

**THE COMING OF THE LORD  
THE FALL OF RELIGIOUS BABYLON  
REVELATION 17:1-18**

**Introduction**

Chapter 17 and 18 are inserted into the chronological flow of Revelation and explain in more detail some of the things talked about in chapter 16. The pouring out of the seventh bowl in Revelation 16:17 is followed by the return of the Lord at Armageddon in Revelation 19:11.

God takes a moment here in Revelation 17 and 18 to give us a glimpse of what is being judged. In this chapter, we witness the fall of the great worldwide religion that will flourish after the rapture of the Church.

The movement toward a unification of the different religions of this world into a worldwide religion is already at work and has been for some time now. All around the world, there is a great move underway to bring all religious groups under one central umbrella. Many churches today are already falling to this temptation to set aside doctrine for the sake of unity.

I believe that we are witnessing the great falling away which the Bible says will come about in the last days. **(2 Thessalonians 2:3; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 3:1-3; 2 Timothy 4:3-4).**

It has already reached the place where Bible believing Christians are under increasing attack.

The only way to succeed, in the eyes of the world, is to conform to what is popular and to be tolerant of other's beliefs and opinions. If you are so intolerant as to believe that there is only one way to God and heaven, then there is no room for you! These tolerance gurus are tolerant of everything and everyone except those of us who are intolerant!

Now don't get me wrong, I believe that all true Christians can worship together. But, when people go off on a tangent and begin to worship and dabble in areas that are contrary to God's Word, then that is where we must draw the line!

Let's look at this awesome chapter and see if we can identify what is happening here.

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**I. THE BABYLONIAN MOTHER. (Vs 1-6)**

**A. Her Popularity - (vs. 1, 15)**

The "*waters*" refer to the people of the world. We see here a world-wide influence!

This religious system will have the ear of the world because of its power and wealth.

Can I tell you that when people reject the truth, they are more susceptible to being sucked in by a lie. (Ill. The so-called "Seeker churches.")

**B. Her Perversion - (vs. 2)**

**(Ill. Whore - No woman wants to be called that term.)**

Why is she called a whore? A whore is not particular of who she runs with as long as she's having a good time and the money is good! She is more concerned with pleasure and money than being right.

Several cities in the Bible are referred to as harlots because of their idolatry and the pursuit of false religion.

**Jerusalem** – *Isaiah 1:21*–“*How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers.*”

**Tyre** – *Isaiah 23:15-17*–“*And it shall come to pass in that day, that Tyre shall be forgotten seventy years, according to the days of one king: after the end of seventy years shall Tyre sing as an harlot. 16Take an harp, go about the city, thou harlot that hast been forgotten; make sweet melody, sing many songs, that thou mayest be remembered. 17And it shall come to pass after the end of seventy years, that the LORD will visit Tyre, and she shall turn to her hire, and shall commit fornication with all the kingdoms of the world upon the face of the earth.*”

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**Ninevah** – *Nahum 3:1, 4–Woe to the bloody city! it is all full of lies and robbery; the prey departeth not;” “Because of the multitude of the whoredoms of the wellfavoured harlot, the mistress of witchcrafts, that selleth nations through her whoredoms, and families through her witchcrafts.”*

Even today there is a lot of false religion, religious apostasy, spiritual defection, and idolatry related to the love of money and pleasure!

This whore will use her charms to deceive the world into thinking she is the right way. She will seduce the inhabitants of the earth and will be in bed with the kings of the earth.

(Exp.– Remember in Genesis 19:20-35–Lot’s two daughters got him drunk in order to seduce him into committing immorality with them. In his drunken condition it says that *“He perceived not.”* In other words, he didn’t know what was going on! The same thing is happening in religious circles today and will happen to an even greater extent in the tribulation period.)

*Her Popularity...Her Perversion...*

**C. Her Perdition - This church is upheld by the power of the beast. vs. 3, 9**

It will be headquartered in Rome according to the interpretation of verse 9. She will be defended by the ten nation confederacy of the revived Roman Empire. The church will once again be wed to the state.

It happened under Constantine in 325 AD. (Ill. Christianity was corrupted and began to change when this happened the first time- That is where the perversion of Baptism, Relic Worship, Saint Worship, Popery, etc. came from.)

Is this the Roman Catholic Church?

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Well, Roman Catholicism will surely be involved, but so will Methodism, Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, the Islamic faith, Buddhism and yes, even the apostate Baptists.

That being said, the connection between the history and practice of Roman Catholicism and the description of this religious system cannot be lightly passed off.

The kings of the earth will be intoxicated with the power of Babylon’s religion and will worship her idols.

The fact that the Babylonian whore sits upon the beast seems to indicate that the one-world government of the Antichrist supports this false religious system and it also indicates the power and control that this false religion has over the Antichrist and the rest of the world.

This false religion will be very powerful because of the trauma of the events taking place in the Tribulation. Religion will, no doubt, be a unifying factor in the one-world government in the first half of the Tribulation.

The Anti-Christ will use this one-world religion for his own advantage and when he doesn’t need it anymore, he will destroy it.

*Her Popularity...Perversion...Perdition...*

**D. Her Prosperity - (Garments, Wealth and Ritual! The trappings of religion!) vs. 4**

(Ill. The wealth of religion - Roman Catholic Church, Mormons, Baptists!)

This whore has prostituted her values for the purpose of economic gain and pleasure.

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This religious system will do all she can to gain more and more money and control. Religion and politics will combine to form a powerful, one-world government at the beginning of the Tribulation period. However, this union will self-destruct.

**E. Her Personality - vs. 5**

In the Roman Empire, prostitutes boldly labeled themselves as prostitutes with their names on their foreheads.

The “*Mother*” of something is the source of origin.  
The origin of the Babylonian Mother - The Tower of Babel  
**Genesis 10:8-11; 11:1-4**

Babylon is the mother of all false religions. The false religions of the world have their roots in the sewer of Babylon’s sinfulness.

From Ancient Egypt even to Rome today, they are all her daughters.

This system is as old as time, and as new as it has to be.

vs. 18 - She is represented as both a city, and a system!

**F. Her Persecutions - (This system is responsible for the deaths of the saints of the Lord.) vs. 6**

From Cain and Abel to the Tribulation saints, this religious system has been responsible for the martyrdom of 10’s of millions of Christians.

It is not, nor has it ever been, a person’s denomination that determines his spiritual state, it is the Blood of Jesus that makes the difference!

*THE BABYLONIAN MOTHER.*

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**II. THE BABYLONIAN MONSTER. (vs. 7-13)**

**A. The Identity Of The Beast - (vs. 8, 10-11)**

It is the Anti-Christ! His entire ministry is a mockery of that of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**B. The Identification Of The Horns - (vs.12-13)**

The 10 nation confederacy of the revived Roman Empire.

**III. THE BABYLONIAN MASSACRE. (vs. 14-18)**

**A. They Battle The Lamb - . vs. 14**

These nations will come against the Lamb Himself.

This refers to chapter 19. When they attack Jesus, they are sure to lose!

He is the King of Kings!

Those with Him - Called, chosen and faithful - That my friends is you and me!

**B. They Burn The Whore - vs. 16**

Organized religion will be utterly destroyed!

When their religion has served it's purpose and offers them nothing else, then they will turn on her and will utterly destroy her!

(Ill. Sounds like a lot of people in our day doesn’t it?)

They will strip her of her wealth, destroy and disfigure her places of worship and organized religion shall cease to exist on the earth!

(Ill. Organized religion is most always a disgrace anyway!)

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**C. They Bend Before God - vs.17**

As they carry out their deeds, they are unaware that God Himself is using them for His glory and to carry out His plans and purposes!

In the midst of chaos, it is good to know that God is still in control!

**Conclusion:**

Have you got Jesus? Are you just a member of the Church or are you a real part of the true Body of Christ?

That is one question you had better get right. If you miss that one, you have missed everything!

If you need the Lord, please come to Him today and allow Him to do a work in your heart and life.