“Babel is Back”
(Revelation Chapter 17)

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[26]Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” [27]God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Genesis 1:26-27

Man-made religion is man's attempt to try to reach God through good works, rituals, or rules. Christianity begins with God who comes to man through a personal relationship with His Son Jesus!

True religion is neither rule-based nor ritual-based. True religion is a relationship with God. Two things all religions hold are that humanity is somehow separated from God and needs to be reconciled to Him. False religion seeks to solve this problem by observing rules and rituals. True religion recognizes Jesus as the solution to sin and separation from God.

- gotquestions.org

[1]Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, [2]with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality.” [3]And

he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. [4]The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean

things of her immorality, [5]and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” [6]And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. When I saw her, I wondered greatly. [7]And the angel

said to me, “Why do you wonder? 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.

Revelation 17:1-7

Revelation Chapter 17 addresses the spiritual and religious nature of the antichrist's kingdom, while Chapter 18 addresses the economic and material nature of the antichrist's kingdom.

1. Religions Babylon described! (17:1-7)

- "Great Harlot" - (vs. 1b-2)
  metaphor for spiritual whoredom
- "Woman sitting on scarlet beast" - (vs. 3-5)
  Antichrist
- "Drunk with the blood of the saints" - (vs. 6-7)
  murder of saints

[6]Then the LORD said to me in the days of Josiah the king, “Have you seen what faithless Israel did? She went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and she was a harlot there.

Jeremiah 3:6

[9]Because of the lightness of her harlotry, she polluted the land and committed adultery with stones and trees.

Jeremiah 3:9

Are you being unfaithful to your Lord?!

Are you committing spiritual adultery against God?

[4]You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

James 4:4

“Who sits on many waters” speaks to authority and enticing influence, not a geographical location.

Made drunk with the wine of her immorality refers to being intoxicated not with literal wine but the illicit false world religion.

[3]And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.

[4]The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality,

Revelation 17:3-4

The identity of the scarlet beast is revealed in verse 5. It's the same beast mentioned in Revelation 13:1-10, the antichrist.

[5]and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”

Revelation 17:5

The harlot is called “Mystery Babylon” to indicate that Babylon in this context does not refer to a geographical location, such as over in Iraq. It refers to a false religious system.

- John MacArthur

[4]They said, “Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”

Genesis 11:4

2. Religious Babylon Depicted (17:8-13, 15)

-“Why do you wonder?”

-John is puzzled because the woman seems to be controlling the antichrist (Rev. 13:4, 8)

[8]“The beast that you saw was, and is not,
and is about to come up out of the abyss
and go to destruction. And those who dwell
on the earth, whose name has not been
written in the book of life from the
foundation of the world, will wonder when
they see the beast, that he was and is not
and will come. [9]Here is the mind which has

wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, [10]and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. [11]The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction. [12]The ten horns

which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. [13]These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast. [14]These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and

those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.” [15]And he *said to me, “The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. [16]And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will

burn her up with fire. [17]For God has put it in
their hearts to execute His purpose by
having a common purpose, and by giving
their kingdom to the beast, until the words
of God will be fulfilled. [18]The woman whom
you saw is the great city, which reigns over
the kings of the earth.”

Revelation 17:8-18

7 heads=7 mountains
Some say Rome, but that seems too narrow.
Most likely 7 world empires (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and revived Rome)

3. Religious Babylon Destroyed (17:16-18, 14)

-Antichrist devours the harlot (v. 16)

-Occurs at the 3 1/2 year mark of the Tribulation—Abomination of Desolation (Daniel 9:27)

-The Lamb will overcome (v. 14), Rev. 19

Sermon in a Sentence:

Worship and obey the One True God!

Application:

1. Define the difference between man-made religion and true religion. Ask someone this week what religion is and how it affects their personal life. Tell them what you've learned.

2. Ask yourself, "Am I building a tower?" Is there any area in your life where you are defying God by failing to follow His commands? If so, repent and obey God to honor God.

3. Faith@Home: Discuss how you see people trying to fill their God-shaped vacuum with substitutes. Give a testimony of how you perhaps have tried to fill the void in your life with something other than the presence and promises of God.

"And when they say to you, "Seek those who are mediums & wizards, who whisper & mutter," should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living? To the law & to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, there is no light in them.

Isaiah 8:19