



Revelation Ch 17

Verses 1-4

Introduction (v.1-2)

- One of the seven angels shows John the judgment of the "great prostitute" who sits on many waters.
- Spiritual adultery and idolatry
 - The term harlot means a form of "false devotion."
 - You could see that this could lead to the 1 world religion.
- Influence over kings and nations
- Fornication is used for idol worship (unfaithful towards God)
- She is drunk with the blood of the saints

Are we aware of how spiritual compromise can infiltrate society and leadership?

1 World Religion.

- A woman (symbolizing a corrupt religious system) **rides the beast** (world political power).
- She is called "**Babylon the Great, the Mother of Prostitutes and of the Abominations of the Earth.**"
- She is adorned in wealth, full of seduction and false worship, and **drunk with the blood of the saints.**
- Eventually, the **beast turns on her and destroys her** (v.16–17), showing that even the political powers will grow tired of religious control.

This woman **represents a global religious system** that:

- Is **deeply influential**
- Is **interfaith** or **ecumenical** (joining all beliefs)
- Persecutes** true believers
- Is ultimately **judged by God**

How the One World Religion Is Developing Today

The spirit of Babylon is working toward religious unity at the expense of truth. Here's how we see it:

Interfaith Movements

- Pushing for unity between Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, and others
- Sounds peaceful, but often requires compromising the truth of the Gospel (e.g., denying Jesus as the only way)

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” – John 14:6

Pope Francis and the Abrahamic Faiths

- The “Abrahamic Family House” in Abu Dhabi (2022) includes a mosque, synagogue, and church together
- Promotes religious coexistence and shared values — but minimizes doctrinal differences
- The Vatican has become a key player in global religious unity and climate-focused spirituality

United Nations and Spirituality

- The UN and World Economic Forum push for “universal values” and spiritual cooperation to solve global issues
- Often advocate for a global ethic rather than biblical truth
- May eventually demand allegiance to a global spiritual authority

Role of the Antichrist and False Prophet (Revelation 13)

- Antichrist: Political leader of the final world empire (the beast)
- False Prophet: Religious leader who performs signs and leads people to worship the beast
- The False Prophet may **rise from** the One World Religious system, deceiving many with signs, unity, and peace messages.

Ways Babylon Has Infiltrated Religion Today

Compromise with Worldly Power

- Many religious institutions seek **favor with governments**, political figures, or elite culture.
- Babylon rides the beast: symbolic of **religion aligning with political power** for influence, rather than standing for truth.

“You cannot serve God and mammon.” – Matthew 6:24

Prosperity and Materialism

- The woman in Revelation 17 is clothed in **scarlet and gold**—a symbol of **wealth, luxury, and seduction**.

- In some modern churches, **prosperity gospel** replaces the true gospel, promising material blessings over spiritual transformation.

“They think that godliness is a means to financial gain.” – 1 Timothy 6:5

Idolatry and Spiritual Adultery

- Babylon is called the "mother of prostitutes"—she leads people into false worship.

- Today, many have mixed the worship of God with self-help, New Age practices, or even occult ideas, diluting the truth of Scripture.

“They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped created things.” –
Romans 1:25

Moral and Doctrinal Corruption

- Babylon drinks from a golden cup full of abominations—this suggests a counterfeit holiness that is actually defiled.
- Infiltration occurs when churches abandon biblical doctrine, affirming sinful lifestyles or rejecting core truths like the deity of Christ, the reality of sin, and the need for repentance.

“They will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.” – 2 Timothy 4:3

Persecution of True Believers

- The woman is drunk with the blood of the saints—she turns on those who speak truth.
- Today, religious systems that are compromised often marginalize or silence voices that preach repentance, holiness, and the exclusive claims of Christ.

Historical Claims of Babylonian Influence

Throughout history, many Christian scholars — especially during the Protestant Reformation — believed the Roman Catholic Church had absorbed Babylonian-like qualities as described in Revelation 17. The term “Mystery Babylon” was often applied to the Church because of:

- **Political Power:** Like Babylon riding the beast, the Church during the Middle Ages held immense political and military power, even crowning kings and leading crusades.
- **Wealth and Opulence:** The imagery of the woman “clothed in purple and scarlet...with gold and precious stones” mirrors the historical splendor of the Vatican, cathedrals, and rituals.
- **Compromised Doctrine:** Many point to unbiblical doctrines that developed over time — like indulgences, purgatory, papal infallibility — as signs of religious corruption.

Pagan Roots and Syncretism

- Scholars have noted similarities between ancient Babylonian religion and some Catholic traditions. These may not have been intentional, but the Church adapted some **pagan customs** into Christian practice to reach converts:

Pagan/Babylonian Element

Adopted Catholic Parallel

Queen of Heaven (Ishtar, Semiramis)

Veneration of **Mary** as Queen of Heaven

Infant deities like Tammuz

Infant Jesus statues with Mary

Rituals and incense

Mass incense, candles, holy water

Tower of Babel – religious control

Church hierarchy and papal power

Priestly caste with special garments

Priestly robes and titles

The Reformation's View

The Protestant Reformers — Martin Luther, John Calvin, and others — explicitly identified Rome as the “Whore of Babylon.” They criticized:

- Salvation by works instead of grace alone
- Idolatry in relics and saints
- Scripture withheld from the people
- Authority of tradition over the Bible
- Their cry: “*Sola Scriptura*” — Scripture alone — was a call to come out of what they saw as Babylonian captivity of the Church.

Modern Discernment: Is All of Catholicism Babylon?

- Important Balance: Not all Catholics are part of Babylon — many love Jesus deeply and follow Him sincerely.
- But the system, when it replaces or distorts the gospel, can reflect the spirit of Babylon: worldly power, religious control, and spiritual deception.
- Revelation 18:4 says: “*Come out of her, my people*” — this suggests that God’s people can be caught inside Babylon, but are called to separate from corruption.

Babylon's Influence on Our Holidays

Christmas

Biblical Origin: Celebration of Jesus' birth (though no date is given in Scripture)

Babylonian/Pagan Elements:

- Date: December 25th – Associated with winter solstice celebrations like Saturnalia (Roman) and the birth of Tammuz or Mithra, pagan sun gods.
- Tree Worship – Jeremiah 10 describes a pagan custom eerily similar to decorating trees; this was common in ancient Babylonian religion.
- Yule logs, mistletoe, gift-giving – Pagan fertility and abundance customs.

Babylonian Spirit Today:

- Focus on materialism and consumerism over Christ
- Santa Claus and magical thinking replace biblical truth

Easter

Biblical Origin: The resurrection of Jesus Christ

Babylonian/Pagan Elements:

- Name “Easter” – Linked to Ishtar, the Babylonian goddess of fertility and love
- Eggs and rabbits – Ancient fertility symbols used in spring festivals
- Sunrise services – Possibly echoing pagan sun worship rituals

Babylonian Spirit Today:

- Focus on candy, bunnies, and eggs rather than the power of the resurrection
- Resurrection becomes a side note to a feel-good holiday

Halloween

Biblical Origin: None – has no Christian roots

Pagan/Babylonian Elements:

- Comes from Samhain, a Celtic pagan festival to honor the dead and ward off spirits
- Babylonians practiced necromancy and honoring the dead with sacrifices
- Emphasis on darkness, death, fear, and spirits

Babylonian Spirit Today:

- Normalizing evil, fear, and occult themes
- Even churches sometimes compromise by “Christianizing” it

So, What's the Big Deal?

Babylon's influence on holidays:

- Blends truth with deception (exactly what the woman in Rev 17 does)
- Turns holy days into distractions
- Replaces worship with worldliness
- Often introduces paganism under religious covers

"You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too." — 1 Corinthians 10:21

"Come out of her, my people." — Revelation 18:4

Comparison: The Woman in Revelation 12 vs. Revelation 17

Feature	Woman in Revelation 12	Woman in Revelation 17
Identity	Represents Israel (or God's faithful people, including the church)	Represents Babylon (a corrupt religious/political system)
Clothing	Clothed with the sun , moon under her feet, a crown of 12 stars	Clothed in purple and scarlet , adorned with gold, jewels, pearls
Moral Character	Pure and faithful	Impure , called "the great prostitute"
Relationship to God	Loved, protected by God; gives birth to the Messiah	In rebellion against God; aligned with the beast and drunken with the blood of saints
Connection to the Beast	Opposed by the dragon (Satan) who wants to destroy her and her child	Riding the beast (partnered with Antichrist and world powers)

The Vision of the Woman (v.3-6)

- Symbolism:
 - Woman: Babylon (spiritual system opposed to God)
 - Beast: The Antichrist (scarlet beast with blasphemous names)
 - This is the beast from Ch 13
 - Description: Dressed in purple/scarlet, adorned with gold/jewels—outwardly appealing but inwardly corrupt.
 - Just like the first temptation.
 - Eve looked as saw that the fruit was pleasing to the eye.

Side note Sin and Guilt

“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.” – Isaiah 1:18

- Scarlet symbolizes deep, stained sin — not easily removed.
- It implies moral corruption, rebellion, and defilement.

Wealth and Luxury

Scarlet was a very expensive dye in ancient times, worn by:

- Royalty
- Wealthy elites
- Religious leaders (including some priests)
- It symbolizes worldly power, opulence, and status — a show of glory without holiness.

False Religion and Seduction

“The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold...” – Revelation 17:4
In Revelation:

- Scarlet is worn by the prostitute (Babylon) — a symbol of religious corruption and spiritual adultery.
- The beast she rides is also scarlet (Rev 17:3), showing unity between false religion and antichrist political power.

So scarlet here suggests:

- A seductive appearance, but full of abomination and blasphemy
 - A religious system that looks righteous but is deeply sinful and proud
-
- "Babylon the Great, Mother of Prostitutes": Represents a corrupt religious/political system.
 - Think, how can outward appearances deceive us spiritually or morally?

In Contrast

The true Church — the bride of Christ — wears white (Rev 19:8), symbolizing:

- Purity
- Holiness
- Righteousness through Christ, not appearance or religious show
- The woman on Ch 17 is trying to rule

The Golden cup

- This is the most missed part of this description.

Outward Beauty, Inward Corruption

- The cup is gold — beautiful, valuable, religious-looking.
- But inside, it's filled with abominations and spiritual filth.

The golden cup is a symbol of hypocrisy — presenting a righteous, God-honoring appearance while being spiritually toxic.

“Woe to you...you clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.”

– Matthew 23:25

The **golden cup** as a **mockery of the true cup**:

- Jesus offered a **cup of salvation** (His blood) at the Last Supper.
- Babylon offers a **cup of deception**, causing nations to **drink spiritual poison**.

“She has made all the nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” – Revelation 14:8
This false cup could represent:

- **False religious systems**
- **Compromised sacraments or rituals**
- **Religious intoxication** — where truth is blurred and people are spiritually numbed

Jeremiah 51:7 also connects Babylon with a golden cup:

“Babylon was a golden cup in the Lord’s hand, that made all the earth drunk.

The nations drank her wine; therefore the nations are deranged.”

- The cup leads to madness, delusion, and ultimately judgment.

Babylon's Cup

Gold outside, filth inside

Brings deception, wrath

Makes nations drunk

Leads to judgment

Christ's Cup

Simple outside, pure inside

Brings truth, grace, and life

Makes disciples sober and awake

Leads to salvation
