

Revelation 17 & 18

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Revelation 17:1

And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great _____ that sitteth upon many waters.

NOTE: The apostle John was shown the great whore. A woman in prophecy represents a church. The **pure woman** in **Revelation 12** represents God's true church, through which the Messiah would be born. These are the true followers of God that will exist as a small remnant at the second coming of Christ. By contrast, the **woman in Revelation 17** is also a church that has strayed from the pure faith in Jesus. **She sits upon many waters.** We learned that the waters that beasts come out of are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues making this whore's influence universal and worldwide.

Revelation 17:2

With whom the kings of the earth have committed _____, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

NOTE: The seventh commandment says, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Jesus likens His church to a woman because Scripture says that we are espoused to Him.

2 Corinthians 11:2

For I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

The whore is a church that claims to be Christian, but she has abandoned the Word of God. She has committed "fornication" with false, pagan religions. God describes the abominations of the church "as a wife that committeth adultery, which taketh strangers instead of her husband!" Ezekiel 16:32.

Ezekiel 8:15-16

¹⁵ ...Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these.

¹⁶ And he brought me into the inner court of the Lord's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty (25) men, with their backs toward the temple of the Lord, and their faces toward the east; and they worshiped the sun toward the east.

NOTE: God identifies sun worship as the worst of all abominations. Roman Catholicism was born of pagan sun worship. The whore refers to that system of false doctrines, having its root in pagan sun worship. Among them is Sunday veneration in place of the seventh day Bible Sabbath.

Revelation 17:3-4

³ So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured _____, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

⁴ And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

NOTE: This woman, the Roman church, sits on a **beast**. Beasts in prophecy are symbols of **kingdoms**. In equestrian terms, who is in control, the beast, or the rider? This unfaithful woman is supported by the kings of the earth, as she "sits upon them," symbolizing her worldwide, controlling influence.

Ezekiel 16:15

But thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown, and pouredst out thy fornications on every one that passed by.

Revelation 17:2

...the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made _____ with the wine of her fornication.

NOTE: The intoxicating wine here is a symbol of false doctrines that have made the inhabitants of the earth drunk. When one is drunk, the senses are impaired, and they become confused. Those steeped in false doctrines, who do not know the Scriptures, nor the power of God are spiritually drunk. Thus Jesus labels this false system of beliefs "Babylon," as Babylon means "confusion."

1 Peter 5:8

Be **sober**, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

Revelation 17:5

And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE _____ OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

NOTE: Written on the forehead of the whore is "Babylon The Great." The Catholic religion is referred to as Babylon by Jesus because the traditions and idolatrous doctrines of the Catholic system were passed down from the ancient Babylonian Empire. They have gone through various forms and names, but the rites and ceremonies are essentially the same. **Verse 4** says, the whore wears purple and scarlet, the colors of Cardinals and Bishops, and is decked in great wealth, as is the Church. In her hand is a golden cup of abominations. The golden cup is a centerpiece of the Catholic mass, filled with fermented wine. The Church claims that the Catholic priest has the power to change the fermented wine into Christ's literal blood. This abominable claim is compounded: For the pure, saving blood of Jesus to be represented as intoxicating wine, this alone is blasphemous to God.

First Bible definition of blasphemy:

John 10:33

...because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

NOTE: For the Catholic church to put the authority of the Catechism above the Bible is putting man's authority above God. That is blasphemous. It is an abomination.

Second Bible definition of blasphemy:

Luke 5:21

Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?

NOTE: The Church claims the authority to forgive sins, a prerogative that is God's alone. It is blasphemous. It is an abomination.

Ecclesiastes 9:5 & 6

The living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing.

NOTE: The Church teaches that we should pray to saints, the spirits of the dead that cannot hear, "nor have they any more a portion forever in anything that is done under the sun." That constitutes necromancy. It is Spiritualism, an abomination to God.

Exodus 20:4-5

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God...

NOTE: *The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*, page 103 says, "I profess firmly that the **images** of Jesus Christ and the Mother of God, ever virgin, as well as of all the saints should be given due honor and veneration." This is contrary to the law of God. It is an abomination.

What does God say about praying to idols?

Isaiah 42:8

I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to *graven images*.

NOTE: Also written on the forehead of the whore is the name, "Mother of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth." The Catholic Church has always referred to Protestant churches as her "daughters," and she as the "Mother Church."

Why does the Catholic Church refer to Protestants as her daughters? Because Protestant churches think they are Bible-based and separate from Catholicism. But they all have retained a measure of Catholic doctrines within their teachings. Among them is the Catholic day of worship.

For hundreds of years, the Catholic church has wondered why, if Protestants claim the Bible as their sole authority, do they keep the Catholic Sunday instead of the Bible Sabbath. Here are a few excerpts from official Catholic writings on this subject:

The Catholic Mirror, Sept. 23, 1893:

"The Catholic Church,... by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday"

*The Catholic Record of London, Ontario, Sept 1, 1923: "Sunday is our **mark** of authority... the church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact."*

Our Sunday Visitor, February 5, 1950: "Protestants do not realize that by observing Sunday, they accept the authority of the spokesperson of the Church, the Pope."

Is it any wonder why the popes refer to the denominations as their daughters? And Jesus does the same and for the same reasons. That's why Christ labels all false doctrines as Babylon's abominations.

Revelation 17:6

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

NOTE: This is another reference to the Dark Ages when the Catholic Church was responsible for the deaths of some 100 million Bible-believing followers of Christ during 1,260 years of tyranny.

Revelation 17:7-8

⁷ And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

⁸ The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose _____ were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

NOTE: The papacy WAS once in world dominance, IS NOT at the moment, and shall soon ASCEND from the bottomless pit into world dominance once more. The Catholic system and her Protestant daughters are headed for perdition—that is, hellfire. Only those who have purified themselves from these adulterous beliefs, whose names are written in the book of life, will be saved in the final conflict before Christ's second coming.

Revelation 17:9

And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven _____, on which the woman sitteth.

NOTE: Rome is universally known as the city on seven hills.

Revelation 17:10

And there are seven _____: five are fallen, and one

is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

NOTE: This is a reference to the papacy's loss of power, its dormant stage, which we are in now, and its soon return to global dominance.

Revelation 17:11

And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into _____.

NOTE: Again, Jesus makes it known that this system of religion is doomed. It has been judged and found wanting, and it has been condemned:

Ezekiel 16:38

And I will _____ thee, as women that break wedlock and shed blood are judged; and I will give thee blood in fury and jealousy.

NOTE: As much as God hates this false system of religion, He loves His children:

Revelation 18:1-5

¹ And after these things I saw another _____ come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

² And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of _____, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

³ For all _____ have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

⁴ And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come _____ of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

⁵ For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

NOTE: Here, the angel repeats that Babylon has already fallen by the judgment of heaven. Yet God has His people in Catholicism and the Sunday-keeping Protestant churches. These are those who genuinely love the Lord and are following Jesus in what little light they have. But the Lord is calling them to come out of these denominations and go back to pure, 100% Bible-based faith and worship.

In **Revelation 14**, God characterizes His true followers as keeping the commandments of God and having the faith of Jesus. Notice that they have both. One cannot exist successfully without the other. In the mainstream Protestant realm, there are those Christians who legalistically keep the commandments of God. Yet

they do so within their own merits, without the faith of Jesus. The faith of Jesus is the essential factor if one is to keep the commandments. Then some believe the commandments have been done away with, that all we need is the faith of Jesus. One side believes works save them, the other side believes they are saved in their sins. Both are wrong. The papacy is prepared to receive either side. In a deceptive effort to draw the whole world under her supreme authority, the pope preaches unity for the “common good.” The whore is calling her daughters to come home.

In her book, *The Great Controversy*, page 573, Ellen White prophetically wrote of the state of Protestantism in our present day:

“A prayerful study of the Bible would show Protestants the real character of the papacy and would cause them to abhor and to shun it; but many are so wise in their own conceit that they feel no need of humbly seeking God that they may be led into the truth. Although priding themselves on their enlightenment, they are ignorant both of the Scriptures and of the power of God. They must have some means of quieting their consciences, and they seek that which is least spiritual and humiliating. What they desire is a method of forgetting God which shall pass as a method of remembering Him. The papacy is well adapted to meet the wants of all these. It is prepared for two classes of mankind, embracing nearly the whole world—those who would be saved by their merits, and those who would be saved in their sins. Here is the secret of its power.”

NOTE: Ellen White wrote this counsel in the 1880s. At that time, the thought of Protestants joining with the Catholic Church was unthinkable. There was such hostility between the two, and it was thought that this could never happen. Yet now the words of Mrs. White’s book read as though they could have been written yesterday. She states:

“In the movements now in progress in the United States to secure for the institutions and usages of the church the support of the state, Protestants are following in the steps of papists. Even more, they are opening the door for the papacy to regain in Protestant America the supremacy which she has lost in the Old World. And that which gives greater significance to this movement is the fact that the principal object contemplated is the enforcement of Sunday observance—a custom which originated with Rome, and which she claims as the sign of her authority. It is the spirit of the papacy—the spirit of conformity to worldly customs, the veneration for human traditions above the commandments of God—that is permeating the Protestant churches and leading them on to do the same work of Sunday exaltation which the papacy has done before them.”

These warnings written over a hundred years ago are happening in our time. On Oct 31, 2017, the American Evangelical leaders joined with the papacy to proclaim the end of Protestantism and reunification with Catholicism. There are even now movements in government to force Sunday worship to legislate failing morality.

But the Spirit of God forces no one. Freedom to choose is at the heart of divine love. Even Jesus did not seek help from earthly governments to enforce or spread the gospel.

Ellen White pointed this out in her book, *Desire of Ages*, page 509...

“He who was our example kept aloof from earthly governments. Not because He was indifferent to the woes of men, but because the remedy did not lie in merely human and external measures. To be efficient, the cure must reach men individually, and must regenerate the heart.”

Ellen White also wrote:

“Satan has carried his first great work of deception down through all the ages, and will until the close of time. In antichrist, he has a living agent. When the Christian world shall make void the law of God when church and state are united, when Protestantism shall reach its hands across the gulf to unite with Romanism, allegiance to the law of God will be fully thrown off and the decree will go forth against the people of God. But when men trample on the plainest requirements of God’s word, the prayer will go up to heaven, “It is time for thee, Lord to work; for they have made void thy law.” [Psalm 119:126.] And God will work.”

God has warned us through the prophets. Time is running out. Jesus is calling us back to pure religion, back to the Bible and the Bible alone as our sole authority.

Joshua 24:15

Choose you this day whom ye will serve.