

# REVELATION 18



## Revelation 18

### Part 1

# Recap

- Connected to Revelation 17: Babylon as the “Great Prostitute” (spiritual/religious Babylon). She RIDES THE BEAST from the sea.

Beast from the sea (Rev 13:1–10)

- Has 7 heads and 10 horns
- Speaks blasphemies
- Makes war on the saints
- Worshiped by the world
- This is the Antichrist, empowered by Satan

- Chapter 18 shifts to economic/political Babylon—her destruction and global impact.

- Babylon symbolizes the corrupt world system opposed to God—wealth, pride, immorality.

# One System, Two Expressions

- Chapter 17 shows spiritual Babylon: a seductive religious system symbolized by a harlot riding the beast, full of blasphemy, influencing kings, drunk with the blood of saints.
- Chapter 18 shows economic Babylon: a luxurious, materialistic empire that seduces the world through wealth and trade.
- While they seem distinct, they are two aspects of the same Babylonian system—a Satanic counterfeit kingdom that opposes God's truth.

# Babylon is the woman. The False Prophet is the priest.

- Spiritual Babylon is the religious environment or system.
- The False Prophet is the leader and mouthpiece of that system during the Tribulation.
- After the spiritual harlot (Babylon) is destroyed by the beast (Rev 17:16), the False Prophet continues with a more direct, authoritarian, Satanic religion—worship of the Antichrist.

# Understand the difference.

## Spiritual Babylon

System

False religion (global)

Symbolized as a woman/harlot

Rides the beast (initial alliance)

Destroyed by the beast

## False Prophet

Person

False miracle worker

Called the second beast

Promotes the beast (Antichrist)

Cast into the lake of fire by Christ

# KEY Spiritual corruption enables political/economic corruption.

- False religion (chapter 17) legitimizes immoral kings and corrupt merchants that will be judged in chapter 18.
- **Prosperity** is used to lure and blind people spiritually.
- Remember the gold cup that she holds and makes people drunk with?
- Example: In history, empires and religions have often merged for control (e.g., Rome, medieval Catholicism, or modern ideologies).

# Modern-Day Ideologies That Enable Corruption

## Ideology

Globalism (there are no borders)

Authoritarianism (power is held by a few)

Moral Relativism (right and wrong are NOT absolute)

Corporate Capitalism (large corporations dominate the market and laws policies and consumer behavior)

Identity Politics (Based on race, gender religion or sexuality)

Religious Syncretism (blending or mixing beliefs at the cost of truth)

Tech Utopianism (tech will solve all problems)

## Enables Corruption By

Eliminating accountability across borders

Concentrating power and silencing opposition

Justifying evil as subjective

Prioritizing profit over people

Dividing society for control

Sacrificing truth for unity

Bypassing ethics in the name of progress



# The Fall Announced (vv. 1–3)

- Another angel comes with great authority and glory.
- Babylon is declared fallen—past tense certainty of judgment.
- Two times mean it will happen and happen soon!
  - Gen 41 "And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass."
- Becomes a dwelling place for demons, unclean spirits, and detestable birds (judgment imagery).
  - Luke 8:27
- Nations and kings have shared in her immorality; merchants have grown rich from her excess.
- Parallel to Isaiah 21:9, Jeremiah 50–51.

# A Call to God's People: “Come Out of Her” (vv. 4–8)

- A voice from heaven warns the faithful to separate: “Come out... so you will not share in her sins.”

- 2 Corinthians 6:17 – “Come out from among them.”

What does it mean to “come out of her”?

- Spiritual and moral separation? Refusing compromise?
- Her sins have reached heaven (Tower of Babel echo).
- Judgment is coming swiftly—plagues, mourning, famine, and fire.

# What do we need to come out from?

Babylon's traits are mirrored in many false religious systems throughout history, especially those that:

- Promote salvation by works, rituals, or idols
- Unite religion with political control
- Persecute true believers
- Emphasize luxury, grandeur, or mysticism

# What does that look like?

- Apostate Christianity (those who abandon true faith)
- Paganism and New Age spirituality
- Interfaith movements that reject Christ as the only way
- Global religious unity movements that prioritize peace over truth
- The system may unite major religions under a false banner of tolerance and oneness. It's not one religion, but rather a synthesis—the “mother of harlots”.

- Spiritual Babylon is not one modern religion, but a satanically inspired fusion of false religion, likely including apostate versions of known religions, that culminates in global deception.

# Why Some Think It's the Catholic Church

Historically, many Protestants (especially during the Reformation) believed Revelation 17's "Mystery Babylon" referred to the Roman Catholic Church, because:

- The woman is “clothed in purple and scarlet”, traditional colors of cardinals and bishops.
- She is wealthy, like the Vatican.
- She is called the “mother of harlots”, seen as birthing false doctrines.
- She is seated on seven hills (Rev 17:9), and Rome is known as the city of seven hills. (false BTW)
- The Catholic Church has historically persecuted none Catholics (e.g., Inquisition).
- So yes, some aspects of Catholicism—especially when it departs from Scripture—align with the harlot imagery.

# Why It's Bigger Than Just Catholicism

However, Revelation 17 describes a global religious system, not just one church:

- She sits on many waters = peoples, nations, and tongues (Rev 17:15)
- She commits spiritual adultery with kings of the earth = global influence
- She is the “mother of harlots”, suggesting many spiritual offspring—not just one church.

# Is Every Catholic Part of Babylon?

No. There are true believers inside Catholicism—those who trust Jesus alone for salvation.

Revelation 18:4 says:

“Come out of her, my people...”

That implies God’s people are inside Babylon, but He calls them to separate from corruption.

So it’s not about labels—it’s about truth vs. deception.

# What is Rome's role?

- While Rome is the root of the final empire, the end-time religion will go beyond Roman Catholicism and become a global, hybrid system—likely *influenced by* Roman tradition but far more expansive and deceptive.

Catholic Influence? Yes.

Catholic Control? Not Exactly.

- The Antichrist's kingdom may *start* with a Catholic-leaning religious base, especially in Europe or through ecumenical unity.
- But once he demands to be worshiped, even that system is destroyed (Rev 17:16).
- He replaces it with a new, centralized religion focused on himself.

# Seeing it played out

- Pope Francis (just passed away) has made unprecedented efforts to unite world religions, promoting interfaith dialogue, global cooperation, and religious inclusivity.
- Many see these efforts as part of a potential foundation for the end-time religious system described in Revelation 17.

# Some things he did.

Abrahamic Faiths Agreement (2019) – “The Document on Human Fraternity”

- Signed in Abu Dhabi with the Grand Imam of al-Azhar (Sunni Islam’s highest authority).
- Promotes peace, mutual understanding, and religious pluralism.
- Claims that God wills the diversity of religions, which alarmed many Christians.

Creation of the Abrahamic Family House (Opened 2023)

- A shared complex in Abu Dhabi housing a church, mosque, and synagogue.
- Symbolizes religious unity among Christianity, Islam, and Judaism.

## Interfaith Prayer Events

- Pope Francis has hosted or participated in:
  - Prayer gatherings with Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, and Jews.
  - Events like the Assisi Interfaith Peace Meeting, inspired by Pope John Paul II.

## Laudato Si' and Globalism

- His encyclical *Laudato Si'* (2015) promotes global environmental and social unity.
- Encourages global cooperation—seen by some as laying groundwork for one-world systems.

## Inclusive Language and Doctrinal Ambiguity

- Frequently emphasizes inclusion, love, mercy, and unity over doctrine.
- Has made statements interpreted as softening the Church's stance on sin, judgment, and exclusivity of Christ.

- Revelation 17 describes a unified false religious system riding on the beast's power.
- This system promotes tolerance, unity, and moral language, but is spiritually corrupt and anti-Christ at its core.
- Pope Francis's actions may not *be* that system, but he is paving the way for it and the new Pope, being even more liberal will expand that path.

- It's very likely that pope Leo will be as liberal—or even more liberal—than Pope Francis.
- This is based on the current makeup of the College of Cardinals, the group responsible for electing the next pope.
- Pope Francis had appointed nearly 75% of the cardinals eligible to vote in the next conclave.
- These appointments often reflect his values: progressive theology, social justice, interfaith unity, and inclusivity.

# Current Liberal Trends Under Francis

Pope Francis had already:

- Opened the door to same-sex blessings (without calling them marriages)
- Suggested civil unions for LGBTQ couples
- Softened language on controversial issues like abortion and divorce
- Emphasized climate change, global cooperation, and interreligious dialogue
- These are radical shifts compared to his predecessors, especially Benedict XVI or John Paul II.

# What's next?

- Further push for female roles in the Church (possibly deaconesses)
- Support broader interfaith initiatives
- Continue to deemphasize doctrinal absolutes in favor of pastoral flexibility
- Advance a more globalist and humanitarian agenda
- Leo XIII was an Italian who led the church from 1878 to 1903. That Leo softened the church's confrontational stance toward modernity (a move away from tradition), especially science and politics and laid the foundation for modern Catholic social thought, most famously with his 1891 encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, which addressed workers' rights and capitalism at the beginning of the industrial revolution.

# Back to the call out

- So what this is telling us, is in the tribulation there will be some in the system but not of the system.
- They are being called out.
- Now it goes beyond that.
- Because in Revelation 18 the shift has happened from Spiritual to the world system and economy.
- Babylon the great is the second side the political/economical side
- Mystery Babylon is the Spiritual side.

# Spiritual Babylon: The Setup Phase

- Revelation 17 describes a global religious system—“*Mystery Babylon*”—that unites false religions, likely under a single ecumenical, tolerant, yet deceptive spirituality.
- This system partners with political powers (the beast with 7 heads and 10 horns) to gain influence.
- For the first half of the Tribulation, this spiritual Babylon sets the stage for mass deception.

# The False Prophet: The Transition and Enforcement

- Introduced in Revelation 13:11–18 as the second beast, who looks like a lamb but speaks like a dragon.
- He performs miracles, calls down fire, forces worship of the first beast (Antichrist), and institutes the mark of the beast.
- By this time, spiritual Babylon is no longer needed. The beast and his 10 kings destroy her (Rev 17:16).

So what happens?

- The False Prophet doesn't rise from Babylon, but:
  - He uses the religious deception Babylon created.
  - Then he shifts worship from many gods to one man: the Antichrist.
  - Babylon's diverse spirituality is replaced with a new, authoritarian, Satanic religion.

# Remember Chapter 17, 18 and 19 are informational chapters.

- Meaning that they are not chronological per say.
  - Now they will happen in the order as they read, but it also is giving background to the story.
  - This will not happen over night it is a process.
- Is the beast using these two Babylon systems right now?
- YES! And we are told to come out of them now!

# Getting back to the connection

Spiritual corruption enables political/economic corruption.

- False religion (chapter 17) legitimizes immoral kings and corrupt merchants.
- Prosperity is used to lure and blind people spiritually.
- Example: In history, empires and religions have often merged for control (e.g., Rome, medieval Catholicism, or modern ideologies).
- ▶ Economic greed feeds off spiritual idolatry.
- In Revelation 18:3, the nations drank Babylon's immorality, and merchants became rich from her luxuries.
- Worship of wealth, power, and pleasure is itself a form of idolatry.

# Modern-Day Ideologies That Enable Corruption

## Ideology

Globalism (there are no borders)

Authoritarianism (power is held by a few)

Moral Relativism (right and wrong are NOT absolute)

Corporate Capitalism (large corporations dominate the market and laws policies and consumer behavior)

Identity Politics (Based on race, gender religion or sexuality)

Religious Syncretism (blending or mixing beliefs at the cost of truth)

Tech Utopianism (tech will solve all problems)

## Enables Corruption By

Eliminating accountability across borders

Concentrating power and silencing opposition

Justifying evil as subjective

Prioritizing profit over people

Dividing society for control

Sacrificing truth for unity

Bypassing ethics in the name of progress

# Biblical Parallels

- Jeremiah 50–51: Babylon is judged for both idolatry and violence/exploitation.
- Ezekiel 28 (Tyre): The king is rebuked for pride and trade—but behind him is Satan.
- Matthew 6:24: “You cannot serve both God and money.” Jesus links materialism and spiritual loyalty.

# End-Time Implication

The end-time Babylon is a global system combining:

- False religion (spiritual harlotry)
- Political tyranny (the beast)
- Economic control (buy/sell/restrict)
- They will rise together, and God will judge them together—the fall of Babylon in chapter 18 prepares for Christ's return in chapter 19.

- The spiritual Babylon and economic/political Babylon are intertwined components of the same end-time global rebellion against God.
- The spiritual legitimizes the political, and the economic funds the spiritual deception. In God's judgment, He dismantles the whole thing—root and fruit.