

# Babylon

The revelation and understanding of what “**Babylon**” is, for us today and in the future, is one of the most important truths that we can discover from God’s Holy Word. This is because it involves every Christian every day; and a right understanding will enable one to build with “**gold, silver, [and] precious stones**” rather than with “**wood, hay, [and] stubble**” (I Cor. 3:12 KJV). This means that all the work we do for the Lord, all the labor of our lives, will someday be judged by the fire of God’s Holy judgment according to His Word; consequently we will either receive rewards or suffer loss according to its quality (I Cor. 3:9-15 NAS). Unfortunately, the vast majority of the teaching today, both by precept and example, is neither instructing nor training Christians to build upon the foundation of our Lord Jesus Christ in God’s way; and that is “**upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the corner stone**” (Eph. 2:20 NAS). Consequently, it is with much sorrow that we can see the inevitable fulfillment of the words of our Lord and Master Himself when He said, “**Many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first**”! (Mt. 19:27-30 KJV; Mk. 10:29-31; Lk. 13:24-30). If we are to receive rewards at the judgment seat of Christ, which is a fearful time according to our beloved brother Paul, we must be building upon the lives and teachings of God’s holy apostles and prophets: those who have given us His Word in Holy writ, those who have lived since, and those who are alive and with us today.

They are the ones that give us a proper interpretation and example of scripture, and the anointed “rhema” (spoken) word of God’s presence with us now (Heb. 6:11-12; 13:7, 17; I Thes. 1:5-10; II Thes. 3:6-9; I Cor. 4:14-17; 10:31 - 11:1; Phil. 3:17-20; 4:9; I Pet. 5:1-11; Rev. 2:2). Therefore, I repeat with Paul, **“We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Therefore knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men”** (II Cor. 5:10-11 NAS). And I will attempt to persuade you, dear reader, of the extreme importance of this teaching and to obey from your heart and soul the truth of God’s word to us all!

To begin this study then, let us begin with the proper definition of several scriptural words.

Babel: In the Hebrew language means “confusion,” derived from “balal” meaning “to mix up.”

In the Babylonian, Chaldean language it means “Gate of God” & “Gate of Gods.”

Babel: Noah Webster’s 1828 American Dictionary of the English Language.

*n.* [Heb.] Confusion; disorder.

Babel: The New Bible Dictionary.

Babel, as Babylon throughout its history, became a symbol of the pride of man and his inevitable fall. A city of tyranny.

Babylon: The O.T. Hebrew or Chaldee word is translated in the KJV and NAS Bibles as “Babel” 2 times & translated “Babylon” 302 times even though the transliteration of the word in all cases spells “Babel”; in the the N.T. Greek it is *Βαβυλων*, *Babulon*; but because in the Latin it is spelled Babylon, it is translated such in the N.T. the 12 times it occurs.

Babylon: The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language.

1. Any city or place of great luxury and corruption.
2. Any place of captivity or exile.

Babylon: Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament. Allegorically, of Rome as the most corrupt seat of idolatry and the enemy of Christianity: Rev. xiv 8; xvi 19; xvii 5; xviii 2, 10, 21, (in the opinion of some I Pet. v 13 also).

Babylon: Spiritual interpretation:

The recognized principle sin is spiritual fornication which is idolatry.

A system of idolatry, a place where persons, places, organizations, Churches, buildings, and things are served over and against God and His Word! It is started by selfish ambition, pride, rebellion, and unbelief and often sustained by force and fear.

Babylonian: The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language.

1. Of or pertaining to ancient Babylonia or Babylon, their people, culture, or language.
2. Characterized by a luxurious, pleasure-seeking, and immoral way of life.

Babylonian or Babylonish: Noah Webster's 1828 American Dictionary of the English Language.

1. Like the language of Babel; mixed; confused.
2. In ancient writers, an astrologer.

Babylonian Captivity: The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language.

1. The deportation of the Jews to Babylonia and their period of exile there.
2. The period (1309-77) when the Clementine claimants to the papacy resided at Avignon. (A city on the Rhone in southeastern France.)

Babylonian Captivity: New Testament spiritual interpretation:

A state of spiritual captivity and bondage where spiritual fornication and idolatry predominate because of selfishness, pride, rebellion, unbelief, and fear.

With these thoughts in mind, let us then proceed with the teaching on "**Babylon.**"

To best understand the meaning and importance of Babylon today, it is expedient to divide its chronology into six time periods, then we will consider how it influences us and consequently what we should do about it now.

- First: Babylon in the beginning.
  - Second: Babylon after this and throughout the time of the Old Testament.
  - Third: Babylon in the time of the writing of the New Testament.
  - Fourth: Babylon from the New Testament until now.
  - Fifth: Babylon now.
  - Sixth: Babylon in the future, and its soon finish!
- Babylon: God's Word to Us Now!

## **Babylon: In the beginning!**

We first find Babylon translated as "Babel," mentioned in the scriptures in Genesis chapters 10 and 11. Chapter 10 includes a listing of the genealogies of Noah and his sons; chapter 11 includes a listing of the precise age of each generation from Shem until Abraham, then called Abram. From a careful study we realize that the initial building of the city and tower of Babel, and God's judgment in chapter 11 takes place before Nimrod later established Babel into the first kingdom of man as recorded in the larger time frame of chapter 10. This account of God confusing the languages of the whole earth and the scattering of the human race at the beginning of chapter 11 is a detailed account of what is mentioned several times in chapter 10; for example, verse 5 says that **"the nations were separated into their lands, every one according to his language, according to their families, into their nations"** (Gen. 10:5 NAS, 18-20, 25, 31-32). The scriptures record that the judgment of Babylon and the division of the peoples of the earth was during the days of Peleg, who was born only 101 years after the flood at the time of this judgment; and thus, he was given his name which means "division" (Gen. 10:25; 11:10-16). Consequently, this was during the lifetime of Noah, who lived for 350 years after the flood, and the lifetimes of his sons (Gen. 9:28).

First let us read the detailed account of what really happened at the world famous "Tower of Babel."

Genesis 11 (NAS)

1. **“Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words.**
2. **And it came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.**
3. **And they said to one another, ‘Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly.’ And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar.**
4. **And they said, ‘Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *will reach* into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name; lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.’**
5. **And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.**
6. **And the Lord said, ‘Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.**
7. **‘Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.’**
8. **So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city.**
9. **Therefore its name was called Babel [Babylon], because there the Lord confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.”**

Now, let us take these verses and expound on them and glean spiritual truths that lie therein and make application for our lives today. We have quoted these verses first in the New American Standard, but now we will give them in the King James Version so that you can compare them for better understanding.

Genesis 11 (KJV)

1. **“And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.”**

The literal translation of this given to us in the margin of the NAS is, **“Now the whole earth was one lip and used one set of words.”** This means that all spoke, not only the same language, but that each word was defined exactly the same by every person. Today the corruption of language is done by the enemies of truth

and righteousness by giving words different meanings than originally and usually defined. Therefore, people do not understand one another accurately because they mean different things when using the same words. And as we shall see, this confusion becomes quite obvious in religious Babylon.

2. **“And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.”** (KJV)

As we travel through life, we come across Babylon. The NAS translates this verse **“journeyed east”** while the KJV is **“journeyed from the east.”** Since “confusion” is evident here and in many other scriptures, both translations are by men who were involved in “Babylon.” People so involved often “don’t know whether they are coming or going.”

As they journeyed they found a plain, meaning an area that was easy to cultivate, not rugged nor requiring **“violence”** to take as the kingdom of God does (Mt. 11:12). They **“dwelt there,”** or NAS **“settled there,”** meaning it is not a life of continuous journey, but of religious ease and complacency. Notice that they **“found”** their place to live. This is typical of Babylonish living as people are not committed to the absolute Lordship of Jesus Christ in all of their ways. Instead of “finding” a house to live in, God calls His servants, as children of Abraham, to go **“to the land which I will show you”**; and He leads them each step of the way (Gen. 12:1 NAS; Jn. 8:39; Rom. 4:11-18; Gal. 3:7; Psa. 37:23). We are to obey by faith as children of Abraham, who **“went out, not knowing where he was going,”** and we are to follow the cloud of the Holy Spirit (Heb. 11:8 NAS; Ex. 13:21-22; I Cor. 10:1). People who are committed to Babylon, practice doing what they want and not what God wants.

Shinar is a prior name for the land which later became known as Babylon. “Shinar” is believed to have come from two words: “shane,” meaning “to repeat”; and “naar,” meaning “childhood.” Therefore, it reveals to us a spiritual meaning of “to repeat childhood”; and so, “Babylon” is a “land” where the “second birth” is either a counterfeit or a mixture of the true and false, where people live in spiritual immaturity. Babylon is always synonymous with BabyLand.

3. **“And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and**

**burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.”** (KJV)

The KJV says “Go” and the NAS says “Come” meaning they still do not know whether they are coming or going. Confusion in direction! Now we see man beginning to build something more permanent to dwell in than tents or temporary shelters. They had travelled here to the land of Shinar, and now have decided to build what first would have been houses to dwell in. Since they are still aware of only the one true God, their worship of Him would have been in their homes or in open air meetings. This is the pattern that God gives in all the scriptures: that He is a Spirit, and that He is to be worshipped everywhere in spirit and truth, and there is no need for special buildings. God wants to dwell in our hearts and homes, and house churches are God’s perfect plan for maturing in love His larger house and family. Centuries later when David desired to build a house for the ark of God to dwell in, God said to him, **“Thus saith the Lord, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in?”** The Lord went on to say that He never had dwelt in a house and never asked any of His children to build Him a house (II Sam. 7:5-7 KJV). Solomon, David’s son, was allowed to build one temple for worship for the entire nation of Israel in Jerusalem; but it was at Jacob’s well near Mt. Gerizim that the Lord Jesus said to a Samaritan woman that she would not worship God in that mountain (which the Samaritans considered holy) or even in Jerusalem (where the temple of God was) because **“those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth”** (Jn. 4:20-24 NAS). The prophet Isaiah had said, **“Thus says the Lord, Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest? For My hands made all these things, thus all these things came into being, declares the Lord. But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word”** (Isa. 66:1-2 NAS).

To apply this spiritually, the true church is made up of individuals which are likened in scripture to living stones (I Pet. 2:4-8). Brick is man-made and uniform, so they all look alike; this represents the carnal attempt to shape people according to man’s thinking and will, conformity and uniformity. God makes an infinite variety of people, according to His divine will, and they are represented by stones which are never alike. Brick is man’s substitute for godly material. Clay is what man was made of in

the beginning before God breathed into him the breath of life. And in Babylon rich mud deposits are abundant around the Euphrates River, while stones are few. Bricks are made from surface mud, whereas stones are dug from a quarry. Obviously, carnality is superficial and shallow; whereas true spirituality is deep and requires effort to obtain.

Slime is a flammable liquid mixture of hydrocarbons which has come from the decomposition of dead plants and animals, and turns firm and hard when exposed to air (it is commonly called tar). In spiritual Babylon, slime is used to hold people together; which means carnal commitments such as unscriptural church names, memberships, and covenants. Slime is literally bitumen which is black and goeey, and is representative of Satan's slime which sticks to the fleshly nature of man; thus holding men together by carnal methods. Being inflammable, it never survives the temptings of Satan or the testings of God, but is burned up in the fires of God's Holy Spirit.

God's mortar when needed is lime; which is a white cement representing the love of God, the only thing that can hold living stones together (II Cor. 5:14). Lime is made from the grinding of limestones together and intense heat. When used, water is needed, which is symbolic of the Holy Spirit. So God's people are to be made of, as well as held together by, love, perfected in the crucible of life by the Holy Spirit. If the stones are large and shaped perfectly enough, no mortar is needed, thus revealing that when we have grown in love and into more maturity, only the invisible spirit of love that is in our hearts is necessary to hold us together. It is a tactic of Satan to try to get God's people to add different carnal methods to God's love in order to hold themselves together. "S" for Satan, plus "lime" for love, equals SLIME!

Stone, not hewn by man, was the only kind allowed by God in building an altar for Him; for if man lifted up a tool to shape it, it was polluted (Ex. 20:25). True worship and sacrifice cannot be man-made and be acceptable to God. The temple, a picture of the true church, was made of huge stones, perfectly shaped, held together by their mass and large surface contact, representing daily intimate fellowship in God's love. The bricks used in Babylon were thoroughly burned with fire in order to make a stronger, more durable building. This fire was not ordered by God nor from God, so it is representative of "strange fire" (Lev. 10:1). This is in contrast to the true fire of the Holy Spirit (Mt. 3:11). Ritual is a strange fire, a counterfeit fire, that masks the shallowness of spirituality. When

the “strange fire” of Babylon is used on man-made bricks, the structure has a very hard surface and is difficult to penetrate or destroy. What we usually see today is the “strange fire” of Babylon mixed with the true fire of God, which is the traditions of men mixed with the true Word of God, and the cold mixed with the burning zeal of God resulting in a lot of lukewarmness in the church. It is very difficult indeed to change, and only by a revival of the intense heat of the Holy Spirit can it ever be changed! Also, in the NAS it says that they “**used**” the brick and tar, while the Hebrew lexicon states “and the bricks became (served as) stone for them” (Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius, pg. 226b). This is also revealing to us that the carnal systems of man “use” the people of God. People are used and called to serve as they are supportive of the building of man’s carnal kingdoms, but gifted ones and their gifts are suppressed if they do not contribute to the building of these kingdoms. It is wonderful to be used of God and serve Him, but how grievous it is to see people used and then discarded when they no longer suit the fancy or purposes of carnal leadership. The mixture of the true ways with Babylonish ways is very deceptive and usually undetected by the immature and the carnal mind. The hurt and damage to the saints of God who have been “used” by men and their systems is painful, and the cries of those who have been made to stumble are not always heard or often realized by the offenders on their way to “outer darkness”; or, if they are saved men, until on the day of judgment when they see their work go up in smoke as “**wood, hay, [and] stubble**” and “**the first will be last.**”

4. “**And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top *may reach* unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.**” (KJV)

Here in this 4th verse is found the basic fundamental defects of sin in our fallen natures, the blinding and binding sins that are the cause of the building of Babylon, and the reason for the building of any of the idolatrous kingdom’s of man on this earth! Quite simply, they are selfishness, pride, rebellion, fear, and unbelief!

These sins of the carnal nature are energized by Satan and his deceptive ways, often to the point of corresponding spirits entering into a person and driving him on in a relentless pursuit to try to completely satisfy and fulfill a corrupt human nature, which is an impossibility! Man is a spiritual being, and only the Spirit of

# Root attitudes and spirits of **Babylon**

Fear

Pride

Rebellion

Selfish Ambition

Unbelief / Misbelief

# ***Control***

***Insecurity & Inferiority - Identity***

God can truly and thoroughly satisfy the human spirit, soul, and body (Rom. 8:18-25). A person who has become a partaker of the divine nature can have victory over sin, but will still battle the spirits of the enemy, especially the spirits of Babylon, and may need deliverance from them (II Pet. 1:1-11; I Cor. 12:7-10; II Cor. 11:4; Eph. 6:10-18).

They said, “**Go to, let us build us.**” This is selfish ambition, a root of all that is wicked and devilish. James made it so clear long ago when he said, “**If you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart**” you do not have the wisdom of God, but the world, which is “**earthly, natural** [*ψυχικη, psuchike, soulish*], **demonic**”; and where this wisdom of the world exists there is “**confusion and every evil work**” (Jam. 3:14-16 NAS; KJV). Men have been trying ever since Babel, in varying degrees, to build God’s kingdom by earthly ways, out of the reasonings of their own souls, and according to the deceptions and spirits of Satan. How tragic when men who are truly called of God still build out of their immaturity and carnality such “**wood, hay, [and] stubble.**”

Not only do we find here the root of selfish ambition, but also a root of pride. This is another subtle sin that has infected us all; a sin that we must rid ourselves of by the Spirit of God, and put on true humility, which is humble obedience to the Word of God. They said, “**Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name**” (NAS); and men are still striving to build for themselves (often in the name of God) thinking they are reaching God in heaven; competing with others to make for themselves a name everywhere, inside the church and out! The “edifice complex” has gripped the hearts of the multitudes as men seek to build larger and more beautiful buildings than others; and all the while the true buildings of God, the people of God, are neglected personally and used to fulfill a man’s carnal imaginations. This is idolatry! Men complain of gamblers playing the “numbers game” and yet they play the numbers with each other and will lose the “gold” in the end — you can bet on it! Note also that the phrase “*will reach*” is in italic, meaning that it is not there in the original Hebrew; revealing their prideful confidence that the top of their tower will be in heaven, and that they are able to reach God their own way! Oh, how many people the whole world over believe they are actually reaching God in their own peculiar way, and yet it is a way of death, not life. God said, “**There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death**” (Pro. 14:12

NAS). All Babylonish ways that are contrary to the ways of God as revealed in His Word are the deceptive, worldly ways of death! And it is pathetic how men who know what it is to be even filled with the Spirit of God still pray and ask God for a name to build under, a name of their own, rather than to build exclusively under His glorious name, the only name under heaven and in earth that can save and deliver a single living soul. We make up names by the thousands for a banner to go to war against the enemy, and he laughs at our feeble, misguided attempts. Oh, when will we unite under the Lord of Hosts, and in His glorious and victorious name, and put the enemies of our God to rout? It is scriptural to name buildings, but we, the people of God (the true building of God) are to wear none other than the name of the Master Himself, our wonderful Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ of Nazareth. To say that you belong to any other church than His is pure carnality, and a result of ignorance and/or pride.

They said they wanted to build a city and stay put **“lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.”** Here we have rebellion and fear. This rebellion is the kind in which people fail to listen attentively to the Word of God in order to obey it. It is an unheedfulness, unwatchfulness concerning the will of God type rebellion, not necessarily the flagrant, defiant, fist in the face of authority type of rebellion that one often thinks of. God had originally said to Adam, and then again to Noah, and by implication to their posterity, **“Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth”** (Gen. 1:28; 9:1, 7 NAS). However, these Babylonian builders did not want to be scattered abroad upon the face of the earth; they did not want to do God’s will; they were fearful of doing God’s will; so of course God would accomplish it by confusing their languages so that they could no longer live and build together.

We might ask ourselves, would man so rebel against God if he knew and believed that God would judge him for it? Not usually, and so we have here the evidence of another of man’s sins, unbelief. And not only did they not believe in God’s judgment and justice, but they believed in error that they could actually **“reach into heaven”** by their own doing; and so it was not only unbelief but misbelief, as we could call it here and in many of its applications. Mankind had just been through the most destructive judgment the world had ever known, the flood, which had been only about 100 years before, and Noah and his sons were still living and giving testimony to it, and yet man still rebelled against the Word of God! This is unbelief! This is a basic character fault of man, for if Eve

would have believed that God meant what He had said, she would not have been so quick to lust after the forbidden fruit and become deceived by Satan; and Adam would not have been so quick to disobey God in order to go along with his wife. We need to believe in both the goodness and severity of God! (Rom. 11:20-23). Man has a natural inclination to not believe in the judgment of an all wise and powerful God. He likes to believe in a God of love, but not in a God who will judge him for his sin, his rebellion, his refusal to obey His Word. Man is too short sighted. He only lusts after his immediate gratification, and not after the results of his choices in the long run. But God says that you can **“be sure your sin will find you out”**; **“for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life”** (Num. 32:23; Gal. 6:7-8 NAS). Unbelief and a lack of the fear of God (which is the beginning of all wisdom and knowledge) always leads to death and destruction (Pro. 1:7; 9:10; 10:27). Man still loves to believe in heaven, but stubbornly refuses to believe in hell, at least not for himself.

Notice from verses 3 and 4 that they started to make bricks before it was revealed what they were planning to build. So too with man, he starts working for God in his own way from his own human reasonings without really knowing what he is doing, or he is not willing to reveal to his followers what he is planning. When a supply of material is gained, he starts to fashion them into something that the Lord has not instructed him to do, or something contrary in fact to God’s Word. And this is the heart of it, namely, man’s rebellion. Couple man’s rebellion with man’s pride, unbelief, fears, and selfish desires, add Satan’s deceptions, and you end up with all sorts of systems of error and confusion and suppression and manipulation and **“every evil thing”**! (Jam. 3:16). They range from the most subtle of errors within Christendom to the hideous extremes of Satanism. All along the way the Devil deceives, from eating the wrong food, as at the beginning in the Garden of Eden, to man’s final flagrant rebellion, revealed prophetically in the book of The Revelation. Tragically, man’s rebellion against the Word of the living God, stirred by Satan, is also being recorded in the lives of mankind today as it was in the beginning. Church, hear what the Spirit is saying!

Now, it is important to note that in their unbelief, selfishness, pride, rebellion, and fear, they chose to build **“a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven.”** The first city was built by

Cain after he went out from the presence of the Lord. The root of the Hebrew word for city means “a fortified height, or place.” The first times the words “city” or “cities” are mentioned in the scripture are: first the one built by Cain which he named after his son Enoch; then the one we are studying built with the tower and named Babel; then Babel as later established as Nimrod’s headquarters and the other cities that he built in his kingdom; and then the cities of the plain, among which were Sodom and Gomorrah, which God destroyed (Gen. 4:17; 11:4; 10:10-12; 13:12; 19:25, 29; Deut. 29:23; Jer. 49:18). Man without God has war in his members and fortifies himself in fear from others, but brings destruction upon himself because of his own selfishness, pride, rebellion, and unbelief (Eze. 16:49-50).

Notice, also, that in building “**a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven**” how deceived they were in their vain imaginations, thinking they were reaching God. Oh, how men are deceived today by so many false religions which all have their roots here in Babylon. But what is most tragic is when people in the church think they are pleasing and serving God by building their beautiful buildings and not building the true temple, themselves and the people of God, unto Him who lives and rules in the true heaven.

Another very important revelation given to us here is the tremendous unifying power for either good or evil that there is in building a physical place, or a worship center, or building in a particular name! This is true in the world or in the church, whether it is a congregation, or a denomination, or an organization of any kind! What men do to unite God’s people usually divides them! They unite their churches, actually their kingdoms, and at the same time cause a division in God’s church, His kingdom. The people of God remain separated and divided by carnal methods and procedures. How true the words of our Lord Jesus are when He said, “**You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God!**” (Lk. 16:15 NAS). Oh, how we need to get on our knees and seek the face of the living God in order that what we build will be only “**gold, silver, precious stones,**” which refers to building faith and godly spiritual attributes; and not “**wood, hay, [and] straw,**” which men use in building bricks and buildings (I Cor. 3:12 NAS; I Pet. 1:7; Rev. 3:18; II Tim. 2:20-21).

Another significant revelation is that they first spoke individually, “**one to another,**” or as we read literally in the Hebrew, “**each one unto his neighbor, ‘Come, let us make’,**” or as in the

Septuagint, “a man said to his neighbor,” verse 3; and then secondly they spoke corporately, “**And they said, ‘Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth’**,” verse 4. What this reveals is that it is within the soul of each individual person to build contrary to the will of God, and that these huge buildings or programs or organizations cannot be blamed upon just the leadership; leaders only lead where the people have first wanted or are willing to go. Children of God either want to pursue God only, and therefore allow the Spirit of God to knit them unto like minded individuals in building God’s kingdom for His glory, or else because of their own unbelief, selfishness, pride, rebellion, and fears, they follow their own soulishness and choose to follow carnal leadership in building men’s kingdoms for their own glory. This is a principle we must understand if we are to preach repentance and minister to people in order for them to change their building methods and programs in order to align themselves with God and His Word. We cannot blame all of this carnal building that we see around us only on carnal leadership; but must realize that each individual believer is responsible for how he builds and, therefore, with whom and how he builds together with others. Of course babes in Christ, who make up the vast majority of Christianity, will be easily taken in by carnal leadership because they either haven’t had the time it takes to mature or else are not willing to grow, and thus be able to discern the true ways of God (Eph. 4:11-16).

Only as a believer gives himself totally to God in dedication and sanctification, in prayers, fastings, and giving to God with thankfulness and praise, will he become spiritual and see how and with whom he is to build for God. If a believer is yoked to those who are building properly for God, and he or she rebels against the truth of God, that person will be sent out of that spiritual fellowship into Babylon for a period of time for chastening and correction. Tragically, many people have never been out of spiritual bondage, and they die in Babylon, and will be raised on the last day to see for themselves the tragic waste of their lives that could have been spent in true worship and labor, of and for the Master Himself and not of and for themselves or someone else! Oh, the shame of idolatry!

It is also significant to realize that people fulfilling God’s will in going to the ends of the earth are not like those who are

building in Babylonish ways and going all over the world. The spiritual faith of those who go out under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, relying solely upon Him for their protection, provision, purposes, and path, is quite different from the faith of those sent forth under the names of Babylonish kingdoms which send forth men and women to build their “fortified cities,” “worship towers,” and “names.” This difference in faith within the hearts of people is quite evident in doctrine and in methods, as well of course as in the spiritual life and accomplishments of those involved. What is remarkable also is the observable weaknesses of those who are building with a mixture of the true and the false, the spiritual and the carnal. Stop and meditate for a moment on this. There is quite a difference between those who are trusting in the security and support of one of man’s organizations and the promises of people, versus those who are trusting in God alone and His promises only. There is in fact an eternal difference between: those who “**compass sea and land to make one proselyte,**” and through insecurity, fear, and unbelief, build a city and a tower, and firmly attach names to their Babylonish creations, lest they “**be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth**”; and those who are set apart unto the Holy Spirit and sent to the ends of the earth, and whose attachments are only in and by the Spirit of the living God (Mt. 23:15; Acts 13:1-5). What a shame and what a shock it will be on that great day of the judgment of God Almighty when everything is revealed and the thoughts and intents of the hearts are made known.

5. “**And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.**” (KJV)

Here we have an expression that means that the Lord investigated the works of man. This reveals to us that God is just, in that he does not judge before thoroughly examining every circumstance of man. Also, it reveals to us the meaning and significance of what man accomplished apart from God. Notice that God had allowed man to build in his selfishness, pride, unbelief, rebellion, and fear for a period of time. Man is so nearsighted, but God sees the end from the beginning.

These builders were the children of men, not the children of God. And so it still is today, the children of men are busy about building their cities and religious towers apart from the living God. What is tragic, is when true children of God build after the carnal ways of men; thus showing themselves more interested in the

physical buildings than building the true city of God, the church, as it has been prescribed to be built.

Another thing revealed here is that with all the efforts of man, they had not reached heaven, for **“the Lord came down to see”** their intentions.

6. **“And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.”** (KJV)

Here we are told that man can unify himself outside of the will of God, and when he does, he has great power and potential to accomplish anything he sets his mind to. Oh, how many are deceived because they see or experience unity, but it is no substitute of course for the confirmed unity which the Holy Spirit gives!

Notice, that without restraint, these unbelievers who are rebelling against God and His Word and thus following Satan, would eventually turn upon and destroy the true children of God who refuse to do so. Circumstances must be arranged that they will be set upon one another, and not God’s people. And this is what has usually happened down through history as God’s kingdom goes on. What a shame it is when children of God unite, however, in there demonic carnality, and fight against not only other carnal camps, but the true work and children of God.

7. **“Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.”** (KJV)

Here we find that God will not forever continue to permit men to build contrary to His will, and he stops men by sending confusion among them. Here it was a confusion in language, but sometimes it is a spirit of confusion or another spirit that causes men to separate from one another in order for them to stop doing what God does not want done. Usually today in the church, God confuses the meaning of words in a language so that people do not understand the same thing by the same word. This judgment in “religious Babylon” causes Christians not to agree with one another so that they will not build together a larger Babylonish structure; but instead they stay divided until they agree to unite under the absolute headship and authority of the Lord Jesus Christ and His

called, chosen, and confirmed servant authorities. These are godly men of faith who have been delivered from pride and rebellion, and who are committed to unselfishly serving the entire body of Christ with the vision and compassion of the Lord Himself; not desiring to be lords over God's heritage, as is common in a Babylonish structure.

8. **“So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.”**  
(KJV)

God's original intention for man was for man to multiply and fill the earth. God is sovereign, and His will ultimately will prevail among the sons of men and not their own. When God judges man sufficiently, man stops doing that which is contrary to the divine will. The majority of the people quit building the city at this point, but we shall soon see that those bound by rebellion, pride, unbelief, selfish ambition, and fear do not heed God's lesser judgments and so will continue on and later suffer much more severe judgments from the hand of God!

9. **“Therefore is the name of it called Babel [Babylon]; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.”**  
(KJV)

Let us summarize from this concluding statement. Whenever man builds a kingdom of his own, we will find there “Babylon,” meaning “confusion,” and ultimately the judgment of God. Christians have been judged for their own kingdom building; and their spiritual language and vocabulary has been confused, causing separation to prevent them from building a united kingdom that is not God's kingdom, and that does not have the Lord Jesus Christ as its King and lawgiver, its sustainer and life. Christians do not mean the same thing with the same words; the vast majority are in a state of spiritual confusion, a mixture of truth and error; and this will continue until we seek to build God's kingdom only with Jesus as the head and leading by His Holy Spirit in all endeavors. The Lord Jesus must be acknowledged and embraced as Lord in all areas of our personal lives and corporate lives if we are to build the true kingdom of God. The scattering abroad upon the face of the whole earth in a divided spiritual state is the continuing

judgment of God and the direct result of man's idolatry, his pride, rebellion, unbelief, selfish ambition, and fears. Only a humble church, seeking God's will in all ways and God's glory only, will be found building with **"gold, silver, [and] precious stones"** that will endure the fires of God's judgment and be given rewards both now and on that great day when **"we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad"** (II Cor. 5:10 NAS).

Also, please note that the city of "Babel" (a transliteration of the Hebrew word, which was derived from the root word "balal" meaning "confusion, mixed up," and later translated as Babylon), received its name from God because He did "balal" their one language. Therefore, most likely, Hebrew was the one language spoken when all the people were one. The land was known at the time of the judgment as Shinar, and then in the judgment of God the Babylonian language was created from which they then later made the name Babylon to mean "the gate of God" and even later as polytheism arose, "the gate of the gods." Eber, which means "beyond," was a great-grandson of Shem, and is the one from whom we get the name 'Ebrew or Hebrew, meaning "descendant of Eber" (Gen. 11:10-26). At the time of the judgment of Babel when God changed their languages and divided the people, Eber had a son born whom he then named Peleg, meaning "division" (Gen. 10:25). It is the language of Eber, later known as Hebrew, which Eber's descendant Abraham spoke who is honored as the head of the chosen people throughout all generations (Gen. 14:13).

It is important to note that when God confuses people, they become divided. Division therefore is upon occasion the judgment of God by the use of confusion! Again, whenever men build a kingdom of their own, there we have "Babylon," and ultimately find God's judgment of confusion and division, a scattering abroad.

Now that we have seen what happened at the beginning of the city and tower of Babel (Babylon) in what was then called the land of Shinar, and the righteous judgment of God upon the people, let us continue our inquiry to find out what happened next.

In the overview of chapter 10, we find that Noah begat Ham who begat Cush who begat Nimrod who then started his kingdom at Babel (Babylon). Please remember that the Hebrew "Babel" is transliterated as such only in these 10th and 11th chapters of Genesis, but elsewhere throughout the scripture it is translated in

English as “Babylon” (Hebrew: *Babel*; Greek: *Βαβυλον*, *Babulon*; Latin: *Babylon*). We read,

Genesis 10 (NAS)

8. **“Now Cush became the father of Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth.**
9. **He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, ‘Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the Lord.’**
10. **And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel [Babylon] and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.**
11. **From that land he went forth into Assyria, and built Nineveh and Rehoboth-Ir and Calah,**
12. **and Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city.”**

In these five verses we shall discover some wonderful truths concerning the kingdoms of man; so let us examine them more closely, using the KJV again so we can compare it with the NAS.

Genesis 10 (KJV)

8. **“And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.**
9. **He was a mighty hunter before the Lord: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord.”**

First, we find that **“Cush begot Nimrod,”** is a literal translation. The name Cush means “confusion,” and another recognized form of the name is Chaos (The Two Babylons). Later when paganism began to flourish and he and his son were deified, Chaos came to be known as “the god of Confusion.” Cush has been reported to be the ringleader at the tower of Babel and responsible for God bringing about the confounding of languages; consequently Cush is known also as “Bel,” meaning “Confounder.” The meaning of the name Nimrod is “rebel”! So we see that the one responsible for confusion, “Confusion,” has rebellion in his loins and gives birth to “The Rebel.”

And how true this is! When man becomes confused as to what God has said or as to what He means, or as to who God is, it often results in man rebelling against the Word of God! We see that throughout all of history rebellion is a root sin of all that is not of God; man simply refuses to obey God, to live and act like He wants and has told him to! Rebellion is a sin from which all of us

born of Adam's race must be delivered! It is usually unrecognized for what it is, and with Satan's deceptive ways and motivating influences, rebellion flourishes like a stinking weed in the nostrils of a Holy God! (compare with Psa. 92:7). But, we are to take heart! **"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him"** (Pro. 22:15 KJV). And even though we were dead in our trespasses and sins, walking according to that rebellious prince of the power of the air, and living in the lusts of our mind and flesh; **"God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ"** and saved us by His grace (Eph. 2:1-10 NAS). Hallelujah!

Now, Nimrod the rebel was the first to become a mighty one after the flood. We see that word **"mighty"** used once before this in Genesis 6:4 when the sons of God had children by the daughters of men who bore **"the mighty men who were of old, men of renown"** (NAS). These men were the first to make a name for themselves, and they did it by their might; and it was because of these mighty men who were not obeying the Lord, that God brought on the flood. The word for **"mighty"** in Hebrew is "gibbor," and literally means "to be strong, valiant, powerful, bold, forceful, able to subdue others by force." It is used in dozens of cases for those men who were **"mighty men of valour,"** men who were powerful warriors in battle, men who became chiefs over others (I Chr. 12:1, 4, 21, 25, 28, 30; II Sam. 23). It is used in reference to God such as in Deuteronomy 10:16-17 where we read: **"Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked. For the Lord your God is God of gods, and the Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible [the awesome God (NAS)] . . ."** (KJV). God is telling us here to love Him with all of our hearts and to stop rebelling; because He will either bless us in love when we obey, or subdue us in judgment when we do not. It reminds me of Paul who asked the Corinthians centuries later from his position of authority under Christ whether they wanted him to come to them **"with a rod or in love"** (I Cor. 4:21). If the nations will not **"serve the Lord with fear,"** and **"kiss the Son,"** then He will **"shepherd them with a rod of iron"** (Psa. 2:11-12; Rev. 2:26-27; 12:5 KJV). "Gibbor" is used in other instances, and one instance is where we read about **"mighty men of wealth"** (II Ki. 15:20; Ruth 2:1). Godly men will use their money to help others and to build the kingdom of God; but oh, how some men have subdued others by the power and forcefulness that is available with money!

Concerning the first occurrence of the word “**mighty**,” with the mighty men before the flood, we find the earth consequently filled with violence and God not pleased! And Jesus prophesied the same conditions would be in our day before His second coming (Mt. 24:37; Lk. 17:26). Men are trying so hard to rule each other by the wrong methods, and that is by the force of physical strength, soulish or carnal persuasions, or fears that are spiritually demonic; and not by the true spiritual strength of God’s love, in the humble service of the fear of the Lord. They want to be served instead of to serve. How tragic when it’s by might and not love! We must remember that the kingdom of God is built, “**Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts**” (Zec. 4:6 NAS). Not ours, but God’s almighty and powerful Spirit; who is the Spirit of love and peace, grace and mercy. And the scepter of God’s kingdom is righteousness. Jesus said, “**The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called ‘Benefactors.’ But not so with you, but let him who is the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as the servant**” (Lk. 22:25-26 NAS); “**just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many**” (Mt. 20:25-28 NAS).

The literal translation of the phrase in Genesis 10:8, “**he became a mighty one on the earth**” (NAS), is more accurately translated in the margin and by the KJV as “**he began to be**,” revealing to us the natural growth of power that comes about in a man’s life or ministry. Woe, what development from such a small beginning; but then woe, what development from such a small act of sin as Adam’s in the beginning! Unless one is discerning, one does not see the character faults that will lead to the destruction of a man and his ministry. That is why an elder must “**not [be] a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil**” (I Tim. 3:6 NAS).

Next, it is most important to note that Nimrod’s might in subduing animals in the hunt, soon led to subduing men, and thus building a kingdom for himself. The exercise of Nimrod’s prowess probably seemed rather innocent at first, but men were awed. They said, “**Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the Lord**” (Gen. 10:9 NAS). The fact that they used the word “**like**” reveals to us that they were comparing themselves with Nimrod and desiring to be like him. This is very unwise! (II Cor. 10:12). This is another reason why there is so much kingdom building of man today. Because of the carnal examples and carnal state of the church set before the

young (those who have not even had time to mature), and the fact that they are not only permitted but encouraged to be pastors and leaders, this condition helps in carnality being promoted, propagated, and maintained in the church. The young and those beginning ministry are energetic and ambitious, and they learn the ways of carnal leadership quickly, both by word and deed. (This may be true of older men as well.) Their character has been developed in the recognized sectarian fashion, and they set off with inadequate spiritual understanding, to make a name for themselves, and “to build a church for God.” Their main purpose for entering “the ministry” was for “building God’s kingdom”; when most, if not all, are really building their own kingdom or the kingdom’s of other men! Or, what we will begin to understand is usually the case, a Babylonish kingdom — a mixture which is an inversely proportional ratio between God’s true kingdom and the kingdom of man, often carefully controlled. When Babylonishness increases, we have more of man and less of God, until He is either left out or done away with completely.

I need to emphasize here that men building their carnal kingdoms do not usually start out the way they become. As a spiritual structure helps develop true spirituality, so too a carnal structure helps develop carnality. Many a man begins very small in his own eyes, building zealously for God. However, using the wrong methods, means, and structure, causes him to become a leader with undue power, and with improper checks and balances so as to keep him humble before the Lord and doing things only God’s way. He could then become an autocratic tyrant, so that the saying comes to pass, “power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” People feed his ego and pride, and soon a spirit of pride enters in; and then another type spirit as he spends more time running his carnal kingdom and less and less time seeking the face of God who brought him into ministry. Soon the lusts of the flesh predominate, and he loses the relationship with the Lord that is imperative if he is to succeed in the true ministry that the Lord has called him to. God may withdraw His Holy Spirit from him as He did King Saul; if so, oh, what a tragic and shameful end then awaits him!

Jesus says if we will not repent, He will come and take our candlestick out of its place (Rev. 2:5). Yes, and all this is done “**before the Lord,**” “**before Jehovah**” our God! (Gen. 10:9). Yes, and God sees everything and judges accordingly!

Mankind is defiantly rebelling openly against God, and yet much rebellion in the religious realm is not done defiantly of God, but men think they are serving God when all the while they are rebelling against Him because they refuse to do things according to His ways, which are given to us in His Word. Jesus reveals this clearly when He says that the time would come when men would even put true disciples to death and yet think they were serving God (Jn. 16:2). What is worthy of note is that whatever type of rebellion it is, either defiant rebellion or that which is from the deception of sin, rebellion can cause one to be a "mighty one in the earth," and not be what God would have one to be! In this teaching about Babylon, we want to study the course of rebellion in the religious realm principally, specifically Christianity; but we could trace the history of Nimrod the rebel as a type of "The Antichrist" and the coming world ruler who is the complete embodiment of Satan and all that he is and stands for. One further note that is significant to realize is that Nimrod gained his reputation of being a leader of men from being a great hunter and not a great shepherd. And so today, many great men gain their positions even in the church by developing the skills of a hunter of men rather than a shepherd of men. They care how the sheep can feed themselves rather than how they can care for the sheep. This problem is not new among God's people, as Ezekiel and Jeremiah wrote about it centuries before Jesus Christ. They were told by the Lord to prophesy to the shepherds of Israel, that God was going to deliver His people from their hand and give them to other shepherds who would properly care for the sheep of God's pasture (Eze. 34; Jer. 23). This is being fulfilled in our day and will continue to be as never before as the end of the age approaches. God's plan has always been for the church to be led by a united plurality of shepherding elders in each city, who themselves are ruled over by the Chief Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:17, 28; I Pet. 5: 1-4).

Genesis 10 (NAS)

10. **"And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel [Babylon] and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.**
11. **From that land he went forth into Assyria, and built Nineveh and Rehoboth-Ir and Calah,**
12. **and Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city."**

**“And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel [Babylon].”** When the carnal man gets power over others, he begins to build himself a kingdom, and it is then only the beginning. Nimrod the rebel was the first builder of the kingdoms of men. And notice, this first kingdom ever mentioned in the Bible was Babel or Babylon, meaning in Hebrew “confusion or mixture”; but in the language of Babylon, it means the “gate of god.” They actually believed this was truly the way to get to God! And doesn’t every false religion as well as every sect of Christianity believe the same thing about themselves? How pathetic! And how we need an understanding of Babylon and its confusing mixture of the carnal and satanic ways of man. God hates our Babylonish ways and He hates a mixture! God demands and deserves pure, undefiled, and undeveloped religion!

Next Nimrod built **Erech**, 100 miles S.E. of Babylon, and 40 miles N.W. of Ur where Abraham would soon be born. Here excavations have shown that it was occupied continually for the next 4000 years. Amazingly, in Erech “was discovered the first ziggurat, or sacred temple tower, and evidence of the first cylinder seals [of writing],” dating about 3300 B.C. (UBD, pg. 320). Religion and literature always go together!

Communism, the religion of atheism, has spread around the world very rapidly primarily because of literature. And it is very significant that after the Christian missionaries taught the people to read, the communists filled their hands with their own written propaganda. Not only has the free world not taken advantage of the need for good reading materials, the church has allowed the false religions and cults to flood the world with their false theologies, while to a large degree ignoring the need for godly literature themselves. Literature is so very important to true religion. We would not have our Bible except the Lord had many men write down over hundreds of years what He wanted us to know. The printing press was invented by Gutenberg in Mainz, Germany in the mid-1400’s for the express purpose of printing the Bible so that God’s Holy Word could be easily disseminated into the hands of the common man in their own language, just as it had originally been written!

I, myself, was saved while reading the life story of a Christian missionary. What had prepared me were the prophecies that my father had taught me from his reading of books and literature at home. I was taught prayer through a book, and then fasting through a tract. It was through literature that I was inspired to go

to the mission field as a dental missionary. There I was brought into the reality of the gifts of the Holy Spirit by being challenged to read a book that the Lord had a woman missionary leave on a desk where I was invited to stay. She had been led of the Lord to go to the mission field to work in a Christian book store disseminating literature through Christian Literature Crusade. After my return, it was through a booklet that I came into an understanding of the fivefold ministry; and it was through my study of books on Greek that I came to understand proper interpretation of many scriptural doctrines. And the list goes on and on. Literature, my friend, is very, very important, and both God and the devil know it! Do you? And if you do, stop, and ask yourself, "What am I doing about it?"

The sacred temple tower in Erech is evidence to us that man has always been religious, but the religion of Babylon is the religion of rebellion. Here in Babylon their hair was worn long, a significant sign of rebellion, as it is today! It reminds us of Absalom who because of open, flagrant rebellion against David (who was both his father and his King, and was easily proven to anyone spiritually minded to be God's chosen leader of His people) was killed as he hung in a tree, caught by his hair that he had been so ungodly proud of. It is just as true today that anyone riding the mule of stubbornness will eventually run in fear and be found dangling to death by the cords of pride, unbelief, rebellion, and self-will, having followed the devil by willfully going against God and His Word!

After Erech we have **Accad** which means "to strengthen" or "fortress." And what a revelation it is when we start to understand how the kingdoms of men are strong fortresses, whether worldly kingdoms, false religious kingdoms, or the kingdoms of men within the church itself! Fortresses are strongholds which restrict people; they keep people in and they keep others out. God is our protection, but men love to invent carnal ways "to protect their sheep" when actually they are only protecting their own kingdoms. God's sheep hear His voice, and also hear Him through the Word and the voice of anyone who speaks the truth; they do not need and should not be intimidated by the fear and the carnal tactics and the false teachings that bind so much of the church in disunity and disarray. Disorder in the church will not be changed to God's order until God's leaders repent and come to the Lord and start meeting together to build His kingdom in the earth and not their own.

Jesus is the door and the sheep are to be able to go in and out and find pasture; but too often (in fact the great majority of the

time) the sheep are prevented from grazing under the Chief Shepherd's care and are restricted to the oversight of only one shepherd. Consequently they are either famished or prevented from feeding on the balanced and more complete diet that the multiple ministries of plural shepherding elders and others of the fivefold ministry would feed them with (Jn. 10:9; Eph. 4:11-16). In particular, Babylonian administration hates and despises the holy apostles and prophets because their teaching and understanding of the way the church is to live and function in unity is always a threat to the carnal kingdoms of men, the so called "local churches." Sectarianism, whether denominationalism or congregationalism, is always a carnal strong high tower, a substitute for God, and a fortress against the invasion of the Spirit of God and His troops who bring release and freedom to the people of God.

Also, far too often the brick and mortar buildings that men call churches are spiritual fortresses where the saints are guarded or bound and never equipped and led out to battle in order to defeat the forces of Satan, and to take captive his prisoners for the kingdom of God! That job is left to the king of the castle who is unable to defeat the enemy alone, or is too busy administrating the daily affairs of his kingdom. The church is to be a moving flock, not a fixed fortress! God is our fortress! The Chief Shepherd is well able to protect us by His rod and staff. Of course the world says, "Keep religion in your buildings and leave politics to us!" and all the while it subverts and perverts true religious faith and practice, and godly government, under the vigorous leadership of Satan himself! How much wiser are the children of this world in their generation than the children of light! (Lk. 16:8).

It is very significant and important to realize that the forces of evil and the doctrines of atheism, communism, secular humanism, and new-age religion have been spread and are ruining our country and the world without building buildings on every corner which are used but a few hours per week. Instead, they have been spread historically through literature, and most recently by radio and television, and the wicked and godless have now subverted control of the school systems and are using the school buildings to teach our youth five days a week throughout all of their formative years! While we have used God's tithes to build buildings instead of using it for literature, and financing those who would spread the gospel full time, the enemy has used our tax money (not their own) to build schools to teach godlessness and subvert the faith that we are to earnestly contend for (Jude v. 3).

I'm afraid the only contention of ours is too often with each other rather than the enemy's troops and teachings.

Genesis 10 (NAS)

10. **“And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel [Babylon] and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.**
11. **From that land he went forth into Assyria, and built Nineveh and Rehoboth-Ir and Calah,**
12. **and Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city.”**

After Nimrod began his kingdom building by lording it over men, he built his first city in which to rule over and from which to extend his dominion. After Babylon, he built three other cities in order to extend his kingdom. Then after gaining control of the land of Shinar, he went into the land of Assyria and built four more cities, over which to rule. Since they were built very close together, just 60 miles around, they were often called by the principal city, **“Nineveh, the great city,”** which Jonah would later write took three days to go through (Jon. 1:2-3; 3:2-4; 4:11). By building these four cities very close together, Nimrod doubled his expanding kingdom, and made it more defensible. (The same thing which is true with so many men today!) You see, the spirits of pride, unbelief, rebellion, and selfish ambition are never satisfied, and they will not stop until forced to, as they have world wide ambitions ever before them. How easy it is to mistake our world wide vision of spreading the gospel for a world wide ambition of spreading our own carnal kingdom! Please note, that as these carnal kingdoms spread, they always require a chief city and central headquarters from which to work, not the **“Jerusalem above”** from which the Lord Jesus speaks and heads His church in direct revelation and instruction through the Holy Spirit! Notice also, that as a kingdom grows, other cities become great; and as this is a carnal kingdom, not taught and sustained by godly means, it leads to competition and eventually division, unless more restrictive carnal methods are instituted to maintain the ways of men in forming and sustaining their kingdoms. These ways are respectable ways in the eyes of the carnal man, the time honored ways of religious institutionalism which are an abomination in the sight of a holy and unifying God. Jesus said **“that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God!”** and then immediately followed that with the statement, **“the kingdom of**

**God is preached [brought as good news], and every man presseth into it"** (Lk. 16:15, 16 NAS, KJV). Truly, God's kingdom and His ways are truly the "**good news**"! However, unless men's sole ambition is to build the kingdom of God and not any of their own, and they are vigorously praying and fasting to obtain the kingdom and subdue the flesh in true faith, they will always be competing with one another in pride and the carnal ways of deceitful rebellion.

Egyptian history records what is believed to be an accurate account of Nimrod's death. Shem, the godly son of Noah, together with seventy-two judges, had Nimrod put to death for his apostasy. They cut up his body into pieces and then sent them to various cities as a warning as to what divine justice befalls anyone who commits such a dreadful offence as leading others astray from the true and living God. Scripture records similar justice against high offences (Judg. 19:22 - 21:1; I Sam. 11:6-7). Certainly, eternal death and eternal shame befalls all throughout the ages who are guilty of the same horrendous offence.

In conclusion of this section on the beginning of Babylon, let us remind ourselves that whether we are dealing with godless philosophies, or all false religions, or the dozens of false cults that claim to be Christian, or the hundreds of sects within Christianity itself, or the millions of divisions between individual believers, the root causes of all false religious attitudes are all expressed so richly and simply here in these beginning chapters of Genesis — namely idolatry, unbelief, rebellion, pride, selfish ambition, and fears. Whether we go from "**Babel [Babylon]**" to "**Nineveh . . . the great city**" (which are the last recorded words of Nimrod's kingdom building), or whether we go on through the centuries and all around the world to the final conclusion of what was started at the tower of Babel to "**Babylon the great,**" "**the great city which reigns over the kings of the earth,**" we shall always find that the root causes of any kingdom building, other than building the kingdom of God, are idolatry, pride, rebellion, unbelief, fears, and that devilish selfish ambition that together grip and control not only all of unregenerate mankind but all of carnal Christianity as well (Gen. 10:11-12; Rev. 17:5, 18 NAS; Jam. 3:13 - 4:10; Gal. 5:14-26; II Cor. 12:20). Therefore, we need to stop right now and consider what we are doing about these sins in our own lives, and to reflect upon how we can change our ways to align ourselves with Him and His life.

Having studied Babylon as it is revealed to us in the beginning, let us go on to understand its manifestation immediately following and later during the period of the Old Testament.

## **Babylon: After the beginning and through out the time of the Old Testament.**

Throughout the entire period of the Old Testament we find Babylon mentioned repeatedly. It usually appears as the enemy of Israel, and later as the nation into which God sent His people into captivity because of their sin — their unbelief, pride, rebellion, fears, and self indulgent ways, and their yielding to Babylonish idolatry.

But, before we consider Babylon as a land of captivity, let us consider some of the religious aspects of the city of Babylon. We read from secular history as well as various scriptures how the sin of Nimrod began the foundation of all false religion and spread from Babylon all around the world. [For reference work concerning this, which I consider must reading, the finest book that I've found available is the classic, *The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hislop, published originally in 1853.]

After Nimrod's death, his wife, Queen Semiramis (referred to in the Hebrew scriptures as Ashtoreth or Ashtaroth), deified Nimrod as the Sun-god (later to be known as Baal), as if he was the one through whom all things live and grow. Then she gave birth to an illegitimate son (which was only the first of many children from her dissolute life "for whom no ostensible father on earth would be alleged") due to her licentious practices, which she claimed was a supernatural conception; and that through the child Tammuz, Nimrod had actually been reborn and given new life (*The Two Babylons*).

Semiramis, because of the danger of openly worshipping her late husband, Nimrod, as the first deified mortal, and her living son, Tammuz, secretly began what has become known throughout history as the Babylonian "Mysteries," and later as the Greek "mystery cults."

Soon Semiramis, the very beautiful but abandoned queen of Babylon with the "son of God" in her arms in supposed fulfillment of the prophetic scripture of a promised Messiah, "became the favorite object of worship. To justify this worship, the mother was

raised to divinity as well as her son, and she was looked upon as destined to complete that bruising of the serpents head . . . which Nimrod, the great Son, in his mortal life had only begun" (The Two Babylons, pg. 75).

Together Nimrod, Semiramis, and Tammuz were worshipped as gods by many nations, including Aram, Sidon, Moab, Ammon, and Philistia. But after Semiramis and her son Tammuz became the focal personages and objects of worship, this began what has been called "mother and child worship," which spread throughout the world and became known by different names in each language. In classical Greek writings, Nimrod is known as Ninus, his wife Rhea, and her son as Baccus; while in Hebrew they are most often known as Baal, Ashtaroth, and Tammuz (Judg. 2:13; 10:6; Eze. 8:14-16). In Canaan or Phoenicia, which later became part of Israel, we find this mother and child worship also by the names of Ashtoreth and Tammuz (I Ki. 11:5, 33). In Persia, the mother was known as Aditi (the goddess of infinity), and her son as Mithra (the sun-god), while in India he was known as Mitra. In Egypt they were known as Isis and Horus; in Greece as Aphrodite and Eros, as well as Irene and Plutus; in Rome Venus and Cupid, as well as Fortuna and Jupiter. In nearby Etrusca the mother-goddess was called Nutria, up in Germany Hertha, in Scandinavia Disa, among the Druids Virgo-Paritura. She was also known in Rome as Cybele, by the Greeks and Syrians as Astarte, and Ishtar by the Assyrians. As this cult moved east of Babylon the goddess was also called Indrani in India; and the mother and child were known also as Isi and her child Iswara, as well as Devaki and Crishna. Moving on to China she was known as Shing Moo and also Ma Tsoopo; and she and her child have been found on the American continents among primitive Indian tribes here. So truly, the words of the heathen in Ephesus later rang out, "**Great is Diana [translated from Latin, but the Greek is Artemis] of the Ephesians,**" "**whom all Asia and the world worshippeth**" (Acts 19:28, 27 KJV).

Another aspect of Babylonish worship is that it became polytheistic; it had over 5000 additional gods and goddesses who the people believed had once been living heroes on the earth and had then moved to a higher plane. They had a god for each month and each day of every month, for every problem and purpose, for every occupation and aspect of life. But, even though they developed many lesser gods and goddesses, they maintained a belief in the one supreme God who existed in three persons. However, the doctrine of the Triune God was perverted as it came

to be “the Eternal Father, the Spirit of God incarnate in a human mother, and a Divine Son, the fruit of that incarnation” (The Two Babylons). Then the first person of the Godhead became overlooked, and the mother and child became the grand objects of worship. Such is the case in Hinduism today; “Brahma, according to the sacred books, is the first person of the Hindoo Triad, and the religion of Hindostan [the name of the northern part of India] is called by his name [Brahmanism], yet he is never worshipped, and there is scarcely a single temple in all India now in existence of those that were formerly erected to his honour” (The Two Babylons, pp. 19 & 20). Therefore the lustful and licentious Semiramis was worshipped as the “Mother of God”; and Babylon’s Mysteries (as her secret religious practices were known by) became the foundation of idolatry and consecrated prostitution; this was the original “**Mystery Babylon . . . the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth**” (Rev. 17:5 KJV).

Semiramis, who was Queen of Babylon, after her husband’s death reigned as sole ruler of both the state and religion. Consequently another practice and belief of ancient Babylon, and the cult which spread around the world, was to worship her also as the “**queen of heaven,**” as the prophet Jeremiah tells us (Jer. 7:18; 44:17-19, 25). Archaeology reveals to us that many centuries before Christ, the Phoenicians worshipped her under the name of Astarte by the use of a chain of beads. In ancient Greece, India, Tibet, China, Japan, and Rome, as well as in modern Islam, the “prayer beads” have been found repeatedly to be used in the repetition of “vain prayers” as warned against by our Lord himself (Mt. 6:7-15). After her death this Babylonian mother was claimed to have been raised from the dead and taken bodily up into heaven where she now sits as a divine “Mediatrix” with her son.

It is very significant as we follow this false cult around the world and throughout the centuries, and how it will become mixed with true Christianity later, that we mention several other important facts for further understanding and investigation. The story was told and retold, and we read that after Nimrod was killed, Semiramis gave birth to Tammuz because of her licentious practices, and eventually an evergreen tree (the palm tree was used in Egypt, the fir tree in Rome where it was decorated with red berries) was used as a symbol of his birth in winter. The ever green tree symbolized Semiramis’ claim that everlasting life came through her son, and that after Nimrod was killed he came back to life in the person of her son — the beginning of reincarnation. Centuries

later in Rome, before Christ was born, a feast was celebrated in one cult of sun worshippers from December 17-21, for five days before the winter solstice on December 22, the shortest day light day of the year. It is one of the two times of the year when the sun is at its greatest distance from the celestial equator. After the winter solstice the day light time is measurably longer, thus indicating the beginning of the return, the reviving, or rebirth of the sun. This feast in Rome, shortly after the time of Christ, was extended two more days and was called the Saturnalia, Feast of Saturn (the Roman harvest god), another name for Nimrod, when "many families offered sacrifices of young pigs [precursor of the Christmas ham]" (World Book Encyclopedia, WBE). It was a gay, seven day festival when schools were closed and businesses stopped. Drunkenness and revelry abounded. "Families held banquets. . . . The last days of the festival were spent visiting and exchanging presents," some of which were little clay images (WBE). Since December 25th was the celebration of the birth of Mithras, the Babylonian Messiah and Persian sun-god, which would reach Rome later in about A.D. 69, the Roman Emperor Aurelian who had come to worship the sun, in A.D. 274 declared the sun-god as the official deity of the Roman Empire and set December 25 as *natalis invicti solis*, the day for the celebration of the "Nativity of the Invincible Sun." Thus the Saturnalia, the birthday of the sun, and the chief feast of Mithras, whose feast consisted of chickens and geese, with pine-cones providing aromatic fuel for the altar, were all united by the Roman Emperor on December 25.

The Yule Log comes from the Chaldee (Babylonian) name for "infant" or "little child," and was burned on December 25th by our Pagan Anglo-Saxon ancestors as "Yule-day" or "Child's-day." It represented "the dead stock of Nimrod, deified as the sun-god, but cut down by his enemies; the Christmas-tree is Nimrod *redivivus* — the slain god come to life again" (The Two Babylons).

"Kissing under the mistletoe" was started by the Babylonians while the Jews were in captivity there. The mistletoe (which is a tree parasite, meaning it will eventually kill the host tree) was regarded as a representation of the Babylonian Messiah, the counterfeit of the divine "**Branch**" (Zec. 3:8; 6:12), and the kiss being a token of pardon and reconciliation (Gen. 33:1-4; 45:1-15; Lk. 15:20) or greeting (Rom. 16:16; I Cor. 16:20; II Cor. 13:12; I Thes. 5:26; I Pet. 5:14).

"Thus the very customs of Christmas [Christ's Mass] still existent cast surprising light at once on the revelations of grace

made to all the earth, and the efforts made by Satan and his emissaries to materialise [materialize], carnalise [carnalize], and degrade them" (The Two Babylons, pg. 99); and how they counterfeit the one who is the "Truth" and the "Word of God," and create a deceptive and deadly mixture.

It was further taught that Semiramis had been miraculously born also, as having come down from heaven in a huge egg. Later, the rabbit, as well as the egg, became a symbol of fertility; and so we have the Easter rabbit and eggs. It was also taught that after her son Tammuz was killed at forty years of age, she mourned and fasted for him for forty days and nights in the spring of the year (Lent means "spring"), one day for each year he had lived. Consequently in the spring when vegetation springs forth, it was taught that this was a sign that Tammuz was restored to life again from the underworld in answer to their prayers, which period ended with a great Spring Festival and feast; and an egg was used again as a symbol of his life out of death. A worship service at sunrise became part of the celebration in honor of Tammuz because Semiramis taught that the sun, the source of light, heat, and fire, had been incarnate (in flesh) as Nimrod, who had been reincarnated as Tammuz, the source of spiritual light and salvation. The period of weeping for the false Messiah to come forth in spring is what the prophet Ezekiel saw many years later when this paganism of Baal (sun & fire) worship was mixed with the true religion of Jehovah, when the Israelites were shown to the prophet in a vision as being at the temple of God with women "**weeping for Tammuz**" while men "**worshipped the sun toward the east**" (Eze. 8:14, 16 KJV).

The name of this mother-goddess in Babylon and Assyria later was Ishtar (which is akin to the Hebrew Ashtoreth mentioned in the scriptures), the goddess of love and fertility, identified with the Phoenician Astarte (American Heritage Dictionary). Astarte is believed to be the same as "Eostre, the goddess of love or Venus of the north, in honor of whom a festival was celebrated by our pagan ancestors, in April; whence this month was called Ostermonath" (Noah Webster's 1828 Amer. Dict.; see also TTB). This celebration in German was called Ostern, and in Saxon, Easter. Easter only appears once in the King James Version of the Bible, but is an erroneous translation of the Greek word *πασχα*, *pascha*, which means Passover (Acts 12:4). As it is the custom of Babylonians to eat the flesh of unclean things, this became also the practice of the backslidden Israelites who worshipped Babylonian deities. This

is referred to by the prophet Isaiah when he wrote, **“Those who sanctify and purify themselves to go to the [idol] gardens, following one in the center [after the rites of Achad (“The Only One”)], who eat swine’s flesh, detestable things, and mice, shall come to an end altogether, declares the Lord [Jehovah]”** (Isa. 66:17 NAS, ref. The Two Babylons, pg. 16). (Achad, whose name means “The Only One,” was a deity consisting of three persons, and from which as this religion spread eastward is the source of the three headed Buddha many years later.) And so we have the Easter ham.

From the tower of Babel spread the practice of building elaborate buildings, temples and towers; images and later obelisks were erected. Although immorality was an intricate part of Semiramis’ religious practices, absolute authoritarian rule controlled the masses, and secret rituals controlled the celibate priests. Elaborate ceremonies developed, and very quickly horrible sacrifices. Abraham, who was living during the lifetimes of Noah and his son Shem, came from Babylon where he was both very familiar with what happened at the Tower of Babel, and also with human sacrifice as we can understand from his testing with Isaac. Later, during the time of the Old Covenant, it is recorded that children were sacrificed to pagan gods such as Moleck and Baal as sons and daughters were made to **“pass through the fire”** to them (Lev. 20:1-3; Deut. 12:31; II Ki. 16:3, 17:30-31, 23:10; Jer. 32:35); and eventually the practice of eating the flesh of human sacrifices developed. Baal, we remember, was the main god of the Babylonish heathen in Israel referred to dozens of times throughout the scriptures.

Other significant facts concerning Babylon and the type of culture that developed is that at first they used the rich mud deposits from the Euphrates river to make clay brick temples known as ziggurats. This is from the Babylonian word “ziquqratu” and “denotes a sacred temple tower and means a ‘pinnacle’ or ‘mountain top’” (UBD). What some believe to be the remains of the oldest ziggurat in existence is at Biblical Erech, the city built by Nimrod after Babel (Gen. 10:10). However, the ziggurat called Birs Nimrud is six miles SW of ancient Babylon, and others believe this is the site of the original tower of Babel. It is built on a square base of paved brick that is 500 feet on each side. Then there are seven square stages of brick built up into a huge terraced pyramid; the largest at the bottom being 272 feet on each side and 26 feet high, and the top level being only 20 feet square and 15 feet high. It is therefore approximately 138 feet to the top of the seventh stage

which has the remains of an ancient chapel building nearly covering the top which is an additional 15 feet high. The entire ziggurat is a solid mass of clay built with buttressed walls and each paved level of sun dried brick and slime (bitumen). It is interesting to note that in support of their religious astrology, each of the seven levels is painted with a different color in honor of gods, represented by planets; five major planets plus the sun and the moon. There are no interior rooms except for the chapel on top, which is reached by exterior stairways winding up the sides of the ziggurat. History records how the kings of Babylon “greatly prided themselves upon the height of their temples and boasted of having their tops as high as heaven” (UBD). [It is also interesting to note what looks like a miniature Babylonian ziggurat, approximately 30 feet high, that was recently built and now stands so proudly on the campus of my alma mater, Ohio State University, between walled mounds of dirt with wild looking tall grass on top which also look like these ruins of ancient Babylon.]

Later in Babylonian history, additional shapes were used and the temples and palaces were among the most splendid buildings of the ancient world. The “Hanging Gardens of Babylon” built by Nebuchadnezzar with the Euphrates River flowing through the city of Babylon was considered one of the “Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.” This same great king built a huge image of gold, 90 feet high, in honor of himself, as a result of a dream that he had. When Daniel’s godly interpretation was mixed with Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylonian idolatry, the king demanded everyone to bow down and worship the golden image that he had made; but Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego obeyed God’s Word in refusing to worship anything or anyone but God Himself (Dan. 2-4). Although Nebuchadnezzar witnessed the miraculous saving power for the Hebrew children of the true and living God, it was not long before the same spirits of pride, selfish ambition, rebellion, and unbelief which were in Nimrod manifested themselves openly when Nebuchadnezzar boasted as he looked out from his palace, **“Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?”** But, **“While the word was in the king’s mouth, a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you . . . [for] seven periods of time [seasons; years]’”**; and immediately the word was fulfilled (Dan. 4:30-33 NAS). A similar word of judgment is being spoken today from the same God to the present ruler of

Babylon, Saddam Hussein, possessed with the very same spirits. Amazingly, men of God who build their idolatrous kingdoms, and who may then even discover the miraculous power of the true God, often find themselves judged and removed from their “church kingdoms” because of these very same spirits today. We are in the very last of the last days now! The coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in power and great glory draws near! Soon, before this great event, many in and out of “Babylon” all over the world will say with Nebuchadnezzar of old, after the dealings of God, **“Now I . . . praise, exalt, and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride”** (Dan. 4:37 NAS).

Additional facts concerning the land of Babylon which we need to know in order to more thoroughly understand this religious and political system are as follows: It had various classes of society. “The aristocracy included government officials, priests, and large landowners. The common people worked as traders, craftsmen, clerks, and farmers. Slaves made up the lowest class.

“The Babylonian economy depended largely on farming. The king and nobles owned much of the land. Temples also controlled large acreages.

“Babylonian religions had many gods, elaborate temple rituals, and colorful religious festivals. Every important city had its own special god or goddess. The king represented the deity on earth.

“There was much literary work and huge libraries. Stone statuettes were carved about 3000 B.C. with hands clasped in worship. Pottery, gold and silver jewelry were works of art. Since it was a land without stones or trees, the people used baked or sun-dried bricks for building. Industry and commerce were remarkably well developed and they exported agricultural products and native crafts throughout the Middle East” (WBE).

In 539 B.C., Belshazzar, king of Babylon, saw the handwriting on the wall for which Daniel gave the interpretation, and his Babylonian kingdom fell to Darius the Mede who then ruled as king over the land of Babylon under Cyrus the Great in the expanded Medo-Persian Empire. Prior to this, Hammurabi, one of the great kings of Babylonia in the 1700’s B.C., had given the famous law code known as “The Code of Hammurabi.” Then there developed what seems to be a perverse love of law-making. Now with Darius the Mede in control of Babylon, the enemies of God tried to use the law of the Medes and Persians which could not be

revoked to destroy Daniel by deceiving the king and having him pass a law against prayer to God; this resulted in legally forcing him to have Daniel thrown into a den of lions. But God intervened with a miracle and saved Daniel; and instead, all of the wicked who plotted against him were destroyed by the lions.

With its conquest by the Medes and Persians, the destruction of Babylon began as prophesied by Isaiah (13; 14; 21; 47) and Jeremiah (50; 51), never to rise again!

Now that we have considered some of the aspects of the religion and culture of ancient Babylon, let us consider why it became a land of captivity for God to send His people into.

Babel, Babylon, being the beginning and center from which all false religion started and spread, was made by God a “land of captivity” for His people as they were influenced by and then gradually given over to Babylon’s idolatrous, iniquitous system. The reason is that the same sins that initiated Babylon’s creation — namely, rebellion, pride, selfish ambition, fear and unbelief — were not repented of by God’s people, and God had to judge and chasten them also.

We see these sins in Israel continually and they were so very evident at the time that Israel cried out to become like all the other nations, and to be led by a man as king instead of God as king. God had been their judge, lawgiver, and king for many centuries, and had given them the law through Moses and appointed judges to represent Him to the people. When Israel was obedient they were blessed, and when they were disobedient they were chastened. But then as the people continued to forsake the Lord and serve Babylonish gods as they had done since they had been brought forth from Egypt, the elders of the people came to the prophet of God, Samuel, and said to him, “**Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations**” (I Sam. 8:1-8 NAS). They should have requested better judges, but since they demanded a king, a king the Lord would give them; but He warned them that they would not like the result. The king would take the best of everything for himself and his servants; take a tenth of all their produce, vineyards, and flocks (a tithe for his kingdom, not the Lord’s servants); bring the people into servitude for himself; and the Lord would not listen to their cry when they became distressed because of it (I Sam. 8:9-22). But the people would not listen to the prophet of God, rebelled against having Jehovah as King, refused

to believe in His ways, and were lifted up in pride; they thought they knew what was best, as they were determined to have their own way (I Sam. 10:19; 12:16-19). They got it — in a king just like themselves, Saul. Although not proud at first, he rebelled against the word of the Lord that came repeatedly through God's prophet (I Sam. 15:17-26). He did not believe and wait on the prophet to do the ministry, but presumptuously did the work of God on his own (I Sam. 10:8; 13:8-14). He feared the enemy, and he feared his own people, more than he feared God (I Sam. 13:11-12; 15:24). One of the most graphic examples of Saul's rebellion is recorded in the fifteenth chapter of First Samuel where the prophet of God reprimands him for his rebellion and tells him that God has rejected him from being king over His people. Contained in Samuel's words of rebuke to Saul are insights we need if we are to properly understand the nature of all false religion, Babylonish worship, and the supernatural demonic aspects of it. Samuel said, "**For the sin of witchcraft is rebellion. Idolatry and iniquity are both insolent willfulness**" (I Sam. 15:23 lit.). Here God is revealing to us that the principal reasons that people become involved in witchcraft and occult activities, or the idolatrous ways of Babylonish type religious practices, and open themselves up to the deceitful schemes of the devil, are the sins of rebellion and self will! And add to these sins, the involvement of spirits of rebellion and other types of demonic spirits, and we can better understand religious history and the state of spiritual conditions today and in the future.

Now, after Saul was rejected as king and David was anointed to replace him, Saul was not dethroned in the natural for many years because God used him in the preparation of David and the nation of Israel. This preparation took many years before God brought David to the throne.

Also, when Israel rejected God as King and built its first kingdom of a man, with a man as king making the rules, they did not keep the year long Sabbaths for the land as God had commanded them. And they lived this way for 490 years, so God sent them into the Babylonian captivity for 70 years, one year for each of the seventh year Sabbaths that the nation of Israel had not kept according to the word of the Lord (Lev. 25:3-4; 26:33-35; II Chr. 36:20-21; Jer. 25:8-14; 29:10-14).

The story of Israel in Babylonian captivity is one of sorrow, as they hung their harps upon the willows and said, "**How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?**" (Psa. 137:4 KJV). Although they planted gardens and built houses in Babylon, they

were not building God's kingdom but someone else's (Jer. 29:5, 28). They did not enjoy the freedom that they had experienced in Israel, nor bring God's victory over the evils of the land, but were under harsh servitude; and those who were left in Jerusalem suffered great persecution and poverty (Lam. 1:1-5, 11; 5:1-18). Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, was of course under attack by the same spirits that had captured Nimrod; and when he was lifted up in pride he was dramatically humbled by the God of heaven (Dan. 4). His selfish ambition was allowed by God to build one of the wonders of the world, and then God dealt with him and brought him out of unbelief and into the faith of who was really on the throne in heaven and in earth.

The final destruction of the Babylonian Empire came in 539 B.C. when one of the generals under Cyrus the Great, ruler of the Medes and Persians, conquered the capital city of Babylon in one night; and the decay of that great city began (Dan. 5:30-31). For a very short time Darius the Mede ruled there as part of the Medo-Persian Empire under Cyrus the Persian (Dan. 6:28, 9:1; 10:1). In 514 B.C. King Darius Hystaspes, the third king of Persia after Cyrus, subdued a rebellion at Babylon and tore down its walls (Ezra 4:5; Hag. 1:1; Zec. 1:1). The last king of Persia was defeated in 331 B.C. by Alexander the Great, who came to Babylon while establishing the third world empire prophesied by Daniel — Greek (Dan. 2:39; 7:6; 8:21; 11:2-3). He attempted to make Babylon, which lay mainly in ruins, the capital of his empire by rebuilding it, but the cost was prohibitive. God had said that Babylon would never be rebuilt (Isa. 13:19-22; 14:22-23; Jer. 25:12; 50:13, 39-40; 51:26), and so soon Alexander died at only 33 years of age, after his brilliant military conquest of the world. After his death four of his ruling generals eventually succeeded in dividing the empire into four kingdoms as prophesied, each setting up a royal house with themselves as king (Dan. 8:22; 11:4). Seleucus, one of the four, conquered Babylon in 312 B.C. and ruled over the eastern area known as the Syrian kingdom. He soon founded Seleucia as his capital not too far from Babylon, but on the Tigris river, and gradually Babylon was abandoned, its buildings fell into complete ruins, and it became a desert, the home of unclean creatures as prophesied (Isa. 13; 14; 21; Jer. 50; 51). Thus we have the end of the greatest world city of antiquity, queenly Babylon, which has laid in ruins for two millennia until this day.

Now that we have seen Babylon as it was principally during

the time of the Old Testament, and its influence on God's people and the result, and then its final destruction, let us look at Babylon in the time of the writing of the New Testament.

## **Babylon: In the time of the writing of the New Testament.**

Since the city of Babylon had been destroyed and had lain in ruins for several hundred years by the time of the writing of the New Testament, the Babylon that is mentioned in the New Testament scriptures is not the original physical city of Babylon but refers to either the land of Babylon or the next world empire's ruling city that had taken on all the spiritual characteristics of the original city of Babylon from which it had gotten them. That city is, of course, none other than Rome, the fourth and last world empire prophesied by Daniel which he wrote would kill the Messiah, and destroy Jerusalem and the temple (Dan. 9:26).

The name Babylon is mentioned twelve times in the New Testament. The first five times, it is clearly in reference to the historical land of Babylon which was the name of the land when the Jews were brought to it in captivity (Mt. 1:11-17; Acts 7:43).

The next time Babylon is mentioned is when Peter includes a closing greeting to the Christians he was writing to in what is known today as Asia Minor or Turkey. At the end of his letter he indicates that Silvanus (Latin form of the name Silas) was the one through whom his letter was written; and he also indicates where he is writing from: **"She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son, Mark"** (I Pet. 5:13 NAS). All scholars agree that the "she" in this passage refers to the church of the Lord Jesus, not an individual woman. In fact, the King James Version translates the literal "she" as, "the church"; which is also according to the reading in some early manuscripts. Also, Mark was not Peter's son naturally, but spiritually. And so as Peter is referring to the church in a figurative sense, and to Mark in a spiritual sense, he refers to Rome in the figurative-spiritual sense that both the Christian church and the Jewish rabbis of the day understood so very well. Also, I believe there is good scriptural evidence to believe that it is Rome, the same city meant in the remaining six references to Babylon in the New Testament, all in

the book of The Revelation. First, Peter had founded the church of Rome on the day of Pentecost when he preached to the devout Jews that had been gathered in Jerusalem “**from every nation under heaven**” (Acts 2:5). Some of these we are expressly told were “**visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes**” (Acts 2:10 NAS). Peter had been chosen by the Lord Jesus to have the keys of the kingdom and thus be the first to open the doors to both the Jews and the Gentiles (Mt. 16:18-19; Acts 15:7). This he did on the day of Pentecost to the Jews, and again to the Gentiles — more Italians — Cornelius, his relatives and some friends; which were living at Caesarea, the port city to Italy from which they would spread the gospel and from which also Paul would later embark for Rome (Acts 2; 10; 11; 23:11, 23, 33; 27:1). Also, the area of ancient Babylon was known principally in the time of the New Testament writers as Mesopotamia, meaning “the land between the rivers” — the Tigris and Euphrates. When Luke records the different peoples gathered from all over the world on the day of Pentecost, he mentions the “**Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia**” together, all peoples from this same general area; and quite importantly he does not call this land Babylon (Acts 2:9 NAS). Neither does he when referring to where Abraham lived, but stated it was “**in Mesopotamia**”; originally called “**Ur of the Chaldees**” (Acts 7:2; Gen. 11:31 KJV).

Again, the last six references to Babylon are about the city which then ruled over the kings of the earth, where Christians were taken captive and killed: Rome — and its future development (Rev. 14:8; 16:19; 17:5; 18:2, 10, 21). Both of the great apostles, Peter and Paul, were martyred at Rome, as were tens of thousands of other faithful witnesses for Jesus. The historical literary and archaeological evidence is overwhelming that Peter was executed in Rome. Nero opened his gardens on the Vatican hill and executed a great multitude of Christians there in A.D. 64 and Paul was martyred in Rome on the Ostian way. Within less than 150 years we have records by the Roman presbyter Gaius that memorials had been erected at both of these spots to each of these great founders of the church in Rome. Later, in A.D. 335 the Emperor Constantine had the bones of the two apostles transferred from the catacombs, where they had been taken and kept for many years, to the basilica of St. Peter on the Vatican hill constructed over the tomb of Peter, and to the Church of “St. Paul Outside the Walls” on the Ostian road where Paul was martyred, both of which he had built.

Rome and her empire were persecuting Christians when The Revelation was written in approximately A.D. 95, and she continued to do so for another 200 years. Then the Spirit of Jesus conquered pagan Rome, so Satan changed his strategy.

What happened was that in A.D. 306 Constantine I (c. 280-337 A.D.) was declared Emperor of the West Roman Empire by both his own and his father's armies after his father, who was the emperor, died. Then in A.D. 312 Constantine was dramatically converted in an historical moment when he and his army faced Maxentius and his army, his strongest rival. This confrontation would determine his destiny and that of the empire, and actually that of the civilized world. He marched from France into Italy with his troops, agonizing in prayer to the gods; and the true and living God revealed Himself by a vision in the heavens, brighter than the sun, the day before the battle. It was visible to both him and his soldiers, that they would be victorious if he went forth in the name of Christ. He pondered upon the vision, and then the Lord confirmed His instructions in a dream that night. The next day, Constantine (in his new faith and with the Spirit of the Lord going with him) and his army who was also energized in spirit, defeated Maxentius at the famous "Battle of Milvian Bridge."

And so Christianity began to receive favored treatment among all the different religions in the western empire. A year later in A.D. 313 Constantine, along with Licinius, the emperor of the East Roman Empire, issued the Edict of Milan which declared Christianity "legal" and thus gave Christians the freedom of religion. In A.D. 324 after Licinius had turned and started persecuting the Christians, Constantine initiated a virtual crusade against him and defeated him in battle, and Constantine became sole ruler over the entire Roman Empire, both the East and the West. Thus, Christianity grew in numbers and political power. A year later he called a council of churchmen at Nicaea in Asia Minor concerning the dispute over the Trinity, and consequently in A.D. 325 the famous Nicene Creed was formulated by this council. It was then in A.D. 330 that Constantine officially moved the capitol from Rome to ancient Byzantium and named it New Rome. But it was soon renamed Constantinople, meaning the "City of Constantine"; today we know the city in modern Turkey as Istanbul since the name was officially changed in 1930. Although Constantine was baptized a Christian shortly before he died in A.D. 337, it wasn't until about A.D. 380 that Christianity became the official state religion under the emperor Theodosius I.

Emperors became the supreme rulers over the church and the state, and thus corruption within the church was increased because of their immaturity and of the leaders of the church at that time. Because of the power and influence of the emperors and the carnality of church leadership, often pagans were baptized in mass without the true baptism into Christ in the Holy Spirit. The mixture that resulted, allowed the wicked spirits of Babylon influencing and controlling Rome, to at first influence and then control the professing institutionalized church that arose. But more of this later.

First, let us realize here that the early church, and later the Roman Catholic and Protestant leaders, have all agreed that the Babylon of the book of The Revelation is the city of Rome! Only in recent years as false spirits proliferate, has the meaning of Babylon begun to be substantially referenced to other entities such as other cities like New York, or countries like the United States of America, or most recently to the city or the land that was physically (literally) ancient Babylon itself. However, as we look at the book of The Revelation we see clearly that it is first a literal city. In the first reference we read, **“Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication”** (Rev. 14:8 KJV). Although the best manuscripts do not place here the word city, we see that in six other occurrences Babylon is not only called a city but a **“great city”** (Rev. 17:18; 18:10, 16, 18, 19, 21). In one she is additionally called **“that mighty city,”** and in one is conclusively defined as being **“that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth”** (Rev. 18:10; 17:18 KJV).

In addition to being a literal city, the next point we need to see from this first reference in verse 14:8 is that Babylon is a city ruled by idolatry. The meaning of the word “fornication” has always been in both the Old and New Testaments “idolatry” when used in a spiritual sense (Isa. 23:15-17; Eze. 16:15-43; 23:37). This fits perfectly with what Isaiah said, **“Babylon is fallen, is fallen; and all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground”** (Isa. 21:9 KJV). Throughout the Old and New Testaments, God’s people are spoken of as married to the Lord; therefore having affairs with other entities and worshipping and serving them, whether idols, false Gods, or materialism, is marital unfaithfulness; and this is spoken of as adultery in a spiritual sense, with fornication being a broader term including all types of this sin, whether adultery or various perversions (Isa. 54:5; Hos. 1 - 3; II Cor. 11:2). Here in Revelation 14:8 we have the term fornication used because

every conceivable type of illicit, perverse relationship with the world is practiced.

The next thing we want to understand is the phrase how Babylon has **“made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication”** (Rev. 14:8 KJV). This emphasizes to us that idolatry intoxicates a person; their spirit, soul, and body are all effected. As **“Harlotry, wine, and new wine take away the understanding [lit. heart]”** (Hos. 4:11 NAS), so too does idolatry, spiritual harlotry! It is the worship and service of things other than God; and takes away the reasoning and heart of man, and makes him to compromise his beliefs. Jeremiah said it so beautifully, **“Babylon has been a golden cup in the hand of the Lord, intoxicating all the earth. The nations have drunk of her wine; therefore the nations are going mad”** (Jer. 51:7 NAS). As nations partook of Rome’s idolatry, they were intoxicated by her pleasures and debauched by her corruptions. Those who resisted were destroyed by her brutality and passionate fury upon all who would not swear supreme allegiance to the emperor and worship him as God. In fact the followers of Caesar who later were forced to worship him were called in the Greek *Καισαριανοί, Caesarianoi*; and they called the Lord’s disciples, followers and worshippers of Christ who would bow the knee only to King Jesus, *Χριστιανοί, Christianoi*, or Christians. This took place first in Antioch (Acts 11:26). The party that did homage to King Herod the Great and later bowed to his ruling descendents were called *Ηρωδιανοί, Herodianoi*, or Herodians (Mt. 22:16; Mk. 3:6; 12:13).

It is most interesting to note that the context of this reference in Revelation 14:8 is an angel saying (with a loud voice for all who live on earth) to worship God the creator, then a second angel reporting how the nations had worshiped Babylon the great whom God has judged, and then a third angel warning everyone not to worship the beast and his image or this time they will drink of the wine of God’s wrath forever and ever! (Rev. 14:6-11). I believe that there is a natural progression of sin here. If someone will not honor God by putting Him first in everything they do, then whatever they put first is an idol; and they will be intoxicated by their idolatry, whether of men or ministry or whatever; and if they steadfastly refuse to flee from their idolatry, worshipping and serving it, they will ultimately lose the Spirit of God and worship the Antichrist when he moves in his satanic power and deception.

The next reference to Babylon the great is Revelation 16:19 where we find that she is a city that is judged when the other cities

of the world are judged. Then we have chapter seventeen where we are told symbolically that Babylon the great is a great whore (harlot, prostitute) that sits on many waters, and fornicates all over the world with kings and the inhabitants of the earth, and also sits on a beast of seven heads (Rev. 17:1-3). Then it is explained to us the meaning of all this symbolism. From the literal meaning of the Greek words used, Babylon is actually an idolatrous city of seven mountains or hills, and reigns (literally has kingship) over the kings of the earth at the time this was written in approximately A.D. 95; which city has dominion over nations, multitudes of them, and over races or ethnic groups, and the peoples who speak different languages (thus a description of world-wide power and influence) (Rev. 17:2, 9, 15, 18). Rome had been, was then, and would continue for several hundred more years to be the city from which a world empire ruled over the earth. This was the kingdom revealed through Daniel over 600 years earlier. No other ruling city in the history of the world is known as the city of seven hills as Rome, known far and wide as the *Urbs Septicollis*, “the city of the seven hills.” Only Rome was “**the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth**” (Rev. 17:18 NAS).

In the next reference to Babylon we learn that this city lived so sensuously, luxuriously, that all who had relationships with her were affected. The wholesale traders became rich because of her extravagance. And her own people and the kings of the earth were captivated by her excessive indulgence of the physical senses, making that which is of the flesh exalted rather than that which is of the spirit; consequently the spirits of evil prevailed rather than the Spirit of God (Rev. 18:3, 7, 9, 2).

Next, we are told that she is “**the strong city**” whom God will judge, reminding all that God rules supreme over the earth; and no people, even the strongest city that ever ruled the earth, Rome, will escape His righteous judgment (Rev. 18:8, 10 NAS). As a consequence of God’s judgment, the merchants of the earth mourn because of their loss in business: the sale of all kinds of jewels, fabrics, furniture, food, animals, and interestingly, the bodies and souls of mankind (vv. 11-12, & 13 lit.). These last things are in reference to the merchandising of Rome in both the slavery of people and in their very lives as well. The spectacle of men fighting to the death to entertain the multitudes in the arena as gladiators (from the Roman word *gladius*, meaning sword) over many centuries is a sad reminder of the depraved nature of fallen man. In profound contrast to this, the Roman Colosseum still stands

today in ruins in modern Rome also as a memorial to the faith of the early Christians who partook of the divine nature; many of whom were also bought as slaves, and were thrown to the lions or burned as torches there, and yet went to their deaths in peace, singing the praises of Almighty God!

In the final reference to Babylon, it is revealed that her judgment will be a sudden, violent destruction just as she had tormented and killed multitudes, especially the innocent holy people of God, including His apostles and prophets (Rev. 18:20-24). As the bricks of Babylon were burned by man in the beginning to make her strong and lasting, this time the fires of God's wrath and divine justice will burn, and it will be everlasting! And the saints of the Most High will be heard to say, "**Hallelujah! Her smoke rises up forever and ever**" (Rev. 19:1-3 NAS).

As we have seen that this Babylon of Revelation is Rome, let me give a few objections to this truth and the explanation as to why they are incorrect. Some say that Babylon is not a city because in Revelation 17:10 the seven heads are given meaning as seven kings. However, a careful examination of the text in both the English and Greek will give us the truth that John is saying that the seven heads of the beast have a double meaning; one is to the city of seven hills (v. 9), "**and**" the other is to the fact that there are seven kings (v. 10), both interpretations to the vision of a woman sitting upon a beast of seven heads (v. 3). Again, the woman is the city that sits on seven hills (vv. 9, 18), and this city is seen riding the beast that has seven kings, one of which is the final beast. Kings that are beasts are men who rule like brute beasts without the heart of God; they rule out of the unregenerate nature of man while being possessed with demonic spirits. This final ruler will be given power and great authority and his throne from the old dragon himself, Satan (Rev. 12:9; 13:2-4); and another beast, the "**False Prophet**," will cause all upon the earth to worship "**the first beast**" which we commonly call the Antichrist (Rev. 13:11-12; 19:19-20). The Antichrist, or "**the Beast**," is the final embodiment of all that is of Satan; and he is the one whom Satan forces all to worship instead of God's true Christ, the Lord Jesus! (Rev. 13:4; 16:13; 20:2, 10).

Another error concerning "Babylon the great" is when God tells someone by the Holy Spirit that something is "Babylon" they think He is referring to the original or final manifestation rather than to an entity that is perhaps a daughter of Babylon, or something that is Babylonish in its character. We will see this more clearly as we proceed.

Now let us look more clearly at the city of Rome, or Roma as it is in Latin. Amazingly, it was founded on a site where originally on the Capitoline hill a temple of the Babylonian Messiah had been erected in what was then called Saturnia, "the city of Saturn," another name for Nimrod, therefore, "The City of Nimrod." Rome's beginning is a mixture of truth and error which is as we have seen a chief characteristic of "Babylon." Romulus, Rome's founder and first king in 753 B.C. and the one from whom we get the name, was according to tradition the twin son of Mars and was preserved when outcast by his cruel relatives through the kind attention of a wolf and a shepherd's wife. Romulus killed his brother Remus over a dispute regarding the founding borders of Rome. So we can see that the historical and mythological origins of Rome are exactly what we would expect as we see the history of this world famous city revealed throughout the centuries until now. Satan of course is the wolf and the church is the true shepherd's wife, and we shall see this continual attempt to mix and accommodate truth with error, Christianity with paganism, true religion and false, throughout the long history of Rome. First, idolatrous Babylonian worship, then leaders who have murdered one another to gain dominance from its very inception, is the foundation of Rome. The roots of selfish ambition, pride, rebellion and unbelief concerning the true and living God, have been with violence and demonic inspiration from the beginning.

Rome's location is in central Italy on the western coast, just 17 miles up the Tiber River which empties into the Tyrrhenian Sea, an arm of the Mediterranean Sea. Built originally on marshy ground, again it is a mixture of land and water. At first the settlement included only the Palatine hill, but as the years went on other hills were added; and legend tell us that a later ruler, Servius Tullius, enclosed seven hills within a wall on the east side of the Tiber River during his reign of 578-534 B.C. Later, there is evidence that a wall which is still partially in existence was built around the seven hills in 378 B.C., and this wall is named the Servian Wall in honor of Servius Tullius. The historic Seven Hills are the Palatine, Capitoline, Quirinal, Caelian, Aventine, Esquiline, and the Viminal Hills. Hence Rome has been called in Latin the "Urbs Septicollis," "the city of the seven hills." Many centuries later, after the time of Christ and the writing of the New Testament, more hills (such as the Vatican Hill on the west side of the Tiber) were enclosed within another larger wall by the Emperor Aurelian in A.D. 270, which wall also still partially stands today and is called the Aurelian Wall.

Now, modern Rome today includes not only the historic *Septemontium*, the “Seven Hills” of ancient Rome, and the additional hills within the Aurelian Wall, but also a much larger area in order to accommodate the present population.

Interestingly, when Romulus started the settlement on the ruins of Saturnia, he induced fugitives, criminals, and foreigners to live there, and so Rome was started as an “asylum for outlaws.” Consequently respectable people shunned the inhabitants of Rome, who then obtained their wives by strategy. They put on a show which attracted a neighboring group of people called Sabines, and then captured for themselves wives from among them by force. Later a compromise was worked out with the Sabines who then became joint occupants of the city. In 714 B.C. Romulus suddenly disappeared and was reported to have been taken up to heaven. The city then gave him divine honors under the name of Quirinus, built a temple in his honor, and ranked him among the twelve great deities; a priest, called Flamen Quirinalis (Breather of Quirinus, a priest who bestows the spirit by breathing upon), was then appointed to offer him sacrifices. And thus we have the origins of the world famous city of Rome, worshipping man in flaming idolatry, building temples in vainglorious exaltation of its leaders — Rome, corrupt with Babylonish traditions and spirits from the beginning, destined to be as ancient Babylon, “a synonym for political power and territorial expansion” (original Unger’s Bible Dictionary).

Another error being taught today in order to try and disprove Rome from being the Babylon of Revelation, and therefore all that this involves, is that Rome is situated on more than seven mountains; and that actually they are not mountains at all, as the scripture records, but simply hills. First, we have amply shown how the historic Seven Hills of Rome were originally enclosed within a wall that surrounded the city for over 500 years, and that wall was the wall of the city during the writing of the book of the Revelation. Secondly, the Greek word used in scripture is the word, *ορη*, *ore*, a plural form of the noun *ορος*, *oros*, and means “a rising” and can refer to either a hill or a mountain as can be clearly seen by its use in the scriptures. For instance, “The Sermon on the Mount” was given on an *oros* (Mt. 5:1), and anyone who has been there by the Sea of Galilee can tell you that the traditional spot is a gradual sloping hill, and that all the area around there is similar. When Jesus said, “**A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid**” the same word is used, *oros* (Mt. 5:14 KJV)! Also, the “**Mount of Olives**”

which most people have seen in pictures if not in fact is not a high mountain, but a large hill overlooking the Kidron valley and across to the Eastern Wall of Jerusalem. I've personally walked from the Wailing Wall down through the valley, past the Garden of Gethsemane, and up the hill to the summit in a few minutes, and the same word is used in scripture, *oros* (Mt. 21:1; 24:3; 26:30)!

We have also seen how no other city in history is known as the "City of Seven Hills" as Rome has been for over 2500 years. One can look at encyclopedias, reference books (both religious and secular), bible handbooks, and this truth is readily found. And let me give one concluding remark from the official English Bible of the Roman Catholic Church since A.D. 1609, the Douay Version's reference to The Apocalypse (The Revelation), Chapter 17, Verse 5: "*A mystery*. That is, a secret; because what follows of the name and title of the great harlot is to be taken in a mystical sense.— Ibid. [Ibidem: *Latin*, meaning "in the same book, chapter, page, etc.,"] *Babylon*. Either the city of the devil in general; or, if this place be to be understood of any particular city, *pagan Rome*, which then and for three hundred years persecuted the church; and was the principal seat of empire and idolatry."

Now, concerning calling cities by other names, and revealing mysteries, as John does in Revelation 17:5, 9, 18, he had just referred to Jerusalem in a spiritual, or as some call it a mystical sense. He wrote concerning the two witnesses which will be killed during the reign of the Antichrist, "**And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which mystically** [*πνευματικος, pneumatikos, spiritually*] **is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified**" (Rev. 11:8 NAS).

So we can see clearly that when John writes concerning a "**great harlot**" "**woman**" (Rev. 17:1-18 NAS), interpreted as a great idolatrous city (v. 18), who "**sits on many waters**" (v. 1; interpreted as "**peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues,**" v. 15), "**clothed in purple and scarlet**" (v. 4)

[The purple color represents royalty and rulership (Dan. 5:7, 16, 29 lit.); and the scarlet represents salvation, the sanctuary, high priest, and priesthood (Isa. 1:18); but there is no mention of the deep blue of heaven, specifically the color reminding us that we are to follow the spoken and revealed Word of God to us, and not to follow our "**own heart**" and "**eyes**" and play "**the harlot!**" But God says "**blue . . . to look at . . . in order**

**that you may remember to do all My commandments, and be holy to your God.**" Because **"I am the Lord your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt {the world and its religious systems} to be your God; I am the Lord your God!"** (Num. 15:37-41 NAS). The three colors of blue and purple and scarlet are given together 26 times (Ex. 25:4-39:29), and the blue more times by itself (Num. 4:6-12; 15:38); therefore the purple and scarlet of Babylon without the blue represents a counterfeit, false authority, false salvation, false church, false high priest, false priesthood; usurping the place of our Lord Jesus Christ and counterfeiting His kingdom, high priesthood, and priests; it is a harlot and not the bride!],

**"and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls"** (v. 4; extremely wealthy), and committing acts of **"fornication"** (vv. 2, 4; 18:3; idolatry), and who sits **"on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names"** (v. 3; a wicked governmental power against God and His kingdom), and on **"seven mountains"** (v. 9; the historical, world-wide reputation of Rome), who kills **"the witnesses of Jesus [v. 6; true Christians],"** and is called **"Mystery, Babylon"** (v. 5; a mystery, a hidden secret, v. 7, interpreted spiritually as a city which in worship holds on to the demons and doctrines of the Mystery Cults of ancient Babylon which had been destroyed), and he concludes by writing, **"And the woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns [Gk.: *εχουσα βασιλειαν, exousa basileian*, has kingship, royal dominion; present active tense when this was written] over the kings of the earth"** (v. 18), identifying this woman as the ruling city of the world at that time, John therefore positively identifies this city as none other than **ROME!** And this city which was the seat of the idolatrous Roman Empire which persecuted Christians was not only at that time Pagan Rome, but later its Babylonian spirits and doctrines invaded the church here and continued the idolatrous empire which has ever since been called Papal Rome!

And only the spiritually blind, such as the uneducated, the willfully ignorant, or those hanging onto the same spirits and doctrines will not understand this! The amazing thing is that even some who once saw the truth and even taught it are now denying the truth! But the scripture is true and being fulfilled, **"The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is clear, your whole**

**body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is [or, has become] darkness, how great is the darkness!" (Mt. 6:22-23 NAS)**

Therefore, let us briefly continue our look at early Roman culture during the beginning of the New Testament period.

Out of the city state of Rome had grown the Republic from 509-27 B.C., and then Augustus declared himself emperor. Now we have the beginning of the mighty Roman Empire, supreme authority residing in one man, aided and advised by the senate, called the *Curia*.

In 31 B.C. Augustus had "proceeded to make the city of Rome a city of marble rather than of brick — though the marble was a veneer over the structural brick or concrete. . . . The public buildings of Rome were magnificent, more than worthy of the emperors who erected them. The houses of the rich, usually on the various hills of the city, were sumptuous. But most Romans lived in tenements. . . . Admission to the games was free, and such games, including chariot racing, gladiatorial contests, and theatrical performances, attracted huge crowds. . . . The existence of slavery made unnecessary a quest for labor-saving devices" (The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible, IDB).

Under Roman education, literary criticism flourished. Roman poems and philosophical opinions "were used by Jewish and Christian apologists." The literary criticism which flourished was "chiefly as a part of rhetorical education. The student would learn to analyze grammar, composition, and style; he would also be trained to judge the authenticity of documents and of narratives regarded as historical. Such judgments are later reflected in early Christian and anti-Christian criticism of the Bible" (IDB).

There were many religious beliefs in Rome, but chief among them were the foreign cults or "Mystery religions" which had come primarily from the Orient, Babylon. "The most important were the Egyptian Isis, [and] the Great Mother from Asia Minor [Diana], and the Persian Mithras." "Her [Isis] public rites, together with testimonies to her miraculous powers, made her cultus attractive. Similarly the Great Mother was publicly advertised. Both Isis and the Mother had begging priests who went everywhere." "Her [Ephesian Artemis, Roman Diana] temple was a huge landholding corporation served by eunuch-priests called *Megabuzoi* (a Persian title); by other attendants called Essenes, who were subject to rigid rules of purity and abstinence; and by thousands of female slaves,

hierodules." One of the fourteen districts or regions of Rome was named after the goddess Isis, there were many private chapels built for her, and eventually "temples of Isis could be described as 'everywhere'" (IDB).

The other very popular "Mystery religion" (with similarities such as baptism), the Persian cult of Mithras, had spread over the empire of Alexander the Great. This was another name for the sun-god, Tammuz, the false Christ, which under the name Mithras was worshipped as the "Mediator"; and in Israel had been known as Baal-berith, "Lord of the Covenant," and El-berith, "God of the Covenant" (Judg. 8:33; 9:46). "In India, under the name Vishnu, the Preserver or Saviour of men, though a god, he was worshipped as the great "Victim-Man," who before the worlds were, because there was nothing else to offer, offered himself as a sacrifice. The Hindu sacred writings teach that this mysterious offering before all creation is the foundation of all the sacrifices that have ever been offered since" (The Two Babylons). This "saviour" "guaranteed a blessed immortality to those who had been initiated into his mysteries — by baptism, purification by honey, and the use of bread, water, and wine consecrated by priests, called 'fathers', who enjoined a high moral code" (Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church). Thus Mithras, as well as the cult of Isis, two of the popular cults of "the son" and "the mother," perpetuated another Babylonish doctrine — Baptismal Regeneration.

Dionysus, or Bacchus, was a god of fertility in nature, notably of the vine. He was the god of wine in Greek and Roman religion. Great feasts, called Dionysia or Bacchanalia, were held in his honor in Athens and Rome, and celebration with much dancing, drinking, and revelry. The art form of Greek tragedy developed from the ceremonies that took place during the Dionysia at Athens.

In Rome "Jews and Christians were conspicuous because of their denial that their God was known by non-biblical names. It should be added that as far as we know, the adherents of non-biblical religions never had any difficulties in coming to terms with Emperor-worship; they might advocate monotheism, but it was not an exclusive monotheism.

"Civil theology consisted of their analysis of the twelve gods officially recognized by the state and served by a college of sixteen pontiffs, chief of whom was the Pontifex Maximus" (IDB). This was a religious position that had been purchased by Julius Caesar in 63 B.C. on his way up the political ladder. By violence and bribery he was elected in 59 B.C. with Crassus and Pompey, two powerful

generals, as a consul and member of the First Triumvirate that ruled Rome. He then obtained governorship of Gaul where he began a brilliant military career to gain more power. After Pompey's wife Julia, Caesar's daughter, died, and then Crassus died in a battle, Pompey, a military hero, became jealous. In 49 B.C. Pompey persuaded the Senate to order Caesar to give up his army and return to Rome. Caesar had no intention of becoming defenseless, and thus "crossed the Rubicon" into Italy with his army and took control of Rome. He defeated Pompey and his army in Greece, and when Pompey fled to Egypt, Caesar followed. When he reached Egypt, he found that Pompey had been assassinated by the Roman controlled Egyptian government, but there he met Cleopatra and fell in love with her. He fought and won a civil war to restore her as ruler of Egypt, and then brought her to Rome. These were the last days of the weakened republican form of government, and in 46 B.C. Caesar, his family name, having supreme military power was made dictator for ten years by the Senate. But in 44 B.C. he assumed absolute power, and entered upon a perpetual dictatorship for which he was assassinated within a month by a group of aristocrats who believed he wanted to be a king. The next year a temple was erected to the "divine Julius" by vote of the Senate, and this event marked the beginning of Roman Emperor-worship (Emperor-worship having been a part of Babylonian and then Egyptian and Greek culture for centuries).

In 44 B.C. the Second Triumvirate was formed consisting of Gaius Octavianus, Marcus Lepidus, and Mark Antony. Just as the First Triumvirate had resulted in political and armed struggles and civil war between three leaders for absolute power, so too did the Second. After victory in the civil wars, Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus, grandnephew and heir of Julius Caesar, was voted in 27 B.C. by the Senate of Rome the name Augustus, which means "Reverend" or "Exalted One," and given authority over religious, civil, and military affairs. As his great uncle Julius Caesar had become the Father of the Roman Empire, Augustus thus became the first emperor and Founder of the great Roman Empire, and was the ruler when Jesus was born. He became the Pontifex Maximus and received worship. He died in A.D. 14, and "when Augustus' 'mind' had ascended to heaven, prayer could be addressed to it" (IDB).

"Rome tolerated other religions, at least as long as they were not regarded as threatening either the established religion or traditional morality.

“They regarded foreign religions as ‘superstition,’ meaning that they were brought to Rome by unenlightened members of the lower class. Just as the Jews believed that idolatry led to adultery, so Romans believed that foreign superstitions led inevitably to sexual promiscuity or cannibalism, or to both.

“In Roman eyes Christianity was a superstition since it was obviously foreign; it had arisen in Judaea. It was a superstition because it involved the worship of a criminal condemned by a Roman governor, and its adherents were (therefore?) suspected of immorality. Its missionary zeal, its eschatological emphasis, and its unwillingness to relate itself either to Judaism (a religion tolerated in the Empire) or to the state cults meant that it could only be regarded as at least potentially subversive” (IDB).

The primitive religion of Rome was prehistoric, as we have written, made up of rites and practices belonging to ancestral custom. The rites were usually some form of sacrifice, and there were many other kinds such as: supplications, lustrations (purifications), lectisterniums (banquets set before the gods), circumambulations (walking around properties, etc.), processions, and other symbolic acts. It was essentially a system of ritual.

“Cicero defined religion as the ‘cult of the gods’; this term meant more than worship and included care, devotion, and constant attention to their needs and demands.

“Hence Roman religion was legalistic, with specific requirements which men must meet if they hoped for specific responses on the part of the higher powers.” Divine guidance was given by various means including “divination (especially the ‘reading’ of the markings observed on the liver of the sacrificial animal).” This could be traced back to Babylonia (Eze. 21:21).

It was believed that certain “sacred” places or things possessed supernatural power. In dealing with the supernatural, it was of paramount importance that the correct formula be used.

There was a “deep feeling of the ‘numinosity’ [the presiding of a spirit] of the Palatine, which was the real center of Roman religion throughout its long history. . . . Officially the Capitol was the religious center of the Roman Empire; in reality the Palatine was the sacred hill which enshrined the deepest religious loyalties” (IDB).

“Ambarvalia, or lustration of the fields, consisted in a circumambulation of the farm by its owner [acting as priest of his family] and his *familia* (which included the slaves), all dressed in white, and leading a group of animals for the sacrifice — viz., a

sow, a sheep, and a young bull . . . that the last named was originally a male lamb. . . .

“The offering of a young lamb to the spirit resident in a spring; a few beans or flowers offered to a tree nymph or to the family ghosts; the pious observance of ancestral customs,” were practiced for much longer on the farms and in the country towns. The word for farmer is *Pagani* and thus later the word “pagan” came to be used for those who were not Christians because the farmers were the last to accept Christianity.

“On the other hand, the public religion of the Roman state (especially as observed in Rome itself) was thoroughly organized. At its head was the pontifical college, which included the several pontiffs later increased to sixteen, with the presiding officer of the college, the Pontifex Maximus. Next to him was the Rex sacorum (king of rites, who inherited the ancient priestly functions of the early kings). It was the duty of the pontifical college to oversee all public rites and religious ceremonies, to ascertain the will of the gods either through divination (by augurs) or through consultation and interpretation of the Sibylline books. But in time the whole system fell into disrepute, especially when, under the later Republic, commanders and magistrates did not hesitate to manipulate the auspices or the calendar or the interpretation of signs and portents in furtherance of their own purposes” (IDB).

As Rome grew in political importance, conquering vast territories, syncretistic tendencies arose. These tendencies to reconcile or unite opposing religions altered the whole character of Rome. “The gods of the conquered had flocked into the city, brought there by the *invocatio* or the invitation or the vows of conquering generals and by their now enslaved votaries [those bound by vows to a religious life; devoted worshippers]” (IDB).

However, the early Christian church did not incline “to adopt or adapt ancient Roman religious customs — the whole outlook of the church was too Hebraic, too biblical, to find values in primitive pagan rites; above all, the hope of redemption through Christ and the eschatological expectation of the coming kingdom of God found little contact or support in Roman religion — save only where, as in Vergil, Roman religious thought had already been influenced by similar ideas” (IDB).

The church of the first century “met the greatest threat to its existence when it confronted the imperial cultus (the worship of *Roma* and the emperor). . . . Emperor-worship was one more importation from the East.” Its spirit was political, commercial,

and religious as it “celebrated the establishment of world peace under Augustus, and was meant to be a ‘religion of all good men’” (IDB). Yet we see arising emperors like Nero, a prime example of all that is evil, perverse, and demonic, martyring the saints and the finest of apostles, Paul and Peter, and consequently judged by God as he committed suicide approximately four years later and entered the torments of an eternal hell. And so with Emperor-worship, Christians were not able to participate, and thus the result was many years of persecution and martyrdom.

It is most interesting to note that in the church of Rome in Paul’s day, earthly, soulish, and demonic wisdom was very much at work already as evidenced by the fact that there were those men in the church who were preaching Christ out of such envy and selfish ambitions that they were wanting to cause an apostle further distress in his imprisonment for the gospel, which they were proclaiming themselves (Phil. 1:12-20; Jam. 3:13-18; Rom. 16:17-19). This seed of impure motives of worldliness and of persecution of an outstanding apostle gradually grew and grew until finally mixed with pure unbelief as we shall see in the centuries that follow.

## **Babylon: From the New Testament until now.**

In the preceding section we saw Babylon in all its paganism outside the church. Rome was ruling the world, and it was the chief seat of all that was the development of historic Babylon. Now we shall see how the true church of the Lord Jesus Christ divided; and the larger portion slowly changed from a spiritual body, as built by the early apostles with Christ as its head, into a carnal organism, without His headship; and then it changed into an organization which contains both the true church, which is the true believers, and unbelievers. The next development is when carnal leadership so persecutes the true believers, who are wanting to be spiritual, that portions of the true church leave the organization to attempt to be the church as the Lord intended. Then the carnal organization becomes institutionalized to the point that unbelievers actually take control and it becomes a horrible mixture of truth and error, believers and unbelievers, and develops into a Babylonish type kingdom not representative at all of the kingdom

of God. It becomes worse as it is influenced and driven by the ruling spirits of Babylon, which we remember are idolatry, pride, rebellion, selfish ambition, fear, and unbelief; and it is gradually transformed, as it picks up the doctrines of ancient Babylon, into “Babylon” on its way to becoming “**Babylon the great**” (Rev. 14:8; 16:19; 17:5; 18:2, 10, 21). Along the way, as true believers see light and depart from the institution, they take with them characteristics and practices from their Babylonish mother. A few will see their errors, and will repent and seek to return to the original way of the Lord in expressing His life as a body; and a few will join them. But the vast majority will see the various errors, and because they are still ruled by the spirits of Babylon, they will go on in the various ways of Babylon. Some may even go on and develop more Babylonish ways themselves, and may even become worse as Babylon’s daughters than the original from which they departed. Since the original organization is not the true bride of Christ, but committing spiritual fornication as she practices different types of idolatry, God calls her a whore. And her daughters who are practicing many of the same kinds of idolatry are called by God “harlots” as well. We shall better understand this now as we follow the history of the church of the Lord after the New Testament church was first established.

One of the first and I believe the most important practice that the church discontinued was in the second century when she departed from the direct headship of the Lord Jesus Christ. The early church is described in many ways in the scripture, and one of the most important is as a body, the very body of Jesus Christ with the Lord Himself as its present and immediate head (Ro. 12:5; I Cor. 10:16-17; 12:12-28; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:12, 15-16; 5:23-24, 30; Col. 1:18, 24; 2:19; 3:15). What happened was that in each city which had been ruled by a plurality of elders who were also called bishops (who were responsible for shepherding the one flock in that city under the Chief Shepherd, the Lord Jesus, who was always in their midst as their Head and Leader), soon one man of the ruling elders was selected who became known as the bishop of that city, and the rest of his ruling brethren retained the title of elders, but not bishops (in contrast to this practice, see: Phil. 1:1; Acts 20:17, 28; Tit. 1:5-7; I Pet. 5:1-4). This of course usurped the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ with His Spirit in control, the infinite “**Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, the Spirit of Counsel and Strength, the Spirit of Knowledge and the Fear of the Lord**” (Isa. 11:1-5 NAS), and placed a mere finite man in all of his incomparable deficiencies,

his weaknesses, ignorance, and fallibility as head of the local church, and of course consequently started the gradual degeneration and eventual division and sometimes destruction of the local church in each city. But this took some time. This loss of the Lord Jesus Christ being head of the local church in each locality, as planned and structured by God Himself, was simultaneous with the loss of the office of apostle (with its authority and function of oversight, establishing doctrine and ordaining elders [bishops] in every city) and with this the apostolic doctrine of the Lord Jesus being the one and only head, the Chief Shepherd. The Lord was replaced by the singular bishop of each city with the other elders subordinate to him, and this bishop then became the one to ordain elders. Eventually the bishops of surrounding cities were the ones recognized to ordain a bishop of another city. If we have a group of elders of a city functioning as bishops, that is, taking the oversight by looking to the Lord Jesus in their midst as their only corporate head, it is quite different than if we look to only one fallible man attempting to be the head. The head is the member of the body from which we have origination of thought and understanding, function and action, and the seat of creativity and memory. The mind of Christ is perfect; the mind of any man is imperfect, and subject to all the fallibility, weakness, and proneness to listen to one's wife (both one's spouse as well as the bride of Christ, the church) as was the mind of the first man, Adam. Adam knew the truth, but chose to listen to his wife rather than to the Word of God. (And I might add here that the weakness of hearkening unto one's wife rather than to God is one of the most common sins that results in men losing their spiritual standing, place, and ministries in God.) Losing the headship of Christ over the church in any locality and recognizing one fallible man as head is devastating, the results of which very few people today realize. This ungodly hierarchical development began in the second century, and then in the fourth century there was rapid deterioration. In the second and third century there had been conferences in which the leaders of neighboring cities gathered to discuss doctrine and solve problems that arose as people moved from place to place, but it was the fourth century that brought about the hierarchical structure that finalized in one man at the top, and that in Rome — and so we see it today in most every individual church government.

To understand how this happened, let us look more closely at Constantine's conversion and the events that followed. Constantine had been declared Emperor of the West Roman Empire

by his army after his father, who was the emperor, died in A.D. 306. To secure that position Constantine marched his army from France toward Rome to confront Maxentius, his chief rival, in an expedition which was destined to either exalt or ruin him. Oppressed with anxiety, he prayed earnestly as a pagan to the gods. He respected the God of the Christians, but wanted some satisfactory proof of His real existence and power. The testimony of Lactantius, the tutor of Constantine's son Crispus is precious in this regard as to how God answered his prayer. He writes, "Constantine was warned in a dream to make the celestial sign of God upon his soldiers' shields, and so to join battle. He did as he was bid, and with the transverse letter X circumflecting the head of it, he marks Christ on their shields. Equipped with this sign, his army takes the sword" (The Two Babylons). The author, Alexander Hislop, goes on to say, "Now, the letter X was just the initial of the *name* of Christ, being equivalent in Greek to CH. If, therefore, Constantine did as he was bid, when he made 'the celestial sign of God' in the form of 'the letter X,' it was that 'letter X,' as the symbol of 'Christ,' and not the sign of the cross, which he saw in the heavens." This is also the case according to Ambrose, the well known Bishop of Milan, when he mentions, "The Labarum, that is, the ensign consecrated by the NAME of Christ" in reporting about the standard of Constantine that was borne before his troops. There is no mention of the cross, which was taken from the letter "T" as the symbol of Tammuz, the false Messiah, but it was the letter "X," the sign of the true Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ, which was actually seen. However, what has been repeated down through our Babylonish church history, is that Constantine saw a vision in the sky of a cross with the words, "In this sign conquer." But this story is refuted also by two other testimonies. One, an inscription at the head of a Christian monument found in the catacombs of Rome which reads, "In this thou shalt overcome" with the letter "X" immediately beneath the words. The other, the very standard of Constantine, as handed down to us on medals struck at that time, confirming the testimonies of both Lactantius and Ambrose, bearing on it these words, "In this sign thou shalt be a conqueror" with the letter "X." This is according to the scripture found in the Psalms, "In the name of our God we will set up our banners" (Psa. 20:5 NAS).

An so Constantine, and I believe as a new creature in Christ, engaged Maxentius in battle in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, at the famous "Battle of Milvian Bridge" outside of Rome. He

defeated Maxentius, who was drowned in the Tiber River, and won a history changing victory with his forces in the year A.D. 312.

With this victory Constantine became sole ruler in the western Empire, and then met with Lucinius, who was ruler in the east, in the city of Milan and ordered cessation of the persecution of Christians by what is known as "the Edict of Milan" in A.D. 313. Then after this official recognition of Christianity, Constantine called a conference at Arles in A.D. 314 of all the bishops of Christendom, "each with representative presbyters [elders] from his Church" to discuss the matter of the ordination of bishops. Not all of the bishops would come, but nevertheless, thus began the spiritual fornication of the church with the "**kings of the earth**" (Rev. 17:1-2; 18:2-3, 9); and this insured the gradual degradation of the church, and the creation of Babylon from within Christendom, and its eventual participation with non-Christian Babylonish religions, and its inevitable development into becoming "**Babylon the great!**"

When the emperor, as the chief authority of the Roman Empire, engaged himself in the affairs of the church, also as a Christian but under the influence of the spirits of Babylon as he was also Pontifex Maximus, and it was accepted by leading bishops of Christendom, a mutual covenant was established between church and state. Consequently the Babylonish Roman governmental spirit of authority entered the churches (cities) which participated and they became organized into a confederacy along the lines of the government of that empire. As the bishops of a Roman province met, the bishop of that area's leading city, known as a metropolis, became appointed as their leader; he was then known by the same title as his civilian counterpart, a metropolitan. And just as civil provinces were grouped into dioceses, and the governors (metropolitans) of each province were subordinated to the governor (exarch or patriarch) of a diocese, the bishop of the chief city of a diocese became known as an exarch or patriarch, the titles of the secular government being retained for this hierarchy of new leadership roles in the confederated churches. Some cities did not submit to this growing confederation and so the bishop of those cities was known as an "*autokephaloi*," which means "self-headed"; which of course they were, since they had already usurped the headship of Christ. These individual bishops were no match for the carnal power plays that were to come when the bishop of Rome, the ruling city of all the dioceses of the empire, would soon become the dominate man in the man-made church confederation inspired by the spirits of Babylon.

It was then that world ruling pagan Rome, noted for its persecution of those holy and spiritual, especially of apostles and prophets, became the world center of the enslaving form of spiritual Babylon within universal Christendom, which would become noted for its carnally minded persecution of those holy and spiritual, especially of apostles and prophets (Rev. 18:20, 24; Rom. 8:6-7; Jam. 3:14-16). Christianity, officially sanctioned by the state first under Constantine, then became the official state religion under the emperor Theodosius I about A.D. 380. Thus the majority of the church which was (and is now) “holy” and “catholic” (meaning universal) was transformed into what would become known as the “Roman Catholic Church” of the “Holy Roman Empire.” “Babylon the great” was thus born within Christendom! And consequently we shall now see how more of the spirits and doctrines of ancient Babylon entered into this great world-wide organization gradually over the following centuries until we have what is so evident today.

To understand how a body of spiritual men could allow such horribly false teachings as we see today in the mother and daughters of Babylon, we must see how the spiritual purity of the church first was corrupted.

First, we have seen how spiritual men cease to seek the mind of the head of the church His way, and start the way of the world in replacing Jesus with a man as head of each city. This of course was done after first replacing Jesus as the head over each gathering of believers, whether of a few, or of hundreds. Jesus had said, “**For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst**” (Mt. 18:20 NAS). And He is there as head, and to be looked to as such, not as a helper to our plans and programs. Whenever we have a self-willed person or leader, they usurp the headship of Christ, and the mind and will of God is lost. That is why one of the scriptural qualifications of an elder is that they be “**not self-willed**” (Tit. 1:5-7).

Also, we see from the scriptures that in the beginning it is revealed that we are in fellowship with God and His son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and consequently with one another, and are the church of God because we “**are sanctified in Christ Jesus,**” and made “**holy**” (I Cor. 1:2; 3:17). We have been justified by His grace, redeemed by His blood, saved by His mercy through the washing of regeneration and made new by the Holy Spirit that we might become faithful in Christ Jesus, holy and blameless before God (Tit. 3:5-7; Eph. 1:1-7).

However, G. H. Lang, in his excellent book, *The Churches of God*, shares with us how the purity of the church was corrupted after the loss of the true headship of the Lord Jesus by a change in the understanding of Christian unity. He states that there were three forms which the conception of unity had taken during three periods of time. "In the earliest period the basis of Christian fellowship was a changed life," he writes, a life made holy by God's indwelling Spirit through faith in Jesus. This is the result of being "born from above," and becoming a new creature in Christ Jesus. John describes this as walking "in the light," which he explains is walking in God, His love and obedience to His Word, just as Jesus walked — walking in truth (I Jn. 1:5-7; 2:3-11; II Jn. vv. 4-6).

However, in a second period the idea of a "definite belief" became the basis of union and dominated over that of a holy life. For example, the official baptismal creed of the church of Rome, believed to have originated around A.D.150, which has come to be known as the Old Roman Creed, was used. [It had evolved from earlier simpler texts based on the Lord's threefold baptismal command as found in Matthew 28:19. As the Roman creed was used, more truth was added, and it developed into the Apostles' Creed, which was destined to be used by Christians in the West ever since that time. Later this Apostles' Creed was used by Roman Catholics to express faith in "the Holy Catholic Church" (capitalized because they see the church as an institution — theirs); and much later by Protestants in "the holy catholic Church" (partially not capitalized because they see the church as the spiritual body of Christ, both holy and universal, made up of many institutions); but which would be accurately written if understood, "the holy catholic church" (never an institution of man!).]

But then in a third period, insistence on set beliefs known as the "Catholic faith," led to an insistence on "Catholic order." After Constantine officially recognized Christianity and masses of pagans were marched into the rivers for baptism, the purity of the church really became corrupted. Christians were no longer persecuted, and the faith became popular. In A.D. 324, Constantine defeated Lucinius, emperor of the East, and became sole ruler of the Roman Empire. Then Constantine called another conference in A.D. 325 called the Council of Nicaea which was brought about over the doctrinal dispute concerning the nature of the godhead, and the doctrine of the Trinity was then formalized in the Nicene Creed still used today. Then in this third period the idea of unity took the form of unity of organization. It was superimposed over the idea

of unity of belief. It was not enough for a man to be living a good life and hold to the “Catholic faith,” but one must belong to an association under the leadership of a recognized bishop, which in turn was part of a larger confederation of churches, the sum of which was the Catholic Church.

However, in the scriptures we see first an individual unity with God Himself through Jesus Christ and the person of the Holy Spirit (Jn. 17). Then we are exhorted to “**keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace**” and endeavor to attain to the “**unity of the faith**” (Eph. 4:3, 13 KJV). This unity is built upon individuals who are in union with God, but this unity is lost by sin. Purity is a prerequisite to union with God! “**Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord?**” and “**Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle?**” but the pure in heart and those who hate not only sin but hate those who insist upon it (Psa. 24:3-6; 15 KJV). This is where the early church failed. They started to allow people to remain in their midst who were not living as they should, then to even allow men to be appointed to leadership positions who were not living holy before the Lord. No wonder then that when pagans were brought into the church in mass, that the impurity brought so much corruption that interference from the state was not only tolerated but called upon. This was precipitated between two major factions, those who insisted upon purity for participation in church fellowship and those who opposed it. And when the Catholic party invoked the secular power, “the secular power made ecclesiastical puritanism a capital crime” (*The Churches of God*, by G. H. Lang).

It is interesting that the puritan party realized that impurity was a capital crime with God, and thus, those living in sin should be put out of the church in demonstrating this truth. Also, putting the impure out keeps the church pure, and free from sin and judgment; and it is the loving discipline for those who refuse to repent of their sins (I Cor. 5). The puritan’s way was under the direction of Christ the head, to call upon God to purify His church; then we could have fellowship in love. The Catholic’s way was under the headship of man, to call upon the State for unity first, with its accompanying fellowship in fear, and then work for purity secondarily. The scripture was wrested then as it is today by those who allow sin in either their lives or others. “**The field is the world,**” they said, “and the good and the bad **grow together until the harvest.**” But the puritans said, “**the field is the world,** and not the Church: it is in the world and not in the Church that the good and the bad are to grow together” (Mt. 13:24-30, 36-43). And

they practiced the teachings of God's Word which tells us that the church must be cultivated, pruned, and purged, and we are responsible in working with the Holy Spirit to accomplish this task! (Jn. 15:1-6; Mt. 15:13-14; I Cor. 5:7-13; II Thes. 3:6, 14-15; Psa. 101: 7-8).

And so it is today! I have been involved with many Christian leaders in seeking unity among all believers, but these issues have not changed. When purity is sacrificed for unity, a work comes to naught. When peace is sought before purity, it brings failure, and sin continues and grows. **"But,"** James says, **"the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable,"** not the other way around! (Jam. 3:17 KJV). Please hear me on this, and what the Spirit is saying!

Now that we have seen how the early church went astray, losing the practical headship of Christ and seeking unity first and purity secondarily, thus becoming Babylon in its infancy, let us follow the course of organized hierarchical Christianity and observe the introduction of more of Babylon's abominable teachings and practices into it.

No sooner had the Roman "king of the earth" entered into an adulterous affair with the church, but about A.D. 330 prayers for the dead were instituted, which had been one of the practices of the Babylonian religion of Rome. This is not just false and a waste of time, but alters tragically in the minds of people the understanding of the Biblical truth concerning the finality of this life before eternal judgment, and so gives them false hope beyond the grave in which they think they can alter their own destiny after they die. This is a lie from the father of all lies, who is the real author of all the false teachings that we shall discuss. God says, **"it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment,"** and no amount of prayers will alter one thing for a person after they die (Heb. 9:27 KJV). It is over! And they go before God for judgment for their lives as lived here and nothing can change it. Our prayers for the living are what counts, if of course they are done properly, which we shall see in a moment.

But, before we give a list of many of these false Babylonish teachings that entered into organized Christianity, let us look at those which are the most important and abominable.

First, Christ is not head of His church on earth, but a man. Roman Catholic doctrine stresses the fact that the Pope is head of Christ's church on earth, and Christ is the head in heaven. That means Christ is head in heaven only, and not on earth. But we

read in scripture, **“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth”** (Mt. 28:18 NAS). And, **“by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created by Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fulness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven”** (Col. 1:16-20 NAS).

Again, Paul intercedes for the Ephesians to the Father that they know **“the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all”** (Eph. 1:19-23 NAS).

These scriptures plainly and clearly reveal, if we have **“the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: the eyes of your [our] understanding [heart] being enlightened”** (Eph. 1:17-18 KJV), that Paul prays for Christians to understand that Christ is head over everyone on this earth as well as in heaven, both now and forever! Everywhere, all the time, forever! The Pope is not the head of Christ’s church on earth, but neither is a president of some denominational daughter of Babylon, or a pastor of some local assembly! Christ says, **“where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst,”** and He is present there as head! (Mt. 18:20 NAS). When these scriptures were written — now — and forever He shall be! Anyone usurping His place is an imposter, a thief, and a robber, and will be disciplined or destroyed as He sees fit! (Jn. 10:1-13; Heb. 10:30-31). There never was a Pope until A.D. 610, but there are thousands of them today, Protestant and independent! And many just as dictatorial and deceived as any that ever existed. Christ is not present in our midst as some on-looker from heaven, hoping that we will do His will; but He is here as head to be looked unto for His mind, His direction, His very life to be brought to us and poured out through us as His

body. We are not just His representatives, but He is Himself in us, representing Himself through us to a lost and dying world! Oh, may God help us to see Him as He really is, in truth, and what it is for Him to be head over our lives and especially our gatherings unto Him! (Gen. 49:10 KJV).

It is significant to note that in the Greek the word “*αντι, anti,*” means either “against” or “for, instead of, in place of”; for example: “**Suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of [anti] a fish, will he?**” (Lk. 11:11 NAS). Therefore, an antichrist system is one in which someone other than Jesus Christ is head!

Another tremendously false teaching is one in which our prayers are made ineffectual and useless. Jesus taught us to pray to the Father in His name, but the mother and child worship exalts the mother and in practice denies the rightful place of the Son of God, Jesus our Lord (Jn. 15:16; 16:23-26). The worship of Mary is evident in literature and practice. It involves serving her first, praying to her, and exalting her far beyond the correct teaching of the scriptures and spiritual reality.

I believe the practice of praying to her in worship is very tragic. The scripture says “**there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man, Christ Jesus; who gave Himself a ransom for all**” (I Tim. 2:5-6 KJV). That means what it says, one, not two which includes Mary, or even hundreds, which involves the practice of praying to “the saints,” many of whom have recently been declared not to have ever even existed. Well, the prayers to Mary are wrong and a waste, the same as those to non-existent saints. For anyone to hear the prayers of literally millions of people all over the world at the same time, one would have to be God, and Mary is not God. There is only one God, as the scripture which we just quoted states so plainly. And only Christ Jesus died for our sins as a ransom, not Mary, nor anyone else!

The worship of Mary is from a false spirit, it is a doctrine of the devil, and it is costing millions of people their eternal souls, as well as the millions of dollars associated with this false worship. The rosaries, shrines, trips to them, and literature and statues are an enormous expense, all for worse than naught — for the deception of mankind, and the eternal damnation of poor souls. We are told to worship God alone, and bowing down before any man or woman, dead or alive, is spiritual deception, idolatry, forbidden and condemned in the scriptures (Acts 10:25-26; 14:11-18; Rev. 19:10; 22:8-9; I Cor. 6:9-10).

It is significant that in the religion of ancient Babylon the practice of using prayer beads in worshipping the mother-goddess was extensive, and they are also used today by Hindus, Buddhists, Moslems, and other pagans around the world, as well as by Roman Catholics. Nimrod, in deified form, became known as Baal, and his wife was worshipped as "Baalti," meaning in English, "My Lady." In Latin it is *Mea Domina*, and in Italian it is corrupted into the well known *Madonna*. This exaltation of Mary over her son, our Lord Jesus Christ, is constantly portrayed in this fashion, and she is worshipped by such titles as the "Mother of God," "Queen of Heaven," and "Mediatrice," the female mediator between God and man. It all originally came from, and now also comes from Babylonian demons.

When Paul came to Ephesus he had a dramatic encounter with the mother and child worship, where the worship of the mother predominated in the massive and exuberant worship of Diana, the Latin form of the name Artemis (Acts 19:23-41). Silver shrines were big business, and repetitious shouts of "**Great is Diana of the Ephesians**" were inspired by the demons possessing those so enraged by Paul preaching the truth to them (Acts 19:28, 34 KJV).

Since we learn from the scriptures of this demonic center for the worship of the Babylonian mother-goddess, Diana, and from history that this included the means of prayer beads, it is of no coincidence that it was here at the Council of Ephesus in A.D. 425, held in the famous Church of the Virgin Mary, that the Roman Catholic Church was demonically influenced to give the title of "The Mother of God" to Mary (My Catholic Faith).

It was soon after these demon spirits entered into the Roman Church that they gave recognition to Mary as having supposedly remained a virgin throughout her life, and it was considered heresy to teach that Mary had other children by Joseph after Jesus' birth. This was made official at the Council of Chalcedon in A.D. 451 by the doctrine of the "Perpetual Virginity of Mary." But Mary had other children after Jesus, and was not a perpetual virgin for we read that Joseph "**took her as his wife and kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son**" (Mt. 1:25 NAS). And concerning His natural brothers and sisters we read, "**Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James, and Joses, and Judas, and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?**" (Mk. 6:3 NAS; Mt. 13:55-56). Mary was not without sin according to the church fathers of the first five centuries. Then from the sixth to the twelfth centuries she was regarded as having original sin but divinely

protected from personal sin, this view being maintained by earlier “infallible” Popes and about two hundred theologians. In the twelfth century on December 8th, the Roman Church first observed the “Feast of the Immaculate Conception,” and then later on that date in A.D. 1854 the Pope promulgated the doctrine of the “Immaculate Conception” as an Article of Faith to be received and believed by all. This doctrine which claims that Mary was born without original sin from Adam and never committed any sin from the time of her birth until her death is again contrary to scripture and Mary herself. Mary said, **“My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour”** (Lk. 1:46-47 KJV). Mary would have needed no Saviour unless she had sin, neither would she have gone to the temple and offered sacrifices for her own purification according to the law, which she did (Lk. 2:22-24).

The teaching that Mary was taken bodily up to heaven has existed since soon after the Council of Ephesus, but this “Assumption of Mary” was officially declared only recently, in A.D.1950; and she was declared “Mother of the Church” in A.D.1965. Since 1969 the Roman Catholic Church has observed January 1 as the “Solemnity of Holy Mary, the Mother of God” (an extremely important holy day observance), replacing the “Circumcision of Jesus” (eight days after His birth). And today the worship of Mary is proliferating like a fragrant but noxious weed as never before.

The worship of Mary with all the associated false teachings about her (such as attributing miraculous powers to her as they were to the Egyptian Isis), is indeed not just idolatry and clear evidence of the spirits of ancient Babylon never having ceased their seductive working, but the gradual development of this worship throughout the centuries is God’s undeniable revelation to all who have eyes to see and hearts to understand what the **“Mystery, Babylon the great, the mother of the harlots”** is within Christendom.

“Papal Infallibility” is another gross error and tragic teaching, and also is the result of years of the evil spirits of Babylon working. Like the pagan god Janus, the Pope was finally declared “Infallible in matters of faith and morals” in A.D.1870 at the First Vatican Council, by an adulterous Pope who had several mistresses, three of them nuns, by whom he had children. Along with this sin is the horrible usurping of the place of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit upon this earth. This is readily observed in the many titles given to the Pope, meaning “father,” the word coming from the Roman word in their language of Latin, “papa.” He usurps

the place of our heavenly Father when he is called "Our Holy Father," contrary to the plain teaching of Jesus when He said, "**Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven**" (Mt. 23:9 NAS). He usurps the place of the Holy Spirit when he assumes the title "Vicar of Christ," which means the one representing Christ upon the earth, contrary to what Jesus said, for example, in John's gospel, "**And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth. . . . But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you**" (Jn. 14:16-17, 26 NAS). Also, Jesus said, "**He will bear witness of Me,**" and He will be the one to speak for Jesus, and speak to the churches (Jn. 15:26; 16:13-14; Acts 13:2; Rev. 2:11, 17, 29). He usurps the place of Christ upon the earth when he is called "Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church," and "Our Most Holy Lord," and as such is considered head of the church on earth. Jesus taught us "**Do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. . . . And do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, that is, Christ**" (Mt. 23:8, 10 NAS). And the Father raised Christ from the dead, "**and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church,**" "**so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything,**" "**both in the heavens and on earth**" (Eph. 1:22 KJV; Col. 1:18, 16 NAS).

Compare this to the Pope's title of "Pontifex Maximus." This was the title given originally to the head of the principal college of pagan priests in ancient Rome, and later given to Julius Caesar in 63 B.C. It was continually used by the Roman emperors until abdicated by the emperor Gratian in A.D. 376 because of his Christian convictions that it was idolatrous and blasphemous. But, it was then quickly taken up by the Bishop of Rome in A.D. 378 when Damasus was elected to that office. And so the Pontifex Maximus, the official High Priest of the Mysteries, was now "The Pope," "Most Holy Father," "Father of Christendom," "the High Priest," "The Bishop of bishops," "The chief teacher and ruler of all Christians," who is to be addressed formally as "Your Holiness," and whose full title is: "Bishop of Rome and Vicar of Jesus Christ, Successor of St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles, Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church, Patriarch of the West, Primate of Italy, Archbishop and Metropolitan of the Roman Province, and Sovereign of the State of Vatican City" (My Catholic Faith, MCF; WBE). It is significant that after his political election to become the

Pope, a new Pope is carried on a portable throne in regal dress from the Vatican to St. Peter's Church, where at his coronation the cardinals pay homage to him by bowing before him and kissing his foot; after which he says Mass. The senior cardinal deacon places the three-tiered gold papal crown (the tiara, which is modeled after the head-dresses of the spiritual rulers in ancient Babylon, Assyria, and then pagan Rome, is actually three crowns in one representing "his preeminence in the threefold office of Teacher, Priest, and Pastor," with a little gold cross on top) upon his head and announces that the Pope is now "Father of princes and kings, Ruler of the world on earth, and Vicar of our Saviour Jesus Christ" (WBE; MCF). As such he is clearly the Babylonish King of Christendom!

Another interesting example of the spirits of ancient Babylon that ruled the rulers of the Roman Empire in Rome (being manifested and later possessing the rulers there in the Vatican) is that after Romulus (the first ruler of Rome who had supposedly introduced the first Roman calendar), Julius Caesar, with the aid of an astronomer, changed the Roman calendar by developing a new one; he named the month of July after himself and added a day, making it a 31 day month. After that, Augustus named the month of August after himself and took one day from February and added it to his month. Later, Pope Gregory XIII, also by the advice of the astronomers, in A.D.1582 had the Julian calendar (which was named after Julius Caesar and used since his time) corrected by developing the calendar which we now use today all over the world; and it is of course named after himself, the Gregorian Calendar.

It is interesting to note, concerning calendars and dating, that it was a monk, Dionysius Exiguus, who in A.D. 532 started the system of dating events beginning with the year he believed Christ was born. A.D. is the abbreviation for "ANNO DOMINI," which is Latin for "in the year of our Lord." B.C. stands of course for "BEFORE CHRIST."

And so it should not be surprising when we see that the ones who have usurped the titles and places of God in the lives of millions of people world-wide are in confusing contradiction to each other. Such is the case, for example, when one Pope condemned Joan of Arc to be burned alive as "a witch," and later another declared her to be "a saint." When many Popes had denied the teaching of papal infallibility, it is difficult to comprehend how later it could become an official doctrine of the church unless one

understands the deceitfulness of the human heart, the working of the spirits of ancient Babylon, and the judgment of Almighty God upon a system so corrupt and apostate.

Although there are many dangerous and false doctrines that have come into the Roman Church because of these spirits of Babylon, another very important one to discuss briefly is the Mass. This doctrine of the Roman Church holds that the actual physical body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ is present in the Communion Supper, which is called "The Eucharist," after the Greek word meaning "thanksgiving." Again, its origin is in the counterfeit religion of ancient Babylon. In Egypt the priest would consecrate small, thin, round (symbolizing the sun god) cakes or wafers, which were supposed to become the flesh of Osiris. The predominate form of Babylonish religion in Rome at the time of Christ was known as Mithra. It also taught the doctrine of transubstantiation and used the sacraments of cakes and "Haoma" drink which closely parallels the Catholic Eucharistic rite.

The progressive degeneration of the Lord's Supper as taught in the scriptures was over many years. Although Constantine was instrumental in introducing many of the pagan practices of Rome into the professing church when he embraced Christianity, it was not until A.D. 394 that the daily ritual of the Mass began in its infant form. In the New Testament scriptures, Communion was an actual supper meal patterned after the Passover in which all brought food and wine as they could afford; which often meant the poor had nothing to bring but were assured participation with everyone else in this "Agape," meaning "Love Feast," as it was called (Mt. 26:17-30; I Cor. 10:15-24; 11:17-34; Jude v. 12). During the supper meal, bread and wine which were normally used for meals were prayed over and thus sanctified in remembering "**the Lord's death until He comes**" (I Cor. 11:24-26 NAS). Although Paul makes it plain that it is an actual participation in the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, it remains bread and wine (I Cor. 10:16-17; 11:26-28). It does not become physically the flesh and blood of Jesus, but when done in faith it is true spiritually (I Cor. 10:3-4, 16). However, the spirits behind the pagan teaching, that their religious rites were the eating of the actual flesh of their god, were eventually successful in deceiving the leaders of the Catholic Church, but not without a struggle with the truth. A Benedictine monk named Radbertus published a treatise openly advocating transubstantiation in A.D. 831, but for the next four hundred years theological war was waged over this teaching by bishops and people alike. Finally in A.D.

1215 at the Fourth Lateran Council it became part of their dogma when Transubstantiation was officially defined by the Pope. Soon thereafter in A.D.1220 adoration of the wafer, or Host as it is called, was decreed, and the actual worship of the elements became official. At the Council of Constance in A.D. 1414 the cup was forbidden to the laity, and then soon after the beginning of the Protestant Reformation the Roman Church met to define and confirm this doctrine and did so at length at the Council of Trent in A.D. 1545-46. It was at this Council in A.D. 1545 when the Church also declared that tradition was of equal authority with the scriptures, and in A.D. 1546 that the Apocryphal books were added to the Bible. All that was done at the Council of Trent was again upheld officially by the Pope at the commencement of the Second Vatican Council in A.D. 1962, which lasted for three years. Soon the Pope issued an encyclical (a letter addressed by the Pope to all the bishops of the world in communion with the Holy See) concerning Transubstantiation entitled, *Mysterium Fidei*, which reads in part: "During the Second Vatican Council the Church has made a new and most solemn profession of her faith in and worship of this mystery. . . . For if the sacred liturgy holds the first place in the life of the Church, the mystery of the Eucharist stands as the heart and center. . . . Those who partake of this sacrament in Holy Communion eat the Flesh of Christ and drink the Blood of Christ, receiving both grace, the beginning of eternal life, and the 'medicine of immortality'." This is idolatry! Making anything into an image that either represents or is claimed to be God and then worshipping that image is idolatry. We are to worship God alone, and not images of God. God said, "**You shall not make for yourself an idol** [man-made image], **or any likeness of what is in heaven above** [Christ] **or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them**" (Ex. 20:4-5 NAS). Jesus said that true worshippers must worship the Father, "**in spirit and truth**" (Jn. 4:21-24 NAS). That is, we worship in our spirits after receiving His Holy Spirit by being born of His Spirit, and in accordance with His Word which is the truth — not the contradictory traditions of men.

The sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross at Calvary was a once and for all event, never to be repeated ever! However, Transubstantiation teaches that the Lord Jesus Christ is sacrificed in an unbloody sacrifice and is offered up to God every time a Catholic priest offers Mass, meaning He is sacrificed continually hundreds of thousands of times every day on their altars. But, it is

written, Jesus is **“a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins, and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself”** (Heb. 7:26-27 NAS). **“He entered the holy place once for all”** (9:12 NAS). **“All things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness”** (9:22 NAS). **“Nor was it that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood not his own. Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him”** (9:25-28 NAS). **“We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet. For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also bears witness”** (10:10-15 NAS).

Beloved, Jesus is our High Priest, and we are all priests unto God, to offer up the sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving for what Christ has done, once! and for all of us (1 Pet. 2:5; Heb. 13:15-16). If we are doing this by the faith of God that the Holy Spirit gives, we understand and are resting in Him; however, if we are not born of His Spirit or do not have this assurance in our hearts because of the false traditions of men, we are unsure of our salvation and will look to another person to offer up sacrifices, as the pagans do, for our sins, hoping that they will be able to help us. Never!

By now, beloved, anyone ought to be able to understand clearly that the spirits of Babylon invaded Christianity and began the creation of Babylon the great within the professing church. But before we go on to look then at her daughters, let us look at one more very significant aspect of Babylon that is a source of idolatry throughout the true church world-wide.

One of the original characteristics of Babylon was, as we

remember, to build a city, buildings, and a religious tower. The New Testament reveals to us that the true church of the Lord Jesus Christ never built physical buildings, but taught that they, the people of God, were the true building; and by the example set down in the scriptures that they gave us, it obviously was not the plan of God to spend time or money building buildings for worship, but rather all efforts and finances were spent building people, the true temple of the Holy Spirit, the true house of worship that God seeks.

Now, when Constantine recognized Christianity, he then opened up the huge Roman buildings used for courtrooms and other civic activities, basilicas, for Christian worship; and many of the pagans flocked into the organized church, now that it was acceptable politically and socially.

The Vatican received its name because originally the Vatican Hill had been a "Vaticinia," meaning, "a place of divination," and it is said that the hill was the headquarters of the divination-deity named Vaticanus. At a later period the hill was used for the annual worship of Tammuz, who we've read of in the Bible is the son of the Babylonian mother-goddess, at which time a pine tree was felled and an effigy of the god was fixed to it.

On this very spot now stands the Vatican City, the chief city of "Babylon," and for centuries the largest building in Christendom, St. Peter's Cathedral. It was constructed over the ruins of St. Peter's Basilica which had been patterned originally after the Pantheon of pagan Rome. It is the most elaborate and expensive "Church" building ever erected! In the center of the court yard entrance of St. Peter's is the actual pagan obelisk taken there by Caligula, a Roman Caesar from A.D. 37-41, from Heliopolis, the Greek name for Bethshemesh, Egypt, specifically mentioned in the scriptures (Jer. 43:13). The name of the town means "the House of the Sun" and was the center for the worship of Baal, the sun god, and the mother-goddess. The first obelisk ever erected was by Queen Semiramis at Babylon, and was a symbol for the worship of both the sun and sex, hence its erect nature as a phallic symbol. Is it not amazing that the very same obelisk (a standing image began by Nimrod's wife at the place of the original city and tower of Babel) that stood at the center of this pagan worship exposed in the Old Testament (Jer. 43:13), is now erect at the center before St. Peter's in the city which is the center of Babylonish Christianity in the New Testament (Rev. 17:18)? And that the obelisk, a sacred pillar, was always an important image in the worship of Babylonish religion? (Ex. 23:24; Lev. 26:1; Deut. 7:5-6; 16:22; I Ki. 14:23; II Ki.

10:26-27; 18:4; 23:14; Eze. 26:11). The Vatican City is an independent political kingdom of itself with its own government and Swiss Guard and now reigns over much of Christendom; and it is in fact an exact representation of pagan Rome (taken from ancient Babylon) with its leader having the same titles, mitre headdress (patterned after Dagon the ancient fish-god Judg. 16:23; I Sam. 5:2-7; I Chr. 10:10), garments, and customs; and the operating principles of its system include the very same rituals, practices, doctrines, accomplishments, and ambitions as pagan Rome! And its end will be the same also!

With this all in mind, let us now look more closely at the traditional church building of the Roman Church. It is patterned after the synagogue which was developed while the Jews were in captivity in the land of ancient Babylon. The law is our school master to bring us to Christ, and if someone does not see and enter into the grace of our Lord, he only sees and understands aspects of the Old Testament law. During the Old Testament we see for centuries that the people did not have multiple buildings all over to worship in, but had one tabernacle, made of linen curtains and transported from place to place as they moved, which we are told in the New Testament was a pattern of the true tabernacle which is in heaven and to which we as New Testament believers are to now come regularly for worship; a spiritual worship in which we come directly into the heavens before Jesus our Lord and Head, our Judge, Lawgiver, and King, our great High Priest (Isa. 33:22; Heb. 7-10). But when one does not see the spiritual, heavenly realities, one is absorbed with the things of this world; and here we have man patterning after the world's systems or the law which is to bring us to Christ (Gal. 3:24). When Israel rejected God as King and demanded a man as king like all the other nations, interestingly it was only then that God also allowed a national temple to be built by their king (Solomon); they wanted to emulate in a similar way the Babylonish worshipping people around them which had their kings build temples to their gods. But there was to be only one temple for the entire nation, in Jerusalem; and it was to be a type in this New Testament era of the temple in heaven, where the new Jerusalem is (Heb. 8:1-5; 9:1-24; Rev. 4:1-11; 11:19; 15:5; 21:2). However, after they were sent to Babylon because of their Babylonish ways, they returned to build many "temples" to their God as they had seen and copied in Babylon, but they called them synagogues.

The synagogue, which began in Babylon, is essentially a

rectangle, with an altar central at one end. This is where, in the tabernacle, continual sacrifices were offered, but in the synagogue buildings the end platform was elevated and the Torah, the Law, was placed, with two pulpits on either side. There were, and still are today, rows of pews in which the people not called to the Old Testament priesthood sat and listened to that special class of men called for this purpose. There were elders of the synagogue, with a chief ruler who determined who could speak, read the scriptures, and pray. He summoned fit persons to preach, and was the overseer of the physical care of the building as well. It had a main entrance at the opposite end, with smaller doors on each side; and was so very important in the life of the Jewish community that there were numerous synagogue buildings in each city. The order of worship was set: with prayer, the reading of a portion of both the law and the prophets, the blessing of the priest, a translation in the known language of the people of the scripture that had been read, a discourse, and then a benediction which was more a confession of faith than a prayer. The lesson from the Torah was so arranged that the Pentateuch, the five books of Moses, was completely read in a cycle of three years, and then there followed a chosen portion from the prophets; but it is significant that the preaching could be done by any competent member of the congregation.

One has only to enter a Roman Catholic Church building today to see the similarities in structure, procedure, and customs. The physical layout in older buildings is identical, and basically the same in all the rest. The separated clergy of garbed "priests," the split elevated pulpits, the altar at one end with pews for "lay" members who do not basically participate in the procedures except on cue from the ruler, the reading of the Old and New Testaments scriptures in three year cycles, having their own language (Latin instead of Hebrew), and many of the doctrines and other customs are a mixture of both Old Testament and Babylonish ways; other similarities are such things as idols, candles, icons, and towers (steeple) toward heaven. [The word "clergy" is from the Middle English *clergie*, from Old French *clerc* (influenced by *clerge*, "body of clerks"), which is from the Late Latin *clericus*, a cleric, from the Greek *klerikos*, "belonging to inheritance, cleric" (with reference to the Levites whose only inheritance was the Lord); the word "laity" as opposed to the "clergy" is from the word "lay," and means "common man," and comes from the Middle English *laie*, from Old French *lai*, from Late Latin *laicus*, from Greek *laikos*, from *laos*, "the people" (The American Heritage Dictionary).] And, unlike

the one national temple with the High Priest in Jerusalem, a type of Christ our High Priest now in the one temple in heaven, there are many Babylonish church buildings located throughout different areas of a city just like the many synagogues in each city, patterned after the many pagan temples in the city of Babylon.

It was not until Constantine, as a king committing fornication with Mystery Babylon, that buildings began to proliferate for Christian worship; and very quickly then in that fourth century there is reported that at least forty church buildings were in existence in Rome. The most prominent among them were the three great basilicas built by Constantine: St. Peter's built on the steep slope of the Vatican hill in the midst of a pagan cemetery, St. Paul's outside the walls, and St. John Lateran.

Now that we have looked at each of the major doctrines of ancient Babylon that have been brought into Christianity, let us consider a list of a number of others also and the estimated time at which these teachings were gradually introduced.

Prayers for the dead	A.D. 330
Making the sign of the cross	A.D. 330
Baptismal Regeneration promulgated	A.D. 360
The veneration of angels, dead saints, and images	A.D. 375
Title of Pontifex Maximus taken by Bishop of Rome	A.D. 378
The celibacy of priests introduced	A.D. 385
Communion adopted as a daily ritual	A.D. 394
The worship of Mary	A.D. 431
Priests began to wear special clothing	A.D. 500
The doctrine of Purgatory introduced	A.D. 593
Worship in Latin mandated (repealed in Vatican II)	A.D. 600
First man to be proclaimed Pope	A.D. 610
The custom of kissing the Pope's foot	A.D. 709
Communion proposed as a sacrifice by Radbertus	A.D. 831
The dogma of Papal infallibility announced	A.D. 1076
Marriage of Priests forbidden	A.D. 1079
Rosary beads adopted	A.D. 1090
Mandatory attendance at Communion	11th c.
First Crusade ("Holy War") initiated by the Pope	A.D. 1095
Transubstantiation of the Mass defined officially	A.D. 1215
Adoration of the wafer, called the Host	A.D. 1220
Bible forbidden to laymen (repealed in Vatican II)	A.D. 1229
The cup forbidden to laity at communion	A.D. 1414
The doctrine of Purgatory became official	A.D. 1439

Protest of Ninety-Five Theses by Martin Luther	A.D. 1517
Tradition declared of equal authority with Bible	A.D. 1545
Apocryphal books added to the Bible	A.D. 1546
The Immaculate Conception of Mary	A.D. 1854
Infallibility of the Pope in faith and morals	A.D. 1870
Assumption of Mary bodily into heaven	A.D. 1950
Mary proclaimed "Mother of the Church"	A.D. 1965
Official: "Solemnity of Holy Mary, the Mother of God"	A.D. 1969

Now, let us follow this Babylonish woman into motherhood, for she is as the scripture rightly says, "**THE MOTHER OF THE HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH**" (Rev. 17:5 lit.).

As we have reported, after Constantine became sole ruler of the Roman Empire, he moved his capital officially in A.D. 330 from Rome to the site of the ancient city of Byzantium where he had built a new city which he named "Nova Roma," New Rome; but soon it was renamed Constantinople, meaning the "City of Constantine." Two of the reasons reported as to why he did this are: One, because the eastern half of the empire had become more important than the western half, and as the eastern half grew stronger, the western grew weaker. Two, Constantine wanted to get away from the powerful pagan influences of Pagan Rome. The Empire was again split in A.D. 395 after the death of Emperor Theodosius I, and the West Roman Empire ceased to exist in A.D. 476 when the German chief Odoacer deposed the last emperor of Rome, Romulus Augustulus, whose name reminds us of Rome's first king and first emperor. The East Roman Empire, also called the Later Roman, or Greek, or Byzantine Empire continued until A.D. 1453 when Constantinople fell to the Turks and became part of the Ottoman Empire.

It is significant to note how Constantinople was captured, as "this event is considered one of the most significant occurrences in the history of the Western world, for it brought to an end the Byzantine Empire, under which much of Eastern Europe was Christianized"; and "it also gave to the Ottoman Turks a new capital for their own empire" (The Catholic Encyclopedia for School and Home, TCESH). The Sultan Mohammed II, called the Great, had great ambitions of territorial expansion, and his strategy was that since the Ottomans had already conquered most of Asia Minor he would next conquer the Balkan Peninsula so as to completely surround the city of Constantinople. The city was highly fortified

and had repulsed all attempts for centuries by various forces to capture it except when the Latins successfully took the city with the armies of the Fourth Crusade in 1204 A.D. and pillaged it for three days, after which it was recaptured by the Byzantines in 1261 A.D. and the Greeks again had control. The Sultan was successful in taking most of the Balkans, and so now Constantinople had become "a Christian island in a Moslem sea" (WBE). The strategic position of Constantinople can best be realized by looking on a map and seeing that the city lies partly in Europe and partly in Asia, and therefore connects not only the land trade route between the two but also controls the entrance to the Black Sea. After the Sultan began the siege, the Latin pope in Rome refused to send aid to the Greek emperor in Constantinople, and it was finally captured by the Janizaries, the elite of the standing army of the Ottoman Empire which were almost all from the children taken from their previously captured Christian parents, children who were then instructed in the Islamic religion and trained under iron discipline. "Their religious fanaticism added to their military valor because they believed death in warfare against the unbeliever gained them Mohammedan paradise" (TCESH). The name Janizary came from the Turkish word *yenicheri* meaning "new troops," but the corp existed from A.D.1330-1826. It is also significant that Janizary music was "Crude, noisy music produced by shrill wood instruments, various drums, triangles and other percussion instruments (Webster's New International Dictionary, Second Edition, Unabridged). How meaningful this is for us today as Christians who have been brought under Babylonian bondage have their children taken **"captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ"** (Col. 2:8 NAS). The evolutionary, humanistic, sexually, ethically, and musically perverted, socialistic and Marxist teachings of the godless, unionized, government schools, and even many religious (or formerly religious) colleges and seminaries, is destroying our children and society. I know! I was quickly captured during my university training! But, praise God, I was recaptured very soon after by Christ! **"Hallelujah!"**

After A.D. 1517 Constantinople "was the seat of the Caliph, the Orthodox (Sunni) Muslim leader, and thus the center of most of the Muslim world" (Collier's Encyclopedia, CE). Prior to the Muslim invasion the people of the city had called it Stanbul, meaning "The City," but it was not until 1930 that the name of

Constantinople was officially changed to Istanbul, believed to have been taken from an old Greek phrase, *εις την πολιν*, *eis ten polin*, meaning to go “Into The City” (The Catholic Encyclopedia, TCE). As old Rome had been the center of the world’s power, now New Rome became that center. It has been important to many peoples for centuries as shown by more of the different names by which it has been called. The Persians and Arabs know it as Deri-Seadet, the Italians and Levantines as Cospoli, the Bulgars as Tsarigrad, and the Greeks as Constantinopolis. It has one of the best locations of any city in the world as it is well situated for defense, and as we have stated before, lies at the trade crossroads of Europe and Asia. “The land and sea routes that pass through Istanbul have been main streets of history” (WBE). Or as another historian has put it, “Constantinople was to become one of the great world capitals, a font of imperial and religious power, a city of vast wealth and beauty, and the chief city of the Western world” (CE).

When Constantine built his new capital city he planned it exactly like old Rome, the first capital of the Empire, by incorporating it on seven hills and dividing it into fourteen regions with privileges similar to Rome. He built it with new public buildings such as the senate house, forums, a capital, circuses, porticoes, and many church buildings such as the Church of the Holy Apostles, destined to be the burial place of the emperors, and thus of course Constantine himself. The oldest section of the city is still known as Stamboul today, and here we find many great buildings from the past including Saint Sophia, meaning Holy Wisdom, which was originally built as a Christian cathedral by the emperor Justinian the Great (the last emperor to speak Latin) between A.D. 532 and 537. When built, it was the largest church building in Christendom, and remained so until St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome was purposefully rebuilt into St. Peter’s Cathedral. In 1506 A.D. the pope started the rebuilding of St. Peter’s and it took 150 years. The cathedral was first designed in the shape of the Greek cross (a cross with four arms of equal length), but before it was completed the nave was lengthened and St. Peter’s took the form of the Latin cross. During the reign of Heraclius, the Church of Saint Sophia in Constantinople owned 365 estates, and he established 625 clerics as the number necessary for its service. It is the finest and most famous example of Byzantine architecture in the world, but when the Turks overthrew the city they turned it into a mosque, as they did most other church buildings, covered its mosaics, and it became the pride of Islam. However, in 1933 it

became a museum and many beautiful pictures, including Christ and the “Virgin Mary,” were uncovered.

“In A.D. 625 Heraclius added the famous quarter of Blachernae with its venerated Church of the Blessed Virgin, whose image was considered as the palladium [protecting idol] of the city” (TCE). With this spirit of idolatry ruling over the city, one can readily see how the worship of icons (a picture or image representation in painting of some sacred personage, as Christ or a saint or angel, itself venerated as sacred; taken from the Greek word *εικων*, *eikon*, meaning image or likeness) is so much an important part of the Eastern Church headquartered there, and why iconoclasts (breakers of icons), who arose with such vigor from time to time, met with such fierce opposition. For instance, in A.D. 726 the Emperor Leo III issued an order that all images and paintings in churches should be covered or destroyed, but many monks and people opposed it. Shortly, “after the second Nicene Council met in A.D. 787, the Empress Irene permitted images to be worshiped, as long as the worship had a different quality from that owed to God. Finally, in A.D. 842, the Eastern Church reached a settlement which permitted pictures but not complete statues or images” (WBE). In the Roman Catholic Church, it is stated that images are venerated only as symbols, but one has only to read the writings of the Church, or watch the people bow, kiss, and worship (meaning to bow down and do homage) images and leaders themselves to refute the hypocrisy of trying to change reality by changing the meaning or use of words. But this is only to be expected in the mixtures of modern Babylon, following ancient Babylon, and its religious daughter, ancient Egypt and its similar emphasis on idols (the Israelites had just left Egypt when the commandment was given to them forbidding such practice). It is the breaking of the Second Commandment which says, **“You shall not make for yourself an idol [lit. a graven image], or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments”** (Ex. 20: 4-6 NAS). This is why the Roman Catholic Church has deleted this Second Commandment in the Decalogue and split the last one in order to maintain the Commandments with ten in number (MCF).

In following then this continuation of Babylonish idolatry, it

is important to note that after Constantine recognized Christianity in A.D. 313 and inaugurated New Rome in A.D. 330 in honor of the Christian martyrs, he completed the hippodrome there, a large open air public arena started by Emperor Septimius in A.D. 203, and placed on its site the Serpentine Column that he had brought from Delphi, Greece. And then later Emperor Theodosius I erected in the center of the entrance of this Constantinople Hippodrome an obelisk removed from Heliopolis in Egypt, the same exact type as had been brought from there to the Circus Maxima in old Rome and which was later to be moved a short distance in A.D. 1586 by order of the Pope to stand erect and center before St. Peter's Cathedral.

As Constantine "believed that he was God's chosen servant, he regarded himself as responsible to God for the good government of the church." Consequently, it was in Constantinople that "the divine right of kings, rulers who were defenders of the faith — as opposed to the king as divine himself — was evolved" (CE).

Therefore, this new center of Christianity, New Rome (as Constantine had originally called it, with so many identical features as old Rome) after years of bitter hatred, conflict, and war with old Rome, became the headquarters of the main daughter of Babylon when in A.D. 1054 the institutional Church was split into Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Church denominations. As the Eastern Orthodox Church spread, it has maintained biblical truths still held in A.D.1054 that the Roman Catholic Church hasn't. However, although two of the main issues used in splitting the church were doctrinal, division is a work of the flesh, and is always the result of jealousy, selfish ambition, and the other spirits of Babylon at work (Gal. 5:20; Jam. 3:13 - 4:12).

One of the two doctrines where the East and West Churches differed was over whether the bread used at the Eucharist was to be leavened or unleavened. The Roman Catholic Church used unleavened bread (although they permitted leavened bread) as it was the continuance of the Passover Feast in which only unleavened bread was used by the Jews and thus by Jesus (Ex. 12:8, 15-21; 13:6-7; Mt. 26:17; Mk. 14:12; Lk. 22:1, 7-8). The Orthodox, however, claimed that Christians were to be different from the Jews, and that the bread is to be a sign of new life and vitality, not deadness as unleavened bread. However, not only the Passover Feast would have us use unleavened bread, but Paul's writings on the Lord's Supper would also have us realize that we are to be without leaven, which is given as a type of sin, and therefore we

are to **“celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth”** (I Cor. 5:6-8 NAS).

The other major doctrine of disagreement was the “Filioque.” That word stands for the phrase “and from the Son” which was added by the Latins in A.D. 589 to the Nicene Creed in reference to the Holy Spirit coming forth “from the Father and the Son.” The Catholic Encyclopedia states, “Filioque is a theological formula of great dogmatic and historical importance. On the one hand, it expresses the Procession of the Holy Ghost from both the Father and the Son as one Principle; on the other, it was the occasion of the Greek schism.” The Greeks objected and said that the Holy Spirit came forth “from the Father only”; but after much debate their position became twofold, either “from the Father only” or “from the Father through the Son” (TCE). The Greeks said in A.D. 1054, “If the Latins would renounce the Filioque, peace could be restored,” as it was the chief grievance against the West (The Catholic Encyclopedia for School and Home, TCESH).

Now Jesus said, **“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth”** (Jn. 14:15-17). **“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you”** (Jn. 14:26). **“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me”** (Jn. 15:26). **“But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you”** (Jn. 16:7). **“Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear”** (Acts 2:33)( all ref. NAS).

Now it seems clear from the scriptures that Jesus received the promised Holy Spirit from the Father and gives Him to us. And it can be said further that after we receive the Holy Spirit, others can receive the Holy Spirit from and through us as the scripture says, **“He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?”** (Gal. 3:5 KJV). This was the experience of Peter and John when they were ministering to the Samaritans after they had accepted the gospel and been baptized

by Philip and **“they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit”** (Acts 8:17 NAS). And it was Paul who laid hands upon the Ephesians and they received (Acts 19:6). This was years after a disciple, not an apostle, named Ananias had done the same for Paul, and also healed him (Acts 9:10-17).

I bring this matter of the “Filioque” before you, one which has been used to divide millions of professing and some “possessing” Christians for centuries, to help illustrate how fighting and causing schism over doctrines as petty as this are not only works of the flesh, but initiated and maintained by people who themselves are devoid of the Spirit of God, people who only have a doctrine of reality, and not reality itself! For centuries, empty men have been laying empty hands on empty heads, and people have been receiving a ritual, not reality.

But, praise God, in the present revival taking place, men who have been ordained in both divisions are now receiving the true Holy Spirit, being ordained of the Lord Jesus, and ministering the Spirit of God to those who are hungry and thirsty. Empty people are being filled!

What a shame it is that practices and doctrines that are at the very heart of the gospel, the Communion, reminding us of the One who died to make us one, and the receiving of the Holy Spirit, the only One who can make us one, are perverted and twisted and made to divide us!

Jesus said, **“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another”** (Jn. 13:34-35 NAS).

It is being filled with the Spirit of God, and thus with the love of God, that gives us the power to be true children of God and what He wants us to be. So many are caught up in religion and ritual, and not true godly reality in Jesus Christ our Lord!

True disciples will not divide over doctrinal differences such as these, but will be **“endeavouring to keep”** (KJV), **“diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”** until reaching **“the unity of the faith”** (Eph. 4:3, 13 NAS).

Continuing now with this daughter of Babylon, the Eastern Orthodox Church, it has need like all organizations to return to the biblical truths practiced in the first century as found in God’s Holy Word. But of course, this would mean the end of itself as a sectarian, non-scriptural entity, the product of losing the headship of Christ and developing in Babylonish hierarchical ways. It is the

major Christian Church in Greece, the old Soviet Union (now known as the Commonwealth of Independent States), eastern Europe, and western Asia. Rather than being under a Pope, and although the patriarch of Constantinople is given greatest honor, it has been divided by strife and carnal politics into many independent “self-governing” Churches. The two largest daughters of Babylon having branches in the United States are the Greek Orthodox Church and the Russian Orthodox Church, but there are also the lesser known ones such as the Syrian, Serbian, Bulgarian, Romanian, Ukrainian, and Albanian Orthodox Churches. Some of the other major differences between the Orthodox and the Roman Catholic are that the Orthodox have a married priesthood, they do not hold to the Pope nor papal infallibility, and they make more use of icons. However, there are a number of Churches that are a mixture of the two. They put themselves under the Pope of Rome, but have a married priesthood; the largest Rite of which is the Byzantine Catholic Church, which has nearly all of its church buildings modelled after the Basilica of Holy Wisdom in Constantinople.

Before the split between Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox, there was another major division that occurred earlier in A.D. 451 when the Council of Chalcedon condemned as heresy the doctrine of only a single nature of Christ Jesus. Alexandria, Egypt, one of the most powerful patriarchates (meaning ruling divisions) in Christendom then broke away from both Rome and Constantinople, and the Coptic Orthodox Church became independent. Consequently, many of its ancient traditions are very similar to the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox. Most of the “Copts,” as they are called (the word taken from the Greek word *Aegyptios* meaning “Egyptians”), are located mostly in Egypt and Ethiopia, and are under the patriarch of Alexandria.

As the Roman Church spread mainly north and west, its power and influence grew. This advance was mainly due to the military conquests of Charlemagne, meaning “Charles the Great” in French, king of the Franks, who had conquered all of western Europe except Spain. Charlemagne believed his mission was to conquer these lands in order to convert the warring pagan tribes living there to Christianity, which meant bringing them under the control and teaching of the Church of Rome. Near the completion of his effort, a remarkable event occurred when on Christmas day in A.D. 800 Charlemagne was crowned at St. Peter’s in Rome as “Emperor of the Roman Empire” by the Pope; and thus he became

the supreme ruler of the western half of organized Christendom, and an extender and protector of Roman Catholicism throughout the lands of western Europe. He sometimes referred to his palace at Aachen, which lies just east of the boundaries of Germany, Belgium, and The Netherlands, as the "New Rome"; where later 28 Holy Roman Emperors were crowned as rulers of what became known as the "Holy Roman Empire." Charlemagne believed himself to be the Vicar of Christ on the earth, the ruler of Christ's earthly kingdom, and a reflection of the Lord's rulership in heaven. This word vicar means "the one who represents the authority of another" and thus, as has happened before, this title has been taken from an emperor of the Roman Empire and claimed by the "Bishop of Rome." But as such he is an imposter and has, in the minds and lives of millions, usurped the position of "**head of the church**" (Eph. 5:23) from the Lord Jesus Christ who has "**all authority . . . in heaven and on earth**" (Mt. 28:18), and is the true "**head over all things to the [true] church, which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all**" in heaven and on this earth! (Eph. 1:22-23 NAS). The empire Charlemagne "revived" lasted in one form or another for a thousand years, and both civilized and established the control of Roman Catholicism in the area until the Protestant Reformation brought Lutheranism to Germany, the Anglican Church to England, and the Dutch Reform Church to Holland.

After the beginning of the Orthodox Church with its headquarters in New Rome, Constantinople, it spread into Greece, and north into Russia. After the fall of the Byzantine Empire in A.D. 1453, all of its lands except Russia were in Muslim control. Soon the claim was made that Russia was the only successor to the Byzantine Empire and was the "Third Rome," so Ivan IV crowned himself "Czar of all Russia" in A.D. 1547 (the title of Czar being taken from the Roman title of Caesar, because he believed himself to be the true ruler of the Roman Empire). It is most interesting that the last Czar, Nicholas II, was overthrown by the Russian Revolution in 1917 and was executed by the Soviets in 1918; thus the last leader of the "Roman Empire" was destroyed by modern communism, the most godless, antichrist system ever to seek and gain such world wide domination. It in turn has been overthrown by the sovereign moving of the Spirit of the Lord in establishing the kingdom of God within people of the old Soviet Empire. And we shall see Babylon the great of the old Roman Empire destroyed by the godless Antichrist who will in turn be totally destroyed in the physical and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ in

establishing His kingdom openly upon the earth! Hallelujah!

Another important historical fact that is worthy of our consideration before we go on is that of the Crusades, which lasted for several hundred years. In July of A.D.1054, after long and sharp disputes, the Pope ordered his legates to lay on the altar of St. Sophia in Constantinople the Bull of excommunication against the patriarch there (the leader of the Greek realm of the church). This act resulted in a popular revolution, and five days later the Patriarch of Constantinople replied by excommunicating the Pope and the "Azymite" [ones who use unleavened bread in Communion] Latins (The Catholic Encyclopedia, TCE). Then in November A.D.1095, not long after this formal split between the Church of Rome and the church at Constantinople, a new Pope announced at a Church council at Clermont in southern France his project for a Holy War against the Moslems who had gained control of the Holy Land and were also capturing territory from the emperor in Constantinople who had asked for his help. The Pope felt that this would "be favorable to a reunion of the Greek and Roman Churches, in schism since A.D.1054" (TCE).

Although previous Popes had promised absolution (forgiveness) of their sins to troops who died defending Christians against Moslems who had been invading Italy, now the Pope promised a plenary indulgence to all who would "take up the cross." This scriptural term by Jesus was "wrested" and redefined as meaning to make a solemn vow to fight in this Holy War against the Moslems, and a white cross was worn as a badge on the outer garment of those who took part. The Latin word for cross is *crux*, and thus what became known as the Holy Wars of the Middle Ages has become better known as The Crusades.

"In Catholic terminology, the word 'indulgence' means remission of the temporal punishment due for sin which has already been forgiven . . . which must be fulfilled either in this life or the next" (The Catholic Encyclopedia for School and Home, TCESH). When going to confession, there is a "penance," a satisfaction imposed by the confessor. Thus, "the forgiven sinner, by means of indulgences, has an excellent means of paying this debt during his life on earth" (TCESH).

Concerning the Crusades, many became "Crusaders" for different reasons. "Some hoped to win military glory or get new lands. Others were looking for adventure. Merchants joined the ranks in search of new markets. Criminals joined to run away from justice. The preaching of Pope Urban II, which prompted the First

Crusade, appealed to men's political and economic ambitions, as well as to their religious fervor" (WBE). The essential spiritual privilege of the indulgence given by the Pope was: "Crusaders who had confessed their sins were freed of the penance they had to perform either in this world or the next, even if they were prevented by death from actually going on the Crusade" (TCESH). Since the Crusaders were freed from arrest for debt, and from usury, and the Pope became "guardian of their wives, and families" as they became "soldiers of the Church," and feudal Barons were enticed to lead the fight for the Church instead of fighting one another as they had been doing, the power of the Papacy increased greatly (TCE/TCESH).

It is most interesting that in A.D.1009 before the Crusades started, the Moslem Caliph of Egypt, in a fit of madness, ordered the destruction of the Holy Sepulchre and all the Christian establishments in Jerusalem. Thus the reconstruction of the Holy Sepulchre in A.D.1027 by the Byzantine emperor left not the original to possess for which the Crusades were started, and for which people still go on pilgrimage today. But since it was taught, and is yet believed, that "where the image is, there is the Spirit," it still gave rise to powerful motives, both to the pilgrimages to the "Holy Places" and to the Crusades themselves. Thus we find that in the Fourth Crusade, European Crusaders under Rome attacked the Greeks in Constantinople, and we read, "The holy relics especially excited the covetousness of the Latin clerics . . . and there were few cities in the West that received no sacred booty from the pillage" (TCE). Many Orthodox were slaughtered then, and since then down through the centuries many others on both sides have died in countless battles of bitter hatred between these two divisions in Christendom (which remains today and can be seen in the conflicts in Bosnia), as well as battles with the Moslems (also in Bosnia, the Middle East, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Southern Russia).

Then, there were the courts of Inquisition which were given unlimited powers to eradicate all "heretics" — true Christians, including some godly Roman Catholics because of their wealth or position, Jews, and Moslems — anyone who would not support the superstitions and idolatries of "the Catholic faith." And history reported, "a defence in the Inquisition is of little use to the prisoner, for a suspicion only is deemed sufficient cause of condemnation, and the greater his wealth the greater his danger." And, those "who read the Bible in the common language, the Talmud of the Jews, or the Alcoran [Koran] of the Mahometans [Moslems]" were accused

(Fox's Book of Martyrs, FBM).

By the deliberate design of fear, the most horrible diabolical tortures, and executions of burning people alive at the stake (accomplished at grand public ceremonies called by the persecuting Church an "auto da fé," an "act of faith"), the Inquisitions wrote one of the most shameful and sordid chapters in the history of Christendom from A.D.1229-1834. They were instituted by a fiendish Pope, and then maintained and praised by many succeeding Popes of like diabolical disposition. They were initiated for the religious, political, and economic power of Rome, but were the dread fear of kings everywhere. They were an excuse for plunder and rape, by both priests and people, and lasted officially for over 600 years. They were truly the darkness of the Dark Ages! And the consequential judgment by God upon the nations that participated is still evident today!

One's education is not complete without reading the horrid account of the most inhumane cruelties and barbarous slaughter of hundreds of thousands of humble, innocent, and faithful Christians, who rather than confess to the superstitions and idolatry of Papal religion, were willing to be burned alive in the martyr's flame, and "prove the power of faith over the flesh" (FBM).

These are they "**of whom the world was not worthy**" (Heb. 11: 35-38). They knew well the fallibility of the "infallible Church," and chose to submit to the eternal rather than the "infernial." The scriptural knowledge that they had come to know and understand can be aptly testified to in the words of an illiterate woman, who had been accused by her Roman Catholic husband and children, as she was teased with questions by Catholic priests and friars before her burning. "'Nay,' said she, 'you have more need to weep than to laugh, and to be sorry that ever you were born, [than] to be the chaplains of that whore of Babylon. I defy him and all his falsehood'" (FBM, Forbush edition, pg. 277). Since she could neither read nor write, but had an unusual memory of the scriptures, to read four pages of her shining testimony reveals the wisdom of the preaching of her day. She spoke out boldly for the truth for many days, whereas many were led to go very quietly to the stake, simply trusting in the One who would strengthen them in the trial, and would greet them "on the other side." As multitudes stood calmly without crying out, or bewailing their fate, or even flinching in the fire, but welcoming their deaths as the entrance to that better world which awaited them, the sacrifices of the martyrs of Jesus give abundant proof of the reality of the true gospel, and the truth

of who was and is right concerning the issues for which they gave their all. Following their Master, they were led as He, as “lamb to the slaughter” by the institution which had the scriptures but would not obey nor believe them, except selectively; and we would do well in light of what is going on now and especially of what is to come (Rev. 20:4), to remember His words to the church in Smyrna, **“Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life”** (Rev. 2:10 NAS)!

Today, many tens of thousands are still being martyred for their Christian faith, but they have overcome Satan **“because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did [and do] not love their life even to death”** (Rev. 12:11 NAS).

With the Crusades, the Inquisitions, the idolatry, the corruption of selling indulgences (sins were forgiven by payments instead of by grace and repentance), the bitter fighting between divisions within Christendom, and all the persecutions against God’s true believers by Babylonish institutionalized Christianity, is it any wonder then that it was necessary for God to send a major reformation?

Although the Reformation which started in A.D. 1517 by Catholic priest, Martin Luther, as he protested mainly the selling of indulgences in order to build the Babylonian St. Peter’s Cathedral in Rome, brought home fundamental truths to millions (“salvation by faith” and “the priesthood of all believers”), the idolatrous structures of Babylon were never completely abandoned, and consequently most religious activity within Christianity today involves idolatry of many kinds. The daughters of Babylon are still worshipping, meaning holding to and serving, not only icons and images, but also the denominations’ hierarchical structures and doctrines and names and buildings and traditions. Independent groups do much the same, idolizing themselves, their leaders, preachers, pastors, congregations, callings, and ministries. An idol is anything that we hold as more important than God, or which we serve before looking to God and serving Him in His way — and idolatry in this regard is rampant. God’s people listen more to the preaching and words of men than they do to the true words of God because they are not true disciples of the Lord, searching to understand and obey the true Word of God. They

yield to the spirit of the world, rather than praying, fasting, giving, and living in the living Word of God, as interpreted by the Spirit of God.

The spirit of ancient Babylon, whereby people worshipped their leaders, and which spread from there to Egypt, to Greece, and then into Pagan Rome in Emperor-worship, and then into Papal Rome in worshipping the Pope, in bowing down and kissing his toe, and doing homage to Cardinals and other high officials, is also rampant throughout Christendom, in exalting leaders beyond scriptural positions and serving leaders over and beyond one's allegiance to God Himself. Homage originally meant the reverence that a vassal showed "in owing faith and service" to his feudal lord. And this is just what many leaders expect today of those who have submitted to their authority and false church structures. When God's Word is denied in order to honor man, and make a man the head of the church, whether the world-wide Roman Catholic Church or a local church congregation, this spirit is being manifested; it is a spirit of Babylon.

We might add here, for additional clarity and insight concerning buildings, that a basilica was originally the name for a public building used in the Roman Empire for civil courts and meetings, and later, as would be expected, was used in giving honor in the naming of Roman Catholic church buildings. "There are two kinds of Roman Catholic basilicas, major and minor. Major basilicas have a special altar that can only be used by the pope or those he delegates," such as St. Peter's and St. John Lateran in Rome. "A Cathedral is the main church of a bishop's province. His throne stands in this church. The word *cathedral* comes from the Greek word *kathedra*, meaning *seat* or *bench* [*throne*, Am. Coll. Dict.] (WBE)." "The cathedral in Mexico City is the oldest church in North America. St. Patrick's Cathedral and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City are built in the Gothic style. The latter was designed as the largest Gothic cathedral in the world" (WBE). St. Patrick's is Roman Catholic; Saint Paul's Cathedral in London belongs to her daughter, the Church of England; and St. John the Divine, as well as The Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in Washington, D.C., also known as The National Cathedral, are part of the Episcopal Church, a granddaughter of the Roman Catholic Church. It is significant to note, in reference to Revelation 18:11-15, that Saint Mark's Cathedral in Venice, Italy, built in the shape of a cross like most cathedrals, has among other things four bronze horses in front, brought from Constantinople, because "By law,

every merchant who traveled to the Orient had to bring back some object for the church. This built an art collection” (WBE).

Before concluding this section on Babylon, I would like us to consider how the cultural and religious structure of ancient Babylon was the same as what was developed later in ancient Rome, and from there is the same as what has been developed in the various countries that have been colonized by Roman Catholicism, such as in Latin America and elsewhere. The difference in North and South America is the presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. One in a freedom of expression brought here by those of the Protestant Reformation, and the other by Roman Catholicism. The natural resources, water, minerals, climates, and so forth, of both the North and South American continents are very similar, but the resulting type societies are very different.

Let me quote another item from a historian before any further comment.

“The real impact of Roman religion upon Christianity was seen long after the persecutions had ended, when the political ideas and ideals of responsible world government, of the universal maintenance of law and order, and of a hierarchical organization of society came to expression and fulfillment in Latin Catholicism.” [After the third century the language of the Western church was changed from the biblical Hebrew and Greek to the Roman Latin.] “Its conception of sainthood was tinged with the ancient ideal of sobriety, seriousness, even solemnity (*gravitas*), which had been characteristic of the earliest type of religious feeling in Italy. Its conception of worship and devotion was formed on the ancient Roman appreciation of piety (*pietas*), with its strong attachment to family and especially filial duties; its great virtues of humility (*humilitas*), as contrasted with pride or arrogance (*superbia*); and of loyalty (*fiducia*), which came to include the church’s theology as well as its ethics, so that men spoke of the duty of belief and of unquestioning acceptance of theological definitions and of ecclesiastical authority — all these basic characteristics of Latin Catholicism, which placed a stamp on the whole of Western Christianity for many centuries (including that of modern times), were a legacy from the best elements [the quoted author’s opinion] in the ancient Roman character, now combined [I would say mixed], sweetened, and inspired by the ethics of the gospel, but also modified by new circumstances and conditions” (IDB).

Might I suggest to the reader, that after reading this chapter

on Babylon, that you go back and read the history again that I have given of ancient Babylon, to understand how the predominate national religion determines not only the type of faith of a nation, but its economic system, and consequently the degree of prosperity or economic bondage that prevails. This is true whether that religion is atheism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Shintoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Roman Catholicism, Protestantism, or pure Christianity, and this can be readily seen as we look at various countries of the world.

In North America, the freedom of religious worship was used by God to found the greatest Christian nation the world has ever known, but of course, unfortunately, some of the Babylonish traditions were retained, and now the ever increasing yielding to the same spirits of Babylon (pride, unbelief, rebellion, selfish ambition, and fears) are now reducing us and bringing upon us judgments similar to those the Lord brought upon Israel and Judah in the past. May God give us the grace to repent and return to Him before it is too late! I believe He will, but not without very severe chastening and judgment!

In concluding this section on Babylon, let us understand that Babylon is a religious system composed of a mixture of demonic spirits and their doctrines; and it is not just the system of ancient Babylon, nor in this New Testament era of the mother church, the system of Roman Catholicism, but it includes all of the denominations and groups that have come out of that system and held on to its basic spirits, practices, and teachings. It is gathering as Christians and not gathering under the headship of Jesus Christ. It is any gathering where men have a pre-planned agenda, a church tradition of order that is not one in which God's people gather to wait upon Him, to allow the Holy Spirit to inspire and anoint whosoever He chooses, to function in any way that He chooses, to manifest the life of Christ through. All of the callings, ministries, gifts, talents, and anointings (all called charismata) of the Holy Spirit are to be allowed, and be under His direction. No pre-planned agenda except that which has been given by Him! And we can soon tell where an agenda is from, by how men function and by the fruit of what is accomplished. One has only to read the accounts of revival to realize the freedom, grace, and power of God's way, and that the scriptures are clear on these points. A concluding statement could well be the scripture itself where Paul wrote, **"What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a**

**tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification”** (I Cor. 14:26 NAS). And then a study of the context of those twelfth through fourteenth chapters of First Corinthians for more understanding of the gifts, ministries, and order when under the order of God!

## **Babylon: Now!**

Now that we have seen what Babylon is, what is it now, how does it affect us?

We have seen that Babylon is an organization of people, not under the headship of Jesus Christ according to the scriptures, but an organization of the unregenerate, or one containing a mixture of the unregenerate and regenerate, or simply one of carnal regenerate Christians, under the headship of man according to the ways of ancient Babylon. We have seen how the doctrines of Babylon, and particularly the organization of Christian people, is most developed in Roman Catholicism; but it is also in the Coptic and Orthodox Churches, and has been continued in the Protestant Churches and independent “Churches” throughout the world. Even in a single, independent congregation, when the leader is not under the headship of Christ, a hierarchy soon develops. The word “hierarch” comes from two words: the first is the Greek word *ιερος*, *hieros*, meaning “sacred,” and then the word *αρχος*, *archos*, meaning “ruler, chief, prince, or leader.” Hence, it is a hierarchical system where instead of the Lord Jesus Christ being in the midst as the supreme, sacred ruler, the ever present *αρχιποιμενος*, *archipoimenos*, “chief shepherd” (I Pet. 5:4), a man usurps that position. Then he as the only “pastor” usually starts ordaining men under himself as “elders” or leaders of the congregation. As the congregation grows, or as other congregations are started in order to enlarge the ministry but are maintained under the authority of the original “pastor,” the hierarchy (a system of persons in a graded order of successive ranks) develops more and more, often using biblical or semi-biblical terms as titles of position, but distorting the scriptural ministries that they represent. No matter how much of “a prince” the man at the top might be, he is no substitute for the Prince of Peace!

The Pope is a political position as well as religious, just as the original Babylon, coming not from divine revelation and origin,

but by political vote of the leaders of the church. He rules over an independent civil state, and demands recognition by the heads of state whenever he travels abroad. And so, the leaders of the daughters of Babylon are also political in nature, as are many of the independent congregations of Christendom today. Therefore is it any wonder that the carnality of politics, given to us as a work of the flesh (Gal. 5:20), has resulted in so much of the bondage that exists in the church today? *Επιθεια, eritheia*, translated in Galatians 5:20 as “strife” in the KJV, and “disputes” here but most often “selfish ambition” elsewhere in the NAS, means literally “a desire to put one’s self forward,” an “electioneering or intriguing for office,” a “self-seeking pursuit of political office by unfair means,” “a partisan and factious spirit which does not disdain low arts.” It is derived from *επιθοσ, erithos*, “working for hire, a hireling” (Thayer’s and Bauer, Arndt, & Gingrich Greek-English Lexicons of the New Testament).

Jesus, while teaching in the temple, spoke His strongest words of condemnation upon the leaders of the Jewish synagogue system that had originated in Babylon; and I must add, they are so appropriate today to the leaders of the “Christian Synagogue System” that has followed in this pattern from them, and Babylon the great within Christendom (Mt. 23:1 - 24:1).

The leaders were seating themselves, not being seated by the Spirit of God, but by their own systems of “seminary” education and ordination. They were so desirous of the admiration of others as they paraded about in their exaggerated religious clothing, loving the places of honor at banquets, and the special seats that they had created in their houses of worship for themselves. They demanded undue respect by creating titles for themselves which Jesus so plainly told us not to do — Rabbi (which is Hebrew, or Doctor which is Latin and means Teacher); or Father; or Leader! And so, is this not to be expected in a Babylonish Christian Synagogue System, I must ask? Pope, Cardinal, Bishop, Monseigneur, Father, Your Holiness, Reverend, Right Reverend, Most Right Reverend, Reverend Doctor, Pastor — they demanded even that men worship them by bowing down and doing homage before their “august persons.” Even using a God given ministry of deacon or shepherd as a title is of Babylon. That is why it is translated from the Latin word “pastor,” meaning shepherd, instead of from the Greek scriptures. Never in the Word of God do we find an apostle, prophet, evangelist, shepherd, teacher, elder, or deacon using their ministry before their name as a title, never! We

see them addressed simply as Paul, Peter, James, and John for example. How about you?

But these blind fools of the old synagogue system were traveling on, all over the world to make followers of and for themselves, all the while praying their way to hell. They could not properly interpret many scriptures because of a system that produced hypocrisy, as it was more interested in the cleanliness of one's outer appearance than the sincerity and purity of one's heart. They were blind guides, preventing men from entering the kingdom of God, and preferring that people serve in the kingdom developed for themselves. Jesus said that they were such snakes that they would go anywhere to persecute, punish in their church services, and even murder the true saints that God would have trained by His system and His anointed ordination. Oh, how this is so applicable of our Christian Synagogue System of the past, as well as of today!

Now, as we take seriously the words of the Lord Jesus in Matthew twenty-three to humble ourselves as servants, let us continue to see how this carnal organization and headship of man is affecting us today.

In the mother and major daughters of Babylon, it will be more obvious and more tragic. The Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches have so departed from the faith in many places, that even the simple preaching of Christ as Lord and Savior, without anything about baptism or church structure or affiliation, is rejected and actively opposed. Many of their leaders do not know Christ at all, and are so committed to their idolatry that they publicly take a stand against the preaching of Christ as sufficient to save the human soul. Billy Graham, who is the most noted preacher in the world today, who preaches Christ and Him crucified with no signs or wonders, no miraculous manifestations of the Holy Spirit, only the person of Christ, and preaches no church affiliation or structure, nothing about water or Spirit baptism, is often rejected; Catholic and Orthodox leaders oppose the efforts of the simple Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ, and tell their people to reject his crusades. This has been done by the Roman Catholic Church in many places throughout the world. In Russia the Russian Orthodox Church actively opposed the Graham crusade in Moscow in attempting to keep the people from attending. They actually paid TV stations to not telecast the crusade. There, also, the infiltration of atheists into the hierarchy of the clergy and their sinister collaboration with the KGB is well known. And now, the Russian

Army has made an alliance with Russian Orthodoxy to literally wage “war against Protestants,” and there are photographs and documented reports of “kidnappings, tortures, murders, lynchings” and other “atrocities” (National & International Religion Report, April 18, 1994, pg. 1). In South America the Roman Catholic clergy is notorious for its propagation of Liberation Theology and its deceitful transforming of Jesus into a Marxist revolutionary. Consequently, the tribulation of persecution and martyrdom for one’s faith is not infrequent. What wickedness!

In the main-line Protestant churches, moral and theological corruption is rampant. Adultery, fornication, and homosexuality are not only condoned but encouraged by bishops and leaders of these long established man-made organizations. It is no wonder then that their theology is so dead, their churches dying, and some time ago the “God is Dead” crowd was so acceptable. As Jude wrote, they are **“hidden reefs [rocks] in your [our] Love Feasts when they feast with you [us] without fear, caring for [Greek: shepherding] themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; [waning] autumn trees without fruit, doubly [twice] dead, uprooted [plucked up by the roots]; wild [raging] waves of the sea, casting up their own shame [foaming out their own shame]; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever [to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever]”** (Jude 1:12-13 NAS, KJV, lit.).

It is indeed amazing that just as the lustful and licentious Semiramis was worshipped as the “Mother of God,” and Babylonish worship became the seat of idolatry and consecrated prostitution, this same wickedness exists openly in Hinduism today, a daughter of ancient Babylon; the temple prostitutes become mothers of more harlots as the young girls born to them are consecrated as temple prostitutes also. Although there were times in the past when moral corruption was open within the leadership of the Roman church, most of the immorality for years within the mother and daughters of Babylon was hidden, but today it is continually being uncovered and exposed by the press throughout the world, and is often even being openly proclaimed and advocated.

Now, with the perversion of God’s divine order (God, Christ, man, and then woman), women are being ordained within a number of the harlots of Babylon (denominational daughters and granddaughters) within Protestantism who are open, flagrant lesbians who advocate this wicked perverse sin and the worship

of the ancient Babylonian goddesses. Recently, in conjunction with the World Council of Churches, four major Protestant denominations, the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., United Methodist Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the American Baptist Church, financed a theological conference for women with over 2000 participants in which they recited a liturgy to "our maker Sophia," a Babylonian female deity, and perverted the Lord's Supper by substituting milk and honey in an offering to her. "Working from a basis in feminist theology, conference participants looked to pantheistic religions and the heretical gnostic gospels to 'reimagine' a new god and a new road to salvation." "Many of the 34 major speakers charged that the church and its belief in the incarnation and atonement of Jesus Christ was a patriarchal construct and had caused oppression of women, violence in the streets, child abuse, racism, classism, sexism, and pollution." One feminist theologian said in referring to the Atonement of our Lord Jesus, "I don't think we need folks hanging on crosses and blood dripping and weird stuff" (Christianity Today). Another "urged Christians to adopt a 'new Trinity' composed of Buddhist, Hindu and Filipino goddesses" (Charisma, May 1994). A Presbyterian executive presbyter who attended the conference with his wife who is also a pastor and helped plan it, spoke of it in laudatory terms, and criticized congregations for withholding funds to the denomination in protest (Columbus Dispatch, April 30, 1994).

Such heresy, blasphemy, and apostasy would be unbelievable if it was not for the prophetic word which has warned us that this would happen, and for the wisdom of God to understand what happens to those who rebel against God and His Word! (II Thes. 1:7-10, 2:3, 10-12; I Tim. 4:1-6; II Tim. 3:1-13; II Pet. 2:1 - 3:18; Jude 1:3-19)

But what of those groups that profess to believe God's Word, and even to be filled with His Spirit? They too are rejecting the Word of the Lord as they yield to the spirits of this world. They reject the headship of Christ also, not in theory or confession, but in deed! They are hearers of the Word, but not doers! In most congregations today, man is the head and not Christ. Christ is not looked to for His leading and anointing on whomever He chooses of His body, but He is looked to in order to anoint man's pre-planned agenda and man's selection of order, leadership, and doctrine. No wonder that there is so very little anointing manifested, and so very little real spiritual work accomplished.

Christ, and Christ alone, must be the head! We must submit to His headship in everything — our order, our programs, our doctrine, our lives, and everything about us — both personally and corporately. We must repent of our rebelliously taking it upon ourselves to run our own lives, and especially His kingdom! Repent!!!

It has not been just the Roman Catholics, Orthodox, and main-line Protestants that have rejected the Word of the Lord in so many ways, and persecuted the true saints of the Lord, but many groups — independent Baptists, Fighting Fundamentalists, Holiness, Pentecostals, and now Charismatics — are all doing the same thing, all in the name of the Lord! What an abomination! Whenever men reject the headship of Jesus Christ over their lives, their ministries, or God's church in any way, they deceive themselves and work against the Lord. The tragedy for many who are serving the Lord in various ways, is that they are doing so in such a mixture of the true and false that they regard the true anointing on aspects of their ministries to be a sign that all is well, and it is not! Everyone and everything must come under His divine control, and that means according to His divine Word, and not ours, or the dead traditions of men. Amen? Amen!

It grieves me deeply to see the traditions of men and the spirits of this world dictating to God's people what is the truth and how they should function as Christians. And this is so true in so many ways, both in the congregation and out. Only dedicated disciples, those who are fasting, praying, and seeking God with all their hearts, asking for deliverance from all the work and spirits of the Evil One, can tell the difference, and that only as they mature in the faith themselves sufficiently to be even able to understand the truth as it really is in Christ Jesus! We must come together in prayer and fasting, seeking His will for our lives and the church — His church — seeking His truth for doctrines, what we are to believe, do, and propagate! We must unite under His headship or we will never see or be able to understand His will. I believe God is calling a people out of Babylon who will be what He has desired from the beginning, and we will go on to perfection and tear down the strongholds of the enemy, build up the old waste places, be repairers of the breach and paths to dwell in; and thus, praise God, be used before the coming of the Lord of Glory when He returns to take total control, and put down all rebellion and opposition to His being head over all!

The preparations of the Lord for His soon coming are exciting

now as He pours out His Spirit all over the earth. Revival is being experienced all over the world in tremendous ways, and Babylon is not being left out. It thrills me to see Roman Catholics, Orthodox, and others of traditionally dead Churches, and those not so dead, being filled with the Spirit of God as God pours out His Spirit on all flesh; and they are moving in the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit. What is amazing, but is only what should be expected in a fresh outpouring, is to see Roman Catholics and others from dead traditions so excited, and moving in more freedom of the Spirit than even many traditional Pentecostals and Charismatics. But this too has been predicted because this pattern has been repeated. Those who have most recently experienced revival are the ones who oppose the next revival the most vigorously; they have cooled down in their love for the Lord and their missionary zeal of all kinds, and are stubbornly holding on to the Babylonish ways that they have inherited or fallen into, and have resisted the promptings of the Holy Spirit to move on into maturity. Oh, how we still need revival in all our ways, until we become exactly what God wants us to be! Let us continue in prayer for it until it comes!

Another interesting and observable consequence of the spirits of Babylon controlling many of God's people is when a man dies who has had an established ministry, but it was not built on the foundation of apostles and prophets with a plurality of godly shepherds who teach "**the apostles' doctrine**"; the wife then carries on the ministry as the leader. This is exactly what happened when Nimrod died, and Semiramis took over; it is the spirit of Babylon. The scriptures are very clear when not wrested that a woman is not to have authority over a man. Paul writes to Timothy, a young apostle, who is responsible for establishing the church of Jesus Christ in divine order, "**I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man**" (I Tim. 2:12 NAS). He then goes on to explain that the reasons are because of the purpose of divine creation, and the proneness to spiritual deception that the woman is given to (I Tim. 2:13-15). He gives many other reasons to the Corinthians (I Cor. 14:34-40; 11:2-16); and the deception of the woman can be clearly seen today, as well as the willful disobedience of the man in hearkening to the words of his wife rather than the words of God (Gen. 3:1-19). For a thorough exposition of this apostolic doctrine, I would refer you to my first book, *The Public Ministry of Women*.

Another significant characteristic of Babylon that we touched on earlier which we need to amplify on slightly because it is so

very common now is the practice of putting organizational unity above doctrinal purity, so that the organization (Church or ministry) is maintained at the expense of its doctrine being corrupted. Also, often true doctrine is withheld for the sake of maintaining the organization. Unfortunately, false teachings then circulate freely, and truth may be even opposed vigorously. In addition to putting organizational unity above doctrinal purity, Babylon puts what they call “doctrinal purity” or what they see as the “truth” above moral purity, so that holy living is sacrificed for the sake of maintaining doctrinal positions or what they have chosen to believe. These practices of Babylon result in the grieving, quenching, and denying of the Holy Spirit, so that without the proper ministry of the Holy Spirit and God’s appointed ministries, doctrinal positions become false teachings and the dead traditions of the organization. When even true interpretations of scripture, mixed with the traditions of men, become more important than a holy and godly life, the wisdom of God is rejected and replaced with the wisdom of this world which then determines their doctrine, and the demonic energizing of the “**old man**” results in persecution toward those who desire to live the life of Christ obediently and holy according to the true Word of God. When anyone is interested in building the kingdom of God only and not a Babylonish one, they will receive the grace of God to live holy, and will be instructed by the Lord as to what are true teachings, and will not sacrifice moral or doctrinal purity because they also believe “**the gates of hell shall not prevail against**” the church they are building, and God will supply their every need (Mt. 6:33; Tit. 2:11-14; Jn. 7:17; Pro. 23:23; Mt. 16:18 KJV; Phil. 4:19).

In concluding where we are now, a note should be made about this spirit of Babylon that puts more importance on building physical buildings called “The House of the Lord,” than building the true “**spiritual house**” of the Lord, the body of Christ (I Pet. 2:5; I Cor. 3:9; Eph. 2:21; Heb. 3:6).

Our word “church” as used in the New Testament is never used for a church building, never! It always and everywhere refers to people, mostly the people of God, but can be any group, such as a civil assembly of citizens for example (Acts 19:32, 39, 41). It is the Greek word *ἐκκλησία*, *ekklesia*, meaning literally “called-out-ones” and can be interchangeable with the word *συναγωγή*, *sunagoge*, synagogue, a Greek word meaning “a gathering together.” It was not until many centuries after Christ that the word “church” began to be used for a building; and it was taken from the Greek word

*κυριακος*, *kuriakos*, meaning “that which belongs to the Lord (*Κυριοσ*)”; but *kuriakos* was used only two times in the scriptures, in referring to either the Lord’s supper or the Lord’s day (I Cor. 11:20; Rev. 1:10), not a building!

Merrill Unger has given us an interesting note about this spirit of Babylon in conclusion about the Babylonian kings and their zeal for building religious temples (churches). “Following the example of earlier Babylonian kings Nebuchadnezzar [while in his unbelief I might add] has left to us almost exclusively records of his building operations and proofs of his zeal in the worship of the gods and of care in conserving their sanctuaries.” And concerning Nabopolassar, his father, he writes, “Nabopolassar followed the ancient Babylonian custom of building temples and attending to the internal affairs of his splendid kingdom. His records have little to say of anything else” (UBD, pp. 781, 782)!

Concerning having this zeal for building buildings of brick and mortar, instead of, or more than, the zeal to build only according to God’s Word and under the Lord’s specific direction to facilitate building the true building of God, the church — it is idolatry and intimately connected with “**covetousness, which is idolatry**” (Col. 3:5 KJV). And we are to be dead to this sin, this “**greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is on account of these things that the wrath of God will come**” (Col. 3:5-6 NAS). The deceptive twisting of scriptures which men do to justify their idolatrous practices and to try and satisfy or appease their spirits of Babylon is rampant, abominable, pathetic, and a waste and diversion of our time and God’s money, and a stench in the flaring nostrils of God!

In summation, let us characterize “Babylon Now” as disorder, confusion, mixture, which is the original definition of Babylon, isn’t it? Since God’s order is again: God, Christ, man, and then the woman, followed obviously by the children, we see disorder in this authoritative structure. Women and children are running the show in so many ways — in the home, in society, and tragically often even in the church (Isa. 3:12). The rebellion of man against Christ and His teachings is evident as men submit to the spirits of this world, and thus to their wives and their deceptions as Adam did to Eve. The disorder in the home leads to disorder in the church, and the disorder of ordaining women to authoritative positions is one of the biggest contentions within Christendom today. Another disorder of the sexes, not just in family and church order, is Satan’s deception to disorder the sexuality of mankind itself! Homosexuality and Lesbianism are other chief points of contention

in the church today. But these disorders are to be expected, for as spiritual harlotry increases (participation in Babylonish spirits and doctrines), physical harlotry increases. Men have yielded to the spirits of this world and surrendered their spiritual authority, many becoming spiritually if not physically effeminate, and reversed in their role with women; their succumbing to sexual sins and perversion is a logical result. The perverse ordination of women into leadership and the loss of spiritual discernment will eventually lead to perverse outcomes also if not stopped. We can see the lack of true femininity in women abundantly in mannish manners, attitudes, dress, ministerial methods, and spiritual lesbianism, even when not yet in consummated physical lesbianism.

Now, the most important remedy, if there is to be a return to God's order, is scriptural authority in the church itself, with Christ as the head, and the holy apostles and prophets ministering to the body so that the elders of the true church are united directly under the headship of the head of the church, the Lord Jesus Christ. And this involves an order. First, individually as we seek to order our lives under His headship in every possible way. That means becoming like Him; that means holiness! That means that the crisis of character in the church today must be met with prayer, fasting, repentance, and a return to the true "**apostles' doctrine.**" We must "**contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints**" (Jude 1:3 NAS). Next, we have had a return among true believers that men must become faithful shepherds. Then the teachers came forth, then the prophets, and now the apostles must come forth in all of the holy power of the Lord Himself. True apostolic power and authority must be restored if we are ever to get out of our Babylonish ways and into the true ways of the Lord, and all of us with the evangelists reap the end-time harvest. A great outpouring of the Spirit of the Living God must be manifested upon His true disciples who are praying, fasting, and seeking Him; waiting, watching, and working for His soon return! When this happens, men will start listening to His holy apostles for truth and not denominational headquarters, each other, or themselves. They will look to the Lord Himself, the anointing, and thus be taught of Him (Jn. 6:45; I Jn. 2:27). Then the Lord will perfect His bride, and she will be ready without spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing! (Eph. 5:27). Hallelujah!

Which brings us to the last phase of Babylon, its soon finish (Latin, *finis*)!

## **Babylon: In the future, and its soon finish!**

If we are to understand as well as experience the fall of Babylon the great, we must realize that we all must be meeting together to pray. We must believe when Jesus said that **“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations”** (Mk. 11:17 NAS) that this is primary, and that we must all be meeting under His headship to pray, not a carnal man’s headship, not under authority that rejects the authority and doctrine of God’s holy apostles, but under God’s authority of true apostles and elders, who are themselves submitted to one another and to the holy Lord Jesus Christ in all areas of their lives.

Then, we must pray for this great end-time revival, for a great outpouring of God’s Holy Spirit upon the church, if the church is to become what God wants her to be, and to reach into the world and reap the great end-time harvest!

As this is happening, the true Bride of Christ, the church, will be preparing herself for the Lord’s return, and coming into divine order in everything, with Christ as head, His holy apostles in authority under Him, leading the church into truth and victory. While this is occurring, Babylon will be maturing for her finale — destruction as prophesied in the book of The Revelation. Therefore there will be more mergers between man-made organizations until her final state when the Antichrist and the “ten kings” under him are used to judge Babylon and she is destroyed forever!

So, until this great event, expect more confusion, mixture, and disorder among the members of Babylon, but more organizational unity as this great harlot matures. Already we are seeing real advances, not only in unifying the daughters of Babylon within Christendom with themselves, and with the mother of Rome, but also in serious dialogue with all other major religions of the world which are themselves daughters of the original Babylonish mother given to us in Genesis. From private meetings to public symposiums, from the seminaries to the pulpits, people of all religious backgrounds are being taught and prepared for the unification of all religions. The leaders of this movement, coming from within Christendom have of necessity left the uniqueness of our Lord Jesus as being the one and only sinless Son of God, who died for our sins, was buried, and was raised again for our justification. He is merely given place as a great religious leader among others such as Buddha, Confucius, Mohammed, Moses, and

others. Thus in this “rapidly shrinking planet” of “one world globalism,” as they say, it is becoming increasingly easier for the religions of the world to be united under ethical teaching, moral religious traditions, mutual respect, and the headship of man, and not under the person of our Lord Jesus Christ, the head of the true church.

We can expect this unification to increase and escalate until its fruit is ripened for destruction in that hour when God brings final judgment upon Babylon in all her fleshly, regal splendor. **“The kings of the earth”** and the **“merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn”** as **“Babylon the great”** is judged by our **“Almighty God”** and **“the smoke of her burning . . . rises up forever and ever”** (Rev. 18:2, 9-11, 18; 19:3, 15; KJV, NAS).

As we end this section on Babylon, it would be helpful if we considered how the Lord has judged Babylon in the past and brought about its destruction, as well as destroying the people of Israel for worshipping in idolatrous Babylonian ways.

First, it was Nimrod who built both Nineveh and Babylon, which became for centuries the headquarters of two of the most powerful empires the world has ever known. Although “the Assyrian people were of one family blood with the people of Babylonia” and had “derived their religious ideas from Babylonia, and during all their history had constant contact with the mother country in this matter, as in others,” they became rivals (UBD, pp. 101, 102). This conflict and competition between people who worship in Babylonish ways always happens because of the spirits that control them.

In 722 B.C. Assyria invaded the northern kingdom of Israel and took the people away into exile (II Ki. 17:6, 22-23) because they had sinned grievously against the Lord in turning to Babylonish deities and committing abominable idolatries associated with this false religion (II Ki. 17:7-23; Isa. 46:1-3). It is interesting to note that Sennacherib, an Assyrian ruler, sacked Babylon in 689 B.C., but his son Esar-haddon, the next ruler, restored it. At the time of his death, one of his sons, Ashurbanipal reigned in Nineveh and the other son, Shamash-shum-ukin in Babylon. But they quarreled bitterly, and Ashurbanipal attacked and burned Babylon, and killed his brother.

In 612 B.C. the Babylonians, along with the Medes, attacked Nineveh, the capital city of the Assyrian Empire. It was located along the east side of the Tigris River with the Koser River, a tributary, running through it. Nineveh, noted for the beauty of its

splendid temples, palaces, and fortifications, but a cruel and wicked enemy of both Israel and Judah, which had been used by God to destroy the northern kingdom of Israel, was destroyed along with her peoples and idols by “releasing the city’s water supply and the inundation of the Koser River, dissolving the sun-dried brick of which much of the city was built” (UBD, pg. 796). This judgment of God had been prophesied by the Hebrew prophets, specifically by Nahum when he wrote, **“But with an overflowing flood He will make a complete end of its site,”** and **“The gates of the rivers are opened, and the palace is dissolved”** (Nah. 1:8; 2:6 NAS).

To apply this to spiritual Babylon, we see that many Babylonish organizations and doctrines have been destroyed by the flooding of the river of God over which they have been built, which is the Spirit of God being poured out (Jn. 7:38-39). As this happens the Spirit quickens God’s Word, and the true church is then cleansed from its Babylonish ways **“by the washing of water with the word”** (Eph. 5:26 NAS).

Next, we need to see how Babylon herself was destroyed, but first Judah. Remember, Babylon had defeated the capital of Assyria when they took Nineveh in 612 B.C. Then Pharaoh Neco king of Egypt passed through Judah in 609 B.C. on his way to the Euphrates River to battle against Nabopolassar, king of Babylon, at Carchemish. He killed Josiah, the godly king of Judah who came out to fight him on his way, because he said God was with him and wanted him to hurry to battle the Babylonians (II Chr. 35:20-24). With its defeat, Judah came under the control of Egypt, and although the people of Judah placed Josiah’s son Jehoahaz on the throne, he only lasted three months and Pharaoh Neco deposed him and had him taken captive and imprisoned in Egypt. Pharaoh Neco placed another son of Josiah on the throne, Eliakim (God establishes), and changed his name to Jehoiakim (Jehovah establishes). Thus the kingdom of Judah was no longer under its own authority, but became a vassal state paying tribute to Egypt, and would soon be under the authority of Babylon. This punishment was due to the sins of Manasseh, Josiah’s grandfather, who as king of Judah had seduced the people to worship Babylonian gods and to do evil to an even greater extent than the nations who had occupied the land at the time of the exodus, and whom the Lord had previously destroyed from the land (II Ki. 21:1-16; 23:24-26; 24:3-4).

Now, in 605 B.C., Egypt under Pharaoh Neco together with some remnants of the Assyrian forces is defeated by the Babylonians

under crown prince Nebuchadnezzar in the famous history changing battle at Carchemish on the upper Euphrates River as prophesied by Jeremiah (Jer. 46:2). The Egyptians are slaughtered as God avenges **“Himself on His foes”** (Jer. 46:10 NAS), Nabopolassar the ailing king dies, and Nebuchadnezzar, his son, quickly returns to Babylon to claim the throne and be crowned king.

Soon Nebuchadnezzar invades Judah, king Jehoiakim dies a most dishonorable death for his rebellion against him (Jer. 22:18-19), and many of the Jews are led captive to Babylon as prophesied (II Ki. 21:10-15; 24:3-4; Dan. 1:1-6). Nebuchadnezzar places Jehoiachin, Jehoiakim’s son, on the throne of Judah, but he does evil in the sight of the Lord in worshipping Babylonish gods as his father had done, and Nebuchadnezzar sends for him and has him taken to Babylon captive also (II Ki. 24:6-16). Nebuchadnezzar then placed Jehoiachin’s uncle, Zedekiah, another son of Josiah, as king of Judah, but he also did evil in the sight of the Lord by following Babylonish gods, defiled the house of the Lord in Jerusalem with them, mocked the messengers of God that came to him, scoffed at the prophets of God and despised the Words of God to him, and rebelled against the king of Babylon (II Chr. 36:10-16). Therefore Nebuchadnezzar sent his army against Jerusalem, and the people ended up eating the flesh of their own sons and daughters in the siege that lasted almost two years, as God had prophesied to them He would bring about because they had offered up their own children **“to burn their sons in the fire as burnt offerings to Baal”** (Jer. 19:5, 9). Nebuchadnezzar broke down the walls of Jerusalem, had the gold, silver, and bronze taken to Babylon, burned the house of the Lord and all the houses of Jerusalem with fire, slaughtered Zedekiah’s sons before his eyes and then put out Zedekiah’s eyes, bound him in fetters, and brought him to Babylon as well as all the people left in Jerusalem (II Ki. 25:1-21; II Chr. 36:17-21). Thus Judah was led away into exile in Babylon in 587 B.C. and the kingdom of Judah was no more.

Now, while the Jews were in the Seventy Years Captivity in the land of Babylon, the Medes and Persians attacked the city of Babylon in 539 B.C. They cut off the water by diverting the Euphrates River that ran through the city into the marsh lands and marched under the walls in the river bed and took the city. This attack and victory was accomplished in one night without a battle as prophesied by Daniel against Belshazzar the king when he interpreted the **“handwriting on the wall”** (Dan. 5).

Such is the case today. The Lord often destroys a Babylonish kingdom by cutting off the spiritual water, the Spirit of God, and then either the leader or the organization, or both, are taken captive by spirits of Satan (often confusion, lust, alcohol, or greed) and the work comes to naught, sometimes immediately.

And so, Babylon the great will be destroyed soon **“in one hour”** (Rev. 18:10, 17, 19)!

As a final note for God’s glory, it is significant that when the Jews were taken captive in Babylon, they lost the language of Hebrew, the original God given language that was part of what united the people of God. So now, when people come out of Babylon, they speak the different spiritual languages of the various Babylonish kingdoms from which they depart. While in Babylon, they do not understand one another’s spiritual speech and doctrines, but when they come out to build the true kingdom of God, they unite under the headship of our Lord Jesus Christ and learn the true doctrines of the church under His apostles. When natural Israel was restored to their land from the many different kingdoms of this world in our generation, they were restored to their original language of Hebrew as prophesied (Jer. 31: 23 KJV). What a glorious day it will be soon when the Lord pours out His Spirit in great power and glory to perfect and unite His church in love and peace, restores us to a devotion to the apostle’s teaching and understanding of the Word of God, to complete the purifying preparations of His Bride for His Coming! (Dan. 12:9-10; Hag. 2:9; Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:3, 11-13; 5:26-27; Col. 3:14-15; Rev. 19:7-9).

## **Babylon: God’s Word to Us Now!**

Now that we have seen what Babylon is — the mother, the daughters, and the spirits that have developed this system even into various types of independent congregations — what should we do?

The very first thing that we must do is to seek the Lord with all of our hearts! We must seek His face to get the direction that we should go, and the timing if we are to move; but we must also be willing to stay where we are if that is the Lord’s will. Many have disobeyed the Lord and have been sent into Babylonian Captivity, and it would be just as wrong and devastating to leave against the will of God as it was for the Jews who rebelled against the Lord

and were destroyed because they refused to submit to Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian Captivity of long ago. We must come to the point of being willing to obey God no matter what the cost, and to serve Him in His way no matter what people think, or say, or do!

Concerning Babylon as a land of spiritual captivity, it would be revealing if we stopped a moment to think about this, considering what we have learned thus far.

Babylon, a system which promotes primarily a controlled single public gathering, can be compared in many ways in various degrees to a prison. To see this, let us consider the definition of a prison and compare it to a meeting place of spiritual captivity.

Prison: A public place, properly arranged and equipped (where one's children are removed for safe keeping) for the reception of persons legally restrained (placed there by God for disobeying His Word), forcibly confined (often by man's spiritual coercion, compelled by pressure or threat), where one lacks freedom of action or expression or movement (where no one is allowed to function except by order of the warden pastor), where one's liberty is restrained (praise and worship), where one does not have the use of one's inheritance and possessions (gifts and ministries), a place of involuntary confinement for debtors (those who do not pay their tithes and offerings, or their debt to love one another) and law breakers (the unrighteous, those who refuse to obey the laws of God, the lawless) committed by process of law (God's judicial decree), a place where ones who have surrendered (given up the fight of faith) or been taken captive by their enemy (the spirits of Babylon) are kept as prisoners of war, where political prisoners are banished to lesser wards (those who are getting wise to the system enough to do something about it), where one is considered a prize (taken as a spoil by worldly reasonings and vain deceit), where often one wears a marked uniform or haircut that is indicative of one's particular prison (not just the dress of certain sects, but also those that follow man more than Christ), where on certain occasions an exchange of prisoners is accomplished, but, praise God, a place from which one can be paroled for good behavior (godly, righteous, sacrificial living), or even released entirely (for dedicated discipleship).

Another aspect of Babylon which we have seen so much of that we need to make a few concluding remarks about is the great fact of its being such a mixture, a mixture of truth and error. As a result, some people are tempted to believe that as long as there is

some good, it is alright, and they can still participate in the mixture. But what does God say? If we go to His word, we will find out. We have numerous examples of God's people worshipping the true God and also worshipping in Babylonian idolatry at the same time.

In fact, when Moses was up on Mt. Sinai for forty days and forty nights (receiving the Ten Commandments in stone, the instructions for the tabernacle, and the laws of the Old Covenant), and delayed in coming down, the people immediately wanted Aaron (whom Moses was being given instructions to anoint, fill with the Spirit, and sanctify) to make them Babylonish gods to go before them, which they had learned of from the Egyptians (Ex. 24:12 - 32:4). It was not the absence of leadership, but God anointed, filled, and holy leadership (Ex. 28:41 lit.). Without these spiritual works of God within, men will not be led by the Spirit of God, but by the people, the flesh, and some deceiving spirit. Aaron gave way under pressure from the people and made an altar and the golden calf to worship, and blindly said, "**Tomorrow, a feast to Yahway [Jehovah; The Lord]**" (Ex. 32:5 lit.). What a horrible mixture! They thought they were having a banquet, and singing and dancing in worshipful celebration to the true God whom they had come to know; but God said they were stiffnecked and had corrupted themselves, and He was so angry that He wanted to wipe them all out. Moses interceded and the nation was spared, but was so angry when he saw the calf and the dancing that he broke the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, threw the golden calf back into the fire, ground it to powder, and made the people consume it in their water (Ex. 32:11-20). Then Moses prophesied God's judgment, and 3000 brothers, friends, and relatives were put to death that day, and the next day the people were smitten with a plague (Ex. 32:25-35). Beloved, God hates a mixture!

The scripture is full of other examples where the people of God mixed their true faith with the worship of Babylonish idolatry (Amos 2:4 - 5:27; Acts 7:42-43; II Ki. 17:6-41; Zep. 1:4-6; Judg. 17, 18; Eze. 8, 9, 14, 16, 23; Jer. 7; I Sam. 7 are a few for your study). In fact, this mixture was the main sin of the Israelites and the reason for God's judgment throughout their history, why the northern kingdom of Israel was led into Assyria forever (II Ki. 17:23), and why the southern kingdom of Judah was led into Babylonian captivity and thus were purged from this terrible wickedness (II Chr. 28:1-5, 16-23; 33:1-11; 36:5-6; II Ki. 23:26-27; 24:8 - 25:21; Jer. 3:6-10; 7; 9:12-16; 11:1-17; 22:8-9; 25:1-11).

It is tragic that we have the same situation today as in those

days of old when God told them not to worship both Him and their idols; but as it is written, **“they did not listen, but they did according to their earlier custom. So while these nations feared the Lord, they also served their idols; their children likewise and their grandchildren, as their fathers did, so they do to this day”** (II Ki. 17:40-41 NAS).

But let us pray that all of God’s people will heed the admonition and turn away from every form of idolatry as when **“Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, ‘If you return to the Lord with all your heart, remove the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and direct your hearts to the Lord and serve Him alone; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines.’ So the sons of Israel removed the Baals and the Ashtaroth and served the Lord alone”** (I Sam. 7:3-4 NAS). And then we could expect supernatural victory over the enemies of God as they did from the Philistines who had been oppressing them for years for we read that **“the Lord thundered with a great thunder on that day against the Philistines and confused them, so that they were routed before Israel. . . . So the Philistines were subdued and they did not come anymore within the border of Israel. And the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel”** (I Sam. 7:10, 13 NAS). And thus the Lord will rout the enemies of Christ out of His church as well!

Remember, God hates a mixture; and do not believe that we can Christianize pagan customs and get by with it. When we do, we receive the wicked spirits that instituted these customs in the first place. Also, please take note that the scripture says, **“No lie is of the truth,”** and to think that one can sanctify a lie is gross deception! (I Jn. 2:21).

Now then, many who have learned by this time what Babylon is will have heard the Word of the Lord, maybe in different ways such as I did long ago on one occasion when being asked to join a congregation where I was instrumental in bringing revival; but the Lord said, **“Be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage”** (Gal. 5:1 KJV). The leader soon did not heed the prophetic words that the Lord was bringing to him personally in a morning prayer meeting; he said, **“I am ordained in this denomination!”** even though he had just been ordained by the Lord through the laying on of hands and prophecy into apostolic ministry; and he made it plain that his commitment was to the denomination, not to what God was revealing; and so he soon was

forced to leave that congregation, and spent many years after that elsewhere in Babylon, only to be forced out again at their normal retirement age into nothing, with nothing. What a shame! God is sovereign. He rules! And when we put an organization or people before the Lord, that is idolatry, and we will be judged, that is for sure!

Many upon learning of what Babylon is, will have heard the very plain Word of the Lord coming to them, **“Come out of her, my people”** and have obeyed, and have gotten out of whatever Babylonish structure in which they were involved (Rev. 18:4 NAS). Still others need more prodding, and must look more closely at God’s Word to us. He said, **“Come out of her, my people, that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues”** (Rev. 18:4). Here God is revealing to us that when we participate in a Babylonish kingdom of some type, we are participating in the sins of that structure, denomination, congregation, or whatever, even though we do not agree with those sins and are actively trying to stop them or to reform the system. We will receive God’s judgment upon us the same as those within who are responsible, because the whole system and everyone within is being judged. If we have the fear of the Lord, we will depart! For some, however, their idolatry will keep them in and they will perish with the system.

Let me give an example of this kind of idolatry. Many years ago a brother and I were ministering to a couple whose daughter was in an adulterous situation. I had been teaching for a number of weeks on the church, the structure and the sectarianism of the body of Christ; and one Friday night God spoke prophetically that their daughter was in adultery because they were in adultery. The husband we were ministering to had taught a very successful Sunday school class in the congregation of a major denomination of which he was a member. The pastor had become jealous of this brother’s success, and so the brother had to resign from teaching. However, even though this husband and wife were not attending the church services anymore because of this situation, they were still officially on the books as members. So two days later on Sunday afternoon they wrote a letter of resignation from the denomination. That very night their daughter returned home!

I wish the story had a better, more rewarding and fulfilling ending. But not willing to go on in what God was bringing them into, after a time, they went to another denomination and became involved, committing spiritual adultery again; so their daughter

went back into adultery with the man, his marriage broke up, and she married him in and into adultery! (Mt. 5:27-32; 19:9). When the sins of the fathers are visited upon the children, they very often demonstrate the sins of the parents (Ex. 20:5-6; Hos. 4:6-14)!

Now, for those who find themselves within a Babylonish structure, what should you do? You must seek the Lord with all of your heart. If the structure is a part of the mother or a daughter of Babylon, so to speak, a denomination that is committed to its own ways, you probably will be led to come out, but you might find the Lord using you for a season so as to bring others with you. You might be able to enlighten a leader who will then be able to lead a whole congregation or at least a significant part, or the faithful portion of it, out into freedom and to denounce any and all Babylonish customs as God reveals them. Here we can learn from the examples of old when it was God's time to lead His people out of Babylonian Captivity. First Zerubbabel, whose name means "begotten in Babylon," led many out to Israel and the temple was built; then Ezra, meaning "help," another prophet, led many out; and finally Nehemiah, meaning "Yahway has consoled," led many out, rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem, and took steps to have the city fully inhabited. Before Ezra left he proclaimed a fast for those leaving, and after the people fasted and sought the Lord, God moved marvelously in protecting them all during the journey. Although some of the people left Babylon for the Land of Promise, others stayed behind; some of them came out later. But some liked it so well in Babylon, that they stayed behind and died there; they never experienced the joy and rewards of building the true temple of God in His land. What a tragedy! I know of no other way to build the living temple of God than to fast and pray, to seek God with all of your heart, and to trust Him to give wisdom and direction in a consecrated holy walk of loving obedience. He always does. Praise His holy and faithful name!

Another type situation we should mention is when we find ourselves in a Babylonish type structure due to the fact that the leader is a Saul type person rather than a David. The sins of Babylon were and are the sins of the Saul type kingdoms, and when we find ourselves involved, and come to understand it, we must seek the Lord! The Lord can then either lead us out, or can change the leadership as He did in Israel of old. Many Sauls have been being removed by the Lord all over the world, and His Davids are being brought forth, men who have renounced all selfish ambitions, pride, rebellion, unbelief, and the fear of man!

So, what we must see here is that it is not enough to come out of Babylon, but we must be willing to follow the Lord and His leaders and enter His land; that is to say, His true church, structured by His true Word, under the freedom and authority of His true apostles, and be willing to be **“built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone”** (Eph. 2:20 NAS). Let me ask you a question. Are you committed to building the true church only, or a synagogue system in Babylon? If you say that there were synagogues in Israel, and that the Lord Jesus taught in them, I will say, Yes, He did, but he taught the people there that He was building the kingdom of God, and that **“No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it on an old garment; otherwise he will both tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match** [KJV: agree with; Greek: *συμφωνει*, *sumphonei*, from which we get our word symphony, be in harmony with] **the old. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins, and it will be spilled out, and the skins will be ruined. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins.** [Then both are preserved for their purposes.] **And no one, after drinking old wine wishes for new; for he says, ‘The old is good enough.’”** (Lk. 5:36-39 NAS; Mt. 9:16-17; Mk. 2:21-22). And the King James Version ends it thus: **“No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better”** (Lk. 5:39). And so we have people today saying the same things, “The old ways [the Babylonish ways of their traditions] are good enough.” They are content, as many of the Jews were content to stay in Babylon, but they lost their eternal rewards, joy, and the blessings of God which come from building the true Jerusalem of God in His way. Some people even go so far as to say, “The old way is better.” They too are not up to the exciting adventure of following Jesus outside the religious camp, bearing His reproach, because they do not have the faith necessary to pursue the rewards which are far greater than the riches of this life (Heb. 11:26).

But what of the early apostles? They came out of the synagogue system and built the body of Christ, the true temple of God!

Some would make mention of the temple in Jerusalem, but we would answer, there was only one temple ever allowed, and it was built under the Old Covenant, not the New. It was a special place for prayer, worship, and teaching in Jerusalem, and was a type of the true temple in heaven to which we are to come now, and thus it was destroyed in 70 A.D. as prophesied by the Lord

Jesus Himself. Now we are beckoned to come to the heavenly Jerusalem, for we are the true temple of God (Jn. 4:21-24; Gal. 4:21-31; Heb. 12:22; Rev. 3:12; 21:2, 10; I Cor.3:16-17; II Cor. 6:16; Eph. 2:21-22). Consider the example of the early church, they took advantage of the early temple, prayed and taught there, but soon their leaders were beaten, Stephen and James were killed, and the disciples scattered by a great persecution. All along they had been meeting from house to house daily, eating their bread with gladness and sincerity of heart, and when being scattered, continued as witnesses to the Lord, meeting anywhere and everywhere — but never building special buildings for religious worship (Acts 2:46; 5:42; 20:20; Rom. 16:4-5; I Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15; Phile. 1:2). They put all their energies and finances into building the true church, the true temple of God, the body of Christ!

They only went into Jewish synagogues to preach the Word of the Lord and make converts before they were either thrown out or had to leave and separate the disciples from those who opposed the truth so they could experience the new wineskin of the free body of Christ (Acts 13:14 - 14:6; 17:1-17; 18:4-28; 19:8-10). They never built a “Christian Synagogue!”

As we close this teaching on Babylon, let us look at several scriptures with which God closes His revelations about Babylon to us. I would encourage you to read The Revelation, chapter 16:17 through 19:6, some of which we have discussed before, but there are several items we did not cover which would be helpful now.

First, as the Roman Empire, dressed in her regal scarlet, was responsible for putting to death thousands of the witnesses of Jesus in the first few centuries of the Christian faith, so too when these spirits of ancient Babylon finally entered into the church and Roman Catholicism came into being, she added the purple of royalty to the scarlet of Rome, and also eventually became responsible for the killing of thousands of the witnesses of Jesus. The one who gives a witness, Greek *μαρτυριον*, *marturion*, “testimony,” is a “witness,” Greek *μαρτυρ*, *martus*, from which we get the English word “martyr”; and the fact that so many of the faithful witnesses of Jesus have given their lives for their testimony of Christ has resulted in the word martyr now being synonymous with one who has given their life for the faith.

Thus the scriptural vision is fulfilled that John saw and wrote to us about, “**And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast. . . . And the woman was clothed in purple and scarlet. . . . And I saw**

**the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. And when I saw her, I wondered greatly”** (Rev. 17:3, 4, 6 NAS).

And “wonder” we should, and would, if we knew the history of persecutions for the faith down through the centuries since the beginning of the Christian church.

The greatest book of testimony to these persecutions is the classic we have referred to previously, *Fox’s Book of Martyrs*, which records the accounts of thousands of martyrs for Jesus, not only through the period of the early church under the severe persecutions of Pagan Rome, but later under Papal Rome until the year that the book was originally completed in 1574, with later additions until the early 1800’s.

History records that when it was first published in England where the Church of England had just come to prominence under Queen Elizabeth after the terrible reign of Bloody Mary who had given “all power into the hands of the papists,” that “it was ordered by the bishops to be placed in every cathedral church in England, where it was often found chained, as the Bible was in those days, to a lectern for the access of the people” (Editor’s comments, *Fox’s Book of Martyrs*, FBM). And “When one recollects that until the appearance of the *Pilgrim’s Progress* the common people had almost no other reading matter except the Bible and *Fox’s Book of Martyrs*, we can understand the deep impression that this book produced; and how it served to mold the national character” (Douglas Campbell in FBM).

Thousands more could be added to the list of martyrs from the hands of Babylonish Christianity, and few people realize that more witnesses of Jesus have died in this century than ever before. Right now, saints are being killed because of their testimony and stand for the truth of God’s Word, and their refusal to participate in Babylonish ways, and many more will be (Rev. 6:9-11; 14:12-13; 20:4).

Another scripture that should be commented on is when Babylon falls, an angel cries out, “**Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! And she has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird**” (Rev. 18:2 NAS). As we have learned from history, that idolatrous Pagan Rome was an infestation of wicked, evil spirits — sexual debauchery, greed, and murder prevailed, as well as the original spirits of Babylon — so too did Papal Rome become the same. And now Babylon, in whatever stage we find her, is

becoming the same. Unclean and hateful spirits imprison people, they bind those who give themselves either to the idols of man, or the idolization of man. Paul makes it very plain that behind every idol is a demon (I Cor. 10:14-21).

Also, it would be good to remind ourselves that the idolatry of Babylonian whoredoms is spiritual fornication in relation to God, therefore it will result in the judgment of degrees of sexual impurity or fornication in its participants. It is to be observed that when idolatry of various kinds grows and proliferates, it becomes more and more self-centered, and its own physical fornication therefore often includes one of the most detestable forms, homosexuality.

We also learn from this passage that Babylon is a home for unclean and hated birds. It behooves us to consider several of these birds to better understand the nature of men who make the Babylonish church systems their home. These are primarily the birds appropriately dressed in black, in various degrees of unclean ugliness. First we have the small black birds and their larger cousins, the crow and the still larger raven. Black birds are noisy creatures, and also disliked because they chase the gentler birds away. But the crow is especially hated by farmers because it pulls up sprouting corn and eats it. This is like religious leaders who uproot from the faith those who just start to come into an intimate experience with Jesus. Crows also eat the young of other birds, and the religious systems produce many who, in the words of the prophet, eat and devour God's people (Mic. 3:1-3; Eze. 34). Also, the crow can be made to talk like a parrot, and this certainly reminds us of religious leaders and people who can speak the right words, but it is not from their heart. The much larger raven feeds a lot on seeds and fruit, as well as eating dead fish and other carrion. In the same manner, there are religious people who Satan uses to devour the good seed of the Word of God when sown in a heart, by contradicting, discouraging, and discounting the reality found in the scriptures. Also, one does not have to be serving long in the kingdom of God before one sees good fruit devoured by Christian leaders who are caught up in their Babylonish ways, and therefore invalidate the Word of God working in the lives of God's people as they insist on holding to their dead traditions (Mt. 15:1-20; Mk. 7:1-23). Since the fish was a sign used by the early Christians to identify themselves, and the raven loves dead fish, this reminds us of how the religious leaders of the dead professing Christians, or even true Christian leaders who are caught up in dead, lifeless, or just carnal religious services, devour the substance of those

involved in their systems. Other hated black birds such as the vulture and buzzard also thrive on dead animals and rotten flesh of any kind, and so too do the systems of Babylon thrive on the carnal, rotten fleshly nature of man to sustain themselves. Oh, how true that Babylon has become **“a prison of every unclean and hateful bird.”**

Another scripture that needs to be mentioned is when God considers the sins of Babylon to be ready for final judgment, we hear a voice from heaven say to us, **“Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back to her double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her. To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning”** (Rev. 18:4-7 NAS). This payback should begin by obeying God’s command to us, **“Come out of her, my people,”** and then actively exposing her and the works of darkness that she has committed (Rev. 18:4; Eph. 5:11).

More scriptures remind us of the extreme wealth and lavish worldly ways that the leaders of Babylon heap to themselves. We read about, **“the wealth of her sensuality”** and **“she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls”** (Rev. 18:3, 16 NAS). Compare the multiplied millions of dollars of wealth that the Pope and his leaders have as compared to Peter, the one they claim as the first Pope, who said, **“I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene — walk!”** (Acts 3:6 NAS). And Peter, although not having worldly riches, was rich in faith and raised the lame man up and he was healed (Acts 3:1-10). Babylon produces the exact opposite of what God produces!

Another amazing comparison of the exact similarity of Pagan Rome with Papal Rome is the statement that she was filled with not only all kinds of valuable merchandise and forms of wealth and goods, but also of **“slaves, and souls of men”** (Rev. 18:12-13 KJV). We all know of the slavery of the Roman Empire, and have possibly seen portrayed even on film the men put on Roman slave galleys, but few know of the true Christians, some of which were actually Roman Catholic Christians, but most non-Roman Catholic Christians, thus persecuted during the centuries of the Inquisitions, during the latter times of which Protestant Christians were taken captive by the Roman Catholic Church during the Protestant Reformation, and sent to the galleys as slaves to endure the most horrible treatments until they expired from the tortures and

deprivation of proper food and clothing, only for being faithful witnesses of Jesus (FBM). **“Of whom the world was not worthy!”** (Heb. 11:35-40).

Oh, that we would be such slaves of Jesus, and slaves of righteousness, even if it means becoming a slave of men, and not be slaves of a false religious system, slaves of sin, and actually slaves of Satan himself (NAS - Mt. 10:24-28; 20:27; 25:14-30; Lk. 17:10; Jn. 15:20; I Cor. 7:22; 9:19; Eph. 6:6; Jn. 8:34; Rom. 1:1; 6:16-23; 16:17-18; II Tim. 2:24-26; Acts 26:18).

When we consider the sufferings of the Catholic Inquisitions, and the other horrendous injustices perpetrated against innocent men, women, and children, is it any wonder that the heavenly voice cries out against Babylon, **“For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong”** (Rev. 18:8 NAS). And again, **“for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!** (Rev. 18:17 NAS, 19).

Many years ago, according to an FBI report, the radical left-wing forces of antichrist were declaring how they were going to literally burn down the Roman Catholic Church buildings and those associated with her, and destroy the system. This will be fulfilled as God has spoken in Revelation 17:15-18!

And what should be our response? To those who know the Lord, the scriptures and history, and His will, we will respond to the Word of the Lord, **“Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her”** (Rev. 18:20 NAS).

**“And a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, ‘Thus will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer . . . because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery [Greek: *φαρμακεια*, *pharmakeia*, “pharmacy,” medication, or sorcery which consists of deception by such means as drugs, potions, poisons, medicines, magic, and elaborate rituals]”** (Rev. 18:21, 23 NAS).

When we analyze Babylon for what it really is, its secular as well as religious developments, we can then understand the next statement, **“And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth”** (Rev. 18:24 NAS).

When we then understand this, we can then understand the fourfold Hallelujahs that immediately follow:

“After these things I heard, as it were, a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, ‘Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; because His judgments are true and righteous; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants on her.’

And a second time they said, ‘Hallelujah! Her smoke rises up forever and ever.’

And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, ‘Amen. Hallelujah!’

And a voice came from the throne, saying, ‘Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great.’

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude and as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying,

‘Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.’”

(Rev. 19:1-6 NAS)

This leads us to the next section to learn more clearly what the true church is, how it is structured and led under the headship of our Lord Jesus Christ, “**The Head of the church**”!

This is the end of The church, Chapter 2  
For Chapter 3, visit [www.JohnRothacker.org](http://www.JohnRothacker.org)

