

UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 46 (PART 1)

INTRODUCTION TO THE HARLOT BABYLON

(REVELATION 17 - 18)



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Revelation 17 and 18 are two critical chapters for us to study, wrestle with and take to prayer for deeper understanding. The End-Time Church needs to get clarity, so as to prepare ourselves for the times of increasing darkness that we are stepping into.

The longest prophecy in the New Testament, with 42 verses in total, is found in Revelation 17 and 18 and is on the Harlot-Babylon. Similarly, the subject matter of the longest prophecy in the Old Testament, in Jeremiah 50 and 51, is also on the Harlot-Babylon.

Why is that so?

Because the Lord wants us to know and to pay attention to the Harlot-Babylon. Many believers will fall away at the End of the Age, primarily because of the deception of the Harlot-Babylon (2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 4:3-5). This Great Falling Away will be massive and global in nature.





Revelation 17 and 18 give us an insight into Satan's strategy to **seduce and deceive the Church, Israel and the nations into partaking in the sins of the Harlot-Babylon.**

The purpose of these two chapters is **to forewarn believers to prepare for the coming great deception by equipping ourselves with understanding, and by living in the lifestyle of watching and praying.**

WHAT IS THE HARLOT-BABYLON?

It is a prominent and influential **worldwide religious and economic entity and network**. These two networks will be intricately linked to each other in a complex manner.

More than a system or institution, the Harlot-Babylon is actually a **very evil and demonic spirit** that is manifested through two expressions:

- **The Harlot religious system — This is a global religious network, in the form of a One-World Religion that is based on a system of tolerance and syncretism.**

How do we know that the Harlot is a religious network? If we study the Bible, all the scriptures in the Old Testament pertaining to the harlotry of Israel are referring to **false religion and idolatry**.

- **The Babylon economic system — This is a global economic network**

The Harlot-Babylon is a spirit that manifests through a perverse global religious and economic system that will infiltrate and corrupt nations.

It is already emerging in our times and it will be fully established before the final seven years of human history. Satan's plan is to raise up and use the Harlot-Babylon as a stepping stone, an intermediate stage before the Antichrist mandates the worldwide worship of Satan and himself, and implements the **Mark-of-the-Beast economic system in the final 3½ years of human history.**

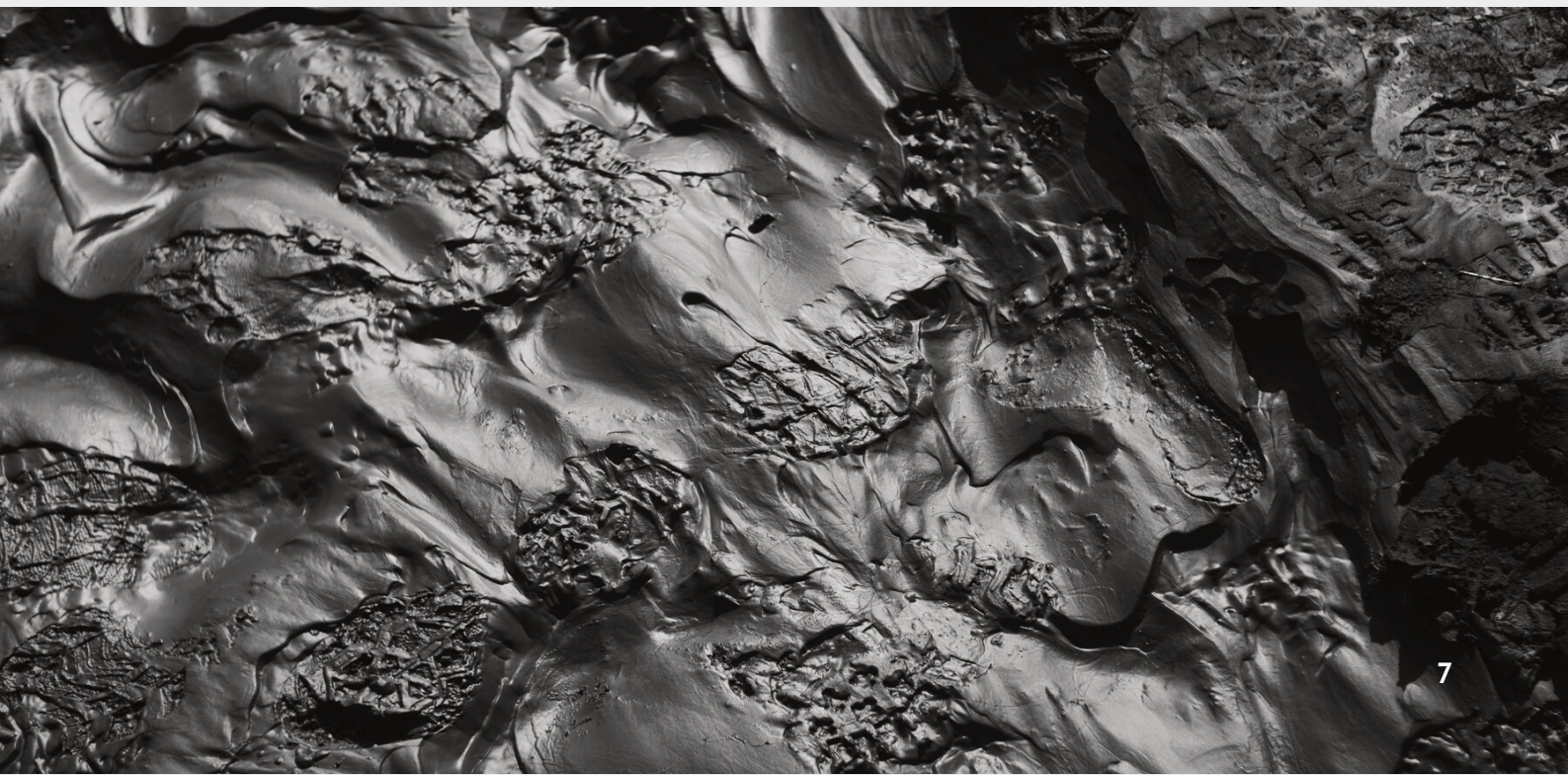
The main theme of Revelation 17 and 18 is about the emergence and subsequent destruction of the very powerful, deceptive and cruel Harlot-Babylon system.



Revelation 17 focuses on the **emergence of the Harlot religious system** (v.1-6) and the **destruction and fall of this system** (v.16-18), which will occur around the beginning of the final 3½ years.

Revelation 18 focuses on the **emergence of the Babylon economic system**, which will likely be based in the literal city of Babylon, as well as the eventual collapse of this system at the Seventh Bowl.

For the rest of this session, we will zoom in on Revelation 17. There are three primary themes in Revelation 17:



EMERGENCE OF THE
HARLOT-BABYLON
(V.1-6)

EMERGENCE OF THE
ANTICHRIST
(V.7-11)


EMERGENCE OF THE
**TEN-NATION
CONFEDERATION**
(V.12-13)

Revelation 17:14 describes the plan of the Antichrist and his empire to war against Jesus and the saints. Verse 15 to 18 describes the first destruction of the Harlot-Babylon.

Let's delve into Revelation 17:1-6 in more detail.

Verse 1 speaks about the **rise and emergence of the evil and perverse Harlot and the assurance of her ultimate judgment by God**. She will sit on **many waters**, meaning that **she will sit in authority, influence and have dominance over many nations**.

Revelation 17:2 talks about the two primary strategies of the Harlot-Babylon — **seduction and deception!**



There are two groups of people. One group, the **kings of the earth**, who are the **political and religious leaders of the world**, will commit fornication with her. This means that they will **knowingly commit sin with the Harlot** despite knowing that she is evil, primarily because of the **seduction of money**.

All of us are vulnerable in this aspect. **We need to guard our hearts from the love of money which is the root of all evil**. The desire for money will cause us to stray away from our faith, and fall into snares and many harmful lusts that will drown us in destruction and perdition (1 Tim. 6:6-10). We have to **watch our hearts so that our decisions in life are not dictated by money, but by the Lord!**

The second group of people, the **inhabitants of the earth**, were made drunk — this means that they were **genuinely deceived by the Harlot**. **Multitudes of people, including many in the Body of Christ, will embrace the Harlot-Babylon, sincerely thinking that it is a good thing.**

There will be two kinds of churches as we approach the End of the Age — **the Harlot Church and the True Church of Jesus**. The Harlot Church will be involved in the activities of the Harlot-Babylon. They will believe that they are participating in a good cause, or even “advancing the kingdom of God”. **But in reality, they are actually partaking of the sins of the Harlot and they will be judged by the Lord.**



That is why in Revelation 18:4, the voice from heaven called out to the people of God in a stern warning,

**“COME OUT OF HER,
MY PEOPLE, LEST YOU SHARE IN HER SINS,
AND LEST YOU RECEIVE OF HER PLAGUES.”**

Revelation 17:3 speaks of the **dynamic relationship between the Harlot and the Antichrist**. The Harlot is described as a woman sitting on a **scarlet beast**, which is the **Antichrist**.

She is sitting on the beast because the Antichrist is the one who raises up the Harlot. He will provide her with the platform and allow her to flourish and to rise to great prominence and influence.

HE IS USING THE HARLOT RELIGION TO PREPARE THE WORLD TO EVENTUALLY WORSHIP SATAN AND HIMSELF.

At the opening of the first and second seal, the Antichrist will turn around and, together with the Ten-Nation Confederation (represented by the ten horns), he will crush the Harlot religious system, and demand the whole world to worship himself (Rev. 17:16-17). **He will take over the Babylon economic system and use the structure to advance the Mark-of-the-Beast economic system.**

Revelation 17:4 tell us **three important things** about the Harlot-Babylon:



**"THE WOMAN WAS ARRAYED IN
PURPLE AND SCARLET"**

Purple and scarlet are colours of royalty. The Harlot-Babylon will have great prominence. She will be highly respected, highly honoured and will have great influence around the world.



**"ADORNED WITH GOLD AND
PRECIOUS STONES AND PEARLS"**

She will have great wealth because she is financed by the Babylon economic system. Many will be seduced into this network by money.



**"HAVING IN HER HAND A GOLDEN CUP
FULL OF ABOMINATIONS AND THE
FILTHINESS OF HER FORNICATION"**

The Harlot holds in her hand a golden cup. Golden cup is a symbol of good things.

Outwardly, the Harlot will appear to be good. She will be involved in many good works and humanitarian projects such as feeding the poor. She will unite the world religions and seemingly bring about “peace”. However, the “peace” she brings about is not real peace. It will instead lead to a **period of false peace and safety** (1 Thes. 5:3-6), and ultimately to the final 3½ years where the Antichrist reigns and worship of the Beast is mandated.



Inwardly, the Harlot is totally evil, perverse and full of abominations (Rev. 17:4). The word “abominations” means evil and wickedness in the highest. The word “filthiness” refers to defilement and perversions in the area of morality and values.

Without developing discernment and understanding, many people, including believers, will legitimately be deceived!

The important lesson to learn is this — not everything that appears to be good is good. We have to cultivate spiritual discernment. **We have to ask ourselves what is the spirit operating behind what we see.** We have to watch our own spirit that we do not become dull, so that we can discern rightly.

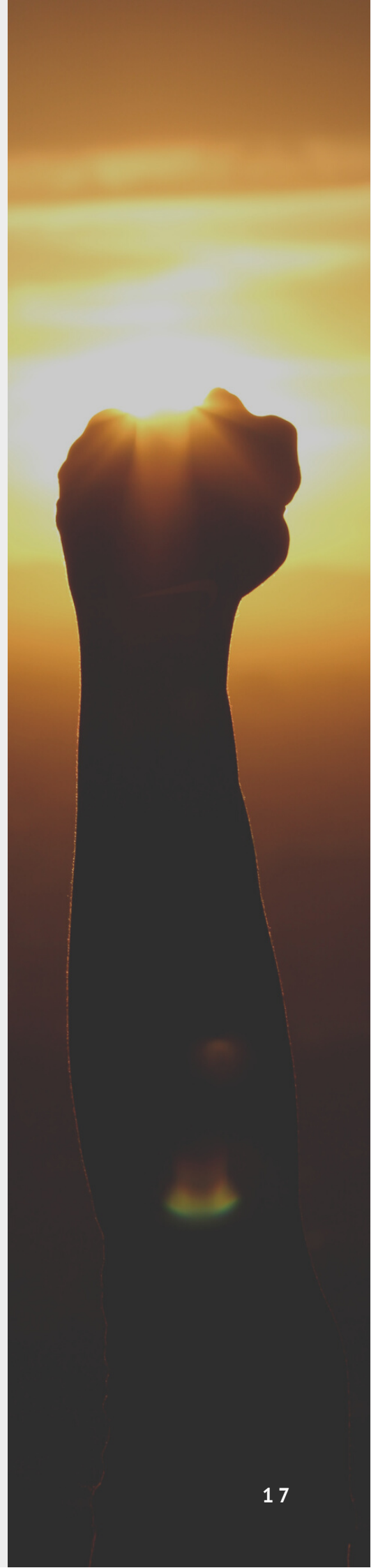


Verse 6 describes the nature of the Harlot — she will be evil and murderous. Many Christians will be martyred. The Harlot will hate the true Church of Jesus, because the authentic Church will be prophetic and will expose the true nature of the Harlot.

In the next two sessions, we will be talking about **the primary premises of the Harlot-Babylon**, followed by **the root and origin of the Harlot-Babylon**.

Let's end with this:

1 Timothy 1:4 tells us that at the End of the Age, *"some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons"*.



The Harlot-Babylon will operate at the highest level of demonic and occultic power (Rev. 18:23). There will be many in the Body of Christ who will be totally deceived. They will embrace her because they sincerely think that she is good! They will fall away from the Lord and they will be judged because they have partaken of her sins.

May this cause our hearts to tremble. Every one of us is vulnerable. May we watch and pray, strengthen our spirit man to discern rightly, and equip ourselves with understanding, so that we can be the voices who warn others about the Harlot-Babylon!

CONTINUED IN
SESSION 46 (PART 2)



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