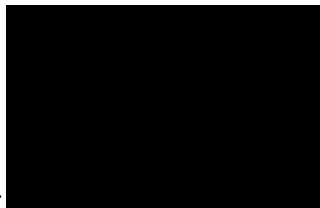
Revelation chapter 12 depicts a pure woman (Church) fleeing persecution for 1260 days (1260 years). (Revelation 12:6)

There were many faithful people within the Papal system, who lived up to the light God had given them and faithfully served him as best they knew how. When the printing press was invented, and Bibles became readily accessible in the native tongue of the people, there was a huge awaking through the power of the Holy Spirit. Catholics began to realise that the rules and regulations in the system they were in bondage to were not Biblical. They found out about the amazing love of God and that they could be saved by Grace, and not works as the Church had been teaching. They discovered the prophecies in Daniel and Revelation and many were able to conclude that the little horn power being spoken of in the prophecies was in fact the current ruling religious-political system of government.

During the protestant reformation, it is estimated that 50% of the people rejected the catholic faith, in favour of the beautiful light that the scriptures had now opened up to them. The Papal system reacted by pronouncing a death decree on all ‘heretics’ (one who choses to follow their conscience). During these terrible dark ages it is estimated that between 50 and 100 million faithful saints were persecuted, tortured and killed. Many fled Europe to the shores of a new land called America, and wrote into its constitution that state and religion should never be joined. Watch this short video of a true story to see how this persecution resulted in SUN-day keeping as the Sabbath today.

(Revelation 13:3) The prophecy told us that the wound would be healed. For a while there was no head of the Roman Church, but in 1800 they elected a new Pope and the healing of the deadly wound began.



The new Pope had no real power until 1929 when the Italian leader  Benito Mussolini signed the concordat in Rome giving 108 acres of the old city, (the Vatican) back to the Pope, and they once again became a religious political power. American Presidents and dignitaries from many nations have bowed before the Pope, but have never bowed before the head of any other Church. No other religious leader in the world commands the audiences of world leaders the way the Pope does. No other religion has political ambassadors assigned to them.

Note in the two passages below that God also referred to His Old Testament Church as a WOMAN but pay special attention to the very significant phrases used by God when SHE was guilty of idolatry. The Papal Church is also guilty of much idolatry, which by God's definition would make HER a HARLOT. The Roman Catholic Church is often called the MOTHER Church as many of today's Churches originated from her and this is why they are called daughter Churches. Unfortunately, many of the daughter Churches inherited many of her false doctrines and practises, which is why God calls her the MOTHER OF HARLOTS. (Jeremiah 3:1-25 and Ezekiel 16:26-32)

Before continuing, it is exceptionally important to observe the colours the Levitical priests wore and especially the significance of the colour blue. (Exodus 28:4-6) Now note the significance of the colour blue. (Numbers 15:38-40)

The following verses show how those who do not have their names written in the book of life will wonder after the beast, mystery Babylon. Notice also the colours that the Harlot woman (Church) is wearing, scarlet, purple and gold. These are the same colours that God gave to the Jewish

priests to wear, except as we just noted, He also gave them BLUE, which was to remind them of His law. (Revelation 17:3-8)

The colours of this woman, signify that she has forgotten God's Ten Commandment law, and also lines up with this verse Daniel 7:25 See also Adam Clarke's Commentary on Daniel 7:25.

Did you note that she is called the 'Mother of Harlots', signifying that there are other daughter Churches, who have somehow been polluted by some of her doctrines. Are there other Churches who followed her lead in abandoning the original Ten Commandments of God and ignoring the Commandment that says Exodus 20:8-11.

The following quotes are just a small example of how the Papal Church constantly mock Protestants for keeping their day Holy in place of God's. For more quotes, see Roman Catholic Church seventh day Sabbath truth Quotes.

"Perhaps the boldest thing, the most revolutionary change the Church ever did, happened in the first century. The holy day, the Sabbath, was changed from Saturday to Sunday. 'The day of the Lord' was chosen, not from any direction noted in the Scriptures, but from the (Catholic) Church's sense of its own power... People who think that the Scriptures should be the sole authority, should logically become 7th Day Adventists, and keep Saturday holy." — St. Catherine Church Sentinel, Algonac, Michigan, May 21, 1995.

"Most Christians assume that Sunday is the biblically approved day of worship. The Catholic Church protests that it transferred Christian worship from the biblical Sabbath (Saturday) to Sunday, and that to try to argue that the change was made in the Bible is both dishonest and a denial of Catholic authority. If Protestantism wants to base its teachings only on the Bible, it should worship on Saturday." — Rome's Challenge www.immaculateheart.com/maryonline Dec 2003.

The end of time call out of Babylon

The book of Revelation shows us that at the end of time, God will again call His people out of Babylon, before he destroys her. (Revelation 18:1-5)

This again shows that just like God called His faithful people out of the 'little horn', Babylon during the dark ages, again at the end of time God will draw His people out of apostate Churches who do not follow all of His Commandments. Satan has so successfully deceived so many into avoiding the precious Commandment that defines worship of God, that they miss the relevance of a major part of the Biblical and historical picture.

The three angels messages given in Revelation also depict the end time message that will be given to all the world, calling them out of Babylon and into God's Remnant Church and telling them not to worship the beast (the Papacy), or his image (which will be a new religious-political power in Protestant America). (Revelation 13:11-12)

The three angels give this message: Revelation 14:6-7, Revelation 14:8, Revelation 14:9-11.

The message ends with the sharp contrast of those who take the mark, to the true followers of God who keep His Commandments. (Revelation 14:12-13)

These angels tell Christians not to take the mark of the beast. What is the mark of the beast, the Papal system? Let's let them answer that question. "Sunday is our mark or authority...the church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact." Catholic Record of London, Ontario, September 1, 1923.

The prophecies tell us that in the end times there will be many deceptions. Spiritism will be on the rise and there will be many false signs and wonders that will fool many Christians into inadvertently choosing the wrong system of religion. (Revelation 13:14)

There will be a huge persecution of the true believers who follow God's Commandments and don't bow down to the false system of worship, and with the deceptions that are going on, those who take the mark of the Beast will most probably view those who do not, as terrorists who are a threat to peace. The true believers will not be allowed to purchase anything and many will be jailed or killed. (Revelation 13:15-18)

Armageddon - The destruction of Babylon

When probation closes and the decisions that everyone have made are set firm forever, the wrath of God will finally be unleashed upon the wicked who have taken the Mark of the Beast. The seven last plagues will be poured out upon them. (Revelation 15:1-2)

We saw earlier that the original literal Babylon was located upon the literal river Euphrates which was dried up just before her destruction. This time the waters, which are peoples, multitudes nations and tongues (Revelation 17:15), will dry up their support for the Papal system of Babylon. They will finally realise that they have chosen the wrong side, and it is Babylon's fault that they are incurring the wrath of God. (Revelation 16:1-12)

But even as all of the support for spiritual Babylon is drying up, Satan will send out more deceiving spirits doing miracles to incite the world to further rebel against God. (Revelation 16:13-14)

Just as Satan is trying to incite this final revolt, Jesus will return in His glory with all His angels. (Revelation 16:15)

As Jesus returns the final judgement of heaven is pronounced on the wicked. Armageddon is the battlefield of the wicked against Jesus, our Holy King from the East who will pour out His final plague and the judgement that the wicked should be destroyed.

There is actually no place on earth that bears the name Armageddon, and there is only one mention of it in scripture. The Greek is most commonly thought to be a transliteration of the Hebrew har megiddo, literally, "mountain of Megiddo."

The Mount of Megiddo is located in Palestine on the plain of Esdraelon or Jezreel, a valley southwest of Nazareth and fourteen by twenty miles in size. It is beside Mount Carmel on which Elijah said to the people 1 Kings 18:21.

This place represents the consequences of their decisions. (Revelation 16:16-21)



Revelation 17 again speaks of the destruction of Babylon. (Revelation 17:1-18)

We see that justice will be served. Just as those who chose to align themselves with the apostate Church persecuted God's remnant Church, she will now face the consequences of her actions. (Revelation 18:6-9)

These verses represent the earthly destruction of Mystery Babylon, but there is one final battle to be fought. After Jesus returns and the saints live and reign with Him in heaven for a thousand years, the New Jerusalem comes down from Heaven to Earth. (Revelation 21:1-3)

The second resurrection then takes place, the resurrection to damnation. Satan will then be loosed once more to go out and deceive the wicked who have been raised. (Revelation 20:6-8) Now that the thousand years are over and all the books have been studied, God's final eternal judgement will be executed. As the wicked surround the city, wishing to destroy the saints of God. God will rain down fire and brimstone from Heaven, just as he did on Sodom and Gomorrah and will destroy in Hellfire all of the wicked. (Revelation 20:9)

Mystery Babylon, the great whore who sits on many waters and all those who chose to worship her will be destroyed forever. Read mystery Babylon the mother of harlots for more information.