

Session 8

# The Harlot-Babylon

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## A. Introduction

1. The Harlot-Babylon is an important negative entity that will emerge in the End Times that God's people will need to be aware of.
2. The rise and emergence of the Harlot-Babylon in Rev. 17 – 18 is one of the most significant End-Time prophecies because it gives us insight into Satan's strategy to deceive the nations while causing many Christians to fall away from the faith.
3. The Harlot-Babylon will "seduce" and deceive many believers around the world and this will result in the Great Falling Away. Unbelievers will be deceived as well (2 Thes. 2:3).

## B. The Importance of Having Understanding About the Harlot-Babylon

1. It is essential to understand what the Harlot-Babylon is because it is Satan's main strategy to seduce and deceive Israel, the Church, and all the nations on earth.
  - a. One of the greatest challenges for the Church in the End Times is the Great Falling Away from the faith. The falling away is one of the main signs that will take place in the generation that the Lord returns (Matt. 24:9–13; 2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1–2; 2 Tim. 3:1–7; 4:3–5; 2 Peter 2:1–3).
  - b. Rev. 17 – 18 gives us the clearest insight into this strategy of Satan. The main purpose of these two chapters is to forewarn the people of God about the coming deception. Those who are fully deceived by her will end up in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 14:8–11).
2. There is also an unusually large amount of Scripture devoted to this vast and important subject because God wants His people to know and understand this mystery (Gen. 10 – 11; Isa. 13 – 14; 21; 47; Jer. 50 – 51; Ezek. 16; 23; 26 – 28; Rev. 17 – 18).
  - a. We must function as forerunners that prepare the unprepared. Therefore, it will be necessary to wrestle and diligently work through what the Scripture says about the Harlot with much prayer with fasting, as Daniel did (Dan. 9 – 10).

- b. Our spirit must be “alarmed” by this prophecy and the reality of this coming Harlot-Babylon just as John was alarmed by it in Rev. 17:6–7.

### **C. The Importance of and Difficulty in Studying Revelation 17 – 18**

1. Rev. 17 – 18 is one of the most important prophecies in the Bible concerning the Harlot-Babylon. It is the longest prophecy in the NT with 42 verses.
  - a. The second longest prophecy in the NT is about the New Jerusalem with 33 verses. (Rev. 21:1 – 22:5)
  - b. The longest prophecy in the OT is Jer. 50 – 51 with 110 verses and, it also focuses on Babylon in the End Times. One of the longest prophecies in the OT is Isa. 13 – 14 (ie. 54 verses), which also focuses on the role of Babylon in the End Times.
2. However, Rev. 17 – 18 is also the most difficult chapter in the book of Revelation to understand. It is the most symbolic passage of Scripture filled with many complex and intricate details.
3. Why is this most important prophecy veiled in such cryptic language? Because the Lord wants us to diligently pour over every line of it and discuss it often so as to understand its every nuance.
4. At this point in time, as we do not yet have full understanding or grasp of what Harlot-Babylon is or how it will operate, we must challenge all our preconceived notions and continually evaluate all of our major premises related to the Harlot-Babylon so as to make sure they line up with our growing understanding of what Scripture says about this End-Time mystery.

### **D. Who / What is the Harlot-Babylon?**

1. The Harlot-Babylon is a spirit that manifests itself through a perverse religious entity and a global economic system that will infiltrate and corrupt the nations.
  - a. Scripture seems to point to two different cities that will work very closely together for mutual benefit to manifest the spirit of the Harlot-Babylon, with the Harlot religious entity established in Jerusalem and the Harlot worldwide economic network established in the city of Babylon (in modern-day Iraq) on the Euphrates River (Isa. 1:21, 25–26).

- b. The Harlot-Babylon will function as the centre of all worldwide demonic religious and economic institutions (Rev. 17 – 18; Isa. 13 – 14; 21; Jer. 50 – 51).
- 2. There are two separate and distinct “entities” but will operate in the same spirit:
  - a. Rev. 17 gives us a glimpse of the religious entity that will be pervasive across the nations.
  - b. Rev. 18 gives us a glimpse of a powerful global economic system that will be based out of the city of Babylon.
  - c. They will also have in-depth and complex inter-connections with each other, and great synergism and purposes.

### **E. Characteristics and Nature of the Harlot-Babylon**

- 1. Rev. 17:4 gives a description of some characteristics of the Harlot-Babylon:
  - a. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet
    - i. The Harlot religion will have great prominence. She will have royal status before the nations, as she will be arrayed in purple and scarlet.
    - ii. She will be greatly respected by the aristocracy or the elite financial leaders of the earth. The kings of the earth will honour her values and doctrines. They will pledge allegiance to her.
  - b. Adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls
    - i. The Harlot will have great wealth. It will be the wealthiest religious entity in all history.
  - c. Having in her hand a golden cup
    - i. The Harlot will appear to be good in her appearance but she is totally dark and evil in reality. The golden cup is a symbol of a good thing but it only looks enticing and good on the outside.
    - ii. The Harlot will have a golden cup in her hand, which alludes to her “service” through good works. She will offer nations unprecedented humanitarian service (1 Thes. 5:2–3).
  - d. A golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication
    - i. However, in the eyes of God, the Harlot is totally demonic and perverse. In reality her cup, or service, will be full of abomination and filth.

- Abomination refers to being filled with demonic activity. In the OT, abominations refer to idolatrous (demonic) activity. She will be so full of evil that she is repulsive to God.
  - Filthiness points to being filled with moral perversions. She will lead the nations to the highest of perversions.
- ii. The Harlot will inspire the nations to new heights of sin and demonic activity. Sin will be allowed to reach its fullness in the End-Times. (Dan. 8:23)
2. In Rev. 17:6, we see the true nature of the Harlot-Babylon:
- a. *I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.*
- i. She will have a murderous heart despite her humanitarian appearance. She will cause multitudes to be drunk or intoxicated with the blood of the saints who expose her. The more she kills, the bolder she will become in killing the saints.
  - ii. The primary enemy of the Harlot will be the saints of Jesus in the prophetic, praying Church, who will expose her for who she really is. We must declare the seductive nature of her perversion and her inevitable judgment.
  - iii. The saints will be hated by all nations for doing this (Dan. 11:33; Matt. 24:9–11). The Lord will use this pressure to purify the End-Time Church (Dan. 11:33–35).

## **F. Root and Origin of the Harlot-Babylon**

*On her forehead a name was written: Mystery, Babylon the Great, the mother of Harlots and of the abominations of the earth (Rev. 17:5)*

### 1. Mystery

The Harlot's name was a mystery. In other words, the angel gave Apostle John new information that had not yet been clearly revealed in Scripture. Her name surprised Apostle John.

### 2. Babylon the Great

- a. The angel revealed her name as "Babylon". This name links her to her origins that go back to the tower of Babel where Babylon began. This

reveals her true nature to us, as we understand what happened at the tower of Babel (Gen. 11:1–8).

- b. Babel was the city in which the first organized religion in history developed, resulting in mankind's first organized rebellion and war against God.
- c. In Gen. 1:28, the Lord told the people to multiply and fill the earth. The people of Babel wanted to stay together so they could accomplish more (Gen. 11:4).
- d. The residents of Babel sought to build a tower whose "*top is in the heavens*." This refers to reaching into the spirit realm and not to the actual height of the tower made of mud bricks (Gen. 11:4).
- e. Nothing they set their heart to do will be withheld from them in terms of reaching their full potential in sin. The NASV translates that nothing that they plan to do "*will be impossible for them*". This refers to their unity in sin that would have reached into the demonic realm (ie. top is in the heavens) (Gen. 11:6).
- f. God was not referring to their architectural abilities as having no limit, but to their progression in evil. This refers to their sin escalating faster than other issues in human history due to synergism amongst all of them.
- g. In Gen. 11, God confused their language to slow down the escalation of sin. God scattered the people of Babel so that man would not reach his full potential for evil until God's timing (Gen. 11:7–9).
- h. In Gen. 11:7–9, man sought to build a tower that reached heaven. They were seeking to build a "gateway" to the spirit realm apart from God, so that they could gain access to the demonic realm.
- i. In the Babylonian language, Babel means the "gate of heaven" (in Hebrew it is "confusion"). The people of Babel were attempting to reach a demonic open heaven (Gen. 28:12; Jn. 1:51).
- j. Men were trying to counterfeit Jacob's ladder (Gen 28:10–13; John 1:15)
  - i. In his dream, Jacob saw a ladder that gave him access to the heavenly realm in the will of God. Jesus prophesied of Jacob's ladder where the angels would interact with the earthly realm (Gen. 28:12);

- ii. In the Harlot-Babylon, there will be a “ladder of access” to the demonic realm, enabling the nations to escalate in their experience of sin and demons. The people of Babel sought this.
  
- k. In the End-Times, there will be an unprecedented interaction between the demonic and human realms that will lead to worldwide judgment. The time before Jesus’ Second Coming is compared to the days of Noah, and includes the demonic realm being manifest on the earth in a greater measure (Matt. 24:37).
  
- l. The people in Gen. 6 walked in a “counterfeit” open heaven as demons interacted with humans in the natural realm in an evil way. At this time, there was an unprecedented connection between the natural and demonic realm. It resulted in great violence causing God to destroy the earth with the flood in Noah’s day (Gen. 6:4–11; 7:1–24; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6).
  
- m. God scattered the people of Babel so that they would not reach man’s full potential for evil until God’s timing. Sin will be allowed to reach its fullness in the End-Times and not before (Gen. 11:8–9; Dan. 8:23).
  - i. Babel’s scattering of human resources, understanding, and energy resulted in the decrease in man’s potential to mature in evil. In Dan. 12:4, Daniel saw two things that would help reverse these dynamics.
  
  - ii. Daniel saw the development of communication, technology and travel. Technology allows us to share knowledge. What Daniel saw has both positive and negative dimensions.
  
  - iii. These will reverse the dynamics that occurred when men at Babel were scattered and given different languages so they could not work together. This will result in an unprecedented synergism of demonized people sinning together.
  
  - iv. Until this time, they could not bring their evil knowledge together so as to more quickly escalate in wickedness. Increasingly, the “masters of evil” can share their knowledge, which will cause sin to greatly increase as it is compounded. The result will be that several billion children will have full access to perversion and knowledge of the occult.

3. Mother of Harlots and of the abominations of the earth

- a. John was surprised that the Harlot is the mother of harlots. This points to her being the source of all idolatry throughout history as well as the primary source of idolatry and abominations in the End Times. Her idolatry and abomination will crescendo and set the stage for the End Times.

**G. When Will the Harlot-Babylon Emerge and Arise?**

1. The Harlot-Babylon will arise across the earth to its fullness in the first 3½ years of the final seven years of human history.
  - a. It is the first step in Satan’s plan to be worshipped by all nations. The Harlot religion will prepare the nations to receive and worship the Antichrist.
  - b. By joining this Harlot religion, the consciences of people will be greatly defiled.
  - c. This then paves the way for the Abomination of Desolation and the setting up of the Antichrist worship movement and Mark-of-the-Beast economic system in the middle of the final seven years of human history.

**H. The Fall of the Harlot-Babylon**

1. The Harlot will be destroyed by the 10-nation confederation and the Antichrist in the middle of the 7-year peace treaty and at the beginning of the Great Tribulation (Rev. 17:16; 6:1–3; Dan. 9:27).
2. Antichrist will set himself up as God to be worshipped and take over the headquarters of Harlot-Babylon. This is what Daniel calls the “Abomination of Desolation”, which Jesus referred to in Matt. 24, Mk. 13 and Lk. 21.
3. However, God will then judge Antichrist, and also completely destroy the city of Babylon in accordance to prophetic Scripture (Jer. 50 – 51).
4. Thus, there are two “falls” of Harlot-Babylon (Rev. 18:2) — the first being her destruction by Antichrist, and the second by God as He pours out His final bowls of wrath (Rev. 18:8).