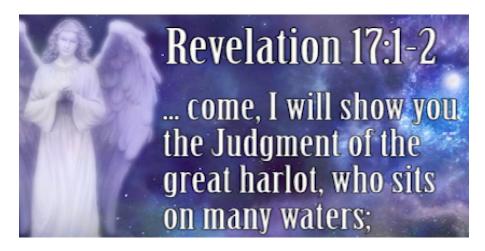
## God's Angel Delivers an Important Message!



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When God sent His angel to deliver this message to His people through John on the aisle of Patmos, He used language in the form of symbolism to reveal truth to His people. Since God is love, we need to realize that it's His desire to reveal truth to us in this manner, not because He wants to offend us, but because God wants to show us the pathway which leads to His Son Jesus, and into His kingdom.

God's people, through studying the Scriptures and the messages of His prophets, have understood many of the symbols God uses in prophecy. Since these symbols are preserved within the Holy Bible, we too can understand what God's symbols mean. By using the Bible to interpret itself, you can be sure you have the meaning that God intends you to have.

As an example, Revelation 12 describes a woman dressed in white. Throughout the Book of Revelation, a pure woman symbolizes the bride of Jesus or the true church. We know this because in *Jeremiah 6:2* the prophet says, "*I have likened the daughter of Zion to a lovely and delicate woman.*" The "daughter of Zion" is a term describing God's people. Here God compares His people to a beautiful, pure woman.

In *Ephesians Chapter 5:23-27*, Jesus is portrayed as a faithful husband and His church is portrayed as His bride. When you see the bride of Jesus in Revelation chapter 12, you see a woman dressed in white, she is a pure woman and she is faithful to her true love, Jesus. She is undefiled, meaning she is not corrupted with false doctrines. This woman is Christ's bride, or His church on earth.

In Revelation 17 however, another woman possessing quite a different character is described. This woman rides upon a scarlet colored beast. The Bible calls her a harlot. She's left her true love, she's turned her allegiance away from Jesus and she uses political power to advance her cause. Through this symbolism of an impure woman, God describes the great apostate system of religion which millions are caught up in, without even realizing it.

Let's look at this harlot of Revelation 17, this impure woman, this apostate religious system, and as we do, let's seek a Biblical understanding of God's love for us, as found in this inspired message of warning delivered by this angel of God.

Revelation 17:1, 2 says, "Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

The first point to be made here is that God has passed judgment on this harlot woman. A harlot is a woman who has left her true love. A harlot is a woman who has gone after many lovers. God, through this symbolism of a harlot, pictures the fallen church. Although she professes a connection to Jesus, in reality, her actions and her loyalties are against Jesus, because she does not render true obedience to Jesus.

Let's begin identifying who the harlot woman is in the angel's warning. The Bible says, she "<u>sits on many waters</u>." We find the meaning of this in *Revelation 17:15 which says, "Then he said to me, 'The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues."* In other words, this woman, or apostate church system sits on, or dominates many people.

The Bible says in Rev.17:2 that this <u>woman commits fornication with the kings of the earth</u>. What is fornication? Fornication is an illicit or un-holy union. In this case, the fornication is with the kings of the earth. Therefore the un-holy union mentioned by the angel is between the church and the state. In the true church system, the church is united with Jesus Christ. God's true church practices the principals of separation between church and state. The fallen church however, looks to the kings and the political leaders for power, and she manipulates them for her own purposes.

Rev 17:2 says "the <u>inhabitants of the earth are made drunk with the wine of her fornication</u>." Since the harlot is an impure woman, or church, the wine in her cup which causes the inhabitants of the earth to become drunk, represents the false doctrines she teaches. It also represents the extent to which her teachings are spread. Using the term "inhabitants of the earth", indicates this fallen church has spread its false doctrines across the earth.

The angel of God goes on to say in *Revelation 17:3 & 4*, "So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. <sup>4</sup> And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication"

In Revelation 17:3 the angel portrays this woman as "sitting upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns." What does God mean when He uses the symbol of a beast in prophecy? The answer is found in Daniel 7:17, which says, "These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth." Therefore when God uses the symbol of a beast in prophecy, he is talking about a king or a kingdom. You could say when a nation turns its back on the principles of God's kingdom, it becomes beastlike. In like manner, when the church leaves her true love and looks to the state for power and support, it compromises Biblical principles and becomes the harlot.

In this case, the beast represents the political powers or kingdoms she is influencing. This woman, or this false church, receives her power from the beast, or from the state, but she also influences the state to support her falsehoods. She passes around her wine cup of false doctrines through the

power, and co-operation she receives from the earthly kingdoms, and the world becomes intoxicated with her errors. Millions drink of the wine of Babylon and are deceived by the harlot's false teachings.

In Revelation 17:4 it says "The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls..." In this passage God is revealing to us through the angel, the colors of the garments used by this false church system. The references to gold, precious stones and pearls would indicate wealth, or the ability to accumulate wealth. Keep in mind that identifying the harlot of Revelation 17 is serious business, and God does not want anyone to get it wrong. That's why He's gone to great lengths in His description of the harlot. God doesn't want anyone to be deceived, and He doesn't want anyone to have any doubts who she is. Therefore God does not simply give us a few general identifying marks that could be applied to many different churches. If He did this we would not know which one it was, we'd be guessing at best. But since God wants us to know for sure who the harlot is, He gives us many precise identifying marks or characteristics, which identify her beyond all doubt.

Let's read all four verses again, and then review what the angel has revealed to God's people through the apostle John thus far. We'll also create a list of identifying marks, enabling us the ability to identify who she is.

Revelation 17:1, 2 says, "Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, <sup>2</sup> with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

Revelation 17:3 & 4, "So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. <sup>4</sup> And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication"

Here are the 10 identifying marks we have learned from above:

- 1) God's judgment is upon the woman of Rev. 17
- 2) Jeremiah 6:2 and Ephesians 5:23-27 identifies a woman as a symbol of a church
- 3) This woman is identified as a harlot because she commits fornication
- 4) The abominations inside the wine cup are the false doctrines she teaches
- 5) She sits upon many waters, or has control over many people (Rev. 17:15)
- 6) The inhabitants of the earth are made drunk with the wine of her false teachings
- 7) She rides a scarlet colored beast, identified in Dan. 7:17 as kings, or kingdoms
- 8) She influences these kings or stately powers to achieve her purposes
- 9) Her priests wear the colors of purple and scarlet
- 10) She is adorned with gold, precious stones and pearls indicating great wealth

We're about to look at additional identifying marks, but we've already seen enough to know that common sense alone would indicate, this is not a church you want to be part of. However, millions of people are part of this church system. Perhaps the vast majority of them have never heard, or understood, this angelic message from God. One thing is for sure, if you find yourself in association with this church, God understands it was due to a lack of knowledge, and that's why He sent His angel to proclaim this message to John, who in turn wrote it down for you! Let's read the next two verses in Revelation chapter 17 and see what else we can learn.

Revelation 17:5-6 "And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration."

Now that last verse says the woman was "drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus." From this statement its clear this woman had the power to persecute God's people, even to the point of putting them to death. You don't have to go back very far in your history books to learn there was in deed a church that martyred many of God's people, and she did it in the name of the church. Historians estimate the number of people this woman has killed during the Dark Ages numbers into the millions.

In Revelation 17:5 God says this woman has a name written on her forehead, and that name is "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." There are two points found within this name that we must take into consideration. Let's look at the second part which says she is "THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS." Put on your thinking cap now. If this woman is a church, and God calls her a mother, then who would her offspring be? If she is a church, and she's a mother, then her offspring must be other churches! These aren't just any other churches. To qualify for the title of being called the "children of the harlot mother", these churches must also be holding onto some of the mother's false doctrines.

Once again, if you go to your history books, you'll soon find a mother church whose doctrines, because they were not pure, caused many people to protest and leave her. When these people came out of the mother church they formed new churches or denominations that were known as Protestant churches. These protestant churches were "born" out of the mother church. The term Protestant comes from the fact that God fearing men and women "Protested" against the false doctrines within the Mother church, and when the church refused to follow the Bible, these men and women left the church.

Unfortunately, a big change has been made over the last 100 years or so. Many of the protestant churches that formed during the reformation era, instead of protesting, are now embracing many of the mother's false doctrines, and they are doing it in large part due to the Ecumenical movement. This is a movement within the mother church to bring back the daughter churches, to unite them under her umbrella. Therefore, the protestant churches who once denounced the mother's false doctrines are now welcoming them, and this has earned them the title from God as being the children of "THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS". It's sad to see these churches today, once again drinking from the harlot's wine cup, beclouding their minds with the wine of Babylon and no longer protesting against the false doctrines she teaches.

Let's jump ahead to Revelation 17:9. In this verse God tells us where the harlot lives. He gives us her address so we'll be able to pin point her and steer clear of her. Revelation 17:9 says, "And here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sits." Let me ask you, where can you find a city that serves as the capital of a religions and a political system? A city whose leader has influenced political leaders of Europe for centuries? A city who's bishops and cardinals dress in the colors of purple and scarlet, and to top it all off, it sits upon seven hills? By now you're probably saying to yourself, "I know who this is!, I know who God's talking about!" God's speaking about the Roman Catholic Church! But perhaps you're not sure if it's true. Perhaps you're not sure if Rome was built on 7 hills. Well, just go to google on the internet and type in the words, "seven hills of Rome", and see for yourself what Wikipedia has to say. I'd like to say that again. Search the words, "seven hills of Rome."

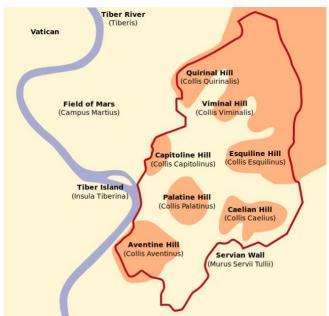
Let's add these last three points to our list of identifying marks.

- 11) This woman has the power to persecute God's people and has killed millions
- 12) She's "THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS", which means she has harlot children
- 13) Her city sits on seven mountains (the seven hills of Rome)

There may be other cities that are built on 7 hills, but there is only one city in the whole world that meets all 13 of the descriptions or identifying marks God has given, and that city is Rome!

## The seven hills are: 11

- Aventine Hill (Latin, Aventinus; Italian, Aventino)
- Caelian Hill (Caelius, Celio)
- Capitoline Hill (Capitolinus, Campidoglio)
- Esquiline Hill (Esquilinus, Esquilino)
- Palatine Hill (Palatinus, Palatino)
- Quirinal Hill (Quirinalis, Quirinale)
- <u>Viminal Hill</u> (*Viminalis*, *Viminale*)



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Catholic clergy wearing robes of Purple and Scarlet (Red). Watermark on image is all I know about the source of this image

Now that God has identified who the mother harlot is, <u>I</u> want to make one thing VERY CLEAR. <u>God IS NOT talking about the honest hearted sincere people who are caught up in this system.</u> Most of whom are people who've never even heard His warning about this system. In identifying this harlot woman, this apostate church system, God is warning His people so they can choose which side they will stand on. If you truly love God, you will honor Him and be faithful to Him! <u>God is not speaking against the individual people of the Roman Catholic Church when He identifies the harlot, He is speaking against the religious system which He's identified as the false church of Revelation 17.</u> There's much more to this than meets the eye, but you can be positively sure God's telling you the truth, because He loves you and He doesn't want to see you standing on the wrong side, He doesn't want you standing against Him, but rather He wants you standing with Him.

Now let's go back and look at the part of Revelation 17:5 which we skipped over. In the first part of Revelation 17:5 God says this woman has a name written on her forehead, and that name is "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT." Now why do you think God says her name is a mystery? What does "Mystery, Babylon the Great" mean? Where do you suppose we'd have to look, in order to solve this mystery? To solve a mystery you need to search for clues. In this case, God has already given us the clue, and its right before eyes. The clue is in her name. In order to know what Mystery, Babylon the Great means, we need to go back to Babylon in the Old Testament. There we'll learn certain characteristics about ancient Babylon that have been carried over, or brought into, the teachings of the mother church. This is going to be an exciting eye opening experience for you, so hang on and listen closely. I believe there are wonderful Christians in every denomination. People who love Jesus Christ and are serving Him in sincerity to the extent of their knowledge. But God wants to expand their knowledge. God wants to open their eyes and warn them before it's too late.

It's clear that God is calling people who have been part of the great mother church, as well as people who are among the daughters of that mother church, the Protestant daughters, to separate from the beliefs of these fallen churches. God is calling them to turn away from the errors that have slipped into the church from paganism. He's calling His people to the truth of His word. *John 17:17 says, "Sanctify them by your truth. Your word is truth."* Friends, if you want to live a sanctified life, you must live by the truth of God's word. What does the word sanctify mean? It means to "set apart for a special purpose". If you live according to God's word, He sets you apart from the rest of the world and you become His people who carry His banner of truth to those who do not know the truth. Jesus is calling His people to separate from the teachings of the mother church and to cling to the truth of His word.

In order to understand what God means by giving the name "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT.", to the mother harlot, there are four major teachings of Old Testament Babylon that we need to be

aware of. So let's go back in the Bible and learn something about Old Testament Babylon. This way we'll be able to understand why God, in Revelation, called this false church, "Mystery, Babylon the Great."

Soon after the Biblical flood, there were a group of men and women who rebelled against God. They built a tower which God called Babel. They were building a tower from earth to heaven, and they were erecting it in defiance to God. *Genesis 11:9* tells us how the tower received its name, it says, "Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth." So God confused their language and the people were scattered across the earth because they could no longer communicate with each other. Thus the work of building the tower came to an end.

It's interesting to note that the city of Babylon was built on the site of the Tower of Babel. So when you think of Babylon, it means "confusion." When you examine the doctrines in the wine cup of the harlot and compare them to the Bible, this is exactly what you see, confusion. Many of her doctrines when compared to the Bible, simply don't agree with the Bible, they're confused. Have you ever asked yourself why the harlot teaches from a man made "Catechism" and not from God's book, the Holy Bible? It's because the doctrines they teach are not supported in God's book. This is why they've made the Catechism! They want to uplift their man made teachings and traditions, not God's Holy Word. They want to advance their power and influence over the kings and people of the world as they humbly set themselves up to receive worship as the supreme head of the church.

Let's look a little deeper. Speaking about the king of Babylon, the Bible says in *Daniel 4:30, "The king spoke, saying, 'Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power, and for the honor of my majesty?"* Babylon's king, Nebuchadnezzar, said "This is great Babylon that I have built." Friends, there are two religious systems, the counterfeit is made by man for his own glory, while the true is made by God. Babylon was known for its large amount of gold. It was the wealthiest nation on earth. Likewise, spiritual Babylon in the form of the Roman Catholic Church is the wealthiest organization on planet earth. The king of literal Babylon had boasted about his royal palace which he had built. Have you ever wondered why Jesus taught we should live modestly, yet in defiance to this, the mother church lives is such grandeur, surrounded by gold and silver, and gems of precious stones of all kinds?

By the way, doesn't Revelation 17:4 say "And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls"? This was the 10<sup>th</sup> identifying mark we discovered earlier. When you look at how Jesus lived in the Bible, and how He teaches His people to live, and then you look at the head of the harlot church, the differences cannot be reconciled. Jesus said the Son of man had no place to lay his head. Think of it, King Jesus, the Lord of the Universe, while here on earth, ministering to His people the Salvation that can only be found in Him, didn't have a place to lay His head. The Roman church however is the wealthiest entity on the entire planet. If you don't believe that, just ask google how much money the Catholic Church has and you'll learn their wealth is so great, they themselves don't even know how much they have.

What is God telling us? He's saying that He has a church, and it's the pure bride of Christ in Rev. 12 which upholds the Word of God. His church has a solid foundation, which is Jesus Christ. And it's built on true doctrine. But Spiritual Babylon however, the church represented in Rev.17, is a manmade system of religion. Jesus is calling us away from man-made religion, and He's calling us back to the Bible. He's calling us back to loyalty towards God. He's calling us back to faithfulness towards His Word. The church of Jesus Christ is not a man-made institution. The church of Jesus Christ was built by Jesus himself. In fact, in *Colossians 1:18, it says "And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the* 

**preeminence.**" Jesus Christ is #1 in the true church. Jesus Christ has preeminence. The head of the church is Jesus Christ, and the head of the church is in heaven, not on earth.

What about mystery, Babylon the Great, where is her head? What about this woman that rides upon the scarlet colored beast? What about this earthly Babylon? Earthly Babylon in the Old Testament had an earthly head that was pre-eminent. The word of those Babylonian kings, was law. When King Nebuchadnezzar sat in his temple on his royal throne, he spoke as god. His commands were, supposedly, the voice of god. In regards to the leader of the harlot church, God says in 2

Thessalonians 2:4, "Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." The Bible says in the last days a church-state system would arise, a system called Spiritual Babylon. And that church would have a spiritual leader claiming to speak as God. This church would have a man at the head whose word would be declared to be the very word of God. Is there any evidence that the Church of Rome fulfills this prophecy?

<u>Consider this statement made by Pope Leo XIII in an Encyclical letter dated June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1894.</u>
<u>"We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty"</u> Friends, for any man to claim he is God, this is Blasphemy. Man is not God!

Consider what was written in "The Catholic National", in its July 1895 publication which states, "The pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ, but he is Jesus Christ Himself, hidden under the veil of flesh." Again, this is blasphemy. Just as the literal Babylon had a man at the head claiming to be god, so spiritual Babylon has a man at the head claiming to be god. Yes, the Roman church system is guilty, and that system does fulfill the prophecy of the apostle Paul as found in 2 Thessalonians 2:4. These are not isolated quotes. There are many such quotes down through the passage of time where the papacy claims the prerogatives of God.

Another characteristic about Ancient Babylon, it was a center for image worship. The Bible tells us that we're to come to Jesus directly. We do not come to Him through the use of images. We don't come to Jesus through the intercession priests, saints or others. Jesus is our intercessor. He's our high priest. Hebrews 4:16 says "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." The Bible says in Exodus 20:4-5 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God..."

God tells us not to use images. Literal Babylon used images prolifically, and many of those images found their way from Babylon, to Rome, and into the Christian church. The names of the statutes were changed from pagan names, to Christian names, and today the Roman church calls these images sacred. Church fathers and leaders call them holy, but God says don't use them, they're not Holy! This is another of Babylon's false doctrines within her wine cup.

Within God's 10 commandments, as found in *Exodus chapter 20, God says, "Thou shall not make unto thee any graven image."* Earlier I stated the harlot has her own doctrines and that's why they teach from their Catechism instead of God's Holy Bible. Here's one instance of this that you can search for yourself. Take some time to compare the churches catechism with the Bible concerning God's 10 commandments. You will soon see the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment as found in the Bible, which is against image worship, has been removed from the catechism. In order to keep 10 commandments in the catechism (because they removed the one against image worship) the church took the Bible's 10<sup>th</sup> commandment against coveting, and they broke it up into 2 different commandments about coveting.

The church did this in order to continue its practice of using idols. Jesus however, invites us to make him #1. He's the head of His church, not the pope, or any other man. The Bible says in 1 Timothy 2:5 "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus"

Another characteristic of literal Babylon was that it taught the doctrine of the immortality of the soul. This idea of the immortal soul did not come from Christianity. Examine what God tells Ezekiel concerning the false practices of worshipping the dead. *Ezekiel 8:13, 14 says, "And He said to me, 'Turn again, and you will see greater abominations that they are doing.'* So He brought me to the door of the north gate of the LORD'S house; and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz." Now who was Tammuz you ask?

Tammuz was the god of vegetation. The Babylonians believed that when winter darkened the sky, the nights got longer, and the plants died or went dormant, that Tammuz, the god of vegetation had died. Then every year in the spring, there would be a resurrection of Tammuz, and the vegetation would grow again. As silly as this sounds, this is what some of the Jews were doing. They accepted this false idea from Babylon straight out of paganism. That's why Ezekiel describes them as "worshipping Tammuz." They are worshipping the dead.

This false idea that the dead are alive, and the soul is immortal, slipped into the Old Testament church directly from paganism. Here's what the Bible has to say about those who have died.

Ecclesiastes 9:5 says, "For the living know that they will die; but the dead know nothing."

Psalm 115:17 says, "The dead do not praise the LORD, nor any who go down into silence." In many places the Bible says death is like a deep sleep. Do you recall Jesus speaking of Lazarus when he was dead, He said Lazarus was sleeping. Then when His disciples said, if he sleeps he will be well. Jesus answered and plainly said, Lazarus is dead! You can read about this in John 11:11-14. There is no such thing as an immortal soul. If there was, and if the person was in heaven with Jesus, don't you think he would be praising God? The Bible says the dead cannot praise God! In essence the Babylonians were practicing an idea that was instigated in the Garden of Eden by Satan when he said to Eve, "you shall not sure surely die."

The doctrine of the immortal soul is not in the Bible. The idea of the immortality of the soul takes away the power of the second coming of Christ. It eats at the very heart of the church. If you believe in the immortality of the soul, you believe that when you die you will immediately go to heaven, why then, would Jesus come to resurrect the dead if they were already in heaven? This false teaching undermines the second coming of Christ. It was God's intent that the church in every age would long for the second coming of Christ. This is when Jesus returns in the clouds of heaven to take His people home with Him. It's only after Jesus resurrects us, that He will give us immortality, we do not have it now! The apostle Paul speaks of receiving immortality after Jesus comes and resurrects us. You can read about it in 1 Corinthians 15:51-58.

The early church clearly identified the doctrine of the soul's natural immortality as coming directly from Satan. The Bible talks about spiritual Babylon, a powerful church system that drifted away from God's Word and from God's truth. It talks about a Babylonian system that would have a man as a leader declaring that he could speak for God. It talks about a system of religion that would have images in its worship. It talks about a system that would teach the immortality of the soul. It also talks about the daughters of this mother Church, they are Protestant daughters who have accepted various false teachings of the mother church.

Many of these protestant daughters are holding onto the idea of man naturally having immortality. This is one of Satan's lies. You may remember that it was Saul, the King of Israel who went to the witch of Endor when influenced by Babylonian and pagan thought. He said, "I need a message from God. Bring me up the prophet Samuel. I want to talk to Samuel."

So Saul went to this cave where the witch of Endor began her incantations and when the witch told Saul about the spirit she brought up, Saul said, "I perceive that this is Samuel." There was a form that came up. It looked like Samuel. It talked like Samuel, but it was not Samuel. It was an evil spirit masquerading as Samuel. The evil spirit pretended to be Samuel, and spoke to Saul through the witch of Endor. Ladies and gentlemen, in the last days of earth's history, the devil is going to pull out every stop. He will use the appearances of dead loved ones to deceive us, just as he did with king Saul. People have said to me in the past, ... but my dead relative came to me and told me things that only he or she would know, if it was not my relative, who was it? Friend, I speak to you honestly. If you believe in God, and if you believe the Bible, which is God's book to you, then you must believe what Revelation 12:9 says about the devil and his angels. Here it is, Revelation 12:9 says, "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

This text says the devils have power to deceive. Additionally, the Bible says they have the power to work miracles, listen to what Revelation 16:14 says, "For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty."

Stop and think about this for a moment, if the devils have power to deceive, and if the devils can work miracles, then why couldn't they impersonate a dead relative. The fallen angels have been on earth for thousands of years. They are watching us and seeking to deceive us. They know every little thing about us, because they have observed us throughout our lives. This is why they are able to know things about us that only certain people could know. The Bible is true from cover to cover, and it does not lie, the fallen angels however, are a different story all together. Satan is not only a liar, he is the father of lies.

I thank God the Bible teaches truth. I thank God that Jesus Christ is coming soon, and our hearts can beat with the eager anticipation that our dead loved ones who are now sleeping, will be resurrected to meet Christ in the sky with us, when He comes to take us home.

Finally, the last characteristic of Babylon was the fact that it was the center of sun worship. Ezekiel 8:16 says, "So He brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house; and there, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the LORD and their faces toward the east, and they were worshiping the sun toward the east." Now you see, God designed the temple in such a way that when you come into the temple your face is towards the altar of God, and your back is towards the sun. But in this text of Ezek. 8:16, God says they intentionally turned away from His altar and faced the sun. They were facing the sunrise toward the east. They were worshipping the sun. Sun worship crept into the church.

Let me ask you, have you ever heard of an Easter Sunrise service? It's not Biblical friends. It's very plain what happened in the early Christian church during the time of Constantine. Sunday became a vehicle to unite paganism and Christianity. The Catholic church has written about it this way in the Catholic book, "The Question Box", answering questions about Catholicism, p. 99, it says - "In keeping Sunday, non-Catholics are simply following the practice of the Catholic Church for 1800 years, a tradition, and not a Bible ordinance." Yes, friends, the Catholic Church acknowledges keeping Sunday is not in the Bible. Do you see what God is saying in Revelation 17? He's saying that many false doctrines would come into the church. He's saying that the mother church, the Roman church has drifted away from the truth of scripture.

A church which uses images in its worship, a church based on the idea of the soul being immortal, a church that worships on the day of the Sun, instead of worshipping on God's holy Sabbath, is part of a

culture which God calls spiritual Babylon. Ezekiel the prophet says God gave us His Sabbath as a sign. What is the Sabbath a sign of? We find it in *Ezekiel 20:12 "Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and me, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them."* Now ask yourself, who is it that sanctifies you? The answer should be Jesus, and keeping God's 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath is the sign between you and God, that He is the one who sanctifies you! We spoke about Sanctification earlier. Sanctification is when God sets you apart for a special, or holy purpose. The Bible predicted that teachings from ancient Babylon would slip into the mother church, and true to God's word, you can plainly see this has happened!

In the days of Ezekiel when error slipped in among the people of God, he cried out, *Ezekiel 22:26* "Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them." I believe that Ezekiel the prophet would cry out today, "Many religious leaders have hidden their eyes from God's truth, from God's 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath."

Today, God is leading us back to His Word. God is leading us back to His truth. God is leading honest-hearted men and women to obey His word. There would be a power, according to Daniel 7:25 that would ". . . think to change times and laws . . ." Ladies and gentlemen, I say to you that no earthly church has the authority to change God's law, or to change God's word. I say to you that preachers should get back to preaching God's truth from the Bible and flee the harlot woman who sits upon the Seven Hills of Rome. God is calling us to reject her wine cup of abominations and to follow His pure words of truth as found in His Holy Word, the Bible.

Our Lord is gathering a group of people in these last days. A group of people who believe that you can come directly to Jesus without using images or a priest to reach Him. A group of people whose hearts long for the Christ who came once, to come again the second time and take us home. A group of people that reject the idea of the immortal soul. A group of people that worship Jesus on the true Sabbath.

Revelation 18:2 says, "And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, 'Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen. . ." and Revelation 18:4 says, "And I heard another voice from heaven saying, 'Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues." Today, many of God's people are in churches that don't understand these truths. Loving Christians of every religious persuasion are still in churches that God calls Babylon, the mother of harlots, and the daughters of the mother harlot. So what does God say to His people in these fallen churches?

God says come out of her lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. What is sin? *1 John 3:4 says sin is the transgression of God's law*. It's the breaking of God's law. So God says, My people, I love you, but you've been drinking the wine of Babylon and I want you to come out of her. God's truth can sober you up, God's truth will guide your hearts. God's plea to you from *Revelation 18:4 is to "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins."* With tones of mercy, with tones of love, Jesus says, "Come out of her my people."

I believe that God has looked down upon you, and has made it possible for you to hear and understand His truth today. I believe it's His providence that has lead you to find this truth, and I believe God is calling you to follow what He's revealed to you. I believe with all my heart that Jesus is saying to you, Come out of her, and come to me.

Would you like to say, "God, I know your Holy Bible is true, and I'm going to follow you? If it's your desire to follow Jesus all the way, and you'd like to know where you can find a church that teaches the truth of God's Holy Word, a church that does not believe in allowing the practices of Babylon to come into it, and corrupt its teachings. If you'd like to find a church that keeps the commandments of God,

including the 7<sup>th</sup> day Saturday Sabbath, just as Jesus Himself kept it, then I'd humbly point you to the Seventh-day Adventist church. Not because I'm a member of that church myself, but because it's the only church I know under heaven, that teaches the Bible truth, and keeps God's Seventh-day Sabbath holy, just as He's commanded us to do.

In the closing chapter of Revelation, chapter 22, Jesus says these words. Vs.7, "Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the saying of the prophecy of this book. Vs.12, And, behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. Vs.16, I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches.

In addition, Revelation 22:14 says, "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

It's my prayer that you will seek to do God's commandments, including keeping His Seventh-day "Saturday" Sabbath. I bid you to come out of the Harlot churches and come into God's church for these last days, the Seventh-day Adventist church.

May the knowledge and love of God our Father, along with the Sacrifice of Jesus His Son for the salvation of our souls, be watered by the presence and the power of God's Holy Spirit, that you'll gain the strength, and the courage, to follow Jesus in all He commands you to do.

The Bible closes with these final words. Revelation 22:18-21 "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."

In summary, you should now have a basic understanding as to how the Vatican is fulfilling the Bible Prophecy as given by God's Angel in Revelation chapter 17. However, we have not yet talked about what you can do to prepare yourself for Pope Francis's address to the US Congress, the United Nations, and to the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia PA. There are a number of positive things you can do, let's talk about them now.

First and foremost you should prepare yourself spiritually. The best way to do this is to read your Bible on a daily basis and pray for knowledge, wisdom and understanding. Approach God in prayer, as you would speak to a friend, and ask Him to show you the way to His kingdom through His Holy Word. The Bible is our guide, and we should build our faith and our trust in His Holy Word.





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