432 THE APOCALYPSE (cn. xvii, 5  
  
This is true still more of modern Babylon. She has  
taken away Christ’s cup from “ the laity,” to give them  
one of her own.  
It is observable that the Harlot and the Wild Beast  
are several times spoken of in connection: but she is  
never mentioned together with the False Prophet. Is  
it not because the False Prophet, who ascends out of  
earth later than the Wild Beast, does not arise till she  
has been swept away from Italy ?  
  
5. ‘And upon her forehead (she hath) a name written, a  
mystery—BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF THE Har-  
LOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE HaRTH.”  
  
The name here written gives us the city’s spiritual  
name, just as “Sodom and Egypt” are the spiritual  
names of Jerusalem. It is her name as she is seen by  
God. Rome professes herself to be Christ’s chief  
Church : but Jesus regards her as the hateful city of  
the Old Testament, destined to be destroyed.  
It is a mystery, or secret. The Holy Spirit thought  
not good to say openly, it is Rome. Neither does He  
give to Jerusalem its direct and usual name among  
men. He gives, then, to Rome a mystic name. As  
in chapter one, the stars were a mystery, but literally  
signified the angels of the seven churches: so here,  
Babylon, as away from her literal place, is presented in  
mystic fashion. By this title, Rome is thrown into its  
true spiritual connection with the Old Testament. It  
is in spirit ‘‘ Babylon the Great.”  
The Lamb and his Bride is the answering mystery.  
Rome now is professedly no longer what she was  
under the emperors. She is as self-described the centre  
of Christ’s people, as before she was their great persecutor.  
But she is in spirit still only what she was. It is now  
the time of ‘‘ the Mystery of the Christ ’ (Eph. iii. 3,  
4). And during this period, the iniquity of the world