



The
Revelation
of **Jesus Christ**

22. The mystery of Babylon



The
Revelation
of **Jesus Christ**

apokalypsis = disclosure,
manifestation, unveiling

The **revelation** of Jesus Christ,
which God gave Him to show to His servants
the things that must soon take place.

(Revelation 1:1)

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Part 1		
Section 1	Section 2	Section 3
Chapters 1 to 3	Chapters 4 to 7	Chapters 8 to 11
Prologue, the vision of Christ among the lampstands, the letters to the seven churches.	The vision of God's throne, the scroll in His right hand, the Lion and the Lamb. The seven seals are opened.	The prayers of the saints, the seven trumpets are sounded, the great angel, the little book, the two witnesses.

Part 2			
Section 4	Section 5	Section 6	Section 7
Chapters 12 to 14	Chapters 15 to 16	Chapters 17 to 19	Chapters 20 to 22
The woman gives birth to a child, the dragon cast out, the two beasts, the Lamb on Mt Zion, three angels, two harvests.	The song of victors over the beast. Seven bowls of the wrath of God are poured out on the earth.	The woman riding on the beast, the destruction of Babylon, Christ on a white horse, the damnation of two beasts.	Satan is bound, the saints reign with Christ for a thousand years, the final judgement, a new creation, the new Jerusalem.

Section 6

Chapters 17 to 19

The woman riding on the beast, the destruction of Babylon, Christ on a white horse, the damnation of two beasts.

Chapter 17

- John is shown a vision of the prostitute, Babylon
- The angel explains some of the vision to him

Chapter 18

- An angel proclaims that Babylon has fallen
- God's people are called out of it
- Kings, merchants and traders mourn its downfall
- A mighty angel proclaims its utter destruction

Chapter 19

- Heaven rejoices over God's judgement
- The marriage of the Lamb is proclaimed
- Christ comes out of heaven to judge and make war
- The beast and the false prophet are cast into hell

The mystery of Babylon



Babylon in the Old Testament...

Judah was carried away captive to **Babylon**
because of their **unfaithfulness**.

(1 Chronicles 9:1)

The prophecy of Isaiah:

And **Babylon**, the glory of kingdoms,
The beauty of the Chaldeans' pride,
Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.
It will never be inhabited,
Nor will it be settled from generation to generation...

(Isaiah 13:19-20)

The prophecy of Jeremiah:

Flee from the midst of **Babylon**...
For this is the time of **the LORD's vengeance**;
He shall recompense her.

(Jeremiah 51:6)

Babylon in visions already given to John...

A proclamation before the two harvests:

And another angel followed, saying,

*“**Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city,**
because she has made all nations drink
of the wine of the passion of her fornication.”*

(Revelation 14:8)

The seventh bowl of wrath:

The great city was split into three parts,
and the cities of the nations fell,
and God remembered **Babylon** the great,
to make her drain the cup
of the wine of **the fury of His wrath.**

(Revelation 16:19)

Revelation 17 – the mystery of Babylon

- The vision of the woman - Revelation 17:1-6
- The mystery is explained - Revelation 17:7-18
- What is the Lord Jesus unveiling for the church?

- **The vision of the woman** - Revelation 17:1-6
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Both the condemnation
and the punishment

Come,
I will show you the **judgment** of the great prostitute
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.

Sexual
immorality

Therefore government

Excess that leads to
blindness and shame

(Revelation 17:1-2)

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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 17:3)

I saw a beast rising out of the sea,
with **ten horns** and **seven heads**...
and **blasphemous names** on its heads.
(Revelation 13:1)



The **dragon** gave him his power,
his throne, and great authority.

- **The vision of the woman** - Revelation 17:1-6
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The woman was arrayed in **purple** and **scarlet**,
and adorned with **gold** and **jewels** and **pearls**,
holding in her hand a **golden cup**
full of **abominations**
and **the impurities of her fornication.**

(Revelation 17:4)



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And on her forehead was written
a name, **a mystery**:
***Babylon the great,
the mother of prostitutes
and of the abominations of the earth.***

And I saw the woman,
drunk with the **blood** of the **saints**,
the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.
(Revelation 17:5-6)



Witnesses

And when I saw her,
I marveled with
great amazement.

- **The vision of the woman** - Revelation 17:1-6
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What do we now know of this woman?

- She seduces the whole world
- She is enabled or used by Satan
- She has great wealth and lives in luxury
- She offers what is an abomination to God
- She is the origin of great abominations
- She has slain many of the God's people

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Why do you marvel?

I will tell you the mystery

- of **the woman**, and
- of **the beast** ... that carries her.

(Revelation 17:7)

The beast that you saw

- **was**, and
- **is not**, and
- **is about to** rise from the bottomless pit
- and go to **destruction**.

And the dwellers on earth whose names have **not** been written in **the book of life** from the foundation of the world

will marvel to see **the beast**, because

- it **was** and
- **is not** and
- **is to come**.

(Revelation 17:8)

- The vision of the woman - Revelation 17:1-6
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This calls for a mind with wisdom:

Or hills

- the seven **heads** are seven **mountains** on which the woman is seated;
- they are also **seven kings**,
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.

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

(Revelation 17:9-11)

- The vision of the woman - Revelation 17:1-6
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This calls for a mind with wisdom:

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 they hand over their power and authority to the beast.

(Revelation 17:12-13)

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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 17:14)

- The vision of the woman - Revelation 17:1-6
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The **waters** that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are **peoples** and **multitudes** and **nations** and **languages**.

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 17:15-17)

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

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We know that:-

- ✓ The Lord calls us to live in victory and fruitfulness.
- ✓ In Revelation, the true nature of things is unveiled.
- ✓ Those who hold to these words will certainly be blessed.

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From the parable of the sower...

And others are the ones sown among **thorns**.

They are those who hear the word,
but **the cares of the world**
and **the deceitfulness of riches**
and **the desires for other things** enter in
and choke the word,
and **it proves unfruitful**.

(Mark 4:18-19)



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Do not love the world or the things in the world...

For all that is in the world—
the desires of the flesh and
the desires of the eyes and
the pride of life—

is not from the Father but is from the world.

And **the world is passing away...**

(1 John 2:15-17)



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*Whoever wishes to be
a friend of the world
makes himself
an enemy of God.*

(James 4:4)



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**In place of God...
Wealth, pleasure,
power and honour**




Endless
craving

Hard
hearts

Spiritual
death

***All nations have drunk
the wine of the passion
of her sexual immorality...***

(Revelation 18:3)

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The woman represents
the true character
of the system or culture that
offers much for the flesh
and is, in its nature,
opposed to the call of God
in **Christ Jesus**.

Wealth, pleasure,
power and honour

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Does **OUR** system or **OUR** culture
encourage or reward

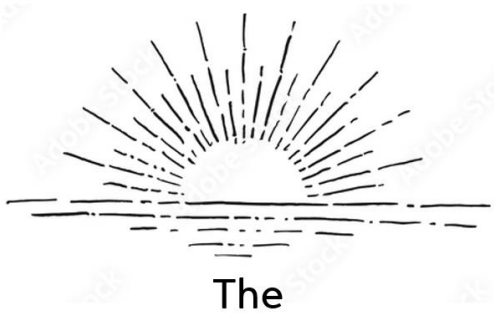
~~Wealth~~ **Simplicity**

~~Pleasure~~ **Self-discipline**

~~Power~~ **Service**

~~Honour~~ **Humility**

?



The
Revelation
of **Jesus Christ**

We have seen **the spirit of the world**
in all its **ugliness** and **immorality**.

- This is **our world**
- There are **our times**
- This is **our challenge**



The

Revelation of Jesus Christ

Do not be conformed
to this world,
but **be transformed**
by the renewal of your mind...

(Romans 12:2)

*This is the salvation
for which Christ died
and rose again!*