

# *The Rise Of The Harlot*

Lesson #27 July 22, 2020

God's city, Jerusalem is the city whose future is of peace and righteousness.

Ps. 87:3 Glorious things are spoken of you, O City of God.

- Jerusalem is the result of God's call of a man and a nation to perpetuate His plan of salvation and nationalism for the world.
- God's city will forever stand - in the millennial kingdom, as the center of God's theocratic reign, then ultimately into eternity as the capital of 'the new heavens and earth.'
- It is pitted against the wicked city of Satan, Babylon, which is introduced in Genesis with Nimrod and his kingdom.
- Babylon is the result of apostasy against God's plan of salvation and is the first international, political and religious ecumenical movement in the history of man, and one which has never ceased to exist in one form or another.
- Satan's city must ultimately be destroyed, along with its leader.

## The End Time Great City of Babylon in Revelation

Babylon is mentioned 164 times in Jeremiah and 260 times in the Bible.

Revelation repeatedly quotes Jeremiah 50 and 51.

Jeremiah prophesied of the fate of both ancient Babylon and end-time Babylon.

Don't be misled by confusing the Fall of Babylon in history with the Destruction of Babylon, as prophesied in the Bible.

Jeremiah makes it clear that the Babylon of the last days will be in Chaldea and inhabited by Chaldeans. [Jer. 50:1, 35; 51:35; 54-55]

Notice Jer. 50:4-5, 20 places many of the predictions at the time of the final restoration of the Jews, an event which will not happen until the end of the 7 year Tribulation.

Revelation 17 and 18 are dedicated to the prophetic description of God's utter destruction of Babylon [Satan's city] in both its ecclesiastical and political forms.

Are people missing half the story about the last days? Virtually all attention in our times is focused on the coming Antichrist--but he is only half the story. We discover in Revelation 17 another mysterious character at the heart of prophecy--a woman who rides the beast.

## Revelation 17 > Final Destruction of the Religious System > Mystery Form

- Reveals the last stage of counterfeit religion as it will be in existence before the Lord's return of to earth.
- A religious system of false worship and the apostate church
- Calls the mystery religion > "The Mother of Harlots."
- It will climax to its zenith in the first 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  years
- Describes the destruction of religious Babylon about the middle of the Tribulation when the beast is finished using her [harlot] as a means to his rise to power.

## Revelation 18 > Babylon as a political and economic entity

- Describes Babylon as a commercial system in a city, Babylon of the future
- Destruction of political entity in the city, the headquarters of the beast
- Occurs at the 7<sup>th</sup> bowl when the great city of 16:19, along with other cities, fall in the great earthquake
- Accomplished directly by God at the end of the Tribulation
- The kings of the earth and the merchants will ALL MOURN the passing of Babylon.

'The mystery religion of Babylon was scattered over the entire world by the dispersion of humanity from Babel. The dragon, Satan, used this opportunity to spread his venom through the generations that subsequently arose. This religion was replete with cultic rituals of prostitution, idol worship, child sacrifice, magic, divination, and animal sacrifice. The Bible is filled with examples of mediums, astrologers, diviners, temple prostitutes, and child sacrifice, which were all associated with this religion in various civilizations of the ancient world. These Biblical examples bear testimony of an apostate religion that was detestable to our Holy God.

The 'mystery religion of Babylon' ultimately spawned all false religions down through the ages to this present time. It is the 'MOTHER of HARLOTS' described in Revelation 17:5.

The prostitute exists today in many forms [Roman Catholicism, liberal Protestantism, the cults, etc.]. When the church is raptured, the apostate system which will already have spread its tentacles all over the world, will quickly unite and become the one-world church.

These false religions will all be judged and destroyed at God's appointed time, along with those who have perpetrated it over the millennia.

The judgment describes her condemnation, sentence, and penalty passed.

### The Invitation to View the Judgment of the Great Harlot [4x in Rev. 17]

Rev. 17:1-2 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 sits upon many waters: 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.

1. Woman [harlot], the symbol of Babylon, the great whore who is seen sitting on many waters.
  - Waters = nations and the many people of the nations
  - Global influence; seducing people from all walks of life - even Kings
  - The nations are religiously united and politically affiliated with each other through the power and control of this religious system and its head.
2. The inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

The wine refers to the demonic doctrines, ideologies and concepts produced by this religious/political alliance.

- In ancient Babylon it involved the mysteries of the mother-child cult and the one-world order of Nimrod and later Nebuchadnezzar. In our day the worship of the queen of heaven [was Semiramis] is still present [a new face -Mary - for an old concept].

Promote: A one-world order through social reform and the mysticism of the New Age movement

- We are all God's children and can come to God in various ways.
- Satan's lie in Gen. 3:5 > we can be like God.
- Today > becoming like gods through New Age mysticism.
- Social reform and unification will be promoted as the greatest need of man.
- Will set aside the real spiritual needs of men as they are found only in Christ who alone provides the basis for true unity and capacity to love one another.

3. "Drunkenness" in any form is an escape mechanism and the result of negative volition, indifference, apathy, and rejection of God's revelation to man in Christ and the Bible.

Because of the great negative volition that will exist at the time of the Tribulation, the world will be ripe for the wine of the harlot's system. The prophets of God condemned it because it represented all that was most evil in man's attempts to dethrone God.

Isaiah 47:8-11 summarizes their spiritual religion built upon blasphemous premises:

1. The deity of man "I am. And there is no one besides me."
2. False belief in triumph over death "I shall not sit as a widow, nor shall I know the loss of children."
3. Moral relativism "Hear this, you sensual one."
4. Esotericism, or private enlightenment through mystical spiritual experiences
  - "Your many sorceries . . . the great power of your spells."

Texe Marrs in his book *Dark Secrets of the New Age* lists nearly 30 rituals and beliefs found in ancient Babylon that are practiced today in the New Age Movement!

### The Vision of the Woman on the Beast

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

- The gods of the mystery religion are given names that claim the deeds only Jesus Christ has performed in history.

Name of gods	Attributes of Jesus Christ
Zoraster	The SEED
Dionysus	SIN-BEARER
Mithra	SAVIOR
Bacchus	BRANCH
Vishna	VICTIM-MAN
Osiris	KING OF KINGS

The scarlet beast is the same one described in Rev. 13:1; 2b

And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy... and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

Rev. 17:4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication. [Remember: The harlot is a false religious system.]

Rev. 17:18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

The woman is clearly identified with a city that existed in John's day. [reigns = present tense]. The city is prosperous and powerful, but also idolatrous and dangerous.

- It pollutes the nations with its filth and abomination [golden wine cup].
- It persecutes those who belong to the Lord. [Rev. 17:6]
- Power, wealth, pollution, persecution = The harlot's involvement on a worldwide scale.

The fact that the woman is riding the beast and is not the beast itself signifies that she represents ecclesiastical power [apostate church] as distinct from the beast [antichrist] which is the political power.

- Her position, riding the beast, indicates on one hand that she is supported by the political power of the beast. On the other hand, she is in a dominant role and at least outwardly controls and directs the beast.

Interesting: 1. Emmanuel Macron, president of France, was on the cover of Time Magazine and touted as "The Next Leader of Europe."

2. April 21, 2020 Pope Francis gives Emmanuel Macron his blessing and anoints him to take the global stage as leader of the New World Order.

3. April 24, 2020 Today the United Nations unveiled its COVID-19 Global Vaccination Response Team, and who do we see at the top of the food chain? French president Emmanuel Macron, who has already declared his desire to lead the New World Order, and Melinda Gates who wants to give everyone a vaccination and digital ID.

Interesting: The description in Rev. 17 is apparently prior in time to that described in Revelation 13, where the beast has already assumed all power and has demanded that the world should worship him as God. [Note: Beast in Rev. 13 has no woman.]

- Rev. 13: taking the mark of the beast, worshiping the beast, and he has ALL power.
- Therefore, the woman riding the beast is very prominent and influential during the first 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  years of the tribulation.

Recall: There is a war in heaven in Rev. 12:7-9, 13 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

<sup>8</sup> And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

<sup>9</sup> And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

<sup>13</sup> And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman [Israel] which brought forth the man child [Messiah; Jesus Christ]

- Satan indwells the Antichrist at the 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  yr. mark; persecutes the Jews; destroys the harlot's religion; and demands all the world to worship him. [Antichrist = Satan]

The harlot is made desolate, naked, and burned with fire by the beast with the 10 horns.

- The world apostate ecumenical system is destroyed in favor of the new world religion which worships the political dictator [Antichrist indwelt by Satan] of chapter 13 whose capitol city will be in rebuilt Babylon.
- There is apparently NO mourning connected with the destruction of the harlot.

Consider: There have been many such relationships between church and government in the history of the Roman Catholic church in relation to political power.

The fact that the woman, representing the apostate church, is in such close association with the beast, which is guilty of utter blasphemy, indicates the depth to which apostasy will ultimately descend. The only form of a world church recognized in the Bible is this apostate world church destined to come into power after the true church has been raptured.

- The description of the woman as arrayed in purple and scarlet and decked with gold, precious stones, and pearls is all too familiar to one acquainted with the trappings of ecclesiastical pomp today and especially of high officials in the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox churches.

Purple	Scarlet
Listed in Sacred Offerings	The Curtains
Fine Linen Cloth	Thread
Ephod of Finely Woven Linen	Decorative Sash
Yarn to Make Pomegranate	Offerings Brought By the Israelites
Engravers, Designers, Embroiderers	Decorations Made By Bezalel
Beautiful Sacred Garments For Aaron To Wear While Ministering in the Holy Place	Embroideries Within The Fine Linens

- Purple and scarlet, symbolically so rich in their meaning when connected with true spiritual values, are here prostituted to this false religious system and designed to glorify it with religious garb. Alford further states...
- "I do not hesitate therefore...to maintain that interpretation which regards papal and not pagan Rome as pointed out by the harlot of this vision." The most striking aspect of her presentation, however, is that she has a golden cup in her hand described as "full of abomination and filthiness of her fornication." The Word of God does not spare words in describing the utter filthiness of this adulterous relationship in the sight of God.
- Few crimes in Scripture are spoken of in more unsparing terms than the crime of spiritual adultery of which this woman is the epitome. As alliance with the world and showy pomp increase, so spiritual truth and purity decline.

The alliance of the apostate church with the political powers of the world during this future period of time not only debauches the true spiritual character of the church and compromises her testimony in every way but has the devastating effect of inducing religious drunkenness on the part of the inhabitants of the earth. The concept presented here makes plain that the apostate church has eagerly sought and solicited the adulterous relation with the world political powers and therefore is primarily to be blamed.

## The Name of the Woman

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

- Mystery= a truth not revealed > God is now revealing the mystery
- Mother of harlots = OT used "harlot" to describe Israel's idolatry as spiritual adultery

Ezek. 16:25 Thou hast built thy high place at every head of the way, and hast made thy beauty to be abhorred, and hast opened thy feet to everyone that passed by and multiplied thy whoredoms.

Note: The symbolism of spiritual adultery is not ordinarily used of heathen nations who know not God, but always of people who outwardly carry the name of God while actually worshiping and serving other gods.

It has been noted by many writers that the iniquitous and pagan rites of Babylon crept into the early church and were largely responsible for the corruptions incorporated in Roman Catholicism from which Protestantism separated itself in the Middle Ages.

The Babylonian cult eventually made its way to other cities including Pergamos, the site of one of the seven churches of Asia. The chief priests of the Babylonian cult wore crowns in the form of the head of a fish, in recognition of Dagon the fish god. They had the title "Keeper of the Bridge," that is, the "bridge" between this life and the next, imprinted on the crowns.

The Roman equivalent of the title, *Pontifex Maximus*, was used by the Caesars and later Roman emperors, and was also adopted as the title for the bishop of Rome. In the early centuries of the church in Rome, incredible confusion arose; and attempts were made to combine some of the features of the mystery religion of Babylon with the Christian faith, a confusion which has continued down to the present day.

The New Testament declares that at the end of this age the religion of ancient Babylon will again stand in opposition to God. A woman clothed in purple and scarlet is described by the Apostle John as having the mystery name on her forehead, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" (Rev. 17:5).

She is dressed like a prostitute, cavorting with royalty and intoxicated with wine. She is adorned with precious and enticing things of this world. Likewise, the adulterous mystery religion seduces people from all nations and languages into its far-reaching tentacles.

As modern Babylon gains in momentum, it will once again assault the heavens and shake its fist in the face of God.

## The Woman Drunken with the Blood of Martyrs

Rev. 17:6 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.

The woman is pictured not only as the source of all evil in apostate Christendom but also as the one who is actively engaged in the persecution of the true saints.

Many believers have & will be martyred by those who perpetrate this false mystery religion. History supports this & will continue to do so until the last days when God destroys the harlot.

The reason the Papacy stands out is that it has ruled for such a long period of time over such a large area, exercised so much power, and claimed divine prerogatives for its persecutions. The magnitude of the persecutions is important for the following reason: One can excuse a few thousand cases as exceptional, but millions and millions of victims can only be the result of a systematic policy, thereby showing the harmful results of church-state unions.

"From the birth of Popery in 606 to the present time, it is estimated by careful and credible historians, that more than fifty millions of the human family, have been slaughtered for the crime of heresy by popish persecutors, an average of more than forty thousand religious murders for every year of the existence of popery." -

- "History of Romanism," pp. 541, 542. New York: 1871

Clark's Martyrology counts the number of Waldensian martyrs during the first half of the 13th century in France alone at two million.

Thomas Armitage, *A History of the Baptists*, "Post-Apostolic Times - The Waldensians,"

- From A.D. 1160-1560 the Waldensians which dwelt in the Italian Alps were visited with 36 different fierce persecutions that spared neither age nor sex
- They were almost completely destroyed as a people and most of their literary record was erased from the face of the earth.

J.P. Callender, *Illustrations of Popery*, 1838, p. 400)

- From the year 1540 to 1570 "it is proved by national authentic testimony, that nearly one million of Protestants were publicly put to death in various countries in Europe, besides all those who were privately destroyed, and of whom no human record exists"

Catholic historian Vergerius admits gleefully that during the Pontificate of Pope Paul IV (1555-1559) "the Inquisition alone, by tortures, starvation, or the fire, murdered more than 150,000 Protestants."

These are only small samples of the brutality which was poured out upon "dissident" Christians by the Roman Catholic church during the Inquisition.

W. E. H. Lecky says: "That the Church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind, will be questioned by no Protestant who has a competent knowledge of history. "History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe," Vol. II, p. 32. London: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1910.

W. C. Brownlee, *Letters in the Roman Catholic controversy*, 1834, pp. 347-348.

Thus the church of Rome stands before the world, "the woman in scarlet, on the scarlet colored Beast." A church claiming to be *Christian*, drenched in the blood of *sixty-eight millions, and five hundred thousand human beings!*

Dave Hunt *A Woman Rides the Beast*

He describes what the "woman" did for hundreds of years during the Middle Ages:

Thus Roman Catholic-ism became "the most persecuting faith the world has ever seen...

[commanding] the throne to impose the Christian [Catholic] religion on all its subjects.

Innocent III murdered far more Christians in one afternoon... than any Roman emperor did in his entire reign."

The history of the church has demonstrated that apostate Christendom is unsparing in its persecution of those who attempt to maintain a true faith in Jesus Christ. What has been true in the past will be brought to its ultimate in this future time when the martyrs will be beyond number from every kindred, tongue, and nation. The blood shed by the apostate church is exceeded only by that of the martyrs who refuse to worship the beast in the great tribulation.

Pope Francis for many years has preached the gospel of the New Age, led multiple services for 'Mother Earth,' kisses the feet of statues and prays to dead people. He is working frantically to usher in the One World Religion. He is experiencing success on a level not seen by any pope since Constantine.

His message to the world: the "diversity of religions" is "willed by God."

Feb. 2019 Pope Francis travelled to Abu Dhabi earlier this year and entered into a covenant with Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb, the ruling leader in Sunni Islam.

That peace covenant led to the formation of a Chrislam interfaith council, which then led to the stunning announcement that a Chrislam headquarters would be open in Abu Dhabi by 2022.

They signed a document on Human Fraternity for World Peace And Living Together.

Nov. 2019 On Friday November 15, 2019, as reported by Vatican News, the Pope received in audience the great Imam Ahmed Al-Tayeb, accompanied by various personalities and representatives of Al-Azhar University, all animated by the desire to give concrete form to the content of the Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together, co-signed last February." "The House of the Abrahamic Family will house a synagogue, a mosque, and a church, naturally dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi. Sir David's project envisions the three different places of worship united by unique foundations and placed inside a garden, evoking a New Eden, a Gnostic and Masonic new edition of the paradise of the Creation.

The overall design aims to highlight the often overlooked similarities between the three faiths.

Sept. 2019 Roman Catholics, Evangelicals, Pagans, Muslims And Buddhists Gather At The 'Ring Of Peace' United Nations One World Religion Interfaith Ceremony In Germany

- The official name of this annual gathering is called the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Religions for Peace World Assembly
- The guiding "light" for this ecumenical extravaganza was the "Ring of Peace." A 25-foot wooden ring-shaped sculpture was erected by the organizers to be a "permanent, multi-faith symbol" of interfaith cooperation.
- According to the creators of this modern-day idol, the ring is supposed to represent the wheel of Buddha, the ring of the Prophet Mohammed, the ring of King Solomon and Lessing's Ring Parable - a story which equates different faiths as one.
- The "Ring of Peace" is a monument to every deity known to man - Jesus, Allah, Shiva, Buddha, Brahma, Ganesha, Mahavira, Vishnu, Durga and a thousand other gods.



Nov. 7, 2019 Pope Francis Advances The One World Religion At Vatican With Female Shaman Leading 'Worship Service' Dedicated To Inca Mother Earth Goddess Pachamama At Amazon Synod

According to Viganò, a "satanic plan" is unfolding to change the Catholic religion, and Francis "serves as a catwalk to ferry what remains of the Catholic edifice towards an indistinct Universal Religion" and a "worldwide and stateless Pantheon." Viganó observes that Francis personally practiced the Pachamama cult in the Vatican gardens, in St Peter's Basilica and during the Synod closing Mass by placing an idolatrous plant on the altar.

Vigano calls this Pachamama show "an initiatory rite of the new religion" in order to align the Church with anti-human and anti-Christian strategies that dominate the globalist scene and are supported by those in power.

Nov. 29, 2019 One World Religion: Pope Francis Traveled To Thailand And Presented Buddhist Supreme Patriarch With 'Declaration On Human Fraternity' Peace Covenant Of Chrislam  
Pope Francis praised Buddhism and extolled its virtues. Pope Francis gave and received blessings under the watchful gaze of pagan statues. His Declaration On Human Fraternity is the Vatican manifesto of the coming One World Religion.

Dec. 8, 2019 Muslim Ilhan Omar Recites Islamic Prayer To Allah At Catholic Church In One World Religion Chrislam Service Attended By Over 25 Members Of The 116th Congress

March 28, 2020 Pope Francis, Alone In St. Peter's Basilica, Lifts Up Monstrance Of The Sun God And Calls On 'Intercession Of Mary' To Save World From Covid-19

May 14, 2020 Pope Francis opens May 14th Chrislam world day of prayer for humanity by commanding his one world religion followers to pray to their gods.

This appears to be the beginnings of the One World Religion foretold in Scripture.

➤ They launched his World Day of Prayer for Humanity. He invited Catholics, Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, B'hai, Agnostics and Atheists to pray to their gods and ask for mercy.

➤ Note: 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Israel's birth

This is Chrislam, the demonic hybrid between the Roman Catholic Church, Islam, apostate Christianity, Judaism, and every stripe of paganism you can wrap your mind around.

They invite people of all faiths and people of no faith to come together and pray to their gods.

Millions of men and women refuse to face up to the fact that religion, in and of itself, is not enough for the sinner's need. It is amazing how many things religious people want to do to you. They can start with infant baptism and end up with the last rites when you are 108 years old- and all of that time they will manipulate you, maul you and sweet-message your soul. When it is all done you are just what you were. You are just a decorated and massaged sinner-a sinner who did not eat meat, or on the other hand, a sinner who did eat fish! When religion has done all it can, you are still a sinner who either went to church or did not go to church. Religion can put us on the roll and educate us and train us and instruct us. But after all that, there is still something within our beings that cries, "Eternity is in my heart and I have not found anything to satisfy it!" Only our Lord Jesus Christ is enough to satisfy the eternal longing in our souls.

*A. W. Tozer Sermon: Failure of Religion*