

24. One world religion with one world government

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Religion stinks. Religion is damnable. Because religion is made by human and make people to think that all the good people are going to go to heaven after they die. It gives false sense of security. But the relationship with our Savior Jesus Christ is provided by God the Father in heaven Himself. While religion is trying to make God in human ways, true Christianity is prepared for human to be like the Son of God Jesus and to have eternal life in Him.

We have Christian churches in America that could care less about the authority of the Word of God and the deity of Jesus Christ. If you take those two elements out of Christianity, it is no different than any other religion. These kind of churches are known as apostate churches. They are stench in God's nostrils.

This is not going to be a Christian brother bashing and sister smashing session. But if you are thinking the same way as they do, you can consider this as a wake-up call or warning.

We, here in Calvary Chapel of Sahuarita believe and know that the Bible, the Word of God has the final authority in every aspect of our lives and Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord is God Himself who died for our sins and rose again from the death. Now He is sitting at the right hand of the Father in heaven. That is the fact and truth, it cannot be negotiated for so-called cultural tolerance or for the sake of diversity.

Apostate churches have been around from the first century. We've studied extensively in chapter 2 of this book. If you'd like to review those studies, you can order CDs or rent them from the Bookstore.

A. THE GREAT HARLOT

Revelation 17:1-2 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, 2 with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

Babylon is mentioned 287 times in the Scriptures, more than any other city except Jerusalem. Babylon was a literal city on the Euphrates River. Genesis 11:1-10 shows that right after the flood, Babylon became the seat of the civilization that enriched themselves with cultic activities. To those familiar with the Old Testament, the name Babylon is associated with organized idolatry, blasphemy and the persecution of God's people. Because it was under the control of satan.

Babylon was later the capitol of the empire that cruelly conquered Israel.

One reason apostle John used symbolism was so that his message would encourage believers in any period of church history. The true church is a pure virgin, but the false religious system is a "harlot" who has abandoned the truth and prostituted herself for personal gain. In every age, there has been a "harlot" who has persecuted God's people. This will climax in the last days in a worldwide apostate religious system.

Every age has featured a "Babylon," a political and economic system that has sought to control people's minds and destinies through their own religion.

According to religious history and legend, the Babylonian religion was founded by the wife of Nimrod – a great-grandson of Noah, named Semiramis. She was a high priestess of idol worship, and she gave birth to a son who she claimed was conceived miraculously. In truth, she bore this child out of adulterous relationship. The son, named Tammuz, was considered a savior.

Many ancient artifacts remain with the familiar motif of the mother Semiramis holding the savior-infant Tammuz, which predate Christianity. It was also said that Tammuz was killed by a wild beast and then miraculously brought back to life.

The Bible makes specific mention of some of the features of the classic religion of Babylon:

- Ezekiel protests against the ceremony of weeping for Tammuz – Ezekiel 8:14
- Jeremiah mentions the heathen practice of making cakes for the queen of heaven – Jeremiah 7:18
and offering incense to the queen of heaven – Jeremiah 44:17-19, 44:25

This great harlot is unification of all false and idolatrous religion with representatives from apostate Catholicism, Protestantism, as well as a collection of other religions of the world.

Many people like to identify this great harlot with the Roman Catholic Church, but false religion is not limited to any one church.

Religious Babylon intoxicates kings and peoples. The founder of communism Karl Marx was partly right when he said, "Religion is the opium of the masses." He was partly right because empty religion is the opium of the masses.

Since this is a well-accepted religious system to the people on earth during the Tribulation time, it is likely to appear as attractive and spiritual.

The current American media are so readily accept just about every religion around the world and more than willing to show during the prime time TV. But when it comes to Christianity, they treat it like a leper.

B. THE SCARLET WOMAN ON A SCARLET BEAST

Revelation 17:3-6 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. 5 And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. 6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

Her position, that of riding the beast - the antichrist, indicates on the one hand that she is supported by the political power of the beast, and on the other that she is in a dominant role and at least outwardly controls and directs the beast.

Her association with blasphemy and the dragon's beast are clearly seen from God's perspective. But to the people of the earth she will look quite religious, and have the "faith" everybody wants.

The woman is clothed with emblems of luxury of Purple clothing with gold and precious stones and pearls and political power with scarlet garment. Yet she offers idolatry with abominations and impurity that comes from filthiness of her fornication. She has a religious flavor, without the Savior.

2Tim 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

In spite of all her glamour, she is nothing but a spiritual prostitute. Interestingly ancient Roman prostitutes frequently wore a headband with their name engraved upon it.

The title on her forehead is not for literal Babylon. But its spiritual representation, which is the source of all idolatry and spiritual adultery.

This harlot is larger than any one branch of a religious institution or denomination. She is the embodiment of satan's religion of the world system. Through this religious system, satan is receiving a proxy worship from the people on earth.

Our world, with its "it doesn't matter what you believe as long as you believe" philosophy, is ripe for the harlot's seductions. We see this casual disregard for the truth is crippling the church today.

We are created for God's pleasure to bring worship and adoration to Him. But when we replace our adoration to God with anything else, it is the same thing as committing idolatry. False religion is always the worst enemy of true faith in Christ.

C. THE MEANING OF THE GREAT HARLOT & THE BEAST

Revelation 17:7-11 But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. 8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. 9 Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. 10 There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. 11 And the beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.

The focus of the explanation is on the beast. It appeared that the harlot rode the antichrist's system, but he is the dynamic factor, using her as tyrants have always used religion - as a mere pawn to accomplish their purposes.

The seven mountains probably symbolize the city of Rome, built on seven hills.

Many people, especially from the protestant's point of view, find the connection between religious Babylon and Roman Catholicism irresistible. Yet it is flawed in the sense that there is no doubt that religious Babylon will incorporate a strong Roman Catholic element, but it will be much bigger than Roman Catholicism.

Indications about Roman Catholicism's ultimate partnership with a one-world religion are evident in Pope John Paul II's bizarre involvement with and approval of other anti-Christian religions.

In addressing a prayer gathering of Christians, Muslims, Jews, Buddhists and others, Pope John Paul II told participants that their efforts were "unleashing profound spiritual energies in the world and bringing about a new climate of peace." The Pope pledged that "the Catholic Church intends to 'share in and promote' such ecumenical and inter-religious cooperation."

The Catholic Review commented on this and said, "The unity of religion promoted by the Holy Father Pope John Paul II and approved by His Holiness the Dalai Lama is not a goal to be achieved immediately, but a day may come when the love and compassion which both Buddha and Christ preached so eloquently will unite the world in a common effort to save humanity from senseless destruction, and leading to toward the light in which we all believe."

Some of you may ask me, "Can Christianity not work together with other religions? Why does it have to be so straight and so rigid? I will let Apostle Paul answer that.
2Co 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

In v10, Apostle John mentioned about 'seven kings'. This is one of the more difficult passages in the Book of Revelation. Some explain these seven kings, five past, one present, and one to come in the succession of Roman Emperors in John's era. But there are many historical difficulties with this approach. More likely, it is a reference to:

- Five have fallen refers to the five world empires before apostle John's day: Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Medo-Persia, and Greece
- One is refers to the world empire of his day: Rome
- The other has not yet come refers to the one world empire to come: a revival of the Roman Empire

D. TEN KINGS FOR THE ANTICHRIST

Revelation 17:12-15 The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. 13 These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. 14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful." 15 Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

Many Bible scholars have seen the European Union as the potential fulfillment of this. Now there are twelve nations in this revived European power, and more on the way. But I believe they will be consolidate to the ten nations.

Whichever country they are, their actions are clear. They ally with the antichrist in the war against Christ.

The harlot's influence is worldwide, through her connection to the beast. This will be a truly one world religion through the one world government.

E. THE TEN NATIONS AGAINST THE HARLOT

Revelation 17:16-18 And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. 17 For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. 18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."

Ultimately, the antichrist will not tolerate any worship except of himself.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 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.

Once the Beast has used the false religious system to gain power, he will then turn against her.

On the same note, we will be disgraced and devoured by any sin we attempt to control without repentance. Oh, perhaps, like the harlot, we can ride the sin for a season, arrayed in the pearls, precious stones, and purple robes of confidence – but eventually, like the harlot, we will be burned and eaten up by the very sin we thought we controlled. I believe the language in this verse is purposely horrible because, truly, the wages of sin is death.

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

F. APPLICATIONS

1) Satan's counterfeit religion is subtle, requiring spiritual discernment to recognize.

In every age, there is the tremendous pressure to conform to "popular religion" and to abandon the fundamentals of the faith.

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

2 Tim 3:13-14 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them

2) The only truth we should believe is God's truth from the Bible.

Each of us is accountable for what we choose to believe. Anything other than the truth of God is idolatry and we are responsible for our choice.

3) We will be disgraced and devoured by any sin we attempt to control without repentance.

Like the harlot, we can ride the sin for a season, arrayed in the pearls, precious stones, and purple robes of confidence – but eventually, like the harlot, we will be burned and eaten up by the very sin we thought we controlled.