
Who Is Babylon?

Two prophetic books—Daniel in the Old Testament and Revelation in the New Testament—speak of “Babylon.” In the book of Daniel, we read of a physical empire under the control of “Babylon.” The nation of Babylon had conquered God’s chosen people, the Jews, and taken them captive in a very literal way. In Revelation, it is “spiritual Babylon” that has taken God’s children captive.

Some so-called “religious experts” try to convince you that the prophecy of Revelation 14 and 18 is a prophecy that will be fulfilled through the actual rebuilding of Babylon. But that will never happen. Saddam Hussein made plans in the past to rebuild Babylon, but the prophecies of the Bible are against his dreams. The prophet Isaiah predicted the overthrow of ancient Babylon (Isaiah 13:19-22), and God said, “She will never be inhabited or lived in through all generations.”

This prophecy lets us know that in Revelation 14 and 18, God is not speaking of the physical empire of Babylon. God is warning all mankind, just before Jesus comes the second time, to come out of “spiritual” Babylon. In the book of Daniel, God called His people out of physical Babylon—and in the book of Revelation, He calls His people out of spiritual Babylon.

When God refers to a church that He wishes to correct, we all must realize that God loves each of its members. We as individual members are not bad or good as a result of the particular church to which we belong. We need to keep listening to Jesus and be willing to go in the direction He wants for our lives, regardless of what decision the organization makes. Listen to the voice of Jesus from the Bible, and He will guide you in making the right decisions.

In Revelation 17 God pictures Babylon as a woman. The Bible prophecies use the word *woman* as a symbol for a church. A good woman symbolizes a good church, and a bad woman symbolizes a church that has strayed away from the teachings of Christ. The woman of Revelation 17 is dressed in purple and crimson red color. She is wearing gold jewelry and expensive stones and pearls, and “on her forehead was written the name, ‘Babylon the Great, the mother of prostitutes,’” or “Babylon the Great, the mother of the churches that have rejected many unpopular teachings of Christ.”

Christ here is concerned with “the erroneous teachings of the Christian church. The fact that God says the churches are falling is not a condemnation of His people, but rather a condemnation of the false teachings of the churches that claim to represent God. God has His special children in every denomination—Catholic, Protestant, or other religions—as well as those in cults or who attend no church at all. Many love God, and God loves them. God loves everyone. Reader, God loves you, whether you are a member of any church or not. You are reading God’s last message of concerned love for all His children. He wants to save you. Let God plant the truth—the seed of His Word—in your heart.

“I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.” God pictures the church as drunken on the blood of those she has killed. Through the dark ages, the church killed over 50 million people who chose to obey God instead of obeying church leaders. God also calls Babylon “that great city, which reigns [rules] over the kings of the earth.” Revelation 17:4-6, 18. This international religious power has power over world leaders.

No man has the right to judge another person regarding sincerity, motives, attitudes, or choice of belief. God, however, does warn us to “come out of Babylon.” Most people don’t understand what that means. Who or what is Babylon? And if God is addressing me, how do I come out of Babylon? It is vitally important that you and I know the answers to these two questions. Once you read this book, your actions will reveal whether you really understand the answers. The fact that you are

reading this book is no accident. Reader, God loves you! He has led you to this very book. God wants you to be safe through the coming crisis.

Five Identifying Marks!

1. The purple, the scarlet color, and the gold reveal to us that Babylon is a power that has great wealth and great power.

2. That Babylon is “drunken with the blood of the saints” reveals another identifying mark of Babylon. Babylon is a cruel persecuting power.

3. Babylon has power over “the kings of the earth.” This tells us that Babylon is an international church-state combination. The church uses governments to persecute those with whom she disagrees.

4. Babylon is considered “the mother of prostitutes,” suggesting that this world power has “given birth” to many other churches that are like “their mother.”

5. Immediately before the coming of Christ, many of God’s children are in Babylon.

Which Is the ONLY Power That Has All These Characteristics?

The papacy:

a) is a magnificent church that

b) cruelly persecuted and killed millions, often by torture, for not obeying church teachings. The papacy killed more than fifty million people in the dark ages for not accepting her unscriptural beliefs. (See *Fox’s Book of Martyrs*—Item No. 14 in the Appendix.)

c) is a religious organization that has power over the kings and governments of the earth.

d) gave birth to many churches that, for a time, believed in “the Bible and the Bible only.” Many have since turned back, accepting many unscriptural beliefs and becoming more like their mother. (More information is found in the Appendix.)

e) can also be identified by the fact that the majority of God’s people are in Babylon just before Christ returns. God’s people are to come out of Babylon. That means that most of God’s children today are in Babylon. Where are most of Christ’s followers? They are in the various Protestant,

as well as Catholic, churches. Could the Protestant churches be part of Babylon also? The sad answer is Yes.

Revelation 14, announcing the fall of Babylon, must apply to religious organizations that were once pure and have since turned away from a pure faith in Jesus Christ. According to the Bible, most of God's people today are still in Babylon.

In what churches are a large number of Christ's followers found? Without a question, they are in the many churches claiming to be Protestant. "You played the prostitute because of your popularity." Ezekiel 16:15. The conflicting beliefs of the Protestant churches are another identifying mark. The word *Babylon* is related to a word meaning "confusion" and signifies confusion.

Paul, the apostle, predicted that the Christian church would reject Bible truth. The church did exactly that. The church rejected some unpopular Bible truths when it rejected and replaced some Bible's teachings with pagan practices. The hope was to make it easier for those who worshiped idols to accept Christianity.

History reveals that in order to grow quickly, the requirement for church membership was lowered. A pagan flood swept into the church. Many in the church outwardly looked like Christians, but inwardly they had never changed. They still believed in the same false gods they had served before, only now they worshiped their idols in secret.

Popular Ministers Do Not Condemn Popular Sins

Our danger today is that we blindly cling to what we learn about God from our parents and our church. Many teachings that we learn, we assume are direct from the Word of God, the Bible. People trust without question what they learn from their parents or their minister about God.

The trouble is that this style of learning has gone on for hundreds of years. During those years, parents passed on unscriptural teachings to their children, from parent to child. Our danger is in believing that because our church or our parents teach us something, it must therefore be from God's Word. Sorry! Just because a person in authority says it is so does not make it so! Our eternal destiny depends on our making the right choices. The only unchanging, absolute guide is God's Word, the Bible.

We often listen to popular ministers who are well paid. Often their high salary stops many ministers from condemning popular sins. Popular ministers can become unpopular if they speak unpopular truth. If they become

unpopular, they could lose their income. Some ministers are afraid to speak the truth for this very reason. So fashionable sinners live on with their fashionable sins, concealed under a mask of godliness.

Religion has become popular with most people everywhere. World leaders, politicians, lawyers, doctors, and business people join the church to get the respect and confidence of society and to improve their own financial situation. They often try to cover their own unrighteous lifestyle by claiming to be Christians. Many have been baptized into the church who know nothing of Christ.

Baptism does not make a person a Christian. Popularity does not make a person a Christian. Attending church does not make a person a Christian. Many are baptized into the church and claim to be Christians but are not. They could also stand in a garage and claim to be a car, because cars belong in garages, but that does not make them a car.

Many people are looking for the benefits without the duties of Christianity. Is the church doing the work of the devil? Raising money often involves bingo and lotteries, appealing to greed instead of sacrifice.

False Doctrines Are Intoxicating!

The great sin charged against Babylon is that she “made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” What is the wine of her fornication? It is the false doctrine the church has passed on through tradition.

What are some of those false doctrines?

One of those intoxicating false doctrines is her unlawful connection with the great ones of the earth. Friendship with the world corrupts her faith.

Rome substituted her teachings for the Bible. When it had the power to do so, Rome banned the Bible and required all men to accept her teachings in its place. The churches of our time are doing the same thing when the creeds and teachings of the church become more important than the teachings of the Bible. They teach men to rest their faith upon the opinions and the teachings of their church rather than on the Scripture.

In this way the teachings of the church are putting aside the Bible as really as Rome did, though in a less noticeable way. Before the coming of the Lord, Satan will work “with all power and signs and lying wonders.” 2 Thessalonians 2:9, KJV.

