

IS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA MYSTERY BABYLON?

BY Rocky Smith



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Part I – The Claim and the Standard

1. What Is “Mystery Babylon”? (Revelation 17–18, KJV)

In the Book of Revelation, chapters 17 and 18, God shows John a vision so detailed and so loaded with identifiers that no serious student of prophecy can ignore it. We meet **“the great whore”** sitting upon many waters, with the name written on her forehead: *MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH* (Rev. 17:5, KJV).

She’s called a city, a kingdom, a merchant hub, a seducer of nations, and a murderer of the saints. She’s dressed in purple and scarlet, decked with gold, precious stones, and pearls. She holds a golden cup full of abominations. She fornicates with kings, intoxicates the world with her luxury, and

deceives the nations through her sorceries (*pharmakeia*).

And then, in one day – in one hour – she falls. Judgment hits so hard that the merchants and shipmasters stand far off, weeping over the smoke of her burning. The call goes out from heaven:

Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues (Rev. 18:4, KJV).

“Mystery Babylon” isn’t a casual nickname – it’s God’s label for the final, dominant power that corrupts the earth before the return of Christ. This is not optional reading. If you claim to follow Jesus, you must understand who and what this is. Getting it wrong could mean staying inside the system God has already marked for destruction.

2. Rules of Engagement: How We Read Prophecy (Plain Sense, Typology, Symbols)

Too many people treat prophecy like a

fortune cookie – pulling vague phrases out of context, twisting them to match the latest headline. That's not how God expects His Word to be handled.

When we read prophecy, we follow **three ground rules**:

- **Plain Sense First** – The Bible says what it means, and means what it says. If the plain sense makes good sense, seek no other sense. Don't “spiritualize” a clear statement into mush. If God says “the merchants of the earth,” He means merchants – not some mystical concept divorced from trade and economy.
- **Recognize Typology** – God uses patterns. Babylon of old, Tyre, Egypt, and Rome each foreshadow aspects of Mystery Babylon. But patterns never replace the plain text; they confirm and enrich it.

- **Understand Symbols by Scripture** – The Bible interprets its own symbols. “Many waters” are defined in Rev. 17:15 as peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. We don’t have to guess. When we let the Bible define its own terms, we avoid the trap of private interpretation.

If we apply these rules consistently, we’ll keep both feet on solid ground — no wild speculation, no blind gullibility.

3. The Identikit Method: Testing Any Candidate Against Every Marker

When police hunt a suspect, they build an identikit — a composite picture based on multiple eyewitnesses. They don’t stop when they find one match; they check **every** detail against the suspect.

We do the same with Mystery Babylon. God gave us a prophetic “wanted poster” in Revelation 17–18. We list every marker and test each candidate nation, city, or system

against it:

- **Geography** – Sits on many waters (Rev. 17:1, 15).
- **Global Influence** – Rules over the kings of the earth (Rev. 17:18).
- **Economic Power** – Merchants enriched through her luxury (Rev. 18:3, 11–19).
- **Maritime Dominance** – Great ports, global shipping (Rev. 18:17–19).
- **Culture & Luxury** – Purple, scarlet, gold, precious stones (Rev. 17:4; 18:16).
- **Spiritual Corruption** – Fornication with kings, drunkenness with blood of saints (Rev. 17:2, 6; 18:24).
- **Sorceries** – *Pharmakeia* deceiving the

nations (Rev. 18:23).

- **Sudden Judgment** – Destroyed in one hour (Rev. 18:10, 17, 19).

Any true identification must hit **every single marker** – no cherry-picking. If a theory can't pass all the tests, it's out.

4. The Stakes: Truth, Deception, and the End of an Age

This isn't an armchair debate. The stakes are life-and-death – spiritual and eternal. If you misidentify Mystery Babylon, you might dismiss the warnings meant for you. Worse, you could stay tangled in a system God has already judged.

The devil loves camouflage. He doesn't just hide the truth – he plants decoys. That's why some preachers pin Mystery Babylon on ancient Rome, others on Jerusalem, others on some future rebuilt city in Iraq. If Satan

can keep believers guessing, he can keep them inside the walls when judgment hits. But truth exposes. God's people are commanded to **come out** – to separate spiritually, morally, and in some cases physically. That takes discernment, courage, and a willingness to go against the flow of popular opinion.

When Mystery Babylon falls, the world will mourn. Heaven will rejoice. You'll be on one side or the other. This book is about making sure you're on the right one.

Part II – The Biblical Identikit (Every Marker, One by One)

5. Many Waters = Peoples and Nations (Rev 17:1, 15)

John sees the woman sitting “upon many waters,” and God Himself explains it:

The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues (Rev. 17:15, KJV).

This isn’t about a single city with a riverfront – it’s global reach. “Many waters” is Bible-speak for **worldwide influence over diverse populations**. Mystery Babylon is not a backwater kingdom; she’s plugged into every nation and every culture on the planet. If a candidate doesn’t have that kind of reach, scratch it off the list.

6. The Great City That Reigns Over the Kings of the Earth (Rev 17:18)

She’s called a **great city**, but she’s more than bricks and mortar – she’s a center of power that holds sway over the leaders of the world.

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

This means direct influence – political, economic, and cultural dominance. This is the capital of an empire, the headquarters of a system. Whoever she is, she's calling shots for kings and presidents alike.

7. Merchants of the Earth Grown Rich Through Her Luxury (Rev 18:3, 11–19)

When she prospers, the world's merchants prosper. When she collapses, they go bankrupt. That means she's the **beating heart of global trade**.

The merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies (Rev. 18:3, KJV).

This isn't subsistence trade – this is luxury. Fine goods, precious metals, exotic imports, and enough consumer appetite to fuel entire industries. A true Mystery Babylon will be the

shopping mall of the planet.

8. A Seafaring Empire: Ships, Trade, and Global Harbors (Rev 18:17–19)

John says the shipmasters, sailors, and “as many as trade by sea” cry out when she burns. That’s not poetic – that’s a literal maritime economy.

This is a power with world-class ports, container ships, and naval dominance. Mystery Babylon isn’t landlocked – she commands the seas.

9. Golden Cup in Her Hand; Purple and Scarlet; Precious Stones (Rev 17:4; 18:16)

God paints her wardrobe in royal colors – purple and scarlet – and decks her with gold, jewels, and pearls. The golden cup she holds? Not filled with fine wine, but with abominations.

The image is opulence on the outside, filth on the inside – a public image of wealth and

elegance hiding spiritual corruption. She's glamorous and disgusting at the same time.

10. Sorceries (*Pharmakeia*) and Deception of the Nations (Rev 18:23)

This one's a gut punch:

For by thy sorceries were all nations deceived (Rev. 18:23, KJV).

The Greek word is *pharmakeia* – where we get “pharmacy” – tied to drugs, potions, and occult practices. Mystery Babylon deceives the entire planet through chemical, pharmaceutical, and magical means. Think mind control, propaganda, medical tyranny – all wrapped in a scientific or spiritual disguise.

11. Fornication with Kings: Political Whoredoms and Foreign Entanglements (Rev 17:2)

She commits fornication with “the kings of the earth.” In Bible prophecy, fornication means unholy alliances – using power,

money, and influence to corrupt leaders and make backroom deals. This is political prostitution at the highest level – entangling the whole world in her web.

12. A Dwelling of Devils and Unclean Spirits (Rev 18:2)

When she falls, an angel cries:

Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit (Rev. 18:2, KJV).

This is spiritual infestation – demonic headquarters. She's not just corrupt politically; she's the home base for the supernatural rebellion against God. Her influence is physical, cultural, and spiritual.

13. Blood of Prophets, Saints, and All Slain Upon the Earth (Rev 18:24)

This is the most chilling marker:

In her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the

earth (Rev. 18:24, KJV).

She's not a passive bystander in persecution – she's the executioner. Every murdered missionary, every persecuted church, every silenced truth-teller has her fingerprints on it. She's the system that kills God's people and wipes her mouth as if nothing happened.

14. Sudden Fall in One Hour (Rev 18:10, 17, 19)

Her destruction isn't slow decay – it's instant. Three times the text repeats it: **in one hour**. That's rapid judgment – likely a military strike, supernatural act, or both. This is a collapse the whole world watches in real time.

15. The Call: “Come Out of Her, My People” (Rev 18:4)

Before the hammer drops, God sends one last warning:

Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins (Rev. 18:4, KJV).

This is the most urgent command in the whole prophecy. God's people are **inside** Mystery Babylon when the warning comes. They're told to leave – spiritually, morally, and maybe physically – before the plagues hit. This is an evacuation order from Heaven itself.

Part III – The American Case Study

By Rocky Smith

16. From Colony to Colossus: How America Took the Crown

The United States began as a cluster of small

colonies, scratching out survival on the edge of an untamed wilderness. Yet within just a few centuries, she rose to become the most powerful nation on Earth. From the defeat of Britain, to the expansion westward, to the Industrial Revolution, to the victory in two world wars — America's growth was not gradual; it was explosive. She did not simply join the world stage — she took the main role and rewrote the script. Like the woman in Revelation 17 who rides the beast, America became the visible face of global power, steering a massive system beneath her feet.

17. The Great City: Why New York (and What About D.C.?)

Revelation calls Mystery Babylon “that great city.” While some point to Washington, D.C., as the political capital, it is New York City that holds the world’s economic, cultural, and diplomatic choke points. The United Nations meets there. Wall Street runs the global

markets there. Ships unload in her harbors, planes land from every nation, and kings and merchants of the Earth gather in her towers. D.C. makes laws – but New York makes the deals. In prophetic terms, it's the merchant city, the harbor of nations, the meeting ground of the kings of the Earth.

18. Wall Street & World Trade: Banking, Petrodollar, and the Merchant Kings

When Revelation says “the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies,” it’s not hard to picture the suits on Wall Street. The U.S. dollar, tied to oil through the petrodollar system, became the lifeblood of international trade. America didn’t just dominate industry – she dominated the *rules* of industry. Foreign banks hold their reserves in dollars. Nations borrow in dollars. The global economy has been made to run through her vaults, making her the gatekeeper of prosperity or poverty

for the rest of the world.

19. Sea Gates & Supply Chains: Navy, Ports, and the Shipping Web

Mystery Babylon is pictured as a maritime empire, her merchants mourning when her shipping is destroyed in a single hour.

America's Navy patrols the oceans, holding choke points at the Panama Canal, Strait of Hormuz, and other critical waterways. Her ports in Los Angeles, New York, Savannah, and beyond are nerve centers of the world's supply chain. Control the seas, and you control the trade of nations — and America has done exactly that for decades.

20. Hollywood & Broadcast Babylon: Images, Idols, and Exported Culture

No empire in history has broadcast its culture to the world like the United States.

Hollywood, television, streaming platforms, and music exports have shaped the morals,

language, and even fashion of billions. The Bible says Babylon makes the nations drunk with the wine of her fornication – a perfect image for how entertainment glamorizes sin and sells it as a lifestyle. This is not just “soft power.” This is *sorcery of the screen* – images as idols, shaping imaginations and desires worldwide.

21. Pharmakeia in the Homeland: Big Medicine, Big Money, and Mandates

The Greek word translated “sorceries” in Revelation 18:23 is *pharmakeia*, meaning drugs, potions, and mind-altering substances. In modern America, this is not witchcraft in the woods – it’s billion-dollar pharmaceutical corporations. From opioids that devastated communities, to experimental medical mandates, to a healthcare system driven by profit rather than healing – the U.S. has become the global hub of both miracle cures and engineered sickness. The merchants of

pharmakeia are not healers; they are gatekeepers of life and death for profit.

22. Religion as a Costume: Revivals, Mega-churches, and Apostasy

America wears the costume of a “Christian nation” – Bible verses on monuments, chaplains in Congress, “In God We Trust” on currency. But behind the costume, much of her religion has been hollowed out. Mega-churches preach self-help instead of repentance. Revivals flame briefly but rarely bring lasting reform. The gospel is often watered down into motivational speeches. Mystery Babylon is not godless in appearance – she is religious in appearance, yet her cup is full of abominations.

23. Blood on the Hands: Abortion, Foreign Wars, and Silenced Whistleblowers

Revelation 18:24 accuses Babylon of being responsible for the blood of the saints and of *all* who were slain on the earth. America’s

fingerprints are on rivers of blood – from the slaughter of the unborn in her clinics, to the casualties of foreign wars fought for profit and influence, to the silencing of whistleblowers who tried to expose it. This is not an accusation of mere mistakes. This is a charge of systemic, calculated bloodshed.

24. Symbols in Stone: Obelisks, Eyes, and Ancient Patterns Repeated

America's most iconic monuments are laced with ancient symbolism – the all-seeing eye on the dollar, the Washington Monument as an obelisk, Masonic cornerstones, astrological alignments in the capital's layout. These are not simply patriotic decorations; they echo the same pagan symbols seen in the ruins of Egypt, Babylon, and Rome.

Mystery Babylon is not just about power – it is about *continuing an ancient rebellion against God* through symbolism, architecture, and ritual.

25. Surveillance, Sanctions, and Sorcery by Spreadsheet: Soft Power as Spellcraft

Babylon's reach is not only through armies and ships but through economic sorcery. The United States uses sanctions like a financial noose, cutting nations off from trade and banking at will. Digital surveillance captures data on citizens and foreigners alike. And global policy is increasingly shaped not in parliaments, but in the spreadsheets of central banks, corporate boards, and intelligence agencies. In ancient Babylon, a sorcerer's incantations were a mystery; in modern Babylon, the spells are written in legal codes and financial algorithms.

26. America's Blessings vs. America's Judgment: Mercy, Delay, and Hard Warnings

For all her sins, America has been blessed beyond measure – vast resources,

unmatched freedoms, and the ability to send the gospel to the ends of the Earth. But blessings do not erase judgment. They delay it, in hope of repentance. The Bible says God is longsuffering, not willing that any should perish – but Babylon’s fall comes when repentance is refused. The question before us is whether America will humble herself before God, or continue riding the beast until she is thrown down in one hour.

Part IV – Alternatives & Counterarguments (Iron Sharpens Iron)

By Rocky Smith

27. Rome/Vatican Theory: Strengths and Shortfalls

The Vatican is often the first alternative candidate put forward for Mystery Babylon. Rome was the seat of the ancient empire that crucified Christ's apostles, and the Catholic Church has undeniably wielded global influence for centuries. The Vatican is rich, steeped in ritual, and has diplomatic ties to nearly every nation. Revelation's "woman clothed in purple and scarlet" fits the papal colors, and her "golden cup" recalls the ornate chalices of the Mass.

Strengths: The Vatican is a religious city, sits on seven hills (Revelation 17:9), and has been involved in historical persecutions.

Shortfalls: Revelation 18 portrays Babylon as a *major economic and maritime power*—importing vast goods from across the world and commanding the seas. The Vatican, while influential, has neither a navy nor a commercial empire. Rome influences through religion, not through the mechanics of global trade and shipping. If the Vatican is in the

picture, it may be as a *spiritual partner* to Mystery Babylon, not the whole package.

28. Rebuilt Babylon in Iraq: Literal or Figurative?

Some prophecy teachers insist Babylon must be rebuilt on its original site in Iraq for the prophecy to be fulfilled literally. Saddam Hussein even began a partial reconstruction in the 1980s, stamping bricks with his own name alongside Nebuchadnezzar's.

Strengths: This view takes Revelation and Isaiah 13–14 in the most literal sense possible – the name “Babylon” meaning Babylon.

Shortfalls: The Babylon of Revelation is described as a world superpower whose fall devastates the merchants of the earth. A rebuilt Iraqi city – in a country wracked by instability – is nowhere near fulfilling that description. If the prophecy refers to the ancient site, it would require a sudden,

miraculous rise to global dominance, which Scripture gives no clear timeline for before judgment falls.

29. Jerusalem as the Harlot: Does It Fit the Markers?

Some point to Jesus' words in Matthew 23:37 – “O Jerusalem... thou that killest the prophets” – and to Revelation 11:8, which describes the “great city” where the Lord was crucified. This has led some to argue Jerusalem is Mystery Babylon.

Strengths: Jerusalem is a religious center with biblical history, and has indeed seen the blood of prophets spilled within her walls.

Shortfalls: Jerusalem is not the commercial heart of the Earth. She is not the world's shipping hub, nor is she the dominant exporter of culture and commerce. While she plays a central role in end-times prophecy, she does not fit the maritime, economic, and imperial profile that Revelation 18 lays out in

detail. If anything, Jerusalem is more the *stage* on which the final acts of prophecy unfold, rather than the merchant queen of the Earth.

30. Not a Nation but a Network: “Babylon as Global System”

Another theory says Babylon is not a single nation or city at all, but the *entire global system*—a web of finance, politics, media, and culture controlled by elites across borders. In this view, the “woman” is a symbolic figure representing the entire apparatus of globalism.

Strengths: This approach accounts for the worldwide reach of Babylon’s influence and explains why her fall affects “all nations.” It also fits the beast-rider imagery — the woman can be seen as a parasitic system riding on the back of political empires.

Shortfalls: Revelation 17–18 still uses city-specific imagery — harbors, merchants, and

even a specific location that kings and traders “stand afar off” to mourn. The Bible’s prophetic pattern often uses physical cities to represent broader systems (e.g., Tyre as a merchant system in Ezekiel 27), so a pure “system only” reading can lose the literal-world anchor of the prophecy.

31. Responding to Objections: Point-by-Point, Verse-by-Verse

If we claim America fits Mystery Babylon, we must be able to stand up to scrutiny. Here are the common objections:

- **“Babylon is in the Middle East – America isn’t.”**

Revelation is filled with symbolic geography. Egypt in Revelation 11:8 is not literal Egypt but a spiritual comparison. America can fulfill the role spiritually, economically, and politically.

- **“America didn’t exist when Revelation was written.”**

Neither did many prophetic fulfillments. The Bible often speaks to future entities unknown to the original audience – Daniel’s vision of “flying” transport (Daniel 7:4) would have been incomprehensible in his day.

- **“Babylon is a religious harlot – America is secular.”**

Mystery Babylon’s harlotry is not atheism – it’s unfaithfulness. America has claimed a Christian heritage while whoring after idols of wealth, pleasure, and power.

- **“The prophecy is about Rome/the Vatican.”**

Possible – but Rome lacks the economic, military, and maritime reach described in Revelation 18. America fits *all* the markers, not just a few.

- **“Babylon is the whole world system.”**

True in part – but prophecy repeatedly shows a *city* or *nation* leading that system before it collapses. America, as the current apex of global power, fits the role of that lead city/

nation.

Part V – What Now (Obedience Over Outrage)

By Rocky Smith

32. “Come Out of Her”: What Separation Looks Like in Real Life
Revelation 18:4 isn’t a poetic suggestion –

it's a command. "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins." This isn't just about geography; it's about loyalty. You can live in Babylon's zip code but refuse Babylon's ways. Coming out means severing the spiritual umbilical cord. It means you no longer take your marching orders from the system's idols: money, fame, safety, comfort. Separation might mean walking away from a career built on compromise. It might mean refusing certain contracts, platforms, or partnerships that demand your silence on truth. It means your allegiance is to the King of kings, not to the beast's approval ratings.

33. Financial Exodus: Debt, Usury, and Merchant Traps

Mystery Babylon is built on merchant sorcery. The dollar, the debt system, and the lust for more – all bait in the trap. Step one: get out of Babylon's chokehold of usury. Pay off debt as aggressively as you can. Avoid new loans unless absolutely necessary. Step two: stop

feeding the merchants that fund your destruction. Buy local when possible, support small businesses, and quit funding the corporations whose “diversity statements” double as apostasy manifestos.

If Babylon’s economy collapses “in one hour” (Rev. 18:10), you don’t want to be holding her paper promises. Hold tangible value – food, tools, skills, and community ties.

34. Information Exodus: Media Diet, Entertainment Fasting, and Family Culture

Babylon’s media machine is its most potent spell. The merchants of Hollywood, Silicon Valley, and the corporate press sell you more than products – they sell you values, narratives, and identity scripts.

Cut the cord – literally and spiritually. Take a fast from mainstream news, social media, and the entertainment drip-feed. Replace it with Scripture, old books that haven’t been rewritten by the ministry of truth, and music

that glorifies God instead of rebellion. In your home, create a counterculture. Read together, pray together, work on skills together. Teach your kids that they are not consumers first, but disciples.

35. Church Exodus (Maybe): Finding a Remnant, Not a Brand

Some churches are Babylon franchises with steeples. If your pastor won't touch Revelation except to dismiss it... if the sermons are TED Talks with a sprinkling of Bible verses... if the church budget looks more like a stage-production expense sheet than a rescue mission – it may be time to leave.

The call isn't to become a "lone ranger Christian," but to find the remnant – believers who love truth more than trends. This may mean meeting in homes, barns, or under a tree, like the early church. The point is not to find the flashiest building, but the purest

fellowship.

36. Preparing for Sudden Shifts: Practical Checklists & Spiritual Readiness

Babylon's fall is sudden. Revelation says "in one hour" – no time for Amazon Prime to deliver survival gear. Practical readiness includes:

- **Food & Water:** Minimum three months' supply per person.
- **Energy:** Alternate cooking and heating options.
- **Skills:** First aid, gardening, basic repairs, barter.
- **Security:** Situational awareness, layered defense.
- **Communication:** Non-digital backups (radios, physical meet points).

Spiritual readiness means you are *already* repented, *already* watching, and *already* obeying. The oil in your lamp is faith in action, not just faith in theory.

37. Hope After the Fall: The Lamb Wins

Revelation isn't the story of Babylon — it's the story of Babylon's *end*. The fall is just the prologue to the real climax: the marriage supper of the Lamb, the return of Christ, the reign of righteousness.

Yes, judgment is coming. Yes, the shaking will hurt. But the same chapter that records Babylon's smoke rising forever also records the saints singing, "Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth" (Rev. 19:6).

If you belong to the Lamb, Babylon's obituary is your liberation notice. So don't just come out of her — run toward Him. The kingdoms of this world will fall, but His kingdom has no end.

