

The Great Commentator John Walvoord says . . .

From this point on . . . we have what one might call “a tale of two cities.” It’s Jerusalem, God’s city, versus Babylon, man’s city.

The city of **JERUSALEM** is the **most mentioned City** in the Bible
It’s the “**City of God**” - it **represents** all that is “**God**”

The **2nd Most Mentioned** city in the **Bible** - is **BABYLON**

Babylon has always **been** - The “**City of MAN**”
& **Babylon represents** all that is “**Man**”

& So - In Rev **Ch’s 17 & 18** - We see

The City of JERUSALEM - **VS** - the **City of BABYLON**

The City of GOD - **VS** - the **City of MAN**

The **Good News** is - **Each** of Us - Get to **CHOOSE**

which of these **Cities**

WE will be **Citizens of - for Eternity**

Let’s Pray

BABYLON has **ALWAYS** Been used to **ILLUSTRATE**
Man's Rebellion, & **Sin** against **God**

AND - Babylon has **ALWAYS** been used to **ILLUSTRATE**

The **FALSE RELIGION** That **SEDUCES** Man - **Away** from **God**

- **Babylon** was the **First City built** after **the Flood**
- **Ruled** by the **World's First Dictator** (Nimrod)
- The **location** of **The Tower of Babel**

AND Most **Importantly** - **For our Study today**

Babylon is The **BIRTH PLACE**
of **ALL FALSE RELIGION** in this **World** - [repeat]

& so - **Babylon** is seen as **THE MOTHER** of **ALL False Religion**

AND - The Bible Calls "**Religious Babylon**"

The **GREAT PROSTITUTE** (Harlot)
That **SEDUCES** people **AWAY** from **God**

God has **always used** the **Illustration** of **ADULTERY**

to **describe** those who **Turn Away** from Him
to embrace the **False Religions** of **the World**

So - the **MOTHER** of All **False Religion**
Becomes the **Great Prostitute**

Seducing people AWAY from Worshipping the One True God

**BUT - BABYLON is NOT ONLY
the Symbol of Spiritual Adultery - in False Religion**

**It is ALSO the Symbol of Man's Best Attempt
To GAIN POWER (control) over the World**

& in the Next 3 Ch's - we are going to see

**"ALL that Babylon Represents" (Spiritually & Humanly)
Finally, & Completely - Judged & Destroyed**

**We begin by looking at the GREAT PROSTITUTE
& MOTHER of ALL False Religion**

Revelation 17:1 (NLT)

1 One of the seven angels who had poured out the seven bowls came over and spoke to me. "Come with me," he said, "and I will show you the judgment that is going to come on the great prostitute, who rules over many waters. (power & control)

This IS the FINAL - One World, False Religion System
that is Ultimately RUN - By the FALSE PROPHET

**& takes complete Religious Control of the world
In the 2nd half of the Tribulation**

Cont'g in Revelation 17:2 (NLT)

2 The kings of the world have committed adultery with her (the great prostitute of false religion), and the people who belong to this world have been made drunk by the wine of her immorality."

God is **Speaking Graphically**

about the **RULERS** And the **PEOPLE**

who have **Completely** - **TURNED** against God

& **Completely** - **EMBRACED** the **False Religion** of the **World**

The kings of the world have committed adultery with her,
and the people who belong to this world
have been made drunk by the wine of her immorality

& it gets worse - Cont'g - Revelation 17:3 (NLT)

3 So the angel took me in the Spirit into the wilderness. There I saw a woman (the great prostitute of false religion) sitting on a scarlet beast that had seven heads and ten horns, and blasphemies against God were written all over it.

Now **John sees** - The **Great Prostitute** of **False Religion**

She's SITTING on a **Scarlet BEAST**

with **7 HEADS & 10 HORNS**

and blasphemies against God were written all over it

The Beast here - **Represents**

the **Entire World Ruling System** of the **Antichrist**

So - Please get this PICTURE in your mind

What we have here is - The Great Prostitute
that **represents ALL False Religion**

is **RIDING UPON** the **Beast** - that **represents**
The **World Ruling System** of the **Antichrist**

Got it? - Ok, Let me put a picture up

PIC of E.U. Statue

This is out the E.U., Council Bldg in Brussels

& this is considered (kind of) - The Official STATUE
That **Represents the E.U.**

THIS Statue of
A Pagan goddess, Riding upon a Pagan Beast-god

Which Is EXACTLY How Rev 17 Symbolizes

the **Great Prostitute** of **FALSE RELIGION**
RIDING on The **ONE-WORLD GOV'T** of the **Anti-Christ**

Both of which will Definitely come out of
of the **Revived Roman Empire - IN EUROPE**

Let me try to expand on this Pagan goddess RIDING

The **Pagan Beast god**

1st - **Remember BABYLON** is the **Birthplace**
of **ALL False Religion** (we said that at the beginning)

NIMROD was the 1st King of Babylon
& **Nimrod** became a **god** upon his **death**

He is connected to the Greek beast-god - ZUES
who is the Bull in this statue

But The Biblical (Canaanite) name
That we know him by is - BAAL

Nimrod's Wife (Queen of Babylon)
Became the High-Priestess of Idolatry

As a goddess she was known by MANY MANY names
But **Mostly** in the Bible as **ASHERAH** - or **Astarte**

She is always the goddess of SEX, FERTILITY, and WAR
(& **also** the **mother** (& **wife**) of **BAAL**)

& **As** the **Pagan goddesses** were **ABSORBED**
from **one culture** & **language** into **another**

Eventually the **goddess Europa** - **Came** from this **long line**
of goddesses - **She is the goddess in this statue**

But **ALL** the **Subsequent FALSE gods** and **goddesses**

Somehow Came **From** - **BAAL & ASHERAH**

Who **BOTH** came from **BABYLON**

& **these two False gods** - **Over** & **Over** again

CAUSED the **Nation** of **Israel** to **TURN From God**
to **Worship THEM**

& **Many, Many Times** - **Israel HAD TO FACE God's Wrath**
because of **their worship** of these **two False Gods**

SO - **BABYLON** is the **Mother of ALL False Religion**

The **two most prominent False God's** that **Israel Worshipped**
were **BAAL** & **ASHERAH** - **Both** coming **out** of **Babylon**

& the **Statue** that **represents the EU** is a **Statue** of the **Greek**
(**European**) **Versions** - of **these two false gods**

& **Rev 17:3 CLEARLY POINTS TO**

This **Great Prostitute of False Religion**
Riding the Beast of the **Antichrist's World system**

Do you see it?

OK, MOVING ON

in Rev 17:4 John describes
what the Prostitute of False Religion - LOOKS LIKE

Pay particular attention - to the GAUDY ORNATENESS
Of the Mother of All False Religion

Revelation 17:4 (NLT)

4 The woman wore purple and scarlet clothing and beautiful jewelry made of gold and precious gems and pearls. In her hand she held a gold goblet full of obscenities and the impurities of her immorality.

the Mother of ALL False Religion - is Elaborately Adorned
in Purple & Scarlet & Gold & Jewels, & Pearls

& She's Holding a Gold Goblet
that the Word thinks is Religion - But God says

Is FULL of the Obscenities (or Abominations)
& Impurities of her Immorality

That she uses - to make the World DRUNK
with her Spiritual Immorality

& - just in case we haven't been following all this
God PUTS her NAME - Right on Her FOREHEAD

Revelation 17:5 (NLT)

5 A mysterious name was written on her forehead: "Babylon the Great, Mother of All Prostitutes and Obscenities in the World."

Meaning - She is the *Mother of All SPIRITUAL Prostitutes and SPIRITUAL Obscenities - in the World*

I NEED TO SHARE WITH YOU RIGHT HERE

The **False Religion** and **Mythology**
That all **BEGAN IN BABYLON**

Has - to SOME EXTENT - Been Absorbed
into **EVERY RELIGION** in the **WORLD** - **Every Single One**

It is Easiest for **us** to **see** - in the **CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Because when **Constantine** Made **Christianity**
the **Religion of the STATE** in the **300's**

Rome ABSORBED The **IDOLS** and **PRACTICES**
of the **False Religions** and **Mythology** - **Right INTO the Church**

NOT because it was **spiritually RIGHT**

But because it was the **Easiest Way** to **CONTROL the People** -
& **Make Christianity** the **STATE Religion**

ROME KEPT ALL the Pagan Temples

**& simply CONVERTED All the Pagan Idol Worship
to Focus on Jesus - AND on MARY**

& they HAD to include MARY

**Because ALL the Pagan temples were Focused on
a Female Goddess who was Divine QUEEN - AND MOTHER**

It's certainly EASIEST to SEE in the Catholic Church

**But our Evangelical Christianity - has ALSO ABSORBED
A Few Traditions that BEGAN as IDOL WORSHIP**

**BOTH - CHRISTMAS - AND EASTER
Have their ROOTS - in the PAGAN Religions of Babylon**

We have simply CHANGED them - to FOCUS on Jesus Christ

**Don't FREAK OUT - You can Continue to WORSHIP JESUS
on those Holidays - & I think you SHOULD**

But that is why

**we Don't put Christmas trees up on Christmas
& we TRY to Say "Resurrection Sunday" instead of "Easter"**

**Because we are FOCUSED Solely on Jesus Christ
During those Holidays**

So - HERE is the Super Critical LESSON

If you CANNOT CLEARLY FIND
ANY Religious Tradition IN THE BIBLE

It **may very well** have some **ROOTS** - in **MAN'S RELIGION**
That **ALL Started** in **BABYLON**

So - **Be Aware** of **this truth** - & **commit** to **FOLLOW**
what you **can actually, clearly See** in **THE BIBLE**

MUCH, MUCH, MORE, than **ANY Religious Tradition**
that is **NOT in the Bible**

& **here is why** (Spiritually) **this** is **such a Problem**

Because the Enemy **KNOWS**
that a **Church** full of **FALSE TRUTHS**

is **FAR MORE Damaging** than **NO CHURCH** at all

Because **FALSE RELIGION** - **LULLS** people into
a **COMA State** with **God**

Where they are **UNABLE** to **use the BIBLE** as their **AUTHORITY**

& **they TRUST** in their **Church TRADITION**
MUCH More than the **Trust in the Bible**

Have you ever seen this in a person' life?

**One Day - The Great Spiritual Prostitute
& Mother of all False Religions**

Will be the ONLY Religion Left on the Earth

**& That System of False Religion - will Have a BIG PART
In the Antichrist's WAR ON GOD**

So - **JOHN** has **now seen** - the **Great Spiritual Prostitute**
Symbolized by **BABYLON**

& he says in Revelation 17:6 (NLT)

6 I could see that she was drunk—drunk with the blood of God's holy people who were witnesses for Jesus. I stared at her in complete amazement.

John is **SHOCKED** - at the **WICKEDNESS**
of the **Great Prostitute** of **False Religion**

Who is **Drunk** with the **Blood** of **God's Holy People**

Cont'g - Revelation 17:7 (NLT)

7 "Why are you so amazed?" the angel asked. "I will tell you the mystery of this woman and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns on which she sits.

The Angel is going to **help John** (& us) out a little - **Especially** on
the **Description** of the **BEAST** - the **woman's Riding**

Revelation 17:8 (NLT)

8 The beast you saw was once alive but isn't now. And yet he will soon come up out of the bottomless pit and go to eternal destruction. And the people who belong to this world, whose names were not written in the Book of Life before the world was made, will be amazed at the reappearance of this beast who had died.

Let me SUM UP

This is: Satan Himself coming up out of the Abyss

It is: The Gov't Structure that is Built for the Antichrist

And it is: The Antichrist - who Comes OUT OF that Gov't Structure

**& All the UNBELIEVERS on Earth - will MARVEL
at The BEAST - Because of all he has (seemingly) done**

In V.9 - the Angel Cont's to DESCRIBE this BEAST

Revelation 17:9(a) (NLT)

9 "This calls for a mind with understanding: The seven heads of the beast represent the seven hills where the woman rules . . .

The **Great Prostitute RULES** from "**Seven Hills**"

& ROME is called - "The City of Seven Hills**"**

Cont'g - Revelation 17:9(b)-10 (NLT)

9 . . . They also represent seven kings.

10 Five kings have already fallen, the sixth now reigns, and the seventh is yet to come, but his reign will be brief.

Most Scholars agree

THE 7-KINGS are a Chronology of World Rulers

The FIVE who've FALLEN - are the 5 World-Empires that've passed

The ONE that IS - would've been the Roman Empire of John's Day

The ONE to COME - would be the REVIVED Roman Empire

THRU which the Antichrist will rise to Power

Revelation 17:11 (NLT)

11 "The scarlet beast that was, but is no longer, is the eighth king. He is like the other seven, and he, too, is headed for destruction.

The Antichrist himself is this EIGHTH King

He **BELONGS TO** (comes out of) the **SEVENTH** (*Revived Roman Empire*)

& He is **Definitely** - headed for **DESTRUCTION**

Then **Vs.12-13** Give us a **Clear Picture**

of the **Final World Power**

From Which the **Antichrist** Will **RISE**

Revelation 17:12–13 (NLT)

12 The ten horns of the beast are ten kings who have not yet risen to power. They will be appointed to their kingdoms for one brief moment to reign with the beast.

13 They will all agree to give him their power and authority.

This is the **10-Nation Federation**

THRU Which the **Antichrist** Rises **to Power**

& **then** - This **10-Nation Federation**

HANDS OVER their **Power TO** the **Antichrist**

Presumably After **his** (prob faked) **Resurrection**

AND - **these** are the **Same Nations** that **Satan will**

Ultimately - **Gather Together** - to **FIGHT Jesus Christ**

Revelation 17:14 (NLT)

14 Together they will go to war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will defeat them because he is Lord of all lords and King of all kings. And his called and chosen and faithful ones will be with him.

This is **SO AWESOME** - **this** is a **direct ref** - to **Rev 19**

When Jesus Christ **returns** - & **WE ARE WITH HIM**

& then - Revelation 17:15 (NLT)

15 Then the angel said to me, "The waters where the prostitute is ruling represent masses of people of every nation and language.

This seems to be a reminder

That the great prostitute of False Religion is Ruling over masses of people - of every nation & language

So - **The Great Prostitute** of **False Religion**
Is a **KEY PART** - of **Satan's Overall plan**

to **GET** what He **WANTS** on this Earth
Which is - Is to BE WORSHIPPED AS GOD !!

& **The Great Prostitute** of **False Religion** has played a **Vital Role**
in **Bringing Satan** to **this Point** in the **World**

But - there **comes a Time** - when Satan **WILL NOT** Share
the Worship of the **World** -

EVEN with the **Great Prostitute of ALL False Religion**

& **so The AntiChrist - WITH the 10 nation federation (E.U.)**
WILL TURN ON - The Prostitute of **False Religion**

The Antichrist, along **with** his **10 nation federation**
Will **Ultimately - DESTROY - the Great Prostitute**

Revelation 17:16 (NLT)

16 The scarlet beast and his ten horns all hate the prostitute. They will strip her naked, eat her flesh, and burn her remains with fire.

Even tho the Great Prostitute has done So Much

to Turn people AWAY from the True God
& FEED them into Satan's hands

At this point - The Whole Satanic Conglomeration - Now Turns

To UTTERLY DESTROY
The Babylon Prostitute of False Religion

But NOTICE - It is NOT WITHOUT God's Involvement

Revelation 17:17 (NLT)

17 For God has put a plan into their minds, a plan that will carry out his purposes. They will agree to give their authority to the scarlet beast, and so the words of God will be fulfilled.

**Even in the Midst - of Complete Satanic Control on the Earth
WHO is STILL in CHARGE ?**

**& God uses EVEN The BEAST
to bring His Judgment**

on the Great Prostitute of False Religion

**& Now - the ONLY authority on Earth is The AntiChrist
(*but not for long*)**

**FINALLY - to Finish the Ch - The Angel Refers BACK
to the Great Prostitute - AND the CITY She Rules from**

Revelation 17:18 (NLT)

18 And this woman you saw in your vision represents the great city that rules over the kings of the world."

That City - is Spiritual BABYLON

Which - IN the END TIMES

Is MOST OFTEN - connected TO ROME

The Great Prostitute of Rev 17
IS the Mother of ALL False Religion

**AND She IS the Great Spiritual Prostitute
Who has ALWAYS turned Mankind - AWAY from God**

& God will Ultimately - Judge - & Destroy - ALL False Religion

**SO - - What are we to do TODAY
About False Religion**

**That Has Crept into ALL of Man's Religion
to some extent - & in some amount?**

#1 - First & Foremost - Above everything else

WE MUST USE OUR BIBLES !!!

Is that Religious THING - CLEARLY SEEN
as a **Positive Instruction** in the **NEW TESTAMENT** ?

Meaning - Does THE NEW TESTAMENT Clearly **say**
we **SHOULD BE DOING IT?**

& **WHAT Should We do**
about **Embracing a Religious Activity**

that **CANNOT** be **FOUND ANYWHERE** in the **BIBLE**
as an **Instruction** to the **N.T. Church** ??

Well - We should **BE VERY, VERY Careful**

NOT to **Trust** a **Religious Tradition** or **Activity**
OVER What the **Bible CLEARLY Instructs** us to **do**

<u>Because</u> that <u>Religious Tradition</u> or <u>Activity</u> <u>MIGHT actually</u> have <u>PAGAN Religion ROOTS</u>

Let's be willing to actually
Put our Religious Traditions - TO the TEST

Let's Put them up against **God's Word ALONE !!**

& let's have the Courage to ACKNOWLEDGE

What is MAN'S Religious Tradition -
& What is clearly IN THE WORD OF GOD

& Please HEAR ME

What is Clearly, Actually, & Truly TAUGHT in the Bible

Is that Salvation is thru
our Genuine FAITH in Jesus Christ ALONE
With NOTHING ADDED !

& Our LIFE, & Growth, & Transformation with God

Comes from a Genuine, Ever-Increasing,
Personal Relationship with Jesus Christ

THRU His Living WORD - & the POWER of the Holy Spirit

So Let's Make a COMMITMENT - to THAT

Let's Pray