MYSTERY BABYLON

THE CAPITAL OF POWER, WEALTH, & IDOLATRY

(Revelation 17 - 18)

SESSION #10 - WORKBOOK
Intended For
"KINGDOM WARRIORS IN THE ARMY OF GOD"

Unveiling Mysteries in the "Book of Revelation"

Based upon the Book:

GOD'S ANOINTED WARRIORS

Ву

Dr. Donald Bell Major USMC, Ret.

(Slides # 2 thru 6)

A PROSTITUTE RIDES THE BEAST

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk." And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. *Revelation 17:1-3*

And on her forehead was written a name of <u>mystery</u>: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." *Revelation 17:5*

Key Points:

Now who this ungodly woman is, what she represents, and where she exists today is extremely important to God's mighty warriors of this generation:

- ➤ Concerning her identity, many have struggled with the fact that Mystery Babylon is pictured as both a woman and a city seated on many waters.
- ➤ However, in order for God's chosen people in our generation to refuse to have fellowship with her, they must be able to discern who or what she is during these times.
- ➤ She is capable of such great deception that everyone who follows her will eternally be lost. Unfortunately, many who attend today's Christian churches have fallen in love with her.

Listen to our Lord who commands us to:

........Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues; for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities." *Revelation 18:4-5*

Then He goes on to say:

For this reason her plagues will come in a <u>single day</u>, death and mourning and famine, and she will be <u>burned up with fire</u>; for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her." *Revelation 18:8*

This is so very important for our comprehension as most teachers of Revelation simply warn Christians about receiving the "mark of the Beast."

> Yet, Mystery Babylon will be burned up prior to the supreme reign of the Antichrist as evidenced by the 10 kings who will not receive their royal power in a one world government until she is destroyed.

(Slide # 7)

MYSTERY BABYLON PRECEDES THE ANTICHRIST

Key Points:

The Book of Revelation is not necessarily chronological. Frequently, a general vision is first recorded and then later visions are given to provide additional detail. For example:

The events recorded in chapters 17 & 18 concerning Mystery Babylon and the seven-headed beast actually occur prior to the reign of the Antichrist recorded in chapter 13.

For here we see in chapter 17, as the harlot woman continues to ride the beast, the ten kings have not yet received their royal power.

And the ten horns that you saw are <u>ten kings who have not yet received royal power</u>, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. *Revelation 17:12*

Yet, when Antichrist first appears in chapter 13, these 10 kings have received their royal power.

This is apparent by the crowns on the heads of the ten kings in chapter 13.

And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with <u>ten crowns on his horns</u>, and on each head a blasphemous name. *Revelation 13:1(NIV)*

> These ten crowns are symbolic of "royal power" given to these kings.

Key Points:

In fact, the one-world government which will be ruled by the Antichrist will only come to "ultimate power" after the destruction of Mystery Babylon. At that time, these 10 kings will receive their royal authority.

➤ One needs to understand who, what, and where she currently resides in the today's world if they plan to survive her destruction for she will be "burned up" in a single day.

Perhaps "Mystery Babylon" is the primary target in the "trumpet series" which destroys 1/3 of the earth. This is speculative but very probable.

Notes:				

(Slides # 8 - 9)

HISTORICAL ATTEMPTS TO IDENTIFY MYSTERY BABYLON

John sees this harlot woman sitting on the beast that has seven heads and ten horns. These seven heads are described as seven mountains, and also, as seven kings.

This calls for a mind with wisdom: <u>the seven heads are seven mountains</u> on which the woman is seated; <u>they are also seven kings</u>, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. *Revelation 17:9-10*

Key Points:

Our early Christian fathers who experienced the horrendous evils of Roman Catholicism through the dark ages strongly believed that John was seeing a vision of the power of the Roman papacy represented by this harlot woman seated on seven mountains.

- ➤ Claiming to be the bride of Christ, the Roman Catholic Church has been in bed with godless rulers down throughout NT history. She has partied with these kings and made both them and their respective nations drunk with the wine of her spiritual fornications.¹
- ➤ Her cup is also filled with the blood of saints, for she has been responsible for the murder of millions of the Lord's sons and daughters through the centuries.
- ➤ Because of her worldwide influence and wealth, every world leader will have to deal with the Roman Catholic Church in order to attain and maintain political power.
- > Therefore many renowned theologians believed that these mountains are representative of the city of Rome which is known for being built upon seven hills.

However, mountains in scripture are also frequently symbolic of mighty empires.²

- > Just as a mountain is visibly manifested high above the normal surface of the earth, these ancient empires were the greatest among all the surrounding nations in the world.
- Thus, it is probable that this mysterious Babylonian woman, who rides on the top of these symbolic mountains, is the primary controlling influence over all the great empires that have arisen over the centuries.

Remarkably, she is astride the seven-headed beast which apparently reveals that she is the one that steers the direction of the mighty kingdoms of the World. Five of these heads are representative of great empires that existed prior to the Roman Empire.

¹ Dave Hunt, A Woman Rides the Beast, (Eugene: Harvest House Publishers, 1994) p. 70-71

² Jeremiah 51:25; Daniel 2:35; Zechariah 4:7

(Slide # 10)

BABYLON THE GREAT-A CONTROLLING INFLUENCE OVER MIGHTY NATIONS

Those familiar with the Book of Daniel will remember the man-like statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream which portrayed the different parts of the human body as representative of mighty world empires?

These were empires which would arise and oppress the people of God prior to both the first and the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.³

Ke	ey Points:
Re	ecall that the "head of gold" was representative of the Babylonian empire.
>	Now we always recognize a person by looking at their face, which provides the identity for the entire body. The head consists of the eyes, the ears, and the brains; all of which develop the vision and guide the rest of the body in the direction the head desires to go.
>	Therefore, the successive kingdoms that have risen to power after the fall of the Babylonian Empire are all part of this Mystery Babylon. They are intent of ridding the world of God's chosen people.
>	Babylon is the "head" that controls the affairs of the world and the authority that oppresses the people of God throughout all the ages since the beginning of time.
>	These kingdoms first arose in the Middle East where they all warred against the nation of Israel but over the last 2,000 years, during the era of Christianity, she has slowly moved westward.
No.	otes:

³ Daniel 2

(Slides # 11 - 13)

MYSTERY BABYLON - A "GREAT CITY"

This evil woman is also referred to five different times as <u>representative of the "great city</u>." For example:

And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth." *Revelation 17:18*

Note the following parallel with another woman who is also symbolic of a great city:

The New Jerusalem

Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. **Revelation 21:9-11**

Key Points:

<u>These are two spiritual capital cities</u>; The New Jerusalem represents the Kingdom of God and Mystery Babylon represents the Kingdom of the World.

- New Jerusalem is symbolic of the Bride of Christ and Mystery Babylon is symbolic of a prostitute.
- Now a prostitute is used in Scripture as one who claims to be a worshipper of God, but secretly, she whores with the world.
- > These two cities also have physical locations. Babylon currently exists within the world while New Jerusalem resides in heaven awaiting its time to descend to the earth.

Now does the city commonly known as Mystery Babylon have a single geographical location? Well, yes and no!

- > She is that city where the idolatry of commercialism, immorality, and hatred of God exists.
- > She is worldwide, yet she is located more strongly in certain sections of the world.

Additionally, many believe that Mystery Babylon is representative of the world-cities of today; such as, New York, Paris, Chicago, Rome, London, Los Angeles, Hollywood, etc, etc.

These are cities in supposedly Christian nations that have exported evil across the globe.

Thus, they see her as the city-prostitute who commits fornication with all the nations of the earth and reigns from a city which is the center of world-wide commerce and industry.)
However, can we really equate "Mystery Babylon" with any single city or geographica area? <u>Perhaps!</u>	l
Notes:	

(Slide # 14)

BABYLON THE GREAT – A UNITING OF POLITICS, COMMERCIALISM, & RELIGION

Every mighty world empire has embraced these three sources of power within society – politics, commercialism, and religion.

Key Points:

Now - note the ones who will mourn the destruction of the woman, Mystery Babylon:

- 1. The "Kings of the Earth" represent the political and military arena. (18:9)
- 2. The "Merchants of the Earth" represent the commercial arena. (18:11)
- 3. The "Unfaithful Woman" represents the idolatrous religious arena. (17:5-6)

The uniting of these three elements of society represents a gigantic system in pursuit of power and wealth; but also promising the assurance of eternal security in the after-life.

➤ The great majority of peoples want that assurance of a good life following their death – thus, over the centuries; various worldwide religions have grown rich, powerful, and controlling.

The focus of the citizens of Babylon is to achieve more and more earthly riches and comforts without the hand of God.

➤ Babylonian laws are continually passed to accommodate their worldly pursuits.

>	These are laws contrary to the Laws of God for they are laws designed to appeal to mankind's desire to be their own gods and control their own destiny. Certainly sounds familiar in today's world.
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	(Slides # 15 - 16)
	THE WOMAN = COMMERCIALISM & RELIGIOUS POWER
	nile commerce is a legitimate pursuit of profit, <i>Commercialism</i> is an attitude of the heart that a grow into the religion of Money worship.
>	The great world of commercialism has become virtually a religion to countless millions of people; its leaders who are the captains of industry are practically the rulers of the world.
	the world of commercialism is tangible and visible, but the animating spirit behind it all is not love of "Money."
>	Money is the god that many worship in our day for a man's true god is that to which he consecrates his life. Money is the greatest of all the idols in our generation.
>	It is the greatest rival of God for the affections and devotions of man. Jesus warns us:
	o one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be voted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. <u>Matthew 6:24</u>
Ke	y Points:
	e harlot woman appears to be in control of worldly governments because of her great hes and the millions who continually seek comfortable answers for their lives.

- These followers of the woman are in pursuit of worldly riches and comforts, but <u>they are also</u> seeking assurance that their happiness will continue in the eternal realm after their death.
- Thus, both "religion" for its millions of followers and "commercialism" for its wealth are extremely powerful and generally control the affairs of public life.
- Therefore, "politicians" have to climb into bed with this Great Babylonian Whore in order to gain the support of the majority of people.

All the injustices that are committed in the commercial and religious segments of society are symbolized by this harlot woman.

➤ Her cup is full of the abominations of an evil worldly kingdom that has persecuted the true people of God since the beginning of time.

Notes:			

(Slides # 17 - 18)

THE BEAST = POLITICAL & MILITARY POWER

This seven headed beast that is being guided by the harlot woman represents the political and military powers of the world.

Key Points:

Remember that the six heads of the "beast" represent six stages of development of various kingdoms which existed in the past while the coming kingdom of the Antichrist is represented by the seventh head.

- ➤ While the ten horns represent ten powerful kings who will rule during the final manifestation of the seventh kingdom.
- > This future realization of the seventh kingdom shall come into being by a united confederation of nations rather than by military conquest.
- They will unite and establish their final antichristian kingdom with the Antichrist as the supreme world ruler.

Thus, the seventh head is representative of a league of nations who will anoint the Antichrist as the ruling authority over the final world empire.

They will be viciously dedicated to wiping out the people of Christ from the face of the earth which will provide more blood for their rich and beautiful whore.

These are the days that our Lord calls the "great tribulation."

For then there will be <u>great tribulation</u>, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. *Matthew 24:21-22*

Those who endure the great tribulations without compromise their faith will eventually receive tremendous glory as they stand in the presence of God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

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(Slide # 19)

THE 8TH BEAST = THE WORLD RULER

Now there is an eighth beast that is distinct from the other seven:

As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction.

And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. These are of one mind and hand over their power and authority to the beast.

They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful." *Revelation 17:11-14*

Key Points:

This is not simply another human ruler – this is the Antichrist.

- ➤ Daniel describes him as another horn among the ten with eyes like a man and a mouth speaking great things; even greater than his companions.
- ➤ He blasphemies Almighty God and makes war with the followers of Christ.

- > Daniel also tells us that he overthrows three of the ten horns in his rise to supreme power.⁴
- ➤ This 8th beast is Satan manifested in human form. Antichrist the messiah to the world.

However, before this eighth beast, the Antichrist, can come into supreme worldwide power, he must control all the commercialism and religions of the world.

- Thus, he must overthrow the woman who symbolizes that great and immoral city of Babylon.
- > This overthrow of Mystery Babylon will take place in a single day without any advance warning.
- The world will be in tremendous shock and grief as their idols are suddenly swept away and are about to be replaced by a single man.

This will be a quick and powerful attack on the areas in which the harlot exercises the greatest control; a place where all the merchants of the earth were in bed with her.

Notes:			

(Slides # 20 - 22)

THE WOMAN LOVES THE BEAST BUT THE BEAST HATES THE WOMAN

This harlot woman is committed to the beast for it is because of its political and military powers that she is enriched. <u>However, unknown to this woman, the beast is not committed to her, but is using her to gain power in the world governments.</u>

➤ The Antichrist will suddenly attain supreme power by burning this Mystery Babylon and taking control over all of her commercial and religious activities.

And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire, for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. Revelation 17:16-17

And:

For this reason <u>her plagues will come in a single day, death and mourning and famine, and she</u> will be burned up with fire; for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her." *Revelation 18:8*

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⁴ Daniel 7:8; 20-22; 24-25

This sudden attack appears to be nuclear for it is described as being a great fire with rising smoke that is seen from far off.

For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste." And all **shipmasters** and seafaring men, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea, stood far off and cried out <u>as they saw the smoke of her burning</u>, "What city was like the great city?" *Revelation 18:17-18*

Following the destruction of Mystery Babylon, the final kingdom will be committed to bring all sources of power under the complete control of the Antichrist:

Commercialism will continue to exist for those embracing the "mark of the beast."

- ➤ But, free enterprise among the merchants of the earth will disappear. "No one can buy or sell unless they have the mark of the beast!"
- This new world money system will be the lifeblood of the beast government of Antichrist.

Religion will continue to exist for those worshipping the "image of the beast."

➤ But, freedom to worship other gods will disappear.

Yet a remnant of God's chosen people previously identified as the 144,000, will not take the mark of the beast nor will they bow down to his image.

> They will continue to be a strong and powerful light in the midst of this darkest period in the history of mankind.

(Slide # 23)

MYSTERY BABYLON – A PROSTITUTE "SEATED ON MANY WATERS"

Now let's consider where her primary location exists today:

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, *Revelation 17:1*

Then the angel goes on to say:

And the angel said to me, <u>"The waters</u> that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, <u>are peoples</u> and multitudes and nations and languages. Revelation 17:15

The United States of America is also a nation seated on many waters both physically and symbolically.

Physically, she is bordered east, west, and south by the two greatest oceans and by five great lakes in the north as well as mighty rivers in her interior.

- > She also governs multitudes of peoples that come from many different nations and languages.
- ➤ She is the pride of the whole earth as well as being the focus of great jealousy from nations who envy her riches.

(Slide # 24)

AMERICA - IN THE WORLD'S SPOTLIGHT

Key Points:

- America is not specifically mentioned in the bible, but why would it be? The bible was completed 2,000 years ago and no discovery of the western world would take place for another 1,000 years.
- ➤ However, the bible continually mentions countries from afar but describes them as countries in the north, south, east, and west.

Now, what country has made the greatest impact upon the growth of Christianity worldwide? It is America that has been the greatest nation that has represented Christianity worldwide since the last page of the bible was written.

When Jesus teaches on events that precede His second coming, He warns of false teachers who will lead many astray, many in the church will betray others, etc.

>>>>And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. Matthew 24:10-11

➤ Think about it! What other country has such a large Christian population that will fall away and betray many of His people?

And if we are presently on the verge of the Day of the Lord, as many of us believe, -- then the United States is the only nation that possesses both the commercial and religious characteristics of Mystery Babylon to the level reflected in the Book of Revelation.

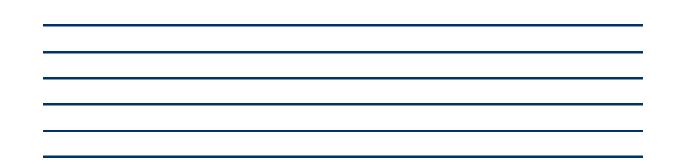
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Un	d if we are presently on the verge of the Day of the Lord, as many of us believe, then the ited States is the only nation that possesses both the commercial and religious characteristics Mystery Babylon to the level reflected in the Book of Revelation.
>	Our nation may or may not be final location of Mystery Babylon, but in this current generation, the spirit of the whore is most prominent in the great cities of America.
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	(Slide # 25)
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ΑI	MERICA & ISRAEL - BOTH NATIONS FOUNDED UNDER GOD
	nerica and Israel are the only nations ever founded from the beginning upon the rposes of Almighty God.
	ael was God's nation under the Old Covenant. The western world which was relatively known in biblical times represents the world of Christianity under the New Covenant.
wo the	nerica has been the most influential nation in the promotion of Christianity throughout the rld. The Lord has obviously called America as a representative of the New Covenant and over last four centuries, she has greatly influenced all the nations of the world with the gospel of us Christ.
	odly leaders built this country under the biblical principles of justice, truth, and religious edom.
of Ou obe	ese founding fathers were Europeans seeking freedom from persecution within the countries Western Europe. They were the early pilgrims who pursued and honored the Lord. r present day heritage of freedom, peace, and prosperity is the fruit of our forefather's edience to and love for, the Lord Jesus Christ and His heavenly Father.
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-	abylon which was represented by the golden head in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, a certainly appears to be the home of the harlot woman who is the guiding source of st in this era. try that was founded on Christian principles has now chosen to throw off our an heritage and embrace the principles of Sodom and Gomorrah. in America, the voice of demons sounds quite pleasant. They are heard on on, in the newspapers, in theatres, in our classrooms, and even in many of our esc. by are voices that continually speak to us about living a happy and successful life but in the ity, they conceal the truth that leads to true eternal happiness. erialism, entertainment, pleasure-seeking, celebrity worship, abnormal sexual cionships, obsession with shopping and eating; these are our idols. worship the sinful lifestyle that provides physical and emotional pleasure and we worship				
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	AMERICA - A NATION GONE TERRIBLY ASTRAY				
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Ke	ey Points:				
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tel	oday, in America, the voice of demons sounds quite pleasant. They are heard on evision, in the newspapers, in theatres, in our classrooms, and even in many of our urches.				
>	They are voices that continually speak to us about living a happy and successful life but in reality, they conceal the truth that leads to true eternal happiness.				
>	Materialism, entertainment, pleasure-seeking, celebrity worship, abnormal sexual relationships, obsession with shopping and eating; these are our idols.				
>	We worship the sinful lifestyle that provides physical and emotional pleasure and we worship all those Hollywood type celebrities who continually encourage us in our idolatrous living.				
Nc	otes:				
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(Slide # 27)

AMERICA - A NATION GONE TERRIBLY ASTRAY

Today, like ancient Israel, the United States of America is a nation gone terribly astray.

We have seen a tremendous decaying society rise up and control a former Christian nation. <u>For example, today we are a nation where:</u>

- > Prayer and bible study are not longer permitted in our schools or in most governmental facilities.
- > A corrupt news media has brainwashed many of today's Americans into following the harlot who rides the beast.
- ➤ Abortion clinics have butchered tens of millions of babies over the last 40 years and today it appears that some states are now making it lawful to murder babies even after they are born.
- ➤ We are now a country where our judicial system allows criminals more rights than their victims. Where violent youth gangs and desperate drug addicts make many city streets unsafe yet, they are continually supported by our increasingly leftist governments.
- ➤ Where violent and demonic TV, movies, video games, and drugs have spawned a dangerous belief system among the millennial generation of the 21st century.
- > We are now a country that embraces a "godless lifestyle" that welcomes adultery, abortion, pornography, homosexuality, and same-sex marriages as a normal way of life.

Sin is running rampant; yet the great majority of American churches are strangely silent and in fact, have lost their influence concerning the direction of our nation.

The testimony of the gospel message of Jesus Christ being the one and only way to enter into the eternal kingdom - has become more and more silent - during this age where the internet and cell phones control the great majority of our population.

Our religion is all about "meism!' Just as Satan promised to Adam and Eve, worldly people live as if they are their own god.

Many Americans are among the religious worshippers of Mrs. Mystery Babylon, that adulterous whore who also pretends to be the Bride of Christ.

No	otes:				

(Slides # 28 - 29)

AMERICA - A NATION GONE TERRIBLY ASTRAY

Sin and lawlessness have replaced righteousness and justice in our once great and mighty land.

Key Points:

- > Power and riches has led a former nation of God into a great apostasy.
- > The great prosperity experienced in this nation has lulled many of God's people into following cross-less, painless gospel.
- > Sadly, our nation no longer worships the Lord who blessed us with prosperity and established our religious freedoms.

Those who embrace these self-seeking lifestyles are among the worshippers of Mrs. Mystery Babylon, that adulterous whore who pretends to be the Bride of Christ.

Now - Are we entering into the "last days?"

Well, listen to the following verse in 2^{nd} Timothy which describes the world's social system in the last days.

Godlessness in the Last Days

>>>>But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Now, doesn't this sound like the common lifestyle of today's America?

A country that was founded on Christian principles has now chosen to throw off our Christian heritage and embrace the principles of Sodom and Gomorrah. These cities were also burned up in a single day.

(Slides # 30 - 31)

AMERICA - A NATION GONE TERRIBLY ASTRAY

Sadly, our nation no longer worships the Lord who blessed us with prosperity and established our religious freedoms.

A country that was founded on Christian principles has now chosen to throw off our Christian heritage and embrace the principles of Sodom and Gomorrah. These cities were also burned up in a single day.

- ➤ Righteousness and justice in our once great and mighty land has been replaced by sin and lawlessness.
- America has fallen into the same trap as ancient Israel; power and riches has led a former nation of God into a great apostasy.

Jesus Himself tells us that a nation divided against itself cannot stand. And today, we are no longer the United States of America – we are now the Divided States of America.

Is modern America, among those great historical empires, represented by Mystery Babylon who rides and steers the beast? Probably!

At any rate, there can be no doubt that our country loves to fornicate with the lady who rides the beast.

And we must be aware that if the rise of the Antichrist is coming within our generation, - then obviously America will be the last of the nations represented by this harlot woman.

➤ If so, she will soon burn in a single day.

This will be a time of tremendous destruction and grief among Americans; yet this period of intense hardships will open many hearts to the gospel message proclaimed by the anointed messengers of God.

(Slide # 32 - 34)

THE BABYLONIAN WHORE & FALSE CHRISTIANITY

Key Points:

A woman in Scripture is frequently symbolic of the God's chosen people.

> In the Old Testament, Israel is the Wife of Yahweh, while in the New Testament; the church is the Bride of Christ.

The Old Testament frequently identifies the nation of Israel as the Wife of the Lord.

- > She was immensely blessed by her Husband, but later went whoring after other gods.
- ➤ She also sacrificed her children to these gods much like today's abortionists.⁵

Thus, it is apparent in Scripture that a spiritual harlot is one who claims to be faithful to her Husband; yet runs after the gods of other religions.

Likewise, the counterfeit churches in America also claim to be the true church. And outwardly, she may look like the church, but she is really the harlot woman who embraces the worldly lifestyle.

➤ Her churches are filled with false teachings that are designed to support her adulterous lifestyle and provide assurance that she is loved of God.

For example - the preaching of "tolerance" is a misleading doctrine promoted by the enemy to effectively weaken the truth of the biblical gospel.

The "tolerance" doctrines assume that man is not sinful, but basically good, even if at various times in life, they may need counseling help.

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⁵ Ezekiel 16:8-22

- Eventually, if Christians proclaim that Jesus Christ is the one and only way to eternal life, the time is coming when they will be maligned as bigots, fanatics, judgmental, unloving and therefore, a hindrance in the establishment of a peaceful society.
- This religious prostitute will side with those governmental authorities who insist that the church must be "tolerant" of those who believe that there are many ways to eternal life.
- > She will help blend Christianity with other faiths and continue to dilute the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

This is currently the vision of the leaders of the emergent church movement as well as all those dominations who teach that all who believe in their worldly gods will also experience eternal life with Christians.

(Slide # 35)

AMERICA - BIBLICAL DOCTRINES REPLACED BY IDOLATRY

Today in America, numerous congregations avoid the preaching of the cross and the discipline of the Lord.

Paul was certainly speaking to these popular American churches - who are led by false teachings:

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. 2 *Timothy 4:3-5*

Key Points:

Many of these churches are filled to overflowing to hear their pillow prophets teach a gospel of prosperity and easy believism; while the few voices declaring the impending judgment of God are virtually ignored by many.

- > These churches have a "Christian welfare mentality" that caters to the hurting spirit; giving out large doses of feel good teachings that empowers the ego of the listeners.
- > They understand that it is much easier to speak the words that people want to hear which will allow them to grow in popularity among those who want to continue in their worldly lifestyles.
- > Christians are misled to jump into the resurrected life by a shortcut that bypasses the continuing work of the cross in the believer's life.

The blindness existing within these churches is horrendous. While individual churches continue to compete with one another for more people and more money, they remain virtually silent concerning the sin that is rapidly overtaking our nation.

Today, in most American churches, the leaders who claim to know His word fail to recognize the hour of judgment being at hand.

Instead of teaching people how to "think and grow rich," these churches should be encouraging one another to pursue the Lord and His holiness.

> But - With their teaching and preaching of materialism, these churches are doing a better job of paving the way for the rise of the Antichrist - than preparing for the return of Jesus Christ.

(Slides # 36 - 37)

MY PEOPLE - COME OUT OF BABYLON!

The call to come out of Babylon is first heard in the prophecy of Isaiah and is heard seven times in all, the last being in this chapter of Revelation.⁶

- This call implies that the way is open for people to depart from her.
- The Lord brought His people out of Egypt with a strong hand which is different with respect with deliverance from Babylon; for here He simply opens the way and only those who come out are considered His true people.⁷

Key Points:

This call to come out of her doesn't mean that we are to physically leave our homes; unless of course, He calls us to physically relocate.

➤ It is a call to depart from the idolatrous pleasures of the world and turn to serving in the army of our Lord Jesus Christ throughout our lifetime.

WHO ARE THE CHRISTIANS WHO ARE IN MYSTERY BABYLON?

If you are in a church that does not proclaim the following foundational truths; <u>COME</u> OUT NOW!

> Jesus Christ is God's Son who came to earth to pay the penalty of death for all those who believe on His Name.

⁶ Isaiah 48:20; 52:11; Jeremiah 50:8-9; 51:6-8; Zechariah 2:6-7; 2 Corinthians 6:17-18; Revelation 18:4-8

⁷ Philip Mauro, *Things Which Must Soon Come to Pass*, (Swengel: Reiner Publications, 1974) p.494

- > Jesus Christ is truly divine and existed from all eternity as the Son of God. He is the Word of God that was present when creation was spoken into being.
- > Jesus Christ is the one and only way to eternal salvation. There is no other way.
- > One must be truly "born again" in order to enter into the Kingdom of God.

False teachers occupying many of the pulpits in our churches may not admit to their unbelief in the above truths concerning our Lord and His Word.

They may remain silent in order to maintain their attendance numbers. However, if their message does not regularly embrace the above truths, it is a warning sign; come out now!

(Slide # 38)

COME OUT NOW!

False teachers occupying many of the pulpits in our churches may not admit to their unbelief in the above truths concerning our Lord and His Word.

They may remain silent in order to maintain their attendance numbers. However, if their message does not regularly embrace the above truths, it is a warning sign; come out now!

A CHURCH THAT:

- ➤ Compromises the truth that the Bible is not inerrant, but is simply a book written by men which contains some truths, but also contains false beliefs. **Come out now!**
- > Teaches that "tolerance" is the ultimate expression of true love for others. That man is basically good and that we must be tolerant of those who profess different beliefs in God. Come out now!
- ➤ Teaches that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is the same Allah that the Muslims worship. That the gods of Buddhism and Hinduism are the same as the God of Christianity. They just have different names depending on one's culture. **Come out now!**
- Teaches that financial prosperity is available to each of us if we will only begin to tithe our limited resources to their individual ministries. That our personal pleasure and financial security is how one measures success in this life. **Come out now!**
- > If you are in a church that is more focused on your blessings than with our Lord who gave those blessings; where financial prosperity has prioritized your life; where your comforts

- have replaced the Cross in your life; where entertainment has replaced evangelism in the workplace. **Come out now!**
- ➤ If you are in a church that ridicules Christians who will not deny their faith that Jesus is the only path to eternal life, you are in Mystery Babylon. <u>Come out now!</u>

These are some of the idolatrous doctrines of Mystery Babylon and the true people of God must run from these lies that are intended to compromise our faith in God and bring about a great smile on the face of Satan.

➤ Additionally, if you are in a denominational church that teaches that membership in their church is the only way to eternal life – you are in Mystery Babylon – Come Out Now!

Notes:				

(Slide # 39)

"ABOUT FACE"

Those with military experience are very familiar with the command "about-face" which is a command to immediately turn sharply 180 degrees from the direction you are currently facing.

- ➤ It is also a command used by our Commander-in-Chief who calls us to "turn" from our sins; then He will remove the veil which is blinding us from the truth and put us on the path of growing in spiritual maturity.
- This willingness to turn in an "about-face" will suddenly cause us to see ourselves as we truly are and thus, our need for a Savior.
- ➤ All of God's champions will occasionally go astray and veer from the course that the Lord directs. However, like Moses, David, or Paul, they all have one thing in common; when

confronted with their blindness, they will readily turn in an "about-face" and return to following their Commander.

What will Christians do when our Commander-in-Chief commands us to "about-face"?

- ➤ Will they obey Him or listen to other subordinate commanders, such as some church leaders who tell us that the Commander-in-Chief really meant "<u>right-face</u>" since it is much easier to follow that path.
- ➤ But a partial turn will eventually lead us away from the path that Jesus is going and even though other leaders tell us that we are moving rightly, we are straying further and further from His direction.
- Some other false commanders may convince us that the command was really <u>"at-ease"</u>; just keep coming and giving to the church and God will be pleased.
- Eventually the time comes when the Commander-in-Chief gives the command <u>"forward march"</u>; only those who heard and obeyed the command <u>"about-face"</u> will be equipped to follow the King of kings and the Lord of lords in the direction He is heading.⁸

(Slide # 40)

COME OUT OF BABYLON - NOW!

There is a day coming when Christians will need to make a definite decision as to who they will serve. Just as the prophet Elijah spoke to the Israeli peoples on Mount Carmel:

"How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." *I Kings 18:21*

Key Points:

The present day application of this demand might be:

- ➤ If the Christ of Scripture be the true Savior, then surrender to Him. But if the false Christ being commonly preached in many pulpits is your savior, then go ahead and follow him.
- ➤ One who demands the denying of self and another who allows the gratifying of self cannot both be right.
- ➤ One who insists on separation from the world and another who permits you to enjoy its friendship cannot both be right.

⁸ Al Houghton, *Word at Work* (Newsletter Volume XXI, Number IX, Chapter 10)

➤ One who came to bring division among the people and another who came to unite the world cannot both be right.

God will not accept a divided heart; He will have all or none. He will permit no compromise.

WAKE UP & COME OUT NOW!

Notes:			

(Slide # 41)

THE NEXT SESSION:

First Read: Revelation 14 & 15 plus 16:1-9

THE LAST HARVEST FOLLOWED BY DESTRUCTION

- > Dark Stories are always Followed by Light
- > "Blessings & Warnings" in Seven Major Events
- > One: The Lamb & 144,000 on Mt Zion
- > Two: The Angel & the Everlasting Gospel
- > Three: The Fall of Babylon

- ➤ Four: Warning Against "Worshipping the Beast"
- Five: Blessed are Those who Die in the Lord From Now On
- ➤ Six: The Harvest of the Earth
- > Seven: God's Wrath Falling Upon the World of Evil
- ➤ Heaven Celebrates while the World Blasphemies
- ➤ The Final Judgments of our Lord Begin
- > Pouring Out the Bowls of God's Wrath

THE LAMB OF GOD - OUR TRUE

"COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF"

The days are rapidly approaching when a tremendous separation will take place among mankind.

Yet, during this present era of warfare, He reigns as our Commander-in-Chief and His Name continues to be the battle cry for those warriors who fight daily for righteousness and truth.

His name is Jesus, Our Lord, Our King, Our Commander-in-Chief

- ➤ A truly mighty Leader who would never delegate assignments to His people that He Himself wouldn't readily embrace.
- ➤ A Commander that Christian warriors will readily follow not matter the danger or what costs have to be paid.
- ➤ These are warriors whose deepest desire is to hear Jesus welcome them with the following words when they enter into His presence:

...... 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' *Matthew 25:21*