

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

BABYLON THE GREAT HARLOT

Chapter 17:1-18

Chapters 17 and 18 form another parenthesis. They are expositions of two verses previously discussed. *Chapter 17* explains *Revelation 14:8* and *Chapter 18* expounds *Revelation 16:19*. In *Revelation 14:8* we read, *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.*

Likewise, in *Chapter 16*, just concluded, we learned that *great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath (Revelation 16:19)*. As we have already discussed, the Babylon of *Chapter 14* is a religious system, whereas the Babylon of *Chapter 16* is political. The chapter before us, then, is the story of the rise and fall of the ecumenical world church, while *Chapter 18* describes the destruction of a political system. Let's begin our investigation of *Chapter 17* and discuss its prophetic implications, historically.

I. COMPLETE AND FINAL JUDGMENT OF THE GREAT WHORE AND HER LOVERS.

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

- A. Here we see one of the seven angels who administered one of the seven judgments speaking to the disciple, John, inviting him to view the judgment of the great harlot who *sitteth upon many waters*.
- B. This phrase, *many waters*, speaks of religious control over humanity, internationally. Proof? *Verse 15: The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.*

Verse 2: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

- C. Here we discover that this worldwide religious system holds both earth's leaders and people within its grasp.
 - 1. The fornication committed is between these worldly leaders and the church.
 - 2. Remember that fornication, spiritually speaking, has to do with idolatry, including all its evil connotations and associations.
- D. Spiritual fornication also has to do with Christianity embracing the world—leaping out of Christ's arms into those of another lover.
 - 1. God's Word instructs true Christians to be separated from the world (see *Romans 12:2*), specifically cautioning them not to fall in love with the world or anything that it contains (see *1 John 2:15*).

2. Those who disregard these commands are spiritual adulterers or fornicators. That's why **James 4:4** declares, *Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.* Harlotry and whoredom, then, speak of idolatry and worldliness.
- E. During the Tribulation hour, a vast international religious system (*the great whore of Verse 1*) creates impure alignments with kings, rulers, and presidents in an unprecedented way.
 1. Her control is so overwhelming that humanity becomes mentally stupefied
 2. Men are hypnotically drugged as they are made drunk with the intoxicating brew of these religious/political alliances.
- F. The fall of Babylon was announced in **Revelation Chapter 14**.
 1. Under the seventh vial the judgment of that guilty system takes place. The events in **Revelation 14:18** through the remainder of the chapter take place after the pouring out of the seventh vial.
 2. This is an important help in proper understanding of the various parts and visions of the book.
- G. The character of Babylon, her relationship to the Beast and to the kings of the earth in general, together with details of her judgment are then unfolded in the two following chapters (**Revelation 17 & 18**).
 1. The subject of Babylon is of great importance and plays a prominent part in Revelation.
 2. To understand the identity of Babylon we will adhere strictly to the Word of God, and pay no attention to what we have heard by way of man.

II. THE SECOND WOMAN IN THE WILDERNESS—NOT THE FIRST!

Verse 3: *So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.*

- A. At this point John, guided by the Holy Spirit, observes the *woman* (or worldly church) *sitting upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.*
 1. We first saw this beast in **Revelation 13:1** ^{1}*I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns.*
 2. We immediately recognize him to be the Antichrist, who came to power through a confederation of western nations pictured by the ten horns and ten toes discussed previously.
- B. The only difference between the present text and **Revelation 13:1** is that the beast is now described as being scarlet coloured.

1. Most commentators believe this reflects his bloody assault upon the world as he rises to power.
 2. He begins his reign with a fake peace pact (see **Daniel 9:27**) which he later breaks! As a result, millions are slaughtered during his rule.
 3. Now he bears the blood–red color of an executioner.
- C. The two Women, the first, if you recall was a significant part of our study in **Revelation 12**. In a review (**Revelation 12:1; 12:4; 12:6-9; 12:13-17**) we discover a correlation between “*The First Woman*” of **Chapter 12** and “*The Second Woman*” that we are now studying. That correlation is significant since both women are described similarly as arriving in the wilderness. They are set, one against the other, as opposites and rivals.
1. Antichrist corresponds to Christ as a rival and antagonist of Christ.
 2. Great Babylon, “*The Second Woman*” corresponds to the “*First Woman*” that bears the Man-child, as *her* rival and antagonist. (Further discussion can be found at the end of this chapter)

III. THE NAME CONNECTS WITH APOSTASY— PAST AND PRESENT

Verse 4: *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:*

- A. As this world church on earth is described, please keep in mind that the true Church—the bride of Christ—is in heaven (remember **Revelation 4:1**).
1. The true Bride of Christ were raptured from all nations and from many denominations. In fact, their song was recorded in **Revelation 5:9** *Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.*
 2. The lyrics clearly prove that they trusted in the precious blood of Jesus for salvation. There is no other way! Note (**1 Peter 1:18-19** “^{18}*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; ^{19}But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: ...*”)
 3. Cain rejected the blood and tried to appease God with a vegetable offering (see **Genesis 4:3**), but God said, *It is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul (Leviticus 17:11)*.
 4. One cannot get to heaven by following *the commandments of men (Matthew 15:9)*, observing tradition (see **Mark 7:9**), or as a result of works (see **Titus 3:5**).
 5. Thus, those who believed and obeyed God’s teachings concerning the blood of the Lamb are in heaven when the false church, the great whore that sitteth upon many waters, holds sway over the earth.

- B. This false religious system of the Tribulation hour is a complete union of the church and the world.
1. Its members are the leftovers from all denominations. They were either doctrinally or morally wrong. Knowing the word without knowing the Word (Jesus) note (**John 1:1 & 1:14**) is one of the devil's greatest feats of deception. Many will be found without on that day!
 2. One is as bad as the other. The doctrinally wrong are described in **2 Peter 2:1,3**: *But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction...whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.*
- C. The morally wrong are pictured in **Jude, verses 8-21**. Now we understand why theology and morality are so important!
1. When God says, *All have sinned (Romans 3:23)*, He means all.
 2. When He declares, *The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23)*, He means punishment.
 3. When He declares, *The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin (1 John 1:7)*, He means just that!
- D. There are no two ways about it! God says what He means—and means what He says.
1. If one rejects God's Word, he will end up among this Tribulation crowd of self-indoctrinated religionists in a world church destined for destruction.
 2. If one says he is a Christian but continues to live in sin, the result will be the same—even though his doctrinal theories may coincide with the true teachings of the Word.
 3. Disobedience to revealed truth, as well as incorrect doctrine, keeps one from the presence of God for all eternity. This is why **Titus 1:16** states: *They profess that they know God [lip service]; but in works [daily living] they deny [God], being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate [counterfeit].* One can surmise the following:
 - a. Both groups remain on earth when Jesus calls His genuine children home in the twinkling of an eye.
 - b. These leftovers from all denominations become members of the only religious body still in existence—the world church under the false prophet.
- E. Looking at **Verse 4** once again, we notice that the woman or mother of the united world church is clothed in materials *of purple and scarlet-colour*.
1. This signifies rulership, for imperial Rome bedecked its leaders in such fashionable elegance.

2. Strange, is it not, that ecclesiastical rulers have always desired temporal authority? They have sought to control the world as well as their parishioners.
 3. Constantine, who became Emperor of Rome in 312 A.D. and eventually head of the church, is a perfect example of this power struggle which has continued to the present hour. Shades of Nicolaitanism! Remember the church of Ephesus in **Chapter 2**.
- F. Question: Is such a goal scriptural? No! Jesus taught His disciples to pray, *Thy kingdom come (Matthew 6:10)*. When that great event takes place in **Revelation 19:16**, then and only then, is a theocracy—the government of God—established upon earth.
1. This position of leadership is reserved for the Lord Jesus Christ, and no mortal has any business taking His place.
 2. The throne belongs exclusively to the King of kings and Lord of lords.
- G. The colors and jewels of **Verse 4** picture a church composed of prelates or leaders elegantly dressed in purple and scarlet (the colors of the emperors from the time of Constantine).
1. They are also decked with gold and precious stones and pearls (a picture of wealth) and use idols in worship (pictured by the golden cup in the woman's hand). Where will the wealth come from? Think about it. Churches of today are hoarding millions upon millions of dollars in finances while missionaries struggle to make ends meet. When the true church is gone then it will be but just a matter of time when the tares that remain will make these funds available to the one-world church!
 2. The cup is full of Abominations and filthiness.

IV. NIMROD AND HIS INVENTIONS—THE WORLD'S INTOXICATION WITH THEM

Verse 5: *And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*

- A. In the front of this Woman's name a designation which carries us back to the commencement of the whole ill-condition of things in this present world.
1. Rome never was "Babylon" in the sense of being "mother of the harlots and the abominations of the earth."



2. Her place in the charting of time renders that impossible.
 - a. Just as impossible would be that some Sarah of today would be the mother of the patriarch Isaac, and so of the race of the Jewish race.
 - b. Neither was Babylon of Nebuchadnezzar's day "*the mother of the harlots and the abominations of the earth,*" for the same reason, it comes too late.
3. We must go further back, and much nearer to the landing of the Ark on Ararat, for such a beginning and motherhood.
 - a. When we search for it we find it, and find it under the very name which this mother of all harlots and abominations of the earth written on her forehead.
 - b. The book of *Genesis* chapters *Ten & Eleven* give us the answer.
4. After reading these chapters of national origins, we learn that *the beginning of the kingdom of Nimrod*, the grandson of Ham, was *Bab-el*, or BABYLON, in the land of Shinar.
 - a. During this time the inhabitants of the earth spoke one language, one speech, and they journeyed together from the east.
 - b. This implication is, that they came thither under the leadership of Nimrod, whose name means *a rebellious panther*, and that under him began that first great work of rebellion against God which brought the confusion of tongues, and inaugurated the original of all the subsequent harlotries and abominations of mankind.
 - c. Against the command and known intent of Almighty God, it was there undertaken to "*build a city and a tower whose top might reach unto heaven,*" and to make themselves a name that they might not be scattered abroad upon the face of the earth.
 - d. It appears that from the hunting and slaying of wild beasts, and with the armed forces grouped around him in that business, Nimrod betook himself to the subjugation and enslavement of men, compelling them into his service and daring schemes.
 - e. Nimrod "*began to be a mighty one in the earth,*" the organizer of an arbitrary imperialism over against the patriarchal order and the divine institutes.
5. Arab records tell us that he was the first king, and thus the beginner of all kingcraft and tyranny which have since so much oppressed the world.
 - a. It is said of him that he professed to have seen a golden crown in the sky, that he had one made like it, and that he put it on his own head.

- b. Nimrod thus claimed rule in the name and as the earthly impersonation fo the powers of the sky, either as Orion or the Sun.
 6. The Bible says that it was further arranged for the people to make for themselves “*a name*,”—*a Sem*, token, sign, banner, ensign, or mark of confederation, fellowship, and organized unity, as an undivided people, lest they should become dispersed over the earth into separate societies. (See: ***Jeremiah 13:11; 33:9; Ezekiel 39:13; Zepheniah 3:20***)
 - a. Against Jehovah God they had determined to hold together, and they wished to have a badge, standard, something by which they could be known, and in which they could all glory and rejoice as the center and crown of their unity.
 - b. That *Sem*, or *Sema*, was to be a mark of consolidated greatness, a loftiness and pride to them; that is, in the language of the time, a *Sema-Rama*. (Thus we have the name of the mythic *Semiramis*, the Dove–Goddess, which was the ensign of all the Assyrian princes, and which figures so largely as *Ashtaroth*, *Astarte*, the heavenly *Aphrodite*, and *Venus*.
 - c. *Semiramis* is said to have been the wife of Nimrod; so that the *Sem*, or token, of the Nimrodic confederation was probably the image of his wife, with a dove upon her head, with wings spread like the horns of the new moon.
 7. The symbol of such a name or confederation would naturally and almost necessarily take the place of a god, and become the holy mother, the great heavenly protectress, the giver of greatness and prosperity to those rallying under it.
 - a. Nimrod called his first and capital city *Bab-el*, which, in the language of the time, means *The Gate of God*.
 - b. Not the God of Noah and Shem, for the whole proceeding was a known and intended antagonism to the true God and His will and command.
- B. The mother church of defiance has daughters. Her offspring are :
 1. Groups who either rejected the true teachings of the founder of Christendom or
 2. Those who had a counterfeit experience with the Son of God.
- C. They went through the motions but were never truly converted.
 1. Among them are cultists, apostates, and unconverted professors of religion—including Baptists, Catholics, Lutherans, Pentecostals, Presbyterians, and those who were members of a host of denominations.
 2. They never really knew the Lord (see ***Matthew 7:21-23***). The fruit of daily living was spoiled.

- a. Now they are all united in one homogenized ecumenical monstrosity—the counterfeit church under the leadership of the false prophet.
- b. The true believers from many denominations are already on the glory side and were evacuated at the Rapture (*see Revelation 4:1*).

Friend, at the Judgment Day, no church—not even your church—will be the final standard of truth. Neither will tradition hold sway at the judgment bar of God. The only and absolute authority of truth, faith, and religious practice is God’s Holy Word (*see 2 Timothy 3:16*)! This is why the Lord Jesus himself said in **Mark 7:7 and 13**, *Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered.*

- D. The cup held out is Golden! To the sensual and carnal heart and imagination the world’s religion and progress is something bright and glorious, the glittering fulness of good and blessing. But in that shining cup is only abomination and uncleanness—spiritual prostitution— nothing but spiritual prostitution.
 1. The cup is one; and in all the varied systems of false faith and false worship which taint our world there is “*held out and received*” but it is one and the same essence, and that essence is the harlotry of old **Babylon**.
 - a. It is most direct in Paganism.
 - b. It is in Mohammedanism.
 - c. It is in Papalism.
 - d. It is present in the degenerate Catholicism of Eastern churches.
 - e. It is found in all the heretical isms, infidelities, and mere “GOODISHNESSES” which afflict our present-day Christian faith of today as well.
 2. So true is it that Great Babylon, the mother of the harlots and of the abominations of the earth, that made the inhabitants of the earth drunk with the wine of her fornication.

V. THE WOMAN, THE HARLOT IS ALSO HERSELF DRUNKEN— “DRUNKEN ON THE BLOOD OF SAINTS, AND FROM THE BLOOD OF THE MARTYRS OR WITNESSES OF JESUS.”

Verse 6: And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

As John watches all the cunning antics of persecution this woman used and uses, *he* [wonders] *with great admiration*. This does not mean he admires the one who has so mercilessly destroyed so many. Instead, the original Greek is that John “*wonders with a great wonder*.” He is mystified, shocked, appalled.

The explanation will be seen in the next verse. Before we go there we need to understand some important facts.

- A. This woman of **Revelation 17** has turned the hearts of kings and king’s subjects to gods other than Jehovah God and Christ Jesus. She is the mother of every “**ISM**” and false religion that has been born.
 - 1. This is true of every church, religion, and cult that does not give Jesus Christ and His word pre-eminence in every detail of worship. This scarlet-clad female is “*The mother of harlots and abominations of earth*.” That dates back a long way.
 - a. She conceived and gave birth to the first spiritual adulterer.
 - b. She is the mother of them all, just as Israel (nationally speaking) is the mother of our Lord and Saviour.
 - 2. I can’t emphasize enough, lest we forget, this Woman is of Babylon. Remember that the word Babylon comes from the word Babel – the dwelling place of Nimrod who attempted to bypass God in getting to heaven.
 - a. The tower of Babel was constructed and God destroyed it and scattered the people and confounded the languages. – (**Jeremiah 13:11; Ezekiel 39:13; and Zephaniah 3:20**)
 - b. Nimrod began idol worship which continues to our day.
- B. Many use the Rome and Babylon as if they can be interchanged but the truth of the matter is that Babylon precedes Rome and yet it is undeniable that Rome took up the cause of false worship as did many other nations that were founded after God confused them with differing tongues. Babylon means simply “false worship” or “idol worship”—simply put, men engage in spiritual harlotry and God will deliver judgment and destruction to all who follow on in the steps of Nimrod.

The explanation to **Verse 6** begins in the next verse.

VI. THE LAST FORM OF GENTILE WORLD POWER!

Verse 7: And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

A. We found the following to be true of the scarlet woman:

1. She was marked by harlotry.
2. She was the mother of harlots and abominations.
3. She was born under Nimrod and ancient Babylon.
4. She made earth drunk with the wine of her fornication.

B. Now, in *Verse 6*, the woman is also drunk... drunk on blood! Drunken from the blood of saints and martyrs... witnesses of Jesus Christ.

C. This woman is not just pagan Rome alone. Millions of saints died a martyr's death before the days of pagan and political Rome. Rome is included, to be sure, but much more than Rome is included. Wherever believers suffer for their faith - many times even unto death - there the harlot of *Revelation 17* is still living and operating against Jehovah God, whether it be pagan Rome, or among Jews, Catholics, Muhammadans... or a score of others too numerous to mention.

D. This mother of harlots is sitting upon many waters... "*the waters are people, and multitudes, and tongues, and nations.*" The teachings of this woman are universal. You cannot find one tribe on earth today that does not have its religion and its gods. The woman was not only sitting upon many peoples - she was also riding upon a scarlet beast full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.



1. This is the same beast found in **Revelation 13**.
 2. The Beast is, as previously noted not just the ancient beastly Roman Empire alone. One understanding is important to note:
 - a. Rome was at its height when Jesus was born, and stood until 476 A. D.
 - b. In John's day it had been (Rome was born in 753 B. C.) and it was then existing.
 - c. Since 476 A. D. Rome has not been a world power; but it will come into power immediately after the Rapture.
- E. ROME will now reappear in all its great strength with its very heathenistic roots coming directly from NIMROD.(see the Addendum at the end of this chapter for greater detail)
1. It will be a ten-kingdom federation under the leadership of the Beast, and all the world will wonder at the giant kingdom.
 2. But finally, Rome will go into utter destruction under the hand of judgment by the Lamb of God.

VII. THE ANGEL CONTINUES TO UNFOLD THE MYSTERY OF THE BEAST

Verse 8: *The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.*

The angel continues unfolding the mystery of the beast in **Verses 8–17**. Then, in **Verse 18**, the identity of the woman is revealed. Concerning the beast, the angel declares, *The beast that thou sawest was* [past tense], *and is not* [present tense]; *and shall ascend* [future tense] *out of the bottomless pit*. This is the same beast found in **Verse 3** and also in **Revelation 13:1**. The reason the beast *was, and is not and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition* is that, as mentioned during our study of **Revelation 13:3**, he is more than likely assassinated during the Tribulation hour—and thus, *is not*. Then Satan, the great imitator, resurrects him and enters the body of this human for the final forty-two months of the Tribulation. This explanation fulfills the statement, *and yet is (verse 8)*. While he is deceased, the beast is in the place of departed evil spirits—the bottomless pit. At the time of his resurrection, he ascends out of this pit, only to eventually go back into perdition at the conclusion of his reign when Christ comes (at the Battle of Armageddon) and casts him into the *lake of fire (Revelation 19:20)*. **Verse 8** also tells us that those persons whose names [are] *not written in the book of life*, are emotionally stirred as they see the beast *that was* [alive], *and is not* [because of his assassination] *and yet is* [because of his resurrection] ruling again.

Verse 9: *And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.*

- A. This is a tremendous text. It locates, geographically, the final world power block and headquarters for the world church as well. This certainly pictures the seven-hilled city of Rome, here indicated as the center of the woman's almost universal authority and influence. Historically speaking, Rome is the only city situated on seven hills. The names of her seven peaks are
1. Aventine,
 2. Caelian,
 3. Capitoline,
 4. Esquiline,
 5. Palatine,
 6. Quirinal, and
 7. Viminal.
- B. There is no disputing the fact.
1. This certainly pictures the seven-hilled city of Rome, here indicated as the center of the woman's almost universal authority and influence.
 2. The world church, sitting on these seven hills, heading up scores of denominations, rides to power on the back of the ten-horned western federation of nations.

VIII. SEVEN KINGS, FIVE HAVE FALLEN—ONE NOW— ONE YET TO COME

Verse 10: *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.*

- A. As John receives this vision of the seven kings, five have already fallen. They were
1. Julius Caesar, Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, Nero.
 2. Domitian—is, at the time John receives this revelation, alive and on the throne.
 3. Antichrist, is yet to come. Antichrist will build his government through which he will work—Antichrist's government will be the final form of the revived "Roman Government." Alas, his reign will last briefly, or *a short space*.

IX. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE FINAL DESTRUCTION OF THE BEAST.

Verse 11: *And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.*

This verse is a thought-twister, but easily understood when one considers it carefully.

- A. Who is king number eight if there are only seven kings in the first place?
 - 1. Number eight is number seven resurrected! *And the beast that was* [before his assassination], *and is not* [because of his untimely death], *even he is* [because of his resurrection] *the eighth*.
 - 2. He is *of the seven* because Satan, who incarnated his body while dead, also motivated the other seven.
- B. As further proof that number eight is the resurrected Antichrist (number seven), we are again told that he will eventually go into perdition.
 - 1. This statement is also made concerning number seven in *Verse 8* as well as in our text—*Verse 11*.
 - 2. King number seven and king number eight are one and the same.

X. BEWARE OF THE TEN TOED POWER

Verses 12-13: ^{12}*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.* ^{13}*These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.*

- A. The ten horns have not become quite familiar to us.
 - 1. They may soon control the world.
 - 2. Communism, as we have learned, is not the final power block of history.
- B. This ten-toed western alliance is. The power of these nations, however, will be for one hour, or for but a brief moment of time.
 - 1. These ten horns refer to ten royal persons.
 - 2. The term “horn” signifies power (*Revelation 17:6*) and here refers to kings.
 - 3. There will be ten kingdoms and ten kings who receive authority “*one hour with the Beast.*”
 - 4. This signifies that they all receive power at the same time.
 - 5. They will exist together.
- C. It does not mean that they will reign for only sixty minutes; but during the course of one hour the ten-kingdom federation is set up, is fully united and agreed.
 - 1. When the Beast reappears on the scene of action he will appear in a ten-kingdom federation.
 - 2. These ten kings will be no more than puppets, completely controlled by the Beast.

- D. We see much of this going on in the world today, in Russia currently without communism, they will return to their own ways (just as the “*dog eats his own vomit,*”), China, North Korea, and the places where communism is in power.
 - 1. All of this is the spirit which is a forerunner of the man of sin.
 - 2. Antichrist, the last world dictator.
- E. The final ten-nation western federation—after the Antichrist ousts three of the original members and replaces them—becomes so unified that everything they possess, economically and militarily, is placed under the control of this world leader (see ***Daniel 7:8,24***)

XI. THE WAR TO END ALL WARS

Verse 14: *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.*

- A. This verse is fulfilled in ***Revelation 19:11-16***, when the world’s armies gather together against the Lord and His anointed as pictured in ***Psalms 2:2:*** *The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed.*
- B. The Lamb (Christ) is the *Lord of lords, and King of kings*. The called, chosen, and faithful who accompany Him are the armies of heaven ***Revelation 19:14*** composed of the believers (the true Church) who were raptured out of the world in ***Revelation 4:1***, and who then waited in heaven seven years to return with the Bridegroom.

There will be other companies of saved persons in Heaven besides the church (***Hebrews 12:23***), and when Jesus appears in the sky riding a great white horse, the whole body of heavenly saints will accompany their Lord.

- 1. The armies will descend to crush earth’s ungodly hordes of the enemies of the Lamb of God
- 2. The outcome is revealed. Complete victory is guaranteed before the battle ever begins.

XII. THE WHORE—BABYLON—RICHLY ADORNED—SITS UPON MASSES

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

Get this picture in your mind! Houses of worship, the “*One World Church*” all around the world have for their covering, Babylon the Great. They are greatly adorned with the wealth of the world.

- A. As explained in our discussion of ***Verse 1***, the woman sitting upon many waters is the world church who exercises religious control over mankind internationally. She sits on a throne, demonstrating greatness, richly adorned with the glories of the world, but without the affections of her deluded followers.

- B. This one advertises herself as the true church, and through her favors and smiles she leads millions into everlasting ruin and destruction, which was her aim in the beginning.

XIII. TROUBLE IN THE WORLD-WIDE CHURCH

Verses 16 & 17: ^{16}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. ^{17}For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

- A. The Antichrist eventually betrays his religious followers.
 - 1. They bowed and scraped to his image, but now he no longer wants to share the limelight and glory with them.
 - 2. The individual leaders of the countries in the ten-nation confederacy turn against the world church.
 - 3. They hate her, strip her of all possessions (the gold, precious stones, and pearls of *Verse 4*), and destroy her by burning her remains to the ground.
- B. Who places such a plan of action in the hearts of these rulers? None other than God Almighty!
 - 1. Imagine, God does it all! This portion of Scripture emphasizes the futility of politics.
 - 2. Despite the methods and manipulations of man, God's plan always comes to pass. He sets up and knocks down world rulers at will (see *Psalm 75:7*). They are but pawns in the game of life (see *Proverbs 21:1*).
 - 3. God's will prevails regardless of what humans attempt to do.
 - a. Christian, get souls saved!
 - b. This is your God-given goal.
 - c. Let the world spend time on temporal issues. The cause of Christ is eternal!
- C. Her enemies will "eat her flesh."
 - 1. The abundance of her wealth, her riches, all that she gloried in, will be devoured by her late admirers who have now become her bitterest enemies. (*Micah 3:2-3*).
 - 2. The harlot will be burned with fire. This denotes social and political ruin.
- D. The powers that will destroy Babylon pour out their vengeance and fury on the guilty system under which they have so long been enslaved.
 - 1. Here the veil is pushed back. We learn that regardless of what these powers thought they were doing, God's divine will was being worked out.
 - 2. God decreed the destruction of the worst system ever to exist upon the face of the earth, and the Beast and his puppets are God's instruments in destroying His greatest enemy.

XIV. ROME! THE SEAT, THE CENTER OF THE WOMAN'S AUTHORITY

Verse 18: And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

- A. *Verse 18* clearly points out the city where all these horrible things will originate - the city from which they will spread to the ends of the earth.
- B. The place from which final judgment will be poured out and multitudes will be destroyed when the Lamb of God leads the armies of Heaven against the earth's ungodly reprobates.

This great end-time city is located within the Common Market nations and proves that the political and religious power brokers exist together simultaneously. Since the world church forms at the time when ten western nations unite—and both the European Economic Community and World Council of Churches began unity proceedings in 1948—Christ's coming must be near.

How long, O Lord, ere we shout that glad song,

“Christ Returneth, Hallelujah!”

Yes, “Hallelujah!” Amen!

Next, CHAPTER EIGHTEEN, The Fall of Babylon; The Earth Weeps, Heaven Rejoices!

ADDENDUM

to

Chapter 17

Before we move on to Chapter Eighteen I wanted to expound on a couple of topics without taking away from the main outline.

I'm not sure if I've made it clear thus far how much of an effort has been made by the devil down through the ages since his decision to rebel against God the Father to be what and who he isn't. God the creator of all that is and the Father of His children [Israel, the Church and the Saints]. Because Lucifer was created he had a beginning and his creator, God the Father is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End and has no beginning.

Although he is a powerful being he is powerless against God. Lucifer was created to serve the Father. You and I were created by God and it is His intention that we become his covenant family. Note John's dissertation on the spiritual genealogical journey in **John 1:1-13** with emphasis on verse twelve, "... *as many as received him, [Jesus] to them gave he power [authority, legally adopted] to become the sons [children, family] of God...*" (**John 1:12**). As John gives instruction on the divinity and incarnation of Jesus Christ he provides a powerful case on how the church, comprised of people of all races, not just the Jew, is the continuation of the seed of Abraham through the signing of the adoption papers with the blood of Christ. Paul explained it concisely in **Romans 1:16** when he stated that the gospel of Christ is the "... *power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*"

Suffice it to say in this limited amount of space that the devil can never be God and he can never be the child of God. What follows is a broad stroke of the brush to give a broad background on this matter of man's evil imagination, spiritual darkness, conceit that is bloated with worldly wisdom. Men who follow after the way of the world have always been referred to as fools. (**Romans 1:16-25**)

Lucifer was known as the angel of light. He has been referred to on occasion as the morning light. He was an angel of the highest order, an arch-angel. We have never been privy to the knowledge of God as to when He created the angels and we have a small amount of knowledge regarding them contained in the scriptures. What we can come to understand is that at some point after God had created man the devil became gorged with jealousy. Writings through the ages that have not stood the test of canonization hint that upon the Lord giving man charge over creation and that Lucifer along with a host of other angels were to serve the needs of man is when a great battle raged in heaven at which time Michael leading the armies of God thwarted Lucifer's attempt to overthrow the Lord and establish himself as ruler over all, especially lowly man. Sometime after his bitter defeat Lucifer beguiled Eve with temptation and lies at which time both Adam and Eve committed that damnable original sin that began the utter destruction of God's perfect creation.

It seemed that Lucifer, now known as Satan had won but he had only won a battle not the war. Had all been destroyed? No. When sin entered into the picture the heart, soul and spirit of man changed. The curse of death entered. His physical appearance changed as well. No longer was he in the image of his Heavenly Father who had created him but now he was the shadow of what he once was, he was more like his new master the devil. The goings and coming of man changed. He was driven out of the garden. His daily walk with God had ended. Now he was alone left to his own vices but remember one thing God had not abandoned man. He awaited man's response, his repentance. Only time would bring the answers to the books of history that God already knew.

From that event in the garden one has to look across the annals of time to see that it didn't fare well for man. From the garden to the flood of Noah the Bible records important records dealing with the bloodline of Christ. There were men who walk with God but for the most part man continued to live apart from God. That spirit of independence and self-reliance that brings defiance should have seen it's end when the flood came but alas it didn't.

From the beginning until now God had always had a remnant, those who represented Him upon this earth. Usually referred to as "*the Sons of God*" and can be traced as far back as Abel who was murdered by his brother Cain who was, for a lack of a better term, the fleshly creature of the devil. Later in the scriptures in **Genesis 4:25-26** we learn that Eve said about here next son after Cain and Able, Seth—"*For God, said she, hath appointed me another see instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.*" And then the next verse shows us about Seth's son, "*Then began men to call upon the name of the Lord.*" I take it that Seth was righteous like Abel whose place he took, and that it was through Seth and his descendants that "*then began men to call upon the name of the Lord.*"

Also, we read through Genesis, Chapter Five, we find that the godly men, including Enoch who walked with God and was translated, and Noah, were descendants of Seth. So we take it these were godly, righteous people. Also, throughout the Bible and Christian literature, saved people are called "sons of God," or "children of God," so we would suppose that he descendants of Seth here are Godly people, like those name in Chapter Five, and were called the "sons of God." On the other hand, back to Cain. Cain was a wicked man, and although his descendants are named in Chapter Four, nothing is said about any of them serving the Lord. So they are not sons of God but were natural, fleshly sons of men; and so good Bible students are pretty well agreed that here the "sons of God" refers to the line of Seth, and the "daughters of men" refer to those natural, unconverted women that the sons of God married and led the world into backsliding and sin. So how did this fleshmongering cross over the great flood? It had to be through one of the wives of Noah's sons, the grandmother of Nimrod.

So now we arrive on the other side of the flood where we see the descendants of Noah which brings us to the obscure life of Nimrod, Noah's great grandson who is known as a great hunter, a cunning hunter, his name literally means *a rebellious panther*. Under Nimrod began that first great work of rebellion against God which brought the confusion of tongues, and inaugurated the original of all the subsequent harlotries and abominations of mankind. Against the command and known intent of the Almighty Father, it was there undertaken to "*build a city and a tower whose top might reach unto heaven,*" and to make themselves a name that they might not be scattered abroad upon the face of the earth. It appears, also that from the hunting and slaying of wild beasts, and with the armed forces grouped around him in that business, Nimrod betook himself to the subjugation and enslavement of men, compelling them into his service and daring schemes. Thus he "*began to be a mighty one in the earth, the organizer of an arbitrary imperialism over against the patriarchal order and the divine institutes of God.*" The Arab recored tell us that he was the first king, and thus the beginner of all kingcraft and tyranny which have since so much oppressed the world. It is said of him that he professed to have seen a golden crown in the sky, that he had one made like it, and that he put it on his own head, and thus claimed to rule in the name and as the early impersonation of the powers of the sky, either as Orion or the Sun.

The Bible says that Nimrod was *a mighty hunter before the Lord*. The Targum of Jonathan interprets this to mean that the was *a mighty rebel before the Lord, the mightiest rebel before the Lord that ever was in the earth*. The Jerusalem Targum reads it that he was *mighty in sin* before the Lord, a hunter

of the sons of men, exhorting them to leave the judgments of Shem and adhere to the judgments of Nimrod. Hence it was the proverb concerning every notorious adventurer in wickedness and oppression, As the mighty Nimrod in rebellion and sin before God. Jarchi accordingly understands the record to be, that Nimrod was a most brazen offender, who did not fear or hesitate to withstand God to his very face. And every intimation concerning him shows that he was the Heaven-defying founder of a new system of rule and worship, instituting a government by brute force and the earthly wisdom and policy, and a religion which quite abolished the true God, and set men to the adoration of the sun, moon, and stars, impersonated in himself, wife, relatives, and chief consociates, and represented in the idol standards of his kingdom.

It is a mistake to suppose that idolatry was a gradual growth of well-disposed but unenlightened human thinking. Its rise was sudden. It was conceived in intentional rebellion. It was the invention of a proud and tyrannous ambition at war with Jehovah's commands. It was brought into being to counteract the will and worship of the true and known God. It was the creature and handmaid of power for the deification of "*the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life*" in the place of the Creator. And it originated with old Babylon, and Babylon's first king, the great rebel Nimrod, the very *Bar-Chus* (son of Cush), or *Bacchus*, who figures among the Greek and Roman gods as the great overflowing, enlivening, healing, and directing power. It is also a fact that all the Pagan mythologies and idolatrous devotions the world over, whatever their diversities, show a oneness of character, and an underlying likeness which proves that they are from one original source, and but modifications of one and the same primal invention, traceable to old Babylon and the Nimrodic plan to defeat the purpose of the God of Noah. The original design was thwarted by the confusion of tongues. The seeds of the fascinating invention went with the dispersion, planting themselves in every new settlement, and growing ever fresh crops as the streams of humanity ran on amid the centuries, but ever producing the likeness of the original mother. Whatever changes or additions came, it still was old Babylon, which ever abides potent through all the ages, and known to the judgment angels as "*Babylon the great, the mother of the harlots and the abominations of the earth.*" Just as God the father has had a contingent upon the earth from the beginning so had the devil.

The influence of what I simply call Nimrodism (Babylon's influence), the union with the harlot (religion and politics unite), the two women should never be confused as being one in the same. We must come to understand how hard Satan has tried from time immortal to replicate and replace God, to be as He is and yet that can never be. But the devil has never once stopped or taken pause from that endeavour and he will continue to try right unto the very end and we must be careful for many will be deceived! These matters will continue to be a part of the study and you will find it necessary to be able to know as much as is possible in the short time we have allotted.

"Babylon the Great Harlot"

The subject of "***Great Babylon***" has already been mentioned in ***Revelation 14:8 & Revelation 16:19***. Her sins were said to have come into remembrance, and the cup of the fierceness of the wrath of God to have been administered to her. Here ***Chapter 17*** brings us greater detail regarding her character and relations with those who still dwell during these later years of the tribulation. The first reference was somewhat anticipative, so these further accounts tend to go back to expose in great detail the length and breadth what was merely mentioned previously.

The subject itself [***Babylon the Great***] is of great prominence in the Apocalypse, as in all the

prophecies; but it has proven about as difficult as it is obvious to many translations we see today. Many expositors have found themselves grasping at straws with their identifications. Some argue that *Great Babylon* refers to the city, others the church, some argue for the ecclesiastical system of Rome. We must admit at this point that Rome must be included in the definition given but here is where many go astray. Many expositors state: "The fall of Great Babylon is simply the fall of Rome/Romanism, or the utter destruction of the city of Rome," and at this point I must disagree if the Word of God is to stand as it is written. I would invite each of my readers to unite with me in praying for God to open our understandings, that we may not fail to take in what He really intends that His people should see in these sacred visions.

"The Two Women of Chapters Twelve & Seventeen"

Be Not Deceived!

The first thing which strikes me in the study of this subject, is one which I have nowhere seen duly noticed, namely: the evident correlation and contrast between the Woman here pictured and another Woman described in *Revelation 12*. There, "*a great sign was seen in the heaven, a Woman;*" here, it is remarked, "*he bore me away in spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a Woman.*" Both these Women are mothers; the first "*brought forth a son, a male, who is to rule all the nations;*" the second "*is the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth.*" Both are splendidly dressed; the first is "*clothed with the sun.*" Her raiment is light from heaven. The second is "*clothed in purple, and scarlet, decked with gold, and precious stone, and pearls.*" All her ornaments are from below, made up of things out of the earth and the sea. Both are very influential in their position; the first has "*the moon,*" the empress of night, the powers of darkness, "*under her feet;*" the second "*hath rule, or kingdom upon the kings of the earth.*" Both are sufferers; against the first is the Dragon, who stands watching to devour her child, and persecutes and pursues her, and drives her into the wilderness, and sends out a river to overwhelm her, and is at war with all her seed that he can find; against the second are the ten kings, who ultimately hate her, and make her desolate and naked, and eat her flesh, and burn her with fire, whilst God in His strength judgeth her, and visits her with plague, death, and utter destruction. Both are very conspicuous, and fill a large space in the history of the world, and in all the workings of divine providence and judgment. That they are counterparts of each other there can hardly be a reasonable doubt. The one is a pure woman, the other a harlot. The first is hated by the powers on earth, the second is loved, flattered, and caressed by them. Where the one has sway, things are heavenly; where the other lives, it is "*wilderness.*" The one produces masculine nobility, which is ultimately caught away to God and to His throne; the other produces effeminate impurity, which calls down the fierceness of the divine wrath. The one is sustained and helped by celestial wings; the other is supported and carried by the Dragon power,—the Beast with the seven heads and ten horns. The one has a crown of twelve stars, wearing the patriarchs and apostles as her royal diadem; the other has upon her forehead the name of the greatest destroyer and oppressor of the holy people, and is drunken with "*the blood of the prophets and of saints, and of all that have been slain upon the earth.*" The one finally comes out in a heavenly city, the New Jerusalem, made up of imperishable jewels, and arrayed in all the glory of God and the Lamb; the other finally comes out in a city of the world's superlative admiration, which suddenly goes down forever under the intense wrath of Heaven, and becomes the habitation of demons, and a hold of every unclean spirit.

The two Women, thus related, and set over one against the other as opposites and rivals, must necessarily be interpreted in the same way. As Antichrist corresponds to Christ as a rival and

antagonist of Christ, so Great Babylon corresponds to the Woman that bears the Man-child, as *her* rival and antagonist.

By recalling, therefore, who and what is meant by the first Woman, we can be in position to understand who and what is meant by the second.

Beyond question, the sun-clad Woman is God's symbol of the visible Church—the Lamb's Wife—the bone of His bone, and flesh of His flesh, fashioned out of His rifted side as the Second Adam, who fell into the deep sleep of death for that purpose. As Methodius taught, "*The woman seen in heaven, clothes with the sun, and adorned with a crown of twelve stars, is in the highest and strictest sense, our Mother* [**note: John 1:12** "*But as many as received him, to them gave he power [not DYNAMOS as is found in Acts 1:8, but AUTHORITY in the original language*], to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*" [(*)The word in verse twelve is a legal term signifying adoption into the family, and according to Jewish law laid down by Jehovah, the natural born son can be disowned but one (*Christian*) who is adopted and is identified by the fact that they were chosen and therefore can never be disowned by the adopting family, **Praise God!**] The prophets, considering what is spoken of her, call her Jerusalem, at other times The Bride, the Mount Sion, the Temple and Tabernacle of God." She is not the church of any one period or dispensation, but the entire Universal Church of all time, as Victorinus, the earliest commentator on this Apocalyptic Book, we now study, held and affirmed, saying: "*The Woman clothes with the sun, having the moon under her feet, is the Church of the Patriarchs, and of the Prophets, and of the holy Apostles*" (**note: Hebrews 11**)—but let us also consider another church from the days of Adam and Eve on to the last victory over the worship, name and mark, of the final Antichrist. This rival Woman is the organized Anti-church, the pseudo-church, the Bride made out of Satan, the universal body and congregation of false-believers and false-worshippers. As Christ has had a visible Church in all time, embodying the wisdom and spirit of heaven, and maintaining the confession of His truth and worship, so the second Woman denotes the other. (A study of the prophecies or parables of Christ will help determine these facts as Christ gave them as part of his earthly ministry as the great rabbi, teacher!)

Nimrod, Babel, Nimrod! & This Second Woman

In our discussion regarding Nimrod on Page 238

The judgment of God Almighty brought against *Babel* is made significant in that great *confusion* (**Genesis 11:9**), and in the original application of the name *Babel* in reality means *The Gate of God*.

Thus, in the very name of the place, we have the insight of scripture and proof that these works of Nimrod were not only the organization of a new and oppressive style of government, but with it, as an essential part of it, the inauguration of a new and idolatrous religion, the parent apostasy of the post-deluvian world.

The Bible says that Nimrod was *a mighty hunter before the Lord*. Stop! Before you go any further, this is not a complimentary statement about Nimrod. The Jerusalem Targum reads it that he was *a mighty rebel before the Lord, the mightiest rebel before the Lord that ever was in the earth*.

The Jerusalem Targum reads it that he was *mighty in sin* before the Lord, a hunter of the sons of men, exhorting them to leave the judgments of Shem and adhere to the judgments of Nimrod. Hence it was the proverb concerning every notorious adventurer in wickedness and oppression, As the mighty Nimrod in rebellion and sin before God. Jarchi accordingly understands the record to be, that Nimrod was a most brazen offender, who did not fear or hesitate to withstand God to his

very face. And every mention of him shows that he was the Heaven-defying founder of a new system of rule and worship, instituting a government by brute force and earthly wisdom and policy, and a religion which quite abolished the true God, and set men to the adoration of the sun, moon, and the stars, impersonated in himself, wife, relatives, and chief consociates, and represented in the idol standards of his kingdom.

It would be a grave mistake to think that idolatry was a gradual growth of well-disposed but unenlightened human thinking. It's rise was sudden. It was conceived in intentional rebellion. It was the invention of a proud and tyrannous ambition at war with Jehovah's commands. It was brought into being to counteract the will and worship of the true and known God. It was the creature and handmaid of power for the deification of "*the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life,*" in the place of the Creator. And it originated with old Babylon, and Babylon's first king, the great rebel Nimrod, that very *Bar-Chus* (son of Cush), or *Bacchus*, who figures among the Greek and Roman gods as the great overflowing, enlivening, healing, and directing power. It is also a fact that all the Pagan mythologies and idolatrous devotions the world over, whatever their diversities, show a oneness of character, and an underlying likeness which proves that they are from one original source, and but modifications of one and the same primal invention, traceable to old Babylon and the Nimrodic plan to defeat the purposes of the God of Noah. The original design was thwarted by the confusion of tongues. Contrary to their oaths to the Dove-goddess of their standards, the people were obliged to disperse and leave off the building of their tower. But the charming novelties Nimrod taught them were not lost. The seeds of the fascinating invention went with the dispersion, planting themselves in every new settlement, and growing ever fresh crops as the streams of humanity ran on amid the centuries, but ever reproducing the likeness of the original mother. Whatever changes or additions came, it still was old Babylon, which ever abides, potent through all the ages, and known to the judgments angels as "*Babylon the great, the mother of the harlots and of the abominations of the earth.*"

It is to be further understood that this "**Woman**" that "*the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk from the wine of fornication.*" This is not true of Rome, Pagan or Papal; for before and beyond either, the earth had a hundredfold more inhabitants untouched and uninfluenced by one or the other than ever were under the tutorage of both of them together. In other words, to talk of "*the Roman earth*" in such a description is worse than impertinence. "*The inhabitants of the earth*" are "*the inhabitants of the earth,* and the people of the generations before Rome, and where Rome has never reached, as well as under Rome. The wine of old Babylon's fornications was a debauching system of idol worship and carnal self-exaltation, over against the revelations and institutes of Jehovah. It was already bottled and labeled before the first dispersion. It went with that dispersion into every country and nation under heaven. As matter of fact, we find it to this day among all the nations of the earth, affecting if not controlling their thinking, their policies, their faith, and their worship. Not less than two-thirds of the population of the earth at this hour are Pagan idolaters, drivelling under the same old intoxication which came forth from Nimrod and Babylon; while the great body of the other third is either Mohammendan, Catholic, Jewish, infidel, or adherents of some tainted and antichristian faith and worship. No, there is not a kingdom or government on the face of the whole earth at this hour which does not embody and exhibit more of the spirit and rebellion of Nimrod, than of the spirit, commandments, and persuasions of God through Christ's death at Calvary. All the kings of the earth and all the governments under heaven have more or less joined in the uncleanness and fornication of that same old Babylonian Harlot, who has defiled every spot and nook of the whole of the inhabited earth, notwithstanding that God from the beginning set the

seal of His wrath upon it. The Jewish whoredoms, and the Papal whoredoms, and the Mohammedan whoredoms, and the whoredoms of all perverted Christian religionists, though not entirely letting go the confession of the only living God, Jehovah, are still in essence the same old harlotry which first found place and embodiment on the banks of the Euphrates. It is the same old Babylon, and her harlot daughters, bearing rule or kingdom upon the dominions of the earth, and intoxicating the inhabitants thereof out of the wine of her fornication.

Down through the ages, this in-bred harlotry runs deep in the blood of man. Born into sin we all have a desire to run away from our Heavenly father, into the arms of perdition and the trend continues even today. So it is that this same theme of disobedience and defiance of God's teachings can be found in the church, God's church through the ages: True religion and an uncorrupted Church have never suited the representatives of power, or pleased them for very long. The Dragon's agencies are ill at ease without some form of Dragon worship. Only what will dignify, if not deify, lust and selfishness, is in accord with their spirit. They simply favour and honour their own when they favour and cherish the base Woman. Her gaudiness and pomp, her gaiety and ready compliances, her ennoblement of "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life," enamor them, and make them glad to bear her on their shoulders. It is a sad commentary on humanity, but it is the truth, that all the great world-powers, from first to last, are the paramours and props of the Harlot Woman, Government is indeed a thing of God, instituted for human good, necessary to man, and invested with rights from the eternal throne ; but Satan has ever known too well how to pervert it to his own base ends. And so the mountains of worldly power have ever served him as grand homes for his adulteress Bride.

What else remains of the story must wait for another occasion. God help us all to keep ourselves from idols !

I praise God that from the beginning the devil has been defeated. Genesis 3:15 is the first promise and prophecy concerning Christ which would come to be fulfilled.

You see in a little town in Bethlehem there would soon be signs of new construction, a virgin mother, a wooden cradle, a nurtured life, a wooden cross, three rusty nails and on Calvary's rugged God's mercy built a bridge. God made a way that could not fail and it will never fail. I have often wondered that when Mary kissed her little baby if she knew she was kissing the face of God. In Christ, God has come to redeem his children. We can rejoice when Babylon falls. The earth will cry in anguish but we in heaven will rejoice.