

mystery__babylon_the_great (1080p)

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SPEAKERS

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Music.

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Welcome to our second installment in our new series in times truth. And for this edition, we're going to focus in on one term, and that is MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT. Now, who is the word of God referring to when it speaks about Babylon the Great and calls it a mystery? Well, in actuality, there's nothing mysterious about Babylon, if you know the Book of Revelation, because what the Word of God is referring to is an empire that is going to rise up in the last days, and ultimately it will be the antichrist that rules over this empire. And in the book of Revelation, this empire of the Antichrist is called, symbolically, Babylon. And why? Well, we also come across the term Babylon among the prophets, and we all know what Babylon did. Babylon came to Judah, that Southern Kingdom, and brought about an end to the kingdom of Judah and a destruction to the holy city of Jerusalem. And even that empire Babylon, with a coalition of other nations, destroyed the temple of God and the people never thought that would happen. They trusted not in scriptural truth. They trusted in a building, and God showed Himself faithful by saying, a building cannot save you. A building does not make you pleasing to Me. And what was Israel's sin, what was Judas failure, idolatry. They turned away from the Lord God. They were not interested in his commandments, but rather, they went after false gods, who are not any gods, but rather idols. And we need to see that idolatry is what Babylon represents, because the children of Israel went into exile in Babylon because of their idolatrous practices, because they would not repent, they would not get on the way that God had called them to live, and therefore they suffered. And what God is saying to us in the Book of Revelation is that there's going to be another empire that rises up again. This is the empire that eventually the Antichrist will rule over. And this empire is a blasphemous one. It is a sinful one. It is an idolatrous one, and because of that, we are called, as the scripture says, to come out of Babylon. Now I want us to look at two primary verses tonight, and the first one is found in Revelation, chapter seven and verse five, so please open up your Bible and follow along with me. I'm going to be translating this verse very literally, where it says, again, Revelation, chapter 17 and verse five, where it says And upon her forehead, and it's speaking about Babylon, but this empire is also going to have a harlot that sits upon it, and that harlot, again, relates to idolatry. In the prophets, we see that God speaks about fornication adultery, but what he's really talking about is not fornication and

adultery within a covenant of marriage between one man and one woman, but he's talking about a different covenant, the covenant that he had with the children of Israel that they broke because of their involvement in idolatry. And therefore it says here, look at the text, and upon her forehead a name having been written. And what was that name? MYSTERY, BABYLON, the great. And notice how Babylon the great is described. Now it's great from a human perspective, not from the perspective of God. It says Babylon the Great the Mother of Harlots or prostitute. Sins and the abominations of the earth. So we see here that God is speaking about Babylon as as a habitation of prostitutes, referring to idolatry. And then he uses another word, abominations, the abominations of the earth, which shows that when we practice idolatry, God forbid it, is going to live lead to unrighteous acts, abominations, those are sins that are of the worst thoughts in the mind of God that He is highly displeased with such behavior. So idolatry will always manifest itself with sinfulness, and that sinfulness is going to bring the punishment, the judgment, the wrath of God. We saw that when the children of Israel turned away from God and began to walk in idolatry. God judged them, he punished them, and he did so severely by placing them in exile, where in Babylon, and what was the cause of that idolatry. Now we need to learn something. There is only one solution for exile, and that solution is redemption, and therefore we have a redeemer, and that Redeemer brings purity and righteousness and holiness and godliness into our life that can only be achieved through redemption. And again, redemption is the only solution for exile. Now I want us to move to another scripture we were studying Revelation, chapter 17 and verse five, I just want you to go to chapter 18, and we're just going to look at one more verse, verse two, Revelation 18. And verse two, notice what is said here. And he cried out in strength. That's literally what it says. And he cried out in strength with a great voice saying, and this is good news, fallen. Fallen is Babylon the Great so we learn something. Babylon is going to be that Antichrist Empire. It is going to wage war with the people of God and against God Himself. And obviously that empire of idolatry is not going to be successful. It is going to fall. In other words, it's going to be defeated. And therefore it says, here has fallen. Has Fallen. It's repeated twice, Babylon, the great, and notice the outcome. And this is to give us insight for the character, the nature of Babylon, this idolatrous empire that the Antichrist will rule over. It says here

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and has become a habitation of demons. And demons are in the plural. Now what the lesson is is very simple, when one, God forbid, gets involved in idolatry that is going to bring demonic activity into this person's life. So he's warning us. Look again, has fallen. Has fallen Babylon the Great and has become a habitation of demons and a prison for every unclean spirit. Now, another thing is being taught when we get involved in idolatry, God forbid, not only is it going to bring demonic activity, but it's also going to bring a prison for every unclean spirit. And that unclean spirit doesn't bless, doesn't help, doesn't encourage, but rather, an unclean spirit, as we see throughout the Gospels, bring about suffering, despair, discouragement, and oftentimes pain, and even at times death, so a prison for every unclean spirit, and it says again, and a prison for every unclean bird. Now, what is being taught here when it says every unclean bird? Well, an unclean bird. Word is rejected by God, it will not be received by him. And again, the message is clear. When someone, God forbid, involves himself or herself in idolatry, turning away from the instructions of Scripture, it is going to bring about that which is displeasing to God, that which God will reject. In the same way that God rejects an unclean bird, He will reject one who is engaging in idolatry, and that one will ultimately as Babylon in the Old Testament, attested to, will bring God's judgment, God's destruction, upon his people? Then finally, notice how it concludes.

We have a word. Probably most Bibles will say that it brings about or causes that which is detested by God. Literally, this is word for hated, and what it speaks here is that not only is someone going to be rejected, but it is going to bring God's hatred upon them, rejection and hatred and the torment of unclean spirits and demonic influence. So let's be very clear about something. Nothing comes good. Nothing good comes out of idolatry. And he's warning the people in the book of Revelation Don't be part of this Antichrist empire. Come out of Babylon, don't be associated. But again, the only way to come out of Babylon and not be tainted by that corruption and have that that ungodly influence in your life is through redemption. And when we are redeemed, what happens? Our names are inscribed in the Lamb's book of life. Now the word life is a kingdom word. When the Bible speaks about eternal life, it's talking about kingdom life. And really it comes down to a choice. You can choose your own idolatrous ways do what you want. Idolatry is really about trying to get what you want. If you get what you want, you are going to be miserable. You are going to be afflicted. You are going to know demonic influence. You are going to be rejected by God. But if you experience that redemption through the blood of the Lamb, and I'm speaking of Messiah, Yeshua, Jesus Christ, then you are going to become a new creation that is a kingdom creation. You are going to be brought into a relationship with God, and that relationship is a covenantal relationship, through that New Covenant, that kingdom covenant, and you are going to know victory, that you will not know demonic influence. You will not know oppression. You will not be someone who is rejected, but through being redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, your name is going to be inscribed forever in that book of life. What does the Scripture say? God promises I will not blot out your name and he won't and that is a promise of eternal life. So what is that? That Babylon, that mystery? It's no mystery according to the book of Revelation. It is simply the term that the book of Revelation gives for that Antichrist empire that is going to rule over every nation, every people, every tribe and every language. Don't fall prey to deceit. Don't follow your desires. Don't engage in idolatry, but walk in holiness, submissiveness, humility with the lamb, the one who has redeemed you through his blood and the one who has taken your name and written in his book of life, kingdom life. Well, I'll close with that until next time. Shalom. You.