

One of his name, as part of his attribute, he's faithful, he's true, he's holy, he's just, he's an awesome God, praise his name. Wow, that's a special presence of the Lord that hear this morning, early due. I know God's doing some wonderful things in the hearts and the lives of people, especially those who were sensitive to his leading and responsive, and I know that he is moving. What we need to do is just be continually submitting ourselves individually and corporately our families saying, Lord, have your way.

Sometimes, when God speaks to our hearts in certain seasons, it's not always easy. It's always worth listening, giving an ear to hear the Spirit says to us individually into the church. So praise God that he will begin a good work at a person and he will do according to [Philippians](#) 1-6, he will finish that work that he has started. It's him.

It's him in and through us. All we have to do is submit our line of them. So praise God for his faithfulness. Well, open your Bibles, the Book of [Revelation](#).

From your Bibles, the Book of [Revelation](#), the 17th chapter. If you want to have a Bible, there are some underneath the chairs and also on the projection system up here, we'll have the verses as well. Particular translation we'll be using that I'll be reading from is New Living Translation for clarity. And we'll continue our journey through this study.

This has been a re[Mark](#)able study. I think you'll be blessed. Oh, what God has to say to our hearts today. Coming through what can be a fairly challenging portion of God's Word.

We find this beginning in verse 1, chapter 17. One of the seven angels who had poured out the seven Bibles came over and spoke to me. Come with me, he said, and I will show you the judgment that is coming or is to come on the great prostitute who rules over many waters. 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.

So the angel took me in the spirit into the wilderness. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that had seven heads and ten horns and blasphemies against God who were written all over it. 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.

Her various name was written on her forehead, babble on the great, mother of all prostitutes and the obscenities in the world. I could see that she was drunk, drunk with the blood of God's holy people who were witnesses for Jesus, and I stared at her in complete amazement. Why are you so amazed, the angel asked, I tell you the mystery of this woman and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns on which she sits. 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. This calls for a mind with understanding. The seven heads of the beast represent the seven hills where the woman rules. They also represent seven kings.

Five kings have already fallen, the six now reigns, and the seven is yet to come, but his reign will be brief. The scarlet beast that was but is no longer as the eighth king. He is like the other seven, and he too is headed for destruction. 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. They will all agree to him with their power and authority. Together they will go to war against the lamb, but the lamb will defeat them because he is Lord of lords and king of kings and his called and chosen faithful ones will be with him. For 15 says, then the angel said to me, the waters where the prostitute is really represent the masses of people of every nation language.

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. God has put a plan into their minds, a plan that will carry out his purposes, and they will agree to give their authority to the scarlet beast so that the words of God will be fulfilled. And finally, verse 18, and this woman you saw in your vision represents the great city that rules over the kings of the world.

Let's pray again before we jump into this. Father again in Jesus name, we come before you throne of grace. Thank you again for this privilege to be in your word. To come together to learn and to grow, to gain a greater knowledge of what your word has to say, but far beyond that Lord, to allow you to apply the living, active word to our lives.

To equip us and to make us the people that you want us to be. Father as we continue this journey and adventure in your word, certainly we're in a place that has so much to say and can be so confusing, frankly, Lord on the surface. Because we thoughtfully proceed through the study today as we observe and look at each verse, Lord in its context, Holy Spirit please give us clarity and understanding of what the truth of your word is communicating. Again Lord I know it's so hard to read some of these passages and not be affected just by the symbology and just the overwhelming scope of what's being spoken of here, but Lord our desire again is to see biblical and spiritual truth and to hang on to that truth, Lord.

So again Holy Spirit comes, Tommy said, lead us in the truth for you truly are the real teacher. Help me father to stand up your way. Lord make your words be my words as you just speak today through your living and active word. Meet us here and have your way father in Jesus name.

Amen. Amen. Babelah. You throw that word out just like we did with Armageddon.

What comes to your mind? If we can scan each of your brains right now, your mind is hard to tell. What your thought might be, you might be thinking about well in ancient city that's about 60 miles south of Baghdad and Iraq that exists today even. That's been around for centuries.

You might think of world empires that have existed and the evil that flowed from those empires, but what does the Bible say? Well what we're going to do in the next two chapters in chapter 17 and 18 is we're going to define what God's word has to say about what Babylon is. You're going to see two different facets, two different elements of what Babylon is. Chapter 17 is Babylon as it relates to a religious system.

Now it's interesting to note that there is a church that will go through the tribulation. Some people would probably go to the church going through the tribulation. I said a church, I didn't say the church. We know from God's word that those are a part of the body of Christ.

Those who've been born again by the Spirit of God at the time, that Jesus comes, the catch up, the bride of Christ and what is called the rapture, the harpods of the catching away. Because of God's grace and the lies, we'll be caught up before this period ever begins. Praise the Lord for that. But for those who remain, there could be some extremely difficult times ahead.

And we're going to see that there will be many people after the real church who has caught up, there will be people who will join a false church and amalgamation of all the religions of the world that are left in place. And so it's important to note that true biblical Christianity is relational. It's not religion. That is the clear distinctive between biblical Christianity and every other religion in the world.

All those religions are man's attempt at some level to reach out to God on his terms. Biblical Christianity is simply God reaching out to us on his terms through the person of Jesus Christ giving his life force on the cross to his destiny, his resurrection, as we can have eternal life. Praise God for that. So thankfully, those who know Jesus and the reality is, as we've been discussing, we know we're living in the last days.

God's Word tells us to know the times and seasons. Although we can't know the exact day or hour Jesus said when he would return to catch the bride up, he said to know the times and seasons. We're in the times and seasons. So much of God's prophetic word is being fulfilled in front of our very eyes.

It's extremely exciting, day and age to live in. I don't know about you, but man, it is exciting. There are things that are occurring all the time to continue to substantiate that reality. But once the tribulation now begins, as we've studied to this point, we've seen the influence of the enemy, Satan himself through the world.

We've seen and defined who the beast is and I Christ, and also the false prophet and how they're going to affect humanity during that timeframe. So what we've come to now is God's dealing with Babylon or in this case, this false religious system that will be in place. So let's go back in to verse 1 of [Revelation](#) chapter 17 as we read this. One of the seven angels had poured out, who had poured out the seven bulls, came over and spoke to me.

Of course, that's [John](#). [John](#) the Apostle who was speaking. He's the one who penned this by inspiration only spirit. The angel comes over and shares with him.

He says, come with me, he said. And I will show you the judgment that is going to come on who the great prostitute who rules over many waters. Now we'll see that the one who is a great prostitute is this religious system that will be in place during this timeframe. And we'll see that its allegiance has been given to the beast.

By the way, let me clarify something again as we read those words. There are some of those words again that you read them and you go, wow, like beast, right? Remember when we studied earlier on with his introduction, we were in [Revelation](#) chapter 12 and 13, especially in chapter 13 when we saw about the Antichrist and the false prophet. When it called him a beast, that's that word, the Rion.

What it means is, of course, that's not his external appearance. If anything, he's appealing and the world is drawn to him, they're compelled to follow him. He'll be brilliant. He'll be a fantastic orator.

His intellect will be off the charts. Everything that he does and says will appeal to people and everybody will gravitate to him. When it says that he's the beast, it speaks about his nature, his character, that he is a murderer. Remember what Jesus said about Satan himself, that he is the father of lies and he is a murderer?

Well, that's the character nature of the beast, the Antichrist. So when you see that terminology, you see beast, that's what it's saying. That's his heart. We know, of course, [John](#) 10, 10, we quote that often, that his agenda is to steal and kill him destroyed.

And until the time Jesus comes back and deals with him and defeats him personally, his agenda will be in full force. And in a way like the world has never seen up until the point of the Tribulation Hour, especially during the last three and a half year period, which is called, of course, the whole seven year period is the time of Jacob's trouble. But the last three and a half years is the great Tribulation where it's going to be off the charts. And so what we see here again today is the reality of this and this angel showing [John](#).

He says, this come on with me and I will show you the judgment that is going to come on the great prostitute who rules over many waters, many waters. Now what I want you to do is to think a minute about the term again Babylon. And I want to trace this back. Did you know that that name or that term Babylon is in the Bible 287 times?

It's mentioned a lot. The only other city, by the way, when it's applied to a city because there is a city called Babylon, when it's applied to a city, there's only one other city that's mentioned more often than Babylon. What do you think that is? Jerusalem, the city of our God.

Okay? So what you have is a representation here of the things of God and the things of the enemy in the world. We know again that there is a literal Babylon that exists today, a physical city that even under Sodom who's sane has been in the process of being rebuilt. Now we know he's dead.

But did you realize that even now, they're continuing to pour more and more money into that? In fact, this organization called UNESCO, which is a cooperative of all the nations of the world, the part of that organization, are formulating a plan. It's common knowledge. You can read about it.

And I'm not talking about some obscure websites. We're talking about just, it's right out there. They're getting the countries to come together and contribute funds. By the way, our wonderful new administration has committed \$700 million to start this project to restore Babylon and to put it in such a place of splendor that it'll be a destination point for tourists.

The people will want to come there. Now that's interesting because especially next week, or when we get, I doubt it's next week, but when we get into chapter 18, we're going to see, we're going to see the reality of Babylon as it relates to a system of commerce. But what we're seeing here again is a religious system. And what it says, who rules over many waters, the place that Babylon is in terms of, a literal city is on the Tigris, New Freight, East River.

It is seeded in what is called the cradle of civilization. We can go all the way back to [Genesis](#), right? And trace it back to that. And that city has existed for a long time.

And we know that throughout the ages, that there have been evil empires that have had their thrones there, especially the Babylonian Empire under Nebuchadnezzar. And they took Israel captive, right? It was during that captivity that [Daniel](#), the Shadrach, Meshach and Abidnego were taken there as well. And they were cruel to the Jewish people.

Throughout history, these nations and cultures have been cruel to the Jewish people. So that place is real. And the word seems to insinuate or tell us that there is a strong possibility, and different scholars have different conjectures about this. Faith that eventually the city of Babylon will again literally be the centralized place in this world of commerce.

And a lot of people would say, that's impossible. How could that happen? I mean, it's not that big yet. I don't know if you're familiar with what the Saudis and what's happening in the Middle East, places like Saudi Arabia, with cities like Dubai, in those countries like Dubai.

Do you know how quickly those guys are able to build cities over there with the billions of dollars that they've got? They throw cities like that. I'll guarantee you if the world comes together or came together of one mind to do something to build this city, it could happen quickly. I'm not talking like in a year or two, but it could happen in a short span.

Now something interesting about that should remind you of going back to [Genesis](#) in chapter 10 with another endeavor led by the first world dictator whose name was Nimrod. Do you know that Nimrod was a foreshadowing of the Antichrist, of the final world leader who will come and deceive the people and try to destroy God in his kingdom? Nimrod began that. And it's interesting to note this when you look at the genealogies in [Genesis](#) chapter 10, we know that after the flood Noah and his three sons, and of course Noah's wife and his sons and their wives began to repopulate the earth.

Nimrod's not too far removed from Noah because he's Noah's great grandson. Do you have a godly man? He wasn't perfect. Anybody perfect?

No. But man, his great grandson had a very evil heart. And it says in [Genesis](#) chapter 10 that he was a mighty hunter before the Lord and some when they read those older translations, assume that means okay, he came before the Lord and he submitted himself to God. That is not what it means.

The Hebrew means he was a mighty hunter against the Lord and the before part really speaks about him placing himself in priority before the Lord because what he tried to do was to bring all the people together and he did to build the tower of what? Babel. For a purpose, in rebellion against God to try to build a platform to reach the heavens. Now chances are they understood probably, unless they were very naive, and they were backwards people.

The cultures back then had more intellect and intelligence and capabilities and a lot of us understand. Those were more backwards people back then, folks. So I don't know if they thought they could literally build the tower of Babel into heavens or reach God's place. It's more likely they wanted to elevate it as a symbol against, for their rebellion against God and also because of their tendencies to get caught up in

astrology and those type of things and the zodiac and to be in a place where they could observe the heavens.

Kind of like we see with the culture of South of here. But the heart of what Nimrod did was rebellion against Almighty God. And again, we're going to see that. Well those of us who are raptured, we won't see that.

Thankfully, but we know history will bear out that there will be this guy who will be the ultimate fulfillment of what the heart of Nimrod has. So that is this area here. And by the way, speaking of Babylon in a spiritual sense, that is Babylon because that's exactly where the tower of Babel was built was on the plains of Sheenhar which is in that vicinity of Babel or Babylon. So we can trace all the sin that began in the world outside of Satan himself when he fell right there to that area which is called the fertile crescent where the Garden of Eden was by the way.

Our sin began in mankind, rebellion. We can trace that all the way out and we can see the influence of Babylon, spiritual Babylon on the world ever since then. All the false religions, all the pagan religions, all the demonic satanic religions and face systems who exist, guess where they had their foundation. Well you can trace it all the way back to here.

And God, it says in a word, is going to take everything right back there and finish the business. If you will, [Zechariah](#) chapter 5 is a very interesting study about God doing just that taking sin back to the place of His origin. We don't have time to go into that today. But that's what we're dealing with here again is this reality of what the enemy has been trying to do for centuries in mankind and to see people, and boy has he been affected through what?

Religion. Religion is as great as two of us. I think you have people tied up in some face system believing, wow, I'm a good person, I'm going to church, I'm doing this and that. But you don't know Jesus, you're not going to spend forever with God.

You'll spend eternity separated from Him. Praise God, He's provided eternal life. All we got to do is embrace that, get to be eternal life because I guarantee you again, you, your loved ones, people you care about. If the tribulation hour was to begin in our lifetimes, would you want anybody that you care about love entering into a timeframe like we've been studying about here?

God's judgment coming on here. Again, there will be a huge amount of people that embrace Jesus during that time frame. Most of them will die for that cause. But the vast majority of the world still are reject Jesus as it always has.

And again, that's the influence of Babylon spiritually upon the world. And that's what this angel is really showing [John](#) here. And again, when it says who rules over many waters, remember, waters can speak symbolically just like it did in [Revelation](#) 13 when we saw the beast rising out of the sea. The water can speak of nationalities, people groups, nations because they're the waters around the world.

So that's what most scholars believe that is speaking of here. Her influence is where over the many waters. Do we see Babylon spiritually influencing the world all over the world? Absolutely we do.

All kinds of false religion. Look at verse two, it says this, 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. Wow, that's pretty heavy isn't it?

What's this talk of committing adultery? What's this talk of being drunk with the wine of her immorality? So much of what we are seeing in these verses here, a lot of it is speaking symbolically, speaking of and trying to communicate spiritual truth. When it does say that the kings of the world, those who are in authority over the nations of the world, what have they done?

They've committed adultery with her with what? A religious system that will be in place during that time. It rejected the truth of God before the rapture. It rejects the truth of God during the tribulation hour and chooses to give its allegiance to who?

The anti-Christ and rejects the things of God. That is the adultery that is being spoken of here. It's a spiritual adultery. The kings of the world have committed adultery with this false religious system.

Now as we read on what you're going to see is a vivid description of the prostitute or the harlot, the one that the kings of the world have been unfaithful with. And a lot of people wonder, well, if it's going to be comprised of religious systems around the world, or there's some that will take a lead role, more often than not, most people grab onto one particular faith system and say, it's probably Catholicism. You know what? I certainly believe that Catholicism will be a vital component of that, but it won't be the end all because what you're going to have is they're not going to be flying under the banner of Catholicism because I'll tell you what, in the day and age we're living in, there are plenty of so-called Protestant, very liberal churches that are just far off track as the Catholic Church is.

And I'm not talking about individuals, I'm talking about dogma, I'm talking about teaching that is not consistent with God's word, teaching that says that you're saved by grace plus works. That's not the gospel of the Bible, anything that perverts the truth of God's word. But we see that outward expression through religion like Catholicism. We see all the trappings and the adornments of all the people that are involved.

And we know there are over one billion people in this world today that are part of the Catholic Church. So it's not fair, it's a single-them-out, but there will be this amalgamation that will exist during that time frame. In fact, I want to share something with you that I found that I was very intriguing. I know I put it here on my notes to share with you guys.

And it deals with some comments that were made back when [John](#) Paul II was still the Pope before the new guy came on board. But [John](#) Paul II, before he died, he had a great influence in the world. And to listen to him, it sure sounded like he was promoting Jesus. But to really look at the heart of where he was going, he was very open to communing with a lot of these other religious systems in the world.

We're talking about Islam, we're talking about Buddhism, you name it, every major world religion. And there are those who went to be representatives of Christianity, but in name only because if you're truly part of God's body, you don't compromise with things that are not consistent with truth. But there are those who go in the name of biblical Christianity who were part of those meetings, shamanists, all kinds of people. And guess what they do?

They get together and they pray. And this is what the Catholic Review, which was a Roman Catholic commentary that was put out several years ago while [John](#) Paul II was a life-sad. Catholic Review commented on this, dealing with the gathering of Christians and Muslims and Jews and Buddhists and other. Pope [John](#) Paul II said

he told the participants that their efforts were unleashing spiritual energies in the world and bringing about a new climate at peace.

So you had in this gathering people bound before the thrones of false gods. Whatever they chose to call their God, it was Okidoki. It's just Okidoki in the name of religion and that's exactly what he said. He said they believe they're unleashing profound spiritual energies.

I have no doubt. They're unleashing profound spiritual energies, but not the Holy Spirit, not those spiritual energies. And he said this again, unleashing profound spiritual energies in the world, bringing about a new climate at peace. You know what, everybody in the world, most people, it's not just the beauty queens on, Miss America, what do you want for the world?

I want world peace. Right? It's not just them. That's one of the questions they asked Miss America, right?

What does it you want to see above all else? World peace. People make fun of that. But seriously, most people would like to see the world just Rodney King at right?

Can't we just all get along? I think people are tired. In the scope of human history, there's only been a short segment of time where the world has really been at rest. And then, the world, in some place, there's major warfare going on.

World War I and World War II were off the charts in terms of the historic scope and is fueling and preparing the world for a war that's coming. The Jesus will finish things out with at Armageddon as the world comes against him, but things are trending that way, an amazing way. He goes on to say this, by the way, speaking of the Pope at that time, the Pope pledged that the Catholic Church intends to share in and promote such ecumenical and interreligious cooperation. The Catholic Review commented on this and said, the unity of religion promoted by the Holy Father, Pope [John](#) II, by the way the Bible says, the only one you call Father is your Father in heaven.

That's God's Word. The unity of religion promoted by the Holy Father, Pope [John](#) 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 with which, now listen to this, with which both Buddha and Christ preached so eloquently, the unites the world in a common effort to save humanity from senseless destruction and leading toward the light in which we all believe. Wow. Did you guys ever read this before you ever heard this?

That was [John](#) Paul. That was his heart. That's what the Catholic Review commented that, hey, it's a good thing that all these religions are coming together. And again, folks, don't get me wrong.

I'm not bashing on those religions. My heart is grieved for people who've been deceived. And don't see Jesus as the way the truth in life and don't understand the simplicity of grace and the simplicity of that profound dynamic relationship with Jesus that is not a religion thing, but it's a relational thing. My heart is grieved, but the majority of the world has this attitude.

I don't know about you, but they're probably people you work with, people you know, friends and neighbors who just say, man, we just all gotta get along, gotta come together. And guess what? It's happening. And guess who is being singled out as intolerant and the ones who are just getting in the way?

Biblical-based Christians, people who are true to God's Word, who don't go out attackingly into the world, but go out and are not afraid to speak the truth in love, but to share the truth. Hey, you know what? And we firmly believe. This I firmly believe this.

Another line, people have the freedom to choose to worship anyway they want to. Doesn't mean it's true. They have the freedom and the choice to do that. And we would never want to take that away from anybody in this country or anywhere.

But it doesn't mean that we don't have the responsibility to speak the truth in love and let them know. Look, it's not about that religious system that looks so wonderful and feels so good. If it doesn't lead straight to Jesus who has gotten the flesh. But as I'm pointing to the reality of who he is and you're saved by grace through faith, then it's a false system.

You find the truth right here in the words of his Word. It's amazing again to see what's happening again. What is the underlying dynamic of all this? Babylon.

That's the influence of that system in the world throughout centuries that is bringing the world to the place that we see here. That's why the kings of the world who rejected biblical truth are what? Or adulterers, they've committed adultery with this faith system. It goes on to say again after that what then be even made drunk by the wine of her immorality.

What does wine do by the way? What does any strong drink do or drugs for that matter? Put you under a strange influence, doesn't it? Paul the Apostle said in [Ephesians](#) chapter 5, don't be drunk with wine.

But be filled with the Holy Spirit. He was talking about the issue of influence because when you are taking drugs, when you're drinking, what happens? You're not under control anymore. Those artificial stimulants are dictating your behavior.

It's dangerous. God understands that dynamic and he understands it puts you in a dangerous and vulnerable place. That's what these guys have done. They've been intoxicated by this false system.

They've been alluring, right? She's given the world that come here to look and boy, they came running. Swipe problems, warrants for the young man. It's not only speaking about this in that terms, but the whole principle of that to be aware of the harlot who calls out in the streets, come.

One that tickles your ears and says, come, come lie with me. God says there's only death and destruction. And that's what these systems in place at that time. That's what these kings and their nations have done.

They've been made drunk by the wine of immorality and they've just plunged full steam ahead. Verse 3 says this then, so the angel took me in the Spirit. So the vision he's having is spiritual in nature. I've just got to showing him dynamic stuff in the future that has even yet to happen.

Now this hasn't happened yet. There are those by the way who do believe in historical perspective, believe that all these things were fulfilled during the 1st century. Guys if you really study it out at just, it doesn't add up. It just doesn't make sense.

There are some parallels, yes, there are some things. And that's not unique to prophecy because we see in prophecy that there can be elements where there's a short term prophetic element that God fulfills and then there's a long term forecast that's even more complete. So there could be some elements of that, but I guarantee you that this didn't happen under the Roman Empire during the 1st century. The scope of what God is speaking here is far greater than what happened during the 1st century when Israel was attacked by the Roman Empire when they were under siege in the city of Jerusalem, the sacked, and the temple was destroyed.

There's much more of that going on here in the spiritual in nature too. So again, verse 3, so the angel took me in the Spirit into the wilderness. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that had seven heads and ten horns and blasphemies against God. She was sitting over it.

Wow, what in the world is that? These are some of those interesting verses as you study out the book of [Revelation](#) it can make you go. But again, most of this stuff is speaking metaphorically, it's speaking symbolically. And that's why it's important as you study [Revelation](#) to put it in context so you know what is literal and what is symbolic.

We happen to be looking at some stuff here that is more symbolic and speaking metaphorically. So as he takes [John](#) into this, into the Spirit in the wilderness and shows him this, he sees what again? A woman sitting on a scarlet beast. Who is the woman again?

It's the harlot we've been seeing here. It's this false church that exists during this age. It will be again a malgommation of all these face systems. And again, it plays their allegiance to Antichrist, interestingly enough.

But look at what she's doing. And [John](#) sees her, she's doing what? She's sitting on what? A scarlet beast.

Who is she sitting on? Speaking of the Antichrist, that's speaking of the beast. She's writing the beast. A woman writes the beast.

Some of the translations will say, or some of the books have been written over the age of describing their commentaries on this. So what is that trying to communicate to us? Well it seems like, even though Antichrist is supposed to be the one calling the shots, he's not referring to the first three and a half years of the tribulation, he doesn't leverage himself so much because in the last three and a half years, when he goes to the temple and he desecrates it and he establishes himself and says, I am God and you'll worship me. Up until that point, he's cooperative.

He's got everybody coming to him, but he's still working with the world leaders. He's making everybody feel all, you know, lovey-dovey. We're all getting along here, you know, and thank you for following my leading. We're doing this together, but there will come a time again at the last three and a half years at that midpoint.

He just steps up and he just, it's all about me and he will demand that people worship him or die. That is interesting to know, isn't it? But at this point, that hasn't happened yet. At least the scope of what we're reading here.

Because it seems like, at least for a period of time, this religious system will seem to have authority over or a position of influence over the beast, over the Antichrist. And everybody will see that it's a dynamic that's important to be involved in. Everybody's

going to want to be a part of this world-religious system. And then he goes on to say this.

Then I saw a woman sitting on the scarlet beast that had what, seven heads and ten horns. What is that speaking of again? Speaking of kingdoms, speaking of rulers, speaking of authorities in that place. And we know when we see the word horns, it does speak of authority and power.

So speaking of leaders who are part of a world system and nations, nations, states of that time. And it goes on to say, and blasphemies against God were written all over it. We're just on display now again. Think about it.

This is a vision that [John](#) is seeing. God is showing him again the heart of the spiritual nature here. It's not like everybody is going to look physically and see this. But it's again the heart of it just like the terminology that describes Antichrist as the beast.

That's not what he looks like, but that's his heart. So God is showing [John](#) at the heart of what's going on because guess what? The people of the world system who are drawn into this system of Babylon, this world religion, will think it's wonderful. They will think, oh, this and this and this is wonderful.

Isn't this a great thing to be involved in? They don't have the sermon to see that under the veneer is this horrible entity that's covered with what blasphemies against God. It's in complete and total opposition and rebellion against God. First force says, the woman wore purple and scarlet clothing.

And beautiful jewelry made of gold and precious gems and pearls. In a right hand she held a gold goblet full of obscenities and the impurities of her immorality. Wow, what's that all about? When you think about the colors by the way, the speaks of purple and scarlet and the beautiful jewelry it speaks of her being in a position where she's revered, royalty.

She's in a position of power and authority and certainly as a religious system she is. She's ordained with the gold and the precious gems and pearls. So as the world looks at this church, again, get out of your mind that this is just a woman. It's symbolic.

It's this system that is so appealing. Boy, it seems like it's got all the bases covered. It seems to be blessed. It must be from God because of the blessing that's on it.

Look at all the riches that it has. It must be blessed. But what does she have in her hand? A gold goblet full of obscenities and the impurities of her immorality.

That's, again, what's at her heart, the nature of who she really is. First force says, a mysterious name was written on her forehead. Now look at this. Babylon the Great.

Now the mysterious aspect of this is that it's a religious system because again we know that Babylon in some respects has been a city historically but the mysterious part of this is that's what it is. It's a religious system. So Babylon the Great, the mother of what all harlots or prostitutes and obscenities in the world. Why would it say that she's the mother of all prostitutes and obscenities in the world?

Being back again to [Genesis](#) 10 and 11, that we can trace all thoughts religion and pagan worship and satanic worship back to where? This area, the Babylon again.

That system has been influencing the world forever. So that makes this Babylonian system the mother of all of those salt falls systems that have been in place for all these centuries.

It all originated there. Do you know historically? This is a very interesting thing. Ever heard of Nimrod's wife, we talked about Nimrod before, who was really the first world dictator and Bawli's people together?

Again, look at the parallels between Anna Christ and him. He had a wife named Semiramis. They had a son name at Tamu's and here's the interesting thing. Say to knew enough, apparently, from back in [Genesis](#) 3 when God said that after Adam and Eve fell that he would put enmity between the enemy and between God because the enemy would bruise his heel but he would what, crush his head.

He knew that there was going to be an offspring that God was going to do something unique because he spoke of offspring. So the enemy must have understood or known that at some point God would affect humanity as man, to redeem mankind. So he tries to preempt that centuries before Jesus shows up. And so what you have is this woman named Semiramis, who is again the wife of Nimrod.

They have a son named Tamu's and legend has it that he was born of a supernatural bird. Jesus was born of a virgin bird. That's part of their story. He arrived on the scene supernaturally before Jesus ever came.

Interesting, right? Also the story is that he was out hunting one time. He was attacked by a wild boar and killed but three days later he was resurrected. Centuries before Jesus came on the scene.

Now there are the enemies of Christianity. Look at that and say, hey, look Christianity just caught me in that and put another names on it. No, that's not what it is. And why do we know that again because the reliability of God's word and the truth?

What it was was a very strategic and effective strategy of the enemy to preempt what God's plan was and it was very effective. And so what we see here is centuries before Jesus ever came on the scene, there was artwork with who, a mother and a baby. You know what the Bible calls her the Queen of Heaven? You know what the Roman Catholics call Mary?

The Queen of Heaven. Wow. Roman Catholics have exalted Mary to a place as co-redemptress meaning that she plays just an important role in your salvation as Jesus Christ does. No.

Absolutely not. That's blasphemy folks. Your redemption was purchased through the blood of Jesus Christ and nothing or no one else. Very understood that.

She understood that she was blessed among women and when she understood that God had chosen her, she knew nothing about who she was. It was just a privilege she had to bear and to nurture God in the flesh and humanity. And she praised the Lord for that. And she was humbled before God.

She didn't blow herself up and say, wow, look at me ladies. She was humble. Oh, she didn't look at me ladies. I didn't want to do that.

Probably wouldn't have this waggery. But that's the reality. Also in the Old Testament, we know that in [Jeremiah](#) and also in [Zechariah](#) that it warned against being involved

in ceremonies weeping for, guess who, camoves. Because that religious system was in place and the Jewish people, some of them got caught up in this false worship system and guess who they were worshipping?

camoves. Who was a forerunner, a false Christ before Jesus ever came up on the scene. That's the influence, guys, of Babylon from the get-go all the way back into Book of [Genesis](#). A false religious system.

And again, I think the enemy was very shrewd again about preempting what would happen. But you know what? When Jesus Christ, who has gotten a flesh, really did come up on the scene and was born of a virgin birth. And he lived, again, a perfect sinless life as Tommy read from 2nd, or a [Philippians](#) chapter 2 today and said, let this mind be in you, which was in Christ Jesus also, that he thought it not robbery to be God because he is God, but he humbled himself, left his throne of glory for the purpose of what going and dying on the cross, for the sins of all mankind.

You talk about the ultimate demonstration and expression of love by giving himself for us. But that's totally the opposite of the heart of the enemy because what is the enemy's heart even through the system is adoration drawn to him. And if people will not give it willingly, then he will pound him into the ground. That's exactly what's going to happen into the tribulation hour.

And we're going to conclude with that again. I want to read that verse one more time. A mysterious name was written on her forehead, Babylon the Great, Mother of all prostitutes and obscenities in the world. We can trace again what's happening in the world all the way back to that.

And it's coming full circle because what will happen in the tribulation hour again is going to be the zenith of the influence of Babylon in the world spiritually and potentially with the dynamic of that city in place. So all we can do is we see prophecy being fulfilled before our very eyes. Just keep your eyes open watch. What's going on?

See what develops with Babylon because it may not be that city literally. It could be a commercial aspect and it probably will be a commercial aspect as we'll see in chapter 18. But it could be another major city that just has that influence of Babylon so strongly that it's an exact representation of the influence of Babylon. Could be New York.

It could be Rome. It could be several different things. We'll see that as we move into that. But again, here's the most amazing thing to know that in spite of what the enemy intends to do.

God's plans and purposes will come to fruition. God will not lured himself over anyone. He will give you freedom to make your choice whether to accept him or reject him. He gives you the freedom to follow him, serve him and I guarantee you this guys.

If you don't know him and you do accept his grace you enter to that relationship with him, it is, there are no words. You can't even begin to communicate how amazing it is to have that relationship with him, to know him, to walk with him. To know that his grace and mercy are inexhaustible, that when we as finite human beings blow it, like first [John](#) says that if we confess or sin to him he is faithful and just forgive us or sin and cleanses of all righteousness, that he is. Verse 8, just before that says that, hey, if we say we're without sin, we're liars.

God's Word says that all of sin and come show to the glory of God. But you know what that means? We've missed God's [Mark](#) and his standards perfection. That means all of us have blown up, but he has given us his grace for redemption through the person of Jesus Christ who is God in the flesh, who is death in his resurrection.

So this morning as we transition into a time of prayer, let God speak to your heart. If you don't know him this morning, call on him. God says that they who call on the name of the Lord will be saved. If you believe that Jesus has gotten the flesh and that he did everything that he said that he died on the cross for your sins was raised from the dead in your place, you don't have to do a bunch of works.

That is so totally unbiblical. There is an issue of God's grace being extended to you. We don't deserve it. That's for sure, but that's why it's grace.

But he extends that gift of grace to us. And if we call up and say, Lord, I have blown it. I've tried to live my final way. I've even gotten involuntary religion.

And I know that's not getting anywhere. But I want to know you, the one true living God. So I ask, make yourself real to me. Come into my heart, save me from my sin.

Give me eternal life so that I know that when I draw my last breath in this body that I will be immediately in your presence. You know what God will honor that request if you believe it. If you believe he is who he says he is. And if you accept that provision.

Some of you are going through some challenging seasons right now, some emotionally, some spiritually, some physically. You're going to have an opportunity. I'm going to have the elders come up. One of them will be over on this side.

So Bill could come over here and Bob, just wherever you want to be. One will be over here in this space by the cross. Worship team is going to come up. We're just going to give you an opportunity.

Yeah, we've got elders here today. I know with your guys as a work schedule. That's when the dynamics guys, but some of the work schedules for people in our fellowship, whether they're a part of leadership or are just coming, you know, it's tough. I understand that and we appreciate your faithless to be here when you're when you're not working.

But these guys are going to be available to pray for you. If you need prayer about anything, why we're doing this worship song and man, this is one of my favorite all-time worship songs. We haven't done it for years because we wanted to do it justice.