

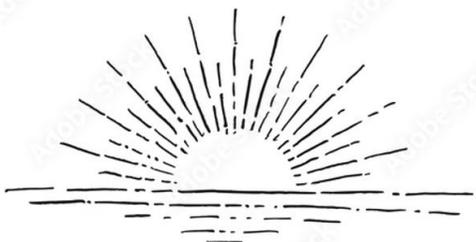


The  
**Revelation**  
of **Jesus Christ**

An overview

*apokalypsis* = disclosure,  
manifestation, unveiling

**17. The mystery of Babylon**



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, <b>Christ among the lampstands,</b> the letters to the seven churches.	The vision of God's throne, the sealed scroll, the Lion of Judah and the Lamb. Opening <b>the seven seals.</b>	The prayers of the saints, <b>the seven trumpets,</b> 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
<b>The woman, the dragon and the two beasts,</b> the Lamb on Mt Zion, proclamations by three angels, two harvests.	The song of victors over the beast. <b>Seven bowls of the wrath of God.</b>	The woman on the beast, <b>the fall of Babylon,</b> Christ on a white horse, the end of the two beasts.	<b>The saints reign with Christ for 1,000 years,</b> the final judgement, <b>the new creation and the new Jerusalem.</b>

## Section 6

### Chapters 17 to 19

The woman on the beast,  
**the fall of Babylon,**  
Christ on a white horse,  
the end of the two beasts.

### Chapter 17

- John sees in a vision a woman called Babylon
- The angel explains some of the vision to him

### Chapter 18

- An angel proclaims the destruction of Babylon
- God's people are called out of it
- The world mourns its downfall
- An angel proclaims its final destruction

### Chapter 19

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

Today

# The Babylonian Empire

(6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> century BC)



# THE **Babylon in the Old Testament...**

(605 to 597 BC)

**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...

Will be as when God overthrew **Sodom** and **Gomorrhah**.

**It will never be inhabited,**

Nor will it be settled from generation to generation...

(Isaiah 13:19-20)

(Babylon fell in 539 BC and was abandoned around 100-200 AD)

## Babylon in earlier visions given to John...

**Before the two harvests at the end of the age:**

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)

**When the 7<sup>th</sup> bowl of wrath is poured out:**

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)

# The mystery of Babylon – Revelation 17

- The vision of the woman - Revelation 17:1-6
- The mystery is explained - Revelation 17:7-18
- What is the message here 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 **judgement** 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**.

(Revelation 17:1-2)

Excess that leads to  
blindness and shame

- **The vision of the woman** - Revelation 17:1-6
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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.  
(Revelation 13:2)

- **The vision of the woman** - Revelation 17:1-6
- The mystery is explained - Revelation 17:7-18
- What is the message here for the church?



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 sexual immorality.**

(Revelation 17:4)



- **The vision of the woman** - Revelation 17:1-6
- The mystery is explained - Revelation 17:7-18
- What is the message here for the church?



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)

His witnesses



- **The vision of the woman** - Revelation 17:1-6
- The mystery is explained - Revelation 17:7-18
- What is the message here for the church?



## What do we now know of this woman?

- She seduces/deceives the whole world
- She is enabled and used by Satan
- She has great wealth and lives in luxury
- She caused the death of many of the God's people

- The vision of the woman - Revelation 17:1-6
- **The mystery is explained** - Revelation 17:7-18
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### Why do you marvel?

I will tell you the mystery

- of **the woman**, and
- of **the beast**...

(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
- **The mystery is explained** - Revelation 17:7-18
- What is the message here for the church?



**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
- **The mystery is explained** - Revelation 17:7-18
- What is the message here for the church?



## 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.

**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 17:12-14)



- The vision of the woman - Revelation 17:1-6
- **The mystery is explained** - Revelation 17:7-18
- What is the message here for the church?



The **waters** that you saw...  
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...**

(Revelation 17:15-17)

...for **God has put it into their hearts**  
to carry out **His purpose...**



- The vision of the woman - Revelation 17:1-6
- **The mystery is explained** - Revelation 17:7-18
- What is the message here for the church?



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



- The vision of the woman - Revelation 17:1-6
- The mystery is explained - Revelation 17:7-18
- **What is the message here for the church?**



The woman (Babylon) represents  
**the truth about**  
**this world.**

It calls us to pursue  
**wealth, pleasure, power and honour**

but it is totally opposed  
to God's purpose in **Jesus Christ.**



- The vision of the woman - Revelation 17:1-6
- The mystery is explained - Revelation 17:7-18
- **What is the message here for the church?**



## The message is not new

*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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## The message is not new

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)



- The vision of the woman - Revelation 17:1-6
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- **What is the message here for the church?**



## The message is not new

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

(James 4:4)



- The vision of the woman - Revelation 17:1-6
- The mystery is explained - Revelation 17:7-18
- **What is the message here for the church?** ←

Does **OUR** culture encourage or reward



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



# The destruction of Babylon – Revelation 18

- Babylon's doom – Revelation 18:1-3, 21-24
- The reaction of the world – Revelation 18:9-19
- The call to God's people – Revelation 18:4-8, 20

- **Babylon's doom** – Revelation 18:1-3, 21-24 
- The reaction of the world – Revelation 18:9-19
- The call to God's people – Revelation 18:4-8, 20

Another angel... called out  
with a mighty voice,

**Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!**

She has become a dwelling place for demons,  
a haunt for every unclean spirit,  
a haunt for every unclean bird,  
a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.  
(See Revelation 18:1-2)

***Fallen, fallen  
is Babylon the great...***  
(Revelation 14:8)

- **Babylon's doom** – Revelation 18:1-3, 21-24
- The reaction of the world – Revelation 18:9-19
- The call to God's people – Revelation 18:4-8, 20

Then a mighty angel  
took up a stone like a great millstone  
and threw it into the sea, saying,

*So will Babylon the great city  
be thrown down with violence,  
**and will be found no more at all...***

(Revelation 18:21)

- **Babylon's doom** – Revelation 18:1-3, 21-24
- The reaction of the world – Revelation 18:9-19
- The call to God's people – Revelation 18:4-8, 20

*The sound of harpists and musicians,  
of flute players and trumpeters,  
will be heard in you **no more at all**,  
and a craftsman of any craft  
will be found in you **no more at all**,  
and the sound of the mill  
will be heard in you **no more at all**,  
and the light of a lamp  
will shine in you **no more at all**,  
and the voice of bridegroom and bride  
will be heard in you **no more at all...***

(Revelation 18:22-23)

- **Babylon's doom** – Revelation 18:1-3, 21-24 
- The reaction of the world – Revelation 18:9-19
- The call to God's people – Revelation 18:4-8, 20

And in her was found  
the **blood** of **prophets** and of **saints**,  
and of all who have been slain on earth.  
(Revelation 18:24)

- Babylon's doom – Revelation 18:1-3, 21-24
- **The reaction of the world** – Revelation 18:9-19
- The call to God's people – Revelation 18:4-8, 20



And **the kings of the earth...**  
will **weep and wail** over her  
when they see the smoke of her burning.

They will stand far off, in fear of her torment,  
saying,

*“Alas! Alas! You great city,  
you mighty city, Babylon!*

***For in one hour your judgement has come.”***

(Revelation 18:9-10)

The ten horns...  
and the beast will...  
**burn her with fire...**  
(Revelation 17:16)

- Babylon's doom – Revelation 18:1-3, 21-24
- **The reaction of the world** – Revelation 18:9-19
- The call to God's people – Revelation 18:4-8, 20



And **the merchants of the earth**  
weep and mourn for her,  
since **no one buys their cargo anymore**,  
cargo of gold, silver, jewels, pearls...  
cattle and sheep, horses and chariots,  
and **slaves**, that is, **human souls.**”

(see Revelation 18:11-14)

- Babylon's doom – Revelation 18:1-3, 21-24
- **The reaction of the world** – Revelation 18:9-19
- The call to God's people – Revelation 18:4-8, 20



Every **shipmaster**, all who travel by ship, **sailors**,  
and as many as **trade on the sea**, stood at a distance  
and cried out...

*“Alas, alas, that great city,  
in which all who had ships on the sea  
became rich by her wealth!  
**For in one hour she is made desolate.**”*

(Revelation 18:17-19)

- Babylon's doom – Revelation 18:1-3, 21-24
- The reaction of the world – Revelation 18:9-19
- **The call to God's people** – Revelation 18:4-8, 20 ←

Then I heard another voice from heaven saying,

***Come out of her, My people,***

*lest you take part in her sins,*

*lest you share in her plagues...*

(Revelation 18:4-5)



- Babylon's doom – Revelation 18:1-3, 21-24
- The reaction of the world – Revelation 18:9-19
- **The call to God's people** – Revelation 18:4-8, 20 

...in her heart she says,

*I sit as a queen,*

*I am no widow,*

*and mourning I shall never see.*

For this reason her plagues will come **in a single day**,  
death and mourning and famine,  
and she will be **burned up with fire**;  
for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her.

(Revelation 18:7-8)

**Rejoice over her, O heaven,**  
and you **saints**  
and **apostles** and **prophets...**

(Revelation 18:20)

# What is the woman? What is Babylon?

The woman represents  
**the truth about ~~the~~ world.**  
*our*

*Our* ~~the~~ world calls us to pursue  
**wealth, pleasure, power and honour.**

It is **totally opposed to**  
**the purpose of God in Jesus Christ, who is**  
*our Lord and Saviour!*

# The danger we face...

Philippians 3:17-20...

Brethren, join in imitating me...

For many, of whom I have often told you  
and now tell you even with tears,

**walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.**

Their end is destruction,  
their god is their belly,  
and they glory in their shame,  
**with minds set on earthly things.**

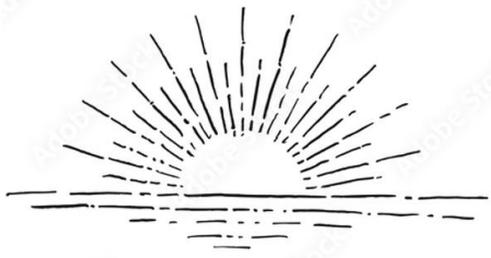
**Can you see  
Babylon here?**

**But our citizenship is in heaven**, and from it  
we await a Saviour, **the Lord Jesus Christ...**

Therefore...

# A checklist to encourage spiritual growth

- ☑ **I make time to learn** from my Lord for wisdom and revelation.
- ☑ **I welcome the Holy Spirit** to work in me and to convict me of sin.
- ☑ **I look to my Shepherd daily for grace and wisdom** to resist temptation.
- ☑ **I practice self-discipline** to be free from addictions and selfishness.
- ☑ **I don't follow the world's fads or fashions** thoughtlessly.
- ☑ **I work honestly and generously**, as unto the Lord, not to become rich.
- ☑ **I keep a watch on my speech** so that I don't dishonour my Lord.



The

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

(Romans 12:2)