

The Mighty Babylon Has Fallen!

Revelation 18:2

**An Exposition of
Revelation 13 & 17-20**

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INTRODUCTION

The Mighty Babylon! In the book of Revelation (in the New Testament part of the Bible) our God said a lot about something he called The Mighty Babylon (or The Babylon the Great in the older versions of the English Bible). Yet few people who read Revelation know what or whom God is talking about. This book is an exposition of The Mighty Babylon in our twentieth-first century.

WARNING: It is important to read the New Testament before reading this book. I request that no one read this book who has not read the book of Revelation and all of the New Testament.

This book includes chapters on:

- The Two Beasts — Revelation 13
- The Great Whore — Revelation 17
- The Destruction of the Great Whore — Revelation 17-19
- Ancient Babylon & Modern Babylon —
 - God's Mystery — Revelation 10:7
 - The Mystery of Iniquity — 2 Thessalonians 2:7
 - Christ's Thousand-Year Reign — Revelation 20

Some of the texts were translated directly from the Greek rather than copied from an English translation (I, the author of this book, am a Greek. I spoke the Greek language before I learned English).

The Two Beasts

Revelation 13

In the 13th Chapter of Revelation, we have eighteen verses. The first ten describe a 7-headed beast and the last eight a 2-horned beast. Who are these two beasts, and who or what do they represent? Like everything else in the book of Revelation, these beasts have symbolic or spiritual meanings.

The first beast symbolizes a united one-world government and the second beast symbolizes a united one-world religion. The first beast also symbolizes the leader of the one-world government, and the second beast also symbolizes the leader of the one-world religion. (It could also be said that the first beast symbolizes a confederation of all nations, and the second beast symbolizes a confederation of all religions of the world.)

With about 200 nations in our world today, is it possible that this prophecy be fulfilled anytime soon? We know from history that wars can start very quickly and a major war could end with such a confederation as part of a peace treaty. Most wars in the history of the world have been religious or ideological wars. A confederation of the religions of the world is conceivable as part of such a peace treaty.

The First Beast verses 1-10

In the first verse, we are told that the first beast has seven heads and ten horns with crowns. If the first beast is a one-world government, then these heads and horns represent alliances or confederations of nations, and their rulers. I expect to see all nations come together under 10 alliances, federations, or unions, under seven governments or seven capital cities. Later I expect to see these united into a one-world government which will be the first beast. Who these alliances will be is not yet known. Already ground work has been laid for a “United States of Europe.” Perhaps there will be a “United States of Africa,” a “United States of Latin America,” a “United States of Arabic Nations (the Arabs have been united before).” Will the Communist nations re-emerge and form a “United States of Communist Nations?”

“...on each head [was] a blasphemous name” (Revelation 13:1)

He calls these blasphemous names because these leaders will claim divine authority and use divine names—they will claim to be gods and ridicule the creator God and father of Jesus Christ. Is this far fetched? In ancient times many great rulers were considered gods, worshiped as gods, or claimed to be gods. Today many national leaders continually

receive praise and adulation; are they not receiving the praise that belongs to God alone?

“And the beast...was like a leopard, and his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion.” Throughout history the nations have been characterized by the nature of animals: China by a dragon, England by a lion, the United States by an eagle, Russia by a bear, etc. This simile confirms that this beast will be a composite of many nations.

“The dragon gave him [the leader] his power and his throne and great authority” (Revelation 13:2). We know from Revelation 12:9 that the dragon is the devil himself. Yes, the devil will give his power, authority, and throne to anyone who will yield and submit himself to him. When the devil offered the kingdoms of this world to Jesus (Matthew 4:8-11), the devil made Jesus a legitimate offer—it was in the devil’s power to make anyone he wanted a world leader.. The devil is also a disembodied spirit and he seeks a body in which to live. That he lives in people is apparent from the time Jesus called Peter “Satan” (Matthew 16:23) and from the passage in which we are told that Satan entered into Judas (Luke 22:3).

The Second Beast verses 11-18

Verse 11 tells us that this beast (who is the confederation of all of the religions with all their denominations in the world) comes out of the earth, which signifies that he comes from among humanity; he is not an angel or a demon. He is “like” a lamb. It is said of our Lord Jesus that he was God’s little lamb, but of this one it is said that he was “like” a lamb. This signifies that he is “pretending” to have meek, lamb-like qualities as false prophets always imitate the true prophets. God’s word says that he is a wild beast (Lamsa’s translation). Watch out for the smooth talkers with lamb-like characteristics!

“*He causes the whole world to worship the first beast*” (verse 12)—that is, to praise the new world government; to talk about how wonderful it is and what wonderful leaders it has. All will be required to pledge allegiance to this new world government and its leaders. Those who refuse will be threatened with death. They will not be allowed to be neutral or to keep their mouths shut. Thus all will go through a positive test of their faith, and thus God will separate the sheep from the goats. God’s true servants and the false ones will be exposed for the whole

world to see. (Requiring such a pledge of allegiance is not unusual. Most Communist nations and most dictators have made such demands on their subjects. Such dictators can't operate with "freedom.")

Verse 15 says that this beast will cause those who do not co-operate to be killed. Many will be killed, but some will receive the blessing of Daniel and his three companions. Their enemies could not kill them. All of God's servants will go through a real test of their faith. Perhaps only a few did in Daniel's day, but in this day, all who are true servants of God will have to go through a positive trial of their faith. No one has real faith before his faith is tried.

Notice that Daniel maintained a high government position to the very end of the ancient Babylon. Those of us who are so chosen, will survive to the end of the last-days' Babylon. We will see the end of the Mighty Babylon. It is God's will for some to die a martyr's death, and for some to triumph over Babylon as Daniel did—even a few in high government positions will survive just as Daniel was in a high government position and survived till the time of the new kingdom. Daniel even maintained his high governmental position in the new kingdom. We who triumph over death as Daniel did, will rule in the new kingdom, God's kingdom, that is coming.

That the second beast is a religious leader is evidenced by the fact that after the 13th chapter of Revelation, we do not see these two beasts referred to as "the two beasts" but rather as "*the beast and the false prophet*" (Revelation 19:20).

In the 16th verse, the writer speaks of a mark on the right hand or on the forehead. The right hand and the forehead may have a different symbolisms to different people. Here is the symbolism that God has given me (and confirmed it): These two, the right hand and the forehead, represent two classes of people: Those who earn their bread by:

1. Manual labor (using their right hand), and
2. Intellectual labor (using their minds, which is in their forehead).

The right hand class includes the farmers, fishermen, miners, construction workers, mechanics, lumber jacks, etc. the second class, in the forehead, includes the ruling classes, civil servants, entrepreneurs, writers, teachers, lawyers, etc. In our day all these classes are organizing more and more into unions, professional organizations, fraternities, etc.

The various trade unions are confederating into super unions. These super unions in turn are uniting even into world-wide organizations. All must conform; non-conformists are simply kicked out. And it is of this kicked-out group that God is making up his jewels (Malachi 3:17). Did not God say that the stone which the builders rejected has become the head corner stone? (Mark 12:10; Psalms 118:22).

However, Revelation indicates that those who receive the mark will not be able to repent and be saved. We know that some in the unions and the other organizations and associations are repenting and being converted to Christ. From this we know that the time has not yet come. However, the Lord instructs me to say: it will be easier for those people who are not in one of those big organizations to be saved. Saying it in a different way: those who are in big organizations and turn to Christ, will be ostracized and some will be martyred.

Will there be a literal mark in the hand or the forehead? Most Bible prophecy has symbolic or spiritual interpretation. The spiritual is more important than the natural. So if a man recognizes the nature of the beast and withdraws from it, that is the important thing. He won't have to worry about a physical mark. If there is one, he will recognize it for what it is and will shun it.

The mark will come in such a sneaky and popular way that millions who call themselves believers or Christians will be deceived into taking the mark. That there will be a literal mark in the forehead or hand seems to be evidenced by the fact that in our day, we have the technology to mark every person in the world. The plans for this mark are now being drawn up by the one-world-government advocates and they are now in their final stages of setting up the mechanism to mark every person in the earth. They have set a target date for the completion of their plans many times, but their plans fell through—no doubt because many of God's people have been praying and interceding for God's will to be done. The prayers of God's saints have delayed the enemy's plans.

Consider how precise this prophecy is. When it was written, there was no way this mark could have been implemented. Even down through the centuries there was no way. However, in the last century, the technology has been developed that is capable through high-speed computers, invisible ink, x-ray, and laser scanners, and other last-minute developments, to replace cash with a numbering system, and then brand

a visible or an invisible number on every man, woman, and child in the world. How startling to see ancient prophecies being fulfilled every day before our eyes!

Many of the most powerful and wealthy men in the world are promoting the one-world government, even though they can easily read in the Bible that this whole movement is inspired by the devil. It has been revealed to the author by some who had inside information, that many of them worship a god named Satan or Lucifer. Others are using the name of Jesus but are practicing the same works that the devil worshipers are practicing. These people are far more deceptive than the ones who openly advocate worshipping Satan!

The next verse finishes the sentence. Notice verses 16-17: “He compels all. . .to receive a mark on their right hand or on their brow so that no man might buy or sell unless he has the mark or the name of the beast or the code number of his name.” In God’s word, the phrase ‘in the name of’ means ‘in the nature of’, so only those who have the beast’s nature will be able to carry on business intercourse in this world.

Those who are not following the beast are also marked. This mark is called a seal in Revelation 7:3 “...seal God’s servants on their forehead.” However, this seal is called a mark in Ezekiel 9:4 “Set a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry for all the abominations that are done.” So:

The devil’s servants are marked with his nature,
and
God’s servants are marked with his nature!

Here is another illustration: Let’s go visit a board meeting or stock-holder’s meeting of a large insurance corporation. In that setting, if anyone even mentions the name of Jesus, he is immediately considered a marked man, an outsider, an agitator, one who must be gotten rid of. Notice the word “a marked man”. This too is the mark that God’s servants will be marked with—whether there is a literal, physical, or visible mark or not.

At this time a condition is to evolve in the world in which there will be such a sharp contrast between those who are serving God and those who are not serving him so that there will be no possibility of any business intercourse between the two. God’s people will be few and scattered but will be provided for (as is shown elsewhere in this book).

The last verse of this chapter reads:

Here is wisdom: Let him who has understanding decipher the code number of the beast: for it is the code number of the name of a man: and his number is 666. —Revelation 13:18

Here again we see the word name. In the name of a man is in the nature of a man, or we can translate it in the human nature. Human nature in us leads us to destruction; God’s nature in us leads us to life. Here he is talking primarily about the religious leaders. Are they not conducting the affairs of the churches according to the standards of this world? Don’t the churches have the same organizational structure as this world’s organizations, the same financing plans, the same public relations agents, the same laws and by-laws? Rather, let’s look at the organization that Jesus had among his followers. Was not his only law the law of love? Did not their leader wash their feet? In washing their feet, did he not take upon himself whatever lowly task might be at hand rather than appropriating it to his subordinates? Isn’t this kind of organization directly the opposite of the business organizations of this world, the governmental organizations of this world, and of the religious organizations of this world?

Now let’s take a closer look at 666. In Bible prophesy six is always man’s number (man was created on the sixth day) and seven is God’s number of completion. Six being next to seven seems to say that man is next to God (as he was suppose to have been in the original). Rather, six speaks of man trying to be next to God, but falling short. As six is always next to seven but always falls short, so man seems to be striving to be next to God, but always falling short.

So, if six indicates that man is always falling short of being next to God, what does 666 indicate? Since three indicates fullness, then three six’s indicate the fullness of man’s attempt to be next to God, or like God, but always falling short. 666 is man claiming to be almost God and pretending to be almost God, but all in deception and hypocrisy. This is the nature of the false prophets and the false priests of this endtime; these men will claim and pretend the closest relationship to God (and deceive many along the way), but they will always fall short. It is all in hypocrisy, just as the ones who crucified our Lord: they refused to go into Pilate’s judgement hall so that they might not be defiled, all the while they were condemning God’s son. The deceptions of the last day

will be just as great!

Jesus exposed this spirit of hypocrisy and deception in Matthew's 23rd chapter (and other places) and showed it to be the worst of sins or iniquities.

God's standard is perfection (Matthew 5:48, Genesis 17:1, etc.) As 6 falls short of 7, so man's way falls short of God's way. As 666 seems to come very close to 7, but still falls short; so man's way in this endtime will seem to come very close to God's standard, but will always fall short. God does want people to draw near to him, but 666 refers to people who draw near to him in pretense and in hypocrisy. Another example: the Pharisees seemed to be the best of men. They walked in holiness, in obedience to the Law, in paying of tithes, but it was all in pretense. Because their hearts were not right, they ended up killing God's son, Stephen, James, and many others.

The second beast is able to perform great wonders—even to making fire fall from heaven to the earth in the sight of men (verse 12). Some men do great works in the devil's name, but this one does great works claiming to be in God's name, thereby deceiving many believers and the denominations of Christianity! When this beast appears, he will seem to have the very nature and likeness of Jesus Christ. His words will be words of grace and truth, but it will all be in hypocrisy and pretense.

Question: if the devil wants to tempt God's saints, how will he do it? Will he tempt them with a bottle of liquor or with a whorish woman? Or will he come imitating the very nature of our Lord Jesus Christ? If he tempts us with the worldly things, he will lead some astray. But if he comes in imitation of our Lord Jesus Christ, he will lead some of the most godly astray—and through them, most of the church world. This is how Jesus put it in Matthew 24:24: "He will lead astray the very elect, if it were possible!"

How can we keep from being deceived? Keep your heart humble before God, and you will not be deceived in the end (but you may be deceived many times before the end gets here). Remember our Lord's words: "Take heed that no man deceive you" (Matthew 24:4). If we hear of one coming with the power and anointing of Jesus, how can we know if he is true or false? Jesus told us not to go after them. Matthew 24:23: "If any man says to you, 'Lo, Christ is here, or Christ is there,' do not believe it." The word 'Christ' means 'the anointed one;' therefore we

can read this verse: "If anyone says to you, 'Lo, the anointed one is here,' or 'an anointed one is there,' do not believe him." The denominations of Christianity are running after those people who seem to be anointed.

Verse 26: "Therefore if they say to you, 'Behold, he is in the desert,' do not go out. 'Behold, he is in the inner room,' don't believe it." We are not to follow man; we are to follow Christ. We are to know Him for ourselves. We are not to follow an anointing; we are to have our own anointing. The five foolish virgins did not make it in because they did not have their own anointing (oil), but were trying to borrow someone else's anointing (Matthew 25). Notice that they did not make it in even though they were virgins, meaning they were not guilty of sins, devilishness, or unbelief. They were believers without any anointing (Matthew 25:1-13). How many in the churches are void of any anointing?

One man asked the Lord who 666 is. The Lord's answer to him was: "Look in the New Testament, in the sixth book, in the sixth chapter, in the sixth verse, and you will see who 666 is. This verse reads:

We recognize that our old self was crucified with Christ, so that the sinful body might be destroyed, so that from now on we should not be servants of sin. —Romans 6:6

(translated from the modern Greek)

'Our old self,' the person we were before we committed our old nature to the cross of Christ (which nature continually tries to rise up), is 666. If we recognize the 666 nature in ourselves, then we will be able to recognize that nature in other people. If we do not recognize the 666 nature in ourselves, we will not recognize it in other people, and we will be deceived by them.

Now, consider the vastness of the above statement: When brother Paul wrote the letter to the brotherhood in Rome, he knew nothing about its future inclusion as a sixth volume in a holy book. And neither did he know that hundreds of years later another man would divide the New Testament into chapters and verses. What would be the mathematical probability that this verse would be 6:6:6?

Many look to some great one to be 666, but I repeat: if we do not learn to recognize Satan's workings in us, then we will not recognize his workings in some great leader. Consider the great anti-Christ of the

past, was not Saul of Tarsus one of the greatest of the anti-Christ? Does the word not tell us that on one occasion Jesus called Peter “Satan?” (Matthew 16:23). Weren’t Peter and Paul one time anti-Christ? Also consider the location of the greatest crime of the ages: it was at the Last Supper that Judas made his final decision to betray Jesus the Christ; it was at the place that we in Christianity consider one of the most sacred moments in of all of history, yet all of the apostles were deceived by Judas! After personally following Jesus for 3½ years, they still had too much of the anti-Christ spirit in them to be able to recognize anti-Christ in a fellow disciple. And do we, who have not seen his beauty with the natural eye, think that we have no anti-Christ spirit or no deceivableness in us?

While considering the word anti-Christ in the Greek language, I became convinced that a better translation would be instead-of-Christ, or in-place-of-Christ, that is, one who puts himself in the place of Christ. The words vicar and vice (as in Vice-President) both mean the same thing, in place of. If a man calls himself Vicar of Christ, he is putting himself in the place of Christ. When the anti-Christ comes, he will not claim to be against Christ, he will claim to be Christ, or in-place-of-Christ, or an especially-anointed one, far above all of the other anointed ones in the earth. [Reminder: In the original language, the word Christ means an Anointed One.] The anti-Christ will not be an atheist, a communist, or any seemingly vile person. He will be highly anointed to do miracles in the name of Jesus, and most Christian believers will be deceived. The anointing will be so close to the true anointing, that it will be impossible for a person to tell the difference with his own natural understanding. He will need a revelation from God. As one man put it: There is an infinitesimally fine line between the true anointing and the false anointing. After all, the false anointing always imitates the true anointing. The false anointing frequently looks more like the true anointing than the true ones. Why? Because the false ones don’t have to live holy. To have a true anointing, a person must live holy, and we all come short of that. Therefore our anointing also comes up short.

Various Bible scholars have made 666 to fit various leaders, emperors, priests, popes, dictators, etc. Were they wrong? The understanding that God has given to me is that 666 applies to all centuries, generations, and nations, not just one individual living at the

end of time. To a person who is living in a small mountain tribe and has little or no contact with the outside world, the two beasts are the political leader and the religious leader of his own tribal unit (perhaps these two go by the name of ‘chief’ and ‘witch doctor’ or many other names). Likewise, to the one who is living in a huge metropolitan area, city hall’s vast bureaucracy may be the first beast (for these bureaucrats all make their decisions using their human intellect rather than praying to God for guidance). The second beast is the prevailing religion or ideology to which the leaders of city hall give lip service, whether it goes by the name of Christianity, Communism, atheism, humanism, or secularism. For one individual the two beasts may be the local leaders, while to another it may be the state, national, or world leader; it depends on whom the person is looking to.

— ROBIN HOOD —

Here I wish to add this: The saga of Robin Hood is a story that has two villains: a bishop and a sheriff, who were the religious and the political leaders of that community. This story does an excellent job of portraying how these two leaders got caught up in a system that transformed them into the two beasts of Revelation 13. Was the author familiar with Revelation 13? It is my opinion that the author of Robin Hood intended to expose the anti-Christ or beastly nature of these two leaders, and he did it in the form of a parable or tale for the same reason that Jesus told parables. He was using a parable or story to present Bible truths in a form that would be acceptable to the public. If he had said, “The sheriff and the bishop are the two beasts of Revelation 13,” the people would have assassinated, beaten, exiled, or imprisoned him.

Robin’s ridiculing the bishop is reminiscent of Jesus’ exposing of the hypocrisy of the religious leaders of his day.

Even Robin Hood’s leadership of an outlawed gang is reminiscent of King David’s years of leading an outlawed gang—and no doubt the religious-political hierarchy of Jesus’s day considered him and his disciples to be an outlaw gang.

Robin’s free and independent spirit is reminiscent of Jesus’ free and independent spirit.

And what about the “crime” of stealing from the rich and giving to the poor? If the government is corrupt, what can a righteous man do? He certainly cannot petition a corrupt government for redress of wrongs!

Even Robin Hood's marriage in the end is symbolic of Christ's marriage to the church at the end of the world (Revelation 21:2+9), and the king's commendation for Robin was reminiscent of the heavenly father's approval of Jesus as his son.

Robin Hood's story has the qualities of a superb novel: several subplots dovetailed into a finale at which the subplots were resolved. The author had revelation, spiritual insight, intelligence, brilliance, and ability to produce one of the world's masterpieces.

However, we are also looking to an ultimate fulfillment of this passage: the bringing together of all nations under one head and all religions under one head.

In these days when the various religions have such vicious hatred and denunciations for each other, is it possible for them to be brought under one head? Consider this model of how they might be brought together:

At a time of a most horrible war, as part of a peace treaty settlement, some great person may arise and announce that the only way to end all religious squabbling is by bringing all religions together under one head. He may propose to use the name of Jesus Christ by telling the people that they do not have to accept Jesus' fundamental teachings, but only accept him as a good man, worthy of being their leader. First he might gather around him leaders from the various denominations of Christianity and persuade them. Then he might go to the Moslems and say: "Isn't it true that Mohammed recognized Jesus to be the greatest prophet before his time? Isn't it true that Mohammed recognized Jesus' mother Mary to be first in heaven, even before his own daughter, Fatima? Isn't it true that millions of Moslems already honor and venerate Mary and especially her manifestation in Fatima, Portugal in 1917, because Mohammed's daughter was also named Fatima?"

Then he might turn to the Jews and say to them, "It may be true that Christians throughout the centuries have persecuted you, but do you find anything in the life of Jesus that is repulsive or abominable? Isn't it true that all of his early followers were Jews, and only a handful of the leaders rejected him? Can you accept him as a good leader without accepting that he is your Messiah?"

And to the Buddhist and Hindus he might say, "Isn't it true that Jesus was just another incarnation (or avatar) of the Buddha" (One Hindu leader has already taught this doctrine in a book that he wrote about the

Sermon on the Mount). He might also point to Mahatma Gandhi, one of the greatest political/religious leaders to ever arise through the Hindu religion, who proclaimed that Jesus was a good man, worthy of being followed.

If a person can bring all the Christians, Jews, Moslems, Hindus and Buddhists together with this kind of logic, he will have most of the world's population. The rest could be brought in by sheer force of numbers, persuasion, and pressure. About the outsiders the leader would say, "They are the ones who are hindering the peace process. They must be eliminated." Millions will give lip service to this new religion just to avoid persecution (thus accepting the mark of the beast).

Again I warn my reader: you will not recognize these two beasts if you do not first recognize the beastly nature in yourself!

The Great Whore

Revelation 17:1 and 19:2

In the seventeenth chapter we are introduced to 'the great whore' (King James Version) or 'the great harlot or prostitute' (most modern versions or translations). Verse five definitely identifies the Mighty Babylon with the great whore:

And upon her [the whore's] forehead there was a name written that not everybody could understand:

THE MIGHTY BABYLON MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH!

Most Bible scholars have identified the great whore or the Mighty Babylon with a false religious system. Nowhere does the book of Revelation tell us that this woman is a religious system; however, the evidence is overwhelming. Jesus' true church is compared to a virgin (Matthew 25:1-13; 2nd Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:22-32; and Revelation 19:7). If a virgin symbolizes the faithful church, what would a whore symbolize except an unfaithful church, a perfidious church, a false church, a hypocritical church?

Many people have asked, "Which church is it, or is it the Roman Catholic Church? The Lord has directed me to answer this question thus:

All churches have some of Babylon's characteristics; therefore, every man must know God for himself rather than putting his trust in a church, denomination, pastor, priest, prophet, evangelist, teacher, or pope. However, just as little children must put their trust in their parents before they mature; so those who are still immature in their Christian walk, must put their trust in a church, pastor, priest, or teacher until they mature. This is maturity: Getting to know God for ourselves, and not depending on those with whom we fellowship. Another example is a little child who holds his mother's apron string and cries "Mama" at the least little thing. If we saw a 20-year-old man doing things like that, we would say that there is something wrong with him. Most churches are full of those who have been members for 20 years, yet they still go crying to their pastor or priest with every little thing that goes wrong. If we have been following God's way for five years, shouldn't we have enough maturity to know God for ourselves, believe God, hold on to God's promises, pray our own prayers, rather than going crying to our pastor or priest about every little thing that goes wrong?

Many writers and ministers have said that this organization or that denomination is The Mighty Babylon or the great whore. But our Lord does not allow us to judge (Matthew 7:1-5). Only he condemns hypocrisy and we may do the same. How can we condemn an individual? Some people commit spiritual sins and they condemn those who commit fleshly sins. Others commit fleshly sins and they condemn those who commit spiritual sins. Now this last statement may be rather difficult for many people to understand; let me use an example: Two brothers were very different. One was a pastor and the other was a drunkard. Now the pastor was a hypocrite. His every decision and action was motivated by how he could increase his own social and financial standing. If he were offered a bigger congregation with a bigger salary, he would gladly forsake his flock without asking God for his directions. Meanwhile, his brother is sitting in a bar or beer joint thinking these words to himself, "God, I've got to get out of this lifestyle. I'm sick and tired of it, God. It has gotten me nothing but trouble. Help me, God." Which of these two brothers will be better off on the great day of judgment? Yet neither one of them can condemn the other. Can the drunkard condemn the pastor who has never committed any of the fleshly sins? Or can the pastor condemn the drunkard who is obviously no hypocrite?

Another example comes from the Bible: In Luke's 15th chapter, verses 11-32 is the story of the prodigal son. Many ministers have used this passage to denounce the sins of the flesh, but the story describes two brothers. Too many ministers have omitted the older brother with his spiritual sins. Notice: when the younger (prodigal) brother returned home, the older brother would have nothing to do with him. But the father loved both of his sons. So our heavenly father loves both the hypocritical pastor and his drunkard brother and wants to save and forgive each.

A careful study of the gospels shows us that there was only one group that hated Jesus Christ: the religious and political leaders of his day. (Please note that in those days, religious denominations were also political parties. The religious and political leader was the same person.) Nowhere do we read that Jesus' work was resisted by the Romans, the sinners, the harlots, the atheists, the drunkards, the criminals, or even the common religious people—only by their leaders. These are the ones that Jesus denounced. We do not read anywhere that he denounced the sinner or the harlot. Rather, when an adulterous woman stood before him he said, "I do not condemn you. Go, but do not sin again" (John 8:11). So, where do we look for the religious deceivers? We look among the religious leaders and the political leaders—just as it was in Jesus' day. All this shows us who the 'great whore' and the 'Mighty Babylon' is: the religious and political leaders who are operating hypocritically, falsely, deceptively.

In Matthew's 23rd chapter Jesus exposed the hypocrisy of the leaders of his nation. Though he was speaking about the Jewish leaders, the same spirit is found among leaders in all religions and the denominations of Christianity. For example: God gave the Law through Moses, but down through centuries, many of the Jewish religious leaders added a multiplicity of their own laws and by-laws which became a burden to the people. Since the New Testament was written, church leaders have added a multiplicity of laws and by-laws that have become a burden to the people. The same is true of most of the 'heathen' religions. An example is the teachings of Buddha. In India, Buddha taught the people a simple and virtuous way to live. After his death, many of his followers added to his teachings a multiplicity of laws and by-laws that became a burden to the people. They made his teachings into another religion, an

organization, a denomination, a bureaucracy. Are the religious and church leaders of today not guilty of the same thing that the Buddhists have done?

Note what Jesus said in Matthew 23:5:

The Pharisees do everything they do only to be seen by men.

Jesus went on to mention their dress habits. They dressed for show purposes, to show off. How many of the works, habits, and lifestyles of today's church leaders are done just to be seen by men? How many dress for pride and self-promotion? Let's notice the next two verses (verses 6+7):

They like the most important places at the feasts and places of prominence in their meeting places (synagogues), and greetings in the streets, and to be called "Rabbi (Teacher)."

Do the church leaders seek out a place of attention in their public appearances? This is what Jesus told his disciples that they should do:

But you should not be called Rabbi; for one is your master, and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth "Father," for one is your Father, the one in heaven. Neither be called leaders, you have only one leader, the Christ. The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. (verses 8-12)

When we count the titles that religious leaders have taken for themselves, we see that they number into the hundreds. Consider just a few:

| | | |
|----------|------------|-------------------|
| doctor | teacher | reverend |
| father | pope | the reverend |
| pastor | patriarch | the most reverend |
| deacon | priest | evangelist |
| apostle | rector | superintendent |
| elder | overseer | metropolitan |
| bishop | rabbi | archbishop |
| cardinal | evangelist | and many more |

It is true that some of these titles are used in the Bible; however, just as in Bible days many people misused those titles, so today many are misusing them or appropriating them to themselves, rather than letting God appropriate them to whomever he wants. Some are taking titles on themselves outside of God's will, with ulterior motives. How unlike Christ who told us that we are all brothers and we have only one master! He told us we should be servants (verse 11). Some take on humble titles,

such as 'your humble servant' but do it hypocritically. In another place Jesus said they would come in sheep's clothing, but on the inside they are ravenous wolves (Matthew 7:15). Have you seen any church leaders coming "in sheep's clothing?"

Matthew 23:13 reads:

Woe to you, theologians and Pharisees, hypocrites! You shut men out of the kingdom of heaven. You yourselves are not going in, and you are not permitting those who are entering, to go in.

Please notice that Jesus talked about 'those who are entering.' The churches teach that heaven is beyond the clouds and beyond the grave. None of the churches teach that a person can enter at the present time into the kingdom of heaven, they all teach a heaven beyond this life.

Please notice that Jesus never used the expression 'go to heaven.' (This may come as a shock to some readers, but according to the King James Version of the Bible, he never used this phrase. The clergymen of the Christian denominations use this expression all of the time, but Jesus never used it.) Matthew recorded five instances when he used the expression, 'enter into the kingdom of heaven.' (5:20; 7:21; 18:3; 19:23; & 23:13). Mark, Luke, and John never used this expression, "enter into the kingdom of heaven" or "go to heaven." Heaven is not a geographical location. Jesus was very plain when he told some religious leaders, "The kingdom of heaven is within you" (Luke 17:21). Where is it? Is the kingdom of heaven beyond the clouds? Is it beyond the grave? Or is it in our hearts? It is when we are believing his word, obeying his word, receiving him into our hearts, and seeking him with all of our hearts that we are entering into the kingdom of heaven. It is not when we are on the way to the morgue or floating up into the sky. If we are not in the kingdom of heaven when our body is being taken to a morgue, it will be too late!

How do we enter in? In Revelation 4:2 John says that when he was in the Spirit, he saw the heavenly things. 'In the Spirit' means that he was believing, obeying, seeking, and receiving spiritual things, not natural things. He was more conscious of spiritual things than of natural things. Again I say to you, when you are believing, obeying, seeking, and receiving the things of the spirit rather than the natural things, then you will see the kingdom of heaven, then you will enter the kingdom of heaven!

An example is when a person joins a political party (be it the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, the Communist Party or any other political party). It is when you start seeking, believing, obeying, and receiving or doing the teaching of that party that you are a part of it. You do not become a member by going to some geographical location. You can be at party headquarters, and still be violently against the teachings of that party, or you can be in the most remote regions of the earth and whole-heartedly follow the party's agenda. Then you are a good member. So is the kingdom of heaven, you did not become a member by going to a church or joining a church. Rather, when you whole-heartedly accept our Lord's teachings and lifestyle for yourself, you start entering into the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 23:14 (verse 13 in some versions of the Bible):

Woe to you, theologians (scribes) and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you embezzle the property of widows, and as a show you pray long prayers! Because of this you will be judged more severely.

Some of the major Christian denominations in the West have reserve investments amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars. Did the churches acquire such fortunes by feeding the sheep or by fleecing the sheep?

Matthew 23:15

Woe to you, theologians and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you cross over sea and land to make one proselyte. And when he becomes one, you make him twice as hellish as yourselves!

What strong condemnations Jesus made! Too often we think of him as the gentle shepherd carrying the little lamb in his arms. This same Jesus made this astonishing condemnation of our "church recruitment" programs! Please ask yourself, are the conversions you see in your church the real, life-changing experiences that men and women need to get straightened out, or are they merely an organizational function like joining a social club, a sports club, a dance club, a health club? I say these next words by the spirit: Several times I have seen religious leaders "high-pressure" people into making a commitment to follow Jesus, only to watch those same people later become religious extremists that do not show any of the characteristics of our Lord Jesus. The Bible calls it proselytizing, and many of the church recruitment programs, mass rallies, altar calls, membership drives are nothing but proselyting!

Everyone says: "Of course this statement refers to that denomination or sect down the street; it does not refer to our church!"

Matthew 23:23

Woe to you, theologians and Pharisees, hypocrites, for you pay tithes of mint, dill, and cumin, and you have overlooked the more important matters of the law: justice, mercy, and trustworthiness. These were necessary for you to do, and by no means to leave the others undone.

A little explanation is in order for those who do not understand this saying: Jesus and all the Jews were living under Moses' law which required everyone to pay a tithe (which means a tenth) of all of his possessions or income or harvest for the support of the priesthood. After Moses' time, other leaders added more laws to Moses' Law, requiring that men go into their gardens, inspect every plant to determine if it had any market value, such as the herbs: mint, dill, and cumin. They were very careful to take the tithe of these plants—which they did while ignoring the more important instructions to practice justice, mercy, and trustworthiness. Many people call this "legalism"; the religious leaders were being legalistic. We also call this "the letter of the law without the spirit of the Law".

Today, many churchmen are most careful to observe every minute detail of their rituals, while ignoring the instructions to practice justice, mercy, and trustworthiness. They are more careful to make sure each item on their priestly robes are precisely as mandated by the church headquarters, than to practice justice, mercy, and trustworthiness. Others do not have rituals, rather they have standards of holiness, the dress codes, the places of entertainment, the habits and lifestyles. I have many times seen people who do not have very high standards of holiness, but who practice justice, mercy, and trustworthiness. Conversely, I have seen many who will take a measuring ruler to measure the length of the dress, but do not practice the primary virtues of justice, mercy, and trustworthiness! God is the judge! Did God authorize anyone to set up arbitrary standards of holiness? Or did men appropriate this prerogative for themselves?

Some will say, "If we do not have any standards of holiness, anything will go in our churches." God's answer: "If God's anointing is in our meetings, the spirit of God himself will convict those rebellious ones who may come into our meetings improperly dressed. They will either

leave and never return, or return properly dressed. The only ones who need a dress code in their churches are the ones who do not have the anointing spirit of God that convicts men of sin.”

Matthew 23:24

You blind guides! You strain at gnats and swallow camels! The gnats are the minute details of their doctrine. Many denominations have split on disagreement of the most minute doctrines (the gnats) and have ignored the big things of mercy, justice, and trustworthiness (the camels).

Matthew 23:25-28

Woe to you, theologians and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of extortion and iniquity. You blind Pharisees, first clean the inside of the cup and the plate, then the outside will also be clean. Woe to you, theologians and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you are like tombs painted white, which look beautiful on the outside, but inside they are full of dead bones and all kinds of filthiness. Even so, from the outside you appear to men to be righteous, but on the inside you are full of iniquity and hypocrisy. The outside is that which people can see: the keeping of the law, the standard of holiness, the lifestyle, and the dress codes. The inside is that which is in our hearts: justice, mercy, and trustworthiness. How many church leaders have fought for the minutest detail of their doctrines while ignoring the virtues of the heart: love, joy, peace. How many have cleaned the outside of their church members by persuading them to adopt a certain dress code or lifestyle and to make substantial contributions to the church’s treasury, while ignoring that which is in the heart: resentment, hatred, jealousy, pride, etc. How many have preached against committing adultery while they themselves have wanton eyes? They are committing adultery in their hearts! When Jesus said, “Clean the inside of the cup first” (verse 26), he was telling them to clean their hearts first, then the outside (their lives) would also be clean. The true servant of God will teach people in such a way as to clean the things that are in the hearts of the people: hatred, pride, jealousy, envy, greed, resentments, bitterness, doubt, self-centeredness, lust, and a host of others. When these things are gone out of a man’s heart, then his outward life will be clean also. He will be walking in love, joy, and

peace. Very few Christian ministers teach their people in such a way as to clean their hearts, because too many of them have the same things in their own hearts. It’s like the drug addict who tried to get her daughter to quit drugs; there was no way!

In Matthew’s account, Jesus said it in another way: “First extract the log from your own eye, then you will see how to pull the splinter out of your brother’s eye” —Matthew 7:3-5.

Matthew 23:36

I’m telling you the truth, all of these things will come on this generation. This he said because the ones standing before him were guilty in their hearts of the same sins as all of those before them—they had the same spirit in them as the ones who committed the crimes. The same is said about The Mighty Babylon: In her was found the blood of prophets and saints and all who have been slain in the earth. — Revelation 18:24 Again I ask, isn’t the same spirit of Phariseeism in the church leaders today?

The kings of the earth have committed whoredoms with the great harlot. — Revelation 17:1-2

QUESTION: If The Mighty Babylon is a false religious system, how does a king commit harlotry with a false religious system?

ANSWER: If harlotry is an illegal union between a man and a woman, then this verse is talking about an illegal union between a royal house and a religious house, between a king and a bishop (or any of the other hundreds of names that the religious leaders have appropriated for themselves).

In studying church history and European history, we see that kings always tried to manipulate and use the religious organization for their advantage, and the religious organizations have always tried to manipulate and use royalty for their advantage. Isn’t that an illegal union, a spiritual adultery? Didn’t God separate the secular authority from the spiritual authority when he raised up judges at the time of the book of Judges who ruled outside of the priesthood. And, didn’t he separate the secular authority from the spiritual authority when the Prophet Samuel rebuked King Saul for offering a sacrifice (1st Samuel 13:7-11). And didn’t he separate them when Jesus said, “My kingdom

is not of this world?” (John 18:36) However, throughout European history, kings and priests conspired together to keep the masses of people in a subservient position. (I can make this statement because when I was in school, I majored in history and also studied church history.)

This relationship between king and priest is a contradiction of Jesus’ teachings that we should take the form of a servant and serve each other in love (Matthew 23:11 & Philippians 2:7). Throughout history, kings have taken for themselves titles such as Head of the Church, Defender of the Faith, and many others titles, while continuing to live in flagrant, open sin. Kings, priests, and (false) prophets have lived in luxury, while the masses have lived in their poverty and degradation, thinking that this was God’s will. The greatest events of recorded European history have been ceremonial meetings at which kings and priests praised each other. What did Jesus have to say about this? Check this statement out: “You receive honor one from another but do not seek the honor that comes from the only God” —John 5:44.

In the Old Testament the big sin was idolatry. Idolatry is compared to adultery because when a man adores and loves the wrong woman, it is called adultery; when he adores and loves the wrong god, it is called idolatry. Therefore idolatry is a spiritual adultery. How amazing that many of the churches in European history that committed adultery with kings, were full of statues called icons that were little different from idols. A movement arose at one time in history called iconoclasm which means “icon breaking.” The iconoclasts recognized the idolatry involved in iconism and protested, but the harlot church eventually purged herself of the iconoclasts. She continued to say in her heart, “... I sit as queen, I am not a widow” —Revelation 18:7.

The nations have been made drunk with the wine of her immoralities.

—Revelation 17:2

This word, immoralities, in the original language refers to sexual immoralities. The older English Bibles use the word fornications. Earlier, the writer used the word adulteries. These words mean almost the same thing. So, how do nations go about getting drunk on the wine of a church’s immoralities? Above, we said that the adulteries were the illegitimate relations by the royal houses and the religious houses.

So how do the nations get drunk on this wine? The masses of people have always been awed by the great people, kings and priests or popes. When they see these great ones coming together and complimenting each other, these people think that this is the greatest thing in the world, such things make them heady. They talk about such events to their children and grandchildren for many years. Is this the wine of immorality they are drunk on? The masses toasted their wine to sinful pleasures of this world and to the church of Jesus Christ at the same time. Thus they became drunk on the wine of her immoralities.

The woman was sitting on a scarlet beast inscribed with many blasphemous names that had seven heads and ten horns. —Rev. 17:3 Revelation describes the same truths with several different symbols. This verse symbolizes the same truth we have already seen, only with a different symbol. The beast is the governmental systems of the world, and the woman is the false religious systems of this world. Scarlet is the color of whoredom. The blasphemous names are the titles of greatness that the rulers of this world have taken on themselves (there is no limit to the greatness and powers they will claim for themselves). The heads and horns are alliances of nations and their leaders.

Verse 4: The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls; and she had a golden cup in her hand full of the abominations and the filthiness of her adultery on earth.

Verse 5: And upon her forehead a name was written that not everyone could understand:

THE MIGHTY BABYLON THE MOTHER OF WHORES AND OF THE LEWDNESS OF THE EARTH

Verse 6: And I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. — Revelation 17:6

The woman was dressed...and adorned. The false churches are well financed. “The world loves its own” (John 15:19). “A golden cup in her hand...” is the way the mother, the queen of heaven in ancient Babylon, was pictured. Today the Mighty Babylon has the golden cup of riches that was gotten by fleecing the sheep—the abominations and filthiness of her adulteries.

History reveals that the martyrs for Jesus number in the millions. Of course the pagans and the atheists have killed many, but the ones who

call themselves the servants of Jesus Christ have killed millions more as heretics. The prelates and the “holy fathers” sat in their ivory palaces and in a drunken stupor laughed at the peons who were dying by the thousands.

In the following verses, an angel explained to John about this mystery. Revelation 17:

7 Then the angel said to me, “Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns.

8 The beast which you saw once was, now is not, and will come up out of the abyss and go to its destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come.

9 This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits.

10 There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while.

11 The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. It belongs to the seven and is going to its destruction.

12 The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour (one duration of time) will receive authority as kings along with the beast.

13 They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast.

14 They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his invited, chosen, and faithful followers.

15 The angel said to me, “The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.

16 The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

17 For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule until God’s words are accomplished.

18 The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.

“A beast that was, is not, but is yet to come.” In the ancient world, there was a world government—the beast that was. Since Rome fell, there has not been a one-world government—the beast that is not. We understand that a one-world government is yet to arise—the beast that is yet to come!

Verse 9 mentions seven hills. In Bible prophesy a mountain or hill seems to refer to a kingdom or nation. Thus this woman sits on seven nations or seven alliances of nations. The seven hills may also refer to the seven continents. That the hills are nations is confirmed by the next verse which mentions seven kings.

Here it should be pointed out that a certain large church system has its headquarters nestled in the middle of seven hills in Rome. However, this verse cannot refer to a single denomination because it has been said about this woman that in her was found the blood of all who were slain upon the earth. How can this one denomination be guilty of all who were slain upon the earth? Many were slain before this church system was begun. This church denomination, as well as all other large religious systems, will be a part of the Mighty Babylon; one particular denomination will not be the great whore.

In verse ten the angel spoke of seven kings of whom five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. In the ancient world there were five empires (Babylon, Medes, Persians, Assyrians, Greeks) before Jesus was born. One was (Rome ruled the world at the time Revelation was written), and one was yet to come (the future one-world government). In verse eleven we see that the beast is the eighth and is of the seven. Perhaps calling him an eighth means that he has the same beastly nature that was in all of the ancient empires. Many translators translate it this way: “of the seven.”

Verse fourteen: “And they will make war with the Lamb.” This they will do by making war with God’s true servants, and by trying to eliminate his truth, his doctrine, his name and his ways from the earth (because he is light and they love darkness and hate the light because it exposes their evil deeds). Many will be martyred, but the Lamb will be victorious in the end, and the martyrs will be raised up to rule in the earth (Revelation 20:4).

The Destruction of The Great Whore

Revelation 17:1—9:21

In the first chapter we saw that the first beast (Revelation 13:1) is the leader of the one world government, and the second beast (Revelation 13:11) is the leader of the one world religious system. We also saw that the great whore is the same as the second beast. Revelation 17:16+17 describes the destruction of the great whore (the second beast, the false church system) by the first beast (the world's political system). The first beast (the political leader, the government) will destroy the second beast (the false religious leader and the false church system). How is it that the political system will destroy the religious system? Didn't Revelation 13 tells us that the second beast served the first beast very faithfully? The answer is that history is full of stories of double dealing, deception, selfish manipulation, and confusion. One power makes an alliance with another power only to use that power for their own benefit. Then, when they have no more use for that power, they turn against it and destroyed it so that they will not have to share their victories with that power. The political system will use the religious systems to bring the masses in line with their purposes. When they have finished this, they will turn against the church and destroy it also.

There are two reasons for this: 1) Situations will arise which will expose the religious systems as being false religious systems, and 2) the political system never believed in their religions to start with. From the beginning the political system acted in hypocrisy and with ulterior motives. Many of the leaders are atheists, infidels, or agnostics. They do not believe in a personal, loving Father-God. In public they give lip-service to God, deceiving the masses of religious people. In their private lives they curse the true and living creator God while praising the gods of atheism, humanism, intellectualism or the devil himself under the name of Satan or Lucifer. Is it any wonder that the first beast (political) will turn against the second beast (religious)?

This is also God's way of punishing or destroying the wicked, unfaithful church. An example in the Bible of God's using one wicked nation to punish another nation is the story of God's using Babylon (a more wicked nation) to punish Judah (a less wicked nation). But within fifty years another nation destroyed Babylon. So it will be with the Mighty Babylon; in God's appointed time, God himself will destroy this

political system that controls the whole world.

The woman whom you saw is that great city which has dominion over the kings of the earth. — Revelation 17:18

This woman, false church system, beast, is here called a city. Doubtless this false church system will have her headquarters set up in some major city of the world. This city will be known primarily because of this church's [religious system's] headquarters, just as ancient Jerusalem was known for its temple of worship. When Revelation was written, Rome ruled over the kings of the earth. During the historical era known as the "the middle ages" or "the dark ages", the Roman Catholic Church ruled over most of the kings of the earth. These are all fulfillments of this verse. Perhaps the new world church system will also be set up in Rome. How striking that prophecy can have several fulfillments, each foreshadowing the next!

The angel cried with a mighty voice, saying, "The Mighty Babylon has fallen and has become a habitation of those possessed with devils and the shelter of every foul spirit and the shelter of every unclean and detestable bird and the shelter of every unclean and loathsome wild beast. — Revelation 18:1-2

Those who have seen the ruins of ancient Babylon report that this verse is literally true. There are wild birds, bats, hyenas, jackals, and all kinds of loathsome and detestable creatures living there. But we are interested in the last-days Babylon and what this verse means for this age. The leaders of today's Babylon are already possessed by evil spirits being manifested as: greed, lust for power, pride, witchcraft, filthy lucre, Satanism, Luciferianism (the worship of Satan or Lucifer) and a legion of other malevolent spirits. Some are addicted to drugs and alcohol, and many have murder in their hearts. Recently I learned from some insiders that many in very high positions in government, banking, business and Christian ministry are worshiping Satan or Lucifer, participating in human sacrifices, and drinking the blood of their sacrifices as a toast to Satan or Lucifer. I can name some, but that is not the purpose of this book. I write only what I am directed by God. The angel referred to these men as devils and loathsome beasts, because that is what they look like in the spirit. To these men nothing is a sin except departure from this secret society and the goals of one-world government. Those who leave their ranks must be killed. These are the men who are planning to take

over world dominion very soon. One of their names for the new age is “The Age of Aquarius.” But God will soon destroy them and the thousand-year reign will begin with Jesus Christ at the head (Revelation chapter 20 and the last chapter of this book).

For as much as she has glorified herself and lived deliciously, give her so much torment and sorrow, for she says in her heart, “I sit a queen, and am no widow and will see no sorrow.” — Revelation 18:7

When he said, “Give her so much torment and sorrow,” who was he commanding to give torment and sorrow? This was the spirit of prophesy and it was going into the spirits of those who are ordained to do the tormenting and giving of sorrow. It went into their spirits, not just into their minds. They did not realize that God is ordaining them to do his dirty work. The same was in the past with the ancient Babylon when God put it in the heart of the king to destroy Jerusalem. God was using this king even though the king may not have realized that it was God who had put these things in his heart. So it will be in a few years. Evil men will rise up and rule this world, and it will come into their hearts to destroy the religious systems completely. We have already seen a preview of this when the Communist nations tried to destroy all of the religious systems under their jurisdiction, but they failed. So The Mighty Babylon will fail to destroy God’s truth.

Please notice that she glorified herself instead of glorifying God. The leaders of the nations, denominations, religions, and churches have almost without exception glorified themselves. They have taken upon themselves the most outlandish titles, sometimes even claiming to be gods....your (Babylon’s) merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorceries, all nations were deceived. — Revelation 18:23b

This verse is extraordinary! It identifies almost to the man each one in a secret society which is conspiring to rule the world. Today if we made a list of the greatest and richest men in the world, the list would be almost identical with the membership of this secret society (I say it is secret because almost all of their meetings are in secret; however, there are some defectors who have come out and revealed their secrets). It is also extraordinary that this verse mentions sorceries. Many of these same men are in cohorts with those who are practicing witchcraft or Satan worship or Lucifer worship. These men consult with witches, wizards, fortune tellers, and sorcerers for advice in their business dealings.

Ancient history gives us an excellent example of a king who consulted with a fortune teller for advice concerning his political moves. His name was King Croesus. Following is King Croesus’ story:

More than 500 years before Jesus Christ’s birth, in a country called Lydia, there was a king named Croesus. This king noticed that another kingdom, Persia, was growing in power and he became concerned about his kingdom’s safety. He decided to do something about it.

What he did was common in those days: He consulted people whom we call fortunetellers or oracles or soothsayers or diviners or mediums or clairvoyants or (false) prophets. But he knew that this matter was so very important (he could lose his whole kingdom if he got some bad advice), so he decided to test the best known oracles of his days.

King Croesus sent emissaries to a number of the best-known oracles of his day with these instructions: Go in to see these people at twelve o’clock noon on a specific day and ask them what I am doing at that exact moment. He did not tell anyone what he would be doing at that moment. To be sure, he did something very unusual: he boiled a tortoise and a lamb together in a brass pot with a brass lid.

One of his emissaries, after traveling hundreds of miles, approached a female oracle known as the Pythoness (female python) at the given time and day. This woman, when she saw King Croesus’ emissary, did not give him a chance to speak. She not only knew what King Croesus was doing at that precise moment in a far off country, but she knew what the emissary was about to ask her before he opened his mouth. These are the words that she spoke (her oracle):

I can count the sands,
and I know the measures of the ocean,
I understand the speechless person,
and I can hear the one who does not speak.
Into my nostrils came the smell
of a hard-shelled tortoise
Boiling in a pot with the meat of a lamb:
The couch [container] beneath it is brass,
and brass is the robe [covering] over it.

Needless to say, King Croesus was totally convinced that this oracle who called herself a Pythoness was genuine, and he sent her very expensive

presents.

However, when he sent his emissary back to the Pythoness for advice concerning his proposed invasion of Persia, she gave him another veiled message:

If Croesus crosses the river
[into Persian territory],
he will destroy a great nation.

He took her advice and crossed the river with a mighty army. However, his army was quickly destroyed. He failed to notice that the message did not say which great nation would be destroyed. The Pythoness decide—for whatever reason—to destroy King Croesus' kingdom.

And, so it is, anyone who submits himself to a fortuneteller, brings himself under that person's power. It is better to pray to God and ask his guidance and blessings. Our Lord taught us to walk in faith. King Croesus did not want to walk by faith in God, he wanted proof of the genuineness of his counselor.

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Chapter 18, the downfall of the Mighty Babylon, could be called a funeral dirge. Following is my translation of this chapter:

Veres 1-8:

After this I saw another very powerful angel coming down from heaven, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. With a tremendous voice he shouted:

“The Mighty Babylon has fallen and has become a habitation of those possessed by demons and a hang out for every foul spirit and a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird.

“All nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries”.

Then I heard another voice from heaven saying:

“Come out of her, my people, so that you may not share in her sins, so that you may not receive any of her plagues; for her sins have reached up to heaven. God has remembered her crimes.

“Give back to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done. Mix her a double portion from her own cup. Give her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself.

“In her heart she boasts, ‘I sit a queen; I am not a widow, and I will

never mourn’. Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning, and famine. She will be consumed by fire. The Lord who judges her is the mighty one”.

In the above passage, when he says “come out of her, my people,” he is saying this to the millions of people who are in the church systems which have gone astray—and all religious systems. Though some people have the true love of God, they also have love for a system that is going astray, and they will be destroyed with that system when God decides that that it is time to punish that [false] church/religious system. Here is an example from the Bible: Jonathan, the friend of David, recognized that the true anointing had left his father, King Saul, and was now resting on David; nevertheless, Jonathan remained with the old system that was failing, and he died because he was not willing to leave the old system. So it will be with millions of believers: They will die because they refuse to come out of the failing church systems.

Verses 9-

“When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry:

Woe! Woe, O great city  
O Babylon, the mighty city  
Your doom has come in one hour.

“The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes any more—cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble; cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and bodies and souls of men.

“The fruit you desired is gone from you. All your riches and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered.

“The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn and cry out:

“‘Woe! Woe, O great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls! In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!’

“Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off. When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, ‘Was there ever a city like this great city?’ They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out:

“Woe! Woe, O great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour she has been brought to ruin! Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she treated you.”

Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said:

“With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again. The music of harpists and musicians, flute players and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again. No workman of any trade will ever be found in you again. The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again. The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again. Your merchants were the world’s great men. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray.

In her was found the blood of prophets and of the saints, and of all who have been killed on the earth”.

The eighteenth chapter (above) was the angel’s description of Babylon’s future downfall. John saw the actual downfall and recorded it in chapter 19:

And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair saying, “Come and gather yourselves together for God’s great supper. You may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of captains of thousands and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.”

Then I saw the wild beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to fight against the one who sat on the horse [Jesus, verse 11], and against his armies. And the wild beast was taken and with him the false prophet who worked miracles before him with which he deceived those who had received the mark of the wild beast and those who worshiped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with sulfur. And the others were slain by the sword that came out from the mouth of the one who sat upon the horse. All the birds were

filled with their flesh. —verses 17-21

Now, backtracking a little bit, let us look again at the mark of the beast and how it will be given and how we are to recognize it. First the Lord instructs me to make this statement:

If we do not recognize the beastly nature in ourselves, we will never recognize it in the natural fulfillment of Revelation 13.

Or, saying it a little differently:

If our hearts are not right with God,  
it will be easy for the devil to deceive us.

or, as Jesus put it:

He that has ears to hear, let him hear. — Matthew 13:9

At the present time, there are many fanatical and heretical cults who are proselytizing, especially the young people of the world. As a counter measure, the governments of the world are passing anti-cult laws which in effect, are a restriction on freedom of religion. All this is being planned by the one-world-government forces, because they plan to use these laws against the true believers, for they are not believers in Jesus Christ, but are in cohorts with the Devil/Satan/Lucifer worshipers. In normal times there would not be enough public support of anti-religious-freedom laws to pass them. But as the cults become more prevalent, the public support for these laws becomes greater. Most Christians are unaware that these laws will be used against themselves someday. Most of the leaders of the news media are also for the one-world government; therefore, they tend to “play up” the cult atrocities so as to increase public support of the anti-cult laws which will be used against the true believers. When the right time comes, all that the government will have to do is to declare a certain group to be a “cult.” Yes, it is possible that your church could be declared by the government to be a cult. It happened in the Communist nations.

The mark of the beast will also come in with overwhelming public support. The condition, which will be purposely created, will be massive economic confusion. In this confusion there will be a world-wide outcry for a new money system. Old fashioned “currency” will be replaced by a card system. Since most nations already have their citizens numbered, the same numbers will doubtlessly be used. At first it will seem that our government is just sending us a new identification card in the mail (The United States is one of the few countries in the world that has not issued

identification cards to its citizens. Probably it will and the identification card will probably be combined with the social security card and/or a driver's licence). At first we will not have to use it to buy or sell. Later it will be used only for major purchases—international trade and funds transference by huge corporations. By the time we will have to use this card or the number to buy our weekly groceries, it will be in such common use, that few will object. About the same time, there will be so many cards stolen, that the public will cry out for another system. Then the government will oblige by providing a mark in the hand or in the forehead, probably invisible, which can be read by electronic scanners which are tied to a super-computer. These computers are already built and are operational. Men are now feeding information about us (you) into these computers.

This is a time of massive confusion in the world as we are told in Revelation 16:10:

The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the wild beast; and his kingdom was turned into darkness; and men gnawed their tongues for pain.

This “darkness” is the confusion, perversion, deception, and desperation that are among the governments of the world today. This same darkness of confusion is also in the religious world. We have seen many who seemed to have a great anointing on them, but we were unable to recognize the source of the anointing; we did not know the true anointing from the false, the anointing that is of God from the anointing that is of the devil. Remember: the devil always imitates the Lord Jesus Christ—and he does a darn good job of it. Remember: there is an infinitesimally fine line between the true anointing and the false anointing (There is a wide gap between the true and false anointing; however, because the false imitates the true, it manifests as an infinitesimally fine line).

In this time of confusion, many will flee to the jungles and mountains to escape. Many will be martyred. Many will give up and accept the mark. Millions will cry, “Where is the promise of his coming?” Many will gather in farming communes and attempt to live without money and intercourse with the world. Some will hold out to the end. Those in the smallest villages and most undesirable places will have the best chance to survive.

The mark will reach even the most remote primitive people and jungle villages. How? Simply because these people too will want to trade and do business intercourse with the world, and they will have to have a means of funds transference. They too will have a number assigned to the tribe or tribal chief. Even in these remote places, some of the tribesmen will object to the use of the mark—thus God will allow to be manifested who is serving him, and who is on the side of the enemy! Thus the spiritual battle will reach virtually everyone in the world.

Others will not accept the mark: people who do not need to buy and sell: inmates in prisons, mental institutions, and nursing homes. In Jesus' day, he saved the wickedest of sinners: Saul of Tarsus, the demon possessed, the traitors, the criminals, the prostitutes, and many others. So in this day, God is able to raise up even from these institutions those who will know him and do exploits in his name. Is this not what Jesus meant when he gave the parable of the rich man who gave a wedding feast and told his servant to go into the highways and byways and invite all who would come—both good and bad? (Matthew 22) Millions will never know the goodness and the greatness of God's blessing upon those who hunger and thirst after God and yield themselves to him!

Here is another group that will not take the mark of the beast: the ones variously known in the Bible as:

1. God's manifested sons (Romans 8:19)
2. the church of the first born (Hebrews 12:23)
3. the 144,000 (Revelation 7:4)
4. the overcomers (Revelation 2,3,21)
5. Joel's army (Joel 2)
6. the manchild (Revelation 12)
7. those who bring forth 100-fold fruit (Matthew 13:8+23), and
8. the remnant (Romans 11:5).

Truly the martyrs have a great testimony and a great blessing, but the manifested sons have an even greater testimony. It is easier to die once, than to die daily and continually to deny our desires. We have an example in Daniel and his three friends. Daniel went through his great tribulation in the lions' den and came out untouched. His three friends went through their great tribulation in an over-heated furnace, and they came out untouched. We must all go through our [individual] great tribulation. Some of us will die a martyr's death—and receive a very

great reward, even ruling with Christ during the 1000 years (Revelation 20). Some will, because of their faith, love, devotion, and obedience, survive and live in God's kingdom as Daniel and his friends did.

Again I want to say: We must all go through great tribulation as Apostle Paul said in Acts 14:22, "We must enter in through great tribulation." Daniel and his friends were courageous and stood against the law of the land. Be courageous, dear one, and stand, even if you have to stand against the law of the land. Don't be afraid of the lions or the over-heated furnace, and God will walk with you! These men refused to bow down to Babylon's image. May you also refuse to bow to Mighty Babylon's system! It will mean social ostracism and abandonment by this world's system—but God himself will take care of you. He will hold you up as an example of a godly person, even as Daniel and his three friends were honored by the king of Babylon!

## **The Ancient Babylon**

### **Verses**

## **The Last Days Babylon**

Why the name "Babylon"? Why is she always referred to as The Mighty Babylon? Looking at the historical Babylon (the ancient Babylon), we see innumerable parallels, symbolisms, and fore-types to The Last Days Babylon. Babylon got her name from the tower of Babel. The word babel means confusion, because that is the place where the languages were confused. The Mighty Babylon too is in great confusion. The tower of Babel was an attempt by mankind to reach heaven by means other than the means than God ordained. The last days Babylon is still trying to reach heaven by means other than the means that God ordained.

The governments and religions of the ancient world originated in Babylon. But this was not God's will. He did not want men ruling over other men; he wanted to rule over them himself (This was made plain at the time that the Israelis asked Samuel to give them a king. God told Samuel that it was not his will for Israel to have a king [1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 8:7]. It was also made plain in the book of Judges. For 400 years Israel did not have a king. God himself ruled over them and raised up judges who were in agreement with his heart to rule over them.) The Mighty Babylon is determined to rule—contrary to God's will. When man rules over man, he ends up in a bureaucratic mess, in confusion, in Babylon! (The word

Babylon comes from babel which means confusion.)

There are perhaps more parallels between the religion of ancient Babylon and The Mighty Babylon than there are between the government of the ancient and The Mighty Babylon. The religion of ancient Babylon was copied by most of the ancient nations (with different names for their gods). Jesus broke with the traditions of religion and manifested God's lifestyle, truth, purity, and life. But The Mighty Babylon chose to copy the traditions of the ancient Babylonian religion—only giving it Christian names. This is the reason that God calls the false religion of the endtime The Mighty Babylon. Ancient Babylon was nothing compared to The Mighty Babylon. Ancient Babylon may have had several million followers, but the modern Babylon has several billion!

Mankind rebelled against God at the tower. Samuel told us that rebellion is as [similar to] the sin of witchcraft (1 Samuel 15:23). After they rebelled, they fell into witchcraft, demon worship, fortune telling, familiar spirits, necromancy (talking to the dead), telepathy, spirit counselors (formerly known as familiar spirits), astral projection, and all of the other vile acts that God condemned. They turned to a religion that did not condemn their sins, but still had a supernatural element. They knew about God's righteousness through their father Noah, but they rejected it, and God rejected them and let them fall into their abominations.

As the kings of the ancient world imitated the kings of Babylon, so also the religions of the ancient world imitated the religion of Babylon. Is this not the reason that God chose the name "The Mighty Babylon" for the religions and politics of these last days? An excellent book that shows many of the parallel similarities between the ancient Babylon and the last days Babylon is The Two Babylons by Alexander Hislop, published in 1897 by Loizeaux Brothers, Neptune, NJ (Hislop compared ancient Babylon only to the Catholic Church. Again I repeat what I said above, it is my opinion that the spirit of Babylon is in all large denominations and religions, not just the Catholic Church).

In times past, many religions had many quarrels among them, but when the true servants of God arose and preached to them that they should repent of their sins, they forgot their quarrels and were strongly united against God's true message and messengers. It is the same today. Many denominations may fuss and argue about many doctrines, but let

one true godly man come to town and cry out against their sins, they will unite strongly against him.

Today, the nations of the world are gathering to confederate themselves, and their religious leaders are supporting them. But the true servants of God see from reading Revelation 13 that this confederation is the anti-Christ system and they do not submit to this system. For these reasons, all of the political and religious systems of the world are against God's true worshiper.

### **Lucifer**

The Prophet Isaiah is the only Bible writer that mentioned Lucifer. Isaiah 14:12-14 reads:

How you have fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you who weakened the nations are cut down to the ground! You said in your heart, "I will go up into heaven. I will exalt my throne above God's stars. I will sit on the mountain of the congregation, in the sides of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like The Most High."

This is a spirit of self-exaltation that is found in most great religious leaders. Pride is the root of the sin. When millions praise a man's virtues, pride becomes such a strong temptation that almost all fall into it. Notice the words "in your heart." The pride is in a man's heart. We look at the outward man and we can not see the pride. We see a fine suit of clothes, we see a huge following, we see huge cathedrals; but God sees the heart! One sin leads to another, and before long the man is making political deals, financial deals, and ignoring the preaching of the gospel as he was called to do.

The founder of this ancient religion seems to have been Nimrod (Genesis 10:8ff), Noah's great-grandson. Where did he get the devilish wisdom to originate the false worship and the black magical arts that went with it? The devil is always looking for a leader whom he can use, and doubtless he saw in Nimrod a person who could influence many generations to come. Isaiah (14:4) called him the king of Babylon, but did not say which king. Being the founder of Babylon, Nimrod could be considered its first king. Perhaps the prophesy refers to all of Babylon's kings, and many of the ones who are plotting the one world government are worshipping Lucifer today (I have been told this by an insider who left

their organization. They have tried to kill him many times for leaving their organization).

Today, many in high places in the religious world are worshipping devils, or Satan or Lucifer, but are doing it secretly. Millions are following these men thinking they are godly men. They are masters at deception, and they speak the most beautiful words. Jesus said, "Watch, least any man deceive you." The spirit cries out through all of the major prophets: "Come out of her, my people, that you may not partake of her plagues" (Revelation 18:4). Through contacts that I have, I know that those who are trying to get the religious systems together, are hysterical about anyone who teaches the "Come out" message. This "Come out" message is found 8 times in the Bible:

Isaiah 48:20    Jeremiah 50:8    Jeremiah 51:45    2nd Corinthians 6:17  
Isaiah 52:11    Jeremiah 51:6    Zachariah 2:7    Revelation 18:4

The Mighty Babylon includes all of the false religious and political systems. Revelation 18:24 tell us that in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all those who have been slain in this earth.

### **God's Mystery**

In those days...God's mystery will be completed, as he has proclaimed to his servants, the prophets.—Revelation 10:7

What is God's mystery? What is mysterious about it? Why is it a mystery? Is God trying to hide something from us? Apostle Paul brought it out well in Colossians 1:26-27:

The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations is now revealed to God's holy ones. God... revealed to them that the riches of this glorious mystery for the nations is: Christ in you, the glorious hope. The key words are 'Christ in you'. This is the mystery that was earnestly sought after in ancient times by kings, priests, and prophets. But it was not revealed until Jesus said, "The Father in me and I in you and you in me" (John 14:20). It is being re-discovered today by many.

To understand this mystery, let us look at the original meaning of the word Christ. Christ came from the Greek language and is the same as Messiah in the Hebrew language. The original meaning of these two words is 'the anointed one' or 'the one who is anointed'. This anointing,

which all true Christians have, is the same as the Comforter (John 14-16) and the baptism in the Holy Spirit which came on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2).

To understand this Christ-anointing-in-us mystery, we need to look a little closer at what Jesus said about it. Jesus said:

The Comforter will be in you and will teach you everything, and remind you of everything which I tell you...He will guide you into all truth... and he will make known to you things which are to come in the future. Everything that my Father has is mine. This is the reason why I told you that the Spirit will take that which is mine and show it to you.

— John 14:16,17,26; 16:13,15

He also told us:

He that believes on me, the works that I do, he will do also, and he will do greater than these. — John 14:12

The ones to whom Jesus spoke were so new in his message that they were not able to grasp its vastness. But Apostle Paul sought the Lord earnestly for many years, and he was able to grasp these mysteries or deeper truths. Let's look at how Brother Paul brought some of them out: Ephesians 3:19: We should be filled with all of God's fullness.

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:10-11: Jesus' life should be manifested in our body.

Colossians 2:9-10: We are in him in whom all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily.

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 3:7-11: The Christ-anointing in us is greater than the glory which caused Moses' face to shine so that he had to put a veil over it in order that the people could look at him.

Ephesians 1:17-19: As the result of the things we believe, we should know the "riches of his inheritance in the saints, and the exceeding greatness of his power in us."

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:17: We are new creations in Christ. Old things have passed away, all things have become new.

Romans 8:18: Incomparable glory is to be revealed in us.

Romans 8:11 and Philippians 3:21: The Spirit will bring our mortal bodies to life, and change them to be fashioned like his glorious body.

Ephesians 2:6: We are a holy temple being built as a dwelling place for God.

1st Corinthians 2:16: We have the mind of Christ

1st Corinthians 2:9-10: Eye has not seen nor ear heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those that love him. But God has revealed them to us by his Spirit.

So, what is God's mystery? Just simply this: Jesus is in us, or his Holy Spirit is in us, or his anointing is in us. These three statements are the same. We can say it this way: he lives in us by his spirit. He calls it a mystery because to those whose spirit has not been reborn, it is a mystery. It is not a mystery because it is difficult to understand. Everything that Jesus said was easy for the ordinary people to understand. An example is this statement: "While I was yet a sinner, God loved me" (Romans 5:8) Truly that is one of the greatest mysteries of all time. How can a God that created more universes than we can imagine, love me? Yet, even though this is a great mystery, even a little child can understand what this statement means! At the same time we can say that God's promises are so great that a naturally-minded person cannot accept them, it takes a spiritual mind to comprehend God's great promises. So it is that we write primarily about God's natural blessings so that most readers can understand them. As for the spiritual blessings, it is only after we begin to mature spiritually that we become able to see the greater spiritual heights. When we reach out and attain these, then we see even greater spiritual heights and we reach out for them also. And to this spiritual growth there is no end as Isaiah 9:7 says: "Of the increase of his government [in us] there is no end" He rules us by love which draws us ever closer to his likeness.

In 1st John 4:17 we find one of those statements that speaks of some of his greater truths: "As he is, so are we in this world." "As he is" is greater than "as he was" in Judea and Galilee, because he has now entered in the heavenly realm and he appears wherever he will. Notice this again: "As he is, so are we." Another is John 3:8:

The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound; but you do not know where it's coming from and where it's going. So is every man who is born of the Spirit.

This is a description of his post-resurrection ministry; he was born of the spirit and appeared behind closed doors. Did John had this in mind when he wrote, "As he is, so are we in this world." And even this ministry was an earthly ministry, because he told Nicodemus: "If I have told you about earthly things, and you do not believe, how will you

believe if I tell you about heavenly thing?” With these words we get just a little idea of what Paul had in mind when he wrote “Christ in us, the glorious hope.”

In the Old Testament there were very few who believed and received God’s greatness. Before the flood Enoch walked with God and did not see death (Genesis 5:24; Hebrews 11:5). After the flood Elijah by-passed death and entered directly into the eternal realm (2nd Kings 2)—even though he was a man with passions just as we have (James 5:17). Only he and Moses were privileged to stand on the mountain when Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James, and John. These words give us just a little taste of the greater things that God has for us. Are there others who walked with God and by-passed death? The Catholic Church teaches that Mary did. There are hardly any historical records. Perhaps she did. Other historical records tell us that three days after John died, someone went and dug up his casket and looked in it; there was no body in it! Remember Jesus words, “If I want him to remain until I return, what is that to you?” And remember the word that went out that John would not die? (John 21) This is my belief: I believe that God let it happen this way so that people would not worship John. John did not need to die. He agreed to go through death so that people would not worship him.

Now let’s go back to the first verse in this chapter:

In those day....God’s mystery will be completed, as he has proclaimed to his servants the prophets. — Revelation 10:7

We have seen that the Christ-anointing in us bringing about the new life, is God’s mystery. Now let us inquire as to the meaning of the words “...it will be completed.” Since we have seen that in the past those who received the fullness of the life of Jesus the Messiah, in the natural body, were extremely few (one in a generation or one in a century, one in a race or one in a dispensation) it seems that their number is to be completed “in those days”—which we believe to be very soon. Revelation 7:4 tells us that there were 144,000 sealed and Revelation 14:3 tells us that there were 144,000 redeemed from the earth. Could it be that when this number is completed that God’s mystery will be completed? Could this be the church of the first born (Hebrews 13:23)? Could these be the ones that he is talking about in: Revelation 14:4:

These are those who were not defiled with women [the women represent the false religious systems and denominations], for they are

pure. These are those who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These were redeemed by Jesus from among men to be the first fruits to God and to the Lamb.

Not only will their number be completed, these who are manifested as God’s sons will play a key part in the final wind up of this age (or dispensation) and will usher in the new age, Christ’s 1000-year reign over the earth. It is my opinion that God will anoint this group to proclaim Jesus’ message of deliverance to the whole earth in one generation. I believe that they will feed the hungry nations supernaturally as under God, Moses fed the Hebrews for forty years with manna from heaven, and as Jesus fed 5000 with a handful of bread and fish. It is my opinion that when they meet resistance and persecution, they will be delivered miraculously as Daniel and his three friends were, thus gaining the approval of government officials as the king of Babylon ruled in Daniel’s favor, and in favor of his three friends. When the world finds out that these people cannot be killed, there will be no limit to what they will be able to do. This saying will be accomplished: “This gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the world as a testimony to all nations; then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14). These manifested sons, this church of the first born are now in preparation. I have already met some who have preached the gospel of Jesus Christ in languages which they did not know and blessed the multitudes.

Once again let us look at the lead-off verse in this chapter, this time substituting “these days” for “those days”:

In these days...God’s mystery will be completed as he has proclaimed to his servants the prophets! —Revelation 10:7

### **The Mystery of Iniquity**

The mystery of iniquity is already at work, only until the one who is now the obstacle is removed. —2nd Thessalonians 2:7

In my younger years I was told that the word ‘iniquity’ means ‘hidden sins.’ As I matured, I came to understand that a better definition might be ‘spiritual sins’ (they are still hidden sins, because they are hidden to the natural eyes). Let’s look a little more closely to what are spiritual sins.

In the Bible we see that there was only one class of people that fought against Christ: the religious/political leaders whom he exposed as

hypocrites. From this we understand that hypocrisy is the one big sin. Murders and thieves often end up in prison, but the hypocrites usually end up in church pulpits and on deacon boards.

Hidden sins! We call them hidden sins because we do not see them with our physical eyes. They are in our hearts. A few of these sins are: selfishness, pride, greed, jealousy, envy, hatred, and hypocrisy. Are these sins not in each of our hearts? Though some Christians humble themselves before God and seek his sanctification in their hearts, many do not. These sins in the heart eventually evolve and develop into big sins that can destroy us; sins such as hypocrisy and pride!

Now, let's reconsider the definition of the word 'iniquity': spiritual sins, or sins which are committed by spiritual people, or by Christians. These are the sins which are working from within the church to destroy it. An example is a nation that has both external enemies (armies) and internal enemies (the traitors and the spies, and even those who are apathetic). It is quite obvious that internal enemies do a whole lot more damage than external enemies. So it is in the spiritual realm. One example is China in the 1940's. Drug addiction was extremely wide spread, causing the people to be apathetic. The Communists (taking a strong stand against drugs) were able to come in and destroy the loyalist armies because they were too apathetic to do anything. Free China was destroyed by its internal enemies. It was easy for a Communist to go up to a drug addict and offer him some drug money for some military secrets. The drug addicts became traitors or spies. So is the church. The internal sins are doing most of the damage—more so than adulteries, murders, violence, or any of the external, visible sins.

In the first 300 years of its existence, the church was persecuted viciously. During that whole time, the church remained strong, vibrant, alive, and growing. After Christianity was legalized (in the early part of the fourth century), many Christians became fat, lazy, apathetic, and ineffective in their real mission. An example is Saint Augustine's visit to Rome. The bishop of Rome showed Augustine the church's treasures and said, "We no longer have to say with Peter and John, "Silver and gold we do not have." Augustine replied, "Neither can we say with Peter and John, 'In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk'" (Acts 3:6).

We have seen iniquity as the spiritual sins of the church, but there is

another aspect of iniquity which I have not mentioned. There are those persons who have brought into the church a wide variety of occult practices, some even being approved by the churches. These things, like all other evils, are usually brought in, in small, innocent-looking measures. At full maturity, they result in the most abominable depravity. One thing is very important in understanding the difference between that which is of God and that which is of the devil:

In the occult world, the devil never does anything except to imitate the spiritual gifts that come from God.

or, another way of saying it is:

When the devil wishes to destroy strong Christians, he does not tempt them with the worldly sins, for he knows that they have already overcome these. Rather he comes imitating the Lord Jesus Christ himself and quoting God's word as he did to Jesus after his forty-day fast (Matthew 4:1-11).

Also, at times the devil is able to work miracles as he did when Moses threw his rod down before Pharaoh and it became a serpent, and Pharaoh's magician-ministers also threw their rods down and they also became serpents (Exodus 7:8-12). Jesus condemned one group who claimed they were working miracles, prophesying, and casting out devils (Matthew 7:22) and Revelation 19:20 describes a false prophet who worked miracles before a world leader.

From the above we see that it can be very difficult to discern the difference between God's works and the devil's works. How are we to know the difference? Jesus gave us the answer when he said, "By their fruits you will know them" (Matthew 7:16). Note:

The devil can duplicate the gifts of the spirit, but ....

He can only imitate the fruits of the spirit.

[He cannot duplicate the fruits of the spirit.] — Galatians 5:22-23

(Note: 1st Corinthians 12:8-10 lists nine gifts of the spirit and Galatians 5:22-23 lists nine fruits of the spirit.)

Let us look closely at the difference between the gifts of the spirit and the fruits of the spirit, and the difference between duplicating the gifts, and imitating the fruits. (Take note! Millions of Christians have been deceived by these! I have too! You will be also, if you do not carefully discern these things!)

The devil can duplicate the gifts of the spirit. Isn't this what he did



in Moses' day when Pharaoh's two ministers threw their rods down and they became serpents? In those days there were schools in which these ministers were trained in the principals of meditation, faith, and concentration. These schools were so tough that a pre-requisite for admission was the completion of a 40-day fast. In these times of fasting, prayer, meditation, and consecration, these men attained spiritual expertise/prowess such as hardly any of us have seen today.

The false ministers did not use the devil's power; they used, or misused, God's power. Now, some readers may have a problem with this statement. Let me give an example: When Pharaoh's ministers threw down their rods, they believed that those rods would turn into snakes. They were using faith—one of the God's gifts. Even Jesus recognized that the principle of faith would work alike for both good people and evil people, for when he told us to pray believing, he did not say anything about obeying God. "Just believe that you will receive what you ask for." This works for both those who obey God and those who obey the devil. The two who withstood Moses "believed and received." Paul also recognized that the principle of faith could be used outside of the realm of obedience to God when he said, "Though I have faith to move mountains [mountainous problems], and do not have love, I am nothing" (1st Corinthians 13:1).

Dear reader, I beg you to take close heed to these words: Though a man moves mountains by his faith, that does not prove that he is a true servant of God; though he throws his rod down and it becomes a snake, that does not make him a true servant of God. This too is the spirit of iniquity that is at work in the world!

Another example of how sneaky and deceptive the enemy can be is this story of a soldier who was listed as missing in action during a war. The government sent a notice to his wife that he was missing in action. In the next few months she was tormented in her mind, not knowing if her husband was alive or dead. She waited, but he did not show up. More months passed but still she had no word of his condition.

Finally one day, someone suggested that she go to a fortune teller to learn about her husband's condition. In her desperation she went. The fortune teller looked in her crystal ball and called up the man's spirit. He arose and spoke to his wife. She recognized his voice perfectly. Not only did she recognize his voice, but he spoke to his wife about intimate

details that no one else knew about; things such as: "Honey, in the top right drawer of my desk, there is a letter from our insurance company. Please take it to my brother and he will process it for you. In the next drawer, there is a letter to my daughter Shirley that I want you to give her on her 21st birthday." And, after giving her a few more instructions, and saying that he was happy where he was, he left. The woman also left with her mind much relieved. She went home, look in his desk drawers and found exactly what he told her. However, several months later, her husband walked in the house! The woman thought she had seen a ghost and fainted. The man knew nothing about the visit to the fortune teller.

This story is an example of what powers some fortune tellers have. This too is the spirit of iniquity at work in the world. Here again the devil was duplicating some of the gifts of the spirit. He was duplicating the gift of the word of knowledge (1st Corinthians 12:8). God knows all things and this gift of word of knowledge is available to those who are in tune with the spirit world.

Another example: One man who was learned in the art of voodoo, decided to destroy a certain man because he was a gung-ho Christian. He jerked a strand of hair from the Christian's head, and he used this strand of hair in his voodoo practice. That night the Christian had a most astonishing dream. In his dream he saw what looked like a church service with the minister or priest wearing a black hooded robe. This leader went up to the speaker's rostrum, opened a book and started: "The text today is a familiar one. It concerns Jesus of Nazareth. [and he read from the book] The Virgin Mary was a whore and Jesus Christ was a bastard..."

The Christian (in his dream) interrupted, "Hold on! That's a lie! You know he's God's Son! You're misquoting scripture. The Bible says a virgin shall bear a son and his name will be Immanuel, God among us."

"Quiet," the leader said, "You're out of order!" He raised his head and, because of the hood, the Christian saw his face for the first time. He saw a handsome, forceful-looking man but with evil eyes. They had a glassy, inhuman look. They looked as though he might have been heavily doped up on cocaine, except that he was too much in control of himself to be on any dope.

The Christian continued (still in the dream), "Oh, oh! I know what I'm under now. I rebuke you in the name of Jesus! I'm washed in the

blood of the lamb, and you're a liar. I'm bought by a price, you're a liar. The Bible says you're going to be cast into the bottomless pit. Aren't you the one that made nations shake? Aren't you the one that made kings shake? The one who is in me is greater than the one who is in you!"

The leader started calling Jesus and his disciples homosexuals and made all sorts of other wild accusations (still in the dream). The Christian stood up and defended the true identity of Christ by using the scripture. The evil in that place was so overwhelming that the Christian could not take it any more. Then he woke up and he found that he was drenched in sweat.

However, before he woke up, he looked around the congregation and saw one person whom he recognized, his aunt whom he had not seen in about fifteen years, and whom he knew to have been involved with witchcraft.

After he woke up, with his eyes wide open, he could still see the people dancing around their leader and hear their chanting. Desperately he reached for his Bible and, started reading and praying for 1½ hours. He had a roommate who also heard the chanting—so this was more than just a dream.

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Earlier I said that the devil can duplicate the gifts of the spirit, but can only imitate the fruits of the spirit. In the above paragraphs we saw some examples of the duplication of the gifts. Now let's look at this statement: the devil can only imitate the fruits of the spirit. The fruits of the spirit are love, joy, and peace. How can the devil have love, joy, and peace? There is no way! But when you meet the false prophets, they will tell you they love you, they will put their arm around, and show you real camaraderie. And, yes, they imitate joy, love, and peace; but they can't duplicate it, for how can the devil have love, joy, and peace? Oh! and they are very good at imitating love, joy, and peace. Millions have been dragged into false religions and doctrines by pretended displays of love, joy, and peace.

Our Lord told us that real love means that we are ready to sacrifice our lives for our friends (John 15:13). The false prophets will not lay down their lives for you; rather they will get you to trust them and then they will rip you off. Millions of gullible Christians have been ripped off by such false prophets!

So the mystery of iniquity is the perversion or corruption of the churches and religions. The devil, the anti-Christ is not setting up his church, he is trying to take over the existing denominations of Christianity. We know that some ministers in major denominations have sold out to Satan- or Lucifer- or devil-worship and witchcraft, but they have done so secretly and have maintained their positions in the church. A few have even come out openly and conducted seances for world leaders.

They do these things because they have lost God's power, and they are reaching out desperately to something tangible from the spirit world, not realizing they are playing right into the hands of the devil. Those who start down this path usually go deeper and deeper — just like a drug addict who constantly needs stronger and stronger drugs to satisfy himself. So it is with those who submit to the occult powers — yesterday's thrill is now old stuff; they need to go deeper for that new thrill that their souls crave.

Why did they turn from the way of truth and holiness? Perhaps it is because they did not count the cost when they made their original commitment to God. They found that they loved the world and their sins more than they loved God. No wonder the prophet says, "Come out of her [the world's religious systems], my people, so that you may not be partakers of her sins and least you be smitten by her plagues" (Revelation 18:4).

Consider if this is not how many of God's choicest servants fall: At first most ministers start out under the true anointing of God which draws many people who sense the love of God in the man of God. They freely give of the offerings, and large amounts of money come in.

At that time, the enemy, the devil, sends one of his emissaries [fallen angels] to stand beside the man of God and whisper in his mind: "I now have good offerings coming in. Now I can relax some; I don't have to spend the nights weeping over lost souls. Now is the time to enjoy the fruits of my labors." Very many men found these thoughts going through their minds and agreed that staying up late a night and weeping over lost souls is hard work. They longed to come back to a lifestyle of rest, comfort, and enjoyments. Before long, they loose out with God.

However, the things that most people do not understand is that when such things happen, God does not withdraw his gifts from those people,

for the Bible tells us that “...the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable” [Romans 11:29].¹ The people see the spiritual gifts continuing to operate in a person and they think that he is still serving God, though he is not. He is now taking the offerings of the people and serving himself.

Furthermore, when riches increase, most people find that they soon want more and more. Now the man of God begins to use tricky words and tactics to draw more offerings out of the people. By the time that happens, these people have completely lost out with God. They are on the road of self-deception.

This is the situation or condition of many who are in ministry today: The spiritual gifts are from God, but when the man’s heart has turned from the love of God, the spiritual gifts continue to operate, and masses of people are deluded into thinking, “This is a man of God, for the spiritual gifts continue to operate in him.” God calls this divination — the true gifts of God operating in one who is no longer operating in the love of God. I say to you, my readers, I have seen many go down that path, and this is as grievous as anything in the world. May your spiritual eyes be opened that you may see what is going on in the spiritual world!

Now, back to our lead-off verse in this chapter:

The mystery of iniquity is already at work until he who now is the obstacle is taken out of the way. —2 Thessalonians 2:7

Christ’s Thousand Year Reign —Revelation 20

Before we look at Christ’s thousand-year reign, there is one event which must be brought out: the final destruction of The Mighty Babylon. It is after the end of the last seven plagues that the beast and his armies gather together against Christ and his armies. The beast’s armies are not defeated in a battle, rather they are slain by “the sword that come out of the mouth” of Christ (Revelation 19:21). This is the end of the old order and beginning of the new order which is the thousand-year reign by Jesus Christ. We are not told how long it will be from the end of the last plague (the great earthquake, Revelation 16:17-21) until the destruction

of the beast’s armies. It could be a few weeks and it could be a few years. However, with modern transportation, huge armies are usually assembled in a few weeks.

Here is the text which describes the destruction of Babylon’s armies, Revelation 19:19-21:

Then I saw the wild beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to fight against the one who sat on the horse [Christ, verse 11], and against his armies. The wild beast was taken and with him the false prophet who worked miracles before him with which he deceived those who had received the mark of the wild beast and those who worshiped his image. These were both tossed alive into a fiery lake burning with sulfur. The others were slain by the sword that came out from the mouth of the one who sat on the horse...

Now we come to the thousand years’ reign. This is the text from Revelation 20:1-6:

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He seized the dragon, that old serpent, who is the tempter and Satan, who deceived the whole world, and bound him a thousand years. He tossed him into the bottomless pit and shut him up and set a seal over him, so that he would not deceive the nations again until the thousand years were over. After that he will be loosed for a short time.

I saw thrones and those who sat on them, and judgment was given to them. I saw the souls of those who were beheaded for the witness of Jesus and for God’s word, those who had not worshiped the wild beast, nor his image, nor received his mark on their foreheads or on their hand. They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who have a part in the first resurrection. The second death does not have any power over them, but these people will be priests for God and for Christ. They will reign with him a thousand years.

Let us begin our consideration of Christ’s thousand-year reign with these questions:

- (1) What will this thousand years be like?
- (2) Will certain classes of sin be eliminated?
- (3) Or will all sin be eliminated or will the temptations to sin be eliminated?

¹The older English Bibles had “are without repentance”

I sought the face of the Lord for answers to these questions. Here is what I believe he was saying to me: When the devil is bound for a thousand years, there will be no false religious systems in the world. Rather, true servants of God will be in all positions of leadership in both the church and the government. I have already shown how virtually all the curses in the world have come about through the false church system and the governments which are supported by them; therefore, when the devil is bound, all wars will be eliminated and all criminal organizations. Disarmament, long sought after by men, will automatically come about. All occult practices, black magical arts, and resultant curses will be gone.

However, temptations to sin are from two sources: (1) the natural appetites of the body, and (2) the devil's deceptions which lead men to false religions, false prophets, to hypocrisy, and to the occultic religions. Only the second class will be eliminated. As long as men are in their natural bodies, they will have the natural appetites. At this time there will be many faithful ministers (remember that all who have been beheaded for Christ will be here—Revelation 20). Doubtless most people will be converted to Christ while they are young. Young people will be able to go to most any minister for help and counseling concerning the temptations of the appetites. Because of faithful ministry, older Christians will know how to subdue the bodily appetites and live victorious Christian lives. Those who commit sin or crime will be quickly restored. Also, the victims of crime will be fully restored by the true anointed ministries. I do not know how much sin or crime there will be. There will be new levels of blessings, eradication of illnesses (I think this will be gradual) and fantastic joy in the fellowship of Christ. I do foresee a progression over the centuries as men learn God's ways, learn how to bring their children into Christ's presence, and enter into many spiritual (not just natural) blessings.

CONCLUSION

There are many other things that should be written in this book. Some things in Revelation I do not understand. I left these out. One example is the two witnesses in Chapter 11. I do not know who they are, when they will appear, or what their place will be in this end-of-the-age course of events. Neither do I have a clear understanding of the manner of

Christ's coming. I do not expect him to rule the way men rule—from an office in a capitol building where he can be reach by phone. After his resurrection Jesus appeared at various places, even behind closed doors, without using any natural means of transportation. I am convinced that his future presence in this earth will be in that order. Chapter twenty makes it plain that martyred saints will reign with Christ. I am convinced that he is going to rule through his people. The Bible does tell us that he is coming to be glorified in his saints and to be admired in all who believe (2nd Thessalonians 1:10; see also Romans 8:18 and Galatians 1:16).

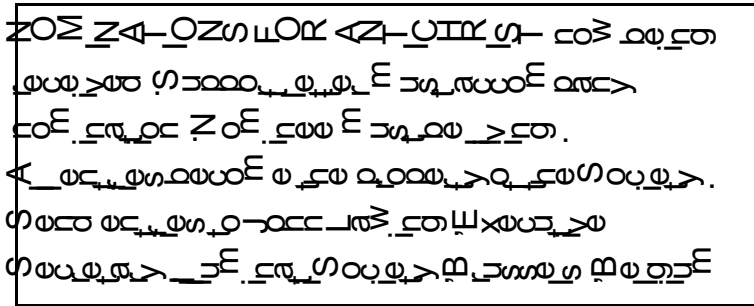
I do not know what part the manifested sons will play in this new age. Revelation 12 tells us that they will be caught up to God's throne but it also tells us that they will shepherd all nations with an iron rod (verse 5—this expression symbolizes a strong dictatorship, a benevolent dictatorship. Nowhere does the Bible teach democracy. Men have tried for centuries to rule themselves, but they have failed). Doubtless the manifested sons and the resurrected martyrs (20:4) will work together in love and unity. The manifested sons are also to bring all of creation out from "the bondage of corruption" (Romans 8:19-23). This phrase refers to the aging, dying, and post-death decay processes of the body. Are all plants and animals are to be brought into this endless life? It is my opinion that this will not come about until after the thousand years, though the foundation for this work will be laid during the thousand years.

One thing that many are looking for is for the Lord to snatch them (rapture them) out of this world before the great tribulation. Many years ago the Lord showed me that this doctrine is not correct, and since then he has confirmed this to me several times. Let's check this doctrine in Matthew 24: Jesus described the time of great tribulation (verse 21) and added, "...immediately after the tribulation..." (verse 29), then he described his coming and the gathering of his own (Matthew 24:31 says from one end of heaven while Mark 13:27 says from the uttermost parts of the earth). If there were a catching away before the tribulation, how is it that Jesus omitted it? Rather, brother Paul says, "We enter in through much tribulation" (Acts 14:22). (I have brought this out in previous pages of this book—the story about Daniel and his three friends.) Let us understand, fellow Christians, that it is the tribulations, trials, and testings that purge and purify our spirits. Without these trials

bringing out all of the evil things in our hearts, there is no way we can enter into God's greatness.

The doctrine of a rapture before the great tribulation was started by few ministers in Scotland in the first few decades after 1800. The first person known to have taught this doctrine was a pastor in 1788. Later, Dr. C.I. Scofield picked up this new doctrine and popularized it in his Scofield Bible (in the footnotes). Those who teach a catching away before the tribulation are following a doctrine that no priest, bishop, preacher, pastor, or evangelist taught before 1788. Before that the ministers taught that the church would go victoriously through the time of great tribulation.

Perhaps one of the most astonishing things that has come out in recent years is the following ad taken from Christianity Today magazine, April 6, 1979. A want-ad on page 56 reads:



If anyone doubts the authenticity of the above ad, I challenge you to go to your local library and ask the periodicals librarian to pull out this issue of Christianity Today and look on page 56.

In the previous pages I wrote about the Illuminati Society, but I did not mention its name. I did not think that it would be appropriate. However, it seems that in recent years this society has made a policy decision to quit being a secret society and go public. It makes sense that if they intend to rule the world, they cannot remain a secret society. When the Illuminati Society decided to run this ad, they showed the whole world that they were going public, and that they are anti-Christ's promoters.

Some people say this ad is a joke. If this ad were a joke, would Christianity Today risk their reputation for such a sick joke? Rather, this ad evidences that the owners and editors of Christianity Today are part

of the world-wide conspiracy to bring all nations under one government and all religions under one head. [Before this ad came out in 1979, I received some of this information from a man who was once a part of the Illuminati Society.]

One of the reasons I hesitated to reveal this name in the earlier pages of this book is because Christians primarily need to learn to recognize the anti-Christ spirit within themselves. However, it seems that the time has come for the anti-Christ's promoters to be revealed by name!

Another article came out even more recently that exposes the backers of the one-world government. The following came from an article entitled "How Close Is a World Government?" by Gary Kah. Mr. Kah wrote: The World Constitutions and Parliament Association (WCPA) serves as a united front for dozens of one-world/new age organizations with a combined membership numbering in the millions, including the World Council of Churches. The membership roster contains a list of ambassadors, foreign ministers, mayors, Nobel Prize winners, United Nations officials, members of the World Court, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, UNESCO, etc. WCPA has already drafted a constitution for the world government which they propose to name "The Federation of Earth."

Interestingly, WCPA has divided the world into 10 administrative regions, referred to by insiders as the 10 kingdoms—which correspond to the ten horns and ten crowns of the first beast of Revelation 13. The seven heads probably refer to seven capital cities where the Federation of Earth will do its business.

The author adds: "A letter announcing the formation of the World Government was sent by the WCPA to the world's heads of state in December 1990." He also added: "This was three months after President Bush [the first President Bush] and other world leaders started to openly talk about the New World Order." Insiders at WCPA use the term "New World Order" to refer to the One World Government.

Also Mr. Kah included these words: "At some point [this constitution will] become enforceable under world law (perhaps during a national emergency or world crisis)." In a previous chapter, I wrote that this one world government would probably be set up during a crisis or war. I wrote that before I read Mr. Kah's conjecture that it would happen during a time of crisis. Reading Mr. Kah's conjecture confirmed to me

that this government would be set up during a world crisis. This makes sense. During times of crisis, people are desperate, and will reach out for any straw that seems to offer hope. These people are ready, and are just waiting for the right crisis to come. Probably, they will help the crisis come; perhaps they will start a war, just so they can take over the world.

Fellow Christian, look up, lift up your head, because your redemption is drawing near (Luke 21:28).

Appendix

Rapture and 7-Year Tribulation?

When I was a young man, I heard several ministers preaching about a 7-year period of Great Tribulation at the end of this age. Having read the Bible, I knew that Jesus taught that there would be a time of Great Tribulation—such as the world had never seen—nor would ever see again [Matthew 24:21]; however, Jesus did not say that it would last 7 years. After hearing several teach or preach that the Great Tribulation would last 7 years, I finally asked someone, “Where in the Bible can we find that the Great Tribulation will last 7 years?” The person I talked to pointed to Daniel’s prophecy about 70 weeks [or 70 sevens], and that the last week [or seven-year period] would be the time of Great Tribulation. I did not know how the Great Tribulation was connected to Daniel’s 70th week, but many preachers taught the same thing.

After being with conservative/fundamental/evangelical churches for 45 years, I have not heard a single minister of the gospel teach otherwise. Neither was I able, in 45 years of reading the Bible, to find any evidence to connect Daniel’s 70th week to the time of the Great Tribulation.

Finally [after reading the Bible for almost 50 years], I ran across some research into the origins of the teaching that the Great Tribulation would last 7 years. Evangelist John Bray of Lakeland, Florida [and a few others] researched the origins of the teaching of a 7-year tribulation. According to Bray, John Nelson Darby, the founder of the Plymouth Brethren denomination, started teaching a 7-year tribulation about 1828. [The title of Bray’s book is: *The Origin of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture Teaching*, 1980, Fish House Publishing, Fort Myers, Florida. This book is now out of print.] Darby got some of his ideas from a Catholic monk named Manuel de Lacunza who published his ideas in 1790 in a book

called *The Coming of Messiah in Glory and Majesty*.

NOTE: De Lacunza was with the Jesuits in Spain. They were expelled from that country in 1767 because of their excessive brutality. His book was banned by the Catholic Church in 1824. Before him, about 1580, a Jesuit priest named Ribera taught and wrote about the book of Revelation trying to reverse the losses to the Catholic Church that resulted from the Protestant reformation. About 1790, the Jesuit priest named Emmanuel de Lacunza, modified Ribera’s writings. De Lacunza told everybody that he was a Jewish rabbi, because he thought the Protestants would listen to a converted Jew, whereas, he knew they would not listen to a Jesuit priest.

Darby modified some of Lacunza’s writings to develop the teaching that the Great Tribulation would last 7 years.

Some time later, Darby visited the United States and met Dr. C.I. Scofield, the editor of the now-famous Scofield Bible. Scofield was fascinated by Darby’s “new revelations”, and immediately determined to include them in footnotes in his Scofield Bible. [He had some outstanding Bible scholars working with him in preparing the Bible footnotes. They disagreed with him about doctrine of the 7-year tribulation. Scofield insisted, and they resigned.] So it is that another major doctrine of the conservative/fundamental/evangelical community of the Christian Church came through these three men: Lacunza, Darby, and Scofield—men who “just made up” these doctrines—and many of the church world swallowed them hook, line, and sinker. There is no evidence that before 1800 any minister, preacher, priest, bishop, pastor, theologian, evangelist, or Bible scholar ever taught that the Great Tribulation would last 7 years!

— The Rapture of the Church —

However, these three men [along with a few others] were the same ones who developed the doctrine of the rapture of the church. [This is a doctrine that the church, that is, all true, born-again believers, will one day be caught up, or snatched out, or raptured out of this world before the great tribulation preceding Jesus’ return.] Did anyone teach this doctrine before Lacunza? Evangelist John Bray of Lakeland, Florida, offered a \$500 reward to anyone who could find evidence that anyone taught a pre-tribulation rapture of the church before Lacunza published his book in 1790. Someone finally found records that a pastor in

Kentucky named Morgan Edwards, taught the pre-tribulation rapture in his church in 1788, two years before Lacunza wrote his book. Dr. Bray paid the \$500 reward and withdrew his offer.

Before 1788, no Christian preacher, pastor, evangelist, priest, or bishop taught that the church would be raptured out before the tribulation. Almost all taught that the church would go through the tribulation victoriously.

When Darby met with Dr. C.I. Scofield in 1862, he presented both of these doctrines to him:

1. The Church will be raptured out of the world before the Great Tribulation, and
2. The Great Tribulation will last 7 years.

Dr. Scofield, decided to include both of Darby's doctrines in the footnotes of his Bible. It was through Dr. Scofield's footnotes that these two doctrines gained widespread circulation and acceptance. Millions of copies of the "Scofield" Bible have been sold, and millions of Christians have accepted these doctrines hook, line, and sinker.

NOTE: Dr. Scofield had several scandals in his life: He abandoned his wife and two daughters to marry another woman. Once he was arrested on a fraud charge and served six months in prison for that crime. He adopted the Dr. title which he never earned—and several more scandals. Yet, today, millions of Christians are still following the footnotes in his "Scofield" Bible.

Another writer related an account of a 15-year-old girl named Margaret MacDonald in Port-Glasgow, Scotland, who fell into a trance, and in a vision saw Christians or saints floating up to the sky to meet Jesus at his return before the tribulation. Darby and others accepted Margaret MacDonald's vision as a confirmation of the doctrine of the pre-tribulation rapture of the church. Others published Margaret's vision.

And thus it is that two of the major doctrines of the evangelical/fundamental Christian community are the result of the writings of two Jesuit priests, several prominent ministers who modified the writings of those two Jesuit priests, and a vision of a young girl in Port-Glasgow, Scotland, in 1830. These two doctrines did not come down to us from ancient time from God and the Bible, but are man-made doctrines.

However, a researcher recently found a prophecy/revelation/message that was written by Margaret Macdonald [the 15-year-old who reportedly had the vision of the rapture of the church before The Great Tribulation]. When she writes: "then we will be caught up to meet him", she seems to be speaking about a "spiritual" catching up.

I have a copy of Margaret McDonald's prophecy in an 8-page pamphlet. Please write me and ask me for a FREE copy. It can also be found at: <http://www.banner.org.uk/misc/rapture.html>

Other books by this author:

1. the 1949 Revival at the Hebrides Islands [48-pages]
2. a book that exposes Religious Deception [55 pages]
3. John Newton—Testimony of a Slave Trader [20 pages]
4. Tom Skinner [street gang leader from Harlem, NY--58 pages]
5. Wise Sayings [70 pages]
6. The WOW Anointing —a collection of some very interesting articles [44 pages].
7. Harriet Tubman — Leader in the underground railroad in pre-Civil War America [23 pages].
8. Anointed Children—A 48-page pamphlet about children in ministry—miracles—healings— perhaps this is the most significant writing that I have.
9. John Bunyan's Vision of Hell —by the author of Pilgrim's Progress [23 pages]
10. Life & Visions of Sadhu Sundar Singh This 40-page book has an 11-page biography/testimony. The rest of the book are some visions that God gave him.

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The Book of Revelation,
the last book in the Bible,
refers to something it calls

The Mighty Babylon

or

Babylon the Great.

What is the writer referring to, or
who is the Mighty Babylon?

This author has received some insight
into the symbols in the book of
Revelation. This book covers only those
things that the author is most certain
about. The rest are omitted. No one
individual has a full understanding/
revelation of everything written in the:

Book of Revelation

or in the

Holy Bible