

## ***The Harlot Babylon: Introducing the Basic Themes (Revelation 17:1-7)***

This morning we are going to look at the subject of the harlot Babylon from Revelation 17-18. This is a very important subject and very relevant to the hour in which we live. I believe that the harlot Babylon religion is emerging in the earth even as I speak. Even right now across the nations, we see the early signs of it. It is my conviction that there are people alive on the earth right now who will be alive when the Lord appears. When the Lord comes in His second coming, though it could be two, three, or four decades away, even then, that is just a minute from now. I do believe that it is going to happen in the lifetime of people who are alive on the earth right now. If that be true (and I believe it to be true for a number of reasons), then the emergence of this seductive reality called the harlot Babylon will precede the second coming of the Lord. It will draw many people—believers and unbelievers into deception and into great spiritual danger. They will end up denying their faith.

### **THE GREAT FALLING AWAY OF THE CHURCH IN THE END-TIMES**

It says in 1 Timothy 4:1-3: “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from certain foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.” This is the prophetic anointing on Paul that he emphasized with great urgency—in the latter times, some will depart from the faith. Why? Because they are going to give heed or pay attention to demon spirits. Imagine believers paying attention to demon spirits. After they give heed to the spirits themselves, they buy into the teachings of those demon spirits. First thing that they do is they pay attention to demons, even though they do not know that they are demons. Then, they follow the doctrines, the teachings that these spirits give them.

### **2 TIMOTHY 4:3-5**

It says in 2 Timothy 4:3-5: “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they having itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.” For the time will come, this is Paul again speaking to Timothy when the people will not endure sound doctrine. They will not be able to endure—that word endure is an important word. Sound doctrine requires endurance because our flesh resists it. The Sermon on the Mount takes endurance. I have a natural tendency to want to reduce it and dismiss it. By the grace of God, we hear it, and we respond to it. However, Paul said it really requires endurance to receive the real message of the truth. Many believers are not aware of that. They think that truth is just exciting because it is truth. They do not know that there is an endurance dimension to hearing it.

The main and most repeated exhortation by Jesus in the Bible is “he who has ears, let him hear” (Mt. 13:43). He says that more than any other phrase in the Word of God. It is talking about the effort, and the intentionality that is required to hear truth. Truth does not just automatically land

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in our being. Even as believers, we have to be intentional about setting ourselves to go after truth and to hear it. We cannot just feed our spirit on it, but this requires us to encounter truth in our personal life agendas. Even as believers, many say, “How many people have I heard through the years who say, ‘I do not like all this end times stuff?’”

I mean it is pretty obvious, but I ask them why anyways. One of the reasons is because it disrupts their life plan and their agenda. They have an agenda that these ideas mess with. So they would rather get rid of the ideas and hold onto the agenda, as though God could be manipulated that way. You know: it is the ostrich effect. They think, “Let’s put our head in the ground, and then the trouble goes away.” It is like my little granddaughter who she puts the blanket over her head and says, “I am not there.” Then, she takes the blanket off and says, “I am here.” We cannot hide under the blankets.

2 Timothy 3:4: “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers.” They are going to turn their ears away from the truth they formerly embraced. Many believers—I do not believe it is most—but beloved, there might be a billion believers in the earth, so it will be many. This could affect some hundreds of millions. This could be two or three hundred million. It is enough that Paul urgently spoke this as a prophetic word. They are going to turn their ears away from the truth that they previously embraced. Paul repeats again in 2 Timothy 4:1-5, “But know this, that in the last days, perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traders, headstrong, lovers of pleasure, rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness, but denying its power.” They will have a form of godliness. They will be religious, but they will deny reality. They are not just denying the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but it is more than that. They deny the reality of the kingdom of God and real power reality of the kingdom of God.

### **PAUL GIVES TWO OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT SIGNS OF CHRIST’S RETURN**

Paragraph B. There are four different passages we are looking at where Paul is prophesying about an end-time falling away. In this passage in 2 Thessalonians 2:3: “Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition.” Paul highlights two significant signs of the nearness of the Lord’s coming. These are two signs of the times. Look at what he says in 2 Thessalonians 2:3: “Let no one deceive you,” as Jesus’ return will not come until two things happen. Paul says, “Do not let anybody trick you on this.” The Day of the Lord—that is the rapture and the second coming—is not going to happen until two things take place. Do not let anyone deceive you.

Number one: the great falling away comes first. There is a falling away from the faith that is so massive, it is one of the great signs of the second coming of Christ. The second sign: He says, “the man of sin, or the son of perdition”—that is the Antichrist—“will be revealed” (2 Thes. 2:3). In other words, the Antichrist is manifest on the earth. People know who he is. It is as if Paul warns, “Do not be deceived by any means. The Lord is not returning; we will not be caught up to meet Him in the air until two things occur: first, the great falling away happens, and the

Antichrist will function openly on the earth where people who love truth—millions, and millions know who he is.

So, when the people say, “Well, the Lord is coming any minute.”

I respond, “No. It is not happening. The great falling away has not happened. Now, the Church is being lulled into compromise; but, there has not been a wholesale—I mean tens of millions of people if not several hundred millions of people—denying their faith.” It is not a subtle trend where the Church is drifting off little by little over 2,000 years. Some interpreters read this as a subtle trend; they try to remove the drama and the dramatic dimension of the falling away. So they think that if they can explain it differently, it will go away. It is not going away. The falling away is coming. It will be so radical. The great falling away will impact the Church as much as the appearance of the Antichrist. Those are the two main signs that Paul gives: the great falling away and the appearance of the Antichrist. It is yet future, and it has not happened.

We can see this particularly in the West, especially in the last decade or two, we see increase of compromise in the Church with huge ministries presenting a gospel that has the name Jesus sprinkled through it. But, it is certainly not the gospel presented in the New Testament. What men are presenting is an offer for forgiveness, that is not the gospel. The gospel is not just an offer for forgiveness. It is an offer for forgiveness based on repentance and coming into the kingdom of God.

There is a kingdom; there is an empire that is going to come into full collision with the Antichrist. A lot of people offer forgiveness, and they say the name of Jesus. However, Jesus never offered forgiveness without repentance. As even the offer of forgiveness with repentance is merely the introduction of the kingdom. There is a whole lifestyle of the Sermon on the Mount, which is normative for the kingdom. That is what we call here in the IHOP–KC spiritual family, Christianity 101, which is to live in the Sermon on the Mount lifestyle. That is not the super saints—that is the Christianity 101, that is what we call people to. You have to really search hard to find God’s people in our nation focused on living holy, Sermon on the Mount lifestyles. This is normal Christianity, not intense Christianity, or heavy-duty stuff—that is absolutely Christianity 101. It is introductory stuff. So, we see that there is a real spirit of compromise, but the falling away has not happened. It will be dramatic. It will be as dramatic of a sign of the coming of the Lord as the Antichrist appearing. Beloved, those are dramatic signs.

### **THE HARLOT BABYLON: HER JUDGMENT AND SEDUCTION**

Roman numeral II. The harlot Babylon, her judgment, and her seduction in Revelation 17: We will just read this passage, and then we will break it down, as we go through this session. Revelation 17:1-7: “One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, ‘Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters. With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.’ Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with

gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. This title was written on her forehead: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. Then the angel said to me: ‘Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns.’”

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls of wrath talked to John. John says that the angel came to him. It is as if the angel says, “Hey John, come I am going to show you the judgment of the great harlot.”

John could have responded, “I do not know anything about a great harlot!” This was a new idea to John. This great harlot sits on many waters. Revelation 17:15: “Then he said to me, ‘The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.’” The same angel tells John what the many waters are. The angel interprets the symbolism. He says, “The many waters are many nations.” The kings of the earth committed fornication with this great harlot who sits on many nations. The inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with her fornication. The kings committed fornication and the masses of the earth were drunk by it. There is a subtle distinction there.

### **SHE HAS A DYNAMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ANTICHRIST**

Revelation 17:3: “So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman, sitting on a scarlet beast.” She is not only sitting on many waters or nations, she is also sitting on the Antichrist. The Antichrist is carrying her, according to Revelation 17:7. The Antichrist is carrying her along. She has this dynamic relationship with the Antichrist. She is separate from the Antichrist. She is sitting on the scarlet beast. The scripture makes it clear that the scarlet beast is the Antichrist. The book of Revelation clearly interprets the symbolism for us. This scarlet beast is full of blasphemy. His nature is blasphemous. She is in full unity with this man who is fully blasphemous. That is the reason it is important to say that: because she will look to be helpful and humanitarian. She will look to be fighting for the good of all mankind. It is a total lie.

Revelation 17:4: The woman will be arrayed in purple and scarlet. She will have a royal status before the earth. She will have a lot of money, as she will be adorned with gold. She will have royalty in her prominence; she will be very honored and respected. She will be adorned with gold; she will have so much wealth. In her hand will be a golden cup. That golden cup is going to look enticing. He says, “Do not buy into it. That golden cup only looks golden on the outside. On the inside, it is filled with abomination, and it is filled with filthiness. It is evil. It is demonic, though it will look like a golden cup— this religion will. On her forehead was a name. Her name is “MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND THE MOTHER OF THE ABOMINATION OF THE EARTH” (Rev. 17:5). She is a mother of harlots, and she is a mother—or you can put the word source; she is the source of abomination in the end times.

### **THE WOMAN IS DRUNK WITH THE BLOOD OF THE SAINTS AND MARTYRS**

Revelation 17:6: “I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.” John is talking. He saw this woman, and he is alarmed. She is drunk with the blood of the saints. She is so enraged against the Church. She is drunk; she is frenzied. She is enraged in her hatred of the Church. No matter what she says on the front end, she will end up drunk with the blood of the saints. John says, “I marveled with great marvel with great amazement” (Rev. 17:6). At this time, John is in his nineties. John knows the Lord and knows prophecy second to no one. It is as if John says, “This is an amazing new development.” This whole thing is surprising; it is amazing. John is completely awestruck by what he sees and completely surprised by it. John was the first one in whom God revealed this secret plan of raising up an end-time harlot who would end up purifying the Church. There are many things the harlot does badly, but her positive impact is that she does bring purification to the Church. John says, “This is an amazing new development.”

The Lord might have said, “Well, John this is not new. I have been planning this from before the ages. It is just new; I have not told anybody yet. You are the first one I have told.” John is just absolutely filled with amazement. In Revelation 17:7, the angel says, “Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.” Remember, in the New Testament, a mystery it is a clear plan in God’s heart, but it is one that He has not told anybody yet. There are five or six different subjects in the New Testament called the mystery. It does not mean mostly mysterious, although there is often a mysterious element to it. It means it is a clear plan, but it has not been revealed yet until this time. It was hidden in God’s heart. It is as if Jesus says, “I am going to tell you the mystery about this woman and about the beast that is carrying her.” The Antichrist is carrying her. She sits on him, and he is supplying her. He is giving her resource. He is endorsing her and helping her in her agenda.

### **THE ANTICHRIST TURNS OF THE HARLOT BABYLON, USES, ABUSES, AND DESTROYS HER**

Revelation 17:15: “Then he said to me, ‘The waters which you saw, where the harlots sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.’” The Antichrist turns on her and destroys her. He uses her and then abuses her. That is not the subject of today’s session, but that throws people off who read that she is working with the Antichrist. Then the Antichrist turns on her. He uses and then abuses this harlot true to his nature. It is confusing because people naively assume that Satan has tranquility and unity in his kingdom. He does not. Demons hate demons.

You look at the history of any evil empire: for example, Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany. The leaders in the Third Reich hated each other and were constantly plotting against each other. They were trying to kill each other and steal each other’s position and authority. It is true of many evil empires through history. You know, one demon looks at another demon, and he says, “That guy has a bad spirit.” They do not like each other. They do not trust each other. They do not enjoy being together. They do not like anything about that guy whom they are working with. Satan hates the harlot Babylon, though he needs her. He does not like her. Satan does not enjoy any of

his team. He hates his whole team. He really does, so do not be surprised that there is civil war within the camp of Satan at the end of the age. There is civil war within the Antichrist camp. It is true of Stalin, Hitler, Chairman Mao, and many leaders through history. Evil men: they have civil wars within their hierarchy.

### **JOHN RECEIVED ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT END-TIME PROPHECIES**

Paragraph A. Revelation 17-18, as the two chapters go together. John received one of the most significant prophecies related to the end times. It gives a lot of insight into the end-time falling away. We really want to study Revelation 17-18 because it really equips our mind with understanding as to some of the details leading to the great falling away. Revelation 17-18 gives us a lot.

### **SATAN’S STRATEGY TO SEDUCE THE CHURCH, ISRAEL, AND THE NATIONS**

In this passage, an angel revealed to John part of Satan’s entire strategy, but a significant insight to Satan’s strategy is to seduce the Church, Israel, and the nations. Beloved, to be forewarned is to be forearmed. Knowing this gives us a significant advantage in not being seduced by it. The problem is that we have to take time to know it. I do believe, though I could be off on this, but I do believe that we have some decades before the Lord returns. We have time for the Church to get familiar with these chapters. A number of you in this room are forerunners. You are just a short step ahead of what the Lord is going to emphasize.

The Holy Spirit is not really pressing these points right now, but he is stirring up some thousands, or maybe some millions right now. He is going to emphasize these subjects to hundreds of millions in the next decade, or two. He is stirring up some of you ahead of time to get clarity on it, so you can make sense of it, when the Spirit begins to emphasize it in a major way.

This is what a forerunner is: a forerunner is a minister who is feeding their spirit and getting clarity on what the Holy Spirit is not yet emphasizing universally. He is going to, in a short amount of time, in maybe a decade or two. So, I want to really challenge you to go deep in Revelation 17-18. I want you to understand that this is, especially chapter 17, a difficult chapter. It will challenge you, but it is really worth it. It really is worth it because there is so much insight about the great falling away.

### **JOHN SAW THE NATURE, HISTORY, AND THE JUDGMENT OF THE HARLOT**

Paragraph B. John saw the nature, the history, and the ultimate judgment of the harlot. He saw the harlot religion and the harlot economic power. John saw the nature and the history of it. Its nature is evil, its history is linked to the tower of Babel, and he sees its inevitable judgment in the end times. Revelation 17 is a fantastic chapter in terms of relevant for us to be equipping the Church. The harlot will have such power; the harlot will seduce the kings of the earth. Imagine 210 kings, or presidents of the earth right now. The kings of the earth: these powerful leaders who are cautious and really guarded. They only want to do something that is going to help them. They buy into this system completely. These are cautious, calculating men and women—these kings, presidents, and prime ministers. The harlot Babylon is going to seduce the great merchants

too and some of the great financial powers of the earth. Some of the great leaders in finance will be completely deceived by this demonic realm.

There will be kings, multibillionaires, and even those who in the next decade, or two will have trillions. There will also be powerful, political leaders like kings, prime ministers, and presidents; they are going to come into unity. This is good. The masses are going to see the rich and the famous say, "These things are good." This is going to actually help the deception, as these famous people will endorse the harlot Babylon, and they are men and women who appear to have wisdom and a history of success.

### **A HARLOT WILL BE RAISED UP ACROSS THE EARTH**

Paragraph C. A harlot is going to be raised up across the earth. It is going to have two powerful expressions that are going to operate simultaneously. Expression one: it is going to be a religious network. Expression two: it is going to be an economic network. These two are going to have a complex interaction together. There is going to be a distinction, yet there is going to be an overlap of these two global institutions and networks. I do not know that institution is the right word, but there are going to be organizations that are global. They will have a significant synergism together. They will be distinct, but at the same time have a profound unity as well.

### **THE IMPORTANCE AND DIFFICULTY OF REVELATION 17-18**

Roman numeral III. The importance and the difficulty of Revelation 17-18. This is important that you understand this. Paragraph A. Revelation 17-18 is the longest prophecy in the book of Revelation. Just to give you a sense of it; the second longest one is the New Jerusalem. You would think that the New Jerusalem would be the most emphasized. The deception that keeps us from the New Jerusalem is actually the longest, and the most emphasized prophecy in the book of Revelation. It is like the Father's heart is crying out, "If you get trapped and deceived by the false, you will not enter into the true Bride, the New Jerusalem." Interesting, not only is it the longest prophecy in the book of Revelation, which therefore makes it the longest prophecy in the New Testament by far. It is also the longest prophecy in the Old Testament. I find this more than coincidental. This is significant. The longest prophecy in the Old Testament is the prophecy of the end-time harlot Babylon. The two largest prophecies in the Bible: Old Testament and New Testament are both on this subject.

What do you receive from that? You receive the idea that this is important to God's heart that we understand it. It has to be talked about. We have to write about it. We have to have small group discussions. We got to fill the earth with this information. I was going to say that we have to sing about it, though that would probably be a tough song, but it probably needs to be sung.

### **EMERGENCE OF ANTICHRIST, CONFEDERATION, AND BABYLON RELIGION**

Paragraph B. The main message of Revelation 17 is actually quite easy to understand. There are three primary themes in terms of its main message. There is the emergence of the Antichrist, the emergence of his ten-nation confederation, and the emergence of the great harlot Babylon that has an economic and a religious dimension to it. That is the real message of Revelation 17-18. An Antichrist is going to be raised up; he is going to have ten nations working together with him.

He is going to have many nations under his sway, but ten of them are going to be on his senior leadership team so to speak. There is going to be a great harlot religious and economic institution. The three of them, the Antichrist, the ten-nation confederation, and the harlot Babylon religion will be raised up, they will be distinct, but they have an important interplay with each other. That is what the message is. So, the message is clear in terms of its broad appeal. As the broad strokes message is clear.

### **THE MOST SYMBOLIC PASSAGE IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

Paragraph C. Having said that, its broad message is clear. I am going to say something on the other end. It is the most difficult chapter in the whole book of Revelation. I believe Revelation 17 is most difficult chapter in the Bible to understand its fine details. Its main message is clear. Anybody can get the main message if they want to. The Lord, in His mercy, made the main message clear. Its fine details are very complex and intricate. The Bible interprets the Bible; the symbolism is all interpreted in the book of Revelation and the book of Daniel. It takes some real attentiveness to distinguish the intricate detail and nuances that are in this chapter. We want to. We really want to because shepherds, as we want to understand these nuances, and these totally distinct details because each one of them will help the Church to stand strong. As shepherds, whether you are considered full-time shepherds, or people with a forerunner spirit who care deeply about the welfare of others, we must prepare now to prepare others. I am very energized about these little details. These details are not insignificant. They will help; they will help forewarn and forearm the Church to not be deceived. Even the little details will.

### **VEILED IN CRYPTIC LANGUAGE**

Why is Revelation 17 the longest prophecy and the most important one in terms of length? It is about the whole end-time Church not being deceived in the heart of this prophecy. It is as if God is telling us, “Do not be tricked. I am allowing a great deception to happen. I want the Church purified but not deceived by it. Many will not obey Me; they will not pay attention. They will be swept away by their lusts and swept into this darkness. They will deny their faith.”

I respond, “Lord, why is this most important? Why is this the longest chapter, or prophecy in the Old and New Testament? Why is it veiled with such cryptic language? There is this cryptic language in terms of the details.”

I did not know that this is the final answer. I know the impact it has had on me and on our leadership team here. We diligently pour over the text line-by-line. We discuss it, and we debate it. We discuss these little phrases because they are difficult. We work hard. In the process, I have noticed something happen that we get really familiar with—the truth of this chapter.

So, I have been asking the question for some time: “Lord, why is such an important prophecy so cryptic?” I am starting to learn it because the details are so hard to grasp. There has been lots of discussion on it. The very discussion of it makes me learn it. We will debate an hour over two little points—just six, eight, or ten of us discussing Revelation 17-18 in a room. A small group will go on with this verse and that verse. I am writing down all the verses. While they are talking, I am writing them down. I am saying, “This is amazing.” We are getting them on the tape, so we can transcribe, and look at it later. I say, “I never even thought of all these little ideas.” What is

happening is our hearts are being brought into the understanding it through the process of wrestling. It is the caterpillar in the cocoon. The struggle of it creates the butterfly. The struggle of it is writing it in our understanding. I am assuming that is the reason why such an important prophecy is veiled in such cryptic language. The Lord wants us to struggle together over the details of it.

### **REVELATION 17: IT IS ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTAND ITS THEMES**

Paragraph E. It is really worth the effort. Again, the main message is easy, but I want more than the main message. I want the details and the subtle nuances. It is really worth it. Why? Because the themes of Revelation 17 concerning the coming worldwide religion, its power to seduce and deceive are crucial to understand. The people who get deceived by it are going to end up in the lake of fire. If they get fully deceived, people can get deceived for a short time, and then they repent of their deception. If people get fully deceived, they can end up in the lake of fire. This is really worth understanding this chapter—really these two chapters. It deserves careful study. It deserves energetic dialogue. We need to be very familiar with its truth and its principles.

### **THE HARLOT WILL SIT WITH AUTHORITY AND CONTROL OVER NATIONS**

Roman numeral IV. The harlot is going to sit with authority and control over many nations. Let's read Revelation 17:1-2: "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants were made drunk with the wine of fornication." It is as if the angel is saying, "John, I am going to show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters. I am going to show you the great harlot with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and with whom the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with her wine."

### **TWO VAST GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS**

Paragraph A. A great harlot will rise up with great dominance over many nations. The kings are going to knowingly commit adultery with her. The kings will understand. The kings know that she is evil, but they will do it for money. The people do not know that she is evil. They are drunk, intoxicated, and they are actually made happy with her. They are just carried along thinking, "This is awesome. Good news has finally come to the planet." They are legitimately deceived. They are drunk, and they are euphoric. They are happy. Finally peace is coming because it is going to look like peace is come to the earth. They welcome humanitarian aid and service. The harlot is going to be very humanitarian in her face.

Her presentation is going to be the one who cares about the welfare of mankind. That is the face she is going to show. The nations will be drunk with her. They will be intoxicated and euphoric over her. They will be happy about her existence. They will be dizzied by her influence and her goodness. The kings do illegal activity saying, "Give me your money, and I will sell myself to you." They are actually knowingly committing fornication with her. They are selling themselves for a price with full knowledge of what is happened. So, they are far guiltier at the throne of God. The nations, the inhabitants, the multitudes are drunk; they are still in big trouble with God.

It says in Revelation 18:23: “The light of a lamp shall not shine in you, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery, all the nations were deceived.” It is the merchants, or the great men of the earth. For by your sorcery—that is Babylon’s sorcery—all the nations are going to be deceived by the sorcery. By the demonic: sorcery is occult power. Demons are going to be very, very involved in this religion and this world economic system. Demons are going to be moving things around and opening and shutting doors. Demons are going to be doing this. God is going to bring forth finances to the Lord’s true Church, which is the prophetic Church. God will be opening doors. Angels will be doing this. However, demons will be doing this on the other side. There is a great collision in the spirit realm related to truth, economics, and political power of the kings of the earth. Great conflict because demons are going to be really involved in a far more dramatic way, as we get closer to the end.

### **EMERGENCE OF RELIGIOUS AND ECONOMIC HARLOT**

Paragraph B. We must be aware of the emergence of this religious and economic harlot. The majority of the earth will not perceive her as demonic. The nations will be deceived, which means that they will be convinced that she is good. She will be spiritually dangerous because she will cause many people to deny their faith. Paul said it four times prophesying that there would be a great falling away. Jesus said it a number of times Himself. There is a great falling away coming. Beloved, it is not just a general trend, as some of the commentators have said, “This has been happening for 2,000 years.” No, it is an overt sign of the times that is alarming. This will be clearly discernable, and it has not begun yet. We have seen that compromise is increasing, but not the defiant public rejection of the faith by leaders and multitudes that have been in the faith for years. That is going to happen. We are seeing a little bit of it, just little trickles of it. It is going to be overt and international in its scope.

### **ANGELS SHOWS HIM INEVITABLE JUDGMENT AND SURE DEFEAT**

Paragraph C. The angel says to John, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the Great Harlot” (Rev. 17:1). I like this logic: before the angel shows John the wealth and the false beauty of this harlot, he shows John her inevitable defeat and destruction. It is as if the angel says, “Here, I am going to show you the harlot. I am going to show you that she is defeated before I show you how much power she has.” John already knows she is going to lose before he sees her beauty that she is arrayed in scarlet and purple. She looks like a queen, she has gold and power. The kings and the economic leaders of the earth are endorsing her with unity, as there seems to be this momentum. There is a momentum, and it seems to be too good to be true. It is as if the angel says in Revelation 17:1 (paraphrased): “John, I want you to know that she is going to lose really soon. She only exists for a short amount of time—some small amount of years. I mean she will be emerging for a few years before she is fully mature. But her time will be very short; it is a very short time of prominence on the earth, and she will lose.” Why are we saying that? When we feel the seduction of this network; beloved, know that for certainty, she will be utterly destroyed in a short amount of time. Do not invest your life in that system. Do not do it. She is coming down soon.

**THE HARLOT WILL BE CARRIED OR EMPOWERED BY THE ANTICHRIST**

Paragraph D. The harlot is going to be carried away or empowered by the Antichrist. Paragraph E. She will be arrayed in purple and adorned with gold. In other words, she will have prominence. She will have vast wealth that is going to help her gain respect of the masses. She will have great respect of the political and economic leaders. To the kings, she will be like a king. She will have royal status in their eyes. To the economic leaders, she will have more money than they have. Collectively, she will have more. The kings want her influence, as do the merchants.

**THE PARADOX OF THE HARLOT IS THAT SHE IS “DARK YET LOVELY”**

Paragraph F. The paradox of this harlot is that she will be lovely but very dark. For those of you who are Song of Solomon students, you know that the bride is dark in her heart, but she is very lovely to God (SOS. 1:5). The harlot is opposite. She will appear to be very lovely, but she is totally dark in her heart. She is completely evil. It is a complete reversal. The golden cup that is in her hand will appear as something very valuable and good. She will appear on the world scene offering a golden cup to meet the needs of the people of the nations. She will have a humanitarian face. She will be the main champion fighting for the good of mankind. Undoubtedly, she will have some breakthrough in helping the poor of the earth, the AIDS crisis of the earth, and some famine zones. She will undoubtedly have breakthroughs in technology. She will be leading at the forefront as the one who does well—the champion for the good of man. I already see that spirit happening.

There are more and more believers who are so easily seduced because an organization is meeting humanitarian needs. That is important; that is part of the gospel to meet humanitarian needs, but they get so capture by people who are meeting humanitarian needs. As long as the person says, “Jesus, every now and again, they throw away their discernment and just follow the harlot Babylon with great enthusiasm.” Beloved, the harlot is going to offer a golden cup to meet the needs of the earth. I am not interested in how much she accomplishes in the humanitarian area. She will have more money; she will have more favor of kings and open doors. She will accomplish great things. I am interested in where her heart is, and where she is going.

You see it already. There is this momentum of organizations—some religious, some not religious—all coming together to solve the problems of the world. Lots of Christians are just applauding it. Though I applaud meeting needs, which is good, my concern is the spirit behind much of what is going on is clearly Revelation 17. Not that we have to go expose it at all. That is not our number one thing to find every organization, expose it, and say how bad they are.

Our number one thing is to have discernment in our spirit, so that we are not celebrating it, promoting it, and joining it. That is the big issue. I do not feel a mandate to find every organization that exists that has a wrong spirit and make sure everyone knows that they have it. I just want to make sure the people who I am related to are not celebrating it and deceived by it. I want to make sure that we stay steady. We are people of the kingdom; we are on the narrow path. We are lovers of Jesus. We love the Word of God. If it is not in the Word of God, we are not interested in its truth. If it is not absolutely established in the written Word of God, we are not

interested. I do not care what angel appeared from heaven; I have no interest in information from angels that do not honor the written Word of God in 100 percent of everything that they say. More angels are going to be appearing—good ones, false ones, angels of light, and demons. I am not interested in supernatural things in and of themselves. I am interested in Jesus and His kingdom. That is what we are interested in. We are not just suckers for something just because it is supernatural, and it helps people. Is not that right. We are lovesick worshippers of Jesus. We honor the supremacy of His Word. We have chosen the narrow path of holiness. We have rejected the broad road that leads to destruction.

### **HER NAME WILL BE A MYSTERY**

Paragraph G. Her name will be a mystery. The angel was giving John new information. It is as if Jesus is saying to John, “John, I am telling you her name is a mystery. This is a new thing. John, Isaiah did not grasp this. Isaiah touched a little bit of it in Isaiah 13-14 about Babylon and the end of the age. He did not understand near the complexities of it. Jeremiah touched a little bit of it in Jeremiah 50-51. Daniel touched a little bit of it.” But none of the prophets had the clarity that John sees. It is as if the angel says, “John, this is new information, and this is mystery. This is information not yet given to the human race. If you are perplexed and a bit overwhelmed, it is understandable because the Father has not made it known clearly until now.” This was surprising information to John. On her forehead was written: “MYSTERY, BABYLON, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS, AND THE MOTHER OF ABOMINATIONS” (Rev. 17:5).

### **HER ROOTS AND ORIGIN ARE FROM THE TOWER OF BABEL (GENESIS 11)**

Paragraph H. The first surprise in this mystery is that her roots are established in what happened at the tower of Babel. It is as if John is saying, “You mean the thing at the end of the age that is going to seduce part of the Church is what happened in the tower of Babel back in Genesis 11?”

It is as if the angel responds to John, “Yes, John. You know, that tower back in Genesis 11 is going to reemerge again. I do not necessarily mean that specific tower, but more the reality that the tower represented. The tower is Babylon.” He identifies it with Genesis 11, and that surprises John. John responds, “I did not really know that. Now, the tower of Babel was the city in which they established the first organized religion in history. It was the first organized religion. It was the first organized rebellion against God where people organized themselves with a clear mission statement to declare war on God.

A very interesting passage is Genesis 11:3-8: “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. 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.’ But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the sons of men had built. And the LORD said, ‘Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.’ So the LORD scattered them abroad from they’re over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city.’ Then they said these are the citizens of Babel. ‘Come, let us build for

ourselves a city’—here is the key phrase—‘and a tower whose top is in the heavens’ (Gen. 11:4). This is very important because the top in the heavens are not talking about how high the building is.

We get the idea that they have this five-story, mud brick building, and with technology, they pushed it to seven stories. They almost reached heaven—that is not what it is talking about. Its top is in the heavens. They are basically saying, “Let’s make a name for ourselves.”

Of course, that is the same spirit that Lucifer had, to make a name for himself; he warned to make a tower lest they be scattered abroad over the face of the earth. The Lord told them to go forth across the earth, to multiply, to replenish the earth, and to have dominion over it. They were in defiance against the mandate to go forth. It is as if they said, “No, we are going to cluster here and build something that does not have divine blessing on it. It is against the will of God. We will do this lest we be scattered, even though this was in defiance to God’s commandment.” God had told them to go forth to the nations. Then, the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the men had build. Here is what the Lord said, “Indeed the people are one.” (Gen 11:6). That is very dangerous that they were one at this time. We will look at that in a minute.

They all have one language. This is what they begin to do. Nothing they propose to do will be withheld from them. The New International Version and the New American Standard say “nothing will be impossible for them” (Gen. 11:6). Nothing will be withheld from them. So God confuses their language that they may not understand one another’s speech. Then, the Lord scattered them abroad and forces them to do the thing He commanded them. Now, God scatters them abroad over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. Its name was called Babel because the Lord confused the languages of the earth, and the Lord scattered them abroad.

### **NOTHING THEY PROPOSED TO DO WOULD BE WITHHELD FROM THEM**

Paragraph I. Now, in Genesis 11:6: “The LORD said, ‘Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.’” Do you see this promise? Nothing they propose to do will be withheld from them. Now, what the Lord is talking about specifically in this passage is not technology. The Lord is not threatened by a five-story, mud building. He is not afraid it the building will rise to ten stories. That is even close to His throne. That is not what God is talking about. He is talking about the unity that they had, and the promise that nothing will be impossible in terms of them reaching the human potential of sin ahead of time. It is as if God says, “If they unify, there is no expression of sin. They will not be able to enter into Babylon.” They would try to build ahead of time—before the Lord’s sovereign purposes of human history are ready for this to happen. They were building, and their top was in the heaven. Their top being in the heaven did not talk about the type of building. It is spiritual, meaning they were gaining access to the heavenly realm, and to the demonic realm. This is a parallel like Babylon will be at the end of the age. They were interacting in the demonic realm, and they were having this synergism between demons and humans. That was going to bring sin in the human race to its all time high.

The Lord does not want the human potential for sin to reach its ultimate high until the generation

of the second coming of the Lord. The Lord scattered them to stop this momentum. What they were doing was the counterfeit of Genesis 28 where Jacob has a dream, and the ladder comes down. Jacob has a dream, and the ladder comes down, and the angels are going up and down on the ladder. Its top reached into heaven. He had access into the angelic realm is what happened. Then Jesus comes in John 1. He talks to the apostles about Jacob's ladder and about the Church having access to the spirit realm but under the lordship of Jesus.

Now, remember Revelation 18:23 which foretells how Babylon is going to deceive the nations by sorcery. Babylon is going to enter into a dynamic, negative interaction with demons (1 Tim. 4:1). They will have the doctrines of demons; they will be paying attention to demon spirits. Revelation 9:21: "And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts." Sorcery will fill the earth. They are going to build an organization, which will reach into the heavenly realm in an illegal way and will bring an interaction between demons and humans. Sin will reach heights before the Lord returns. Sin will reach a level never seen in history, surpassing even the heights of sin at the time of the flood. It is going to create the contrast because the Church who will walk in righteousness, holiness, and meekness. Babylon, which will be the counterfeit, will have realms of darkness never ever known in human history. That is what Daniel prophesies.

### **GOD WILL DISPERSE THE PEOPLE OF BABEL; SIN WILL REACH ITS FULLNESS**

Paragraph J. Daniel 8:23: "And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king shall arise, having fierce features, who understands sinister schemes." It says latter in this passage that this is the Antichrist kingdom. When transgressions have reached their fullness, their kingdom, or the ten kings who each have a kingdom will give their authority to the Antichrist, and they will unite. Then a king is going to arise who understands sinister schemes. Now, Daniel describes these sinister schemes—that is a very interesting Hebrew phrase—"sinister schemes" (Dan. 8:23). The Antichrist is not just going to understand riddles. He can do the Rubik's cube every time. It is far more important than that. This king is going to understand demonic secrets and access to the spirit realm.

The part I want you to understand here is that there is an hour in history where transgression will reach its fullness. It says this same thing in the book of Revelation four or five times: sin will reach its fullness in that hour. Beloved, we are in a time. I believe that there are people alive today who are going to see this. We are going to see this in our lifetime where sin will reach heights of perversion never known in history because there will have an accessibility to the demonic realm.

The part that is critical is in Revelation. I do not have this verse down, but you need to write this verse down: Revelation 12:7-9: "And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

What happens in Revelation 12:7-9, Michael the Archangel is warring with Satan; then, Satan and all of his angels are cast down to the earth. There is going to be demonic movement and involvement on the earth. Every demon will be dislodged from its supernatural place in the heavens to the earth. All the demons, I am assuming there are billions of them, which will be thrown down to the earth. They will be invisible; they will be appearing in occult settings. Billions of demons, all the principalities, and powers on the earth will be interacting with men. I do not want to go into this. This is too strange of a thought. I have it mentioned it in paragraph I. I will just mention it to you, but you can look at it on your own.

### **NOAH GETS CHOSEN AS A VESSEL TO BRING WORLDWIDE DESTRUCTION**

Right before the flood, Noah gets picked in Genesis 6:8. What happens in Genesis 6:1-7 is Noah gets picked in Genesis 6:8 by the Lord. Noah is chosen to be a vessel to bring worldwide destruction. The second coming judgments of the book of Revelation are always likened to the judgments of Noah; the second coming judgments will also be global in impact. In Genesis 6:1-7, the sons of God—that is talking about angels—interacted with humans in an illegal way. It brought a connection of the two realms, the natural and the spirit realm in an illegal way. It brought such violence, murder, and evil on the earth that it mandated the flood of Noah. The tower of Babel people were trying to reach the heavens. It is as if they said, “Hey, that Noah thing has been gone a long time, but we have a new start. We have a new wind, or a new breath here. Let’s get back into the interaction with the demonic realm, the spirit realm, like back in Genesis 6.” So God confuses them. Instead of sending a flood, he confused them.

Beloved, when the angel looks at John, he says, “This is Babylon. I have no question. I understand what that means. This time, I am not going to scatter them until they first enter into the fullness of the global dimension of sin.” The potential of the human spirit for righteousness, and the potential of the human spirit for sin is going to reach its all time high in the generation that the Lord returns.

It is critical what we do with our inner man right now. It is not OK that we are living in bitterness, a little bit of pornography, adultery, lying, or stealing. We cannot open our inner man to demons. The demonic activity is going to be so intense. It is already building. There is only one safe place: it is on the narrow road with our eyes locked forward on the Son of Man. It is really intense what is going to happen. Babylon is coming. This amazed John because he understood some of it. He understood it. I can just picture John saying, “Oh my goodness! Her name is Babylon.” Genesis 11 is intense!

### **DANIEL SAW TWO THINGS THAT WILL HELP REVERSE BABEL’S DISPERSION**

Paragraph K. Daniel saw two things. It is interesting: the two things Daniel saw in Daniel 12 are the reversals of the dispersion that happened in Babylon when Babylon dispersed men. Why did Babylon disperse men? So they could not build a momentum with demons and darkness; so they would crescendo in darkness ahead of time. That is why God dispersed them. Now, Daniel sees this in Daniel 12. It is as if Daniel says, “This is communication, travel, and technology.”

The angel says, “Daniel seal the book.” In other words, the prophecies are not going to be understood clearly until the end times. You know, Daniel was 2,500 years ago; for 2,500 years, the scholars have been reading Daniel, and they hit a wall. They get so far, and they cannot go further. Those books are sealed spiritually. The angel said, “The book is going to be sealed in the spirit.” In the end times, God is going to open up understanding of those books. I am not for anybody who has their own unique version. I do not believe the person who says, “You know, me, and the angel figured it out: we are the only two who know.” If someone is doing that, forget it.

The Lord is going to give this to His prophets around the earth. There is not going to be some little secret interpretation that only Brother Bill and Sister Sue understand. God cares about His whole Church. I do not mean millions will get the same thing at the same time, but prophets all over will confirm it. I am not interested in secret information, where I am the only one who has it. If the Lord visits me and gives me something, or visits you and gives you something, hold it privately. Hold it quietly, and be reserved with it until the Lord confirms it supernaturally by other prophets, other lands, and other nations. The Lord will confirm it in his Church worldwide. I do not mean new truth: that is not what I am talking about. I do not believe that there is new truth. I am talking about understanding some of the things that have been restrained in the book of Daniel.

### **DANIEL SAW HOW COMMUNICATION AND TRAVEL DEVELOP TO NEW HEIGHTS**

Let’s go back to topic: the book being unsealed at the end of the time. That is not my point right now. Here is the point: I want to give you the two prophecies. Here is what the angel told Daniel. The angel basically warned Daniel that in the end times, people shall run to and fro. They shall travel across the nations, to and fro. Knowledge is going to increase, and of course the explosion of knowledge is in technology. There is one generation in which the people in Asia, African, North and South America, and in Europe can all be together in a couple hours. By technology, all their information will be shared instantaneously. Knowledge and the ability to get back together will be beyond anything you can imagine.

In the positive sense, we can do great things with that. In the negative sense, we are watching it just in the perversion industry of technology. Perversion is escalating so rapidly. That is what was happening in the days of the tower of Babel in a much more limited sense. The momentum was going outside of the Lord’s timing. That momentum is coming back right now because travel and information will create a global community, both positive and negative. With a negative global community, men will enter into interaction with demons. They will share their experiences, and they will bring millions into it. The compound result of millions and billions of people interacting with demons and the increase of sin will cause a domino effect. The dominos will go down so quickly. So it is as if Daniel said, “Watch, there is going to be the ability for the men and the women of the earth to connect instantaneously in person, through travel or through technology. They can pick up on their spread and increase of evil. That is exactly what is going to happen.”

### **THE HARLOT WILL BE THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS OF FALSE RELIGIONS**

Paragraph L. The harlot will be the mother of harlots, which is Revelation 17:5: “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF THE HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” She will be the source of other false religions. Now, she has been the source of false religions throughout history. She is also going to be the source of abomination in the end times. Behind all the false religions of the earth have always been the demons that were there at the tower of Babel. Some will work overtly, others subtly, and some will work directly. The false religions have been creating a whole historic setting. The false religions would spread across the earth, getting as many billions of people deceived as possible.

Then, all the false religions would unify. The demons have this grand plan. In this unity, the world would rejoice as finally unity and peace has come. Everyone is going to prosper; all the needs are going to be met. People will think, “Wow. What a great worldwide religion!” There will be demons spread throughout the different parts of the earth with other false demons.

Beloved, all these false religions that cover the earth are strategic parts of a satanic plan for the planet. That is to bring them all together and to create euphoria in the world. Finally, we are unified, and terrorism will be over, because we are not blowing up each other because of a world religion. So many wars are started by religious convictions—the money problems and the war problems. The world will be euphoric, and the world will be drunk, intoxicated, and happy over these developments. They do not know that she is also the mother of abominations. She is the source feeding the earth with evil, but it is candy-coated. It is filth in a cup, but the cup is golden.

### **THE HARLOT WILL KILL THOSE WHO RESIST HER**

Paragraph M. The harlot is going to kill the people who resist her. It says in Revelation 17:6: “I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints.” She is also drunk too. She is frenzied, and she is enraged. She has bloodlust like never before in history. She is killing so many believers that she becomes drunk and enraged by this bloodlust. It takes hold of her. She made the nations drunk because of the euphoria of all the good things that are happening. Now, she is drunk, and she is completely exterminating her enemies. There is no one who can stop her now. If all the enemies are exterminated, she is never going to get that far, but she is drunk.

It is interesting that out of all the people who are a part of her, a number of them will be former leaders in the Church as well as leaders of world religions. They will have to buy into her agenda. It is going to be a very trying time. Jesus warned us how men will betray one another and members of their own household will betray one another. This woman will demand loyalty. She will be drunk with blood.

### **THE PROPHETIC CHURCH WILL NOT BE AFRAID OF HER**

There is only one group of people on the earth who are going to boldly resist her. It is the prophetic Church. I can just see it now. Imagine so many wars, fanatic Islamic terrorism fueled by religious conviction, and then people will think, “Wow. The religious problem is done, and the unity problem is happening. The harlot Babylon has promises, ‘We can feed people, solve AIDS, overcome drought, famine, and disease.’ So many good things are happening!” Man is

reaching the age of enlightenment, which is far beyond the eighteenth century when the enlightenment was happening in France and Europe. We understand the glory of man. There is only one voice in the earth saying, “This is of the Devil.”

The nations are going to say, “Why say that? Why cannot you finally be happy? Jesus said that we would all be one. We are doing it. Jesus said to feed the poor, all these things, and we are doing it. Why are you guys causing so much trouble? The harlot will have tremendous unity, and approval of the nations to get rid of these obstacles to world peace and world unity.”

However, the Lord will use the harlot Babylon religion to purify His church. The Lord will see who is true. Many will die, and many will not die. Many will be supernaturally and sovereignly protected. They will have chosen that they are willing to die. Many will fall away, and many will become very strong in the Lord. Many will say, “You know what? I am absolutely going the other way. I am going to get off the fence. I am going all the way. This blood will purify the Church, and then power is going to come on the Church.”

We are going to bring the great harvest in: great revival is coming. I can just see it now. Members of the Church asking, “Are not we praying for unity?”

We answer, “Yes.”

People will ask, “Are not the other religions, are not those other people important?”

They say, “Yes.” They will question, “I mean, they love God in their own way, do they not?”

We say, “No.”

They ask, “What do you mean by saying ‘no’? Surely, we are not the only people who love God. Jesus loves everybody does He not?”

We respond, “Yes. Jesus loves people.” We need to be careful: we have been praying for years at IHOP–KC for unity, and suddenly unity is coming. Some might be deceived thinking, “What if the Lord is bringing unity in a way that is surprising us?” Beloved, we must remember that He is not going to violate His own Bible. Anyway, I will just end with this: there is only one way of salvation. It is not an issue at all that we are better than other people. It is an issue of justice. When I talk to other people, they say, “There is only one way.”

I say, “Absolutely. Only one way—through Jesus. There is no other possible way.”

They say, “Well, that is awfully bigoted. No, it is not bigoted—it is an issue of justice.”

I say, “What world leader lived perfectly, deserved heaven, and then a perfectly innocent person assumed the role of being guilty, and paid your price? Salvation is an issue of justice. Mohammed did not live perfectly, or innocently his entire life, and then pay the price under the

judgment of God for the innocent to be set free. We need Jesus so we can freely receive the gift of righteousness.” It is about justice; now, it is about those who are better than somebody. Well, these religious followers are better than those religious followers. It is about a man in the court of God who lived perfectly and who paid the price. That is the issue. That is why there is only one way because there is only one way for justice to be satisfied at God’s throne.

Amen, let’s stand.