1Thess #37

Religion is impressed with popularity and numbers.

Let us open back up in 1Thessalonians chapter two today.

1Thes 2:13 For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of *mere* men, but as what it really is, the word of God, which also is at work in you who believe.

This points us to the fact that where you get your doctrinal intake matters.

Many pulpits do nothing but spew out emotional messages or fluffy stories to keep the seats full and their wallets fat.

Make sure you are studying the word of GOD not the word of men.

[1Th 2:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/2/14/s_1113014) For you, brothers *and sisters,* became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they *did* from the Jews,

The Bels at Thessalonica were under heavy, scrutiny just as the Jewish converts had been as well.

[1Th 2:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/2/15/s_1113015) who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all people,

/[1Th 2:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/2/16/s_1113016) **hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles** so that they may be saved; with the result that **they always reach the limit of their sins**. But wrath has come upon them fully.\

This is in reference to the religious crowd and the Apostle Paul was specifically signaling out the followers under the authority of the Sanhedrin.

It will be religion that becomes a one world movement in the future.

/The Apostle Paul revealed what offended the religious persecutors of the Thessalonians so much. They were outraged that Gentiles could be saved without first becoming Jews. Their fierce opposition was due to the fact that Christian missionaries offered salvation to Gentiles without demanding that they first become Jews.\

Religion always has rituals and standards that are designed to manipulate people.

Even though the Greek culture like the Roman culture had its own set of beliefs, religions and philosophies.

The Jews and the Sanhedrin carried great weight across this region, because the GOD of Israel had powerful, historic impact to back up what Judaism preached.

The stories and historic facts of the Exodus generation and many of the prophets and King David could not be denied. So, the Jews were often given a great deal of respect concerning their GOD.

Jews at this historic point were highly regarded as religious experts even by those who did not follow the God of Father Abraham.

The Jews themselves were vigorously engaged in this period of their history in actively proselyting all Gentiles.

They were impressed with numbers and also believed if they increased in size enough they would be put back into power.

Large followings equal large amounts of money and political power.

This will be the recipe in the end times as well related to a one world religion.

REPEAT

Sadly, they still treated the Gentiles who converted to Judaism as second-class citizens – only full-blooded Jews really showed respect to one another.

This was nothing more than a numbers game and a way to gain greater political power.

This exclusive attitude in verse 16 where Paul says, filled *up the measure of their sins.*

Speaks to filling up to the fullest.

When arrogance is so deep that it begins to blind people, they always go above and beyond with a gluttonous or greedy attitude.

They spin out of control.

/1Thes 2:16 – *they always reach the limit of their sins. But wrath has come upon them fully.*

*Anaplēroō,* always reaching the full limit, filling or overfilling something. Often a term for someone drinking too much wine.\

ANN-APLAY-RA-O, to fill an empty space, to fill a cup, to fill or even overfill something.

This term was used in local restaurants and bars when someone kept drinking in excess. Jump over to the last book of the Bible – Revelation.

We will look at Revelation 17 and parts of Revelation chapter 18 as well.

This study in the letters to Thessalonica touch deeply into eschatology.

/Religion will become gluttonous, drunk with their own power. Drunk with all their riches and popularity. This was obvious in the OT and into the NT, especially with large religious movements like the Sanhedrin (Judaism). This spread out into the Roman Catholic Church and Islam as well. Both religions are powerhouse systems that control countries, leaders and wealth in vast amounts.\

The two most powerful and popular religions across the world remains the Roman Catholic Church and Islam.

They both hold great political power, wealth, real estate and they are able to sway leaders in many countries. They hold power in many aspects of the E.U. the U.N. the World Economic Forum, Council on Foreign Relations, International Monetary Fund (Fed Res).

In fact, the RCC is one of the biggest and wealthiest businesses in the whole world.

I will be doing what I do best today – being completely politically incorrect! As I point out what is very obvious, yet taboo to speak about.

Every theologian and Biblical scholar will tell you this section of Revelation is pointing to a religious system that is intertwined with government.

This is all highlighting a one world rulership in the future.

The only argument between scholars is who exactly will be the religious system that fits the profile.

/Rev 17:1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I will show you **the judgment of the great prostitute who sits on many waters**,

To *sit on many waters* - can only be interpreted as to be a dominant force across many countries around the globe.\

A prostitute is used as an example of someone or something that will sell themselves to the highest bidder.

Prostitutes covet money and power, they use illusion and desires to manipulate their customers.

They play on emotions and lust patterns just as religion does.

Just some food for thought – there are around 1.2 Billion, Catholics across the globe.

Name any nation or continent across the world; Latin America, United Kingdom, Canada, America, Africa, Asia, Russia, pockets throughout the middle east – almost everywhere you go you find a strong footprint of the Roman Catholic Church.

From the 3rd century forward, they spread out across every kingdom and city around the globe.

In many kingdoms they became intertwined with the royal family, so deeply that in many regions, they were the final authority of law and order in the land.

REPEAT

From the 3rd century forward the RCC has held the authority as being so close to God, that the main leadership of that religion are treated as deities themselves.

/[Rev 17:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rev/17/2/s_1184002) with **whom the kings of the earth committed *acts of sexual* immorality** (*porneuō*)**,** and those who live on the earth **became drunk**with the wine of her sexual immorality.”

The dual emphasis is on sexual illicit behavior but also the worship of idols. The present tense means this was an ongoing intimate relationship.\

PORN-NEW-AH, is taken from the root word PORN-NAYA, which points to sexual immorality, sex outside of the marriage bed. (pornography)

PORN-NEW-AH, has a strong emphasis on idolatry - worship of a false god or false system.

The kings- meaning leadership have fallen into bed, fallen into intimacy with the prostitute who controls them through lust patterns and emotional desires.

[Rev 17:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rev/17/3/s_1184003) And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.

The Apostle John is given a vision related to the one world system which will be established in the 7 years of Tribulation.

The prostitute sits atop the beast. Which is a form of control of the beast system at least for a short period of time.

/[Rev 17:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rev/17/4/s_1184004) **The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet**, and adorned with **gold, precious stones**, and pearls, holding in her hand a **gold cup** full of **abominations** and of the **unclean** **things** of her sexual immorality,\

Only one religious system begins to fit this description.

Abominations and unclean things again highlight a worship of what was known as the BAAL system of the OT.

Without too much graphic details, I can tell you the layers of meaning wrapped up here point to sexual perversions on a grand scale.

It also highlights, idol worship that is contrary to the one true GOD.

/[Rev 17:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rev/17/5/s_1184005) and on her forehead a name *was* written, a mystery: “**BABYLON**THE GREAT, **THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES**AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”

Babylon represents confusion and rebellion. This is pointing to a system and possibly a governing body.\

She is the mother of many rebellious daughters which will fall under her roof.

Many denominations and religious movements will fall under the authority of the one world religion.

Again, this is related to what I touched on recently – inter-faith movements which will begin just prior to the Rapture of the church.

My personal belief is the big two will be Islam and RCC and many smaller denominations and churches will fall in line.

Jump over to the next chapter as we close.

Every church has to stand or fall on its own merits. Which means if God ordains that church to close up it is HIS sovereign will.

Pastors and churches were never designed to partner-up amongst other churches.

Each church or ministry is overseen by a leader, a pastor or minister. Which all answer to GOD independently!

The Spirit will teach and touch one church in one direction while touching another in a different direction.

Anytime a pastor or church partners with another ministry they will be held accountable for whatever the other teaches.

REPEAT

What is revealed into chapter 18 is that the whole one world system will begin to fall apart under its own lies and deceptions.

Satan will no longer need a cover once he sits himself into a position above everything on the earth.

Satan will sit upon the throne in the temple of Jerusalem.

/Rev 18:2 And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is **Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons** and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird.

It will be revealed by the 3 ½ year mark that the religious system has always been a home to demonic activity.\

The reference to a hateful bird, speaks of an aggressive bird of prey which follows around its victim and suddenly swoops down and gobbles them up.

/The reality of religion on this grand scale of the end times will reveal that the BAAL system never left mankind. The age-old system of the phallic cult (sexual perversion), greed, human sacrifice and demonic activity will be masked under ritual and ceremony that appeared righteous on the surface, yet underneath was hidden a dark evil all along. \

Why do we find out every few years about another church scandal? Sex scandals involving priests and church leaders, usually with little boys and girls.

There will be a time in the near future where the evil will become obvious and anyone who claims to be a Bel will be called out from that wicked counterfeit.

[Rev 18:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rev/18/3/s_1185003) “For all the nations have fallen because of the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed *acts of sexual* immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich from the excessive wealth of her luxury.”

Notice what keeps being brought to the forefront – sexually immorality, greed and affiliations with powerful leaders across the globe.

This has been going on for thousands of years my friends.

/[Rev 18:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rev/18/4/s_1185004) I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “**Come out of her, my people**, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive *any* of her plagues;

Even during the Tribulation God will not hold Bels accountable for that which they did not know or participate in.\

[Rev 18:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rev/18/5/s_1185005) for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her offenses.

/What many Bels lose sight of is that GOD does hold you accountable when truth has been made available and you refused to hear it or learn from it. Those Bels, who willingly follow religious lies before or after the Tribulation will lose out blessings and rewards in time and in eternity. Willful ignorance holds no value in the divine courtroom of heaven.\

The early formation of religion began as far back as the tower of Babel and even further back, the followers of the children of Cain. It has always been a demonic force and it has become very deceptive and nearly impossible to discern without real BD digested in your soul structure.

/Religion always has an agenda of control or power just under the surface. Religion will be part of a three-piece puzzle for one world dominance in the near future. Banking, government and religion will be married under one world rulership going into the Tribulation. It will have counterfeit elements to attract and fool weak Christians.\

/Religion always seeks approval of the masses whether it is through deception or intimacy with political power. When Religion can not tickle the ears of popularity, it will lean toward the power of political or military tyranny. Religion will always seek to rise to power through wealth, political connections or popularity of the masses.\

By all accounts there are 1.8 Billion Muslims across the world and nearly 1.2 Billion Catholics, this is two large bodies of religious people who will possibly come together under one roof in the near future.

Add in many other denominations who will go along to get along and you have a massive religious movement under one authority.

/Satan knows the vehicles that will carry him into world dominance revolve around Religion, wealth and government strength. This is why Religion has always been in bed with royalty (government). Banking, military power (law enforcement) and Religion all tie together under government authority. When Satan has all three fully under his control he will then reveal himself as the god of this world.\