

Title: Babylonism

Text: Revelation 17-18

Target: In the world, not of it, is our testimony!

I. The Overview of THE PROSTITUTE: The False Church

- A. Character Revealed:** *“great prostitute”* (Vs. 1)
1. **Her Popularity:** *“seated on many waters”* (Vs. 1, 15)
 2. **Her Perversion:** *“the dwellers on earth have become drunk”* (Vs. 2)
 3. **Her Partnership:** *“sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns.”* (Vs. 3, 9)
 4. **Her Prosperity:** *“arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and impurities of her sexual immorality”* (Vs. 4)
 5. **Her Profanity:** *“name of mystery: Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations.”* (Vs. 5)
 6. **Her Persecution:** *“drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.”* (Vs. 6)
- B. Conclusion Rendered:** *“When I saw her, I marveled greatly”* (Vs. 6b)
1. **Worldwide Influence.**
 2. **Tolerance in Message except for the cross.**
 3. **Universalism in Doctrine.**
 4. **Sensuality in Practice.**
 5. **Wealthy in Status.**

Discussion Question: There is a clear allusion to the harlot mentioned in chapter 17 to any system (political, economic, or religious) that is opposed to God. Why then did John marvel at her? How are you and I prone to “marvel” at the things and allure that this world has to offer?

II. The Overthrow by THE BEAST: Unification of Church/State.

- A. The Collusion with the Beast:** *“I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her.”* (Vs. 7)
- B. The Counterfeit of the Beast:** *“the beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction.”* (Vs. 8)
- C. The Crowning of the Beast:** *“These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast.”* (Vs. 13) * 7 Heads & 10 Horns-Vs. 9-12
- D. The Confiscation by the Beast:** *“they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, devour her flesh and burn her up with fire.”* (Vs. 16)
1. **Autonomous Government**
 2. **Affluence of Financial Wealth/Political Power**
 3. **Authoritative Spirituality**
 4. **Acceptance Globally**

- E. **The Conquering of the Beast:** *“They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of Lords and King of kings.”* (Vs. 14)
1. **Affirms God’s Power:** *“those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”* (Vs. 14b)
 2. **Achieves God’s Plan:** *“for God has put into their hearts to carry out his purpose...until the words of God are fulfilled.”* (Vs. 17)

Discussion Question: There is a turning of events when the ten kings (represented by the ten horns) turn against the harlot. Why would they do that? How does this show God’s ultimate authority over all things?

- III. **The Overcoming of THE SAINTS:** *“After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. And he called out with a mighty voice.”* (Revelation 18: 1-2)
- A. **Declaration over Babylon:** *“Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons...”* (Vs. 2b)
 - B. **Devastation because of Babylon:** *“For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid to waste”* (Vs. 17)
 1. **Political Destruction: (Vs. 5-10)**
 2. **Economic Collapse: (Vs. 11-19)**
 3. **Religious Tolerance Unaccepted: (Vs. 2b)**
 - C. **Decimation of Babylon:** *“then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea saying, “so will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence and will be found no more...”* (Vs. 21)
 - D. **Deliverance over Babylon:** *“Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets for God has given judgement for you against her!”* (Vs. 20)

Discussion Question: In this chapter we see all that the world has built up over thousands of years (wealth, power, prestige) destroyed in less than an hour. Last week we touched on the songs of Moses and the Lamb. Here we see an invitation for the saints, apostles, and prophets to rejoice. Can you hear the “keys to the bus jingling?” Can you sense the inevitable defeat that is coming for Satan? Does this bring you a sense of relief? Joy? Victory?

Jesus offers us His freedom and victory. If you haven’t trusted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, don’t delay. Jesus’ invitation is clear. He simply wants you to follow Him. Paul says in Romans 10:9-10, that if we confess Jesus as Lord and believe that God raised Jesus from the dead we will be saved. If you want to know Jesus and have surety of your salvation, don’t delay. 2 Corinthians 6:2 says, “now is the acceptable time and today is the day of salvation.”

Take Away: *“Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, “come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues”.* (Revelation 18:4)