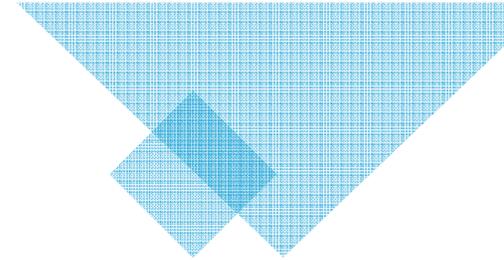
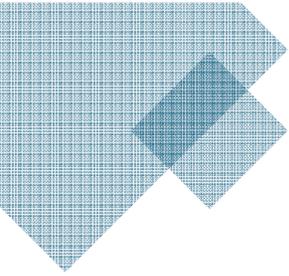




Revelation 17

Vs 4-6

- So last time we were introduced to the woman Babylon.
 - We see that she is the mother of all harlots.
 - We saw that she was riding the beast.
 - We can tie these together to show the end picture of the religious leader and the political leader of the end.
- On the forehead it is told
 - Mystery Babylon.
 - Mystery refers to something that was **previously hidden** or **not fully understood**, but is now **revealed by God** at the appropriate time.



Feature

Explanation

Hidden in the past

Mysteries were truths hidden in earlier times or dispensations (e.g., OT era).

Revealed in the NT

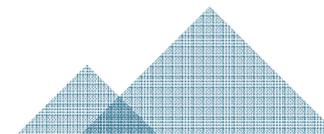
They are made known by God through Christ, apostles, or prophetic revelation.

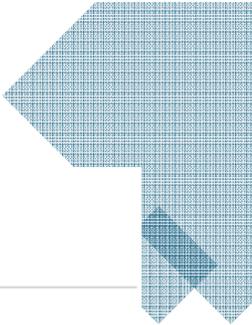
Spiritually discerned

They require the Holy Spirit to be understood—not mere intellect.

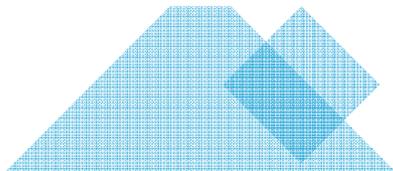
Often related to God's redemptive plan

Mysteries usually reveal truths about salvation, Christ, the Church, or the end times.





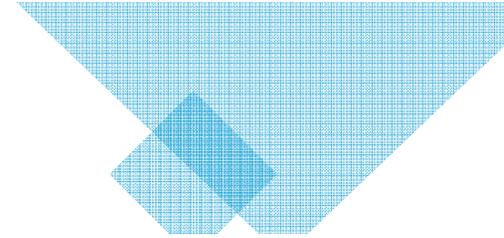
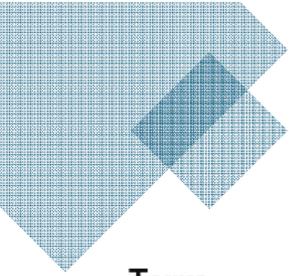
Mystery	Reference	Description
The Gospel	Col. 1:26–27	The mystery hidden for ages: Christ in you, the hope of glory.
The Church (Jew + Gentile in one body)	Eph. 3:3–6	The inclusion of Gentiles as co-heirs was a hidden truth now revealed.
The Rapture	1 Cor. 15:51–52	“Behold, I tell you a mystery: we shall not all sleep...” (transformation at the last trumpet).
The Mystery of Godliness	1 Tim. 3:16	Speaking of Christ’s incarnation and redemptive work.
Mystery Babylon	Rev. 17:5	A symbolic, spiritual system of false religion and rebellion against God.



Mystery Babylon

- This is not ancient Babylon in Iraq reborn physically — it is called a “mystery,” meaning it’s a spiritual or symbolic identity, not immediately obvious.
- Think of it this way...
 - Antichrist is NOT in opposition to Christ; it is a pseudo-Christ.
 - John 14:6 I am the way
 - Pseudo Christ does not say there is no Christ, they say you get to the Father in another way, could even be their way.
 - 1 John 2:18-19 They went out from among US!
 - Listen tradition is a form of antichrist!

- Babylon is full of tradition!
 - Babylon is the MOTHER of tradition.
 - In hindsight we see this
 - And now the label upon the head is no longer a mystery but is unveiled.
-
- So far this is what we have...



Term

Meaning

Mystery

It's a hidden spiritual truth now revealed — not literal Babylon, but something deeper.

Babylon the Great

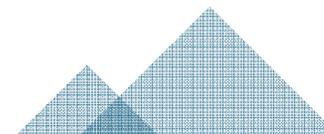
Symbolic of rebellion, idolatry, false religion, and world power systems opposed to God.

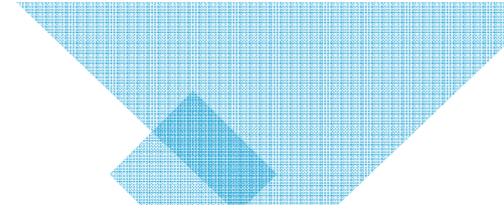
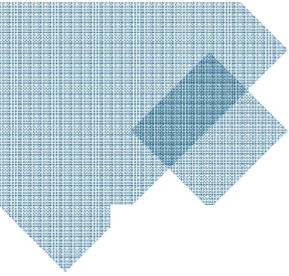
Mother of Harlots

She gives birth to many false religious systems or apostate expressions of faith.

Abominations

She promotes practices that are detestable to God — spiritual fornication, idolatry, and blasphemy.





Symbol

Description

Confusion & Rebellion

The original Tower of Babel (Genesis 11) was humanity's first organized rebellion against God.

Idolatry

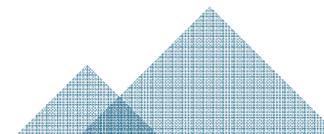
Ancient Babylon was full of occult practices, sorcery, and pagan worship.

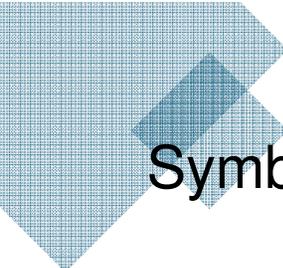
Persecution of God's People

Babylon took Israel captive; Revelation shows her drunk on the blood of the saints (Rev. 17:6).

Religious Adultery

Babylon is a harlot, which in prophetic terms means **spiritual unfaithfulness**.





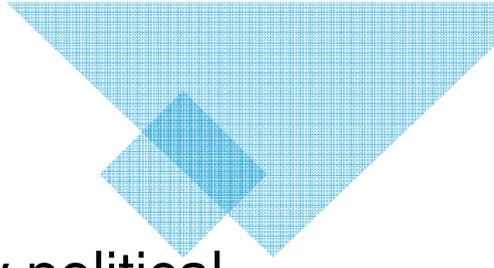
Symbol

Rides the Beast (Rev. 17:3)

Arrayed in purple, scarlet, gold
(Rev. 17:4)

Drunk with blood of saints (Rev.
17:6)

Destroyed by the Beast (Rev.
17:16)



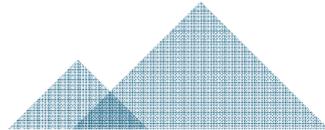
Meaning

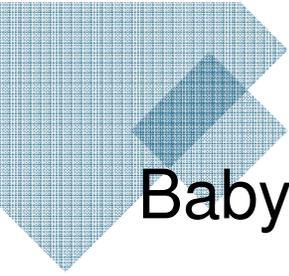
She's supported by political powers, possibly the Antichrist system.

Wealth, power, and luxury — religious opulence.

Persecuted true believers.

Eventually the political power turns on her — possibly when she outlives her use.





Babylon Represents

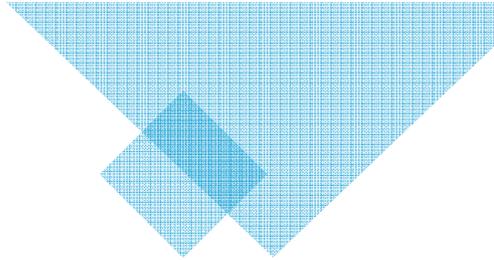
False Religion

Rebellion

Judgment

Deception

How It Ties to Darkness

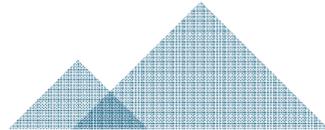


Darkness hides the truth of God and leads people to idols

Darkness resists the light of God's Word and rule

God sends Babylon into literal and spiritual darkness

Babylon draws the world into moral and spiritual confusion



Light vs darkness

- John 3:18-21
- Eph 4:18
 - False worship
 - Occult practices
 - Deception
 - Idolatry
 - Pride
 - IS WALKING IN DARKNESS
- Babylon is
- A center of demonic activity
- A source of false light (deception posing as truth)
- A trap for the nations, drawing them into spiritual blindness
- ISA 47:5

1 Peter 2:9

“But you are a chosen generation... that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

- Darkness = our old life: sin, deception, ignorance, rebellion
- Light = our new life: truth, holiness, purpose, relationship with God

Ephesians 5:8

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.”

To walk in the light means:

- Living with integrity
- Letting God expose and cleanse sin
- Following truth, even when it's uncomfortable
- Rejecting compromise, confusion, and spiritual deception

Darkness and Babylon = What We Leave Behind

Babylon symbolizes:

- Religious confusion
- Worldliness
- Idolatry
- Moral compromise

Walking in Darkness

Hiding sin

Following the world

Loving evil

Confusion and fear

Dead religion



Walking in the Light

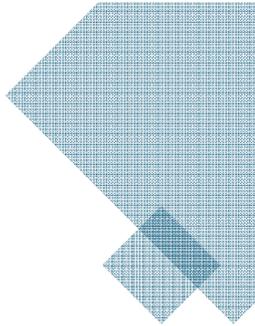
Confessing sin (1 John 1:7–9)

Following Jesus (John 8:12)

Loving truth and righteousness

Clarity, peace, and direction

Living relationship with Christ

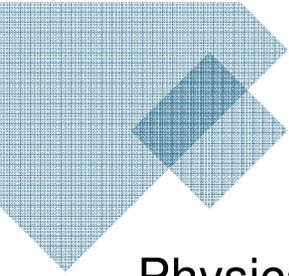


Genesis 1:3–4

"Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light.

And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness."

- God's first recorded act after creating the heavens and the earth was to introduce light.
- He didn't just create light — He separated it from darkness.
- That's symbolic of how God operates in the spiritual realm too.



Physical Act

Let there be light

Light was good

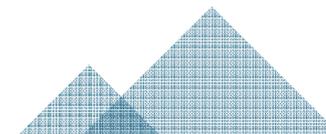
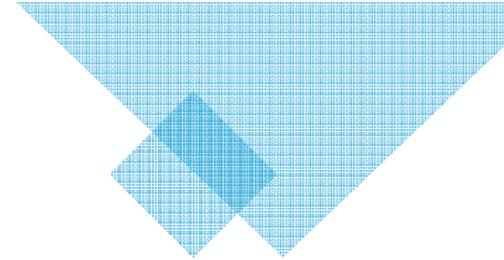
Separation of light and darkness

Spiritual Parallel

God brings **revelation, truth, and life** into a world of spiritual darkness (2 Cor. 4:6)

Light = God's presence and righteousness; it's morally and spiritually "good"

God separates His people from sin, confusion, and the world (2 Cor. 6:14–18)



2 Corinthians 4:6

“For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

Paul directly connects Genesis 1 to what happens when someone gets saved:

- Our hearts were dark (Gen. 1:2 — “darkness was over the face of the deep”)
- Then God speaks: “Let there be light” — and boom! Revelation. Transformation. Life.

Jesus as the Light

John 8:12

“I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

- Jesus is the true light (John 1:9)
- Believers walk in that light — and just like in creation, He separates us from darkness
- From **Genesis to Revelation**, the theme is clear: **God separates light from darkness** — physically in creation, and **spiritually in us**.

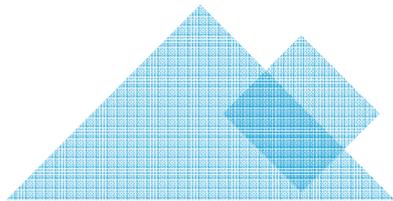
Creation

Chaos and darkness

“Let there be light”

Separation of light from darkness

Evening and morning — the first day



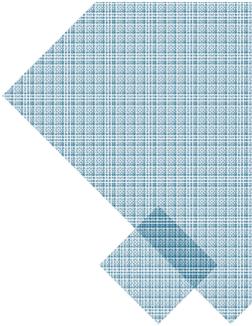
Redemption

Life without Christ

God’s call to salvation

The believer leaving sin and walking in holiness

A new beginning in Christ



VS 6

Intoxicated with Violence

- “Drunk” here symbolizes pleasure, excess, and addiction — Babylon isn’t just guilty of killing God’s people, she’s obsessed with it.
- She’s intoxicated with the destruction of truth and righteousness.

Persecution of True Believers

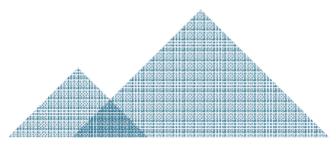
- “The blood of the saints” = the murder of faithful followers of God, especially those who refuse to compromise.
- Babylon represents a religious-political system that persecutes those who won’t bow to it (false religion, worldly power, or anti-Christian government).

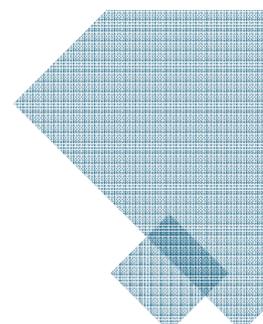
Historic and Future Fulfillment

- Historically, this points to systems like pagan Rome, and later, corrupt religious institutions that martyred true believers.
- Prophetically, this looks forward to a final world system — religious, political, or both — that targets and kills the faithful during the tribulation.



The Tribulation Saints	Mystery Babylon
Saved by faith in Christ	Harlot drunk on blood (intoxicated with lies)
Loves truth	Hates truth
Filled with the Spirit	Filled with blood and blasphemy
Persecuted	Persecutor
Overcomes by the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 12:11)	Drunk on the blood of the Lamb's followers (Rev. 17:6)





Church Age Believers

Indwelt & baptized by the Spirit

Called the Body of Christ

Raptured before wrath

Role in heavenly rule

Governed by grace dispensation
(Think new covenant)



Tribulation Saints

Sealed but not Spirit-baptized into the Body

Called servants, witnesses, martyrs

Endure wrath and persecution

Role in millennial reign

Under final judgments and Kingdom preparation

Israel vs. the Church vs. Tribulation Saints

Understanding this helps clarify:

- God is not done with Israel (Romans 11:25–27)
- The Church is distinct from both Israel and Tribulation Saints
- The Tribulation is part of Daniel's 70th week, meant to purify Israel and judge the world (Daniel 9:24)

John is amazed?

Her Appearance Was Religious, Not Wicked at First Glance

- She looked glorious and royal:
“arrayed in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls” (Rev. 17:4)
- She carried a golden cup, which at first could symbolize religious piety or worship (Ps. 23:5, 116:13).
- But that cup was full of abominations and filthiness.

John expected righteousness, but saw corruption.

She Was Drunk with the Blood of the Saints

- Not only was she beautiful and powerful — she was also vicious.
- She wasn't *just* guilty of persecuting God's people — she was drunk on it, delighted by it.
- John is stunned that something so outwardly impressive could be so murderous.

She Was a False Counterfeit of the Bride

- Revelation is full of parallels and contrasts.
 - The true Bride is pure, clothed in white, adorned for her husband (Rev. 19:7–8).
 - This woman (Babylon) is a harlot, dressed in royal finery, intoxicated and corrupt.
- John may have expected to see a vision of the faithful Church, but instead saw a great counterfeit — a harlot pretending to be holy.

The deception was so great it caused amazement — how far religion can fall.

Revelation 19:7

Revelation 21:1-9

The Global Influence of This System

- She is called:
“The great city that reigns over the kings of the earth” (Rev. 17:18)
- She sits on many waters = she influences peoples, nations, and languages (Rev. 17:15)
- She is global, powerful, and seductive — a religious empire with political reach.

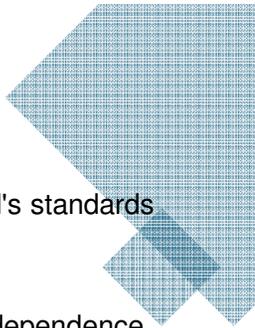
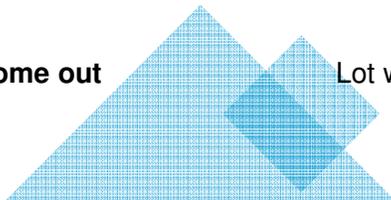
John may have never imagined that such a system would dominate the world.

John was amazed because he saw something beautiful on the outside, but full of death on the inside — a false, global religious system that looked holy, but was drunk on the blood of the saints and partnered with the beast.

It was a vision of deception at the highest level:

A spiritual system that looks like the Bride... but acts like the Beast.

Category	Sodom	Babylon	Shared Meaning
Moral corruption	Sexual perversion, lawlessness (Gen. 19:5)	Abominations, spiritual harlotry (Rev. 17:5)	Rebellion against God's standards
Pride and arrogance	"Pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness" (Ezek. 16:49)	"She says in her heart, 'I sit as queen...'" (Rev. 18:7)	Self-exaltation and independence from God
Rejection of righteousness	Hated Lot's message, tried to silence him	Persecuted saints, drunk on their blood (Rev. 17:6)	Hatred for truth and God's people
Judged by fire	Literal fire and brimstone from heaven (Gen. 19:24)	"She will be utterly burned with fire" (Rev. 18:8)	Symbol of divine wrath
Influence on others	Other cities were infected with Sodom's wickedness (Gen. 13:13)	Babylon "made all nations drunk" with her immorality (Rev. 18:3)	Corrupting global influence
Sudden destruction	"The Lord rained fire... that same day" (Gen. 19:24)	"In one hour your judgment has come" (Rev. 18:10)	Sudden, irreversible judgment
Angelic visitation before judgment	Angels warned Lot (Gen. 19:1)	Angels announce Babylon's fall (Rev. 14:8; 18:1-2)	Final warnings from heaven
A call to come out	Lot was told to flee (Gen. 19:17)	"Come out of her, my people" (Rev. 18:4)	Separation from corruption before judgment



The Deeper Message: Spiritual Rebellion

Both Sodom and Babylon represent more than cities — they symbolize systems of rebellion:

- Sodom = moral rebellion
- Babylon = spiritual rebellion
- Together, they picture the total corruption of man — body, soul, and spirit — and why God calls His people to come out and be separate.

Jesus Mentions Both in End-Times Warnings

Luke 17:28–30

“Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot... even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.”

Revelation 11:8

“Their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.”

That verse suggests even Jerusalem — when corrupted — can take on the spirit of Sodom or Babylon.

Lot's wife

Luke 17:32

“Remember Lot's wife.”

Jesus said this when warning about the end times — about the danger of clinging to the world when God is calling you out.

- It's a warning to not look back in attachment when God calls us forward.
- It's a call to complete obedience, not partial escape.

What Did “Looking Back” Really Mean?

- The Hebrew word for “looked back” implies longing, desire, or hesitation — not just a glance.

- She wasn’t curious. She yearned for what God was judging. She physically left Sodom, but her heart never did.

A Permanent Testimony

- A pillar is a memorial, something that stands as a warning.
- She wasn’t just judged — she became an eternal reminder of disobedience and divided loyalty.

B. Salt = Barrenness

- Salted land is lifeless, unfruitful (like the Dead Sea region).
- Her judgment showed that her heart was spiritually barren — she longed for a wicked world and was cut off.



SALT?

Symbol	Meaning
Preservation	Just as salt prevents decay , Christians preserve righteousness in a decaying world
Flavor/Influence	Salt adds flavor — we bring spiritual depth and truth to a tasteless, empty world
Purity	Salt was used in offerings (Lev. 2:13) — a symbol of covenant faithfulness
Healing	Salt was used medicinally — believers are agents of spiritual healing through the gospel

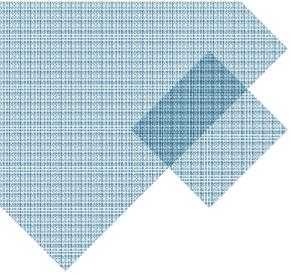


Salt as Judgment or Barren Land

Deuteronomy 29:23

“The whole land is brimstone, salt, and burning; it is not sown, nor does it bear...”
Here, salt is symbolic of judgment:

- Salting a land made it barren, unfit for planting.
- It was an act of war or divine curse (see Judges 9:45).
So, in this case, salt = judgment, lifelessness, and spiritual sterility.

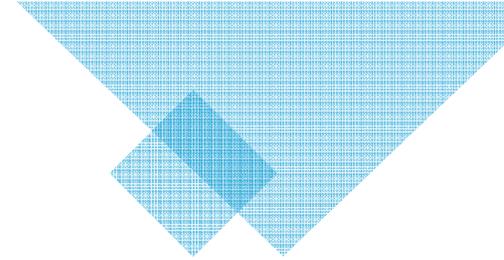


Context

Jesus to His followers (Matt. 5:13)

Judgment on the wicked (Deut. 29:23)

Lot's wife (Gen. 19:26)

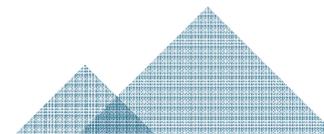


Salt Represents

Preserving truth, flavoring life, shining righteousness

Corruption, death, and desolation

A permanent memorial to **spiritual barrenness** and **disobedience**



For us today.

- Are we still living in darkness?
- Are we seeking the truth?
- Are we being lured away by something that looks so beautiful but will in the end be deadly?