

“Come out of her, my people”

Fearful and Urgent Words from an angel somewhere in Heaven:

“... cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, **Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen**, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird” (Revelation 18:2).



“For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of **her fornication**, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies” (Revelation 18:3).

“And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues**” (Revelation 18:4).

Babylon is:

1. A “great city” (Revelation. 14:8; 16:19; 18:10, etc.) – **and**
2. A “harlot” (Revelation 17:5)

Explained further: “And the woman which thou sawest **is** that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth” (Revelation 17:18).



This “woman” is the Roman Catholic Church, as we discovered in Study 4, located in the “city of the seven hills.” She will reign over the “kings” (leaders) of this world – those ten regions or “horns” we discovered in Study 5.

We’ve learned much about the beast, nations, horns, harlot, time and power – but other questions arise:

What is God saying to us (“my people”)? “Get out of her” because she is filled with devils, sins and foul spirits? Have other churches joined Babylon?

Remember: Of the seven churches (candlesticks – Revelation 2–3) only two are left to finish the work (Revelation 11:4 – God’s witnesses). The other churches have “fallen” and joined with that Church of Rome. That’s why “Babylon” is called the “mother of harlots.”

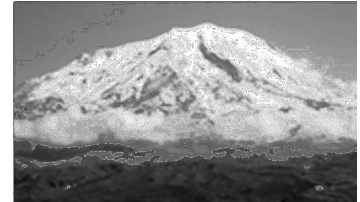
The “Nature” of Babylon is Found in History:

The Bible talks about **three** Babylons. Two are part of world history and one is about to emerge – that “*harlot*” – that “*great city*” – the apostate Christian world that will bring God’s judgments or plagues in destructive wrath.

The things we glean from history help us to understanding this part of Revelation – and, as you will see, the number 666.

One: The Babylon of Genesis

After the great flood, the family of Noah multiplied and moved from Mt. Ararat down into the fertile Mesopotamian valley.



Somewhere in the dotted area the ark settled; and the Bible says:

“And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there” (Genesis 11:2 – NKJV).

Shinar was likely the southern half of that great plain of Mesopotamia.

God gave Noah and his family special instructions and a promise:

“Then God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.’ ‘I confirm my covenant with you: Never again will all living things be wiped out by the waters of a flood; never again will a flood destroy the earth’” (Genesis 9:1, 11 – NET).

What happens now is the first recorded corporate apostasy in the Bible:

“Then they said to one another, ‘Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.’ They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar” (Genesis 11:3 NKJV).

“And they said, ‘Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth’” (Genesis 11:4 – NKJV).



The name of the city and tower was call Babel, which was originally in the Sumerian language: *Bab-ilim*, meaning ***Gate of the Deity***.

- They wanted to build a tower so high that no flood could ever destroy them again. It would be a “gate” to heaven.
- They wanted it to be a wonder to the world.
- They wanted mankind to be centered in this area.

By now it was clear that these people, likely led by Nimrod (the grandson of Ham) and his descendants, were rebelling against God. The Hebrew name “Babel” suggested “confusion” and the Greek name “Babylon” suggested a “suppressive government.”

“But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the people had started building” (Genesis 11:5 – NET).

Why didn’t God like what He saw?

HERE ARE MAJOR KEYS THAT MIMIC THE END-TIME BABYLON

1. They didn’t believe God – He said He wouldn’t destroy the world by flood again!
2. They built a man-made monument and gave it a religious meaning. It became their “savior” – a “god.”
3. They disobeyed God by not “*replenishing*” the earth. They concentrated on developing in one area.

I’m hearing an echo from the Garden of Eden where the “serpent” is telling Eve that “*God knows that in the day you eat of the fruit you will be like gods*” (Genesis 3:5). The day you disobey God, “you will be like God.”

The will of man was elevated over the will of God. God intervened and confused their languages. They had to scatter.

Ancient Babylon would end, only to be rebuilt between approximately 1830 and 1531 B.C., and be destroyed again. During this time it was a small empire. Its most famous king was Hammurabi of the “Code of Hammurabi” fame.

Of Biblical importance was the Babylonian Empire at the time of Daniel.

Two: The Babylon of Daniel's Day



- After the defeat of the Assyrian Empire in 612 B.C. and the Egyptians in 606 B.C. at Carchemish, the Babylonian Empire became supreme.
- Its king: Nebuchadnezzar II, better known as “*King Nebuchadnezzar*” of the Bible.

Jeremiah sent a written message to Judah’s rebellious king, Jehoiakim, warning him that dire consequences were pending if he didn’t repent (Jeremiah 36). The king burned the letter. God permitted King Nebuchadnezzar to attack Judah/Jerusalem in 605 B.C. In fact, God called Nebuchadnezzar “*my servant*” (Jeremiah 27:6).



- This is when Daniel and his companions were taken captive (II Kings 24:1-2, Daniel 1:1-2), along with King Jehoiakim. ***But something else happened:***
- “*Nebuchadnezzar also carried of the vessels of the house of the LORD to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon*” (II Chronicles 36:7).

The Babylonian Empire became famous for its many gods – seemingly adopting them from the many kingdoms/areas that they conquered to honor the captive people. That is why the temple vessels he took from the Jewish people were put into his temple!

Some of the more important Babylonian gods:

Anu: the god of the highest heaven

Tiamat: dragon goddess

Enlil: god of weather and storms

Ishtar: goddess of love

Enurta: god of war

Shamash: god of the sun and of justice

Kishar: father of earth

Marduk: national god of the Babylonians

Kingu: husband of Tiamat

Nabu: god of the scribal arts

Ea: god of wisdom

Anshar: father of heaven

Ashur: national god of the Assyrians

Samish: god of the sun

Daniel noted: “*And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from **the temple of God**. These he carried off to the **temple of his god** [the chief god was **Marduk**] in Babylonia [Shinar] and put in the treasure house of his god” (Daniel 1:2 – NIV).*



- ***The God of all gods*** only came to be recognized through the miraculous working of Nebuchadnezzar’s encounter with Daniel and his companions.

- Note that “Shinar” is the same area that Nimrod had built the original Babylon and that “tower of mockery.”

After a miraculous revelation of a forgotten dream **and** its interpretation, Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar: “*Thou art this head of gold*” (Daniel 2:38).



The meaning of each part of the image was given.

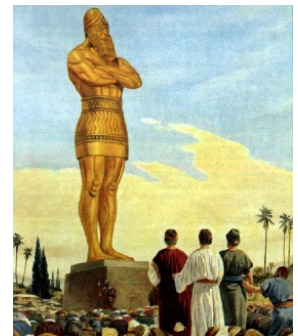
Some call the feet of iron and clay the Holy Roman Empire. There is historical merit for that understanding. But Daniel 2 makes clear that another period of time is represented in the feet!

The identity of that being Papal Rome is most helpful.

Over the next eight to nine years Nebuchadnezzar attacked Judah two more times – that third and final time sacking Jerusalem and destroying likely the greatest wonder of the world, Solomon's Temple.

Within one year of that third and final attack, this king, forgetting Daniel's words, made an image of himself, totally of gold. Babylon's sins and symbols are becoming familiar:

1. He didn't believe God – that the “*head only*” was Babylon.
2. Nebuchadnezzar constructed a man-made monument that everyone was to worship. It was a god.
3. With all the Babylonian gods, he had forgotten God.



God gave a prophetic warning: Nebuchadnezzar was going to “lose his mind” for seven years “*until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses*” (Daniel 4:32 – NKJV).

The will of man superseded the will of God. God intervened and confused the mind of Nebuchadnezzar.



This king is an example of “restoration.” ***He came out of the evil mindset of Babylon.*** When his sanity was restored he testified:

“I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation” (Daniel 4:34 – NKJV). “*Now I*

Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase” (Daniel 4:1 KJV).

- Remember the words we will soon be crying to the world: *“Come out of her my people.”* Nebuchadnezzar symbolically did just that.
- But the last king of Babylon didn’t – and he symbolizes apostasy.

Belshazzar took those sacred vessels that were stolen from God’s temple years before and used them for a drunken banquet where debauchery and defiance of the Hebrew God were rampant.

- The queen reminded him of Daniel and his God and what happened to Nebuchadnezzar.
- But, his probation was up – he died that night as Medo-Persian Cyrus and his forces took over the Empire.

It’s becoming even more familiar:

1. He didn’t believe God. The past was of little value.
2. ***He honored that night the gods of gold, silver, stone and wood.***
3. He even defied God by making “common” what was sacred.



God gave a prophetic warning: Belshazzar was going to die. That night the Babylonian Empire ceased to exist and Belshazzar died (539 B.C.).

The will of man was elevated over the will of God. God intervened and destroyed their nation – the leaders died.

“Babylon has fallen, fallen! All the idols of her gods lie shattered on the ground!”
(Isaiah 21:9 – NET).

Three: The End-Time Metaphor – Babylon!

Revelation has told us that *“Babylon”* (a *“harlot”* – the *“great city”*) has become the home of devils. She is *“fallen”* – *“get out of her”!*

What parallels can we draw from the historical, literal Babylon? What has come into the “Christian” Church that God sees it in apostasy?

Paul warned of this time:

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears” (II Timothy 4:3).

Is God being denied within Christianity today?

1. “We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty ...”¹ (Pope Leo XIII).
2. “God designs to make prelates [church dignitaries], His own equals.... If then you receive a command of one who holds the place of God, you should observe it with the same diligence as if it came from God Himself.”²

→ **• Would this include bowing down to the Pope?**



3. Praying to saints or to Mary, claiming them to be “intercessors” between man and God. Their use of Bible texts is out of context to promote this falsehood. Jesus said: “*When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name*” (Luke 11:2). We are to pray to God the Father!
4. Intriguingly, out of the “ordained ‘holy’ clergy” over 10,000 priests have been convicted or proven to be pedophiles. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been paid out to the victims and for legal costs.
5. Worshipping the Eucharist wafer, claiming it is the actual blood and body of Christ. This re-enactment of the Cross mocks the Bible (Hebrews 9:28; 10:10, 14), where it says Christ was “*once offered*” – once for all – one offering.



Yet – people like Presbyterian pastor **Steven Muse** “never had an encounter with Christ or Mary until honoring the Eucharist.” A dramatic “physical” encounter occurred similarly with **Benny Hinn**, the late **Paul Crouch** and **Peter Kreeft, Ph.D.**, a professor of philosophy at Boston College, one of America’s “greatest” Christian apologists.³

Are there man-made doctrines that defy Scripture and that are false “gods?”

1. “Furthermore, we declare, we proclaim, we define that it is absolutely necessary for salvation that every human creature be subject to the Roman Pontiff.” Pope Boniface VIII, *Unam Sanctam* (Rome – 1302).

¹ Pope Leo XIII, *Praeclara Gratulationis Publicae – The Reunion of Christendom* (Rome – 1894).

² Schauer, Elias Frederick; *True Spouse of Christ* (Sup. Prov. Baltinwrcnsis; Baltimore, MD; March 13, 1888), p. 93).

³ <http://www.lighthouse Trailsresearch.com/blog/?p=16228>

2. “The priest has the power of the keys, or the power of delivering sinners from Hell, of making them worthy of Paradise, and of changing them from the slaves of Satan into the children of God. And God Himself is obliged to abide by the judgment of His priests, and either not to pardon or to pardon.”⁴ 18th Century Bishop Alphonsus Liguor outlining the mission and power of the Priest.
3. While visiting South America, July 2015, Pope Francis announced to Christians around the world that God had called upon him, instructing him “to revise the most sacred of texts, the Ten Commandments.” Given to the Israelites by God Himself at Mount Sinai, the Commandments show God’s character.⁵

In spite of the horrific rejection of truths in Scriptures by the Roman Catholic Church, Protestant leaders such as the Archbishop of Canterbury; Justin Welby; evangelical mega-church pastor, Joel Osteen; and renowned senior pastor of the Saddleback Church in California, Rick Warren, are embracing unity with Rome.⁶

Are “Christians” worshipping idols or “relics”?

1. Venerating (worshipping) a Mary statue.
2. Pope John Paul II bowing before crucifix.
3. Pope Benedict XVI prays to a skull.



Protestant Princeton theologian, Robert Jenson, coeditor of the book *Mary: Mother of God*, says that appealing (praying) to Mary is not an insult to Jesus or God; it is much the same as prayerfully invoking the name of a deceased friend or relative.

What does the Bible say about the papacy, symbolized as a beast in prophecy?

First: In the context of Revelation 13 to 18, it is stunningly clear that:

“The whole world followed the beast in amazement” (Revelation 13:3 – NET).

⁴ St. Alphonsus Liguori, *The Dignities and Duties of the Priest* (1927).

⁵ <http://realnewsrightnow.com/2015/07/pope-francis-god-has-instructed-me-to-revise-the-ten-commandments/>

⁶ <https://www.thetrumpet.com/article/12007.18.0.0/religion/catholics-and-protestants-draw-closer-together?preview>

“All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast – all whose names have not been written in the Lamb’s book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world” (Revelation 13:8 – NIV).

Speaking of the “harlot church” it says: “with whom **the kings of the earth** committed fornication, and **the inhabitants of the earth** were made drunk with the wine of her fornication” (Revelation 17:2 – NKJV).

“These kings have a single intent, and they will give their power and authority to the beast” (Revelation 17:13 – NET).

Second: The “harlot” and the “beast” become one in Revelation 13. It is there referred to as the “sea beast.” Its ten horns have crowns – then the **New World Order** is made up.

Third: John then notes another beast coming out of the earth with “*lamb-like horns.*”

- ***This beast enforces the authority of the first papal beast.***
- That will be part of another study.
- But there is something important in Revelation 13 to ponder.

There is a “mark” associated with the “sea beast” that the “earth beast” insists everyone must receive or have on pain of death. And:

“So that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name” (Revelation 13:17 – NIV).

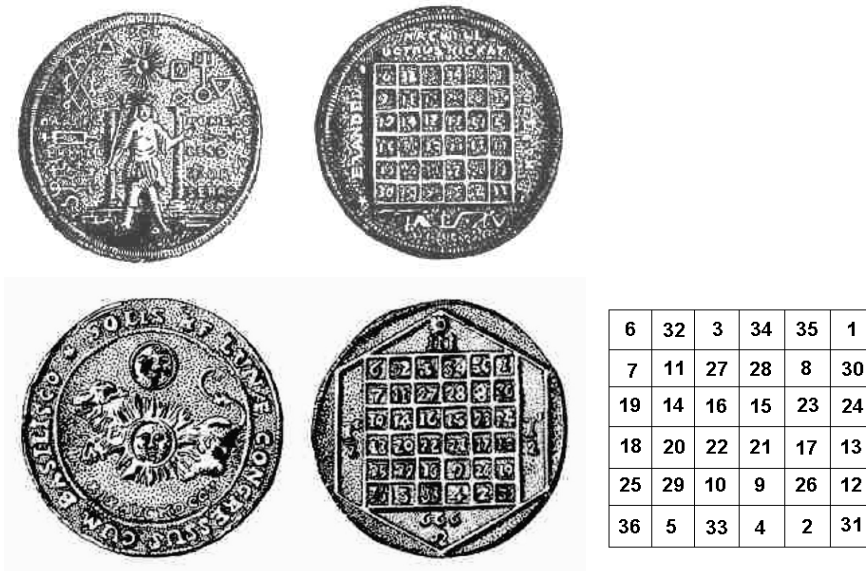
What name relates to the harlot and the Beast? It refers to “**Babylon**” (Revelation 17:5).

“This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man [mankind]. That number is 666” (Revelation 13:18 – NIV).

Much has been written on what this number means. There are the sagas of *literalists*, who see this as implantable chips, etc. But, Biblically and historically, there are amazing clues:

1. Man was created on the 6th day.
2. If the “mark” is “6,” it does not go to the sacred “7.” Is there some act of man by which he is defying God by not completing a “7th”?
3. The Babylonians were advanced mathematicians. Their numeric system was based on the number 6 – not 10, like ours.

4. They counted their gods and then added up all of the numbers from 1 to 36. The first god they counted got the number one assigned to it (which was the **sun god**) and the second was the moon god. Each of their 36 supreme gods got a number. The gods numbered from 3 through 36 were considered the children of the Sun god, which included the various stars and constellations that these gods were associated with.
 - ***If you have not guessed it by now, the sum of the numbers from one to 36 totals 666, which they assigned to the god associated with the sun!***
5. The number 666 refers to the Babylonian god, the sun, that they worshiped on the first day of the week. The beasts of Revelation honor Sun-day worship. That **is** the “***mark of the beast.***” They reject the seventh-day Sabbath.
6. The Babylonian priests, at the time of Nebuchadnezzar, wore amulets that had those numbers on them. One side depicts the sun god and associated symbols, the other side the numeric system of 666.



Now we know the rest of the story.

We’ve now come full circle. When God’s people cry to the world to “*come out of her my people,*” they are referring to the churches that have adopted the past Babylonian style of worship and beliefs! That includes the worship on and keeping of Sunday instead of God’s seventh-day Sabbath.

And – isn’t it stunning? The whole world will be behind that “*mark.*”