

GOD'S REMEMBRANCERS

MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT - UNVEILED AT LAST!

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A Mystery to be Revealed in this End Time

ystery Babylon the Great – a name ascribed to a woman in the 17th chapter of the book of Revelation.

Heaps of writings were devoted on this intriguing and

Heaps of writings were devoted on this intriguing and perplexing subject trying to shed lights on her mystical nature and yet in the end, she still remains a GREAT MYSTERY to all!

Even the very meaning of the word *Babylon* in Hebrew, which is CONFUSION, illustrates perfectly how preachers, bible scholars, expositors and commentators agree on their explanation of this subject and its interpretation.

Who is this woman called Mystery Babylon the Great? Why is she

labelled Babylon? What is the mystery all about?

The Great God who reveals secrets has not left us hanging in the dark and wondering without a clear answer.

A MYSTERY TO BE REVEALED IN THIS END TIME

For centuries, God intended to hide the TRUE IDENTITY of this woman until the right time must come to strip off the cloak, remove the mystery and the meaning be revealed by none other than Jesus Christ Himself.

Now, that time has come! The unveiling of this mysterious woman is for our time now.

In page 3 of his booklet, The Key to the Book of Revelation, Mr. Herbert Armstrong wrote:

Some believe Revelation is a closed Book, not to be understood. But the opening verse says:

"The REVELATION of Jesus Christ...TO SHOW unto His servants things which must shortly COME to pass." Not the hiding, concealing, or closing up – the REVEALING of Jesus Christ to SHOW events TO COME to pass.

And in the last chapter it says: "Seal NOT the sayings of the prophecy" (Rev. 22:10). Notice Rev. 1:1,2, God gave the prophecy to Christ.

John merely BARE RECORD – recorded in writing – this revealing. John recorded three things:

- (1) the Word of God;
- (2) the testimony or direct words of Jesus;
- (3) the things John SAW, in vision, or in spirit.

Christ, not John, is the Revelator, who opens to our understanding the meaning of the prophecy. It is CHRIST, not John, who does the explaining, the revealing.

Christ is the one who removes the cloak of the mysteries and reveals the meaning of the prophecy. He is the revealer! Continuing in page 5,

The things that John saw were in symbols. These symbols represent **literal** and **real things** to occur on earth.

How can we understand the right meaning of these symbols? WHAT IS THE KEY?

Just as Jesus spoke, during His earthly ministry, IN PARABLES to those "without" - thus veiling the true meaning so they would not understand, yet explaining, in plain language, the meaning of the parables to His own surrendered followers (Mark 4:10-12; Matt. 13:10-15), so here the prophecy SYMBOL, which those "without" cannot understand – but which Jesus will explain in PLAIN LANGUAGE to His true followers who keep His Father's Commandments (Ps. 111:10). and possess the Holy Spirit (John 16:13; Acts 5:32). Because of rebellion against God and His Commandments, it is not given to all to understand (see Dan. 12:10). Those who break and teach against the Commandments cannot understand Revelation.

And in page 8 of The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last!, Mr. Armstrong wrote,

But today we live in the dynamic, exciting, terrible "time of the END" – the world-crisis at the CLOSE of the age! The prophecies and mysteries of God, sealed until now, are today

REVEALED to those whom God has chosen to carry His last Message to the world as a witness!

Today is no different! Jesus Christ, the Head of His Church, continues to reveal the prophecies and mysteries of God to His servants

We have been given the Book of Remembrance and written numerous articles posted on our websites as clear proof that the living Christ continues to speak to His bride and show God's people what is happening and what's about to happen.

But the unveiling of God's mysteries has an end. Notice when it all ends

But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, **the mystery of God should be finished**, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets. (Revelation 10:7)

The revealing of the *mystery of God* shall end when the 7^{th} trumpet angel shall begin to sound. It will conclude at the end of 2^{nd} WOE or just before the start of the 3^{rd} WOE or the seven last plagues.

Mr. Armstrong wrote:

"And now notice that the TWO WITNESSES end their mission (chapter 11) at the END of the second woe (verses 12-14). They are killed by the "Beast" ... that comes out of the bottomless pit..."

And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. (Revelation 11:7)

So, the completion of the revealing of the "mystery of God" by

Jesus Christ mentioned in Revelation 10:7 is tied directly with the work or testimony of the Two Witnesses.

God guarantees that the understanding of His prophecies, the unveiling of the mystery shall be given by Jesus Christ, the Revelator! We have that assurance from God.

The mystery about Babylon the Great is one of the many mysteries of God found in the pages of our own bibles.

We already know the physical dimension to this prophecy as explained by Mr. Herbert Armstrong and later by Mr. Gerald Flurry in their writings. But there is a *spiritual counterpart* to this prophecy which is being fulfilled at this very juncture – something truly mysterious that even most of God's own people could not discern.

The 17th chapter of the book of Revelation commences with the seventh trumpet angel holding the vials full of the seven last plagues approached the Apostle John to show him the judgment that shall come upon this woman who is described as **the great whore**.

And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee **the judgment of the great whore** that sitteth upon many waters: (Revelation 17:1)

In verse 5, this woman who was to be given a verdict by Jesus Christ was seen by John with a label on her forehead, "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

A *woman* as a biblical symbol represents a *church*. Therefore, this Babylon the Great is a mysterious church in this end time who shall be judged in the day of God's great wrath.

Babylon of the Past

hen the Apostle John wrote the book of Revelation, the city of Babylon has long been destroyed and left in ruins. But, here in the book of Revelation, we see the name of this city resurfaced on the scene (Rev 14:8) and used as a *brand* on a *church* which shall receive the cup of the wine of the fierceness of God's wrath.

Why is the name Babylon used as a brand or name for this church? Let's look back in history and understand where it all started.

The book of Genesis is where the name Babylon was first mentioned. The name *Babylon* is Greek for *Babel*, a city in the land of Shinar, which was a part of a kingdom that Nimrod built. (Gen. 10:10).

And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said. Even as

Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. (Genesis 10:8-10)

Nimrod, whose name comes from *marad* which means "he rebelled," started the first mortal kingdom on this earth that is against God. The Jewish Encyclopedia says that Nimrod "made all the people rebellious against God." He was the first human who launched a *coup d' etat* against God – the first who followed after the footsteps of Satan who led one third of the angels in mutiny against the Almighty God.

Babylon is where the confusion of tongues happened because of the insurgency initiated by Nimrod. It is where the *start of idolatrous apostasy* took place after the flood. It then became an emblem of idolatrous worship – the very source of all systems of idolatry that spread to all nations on earth.

The reputable historian of antiquity and world traveler, Herodotus, witnessed these systems of idolatry in numerous countries and emphasized that all these idolatrous worship flowed from Babylon.

During the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon rose again to power and became a mighty kingdom.

Here is how the Jews remembered Babylon as a power that invaded and destroyed their country as mentioned in Barnes Commentary in Revelation 14:8.

"That the general characteristics of Babylon were, that it was proud, haughty, insolent, oppressive. It was chiefly known and remembered by the Hebrew people as a power that had invaded the Holy Land; that had reduced its capital and temple to ruins; that had destroyed the independence of their country, subjecting it to the condition of a province, and that had carried away the inhabitants into a long and painful CAPTIVITY. It became, therefore,

the emblem of all that was haughty and oppressive, and especially of all that persecuted the church of God."

These characteristics are significant in our understanding of the very nature of Babylon in this present time.

Fast forward to the time of Jesus Christ and the Apostles and we see this same system of religion on the scene.

The apostles came in contact with Simon Magus, religious leader in the time of Christ. — a self-proclaimed leader in a cult that was deeply rooted in the mystery religion of ancient Babylon.

This **Simon the Sorcerer** was able to creep into the church of God by being baptized with multitudes of others in AD 33. He attempted to buy an apostleship in God's Church from the apostles Peter and John — but was refused and rebuked. (Acts 8)

Here is what Mr. Herbert Armstrong wrote in page 5 about the religion that started from Nimrod in his book, *The Incredible Human Potential*.

Thereupon this Simon appropriated the NAME of Christ, calling his Babylonian mystery religion "Christianity." **Satan moved this man and used him as his instrument to persecute and all but destroy the true Church of God.** Before the end of the first century — probably by A.D. 70 — he managed to suppress the message Christ had brought from God.

There ensued "the lost century" in the history of the true Church of God. There was a wellorganized conspiracy to blot out all record of Church history during that period. A hundred years later, history reveals a "Christianity" utterly unlike the Church Christ founded.

It had taken the NAME of Christ and applied it

to the **Babylonian mystery religion**. It had replaced the MESSAGE Jesus brought from God with a "gospel" about the person of Christ — proclaiming the Messenger but suppressing the entire missing dimension from His message.

"Another Gospel" Gains Acceptance

By about A.D. 58, when the apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Galatians, many already were turning to this now new counterfeit "gospel."

Paul wrote: "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another [it was not good news]; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ" (Gal. 1:6-7).

To the Thessalonians, about A.D. 54, Paul wrote, "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work ..." (II Thes. 2:7). It was the Babylonian mystery religion, started by Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8), a religion of iniquity — lawlessness — a religion rejecting the law of God...

So, we see this same counterfeit religion which started in Babylon coming back over and over again.

Even during the succeeding eras of God's true church, God's people had to fight against turning to another gospel – a gospel of men which started from Nimrod in Babylon. But who or what is this *Babylon the Great* in the 17th chapter of Revelation?

Most commentators, expositors, and bible scholars believed that this Babylon mentioned in this book refers to pagan Rome, the papacy or the Vatican, or the Roman Catholic Church. Does it really pertain to any of these religious entities?

Let's look into the verses of the 17th and 18th chapters of the book of Revelation and examine other biblical passages to know

and understand who this great whore really is.

What the Old Testament Prophets Say

In order for us to get a better perspective with regard to the true identity of this Babylon the Great, we have to take into account what Christ had revealed to his Old Testament prophets. In the Old Testament books, God's seers prophesied about Babylon.

In the book of Jeremiah, Babylon is mentioned many times. Jeremiah prophesied of the fall of Babylon in the last days.

So Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that should come upon Babylon, even all these words that are written against Babylon. (Jeremiah 51:60)

Jeremiah wrote it as part of his book. Two long chapters were devoted for it (chapters 50 and 51).

Likewise, Isaiah prophesied a great deal about Babylon. He wrote 4 chapters about it. In addition, there are some other verses that mention Babylon as part of other prophecies of Isaiah.

And Ezekiel also prophesied about Babylon quite significantly in his book.

As we look at these prophecies about Babylon, the accounts mentioned about her including her condition or state would provide us some clues or proofs as to her real identity.

Consider the following descriptions about Babylon:

SHE HAD FINE LINEN

How is Sheshach taken! and how is the praise of the whole earth surprised! how is Babylon become an astonishment among the nations! (Jeremiah 51:41)

Sheshach is a symbolic name for Babylon. It means "your fine linen." This verse may be read as "How is your fine linen taken!"

Note that this church had a fine linen. Which church is supposed to have a fine linen?

A fine linen is clean and white. It is symbolic of the **righteousness of the saints** as mentioned in Revelation 19:8

Can this quality be ascribed to the Vatican, Catholic Church or to any other religious institutions in this world?

Does the Catholic Church has a fine linen?

SHE IS DESCRIBED AS "THE PRAISE OF THE WHOLE EARTH

Furthermore, Babylon is described in this verse as the praise of

the whole earth!

In the past, we tend to ascribe this exceptional trait to the Vatican or the Catholic Church because of its sizable number of followers all over the world.

But who has the sole authority to make a person, an organization, a nation, or a church, a **praise of the whole earth**?

We read in Deuteronomy 26:18-19 that only the true God of this universe can do this!

And the LORD hath avouched thee this day to be his peculiar people, as he hath promised thee, and that thou shouldest keep all his commandments; And to make thee high above all nations which he hath made, in praise, and in name, and in honour; and that thou mayest be an holy people unto the LORD thy God, as he hath spoken. (Deuteronomy 26:18-19)

He alone has the right to *lift up* or *raise up* anyone or any group or organization whom He chooses for His own purpose. It is His exclusive privilege to make one a praise of the whole earth.

GOD'S CONGREGATIONS ARE INSIDE BABYLON

We are confounded, because we have heard reproach: shame hath covered our faces: for strangers are come into the sanctuaries of the LORD'S house. (Jeremiah 51:51)

Sanctuaries are temples or congregations. Why are the temples or congregations of God in Babylon? That is very strange don't you think? It's weird!

Moreover, why are the people ashamed of the reproach or scorn they have been hearing because strangers, or foreigners, or enemies of God have entered into His congregations?

SHE HAS SINNED AGAINST GOD

Put yourselves in array against Babylon round about: all ye that bend the bow, shoot at her, spare no arrows: for she hath sinned against the LORD. (Jeremiah 50:14)

My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their resting place. All that found them have devoured them: and their adversaries said, We offend not, because they have sinned against the LORD, the habitation of justice, even the LORD, the hope of their fathers. (Jeremiah 50:6-7)

All these verses says that Babylon has sinned against the Lord. God's people have gone astray because of their ministers. And the context of when they sinned against God is just before the Day of the Lord. We know that these verses cannot be applied to the Vatican or the Catholic Church.

GOD'S OWN PEOPLE ARE INSIDE BABYLON AND BEING ENJOINED TO COME OUT OF HER

Notice these verses that indicate that God's own people are inside Babylon:

Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the LORD'S vengeance; he will render unto her a recompence. (Jeremiah 51:6)

My people, go ye out of the midst of her, and deliver ye every man his soul from the fierce

anger of the LORD. (Jeremiah 51:45)

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)

When God called us out of this world to be His holy people and to be separate in the way we live, He placed us inside His own church. But what we see here are God's own people in the very midst of Babylon!

If the Vatican or the Catholic Church is what is being referred to as Babylon here, then why then are God's own people within her and being instructed to come out to escape from what she has to suffer during the Day of the Eternal's wrath?

THERE WERE ATTEMPTS TO HEAL BABYLON TO NO AVAIL

We would have healed Babylon, but she is not healed: forsake her, and let us go every one into his own country: for her judgment reacheth unto heaven, and is lifted up even to the skies. (Jeremiah 51:9)

If Babylon pertains to the Vatican or the Catholic Church, would it be possible to heal her at this present time?

Certainly, this verse could not be applied to neither of them. There's no healing today for these religious entities.

Moreover, the phrase "We would have healed Babylon" indicates that there is a certain group of people who tried to make her spiritually healthy again but she is not healed.

BABYLON'S DOWNFALL WOULD ONLY HAPPEN IN THE LATTER DAYS AND SHE WILL BECOME A HABITATION OF DEMONS

Notice that in the opening verses of the 18th chapter of Revelation, Babylon's collapse was seen happening in the end time

And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he 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 18:1-2)

If Babylon refers to the Vatican or the Catholic Church, how would her fall only happen in the latter days and her ruin would make her an abode for evil spirits?

This religious group has been lost and deceived by Satan a long time ago. She has been a dwelling place for demons or unclean spirits.

BABYLON'S LEADERS WILL DIE AN ETERNAL DEATH

Verse 57 of Jeremiah chapter 51 shows how the *God of recompences* will deal with the leaders of Babylon for all the evil that they have done.

And I will make drunk her princes, and her wise men, her captains, and her rulers, and her mighty men: and **they shall sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake**, saith the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts. (Jeremiah 51:57)

The phrase "will make drunk" means to be drunken with the wine of God's wrath. It means, slay them. (Gill)

The leaders, priests or ministers of this church will die a perpetual death or eternal death!

If these refers to the Vatican or Roman Catholic priests, then why is the punishment a perpetual death? These people have not known God's truth yet. They have not been converted. They have not experienced the indwelling of God's holy spirit in them

Then why would they die an eternal death?

With all these obvious proofs that the spiritual Babylon or church being prophesied here is not referring to the Vatican, or the Catholic Church, or any other churches of this world, to which church then is this prophecy about Babylon to be directed to? To which church are we to apply these descriptions today?

Well, we can only ascribe all these to God's true church in this end time. The church which is in existence just before the Day of the Lord and Christ's Second Coming — the Philadelphia Church of God.

In the 17th chapter of the book of Revelation, God shows in detail how the PCG has turned into this Mystery Babylon the Great

The Appearance of the Woman

hen the Apostle John set his eyes on this mysterious church, he saw that her appearance was extremely the opposite of what a church should look like.

And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: (Revelation 17:4)

Scarlet is a bright red color with a slightly orange tinge. Purple contains red.

These colors are symbolic. Both scarlet and purple colors have color red in them. And red is symbolic of blood or sin.



The church which Jesus Christ is going to marry will be arrayed in fine linen that is clean and *white* (Rev 19:8). But this church is dressed in total contrast to how a bride of Christ should look like.

Observe also the word *stones*. *Jamieson*, *Fausset and Brown* (*JFB*) *Commentary* has a very striking annotation on this. The word *stones*, in the original Greek, should be rendered only as a singular word, "stone." *Thayer's Greek Definitions* defines the word *stones* as follows:

1) a stone

- 1a) of small stones
- 1b) of building stones
- 1c) metaphorically of Christ

If this church is referring to God's true church, then indeed she is adorned with a PRECIOUS STONE, JESUS CHRIST! Truly, she is no ordinary church.

But, she is described here as a woman who looks like a harlot. Her sins have tainted her apparel. It became scarlet as described also in verse 18 of Isaiah chapter 1.

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. (Isaiah 1:18)

In verse 21 of the same chapter, she has indeed transformed into a harlot!

How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers. (Isaiah 1:21)

And observe carefully that murderers are now dwelling inside in her! This explains the defiled garment that she is wearing.

Now, notice again what's written on her forehead:

And upon her forehead was a name written,

MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

(Revelation 17:5)

What a despicable name! Instead of a name that is *high above all nations* on earth (Deuteronomy 26:19), she is now labelled with a depraved and ghastly name – the MOTHER of harlots and abominations of the earth. This may be the worst name a church of God is labelled.

A harlot is an idolater, a fornicator or an adulterer.

And the word "abominations" is from a root word which means to stink, to be disgusted, detest (especially of idolatry), abhor.

Imagine being called as "The Church of Idolaters" or "The Church of Harlots." The members of these church are HARLOTS!

As a mother, she became the epitome of idolatry!

The word *written* means to "grave", especially to write. And the verb "grave" in Merriam-Webster dictionary means:

- 1. Dig, excavate
- 2. a : to carve or shape with a chisel: **sculpture** b : to carve into a hard surface : **engrave**
- 3. to impress or fix (as a thought) <u>deeply</u>

This name is engraved in her forehead — the seat of intellect. It is impressed deeply in her mind.

And notice what this church is holding in her hand.

And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: (Revelation 17:4)

She's holding a golden cup that is full of her detestable deeds and the uncleanness of her harlotry. It is a golden cup but what's inside is very disgusting.

The PCG has been committing fornication which made her vile and unclean. As you already know, the ministers have introduced into the church all sorts of pagan practices such as Mother's day, Cremation, and Irish Dance. They have been turning things upside down — bringing in the ways and systems of this world (e.g. Turnabout Dating). They have also chosen Edstone where the seat of witchcraft is located instead of Jerusalem which God has chosen.

Indeed, the PCG has defiled herself and became abominable and loathsome.

Drunken with Blood

nd notice how the Apostle John reacted when he saw this church.

... and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. (Revelation 17:6)

He was shocked! He marveled with great amazement at the sight of this church. The word *admiration* should not be taken as an appreciation of the extravagant flashiness of her looks.

John was NOT astonished because of the costly and grandeur way that she was dressed and adorned. The phrase is better translated simply as "I wondered with great wonder." Why?

And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: ... (Revelation 17:6)

John saw that this church had done something really horrible. She was intoxicated with the blood of saints and martyrs of Jesus. Being intoxicated means that this church had drunk too much blood. It indicates that this church had slain MANY people. John was stunned by what this church had committed.

And who are these saints? Notice that in verse 1, this church was described as seen *sitting upon many waters*.

And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of **the great whore that sitteth upon many waters**: (Revelation 17:1)

What do these *many waters* mean? Verse 15 gives us the meaning.

And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. (Revelation 17:15)

These "many waters" represent many people of various nations in this world — people of different tongues or languages.

And this great whore or church sits on these people. The word sit, figuratively means to remain, reside: – dwell.

This means that this church is dwelling on these many people. If an organization dwells on people, it means that these people are *members* or part of this organization.

Therefore, these are the very *members* of this church in the whole world. These are the people whose blood were shed by this church and has gotten drunk with it. These are our own brethren which the PCG ministry have murdered spiritually!

Those members who agree and support the malicious deeds of these ministers are those "kings" mentioned in verse 2 of this chapter.

With whom the of the **KINGS** of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. (Revelation 17:2)

Drunken with Blood 24

These are the real kings of the earth in God's eyes. Christ has made the members of this church *kings* to God. (Revelation 1:6, 5:10) And Jesus Christ Himself is their *prince* as shown in Revelation 1:5.

But, these members are committing fornication because they are following the ways of these men and not God. These ministers have become their gods.

Verse 18 also shows that this church reigns over these kings of the earth

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

The PCG is the GREAT CITY mentioned here! The great God made her a great city. God is the one who sets His church high above all nations – in praise, in name, and in honor. So the *saints* mentioned in Revelation 17:6 are the *kings* who are our own brethren.

And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: (Revelation 17:6)

This explains the reason why the Apostle John was so shocked when he saw her in this appalling condition. A church of God committing a gruesome act.

Why do you think she killed her own people? Who or what made her do this despicable act?

The Beast Where the Woman Sits

bserve that this church was seen by John sitting upon a scarlet-colored *beast* in verse 3.

... and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. (Revelation 17:3)

Who or what is this beast? Remember that the *beast* is a *symbol*. And a symbol, as defined in *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last*, is a FIGURE or a THING, used to represent something else.

If this beast is a FIGURE or a THING representing something. Who or what does it represents?

In his booklet, *Who or What is the Prophetic Beast?*, Mr. Herbert Armstrong said that a *beast* is a symbol of a *kingdom*, or *empire*. This is shown in Revelation 16:10.

And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon **the seat of the beast**; and **his kingdom** was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, (Revelation 16:10)



This *beast* represents a *kingdom*. And the word *kingdom* is defined in Thayer as a *royal power, kingship, dominion,* or *rule*. An added note says that it is "not to be confused with an actual kingdom but rather *the right or authority to rule over a kingdom."*

Therefore, the beast is a royal power, a dominion, a rule, or *government* — the right or authority to rule over a kingdom.

In Revelation 12:3, this same beast was mentioned in this passage and shows us what it represents.

And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. (Revelation 12:3)

Notice the similarities of color and the phrase "having seven heads and ten horns."

So, the *beast* in Rev. 17:3, which is an image that represents a **great red dragon** in this verse. Who then is the great red dragon? You know very well that it refers to SATAN THE DEVIL!

Therefore, this beast is the image of Satan – his GOVERNMENT or RULE!

Notice again how it was described in Revelation 17:3.

It is scarlet in color and is full of names of blasphemy or "All covered over with blasphemous titles and names." (Barnes) And this church now sits upon the beast — this GOVERNMENT or RULE of SATAN.

Again the word *sit*, **figuratively, means to remain, reside:** – **dwell**.

So this church is now *dwelling* on this beast – the very GOVERNMENT of Satan.

Now, observe very carefully the meaning of the word *having* in both of these verses (Rev. 17:3; 12:3). In *Thayer's Greek Definitions*, the word *having* is a verb which means:

- 1) to have, i.e. to hold
- 1a) to have (hold) in the hand, in the sense of wearing, to have (hold) possession of the mind (refers to alarm, agitating emotions, etc.), to hold fast keep, to have or comprise or involve, to regard or consider or hold as
- 2) to have, i.e. own, possess
- 2b) used of those joined to any one by the bonds of natural blood or marriage or friendship or duty or law etc, of attendance or companionship
- 3) to hold one's self or find one's self so and so, to be in such or such a condition
- 4) to hold one's self to a thing, to lay hold of a thing, to

adhere or cling to

4a) to be closely joined to a person or a thing

The beast is holding or in possession of these seven heads. This beast or the image of Satan, his government or rule was able to possess or get hold off of these seven heads. He was able to cling or closely joined himself to these heads.

Notice now, what do these seven heads represent?

And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. (Revelation 17:9)

The 7 heads are 7 mountains. And what is a mountain? A mountain is symbolic of a church. So these seven mountains represent the church in the 7 eras of God's church. This means that the great red dragon Satan, through the beast — his government or rule, has taken hold of God's church in all the seven eras of the church. He has been successful in joining himself and possessing God's church through the leadership.

In a *Royal Vision* article by Mr. Flurry, he emphasized a very important point to consider how Satan infiltrates God's church.

"SATAN THE DEVIL HAS ENACTED A GREAT PLOT over the centuries to cover up the history of God's Church. We need to understand this plot because it is a WARNING to God's people today. Throughout history, God's people have had to battle to hang on to the truth. The Apostle Paul repeatedly warned God's people against turning to another gospel - a gospel of men rather than the gospel of God (2 Corinthians 11:4; Galatians 1:6). Jude spoke of the same danger. 'Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ve should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints' (Jude 3). ... 'For there are certain men crept in

unawares,' verse 4 says, 'turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness,' or lawlessness. **Men who were not converted** were creeping into the Church and causing serious problems...

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG SHOWED HOW THESE PROBLEMS IN THE CHURCH AT THAT TIME, WERE LARGELY SIMON MAGUS'S DOING. Mr. Armstrong proved how Simon Magus was at work in the Corinthian church, and how Paul's, John's, Jude's and Peter's writings show that all these apostles had to battle this man's influence...

There was a pattern: It was the same group of people basically causing all the problems. This powerful Simon Magus kept right on coming, and rebels kept growing and multiplying and continually causing problems in God's Church...We need to understand this because it makes it so much more clear what God's Church is dealing with today. MR. ARMSTRONG'S INSTRUCTION IN THIS IS REALLY CRITICAL." (The True History of God's Church Part 2, November-December 2012 issue, page 1)

Notice this pattern which started from the rebel Nimrod in Babylon and later identified by Mr. Armstrong through Simon Magus with his Babylonian religion as the cause of all the problems in the church.

This Simon Magus group, the very instrument of Satan, kept on coming back in all eras of the church. God's church has to deal with this same problem over and over again down through the ages. Would God's church in this last era be exempted from the attack of the Destroyer?

We're now in this last era and Jesus Christ is about to return. And Satan knows he has a short time left. Don't you think he would give his all to destroy God's church at this present time? Don't you think he would employ the same method or tactic as before which in the history of God's true church had produced a high success rate for him in destroying God's church?

Satan today was able to bring his men, the 25 men of Ezekiel 8, into God's church and created serious problems.

Don't you think this confederacy, alliance, or coalition of 25 men represents the beast in this present time?

We are confounded, because we have heard reproach: shame hath covered our faces: for strangers are come into the sanctuaries of the LORD'S house. (Jeremiah 51:51)

Strangers or Satan's men have crept into the sanctuaries of God's house or the congregations of God. It's the same mindset of Nimrod, the same Simon Magus group that kept on coming back and taking over the government of God's true church. Satan always try to embed his group in God's church without the knowledge of most of God's people. That's why he is known as the master of deception.

Satan was able to infiltrate God's church in all the eras! In all seven eras of God's true church, he is always on the scene. It has been his main goal to destroy God's church and God's own people. Even the Philadelphia era of God's church which we have known as the finest era in all history of the church of God did not escape from the clutches of the Devil that after the death of Mr. Herbert Armstrong the *synagogue of Satan* emerged on the scene. (Revelation 3:9).

Look at the PCG now. God's church in this last end, through the confederacy of the 25 men of Ezekiel 8, has become spiritual Babylon. Notice the kind of mountain she has become.

Behold, I am against thee, **O destroying mountain**, saith the LORD, which destroyest all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a burnt mountain. (Jeremiah 51:25)

She was a great city but now she became a *destroying mountain*!

The Seven Kings

And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. (Revelation 17:10)

These seven kings are the successive kings of the church in those seven eras. Note that these 7 kings have crowns as mentioned in Rev. 12:3.

And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having **seven heads** and ten horns, and **seven crowns upon his heads**. (Revelation 12:3)

These seven kings are the human leaders called apostles or messengers of the seven church eras of God's church.

Five of the seven kings were already fallen. The word fallen, in

Thayer's Greek Definitions can mean:

- to perish, i.e come to an end, disappear, cease
- to be removed from power by death
- to fall out, fall from, i.e. shall perish or be lost

So five kings or apostles had perished. Those five who already died were the messengers of the first five eras, namely, Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, and Sardis.

The phrase "one is" refers to God's end-time Elijah, Mr. Herbert Armstrong who was the messenger to the Philadelphia era of God's church. He passed away in 1986. The phrase also signifies that we were around when this event happened.

And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. (Revelation 17:10)

Now the word come in this verse means to *come* or *go*. So, we may read this as "the other is not yet gone."

Another meaning for this word *come* is "fall out" which is also one the meanings of the word *fallen* in this verse. And "fall out" means to perish or die.

So, this phrase can be also be read as "the other is not yet dead."

When this one is on the scene, he must continue a short space or meaning, "a season" or "a while."

The Eight King

ut there is another king who would rise on the scene after this seventh king is gone.

And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition. (Revelation 17:11)

He is numbered as "the eighth" on the list but he is "of the seven," meaning "of the seventh head or the seventh era." This means that he will emerge after the death of the seventh king.

This eighth king shall be the *beast* himself. Remember that this beast is the image of Satan – his GOVERNMENT which is inside the PCG now.

Notice again the description of the beast – *that was, and is not, and yet is.* "It was" means that this beast, that same Simon

Magus group was in existence before. "and is not" means that today the PCG members are not able to exactly say who these men are and that this particular group exists. "and yet is" means that this group really do exist.

And there is one among them who gives advice and counsel that are against the Eternal.

And note that he will go into destruction.

In chapter 14 of Isaiah, he is the called the king of Babylon. And this king represents Satan.

For the LORD will have mercy on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel, and set them in their own land: and the strangers shall be joined with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob. And the people shall take them, and bring them to their place: and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of the LORD for servants and handmaids: and they shall take them captives, whose captives they were; and they shall rule over their oppressors. And it shall come to pass in the day that the LORD shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve, That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased! (Isaiah 14:1-4)

Notice carefully the abrupt shift of focus on the character being discussed starting in verse 12. Suddenly, the spotlight moved to the archangel Lucifer as he is addressed in the context of the king of Babylon.

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of

The Eight King 36

God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. (Isaiah 14:12-15)

We see here the king of Babylon is likened to Lucifer who has the desire to lift himself up and become god.

This king of Babylon, the same beast which came out of the bottomless pit, shall fight against God's witnesses and kill them.

And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. (Revelation 11:7)

The word *bottomless pit* is not a metaphor or an imagery. It is an actual place on this earth called an *abyss*.

This *bottomless pit* is the same place where Satan will be bound during the millennial reign of Jesus Christ on this earth to restrain him from deceiving peoples and nations.

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. (Revelation 20:1-3)

The Ten Horns

ow, notice that the beast mentioned in verse 3 of Revelation 17 was also seen taking control or possessing *ten horns*.

... and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. (Revelation 17:3)

Now, what do these *ten horns* symbolize? And the **ten horns** which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. (Revelation 17:12-13)

These ten horns represent ten kings who have not received power as kings yet. They will receive power of rule or authority once the beast ascend to the *seat of power* as the "eighth king" after the demise of the seventh king. These men shall be possessed by demons and shall give their power and strength to this "eighth king."

Are we going to see a core of 10 men from the 25 men of Ezekiel 8 having the one mind, rising to power under the leadership of the eighth king?

Remember that those 25 men of Ezekiel 8 hold different ranks in the ministry. Which among them do you think would constitute the 10 kings? Would they comprise the ministers of the Ephraimite stock? Now, when these 10 kings obtain rulership positions with the beast, notice the transformation that will happen to them.

And the **ten horns** which thou sawest upon the beast, **these shall hate the whore**, and **shall make her desolate and naked**, and **shall eat her flesh**, and burn her with fire. (Revelation 17:16)

Notice the expression, "these shall hate the whore." This indicates that they were not in opposition before. They were on the same side but suddenly became enemies.

These 10 kings shall hate or detest God's church, strip her of all her attractiveness, splendor and power, and destroy her completely by burning her with fire.

The phrase, "shall eat her flesh" may be viewed in the literal sense. This scene is like those cannibals or zombies eating the flesh of humans. What people see in movies would one day become a reality. Humans shall eat humans.

But God is the one who orchestrates the events so that His words shall be fulfilled

For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the

The Ten Horns 39

beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. (Revelation 17:17)

God shall put in the hearts of these 10 kings to agree to His will and execute what He has purposed for His own church. He will use them as His instruments in the end to destroy the PCG.

God shall have a hand on these events and He will make sure that they will turn out the way He designed it to be.

Now notice the end of these 10 kings.

These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. (Revelation 17:14)

These 10 kings shall rise against the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, but they shall be defeated. For who can fight against the Lord of lords and King of kings and win? And those who stand for God, those who are with Christ are called, and chosen, and faithful.

The Everlasting Gospel

otice very carefully that just before the fall of Babylon happens, a very important work is in progress. The work is about proclaiming THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL! Observe also that this GOOD NEWS is being delivered across the globe. It is being announced to all nations – to people of different tongues and kindred.

And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. (Revelation 14:6-8)

The message carries an admonition to fear God, give glory to His name and to worship Him. It is a message of salvation! There is way of escape from receiving the plagues to be given to Babylon.

This everlasting gospel is encapsulated in God's end-time Book of Remembrance. The good news of the coming Kingdom of God shall surely happen.

This book has been available to the public for more than a couple of years now. It has been sent to the ministers and to the members of the PCG worldwide. God has made it available for His people as a means of escape from the wrath that He's going to unleash to the sinners in Zion.

There is a group today known as "The Remembrancers" who is behind the proclamation of this EVERLASTING GOSPEL of God. This is the group of people from a far country that God is using to warn *His people* who are still inside the PCG.

Babylon The Great is Fallen, is Fallen

n just a short while, the END of the Laodicean era of God's church shall come. God will allow the removal of His messenger of this last era.

In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, shall the nail that is fastened in the sure place be removed, and be cut down, and fall; and the burden that was upon it shall be cut off: for the LORD hath spoken it. (Isaiah 22:25)

Very soon, the beast and the 10 kings will take full control of the leadership of the PCG in the open. And this will be the outcome of their control.

And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he 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. 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 18:1-3)

The PCG is going to fall! She will become the habitation of demons. Imagine God's church becoming a dwelling place for wicked spirits. How horrific that would be!

The words *hold* and *cage* in verse 2 mean a *watch-post*. The demons will keep guard there and haunt the place.

Notice the expression, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen." Why are the words "is fallen" repeated two times?

One of the meanings of the word "fallen" is "to perish." And to perish twice signifies that Babylon shall die the second death or *eternal death*! Babylon shall never rise again.

God's Judgment

Remember that it was the SEVENTH TRUMPET ANGEL who approached John to show him THE JUDGMENT OF GOD to His own church.

This seventh trumpet angel was holding the vials full of the SEVEN LAST PLAGUES. This is the 3RD WOE! And God is about to direct the seven angels of this seventh and last trumpet to pour out the vials of THE WRATH OF GOD.

But notice that the pouring out of these vials shall occur in the presence of Jesus Christ and His holy angels.

The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be

tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: (Revelation 14:10)

We know from other prophecies that Jesus Christ return to this earth shall happen at the *time of the last trump*. (See I Cor. 15:52; I Thess 4:16; Mat. 24:31)

Therefore, Jesus Christ return to this earth shall happen first, *before* the vials of the wrath of God are poured out on earth.

But why are those vials to be poured out in the presence of Jesus Christ? It is because it is God's wrath upon His own church. He has to recompense her for the controversy which happened in His own church. He shall take vengeance for all the abominations and sins she has committed.

Note this very well. The seven last plagues are primarily appointed for God's own church in this last era. These are mainly for the spiritual Edomites in the PCG. Babylon and Edom are one and the same. The prophecies for Edom are similar to those of Babylon. As an example, compare these 2 verses:

Notice the counsel and purpose of God that he has taken against Edom in Jeremiah 49:20.

Therefore hear the counsel of the LORD, that he hath taken against Edom; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the inhabitants of Teman: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out: surely he shall make their habitations desolate with them. (Jeremiah 49:20)

And why did God said exactly the same words to Babylon in Jeremiah 50:45?

Therefore hear ye the counsel of the LORD, that he hath taken against Babylon; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the land of the Chaldeans: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out: surely he shall make their God's Judgment 46

habitation desolate with them. (Jeremiah 50:45)

It is because God is addressing the same group of people in His own church

God shall make their habitations desolate. The day of God's wrath is the time of His great sacrifice and slaughter in the land of Edom

For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment. The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, it is made fat with fatness, and with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams: for the LORD hath a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Idumea. And the unicorns shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls; and their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust made fat with fatness. For it is the day of the LORD'S vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion. And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch. It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever: from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever But the cormorant and the bittern shall possess it; the owl also and the raven shall dwell in it: and he shall stretch out upon it the line of confusion, and the stones of emptiness. They shall call the nobles thereof to the kingdom, but none shall be there, and all her princes shall be nothing. And thorns shall come up in her palaces, nettles and brambles in the fortresses thereof: and it shall be an habitation of dragons. and a court for owls. The wild beasts of the

desert shall also meet with the wild beasts of the island, and the satyr shall cry to his fellow; the screech owl also shall rest there, and find for herself a place of rest. There shall the great owl make her nest, and lay, and hatch, and gather under her shadow: there shall the vultures also be gathered, every one with her mate. (Isaiah 34:5-15)

God is going to remember the sins of PCG and she is going to receive her plagues. It shall come in one day. These plagues are detailed in the 16thchapter of Revelation. She shall surely become a burnt mountain.

Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. (Revelation 18:8-10)

Come Out Of Her, My People

Time is running short for God's people to make a very crucial decision whether to stay in the PCG or leave. He shall very soon unleash His wrath upon the sinners of Zion. In Jeremiah 51:45 God is directing His own people to come out of the PCG.

My people, go ye out of the midst of her, and deliver ye every man his soul from the fierce anger of the LORD. (Jeremiah 51:45)

They MUST LEAVE, WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME. They have to DEPART OUT OF HER MIDST! They have to forsake her now because she can't be healed. They have to abandon her to deliver themselves from the plagues that shall come upon her.

The Day of the Lord is coming. God will soon recompense the Edomites in the PCG for what she has done to God's own people. He will have His revenge!

Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the LORD'S vengeance; he will render unto her a recompence. (Jeremiah 51:6)

Notice that even God's servants were directed to flee out of Babylon and declare this prophecy about Babylon.

Go ye forth of Babylon, flee ye from the Chaldeans, with a voice of singing **declare ye**, **tell this**, **utter it even to the end of the earth**; say ye, The LORD hath redeemed his servant Jacob. (Isaiah 48:20)

God's vengeance of his own temple is being declared to you right now by those who have gone out of the PCG.

The voice of them that flee and escape out of the land of Babylon, to declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God, the vengeance of his temple. (Jeremiah 50:28)

God is telling you people of God who are still inside PCG to heed His warning before it's too late. Hear God's own words — COME OUT OF HER, MY PEOPLE!

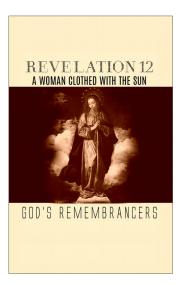
ADDITIONAL READING

The A.R.K. of God Foundation produces many informative and interesting publications that you may want to request.

Here are a few you might consider:

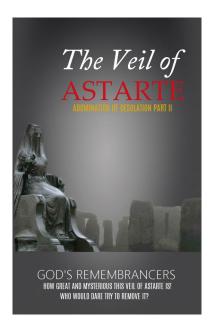
Revelation 12 : A Woman Clothed with the Sun

When Christ delivered the Book of Revelation to John, the message is entirely for the seven eras of the Church of God. This is the key aspect that Bible Scholars and critics failed to grasp! The message is given to the Temple Priests, to Jesus Christ's bride - the Church. Today God has revealed the true meaning behind the symbolism of the woman clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet found in the 12th chapter of the Book of Revelation. A prophecy between a struggle of deception and truth in the Church of God.



The Veil of Astarte

Satan is very powerful arch-nemesis of the Church of God. It is a constant battle to hang on to the truth and protect the sanctuary of God from this powerful evil being. Herbert W Armstrong, God's signet, warned of Satan's vast power and wiles. He discussed a pattern of how a Simon Magus Group always inject lawlessness unsuspectingly with DARK VEILS throughout the Church's history. God's Church in this end time is in a siege and is almost impossible to find a way out because of this deceptive veil. But there is a way out! God has always provided help for His people to come out of Babylon's Confusion.



CONTACT INFORMATION

To reach the A.R.K. of God Foundation, to order literature or to request additional information.

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