

Revelation's HOPE

Lesson 16: The Fall of Babylon

I. Introduction

A. Revelation shows a coming Church / State alliance. However, it is also clear about the forces of Good.

- **Revelation 12:1-2; Jeremiah 6:2** – Pure woman represents God's Bride
- **Revelation 17:1-2** – Impure woman commits fornication and represents a fallen system of worship. Like Israel of old, they prostitute themselves with another leader.
- This woman sits on “many waters” and rides a Beast that looks like the one in **Revelation 13** except it is scarlet.

B. More indicators of Fallen Christendom

- **Revelation 17:3** – Woman on a beast that blasphemes God. Where have we seen a blasphemous character before? Daniel 7: the Little Horn!
- **Revelation 17:4** – Golden cup remind us of the Fall of Babylon in **Daniel 5**.
- **Revelation 17:9** – the “seven hills”. Esquiline, Palatine, Aventine, Capitoline, Quirinal, Viminal, Caelian. Technically 10 Hills but most historians refer to it as city of 7 Hills.¹

C. Daughters

- **Revelation 17:5** – Woman is referred to as “Babylon”
- She has daughters or other religious systems including Christian ones that are under her authority.
- What was ancient Babylon like?

II. Babylon

A. Characteristics

- City opposed to God
- Sun worship abounded
- Enforced worship (**Daniel 3**)
- This type of “government” would come into the Church.
- **1 Timothy 4:1** – Paul tells us to watch out for doctrines taught by demons for in the “latter times” such will infiltrate the Church.

B. John saw it coming into the Church – (**1 John**)

C. What came into the Church

- Works: **Genesis 11:9** – “babili” gateway to the gods (Akkadian). They were building a man made system of worship to earn their way to life. **Daniel 4:30** – Nebuchadnezzar saw the city of Babylon as the result of his human effort. **Matthew 16:18** – Jesus says HE will build His church not any man. **Colossians 1:18** – Jesus is the head.
- Image worship (in contradiction to **Exodus 20:4-5**).

- False teaching about death (Ezekiel 8:13-14). Tammuz: The Babylonians believed that when winter darkened the sky and there were long nights, Tammuz had died. But in the spring there would be a resurrection. And some of God’s people, the Jews, accepted this false idea from Babylon straight out of paganism. That’s why Ezekiel describes them as “worshipping Tammuz.”
- Sun worship (see **Ezekiel 8:16**). See The Two Babylons by Alexander Hislop, p. 105. This is in contrast to Creator worship (**Ezekiel 22:26-27, 30-31**). This was foretold in **Daniel 7:25**.

D. Babylon Demands Allegiance

- Under their allegiance = daughters.
- Babylon = a man made system of traditions that has undermined the Bible and caused confusion.

III. The Fall of Babylon

A. Read **Daniel 5:1-6** and notice the goblets being misused.

B. Read **Daniel 5:22-27** and notice they praise the gods of “silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone” – this also happens in Revelation.

- “The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshipping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood--idols that cannot see or hear or walk. ²¹ Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts” (**Rev 9:20-21** NIV).
- Babylon will not rise physically (**Jeremiah 51:62**), but spiritually and will be called “Fallen”→

Daniel	Revelation
Belshazzar you knew of this (5:22).	The gospel to every nation, language and people – Worship the Creator (14:6).
Belshazzar knew the cups were holy (5:22-23).	The world will know that the Sabbath is holy (14:6, 7).
You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting = Judged (5:27).	The hour of His judgment has come (14:7).
Your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians (5:28).	Babylon has fallen (14:8).

C. Fallen because

- Worships Images
- Teaches false doctrine of immortal soul
- Teaches false doctrine of sun worship
- Profanes God's holy things (Sabbath)
- Worships idols
- Will be a Church and State alliance (commits fornication with kings of earth)
- Has daughters – other “churches” under her influence
- Do we see this happening today?

IV. The Coming Super Church

A. Conditions necessary to have this happen:

- (1) The Protestant churches must merge together
- (2) they will unite with the Catholic Church
- (3) the rest of the world religions will have to follow
- (4) the super church will elicit the power of state to enforce its doctrines.

B. A Movement Underway

- Both the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches are committed to this lofty goal. Since Vatican II, Rome no longer calls protestant churches “heretics;” they are now “separated brethren,” and the arms of Rome are outstretched to receive her separated brethren into the fold.
- The Associated Press announced on January 24, 1999, “*nine Christian denominations voted Sunday to move toward a broad affiliation of churches... to unite 20 million Protestants, despite their differences.*” [Emphasis supplied]
- “*It was almost 40 years ago that group’s founders, citing Jesus’ call for one faith, one baptism, one God, called for a Protestant super church.*” The Religious News Service recently announced an “agreement between Anglican [Episcopal] and Roman Catholic representatives that the unification of the two churches should recognize the Pope as the prime overseer.... Similar accords also have been reached in parallel bilateral talks between Catholics and Lutherans, Eastern Orthodoxy and, to a more limited extent, with Presbyterians and Methodists.”
- In another paper, “*Evangelicals and Catholics Together,*” Leading Catholic and Evangelical scholars outline their plan to bring the two wings of Christianity together. “*They toiled together in the movements against abortion and pornography, and now leading Catholics and evangelicals are asking their flocks for a remarkable leap of faith: to finally accept each other as Christians... Evangelicals including Pat Robertson and Charles Colson joined with conservative Roman Catholic leaders today in upholding the ties of faith that bind them... They urged Catholics and evangelicals to stop aggressive proselytization of each others flocks*”(29 Mar 94, ***Evangelicals and Catholics Together: the Christian Mission in the third Millennium***).

- In March 2000, John Paul II launched his plan, which had been announced earlier in a Papal Letter that reveals his ambitious goal for world peace. The 72 page letter is entitled, "*The Coming of the Third Millennium: Preparation for the Jubilee of the Year 2000.*"
- Central to the Pope's plan for world peace was a confession for sins committed by the church during the dark ages and a series of meetings, rallying around the theme of social justice between Muslim, Christian and Jewish leaders in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Mt. Sinai early in the year 2000. The celebration would climax with a great Jubilee celebration in Rome. "All are called to be a part of this Catholic unity, the new people of God" (Paragraph 56).
- Cardinal Adam Maida of Detroit said, "*This is a very important document. The Holy Father wants to bring all faiths together to try to find the common denominators in all of our faiths that will allow us to work together*" (Detroit Free Press, 28 Nov 94).
- "*After years of slow dialog with many Christian denominations, the Pontiff wants to move rapidly to break down barriers between the churches. He wants temporary agreements to allow members to worship together in special jubilee programs. Beyond that, the pope hopes to move quickly toward full communion, in which members of the churches would share worship services*" (Ibid).
- Imam Mohammed Ali Elahi of Detroit's Islamic Center of America said, "*The whole idea of interfaith communication between religious scholars is an excellent idea. We need to talk about how Islam, Christianity and Judaism can contribute to society and help with the healing process in the world*" (Ibid).
- Bishop J. Philip Wahl, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, said, "*Personally, I think it's wonderful... In our proposed statement, we would declare that the conditions existing within the church at the time of the Reformation no longer exist*" (Ibid).
- "Four hundred eighty two years ago Sunday, the blunt speaking monk Martin Luther nailed his legendary attack on Catholic Church practices to a church door in Germany, an act of conscience that triggered the Protestant Reformation.... Sunday, the heirs of that acrimony and fracture, the leaders of the modern Lutheran and Roman Catholic Churches, signed a document that officially settles the central argument about the nature of faith that Luther provoked. The agreement declares, in effect, that it was all a misunderstanding" (*Everett Herald*, Nov. 1, 1999).

C. Not all were happy with these "developments"

- All were not happy in the Lutheran camp. A. L. Barry, President of the more conservative, Missouri Synod, opposed the document saying, "*The Catholic Church has not budged since the Council of Trent's insistence on justification by works.*"

D. What progress has been made to these plans to unite faiths?

- The *Seattle Times* reported on Sunday, August 8, 1999, an unprecedented meeting where “two Catholic bishops sat cross-legged on a stage and smoked a ceremonial pipe with Indian religious leaders. The purpose of the meeting was to explore ways to bring unity between the two groups. Bishop Albert Andrews said, “There is a rope from heaven, and it unravels, and each strand is a religion.”
- “Rather than demand that Indian converts accept Jesus as Westerners conceive of him [the Biblical Jesus], some missionaries today offer a Christ who is congruent with native spiritual traditions.” In India, Vandana Mataji, a Catholic nun, sings... in praise of Jesus and Krishna four times a day.” In Africa, many theologians insist that tribal witchcraft and idol worship are the spadework of the Holy Spirit. In fact Catholic Archbishop Peter Sarpong of Kumasi, Ghana said, “The problem is not how to Christianize Africa, but how to Africanize Christianity” (*Newsweek*, April 16, 2001).

E. God’s Call

- The future seems grim, but all isn’t darkness. The Prophecy also says that God has a people with a message and a purpose. Just as God called Elijah of old to restore the true worship of God, and to “Remember the law of my servant Moses,” God has promised the coming of another Elijah with another reminder of His law.
- The three angels of **Revelation 14** are three special messages for these last days. These messages are to be preached in the spirit and the power of Elijah. They are to restore the true worship of God. They are to challenge God’s people with the same cry, “How long will you go on wavering between two opinions. If the Lord is God, follow him, if Baal, then follow him.”
- **Revelation 18:4 – COME OUT OF HER MY PEOPLE!**
- **“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me” (Joh 10:27 NIV). The voice of JESUS calls out through all of the confusion and chaos of this world!**
- He has led you this far, why not trust Him to lead you in the future!

¹ <http://ancienthistory.about.com/od/cityofrome/ss/7hillsofRome.htm> (accessed 1/19/2023).