

**REVELATION 17:1-6**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Revelation chapter 17 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

Back in Revelation chapter 16, with the seventh bowl judgment being poured out, we are told that the wrath of God upon a Christ rejecting world will be complete. John wrote, “**It is done!**” Revelation 16:17.

As we move into Revelation chapters 17 and 18, we are back in a parenthetical section of the book of Revelation where John is filling in more details before he moves on in Revelation chapter 19, which continues the chronological flow.

Keep in mind that after the seventh bowl judgment is poured out, the Lord returns to end the rebellion of man against God at the Battle of Armageddon!

So the events here in Revelation chapter 17 happen prior to the return of Christ.

And I believe that Revelation chapters 17 & 18 speak of two different and yet united institutions that will be destroyed.

In Revelation chapter 17 we see the destruction of religious Babylon.

Then, in Revelation chapter 18 we will see the destruction of commercial Babylon.

It is as Revelation 14:8 tells us, “**And another angel followed, saying, ‘Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.’**”

That is what we will see happen in these two chapters, Babylon will be destroyed!

Now there are some who feel that this is just speaking of the commercial Babylon being destroyed. But as you read these chapters you see what their focus is, religious or commercial and thus, I see them as two different entities, even though they are closely related.

One writer put it like this. He wrote,

Revelation 17 and 18 are two of the most intriguing chapters of the Bible, yet two of the most difficult and disputed. Both of these chapters deal with the subject of Babylon and form a unit of prophetic doctrine, namely, the destruction of Babylon.

However, these are two of the most difficult chapters of Revelation to interpret and expositors vary widely in their understanding of this section of the book.

Walvoord writes:

**Any interpretation of Revelation 17 and 18 is difficult because expositors have not agreed as to the detail of their interpretations. In general, however, it is helpful to consider chapter 17 as dealing with Babylon as an ecclesiastical or spiritual entity and chapter 18 as dealing with Babylon as a political entity.**

While reasons will be given later to support this, two different aspects of Babylon are contemplated in these chapters, two separate aspects of Babylon and her fall (perhaps suggested by the repetition of the phrase “is fallen” in 18:2 and 14:8).

Chapter 17 describes Babylon in its mystery form, as a religious system or spirit of false worship; chapter 18 describes Babylon as a political and commercial system embodied in a city, the city of Babylon of the future.

So we have two Babylon's: religious Babylon and political Babylon. As mentioned at the conclusion of chapter 16, these two chapters do not continue the chronological sequence of events (they do not follow the seven bowls). In fact, nothing does except the return of the Lord Jesus Christ and the judgments associated with His return.

Instead, chapters 17 and 18 are an amplification of one of the main features of the Tribulation, the place, function, and final judgment of Babylon.

Chapter 17, which deals with the destruction of religious Babylon, would have to occur somewhere around the middle of the Tribulation when the beast is finished using her as a means to his rise to power.

Chapter 18 describes the destruction of political (economic or commercial) Babylon as it is embodied in the city of Babylon, the headquarters of the beast. The destruction undoubtedly occurs at the seventh bowl when the great city of 16:19, along with other cities, fall in the great earthquake.

Seeing and understanding this concept of the two Babylon - the religious and politico-economic - is the key to understanding chapters 17 and 18.

- [bit.ly/3sl91bL](http://bit.ly/3sl91bL)

Think about this for a minute and the times we are living in. You would think that man would not be religious in the days we are living in.

The reality is the exact opposite is true.

You see, built into man, built inside of us is a hunger for God, and this false religious system will have a powerful appeal to satisfy that need apart from the true and living God.

Ever since the fall of man, Satan has twisted and perverted the things of God, drawing people into a false religious system instead of a relationship with the true and living God.

One more point before we read out text this evening.

Babylon is mentioned some 287 times in the Scriptures, second only to Jerusalem.

Now keep in mind, ever since its beginnings in Genesis 11:1-10, Babylon is associated with organized idolatry, blasphemy and the persecution of God's people.

Thus, the end time's apostate church, the one-world religion, will be no different, as we shall see.

One writer put it like this regarding the last days or the days of the Tribulation Period. He wrote, *"That ultimate expression of false religion will be an essential element of Antichrist's final world empire, in holding together his military, economic, and political structure. Only religion can unite the world in the most compelling way. Politics, economics, even military force are unable to overcome the world's cultural diversity. Only religion, with its appeal to the supernatural, can transcend the physical, geographical, historical, economic, and cultural barriers to world unity."*

With that said, let's begin reading in Revelation chapter 17, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we look at the destruction of religious Babylon.

**REVELATION 17****VERSES 1-2**

Who is this “**great harlot who sits on many waters**”?

We don't have to guess because we are given several clues in these verses, and we will look at some more as we read on.

But let's deal with what is said in Revelation 17:1-2 first.

And keep in mind that what John is being shown, this entity, is going to experience the judgment of God. It is going to be done away with. But until that time, during the Tribulation Period, this entity is going to cause great destruction for the people of this world, as we will see.

The first thing that John is told to come and see is “**the great harlot.**” Revelation 17:1.

When we think of a harlot we think of fornication and in a sense, that is the meaning here. The difference here is that this is spiritual fornication that the great harlot is dishing out.

And here is what this means. When someone says that they love God, that they are serving God and they are then unfaithful to God, worship other gods, that is spiritual fornication.

Thus, this is speaking of the apostate church. The church who once served the Lord is living in rebellion against the Lord.

Ray Stedman put it like this, “*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. The concept of spiritual adultery is frequently used in describing the apostasy of Israel.*”

Let me show you what I mean.

In Ezekiel chapter 16 we are told of Israel and her rejection of God, **“But you trusted in your own beauty, played the harlot because of your fame, and poured out your harlotry on everyone passing by who would have it. . . . that you also built for yourself a shrine, and made a high place for yourself in every street. You built your high places at the head of every road, and made your beauty to be abhorred. You offered yourself to everyone who passed by, and multiplied your acts of harlotry.”** Ezekiel 16:15, 24-25.

You see, instead of following the Lord, they went after foreign gods, the gods of the pagans, and built shrines to them. Because of that, God saw their actions as spiritual adultery to Him!

What did God want the children of Israel to do?

We don't have to guess. We are told in Deuteronomy 12:1-5, **“These are the statutes and judgments which you shall be careful to observe in the land which the Lord God of your fathers is giving you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth. You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations which you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. And you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and burn their wooden images with fire; you shall cut down the carved images of their gods and destroy their names from that place. You shall not worship the Lord your God with such things. But you shall seek the place where the Lord your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go.”**

You can't serve two masters. And the choice was there before the children of Israel, and it is there for us. To serve the Lord or serve the gods of this world. But you have to understand that rebellion against God will be dealt with, as we see here in Revelation chapters 17 and 18.

We also see this in Exodus 34:11-17, where we are told, **“Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I am driving out from before you the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst. But you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images (for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods and make sacrifice to their gods, and one of them invites you and you eat of his sacrifice, and you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons play the harlot with their gods. You shall make no molded gods for yourselves.”**

I think that is very clear. Don't play with them, entertain them, but destroy those gods, those idols in your life and worship the Lord!

But here we see this false religious system as a harlot, worshiping the gods of this world and ultimately the Antichrist and Satan!

The second point we can glean from these verses is that her influence, her reach is worldwide!

How do we know that?

Because we are also told that this **“great harlot”** or this false religious system **“sits on many waters.”**

I know, what does that mean?

We don't have to guess, and this is not my opinion. You see we are told in Revelation 17:15, "**Then he said to me, 'The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.'**"

In other words, this false religious system encompasses the world, this ecumenical movement will encompass all the religions of the world and they will acquire great wealth!

It is the unification of all false, idolatrous religions and within that we also see the apostate church with apostate Catholicism and Protestantism!

Keep in mind that religion is a system where man tries to reach God by various means.

While Christianity is God reaching down to sinful man and pulling him out of the mire of sin that he is in.

One leads to death the other to life, abundant life.

Thus, religion and religious activity will play a major role in the Tribulation Period.

But the true and living God, Jesus will be removed and thus, the world will be going after false gods and thus, they are committing spiritual fornication!

Also, the people who were drawn into this false religious system "**were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.**" Revelation 17:2.

What does that mean, that the people of this world will be drunk, intoxicated with her fornication?

Remember what Karl Marx said, "***Religion is the opiate of the masses.***"

He is partly right.

You see, people will not be able to get enough of this false religious system, they will be attracted to it and thus, empty religion is the opiate of the masses while Christianity is a faith that brings us to abundant life!



And drunkenness appeals to the flesh, and it opens you up to do things that you might not normally do. And this false religious system will cause the people of this world to worship the Antichrist and Satan, as I have said!

When is this false religious system destroyed?

I believe that this religious Babylon will be destroyed at the beginning of the last part of the seven-year Tribulation Period, the last three and one-half years. And I think this corresponds to the Antichrist going into the rebuilt Temple and demanding to be worshiped as God.

It is then that Satan enters him, and the people will not have a choice any longer.

And, as we will see when we get to Revelation chapter 18, this commercial Babylon will not be destroyed until the end of the seven-year Tribulation Period.

Different groups and thus, their judgment is at different times.

So what we see here is the apostate church along with all the false religions of the world united together and this false church is called or seen as a harlot.

Obviously, this is the exact opposite of what the true church is all about.

The true church is called the virgin bride of Christ.

Paul, in II Corinthians 11:2 put it like this, “**For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.**”

Also keep in mind that it is the False Prophet and this false religious system that brings the Antichrist to power.

Malachi Martin is a Catholic writer who made these interesting remarks regarding the emergence of the European Super State. (1921-1999)

This is what he said.

It will include all the lands occupied by the ancient Romans, but the religion will not be Christianity or Catholicism, Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism or any religion known today.

It already has its own religion, if we want to call it that.

It is called the New Age. . . . The New Age movement is at this moment influencing our present policies.

If you listen to Prince Edward or Prince Charles of England, it is very obvious that they speak from a New Age background, and it bodes a lot of trouble for traditional Christianity.

- Malachi Martin

Let me share this with you. It is a little long, but I want you to see how New Age teachings have infiltrated the church and it is even worse than this. We are told,

Think about the phrase “New Age.” What comes to mind?

Old documentaries of hippies at Woodstock experimenting with LSD and yoga?

Shirley MacLaine holding a cluster of crystals on the cover of Time Magazine back in the ‘80s?

Deepak Chopra teaching on Oprah how to move things with her mind in the ‘90s?

As old or out of touch as these images may seem, New Age beliefs are hotter than ever and have permeated our culture - but with a slick new image.

*The psychic hotline of the ‘80s has been replaced by winsome hipster gurus who have traded robes for skinny jeans - often translating Eastern religious ideas into Christianese.*

Many Christians aren't even aware of how New Age beliefs have infiltrated Christendom through the Progressive Church. . . . It wasn't until I recently did a study of New Age Spirituality that I realized how much Progressive Christianity has in common with it.

Here are 5 ways Progressive Christianity and the New Age Spirituality are kind of the same thing:

### **1. The redefinition or abandonment of the concept of sin**

*New Agers believe all people are inherently divine.* . . . That there is no such thing called "sin," but only the failure to remember our divinity.

In her master class on the Oprah and Friends network in 2008, New Age leader Marianne Williamson led countless Americans through the book, *A Course in Miracles*. Participants were encouraged to affirm "There is no sin," and were taught, "The Atonement is the final lesson [a person] need learn, for it teaches him that, never having sinned, he has no need of salvation." And all of this information supposedly came from Jesus Himself.

Several years ago I heard a Progressive pastor teach on Genesis 3, the famous passage in which Eve was tricked by the serpent into eating the forbidden fruit. Rather than reading the account as historical fact, he was unpacking the moral "truth" we could all learn from this creation story. He made the point that when this first couple took that fateful bite, it was their shame, not their sin, that separated them from God. . . .

Progressive writer Brian McLaren describes it this way: "They lose their fearlessness in relation to God."

Notice the similarity of language. Without original sin we are all good, and we are only distant from God in our own minds when we forget that.

## **2. The denial of absolute truth**

New Age thought is marked by its relativism: a rejection of objective morality and absolute truth. *If something feels true to you, it's true. If it feels right to you, it's right. If something feels real to you, it's reality. In other words, your own thoughts and feelings are your authority for what is true and real.*

One distinctive feature of Progressive Christianity is its denial of biblical authority. But of course, no one operates without an authority - if you remove one authority, you will replace it with another.

Typically, Progressive Christians shift the authority for what they believe is true from the Bible to themselves - by becoming their own moral compass which will inevitably ebb and flow with culture.

## **3. An acceptance of Jesus, but a denial of His blood atonement**

New Age thought leaders almost always couch their teachings in Christian language.

Jesus is an example of someone who attained enlightenment by connecting with the divine - an example any of us can follow.

His death wasn't a saving act . . . the "saving" comes from within ourselves when we realize we have the same capabilities as Jesus already within us.

This is often referred to as "Christ consciousness." This is why many New Agers see no contradiction in reciting the Lord's prayer while believing in karma and the healing power of crystals.

Of course, this is an outright denial of His atoning death and resurrection.

Many (not all) Progressive Christians also deny the blood atonement of Jesus.

Last year, popular Christian musician Michael Gungor took to Twitter to rant about the idea of God requiring a blood sacrifice for sin, calling it “horrific.”

In his controversial book, *Love Wins*, Rob Bell refers to this idea as something Christians simply picked up from surrounding cultures and used to explain the death of Jesus.

In a 2016 lecture explaining the Eucharist (Communion for us Protestants), Bell joked about the ridiculousness of atonement theory, summing it up as: “God is less grumpy because of Jesus.”

This gave the audience a good laugh, as Bell went on to explain that the real reason we pass the bread and wine is to “heighten our senses to our bonds with our brothers and sisters in our shared humanity.”

Many Progressive Christian leaders have popularized the phrase “cosmic child abuse,” a term first coined by Steve Chalke to protest the idea that a loving God would require a blood sacrifice for the sin of mankind.

#### **4. It’s all about “me”**

New Age thought revolves around the “Self.”

Self-empowerment and realization of our innate divinity are central to its teachings and practices.

According to New Age blogger Kalee Brown, when Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life” in John 14:6, “The ‘me’ Jesus referred to isn’t himself, but rather the Self within you” (emphasis mine).

*A Course in Miracles* also asks the participant to affirm: “My salvation comes from me.”

And hey . . . if we are all divine, why shouldn't it be about us?

The typical Progressive Christian will probably not agree that it's all about them - in fact, they tend to be very focused on social justice.

But that's not what I'm talking about here.

I'm talking about a *theological* shift. Progressive favorite Richard Rohr even goes so far as to write that each of us and sometimes "creation" is the "fourth member of the blessed Trinity," implying that the fullness of God isn't complete until *we* become a part of it.

Generally speaking, the concept of sin is abandoned or redefined, truth becomes relativized, and a mere martyr's cross gives us a more palatable Jesus who is a great teacher, moral example, and doting BFF - but not the all-powerful warrior King who will one day return in a blood-dipped robe to judge the living and the dead. (Revelation 19:13; 2 Timothy 4:1)

## 5. Universalism

Former New Ager and now Christian believer Steven Bancarz noted that New Age proponents affirm the idea that all roads lead to God. He wrote:

*Many Progressive Christian authors affirm some form of universalism - implicitly, by denying the concept of a literal hell, or explicitly, by declaring that all people will be reconciled to God, regardless of their beliefs or religious practices.*

The concept of universal reconciliation (that Jesus will reconcile all sinners to Himself,) was smuggled into the mainstream consciousness of the Evangelical church through the wildly popular 2007 book, *The Shack*.

Years later, its author, William Paul Young, confirmed his intention in his book, *Lies We Believe About God*.

He wrote, “Are you suggesting that everyone is saved? That you believe in universal salvation? That is exactly what I am saying!”

None of this is new. Throughout church history these ideas have emerged again and again. They are old pagan dogmas recycled as new and edgy ideas, dressed up in modern garb and given a Christian make-over.

Trevin Wax put it perfectly on Twitter:

***Progressive Christians may think they are being cutting-edge and relevant by stepping outside the bounds of orthodoxy, but in reality they are simply falling for the ideology that has kick-started every false religion since the fall of man: “They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator” (Romans 1:25).***

It is no less damning if the “creature” is . . . yourself.

- <https://bit.ly/3H1nOws>

Yes, the church is moving to apostasy and moving fast as we have Christian witches, Christian Tarot Cards, we have brought worldly entertainment into the church, false teaching, and taking God and His Word out of the church. And make no mistake about it, it is going to get so bad that we see in the letter that Jesus wrote to the church in Laodicea that Jesus was not even allowed into the church where they were supposedly worshiping Him. But they were not, they were apostate and look at what churches are embracing today! (Revelation 3:14-22)

Now, as I have said and as we are going to see, this one-world religious system will help to empower the one-world government headed by the Antichrist, but only for a time!

VERSES 3-5

Here we see this woman, this false religious system sitting on the beast.

What does that mean?

At this point, the woman riding the beast is, like I have said, this false religious system and the beast is the government of the Antichrist. And for a time, the Antichrist will use this false religious system for his benefit. And when he is done, this system will be gone!

We see that she is dressed in purple and scarlet with gold and precious jewels. I think that speaks of power, rulership, honor.

And I don't want to offend anyone, but when you look at the Roman Catholic Church, and we will look at this church more in a few minutes, this is what their robes have on them, purple and scarlet. As well as the gold cup they use for communion, and that is interesting to me.

The chalice that they use for communion is a golden cup, but when you look at the false religious systems and what they were about, it adds even more light to what was going on.

Donald Grey Barnhouse wrote regarding this,

It is also highly significant that the abominations and filthiness should be spoken of as coming from a golden cup. "Babylon hath been a golden cup in the Lord's hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad" (Jer 51:7).

To those who are acquainted with the history of ancient religions this significance is heightened by comparisons with the rites of the pagan religious mysteries.



A French scholar, Salverte, writing on *The Occult Sciences*, tells of the drinking in connection with these demon ceremonies. "To drink of mysterious beverages," he says, "was indispensable on the part of all who sought initiation [induction] in these mysteries. These mysterious beverages were composed of wine, honey, water, and flour, with various other ingredients used locally. From the nature of the ingredients avowedly used, and from the nature of others not avowed, but certainly used, there can be no doubt that they were of an intoxicating nature; and till the aspirants had come under their power, till their understandings had been dimmed, and their passions excited by the medicated draught, they were not duly prepared for what they were either to hear or see."

- Donald Grey Barnhouse, *Revelation: An Expository Commentary*, p. 324

Remember that I said that this woman or this false religious system is sitting upon a beast or the Antichrist, the revived Roman Empire!

The false church will bring about his rise to power!

It is also interesting to note that the European currency unit and the stamp of the European Parliament both have on it a woman riding a bull or a beast!

Also, back in 1991 *Time* magazine did a special report for its Canadian edition on the new Europe.

The new Europe in this *Time*'s report was symbolized as a woman riding upon a beast. A coincidence? I don't think so!

John Walvoord puts it like this, *“Her position, that of riding the beast, indicates on the one hand that she is supported by the political power of the beast, and on the other that she is in a dominant role and at least outwardly controls and directs the beast.”*

And remember these religious trappings that adorn this false religious system. There is an abundance of wealth within this system.

Religion is big business. And as man looks at this great wealth he rejoices, but God looks at her and calls her a harlot, for He sees her as she really is!

Barnhouse said, *“We find the course of church history that one of the deadliest marks of ecclesiastical corruption is the lust for temporal power.”*

And notice what it is called here in Revelation 17:5 – **MYSTERY!**

And please understand that the **“MYSTERY”** is not part of her name, but it speaks of a hidden truth that is spiritually discerned.

Thus, her name is placed upon her forehead just as the harlots had their names placed upon their foreheads during John’s time.

Her name is as follows:

**BABYLON THE GREAT,  
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE  
ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH**

This hidden truth takes us back to the beginning, to the book of Genesis. Back to Bab-el, which means, *“the gate of god,”* and to a man named Nimrod, whose name means, *“we will rebel.”*

And this man is said to be a mighty hunter, not of wild animals, but of men’s souls.

It is here that Nimrod and his followers built a tower, not to reach God or the stars, but to the spirit world, occult activities.

It was a tower in defiance of God!

Nimrod (a great-grandson of Noah) had a wife named Semiramis and she claimed to be a powerful prophetess of god. After Nimrod died, she claimed to have been visited by Nimrod and conceived a child without sexual relations, an immaculate conception you might say! Sound familiar?

This child was to be the savior of the world, or so she claimed, and she was the queen mother of heaven.

A title that the Catholic Church has given to Mary and now the Protestant Church is also embracing this false god!

The son she gave birth to was called Tammuz.

And the story gets very interesting here.

One day, as he was out, a wild beast killed him and 3 days later he was resurrected.

But Tammuz could only be approached in his resurrected state through his mother, Semiramis.

You had to go through her to get to him.

Sound familiar!

Also, many ancient artifacts that have been found have mother Semiramis holding the savior-infant Tammuz!

That too should sound familiar!

It doesn't end there.

Each spring the people would color eggs in honor of the miraculous resurrection from the dead of Tammuz.

In the wintertime they would deck evergreen trees with silver and gold in honor of his miraculous virgin birth.

One writer gives to us this insight as he wrote, ***“In Canaan, Semiramis was known as Ashtoreth, and her child as Baal. In Rome, she was known as Venus, while Tammuz was known as Cupid. In Greece, they were Eros and Aphrodite; in Egypt Isis and Horace, in virtually every culture around the world, this same story is told of a mother, ‘the queen of heaven’ and her miracle baby - a story so uncannily close to the Gospel story that it’s almost as though someone knew the truth and wanted to twist it.”*** (Jon Courson)

And of course, Satan knew of Genesis 3:15 and he began to twist it very early on, during the time of Nimrod!

Now let’s fast forward to the Babylonian Empire. In Babylon the chief priests wore crowns made in the shape of a fish’s head to honor the fish god.

The crowns had the words ***“keeper of the bridge”*** which was symbolic of the ***“bridge”*** between man and Satan, not God.

This was adopted by the Roman Emperors who used the Latin title ***PONTIFEX MAXIMUS***, which means, ***“major keeper of the bridge.”***

Now how in the world did these pagan practices, like Christmas and Easter and many other things that we don’t have time to get into this evening, get incorporated into the church?

It began with Nimrod and then the Babylonians picked up on it, establishing their Kingdom in the same area that Nimrod lived.

Then, when the Medo-Persian Empire defeated the Babylonians, the religious leaders moved from Babylon to Pergamos.

Remember the letter that Jesus wrote to the church of Pergamos back in Revelation chapter 2.

He said **“I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.”** Revelation 2:13.

Satan’s throne was located in Pergamos because that is where these Babylonian priests moved to after the fall of Babylon.

It was located there when John wrote this book of Revelation.

Then, we see in 312 A. D. Constantine come to power. And he united the church to the world as he made Christianity the state religion. And the church became weak and took on pagan practices!

You see, while he was involved in a fierce battle and short on troops, that he had a dream of a cross and the writing above the cross said; ***“In this sign conquer.”***

It was then he had his so-called conversion experience to Christianity and utilized a large group of men to help him in his fight which he did not utilize before, Christians!

Thus, we now see Satan’s throne move from Pergamos to Rome as Constantine marries the church to the world.

He allowed these pagan priests to come right into the church, even continuing to practice their own religion!

That is one of the reasons Roman Catholicism is so messed up, they have merged many pagan practices with Christianity, and they don’t mix!

And please, I am not picking on the Catholic Church, I was involved in it, so I do understand many of these practices that are not supported by the Scriptures. They come from man, and really are nothing more than doctrines of demons that don't bring a person to Jesus.

One of the other things adopted from pagan religion and brought into the Roman Catholic Church, is the worship of a mother and child. This cult worship spread all over the world. We saw it with Semiramis and Tammuz and it continues on in many false religious systems!

Let me show you what I mean.

*In Phoenicia the mother was called Ashtoreth, and the child was called Baal.*

*In Egypt she was called Isis and the child Horus.*

*In Greece she was known as Aphrodite and the child was called Arus.*

*The Romans called her Venus and the child Cupid.*

*In India they were known as Izee and Izwora.*

*Later when pagan Rome was 'Christianized' under Constantine, the mother became Mary, and the child became Jesus.*

Having said all that, this false religious system is much bigger than just the Roman Catholic church, it also embraces Protestant churches as well as all other religions.

You see, this is the one-world church or the one-world religious system, made up of those who have fallen away from the truths of God's Word and have embraced another Gospel, a false Gospel that leads to death and not to life!

And it is this religious system, the one that Nimrod started and was picked up by the Babylonians, which has given birth to all other religious systems, **MYSTERY BABYLON!**

That is why she is called the mother of harlots, for she has given birth not only to the final worldwide false religious system, but all the ones in between.

Thus, Babylon is the symbol of apostasy, and it is a blasphemous substitution to the true and living God!

As one writer put it, ***“The doctrines of the mystery religions of Babylon seem to have permeated the ancient world, giving rise to countless mystery religions, each with its cult and individual beliefs offering a counterfeit religion and a counterfeit god in opposition to the true God revealed in the Scriptures.”***

And as we read on, we will see what a counterfeit religious system will do to those who love the Lord Jesus Christ, and it isn't pretty. In fact, it has never been pretty as so-called believers persecute true believers!

#### VERSE 6

John Walvoord rightly said, ***“False religion is always the worst enemy of true religion.”***

Folks, this is one of the sad commentaries on the church or the false church that many think is Christian. They are Christian by name only.

You see, the church throughout the ages has put to death those that disagree with them, the false Christians trying to destroy the true Christians.

The Church in the Inquisition put over 50 million Christians to death! They lost their lives by those involved in the Church!

And I think we are going to see that again in our days, as well as during the Tribulation Period.

The reason I say that is because so many churches have moved away from the Word of God and have become social reform ministries. They are for Black Lives Matter, Antifa, they are for equity and anything that will leave out the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that is what they want. And if you come against them, you are the enemy.

It won't matter if what they are doing is not found in the Bible or the Bible speaks against it, they are right and you are wrong and if you don't side with them, then you are intolerant!

But for them, if they don't side with you, they are not intolerant, go figure!

It is going to get tough, and I have seen it already with false teaching in the church and how it has divided families! Very said, but I think it will just get worse because less and less people have an understanding of the basic doctrines of the Bible.

George Gallup and Jim Castelli, who are researchers who have looked into this problem of Biblical illiteracy in the church today, wrote, *“Americans revere the Bible - but, by and large, they don't read it. And because they don't read it, they have become a nation of biblical illiterates.”*

It is amazing what people will spend time doing and you really don't have to think much about that one here in 2022. They will spend hours on Facebook, or YouTube or some other social media sight. But they don't have time to read the Bible.

Peter Leithart recently observed how skillfully many Christian teachers *“from the patristic age to the Reformation”* were able to *“range across the whole Bible without any of the props and crutches we rely on . . . because they had stored it in the palace of memory.”*

Make no mistake about it, that sort of mastery doesn't happen without deep and sustained Bible reading.



And then there is Barna Group's annual State of the Bible Report for 2020, which is also sponsored by the American Bible Society.

According to the report, the percentage of *adults in the USA who claim they read the Bible daily declined from 14% in 2019 to 9% in 2020. The 9% figure is the lowest reported in the ten-year history of the report.*

I shake my head in amazement and I then understand why the church is buying into all this false teaching. It tickles the ears; it feeds the flesh, and it doesn't require them to do anything at all.

And the reason I bring this up is because of this push today for a one-world religion by the Pope, by the United Nations, and we are seeing it forming right before our eyes!

Think about that for a minute. If Jesus is the way, if He is the truth, and if He is the life, and the only way to get to God the Father is through Him, then can all the religions of the world unite together?

Absolutely not!

Well, not exactly. I guess they can as we water down what the Bible says and teach people that all roads lead to God, and that Jesus is just an example of how we are to live and there is no reason to repent of your sin, there is no such thing as sin! Then I guess you can unite the religions of the world and like I have said, it is happening!

**One World Religion Headquarters To Open 2022 – . . . CHRISLAM, THE CATHOLIC-MUSLIM INTERFAITH COUNCIL CREATED BY POPE FRANCIS ANNOUNCES NEW CHRISLAM HEADQUARTERS OPENING IN 2022 THAT COMBINES A MOSQUE AND CHURCH ACCORDING TO SIGNED COVENANT.**

The announcement of the Abrahamic Family House, on the Saadiyat Island in Abu Dhabi, follows a visit by Pope Francis to the UAE in February, the first by a pope to the Arabian Peninsula. During the trip, the pope signed a joint declaration with the grand imam of al-Azhar, Dr. Ahmed el-Tayeb, that called for religious tolerance and dialogue. An interfaith council to oversee projects advancing tolerance was formed as a result of the declaration, and named the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity. The Abrahamic Family House is its first initiative. . . .

In December 2020, the United Nations passed an anti-blasphemy law that most Christians are not aware of. The loosely translated law, as embraced by the UAE, prohibits any teachings against Islam, including Biblical teachings which could be considered offensive.

- <https://bit.ly/3Ffn2eL>

As the One World Religious system works with the One World Governmental system, you can see what is going to happen to Christians! And that will get much worse during the Tribulation Period as millions of Christians will be martyred for their faith, those who came to faith during this period of time as the Church will be caught up to be with the Lord prior to the start of the Tribulation Period.

Now, back here in Revelation 17:6, the word “*drunk*” speaks of a continual state.

And as you look at church history you see the blood of the faithful flowing at the hands of the church, as I have said.

You see, when light exposes the darkness of a false religious system, they strike back and try to extinguish the light.

Marin Luther, in 1517 posted his Ninety-Five Thesis, those things he saw within the Roman Catholic Church that were contrary to the Scriptures, like buying your way into heaven, the infallibility of the Pope.

He believed in a salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone!

And what did the church do?

They sought to kill him.

Now if they have the truth, as supposedly the Roman Catholic Church has, why are they worried about the lies of a man?

The problem for the Roman Catholic Church is that they did not have scriptural support for what they held onto, and they tried to silence Marin Luther by putting him to death!

They put millions to death trying to keep the Bible from the hands of common people and the reason they did not want them to have the Bible is that it would set them free from the lies of the Roman Catholic Church!

And this practice will continue even during the Tribulation Period, as many will be put to death by this false religious system for their faith in Christ.

An amazing thing, and a very sad thing!

What has been going on for many years, the persecution of the people of God by those who call themselves Christians, will reach its peak during the Tribulation Period as millions of Christians will be put to death for their faith in Jesus Christ by this false religious system.

We are told in Revelation 20:4, **“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”**

Also, in Revelation 7:13-17 we are told of this group of people who will be martyred for their faith, **“Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, ‘Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?’ And I said to him, ‘Sir, you know.’ So he said to me, ‘These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”**

The false church is always thirsting for the blood of the saints of God as they try to silence them, silence their witness, but they can't, even in death!

David Guzik makes these interesting remarks. He wrote,

We should never forget that some of the most vicious persecution conducted against true Christians has been done in the name of the church.

In the days when the Roman Catholic Queen Mary ruled England (known as “Bloody Mary” for good reason), some 288 Christians were burnt at the stake for their stand for Christian truth between 1555 and 1558.

The first of these martyrs was a man named John Rogers, who, as he stood chained to a stake, and the fire rose around him, up to his legs and shoulders, he rubbed his hands in the flames as if he were washing his hands in cold water. Then he lifted his hands to the heavens and held them high until he was completely consumed by fire.

This barbarity [brutality] was committed in the name of religion, in the name of the church. But Rogers went to the stake with such calm and dignity that the French Ambassador wrote that he went to his death “as if he was walking to his wedding.” His courage was so evident that the huge crowd burst into applause when they saw him walking to the stake.

- David Guzik

That is this false religious system. And next time we will continue looking at this false religious system and we will be looking at the destruction of this One World religion.





*Woman on Beast symbol on a 2 Euro Coin*



*Stamp of European Parliament depicting Woman on beast*



*The above statue is located outside the EU office in Brussels*



*Woman on beast symbol in a magazine cover*



Mary and baby Jesus with circle of stars over her head showing the misinterpretation of revelation 12





Isis

**SEMIRAMIS & TAMMUZ – BABYLONIAN**  
**ISIS & HORUS – EGYPTIAN**  
**PARVATHI & MURUGAN – HINDUISM**  
**MARY MADONNA & INFANT JESUS – CHURCH**  
MOTHER & CHILD CULT – IN MANY MANIFESTATIONS



Mystery Woman of Revelation 17