

**THE UNVEILING OF JESUS CHRIST**  
"The Destruction of Spiritual Babylon"  
**Revelation 17:1-6**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. When we come to Chapter 17 and 18 we see the final destruction of Babylon, both spiritually and physically.
2. It is probably best to understand Chapter 17 as dealing with Babylon as an ecclesiastical entity...
  - a) And chapter 18 as dealing with Babylon as a political entity.
3. Babylon is mentioned 290 times in scripture and only a few times does it refer to it in the Physical sense as the Babylon of Nebuchadnezzar.
  - a) Babylon was the first great empire of the world.
    - 1) And was the home of Nebuchadnezzar, who was the most influential king @ the time.
4. WOW!!!! Babylon represents what man can do without God.
5. When John received a vision of the World of tomorrow where the Beast would reign, he saw that the world leader (Antichrist) would be supported by **two global allies**: One **religious** and the other **Political/economic**.
6. The Beast will use 3 cities in his reign upon the earth.
  - a) **ROME** - IMAGE OF Nebuchadnezzars great image.
    - 1) **Daniel 2:31-43**
  - b) **JERUSALEM**
    - 1) Where Antichrist will carry out his plan for the Jews.
  - c) **BABYLON**
    - 1) Which will be the economic and political hub of his empire.
7. Vs 1-5
  - a) Vs 6
    - 1) "*When I saw her, I marveled greatly*"
8. **QUESTION**: So who is this vile woman?

## I. THE BIRTH OF FALSE RELIGIOUS SYSTEMS

1. **VERY IMPORTANT:** A False Religious System was born on the plane of Shinar in ancient Babylon.

a) **Genesis 10:6-10**

1) Shinar is the place where Nimrod defied God and built the **Tower of Babel**.

b) This was the place where the man would try to reach into heaven.

1) Man would use this tower to study the stars and establish the basis for Astrology.

2. **The reasons for the construction of the Tower of Babel include:**

a) **Defiance of God's command:** The descendants of Noah built the tower to prevent scattering and settle a land<sup>2</sup>.

b) **Desire for fame and protection:** They wanted to make a name for themselves and protect against another flood<sup>3</sup>.

c) **Symbolic purpose:** The tower was designed as a ziggurat to reach the realm of the gods

3. Out of Babylon came another movement.

a) This movement was promoted by Nimrod's wife - **Se-mir-a-mis**.

1) Semiramis was the 1<sup>st</sup> high priestess of **idolatry**.

b) According to extra-biblical legend, Semiramis had a son by the name of **Tammuz**.

1) Semiramis claims that Tammuz was conceived by a sunbeam.

c) When Tammuz grew up he was killed by a Wild Boar.

d) After 40 days of his mother (Semiramis) crying, he was raised from the dead.

e) It was from this story of Semiramis and Tammuz that the cultic worship of the "**mother and child**" began to spread throughout the world.

4. As formal worship was being defined, the mother was identified as the "Queen of Heaven"

a) **Jeremiah 44:15-19**

5. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Satan was in the middle of this Perversion.

a) **Genesis 3:14-15**

6. **LISTEN UP:** As the legend has it, Semiramis wept for 40 days over her son Tammuz and then he was resurrected.

a) It was here that the 40 days of **Lent** was memorialized.

b) **WOW!!!** At the end of the 40 days, the **Feast of Ishtar** was observed to celebrate the resurrection of Tammuz.

c) Part of the celebration of Ishtar was the exchanging of **Ishtar eggs**, which symbolized **new life**.

## 7. *Ezekiel 8:13-15*

8. The "**Mother - Son Cult**" then came to Rome when Constantine came to the throne 325AD and assumed the title of **Pontifex Maximus** meaning "**Great High Priest.**"

## II. THE DEPTH OF MYSTICAL BABYLON

1. When Daniel *walked into Babylon*, he encountered more than the Lion's Den.

a) *Daniel 2:8-19*

2. In Nebuchadnezzar's cabinet, were the Magicians, Astrologers and sorcerers hovered around to interpret dreams, calling upon their spirit guides and charting the signs in the stars.

3. We are living today in Nebuchadnezzar's courtyard of cults and the occult today.

4. **LISTEN UP:** Not all of Babylon the Great is Occult.

a) *Revelation 3:14-22*

b) Much of Pagan religion is watered down religion of liberal churches.

## III. THE GREAT RELIGIOUS PROSTITUTE

1. **Vs 1**

a) "**prostitute**" - Gk. "porne" - often translated "harlot".

2. 2 Corinthians 11:2

a) James 4:4

3. **Vs 1**

a) "**who is seated on many waters**"

4. **Vs 2**

a) "**have committed sexual immorality**"

b) "**the dwellers of the earth have become drunk**"

1) People on earth will become intoxicated with the Antichrist's false world system.

5. **Vs 3**

a) "**and I saw the woman sitting on the beast**"

1) The unifying and controlling factor of Antichrist's kingdom will be religion.

6. Vs 4a

- a) Scarlet is the color associated with luxury.
- b) Scarlet is also the color associated with sin.

1) **Isaiah 1:18**

7. Vs 4b-5

IV. THE ABOMINATION OF PAGAN WORSHIP

1. **Revelation 17:1-6**

2. The prostitute of the END will have two faces.

a) Apostacy and Religion

1) Apostacy - is a departure from the truth

a. Apostacy is happening all around us.

b. Pulpits, radio, television, abound with false doctrine.

2) Religion - is having the truth and not obeying it.

3. **QUESTION:** "Why are the teachers of False doctrines so successful?"

a) **2 Timothy 4:3-4**

4. Think about that!!!

a) Apostacy is all about forsaking the true meaning of the Biblical Doctrine, or choosing which doctrine to believe and which to discard.

5. **1 John 5:3**

6. **1 Timothy 4:1-2**

7. **Today** - The #1 Religion of the World is "**Self-love**"