

A BIBLE PROPHECY ADVENTURE

REVELATION SEMINARS



MYSTIC BABYLON, THE GREAT HARLOT

Revelation contains God's last loving call to the people on earth, Revelation 14:6-14 (1815). It also exposes Satan's plots and snares and describes the organizations through which he works. No book has ever been written with more importance to modern man today. Its message is so crucial and imperative that God pronounces fearful sentence upon all who, in any way, tamper with it, Revelation 22:18,19 (1826).

Listen to these awesome words from Revelation 14:8 (1815) and Revelation 18:2,4,5 (1819), "BABYLON IS FALLEN . . . AND IS BECOME THE HABITATION OF DEVILS . . . COME OUT OF HER, MY PEOPLE, THAT YE BE NOT PARTAKERS OF HER SINS, AND THAT YE RECEIVE NOT OF HER PLAGUES. FOR HER SINS HAVE REACHED UNTO HEAVEN, AND GOD HATH REMEMBERED HER INIQUITIES".

The message is clear, "Come out of Babylon or be lost". Do you know what Babylon is? Is there a chance that you might be in Babylon and not know it? It is no disgrace to be in Babylon. God says many of His people are still in Babylon. God's people will come out of Babylon when they hear Jesus call.

In this lesson, we identify BABYLON. May God's blessed Holy Spirit speak to us all. Please read Revelation, chapters 17 and 18 (1818) before beginning study of this lesson. It will make the lesson much easier to understand.

SYMBOL OF SPIRITUAL APOSTASY

1. God's final three-point message of love and mercy is being taken to the entire world in our day, Revelation 14:6-12 (1815). What is the second part of that message? Revelation 14:8 (1815)

Ans: " _____ is _____ "

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2. What is God's command regarding Babylon, and to whom is it given? Revelation 18:4 (1819)

Ans: "Come _____ of her _____ people".

NOTE: The command is to God's people. Many are still in Babylon. God is lovingly calling them out before the plagues fall upon Babylon.

3. Some say that Babylon refers to the literal Biblical city of Babylon restored. What does the Bible say regarding this? Isaiah 13:19-21 (1040)

Ans: "And Babylon . . . shall never be _____".

NOTE: Restored literal Babylon is not a possibility. God said it would never happen.

4. What reasons does God give for telling His people to come out of Babylon? Revelation 18:2-5 (1819)

Ans: Babylon is become the habitation of _____

Babylon is become the hold of every foul _____

All nations have drunk of her _____

Kings of earth have committed _____ with her.

That ye be not _____ of her _____

That ye receive not of her _____

Her sins have reached unto _____

God hath remembered her _____

NOTE: There is no question that God means business about Babylon. Whatever Babylon may be, God's people had better be making their exodus.

5. Under what symbolism does God picture Babylon in Revelation 17:1-5 (1818)?

Ans: A _____ riding a _____

NOTE: God pictures Babylon as a whore riding upon a beast with seven heads and ten horns. As we have previously learned, a pure woman represents God's church (see Lesson 18). A corrupt woman represents a fallen church, Jeremiah 3:1-8,20 (1109); Ezekiel 16:26,27 (1230); Isaiah 50:1 (1086); Jeremiah 13:27 (1128), Hosea 2:2-5 (1322); Ezekiel 23:2-21 (1245); Revelation 14:4 (1815).



**Babylon
The Great!**

6. What is "Babylon the Great" called in Revelation 17:5 (1818)?

Ans: "The mother of _____"

NOTE: The symbolism here is of a great mother church which has daughters who have sprung from her. It takes no genius to figure this one out. The great Roman church claims openly to be the mother church and repeatedly makes public appeals to her separated children to return to her. The daughters who came from her "protested" and pulled away from the mother and became known as Protestants. The name **BABYLON** is a family name which includes both mother and children. It is shocking and sobering to realize that God is clearly indicting both mother and daughters as fallen.

This **DOES NOT MEAN** that those who are still in **BABYLON** are not sincere Christians. **IN FACT** Jesus refers to them as "**MY PEOPLE**" Rev. 18:4 (1819). **BUT** He calls them **OUT OF BABYLON**, and His people will **GLADLY OBEY** His voice.

A UNIVERSAL RELIGIOUS SYSTEM

7. Let us review other evidence that "Babylon" refers to the Papacy.

a. The beast the woman rides, Revelation 17:3 (1818), is the same beast as pictured in Revelation 13:1 (1813). Both beasts have seven heads, ten horns and deal with worship and blasphemy. The beast of Revelation 13 was identified in Lesson 19 as the papacy. Chapter 17 portrays the same beast as that of Revelation 13 in a new setting.

b. She persecutes as did the beast of Revelation 13. See Revelation 17:6 (1818); 18:24 (1821).

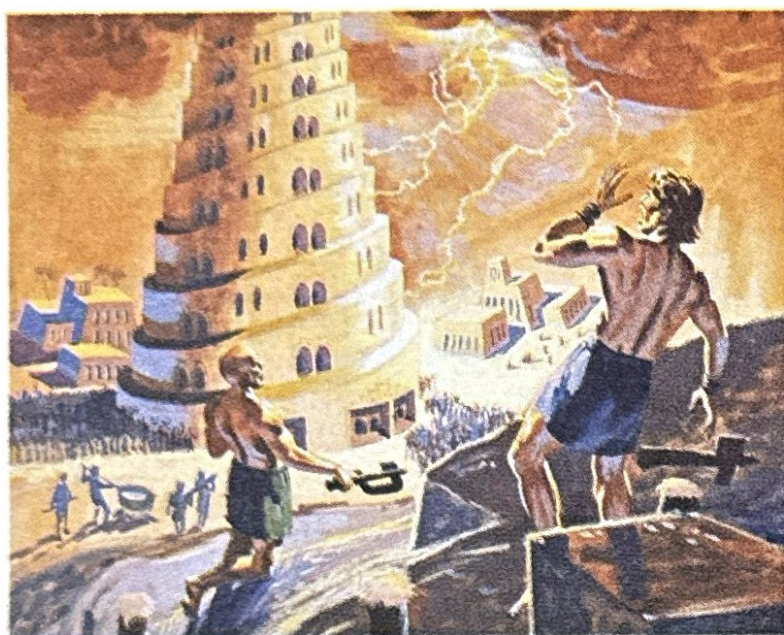
c. Revelation 17:18 (1819) says she is the power of Babylon that was ruling in John's day which was Rome, Luke 2:1 (1490). We established in Lesson 18 that Pagan Rome's power and authority were assumed by Papal Rome and that she then ruled in place of Pagan Rome.

NOTE: The facts are that both Daniel and Revelation so clearly identify the beast and Babylon as the Papacy that many notable Bible commentaries agree that it is so. The reformation preachers virtually all taught it, also. Look it up in the Bible commentaries at your public library when you have an opportunity.

8. What is the source of the name "Babylon"? Genesis 10:9,10 (14); Genesis 11:5-9 (15)

Ans: "Therefore is the _____ of it called _____ because the Lord did there _____ the _____ of all the _____."

NOTE: Babylon comes from the tower of Babel. The word means CONFUSION, (see Bible margin). The wicked decided to build a tower to reach high enough into the sky to escape another possible flood. God suddenly caused them all to speak different languages so it became impossible to finish the project because of the confusion that resulted. Since that day the name BABEL or BABYLON has stood for confusion.



The word
"Babylon"
(from "Babel")
means confusion.

FALSE DOCTRINE INTOXICATES

9. What is it that causes the confusion of spiritual Babylon? Revelation 17:2,4 (1818); 18:3 (1819)

Ans: "The inhabitants of the _____ have been made _____ with the _____ of her fornication".

NOTE: Her wine is her doctrine or teachings, [I Kings 11:2,3,7 (569) cf Isaiah 44:15,19,20 (1078); Jeremiah 25:15-18 (1146); Jeremiah 51:7 (1194)]. Her wine (or doctrine) brings spiritual drunkenness. It causes people to stumble at the truth, Malachi 2:8 (1392); to flounder spiritually, Ephesians 4:14 (1717) and to become dull of understanding, Hebrews 5:11-14 (1761).

10. In Revelation 14:8 (1815), what specific reason does God give for punishing Babylon and calling people out?

Ans: "Because she _____ all nations _____ of the _____ of the wrath of her _____."

NOTE: Her false teachings are God's reason for punishing her and calling His people out.

11. What are some of Babylon's teachings (wine) that are unscriptural and thus bring confusion and make people spiritually drunk?

Ans: a. That the ten commandments are not binding (See Lesson 11) b. Sunday sacredness (See Lessons 10 & 11) c. Second chance (See Lesson 7) d. Secret rapture (See Lesson 6) e. Eternal torment (See Lesson 20) f. Immortality of the soul (See Lesson 13) g. Counterfeit baptisms (See Lesson 16).

NOTE: A big danger is this: A man reads the Bible and it says clearly to him that the wicked are turned to ashes and put out of existence in the fire of hell. But since he has been taught eternal torment by his church, he assumes it is so and surmises that he simply is unable to understand the Bible. So he abandons Bible study as too deep for him. The truth is that he understood correctly but had been taught falsely.

Further, the teachings of men anchor people to falsehood and prevent their looking at truth because they are certain they already possess it. Jesus refuses to accept tradition or the doctrines of men because such teachings undermine His truth, Matthew 15:3-9 (1422).

PAPACY — PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

12. How does God describe the beast in Revelation 17:8 (1818)?

Ans: "The beast that _____, and is _____ and yet _____".

NOTE: Both chapters 13 and 17 of Revelation depict the Papacy. In chapter 13 no distinction is made between the religious and political aspects of this power. In chapter 17 a distinction is made. The fallen woman is the apostate church. She rides upon the beast (the state or government) which indicates she is supported by the state and is in control. Here, a combination of church and state is clearly pointed out.

The mysterious phrase: "was, and is not, and yet is" refers to the Papacy. Since the specific setting or "time frame" for verse 8 occurs just after the papal persecutions of Revelation 17:6 (1818), we suggest:

WAS — during the 1260 years of Papal control, Revelation 13:5,7 (1814)
 IS NOT — time of Papal dormancy from “deadly wound” until full recovery, Revelation 13:3 (1814)
 YET IS — time of last-day, miraculous recovery from deadly wound until 10 kingdoms give power to beast for one hour, Revelation 13:3 (1814); 17:12,13 (1819).

13. A mountain in prophecy represents a king or nation [see Jeremiah 51:24,25 (1195)]. What nations or powers are represented by the seven mountains of Revelation 17:9-11 (1818)?

Ans: “The seven _____ are seven mountains, on which the _____ sitteth”.

NOTE: We must not be dogmatic on this because there is room for some difference of opinion. However, since the overall “time frame” or point of reference for chapter 17 occurs after the 1260 years of Papal persecution and before the angels pour out the plagues, Revelation 17:1 (1818), we suggest:

- a. Five are fallen (vs. 10) 1. Babylon 2. Medo-Persia
 3. Greece 4. Rome 5. Papacy (during 1260 years)
- b. One is (vs. 10) 6. Papacy (from “deadly wound” until recovery)
- c. Not yet come (vs. 10) 7. Papacy (from miraculous recovery until 10 kings support)
- d. He is the 8th (vs. 11) 8. Papacy [during the ten horns confederacy (vs. 12,13)]

14. What do the ten horns represent? Revelation 17:12 (1819)

Ans: “The ten _____ are ten _____”.

NOTE: These kings are commonly referred to as the nations of modern Europe: England, France, Germany, Italy, etc., (see Lesson 12), or they may be the major nations which are in control just before probation closes, such as the European common market. It is not wise to be dogmatic on unfulfilled prophecy when God has not made the matter crystal clear.

FALLEN CHURCHES REFUSE REFORM

Many ask why their church is so cold and worldly: “They wonder why is God’s Law not taught with power and why sin is not condemned?”

15 “The power is gone,” they say. What is the reason? Rev. 14:8 (1815)

Ans: “Babylon is _____”.

NOTE: The reason is that God said the churches would FALL from their high position with heaven. The reformation preachers were great men of God and in their day the churches stood tall. But today, compromise and the acceptance of man-made teachings have taken the fire and Holy Spirit out of many of the churches and God says they have fallen.

16. Some feel we should try to reform the churches that have fallen. What does God say? Revelation 18:4 (1819)

Ans: "Come _____ of _____ my people that ye receive _____ of her _____".

NOTE: The fallen churches will NOT accept reformation, consequently they will receive the plagues and be destroyed. So God commands His people to get out so the plagues will not fall on them. Notice, that the last 12 verses of Revelation 17 and all but the first seven verses of chapter 18 refer to the time of the 6th and 7th plagues.

17. God calls Christian people who are in Babylon "my people", Revelation 18:4 (1819). Jesus refers to Christian people who are not in His church as "other sheep". What does Jesus say will happen to His "other sheep" that are not yet in His fold? John 10:16 (1567)

Ans: "Them also I must _____, and they shall _____ my _____; and there shall be _____ fold, and _____ shepherd".

NOTE: Jesus openly said that He has beautiful sheep who are not yet in His fold, but He states just as clearly that He will call them and that they will come into His fold. He says, "My sheep hear my voice . . . and they follow me", John 10:27 (1568). God's sheep in Babylon today will also hear Him calling and will enter His fold.

"Other sheep
I have, . . .
Them, also,
I must bring."





One ark
in Noah's
day —
one church
today

GOD'S TRUE CHURCH TODAY

- 18. In Noah's day those who were to be saved had to enter the ark. Believing was not enough! In Jesus' day those who were to be saved had to enter Jesus' fold. After being called out of Babylon, what must we enter today if we would be saved? Acts 2:47 (1594)**

Ans: "And the Lord _____ to the _____ daily
such as _____ be _____."

NOTE: The Scripture is crystal clear on this point. Notice: a. we are all called into one body, Colossians 3:15 (1731); b. that body is the church, Colossians 1:18 (1729); c. we enter the church by baptism, 1 Corinthians 12:13 (1683); d. Lesson #18 clearly identifies God's true church for today.

IT IS JUST AS NECESSARY FOR A PERSON TO ENTER GOD'S TRUE CHURCH TODAY AS IT WAS FOR PEOPLE TO ENTER THE ARK IN NOAH'S DAY.

- 19. If I remain in Babylon, how will God count me, and what does He say will happen to me? Revelation 18:4 (1819)**

Ans: I will partake of her _____; and receive of her _____

NOTE: The plagues will fall on all who are in Babylon. The only safe thing to do is to get out of Babylon quickly.

In Noah's day only eight people entered the ark which God lovingly provided for their salvation. The rest of mankind needlessly perished. IN OUR DAY, God gives us the church as an ARK OF SAFETY, which He LOVES and PROTECTS, Eph. 5:25-33 (1719). But only a few will enter, Matt. 7:14 (1406). The MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION we have today is "Will you and I, and our families, BE IN THIS ARK OF SAFETY?" NOW IS THE MOMENT to make that decision.

- 20. What will your decision be?**

Ans: _____