

The Characteristics of the City of Babylon

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*Revelations 18:2-3 He cried out in a strong voice, "She has fallen! She has fallen! **Babylon the Great!** She has become a home for demons, prison for every unclean spirit, prison for every unclean, hated bird. "For all the nations have drunk of the wine of God's fury caused by her whoring – yes, the kings of the earth went whoring with her, and from her unrestrained love of luxury the world's businessmen have grown rich."*

The Great City stands for many things. Prophecies are commonly like this. It is dangerous to say, "this vision stands for that, and only that". I believe Babylon stands for the System of the World. At the same time, Babylon was the "golden" kingdom according to Daniel. And more important than that, it was the military power that took Israel (the people) out of their country and detained them in captivity for 70 years. So Babylon is an abode of slavery. The first abode of slavery was Egypt, from whence we have pyramids.

It is of utmost importance that we understand what Babylon is in our day, for her end is destruction, and all those within her meet the same fate.

Babylon actually begins in Revelations 17. She appears as a prostitute. Now, for those schooled in prophetic messages, it is known that a prostitute is how God designates his people who have gone astray after fallacious gods. At the end, the beast (a civil government) will destroy her. But the main point is that Babylon is a loose bride pretending to belong to Christ. See also the false synagogues in Revelations 2:9. Our attention should not fail to notice that the faithful Community in Smyrna considers itself poor, whereas the fake, Babylon the business center, considers itself rich!

The religious harlot exists. It is not some obscure insignificant organization. Otherwise it would not have had importance in the scriptures. It is big, everywhere, readily accepted, but still remains unnoticed. The vast majority of those who are followers of it are not aware.

So God's people are in a World Slavery System, driven by the mammon motive (verse 3), but packaged as if it were God's Temple. Jesus said Himself, one can either serve God or Mammon. It only stands to reason that the Devil would create such a system in the Elects' own back yard. Some may be repulsed by the characteristics in verse 2 concerning demons, unclean spirits and unclean, hated birds. However, one should not forget that the priests in the Original Covenant are known to have practiced demonic rituals. I have no reason to think that it should be different in our day.

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*Acts 20:30 I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you; and they won't spare the flock. **Even from among your own number**, men will arise and teach perversions of the truth, in order to drag away the disciples after themselves.*

The bottom line is that the devil is not going to knock on your door with horns on his head and wearing a red cape inviting you to the Great City. He will entice you in without your awareness.

Revelation 18:4-5 Then I heard another voice out of heaven say: "My people, come out of her! so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not be infected by her plagues, for her sins are a sticky mass piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.

There is a voice that is whispering to the hearts of those who hear, "come out of her". For others, the whispering becomes louder. There will come a time, in God's mercy, where a voice out of heaven will sound so loud such that even the most resisting can understand (Revelations 18:1). This proposition may be received as degrading, but this is what the situation boils down to. God is calling us out of the unfaithful bride - today. Some hear it, some don't.

5 virgins were taken, 5 were left. Those doing business with and in Babylon are those on the wrong side of this story.

A great hindrance to leaving Babylon is the lack of an alternative. But the alternative exists, if you make it happen. Waiting around for another to do it right may cost you many years, and likely your life. My encouragement is to study for yourself what the Church really is, its goals, system, structure and methods. Then find like minded individuals and meet once a week. I guarantee that you will grow more in a year than 20 years roaming the Egyptian sands building pyramids, or trading wares in Babylon.

Babylon as the Bogus Ecclesia

Revelations 17:1-2 Then came one of the angels with the seven bowls; and he said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great whore who is sitting by many waters. The kings of the earth went whoring with her, and the people living on earth have become drunk from the wine of her whoring."

Revelations 17:3-4 He carried me off in the Spirit to a desert, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast filled with blasphemous names and having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet and glittered with gold, precious stones and pearls. In her hand was a gold cup filled with the obscene and filthy things produced by her whoring.

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*Revelations 17:5-6 On her forehead was written a name with a hidden meaning, **BABYLON THE GREAT MOTHER OF WHORES AND OF THE EARTH'S OBSCENITIES**. I saw the woman drunk from the blood of God's people, that is, from the blood of the people who testify about Jesus. On seeing her, I was altogether astounded.*

These verses are listed only to mark the fact that the Great City is The Whore. A harlot in the prophetic context always refers to God's awry people. That God's people find themselves on the broad path should not surprise us. This has been the status quo since man began walking the earth. It will be like this till the very end.

In Revelations we notice that an Angel declares that His children should escape Babylon, and her sure judgment. This was God's very last directive to his "called out ones" (literal meaning of "Ecclesia"), who were ironically still "in". But who was the first to be called out of Babylon? For the answer, we must go to the beginning, or origins, or in other words, Genesis. Genesis 11 to be exact.

The Called Out One in Genesis

*Genesis 11:31 **Terah** took his son Abram, his son Haran's son Lot, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife; and they left Ur of the Chaldeans to go **to the land of Canaan**. But when they came to Haran, they stayed there.*

A man named Terah lived in the Babylonian Empire, which stretched along the Euphrates and Tigris river, flowing from the north west to the south east, ending in the Persian Gulf. Terah left Ur, located deep in the heart of the Babylonian Empire in the south east to head for Canaan. But he stopped in Haran. Haran is located in the very north west corner of what was the Babylonian Empire, which bordered the land of Canaan. So Terah, the almost father of faith, made the long journey the entire length of the Babylonian Empire, but stopped right at the border! A few more steps, and he would have been home free.

Genesis 11:27-28 Here is the genealogy of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nachor and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. Haran died before his father Terah in the land where he was born, in Ur of the Chaldeans.

Interestingly enough, Haran, the city of Terah's death, is also the name of one of his sons, the brother of Abram. Typical of that time period, a city would take the name of its founder, or the son of the founder in remembrance of him. It is reasonable that Terah elected to build a city on the border only to name it after his deceased son. Terah had no plans of leaving his home-made kingdom in order to reach the promised land. Terah could not let go of his family, even after Haran himself had passed away! Terah died in Babylon, only to be mentioned in passing in the Bible.

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Genesis 11:32 Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Haran.

Genesis 12:1 Now ADONAI said to Abram, "Get yourself out of your country, away from your kinsmen and away from your father's house, and go to the land that I will show you.

Abram, the son of Terah, eventually finished the trek out of Babylon, and therefore became the Father of Faith. It takes faith to leave Babylon, the nation of confusion (babel means confusion, or mixing up, in the sense of mistaking one thing for another). People who are confused have a difficult time cleaning their compass - and then when it points in the right direction, they still have difficulty following through.

As far as I can tell, every Believer is born into Babylon, or at least becomes a citizen at some point. This is the way things work, although I do not know why. And it is every Believer's call to make the trek out of Babylon, following the footsteps of the Father of Faith. It is sad that only a few go. The allure of riches and religion in Babylon is difficult to ignore. The Messianic Community in Laodicea, the last community mentioned, has all the indications of being the front runner for teaching the flock the ways of Babylon, preparing God's people to accept it as the real Church.

Revelations 3:17 For you keep saying, 'I am rich, I have gotten rich, I don't need a thing!' You don't know that you are the one who is wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked!

It may very well be that Laodicea morphs into Babylon, or melds into it. The citizens of Babylon have confused the church with the Ecclesia. They simply cannot tell one from the other, although it is obvious to those who have studied God's vision for His People. This is perhaps the reason an Angel must sound a trumpet and command that His People leave, or else pay the price. The "loud voice" is the same method used to warn the inhabitants of the earth not to take the mark of the beast. There will be no excuse for those who disobey, and the punishment will be certain. In a very real sense, if His Children were paying attention, they would not have been there in the first place. In God's mercy, He provides one more obvious warning to leave.

The Roots of Babylon

Genesis 11:3 They said to one another, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them in the fire." So they had bricks for building-stone and clay for mortar.

Genesis 11:4 Then they said, "Come, let's build ourselves a city with a tower that has its top reaching up into heaven, so that we can make a name for ourselves and not be scattered all over the earth."

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The pyramid (in this case a very slim one) system is designed to gather everyone together in one mind and for one purpose - to reach heaven of course! Unity gives power! The only problem was that the motive was to (a) make a name for themselves and (b) not be scattered all over the earth. Remaining together in fellowship and being a part of something great will be heavy themes in Babylon.

The 7 Messages to the 7 Communities

The difficulty in writing about this subject matter is identifying what Babylon is over and beyond the untrue bride. This author assumes that Babylon is (partly) defined in the messages to the messianic communities in chapters 2 and 3. These communities were reprimanded due to falsehoods. It stands to reason that these very same issues will be prevalent in the cumulation of Babylon. Notice that the curses and blessing for those in the messianic communities are similar for those who live in Babylonia.

Ephesus

Revelations 2:4-5 But I have this against you: you have lost the love you had at first. Therefore, remember where you were before you fell, and turn from this sin, and do what you used to do before.

Smyrna

Revelations 2:9 "I know how you are suffering and how poor you are (though in fact you are rich!), and I know the insults of those who call themselves Jews but aren't - on the contrary, they are a synagogue of the Adversary.

Pergamum

Revelations 2:14-15 Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: you have some people who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to set a trap for the people of Israel, so that they would eat food that had been sacrificed to idols and commit sexual sin. Likewise, you too have people who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

Thyatira

Revelations 2:20-21 But I have this against you: you continue to tolerate that Jezebel woman, the one who claims to be a prophet, but is teaching and deceiving my servants to commit sexual sin and eat food that has been sacrificed to idols. I gave her time to turn from her sin, but she doesn't want to repent of her immorality.

Sardis

Revelations 3:1a-3 "I know what you are doing - you have a reputation for being alive, but in fact you are dead! Wake up, and strengthen what remains, before it dies too! For I have found what you are doing

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incomplete in the sight of my God. So remember what you received and heard, and obey it, and turn from your sin! For if you don't wake up, I will come like a thief; and you don't know at what moment I will come upon you.

Philadelphia

Revelations 3:9a Here, I will give you some from the synagogue of the Adversary, those who call themselves Jews but aren't - on the contrary, they are lying

Laodicea

Revelations 3:15 "I know what you are doing: you are neither cold nor hot.

Revelations 3:17-18 For you keep saying, 'I am rich, I have gotten rich, I don't need a thing!' You don't know that you are the one who is wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked! My advice to you is to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich; and white clothing, so that you may be dressed and not have to be ashamed of your nakedness; and eyesalve to rub on your eyes, so that you may see.

Notes on the Message to the Communities

The term Nicolaitan is made of 2 words. *Niko* means "to conquer" and *laos* means "common people". The Nicolaitan teachers certainly did not stand up and say, "Allow us to conquer you, for it is God's will.", for this would never have attracted much support. But the teaching of the Nicolaitan was then to convince the flock that there existed rulers, and by extension followers, in the ecclesia, as opposed to all being brothers and sisters alternately submitting to one another as the Spirit led.

- Since followers follow, and rulers make decrees, the Nicolaitan teaching must harp on the well-rehearsed *submission to authority* theme. Submission is static, in one direction only.
- Since the role of protection is always associated with rulership, it is to be expected that the Nicolaitan teaching will be accompanied with a "I am your spiritual protector, without which the Adversary will get you." message.
- The downward flow of information from the generals to the privates is the justification for and the function of the pyramid. The ruler knows straight from God what is best for the sheep. The sheep do not. The director knows in which direction the Holy Spirit is leading, the sheep know through the ruler. Only the preacher can determine what the sheep should be doing for God. Thus, all activities and projects must first receive a pastor's blessing.
- The sheep (the children) have the responsibility to support the rulers (fathers) financially.

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The Nicolaitans replaced the Holy Spirit as the leader of the community. They overstep the bounds of being a confirmation for what the Lord has voiced directly to his sheep. This is why they were hated by the Lord.

John 10:3-4 This is the one the gate-keeper admits, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep, each one by name, and leads them out. After taking out all that are his own, he goes on ahead of them; and the sheep follow him because they recognize his voice.

John 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice, I recognize them, they follow me,

These verses pertaining to the leadership by Jesus the Pastor without the middle-man are wholly incompatible with the City of Babylon and the Pyramid religious structure. If all those claiming to be Christian lived like this, "church" would unceremoniously cease to subsist.

Smyrna and Philadelphia both received high scores, and both had dealings with false Jews, who were of the Synagogue of the Adversary. The false will pretend to be the real, hurl insults and lie. The author submits that the Jews of the Synagogue of the Adversary are agents of Babylon. It is interesting to see that the Synagogue of the Adversary was singled out as a separate entity in the two communities obtaining positive marks. This leads one to believe that the other communities had been sufficiently infiltrated by false believers that a dividing line did not exist.

Twice we find sexual sin and problems with eating. The lust for food consumption and the lust for sex consumption are similar in nature. Man has a tendency to over gratify both. Idolatry worship often incorporates sexual perversion.

In tandem with this is Jezebel, the lying prophet, who kills the true prophets (1 Kings 18:4), and uses her influence on government to secure ill-gotten gains (1 Kings 21). Jezebel ensnared Israel into worshipping Baal, a type of Babylon worship. Baal means "possessor", as in "to own" - this is the worship of lust and consumption of things, including sex. Worship ceremonies commonly practiced sexual indulgences. Thus we have the whore, the unfaithful wife, selling herself for riches.

Babylon will be *loveless*, even while she spreads her legs for one and all. "Easy love", "Love is God", "age of Grace" and such shall be guiding principles. One presumes it will pretend to love, replete with good works and programs, but the real shall be missing. Those who assert the standard are labelled legalistic, or haters, or both.

Observe how the Ephesus community worked and persevered and other admirable things, but they were lacking in the most important. No doubt about it, Babylon will be teeming of meritorious works.

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Sardis had all the appearances of being with God *in the eyes of the on-lookers*. Jesus had an opposing opinion. Likewise is Laodicea deceived. They believe to be rich and in fulness, all the while they are poor and needy. Self-deception and facades shall be profuse. It is assured that Babylon will have all the tapestry required to fool the elect into thinking, "This is truly home, the House of God."

One contrast should be made: the "Messianic Community in a city", with emphasis on Community, and "The Great City", with emphasis on the city itself. Every city has a secular government structure. It is then to be reckoned that Babylon, the religion impersonating the Ecclesia, will be run like a government, with politicians, lords and common citizens - the Nicolaitan way of fellowship. Its hierarchy leadership structure will constitute the pyramid in direct contrast to the brother-sister Ecclesia.

The Message to the Scribes and Pharisees

A more direct description of Babylonian characteristics is found here. Jesus' accusation of the religious establishment in Matthew 23:34-37 is paralleled in Revelations 18:24, where the city of Babylon is implicated in killing the prophets, saints and all who have been slain on earth.

*Matthew 23:34 Therefore I am sending you **prophets** and sages and teachers of the law - some of them you will kill, indeed, you will have them executed on stakes as criminals; some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town.*

*Matthew 23:35 And so, on you will fall the guilt **for all the innocent blood that has ever been shed on earth**, from the blood of innocent Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the Temple and the altar.*

Matthew 23:36 Yes! I tell you that all this will fall on this generation!

*Matthew 23:37 "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! **You kill the prophets!** You stone those who are sent to you! How often I wanted to gather your children, just as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, but you refused!*

*Revelations 18:24 In her was found the blood of **prophets** and of God's people, **indeed, of all who have ever been slaughtered on earth!**"*

The conclusion is then that **Babylon and the religious establishment are one and the same.**

This author does not believe that one single denomination encompasses Babylon, for scribes and Pharisees are everywhere. The importance lies with what they do, not the color of the hat they wear. And this is where Matthew provides us a great service in his 23rd chapter. The religious establishment, and thus Babylon, is described by what they do

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and their motives. It is important to judge a tree by its fruit, but unfortunately we have been trained to call rotten fruit ripe. Consequently, judging becomes difficult. See Matthew 23:1-33.

Matthew 23:1-3 Then Jesus addressed the crowds and his disciples: "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees," he said, "sit in the seat of Moses. So whatever they tell you, take care to do it. But don't do what they do, because they talk but don't act!"

Matthew 23:4 They tie heavy loads onto people's shoulders but won't lift a finger to help carry them.

Matthew 23:5-7 Everything they do is done to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their tassels long, they love the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and they love being greeted deferentially in the marketplaces and being called 'Rabbi.'

Matthew 23:8-10 "But you are not to let yourselves be called 'Rabbi'; because you have one Rabbi, and you are all each other's brothers. And do not call anyone on earth 'Father' because you have one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor are you to let yourselves be called 'leaders,' because you have one Leader, and he is the Messiah!"

Matthew 23:11-12 The greatest among you must be your servant, for whoever promotes himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be promoted.

Matthew 23:13-15 "But woe to you hypocritical teachers of the law and Pharisees! For you are shutting the Kingdom of Heaven in people's faces, neither entering yourselves nor allowing those who wish to enter to do so. "Woe to you hypocritical teachers of the law and Pharisees! You go about over land and sea to make one proselyte; and when you succeed, you make him twice as fit for hell as you are!"

Matthew 23:16-17 "Woe to you, you blind guides! You say, 'If someone swears by the Temple, he is not bound by his oath; but if he swears by the gold in the Temple, he is bound. You blind fools! Which is more important? the gold? or the Temple which makes the gold holy?"

Matthew 23:18-19 And you say, 'If someone swears by the altar, he is not bound by his oath; but if he swears by the offering on the altar, he is bound.' Blind men! Which is more important? the sacrifice? or the altar which makes the sacrifice holy?"

Matthew 23:20-22 So someone who swears by the altar swears by it and everything on it. And someone who swears by the Temple swears by it and the One who lives in it. And someone who swears by heaven swears by God's throne and the One who sits on it.

Matthew 23:23 "Woe to you hypocritical teachers of the law and Pharisees! You pay your tithes of mint, dill and cumin; but you have neglected the weightier matters of the law – justice, mercy, trust. These are the things you should have attended to – without neglecting the others!"

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Matthew 23:24-26 Blind guides! – straining out a gnat, meanwhile swallowing a camel! "Woe to you hypocritical teachers of the law and Pharisees! You clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup, so that the outside may be clean too.

Matthew 23:27-29 "Woe to you hypocritical Tteachers of the law and Pharisees! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look fine on the outside but inside are full of dead people's bones and all kinds of rotteness. Likewise, you appear to people from the outside to be good and honest, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and far from the law. "Woe to you hypocritical teachers of the law and Pharisees! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous,

Matthew 23:30-32 and you say, 'Had we lived when our fathers did, we would never have taken part in killing the prophets.' In this you testify against yourselves that you are worthy descendants of those who murdered the prophets. Go ahead then, finish what your fathers started!

Matthew 23:33 "You snakes! Sons of snakes! How can you escape being condemned to hell?

The establishment fooled the onlookers, but not the Lord of the Temple where they "served". The books were right, the lingo correct, but the essence was dead wrong. Only revelation knowledge can see through the charade. Are we ready to perceive things as He did, however ugly? Jesus' assessment is very clear. Nonetheless, the author provides a quick overview.

The establishment:

- seeks the praise, honor and respect of men
- cons followers into believing that serving is being a director
- shuts the way to heaven
- commits crimes of economic fleecing of the weak
- exerts great effort to make disciples of themselves
- guides blindly
- creates many laws, but teaches lawlessness
- neglects judgement, kindness and faith
- claims they would not have killed the prophets, but do
- is a rabbi, father and director of others, not a brother
- is self exalting
- is outwardly clean, but inwardly dead

The reader is reminded that the "rabbis, fathers and directors" had access to God, but chose to only act like the do. In the original text, the word for "hypocrisy" is "dye coloring". These were the accepted leaders on "how to live honorably before Him". The author is convinced that the plebes then were as sure of their leaders as we are of ours. This fact should cause us to pause and contemplate our world around us. They could have been showing the way to the Kingdom, but decided to

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block the entrance. When we take a critical, honest look at the situation today, we must conclude that Jesus would simply recite Matthew 23 to the existing establishment. To believe that things have changed, or that "this time it is different", is blind hope, not truth. Babylon was founded long ago, and will be with us until the end. Whether we recognize it as such, and act judiciously, may very well determine if we are led to the right with the sheep, or to the left with goats, on that final judgement day.

Matthew 24:1-2 is extremely telling. The disciples are showing the son of God [King of the Heavens, Creator of the seen and unseen] the buildings of the temple, probably in awe of its grandure. "Church" has become an edifice to be managed by directors programming social functions designed to soothe (as opposed to clean) the conscience. Jesus will destroy it, and the idolatry it represents.

If a person's christianity revolves around a building with directors (pastors), then he is in Babylon.

This is not to say that every person submitting to a building director is a goat. We have examples in the Gospels were some in the establishment were following God, not caught up in the religion. But these were on the fringes, and when spotted by the leaders, ended up being outcasts. The book "God's Generals" by Roberts Liardon parallels this testimony. Every one of the "modern day generals" were forced to abandon the establishment to fulfill their ministry as God saw fit. The establishment always and without exception attempted to manipulate the person with the anointing for the good of the establishment, and to the detriment of the servant and the served.

The Mark of Cain

Matthew 23:35a And so, on you will fall the guilt for all the innocent blood that has ever been shed on earth, from the blood of innocent Abel

Genesis 4:8 Cain had words with Abel his brother; then one time, when they were in the field, Cain turned on Abel his brother and killed him.

The spirit of the establishment has been working since the very beginning. It will continue through the ages until it is destroyed by the Beast. Surely, it is with us today.

Genesis 4:5 but did not accept Cain and his offering. Cain was very angry, and his face fell.

Certainly, the establishment will bring offerings in homage to God, but they are not pleasing. It wants to serve God in its own way. Its reaction to God's displeasure is very simple. It destroys any trace of

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godliness on this planet so as to warm over its own rejection instead of turning from its sin. This is the mark of Cain, the mark of the establishment.

Genesis 4:7 If you are doing what is good, shouldn't you hold your head high? And if you don't do what is good, sin is crouching at the door - it wants you, but you can rule over it."

And this is the central point. The spirit behind the establishment wishes to own us, and do with us what it wants. Those who come out of Babylon choose to rule over it.

The Voice of the Prophets

Matthew 23:35 And so, on you will fall the guilt for all the innocent blood that has ever been shed on earth, from the blood of innocent Hevel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the Temple and the altar.

It seems that Zachariah was a prophet. Prophets serve as the conscience of the people of God, speaking up when correction is required. The establishment does not, will not, and cannot stand for this, because then all would leave; for Babylon is sin.

Killing prophets, at least in the western world, in the literal sense is dangerous due to basic legal protection. However, they are murdered nonetheless. For the fundamentalists, the prophets have "passed away" because "the Written Word is now complete"; an idea which absolutely misses the point of the prophet. On the other end of the religious spectrum, such as in the gifts and anointing oriented movements, the prophet has been regulated to speaking positively, as we are now in the "epoch of grace". But a shark with no teeth is not a shark. These theories are copouts to continue living separated from God's will. They kill the prophets to unplug God's warning system to mankind.

Prophets were annihilated in the historical books, in the Gospels, and a quick read through the Book of the Acts of the Apostles continues the trend. The hunting season follows through the book of Revelations in earnest.

Matthew 23:37 "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! You kill the prophets! You stone those who are sent to you! How often I wanted to gather your children, just as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, but you refused!

As long as the people of God go astray, God will send prophets to bring them back. The establishment will then continue to silence the voice of reason.

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Babylonian Business

Now let us look at how business is done in Babylon, the daughter city of the tower of Babel. One of the key factors in the harlotry church is the focus on riches - all biblically based of course. Laodicea appears to be closely linked.

Between the lines we read in Revelations 18:3, 7, and 11-19 we conclude that the slavery binding the inhabitants is the lust for luxury (mammon). Incidentally, mammon is often derived from slave labor. Verse 2 shows that demonic activity is rampant. This makes sense as the occult has been a source of economic power, with mammon as the headmaster, since the dawn of man till this day. Remember, the magicians gave reason for the Pharaoh to harden his heart.

*Revelations 18:2-3 He cried out in a strong voice, "She has fallen! She has fallen! Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons, prison for every unclean spirit, prison for every unclean, hated bird. "For all the nations have drunk of the wine of God's fury caused by her whoring - yes, the kings of the earth went whoring with her, and from **her unrestrained love of luxury** the world's businessmen have grown rich."*

*Revelations 18:7 "Give her as much torment and sorrow as the **glory and luxury she gave herself!** For in her heart she says, 'I sit a queen - I am not a widow, I will never see sorrow.'*

*Revelations 18:11-13 The world's businessmen weep and mourn over her, because no one is buying their **merchandise** any more stocks of gold and silver, gems and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, all rare woods, all ivory goods, all kinds of things made of scented wood, brass, iron and marble; cinnamon, cardamom, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, flour, grain, cattle, sheep, horses, chariots - and bodies - **and people's souls.***

*Revelations 18:14-15 The **fruits you lusted for with all your heart** have gone! All the luxury and flashiness have been destroyed, never to return! The sellers of these things, who got rich from her, will stand at a distance, for fear of her torment, weeping and mourning,*

Revelations 18:16-18 and saying, "Oh no! The great city used to wear fine linen, purple and scarlet! She glittered with gold, precious stones and pearls! Such great wealth - in a single hour, ruined!" All the ship masters, passengers, sailors and everyone making his living from the sea stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke as she burned, "What city was like the great city?"

Revelations 18:19 And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, saying, "Oh no! The great city! The abundance of her wealth made all the ship owners rich! In a single hour she is ruined!"

It is difficult not to perceive the business done in the realm and name of the church. Books, magazines, tapes, seminars, conferences, trips, schools, fitness training, trinkets and such are in themselves not

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wrong. They have, however, become a means of making money. And the church followers are abused by the marketeers. The vast number of potential customers makes the church a prime marketing tool. The church then becomes a means of turning a dollar, rather than being the house of prayer. "Keep the money in the Kingdom" and "buy Christian" are the advertisement slogans.

Multi-level pyramid business schemes are a special danger. They typically promise riches so that "one can do God's work after becoming independently wealthy". This overlooks the fact that one can be in God's perfect will without a million dollar bank account. Don't fall for the bait. Multi-level marketing binds the person into slavery; it is difficult to leave the "business", for if he does, he loses all of his investment! The road to serfdom is its economic blueprint. Moreover, since every acquaintance becomes a prospect, caring fellowship becomes impossible. The business becomes all they do, all they talk about, all they are.

The author does not believe selling trinkets to be *the* Babylon. Babylon will do this in a scale of unprecedented proportions, as described in the Bible. The entire religious world will be immersed into the baptism of church business. We are simply being groomed for the coming assault with today's church oriented sales.

Revelations 17:3 He carried me off in the Spirit to a desert, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast filled with blasphemous names and having seven heads and ten horns.

The Harlot will ride the beast, which is a secular government. She will attempt to use the beast for her own benefit. The Harlot will not be a country, but it appears that it will have a city - a city-state, founded on religious precepts. Between the Harlot (Babylon the Great) and the Beast (The Government) will prevail a symbiotic relationship. The Harlot wants wealth, and the Government, or its leader to be exact, wants to be worshipped as if it were God. The Harlot provides the worship, while Government provides wealth, i.e. the payment for prostitution services.

But at some point, the beast will decide that the relationship is no longer to his advantage. At this point, the beast will destroy Babylon.

Daniel 11:36 "The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt himself and consider himself greater than any god, and he will utter monstrous blasphemies against the God of gods. He will prosper only until the period of wrath is over, for what has been determined must take place.

Daniel 11:37 He will show no respect for the gods his ancestors worshipped, or for the god women worship - he won't show respect for any god, because he will consider himself greater than all of them.

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To summarize, we can say then that the bogus bride uses the government for its own ends, to enforce the flow of money. She will claim that the anti-christ is God's chosen man for the secular government. But the anti-christ, who wants to be worshipped as greater than any god, after having used the religious establishment to come to power, correctly understands that the world will consider the appointer (the religious establishment) as being greater than the appointed (secular government). So the appointed must then destroy the appointer. It will be the greatest political backstabbing in history.

City of Glory

Revelations 18:7 Give her as much torment and sorrow as the glory and luxury she gave herself! For in her heart she says, "I sit as a queen - I am not a widow, I will never see sorrow."

The Great City will be about maximizing self. It will not be concerned with maximizing God, or His Son. Worshipping and praising self, in the name of God, is the central theme. The followers ask, "How can I make my life more convenient?"

There is a distant gulf between "How do I live pleasing to God?" and "How do I get God to please my wants?"

When one looks across the Christian landscape, we find, in general, a people trying to use God as a way to make their own lives better. How they are to live according to God's precepts barely crosses their minds.

What does it profit to sit through a teaching tree days a week, always learning but never doing. Jesus separates the goats from the lambs based upon what they do, not on what they know.

The Believer's Mission to Babylon

The interesting part about the Revelations text is the fact that God's people were in Babylon. The question is, what were they doing there? It appears difficult to believe they were on a mission from God.

Revelations 18:4-5 Then I heard another voice out of heaven say: "My people, come out of her! so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not be infected by her plagues, for her sins are a sticky mass piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes."

One easily overlooked point: God commands us to **leave** it, not **reform** it. Too many spend their lives and energy "looking for the good in the system", "working to bring it back to its roots" and asking questions like "what about all the sincere, well-meaning, members?". Don't end up like Lot's wife, who looked back. Babylon does not want to change. Hence, it is God's will to destroy it, not save it. It will turn into a heaping pile of ambers after all is said and done. You can either be

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with God's plan, or against it. As for me and my house, we have chosen to follow the Lord. Our only mission with respect to Babylon can be to "call out" those in it, not to make excuses to stay.

Mothers and Daughters

Revelations 17:5 Babylon the Great, Mother of Whores and of the Earth's Obscenities.

We know then that Babylon has reproduced herself. This mother has daughters, and the daughters are whores as well. The daughters may not be as bad as the mother. But we must be careful of our spiritual lineage. Do we wish to be associated with the daughters of the mother whore?

We should not fool ourselves into thinking we are safe if the organization we are in does not portray *all* the qualities denoted in this document. When we start coming down the home stretch at the end of the age, it is to be expected that the daughters will return to their mother. Quite possibly, they were sent out to seduce the unwary. And those who associate with the daughters will go along back to the mother.

Final Notes

Those not adhering to the Catholic religion will likely allege that the Catholic church is the harlot. As far as I know, the first recorded incidence of this opinion was penned by Martin Luther, the reformer. Case closed. That may very well be. It may do us well to know, however, that that which makes the Catholic Church the Harlot, is what it does, not what it calls itself. And what does it do?

It holds together the perfect pyramid structure, with the pope as the pyramid director, the leader of the very people of God! But every "christian" denomination that exists is a daughter of the Catholic organization, and carries her genes. Every single one of them is organized according to the pyramid, adopting its Nicolaitan dogma. They have substituted one pope for another, who has taken the place of Jesus as the vine. It is the false family, the bogus bride.

The pyramid structure is not the only defining aspect, but certainly the main one. For all other qualities shown in this document flow from that one. One should simply review Matthew 23.

The author's standpoint is clear. If one adheres to the pyramid structure, he is in modern-day Babylon. They are one and the same. God's people started out building pyramids, and that is where they will end. Some are paying attention to the voice calling them out.

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The author predicts that those giving credence to the pyramid structure as if it were the ecclesia will overtly succumb to the authority of Vatican City. They have already covertly agreed to her ways embracing the pyramid authoritative government structure, and a mere human as the mediator between man and God. I expect that all major and minor denominations (organized religion) will return to their roots, dragging mankind into the deadliest age to ever be experienced.

We need to leave Babylon while the times are good. But the trick lies in identifying it. And discerning it only comes through revelation knowledge. What is white and polished by marketing perfection on the outside may have dead bones and filth inside. Understanding that there are wolves in sheeps' clothing is half the battle - at least you can be vigilant on the look out. But once you do realize what Babylon is, prudence behooves you to leave. Again, God calls us to leave it, not reform it, for it is beyond salvation.

Ezekiel 23

History rhymes, and in the Bible we find many foreshadowings for things to come. The house of Israel, depicted as a prostitute, flirted with Babylon. God asked Abram and his children to leave Babylon, but they kept Babylon in their hearts. As a result, God then gives Israel into the hands of Babylon for judgement. They became physical slaves to reflect their being spiritual slaves. This is a repetition of Revelations 17:16-17:

As for the ten horns that you saw ad the beast, they will hate the whore, bring her to ruin, leave her naked, eat her flesh and consume her with fire. For God put it in their hearts to do what will fulfill his purpose, that is, to be of one mind and give their kingdom to the beast until God's words have accomplished their intent.

Ezekiel 23:1 The word of ADONAI came to me:

Ezekiel 23:2 "Human being! There were two women, daughters of the same mother,

Ezekiel 23:3 who were whores in Egypt - even as young girls they were whores. There they let their breasts be caressed, and there their virgin nipples were fondled.

Ezekiel 23:4 Their names were Oholah, the older one, and Oholivah, her sister. They belonged to me, and they gave birth to sons and daughters. As for their names, Samaria is Oholah, and Jerusalem is Oholivah.

Ezekiel 23:5 "Even when she belonged to me, Oholah prostituted herself; she lusted after her lovers from Ashur - warriors

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Ezekiel 23:6 dressed in blue, governors, rulers, all of them good-looking young men riding on horseback.

Ezekiel 23:7 She gave herself as a whore to them, all of them the elite of Ashur; and she defiled herself with all the idols of everyone she lusted after.

Ezekiel 23:8 She did not give up the whoring she had begun in Egypt, where men had sex with her, fondled her virgin nipples and flooded her with their fornication.

Ezekiel 23:9 "So I handed her over to her lovers, the men of Ashur she lusted after.

Ezekiel 23:10 They exposed her private parts, took her sons and daughters, and put her to death with the sword; so that she became notorious among women for the judgments executed against her.

Ezekiel 23:11 "Her sister Oholivah saw this; nevertheless she was worse than her sister in lusting and likewise in whoring.

Ezekiel 23:12 She lusted after the men from Ashur, governors and rulers, warriors dressed to perfection, skilled horsemen, all of them good-looking young men.

Ezekiel 23:13 I saw that she had defiled herself; both sisters had gone down the same path.

Ezekiel 23:14 She prostituted herself more than ever; because she saw wall-carvings of men, depicting the Chaldeans in bright red,

Ezekiel 23:15 with sashes wrapped around their waists and flowing turbans on their heads, all of them looking like military men, the very image of men of Babylon born in the land of the Chaldeans.

Ezekiel 23:16 The moment she saw them, she lusted after them and sent messengers to them in the land of the Chaldeans;

Ezekiel 23:17 and the men of Babylon climbed into her "love bed" and defiled her with their lust. She was defiled by them, and then filled with revulsion at them.

Ezekiel 23:18 Thus did she reveal her fornication and expose her private parts. When this happened, I was filled with revulsion at her, just as I had been filled with revulsion at her sister.

Ezekiel 23:19 Still she kept increasing her whoring, remembering the days when she was young, fornicating in the land of Egypt.

Ezekiel 23:20 Yes, she lusted after their male prostitutes, whose members are like those of donkeys and who ejaculate like stallions.

Ezekiel 23:21 You yearned for the lewdness of your girlhood, when the Egyptians used to fondle your nipples and caress your young breasts.

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Ezekiel 23:22 "Therefore, Oholivah, here is what Adonai ELOHIM says: 'I will raise up your lovers against you, the ones who fill you with revulsion, and bring them against you from every side –

Ezekiel 23:23 the men of Babylon and all the Chaldeans, Pekod, Shoa and Koa, and with them all the men of Ashur, good-looking young men, all of them governors and rulers, commanders and officers, all on horseback.

Ezekiel 23:24 They will advance on you armed with chariots, wagons and with an army drawn from many peoples; they will array themselves against you from every side with breastplates, shields and helmets. I will give them the authority to judge, and they will judge you as they see fit.

Ezekiel 23:25 I will direct my jealousy against you, so that they will deal with you in fury – they will cut off your nose and ears, and what is left of you will die by the sword; they will seize your sons and daughters, and those who remain of you will be consumed by the fire.

Ezekiel 23:26 They will strip you of your clothes and seize your fine jewels.

Ezekiel 23:27 Thus I will put an end to your lewdness and your fornication brought from the land of Egypt, so that you will no longer raise your eyes toward them or remember Egypt any more.'

Ezekiel 23:28 For this is what Adonai ELOHIM says: 'I am about to hand you over to those you hate, to those who fill you with revulsion;

Ezekiel 23:29 and they will deal with you in hatred, seize everything you have worked for, and leave you naked and exposed – the full shame of your whoring will be exposed, your lewdness and your fornicating.

Ezekiel 23:30 These things will be done to you because you have gone fornicating with the nations, and because you are defiled with their idols.

Ezekiel 23:31 You walked down your sister's path, so I will put her cup in your hand.'

Ezekiel 23:32 Adonai ELOHIM says: 'You will drink from your sister's cup, a cup both deep and wide, full right up to the brim with scorn and derision,

Ezekiel 23:33 filling you with drunkenness and sorrow, a cup of horror and devastation – the cup of your sister Samaria.

Ezekiel 23:34 You will drink it, you will drain it, and then you will gnaw it to shreds and tear out your own breasts! For I have spoken it' says Adonai ELOHIM.

Ezekiel 23:35 "Therefore this is what Adonai ELOHIM says: 'Because you forgot me and flung me behind your back, you will bear the guilt of your lewdness and whoring.'"

Ezekiel 23:36 Then ADONAI said to me, "Human being, are you ready to judge Oholah and Oholivah? Then confront them with their disgusting practices.

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Ezekiel 23:37 For they committed adultery, and their hands are dripping with blood. They committed adultery with their idols; and they offered their sons, whom they bore to me, for these idols to eat.

Ezekiel 23:38 Moreover, they have done this to me as well: they defiled my sanctuary on the same day, and they profaned my shabbats.

Ezekiel 23:39 For after killing their children for their idols, they came the same day into my sanctuary to profane it; this they did in my house.

Ezekiel 23:40 "Worse still, you sent a messenger summoning men to come from a distance; and they came. For them you washed yourself, painted your eyes, decked yourself with your finery,

Ezekiel 23:41 and sat on a sumptuous bed, with a table arranged before it, on which you put my incense and my olive oil.

Ezekiel 23:42 The noise of a carefree crowd could be heard there; many of the men were brought in drunk from the desert. They put bracelets on their hands and magnificent crowns on their heads.

Ezekiel 23:43 I thought, 'That woman! She's worn out from all her adulteries, but they still go to fornicate with her!'

Ezekiel 23:44 For every one went in to her; just as men go in to a prostitute, so they went in to Oholah and Oholivah, those debauched women.

Ezekiel 23:45 Nevertheless, there are righteous men who will judge them as adulterers and murderers are supposed to be judged; because they are adulterers, and blood is dripping from their hands.

Ezekiel 23:46 For here is what Adonai ELOHIM says: 'Summon an assembly to punish them; give them over to terror and plunder.

Ezekiel 23:47 Let the assembly stone them to death, dispatch them with their swords, kill their sons and daughters and burn their houses to the ground.

Ezekiel 23:48 "'Thus I will put an end to lewdness in the land, so that all women may be taught not to imitate your lewdness.

Ezekiel 23:49 You will receive the punishment your lewdness deserves, and you will pay the penalty for your idolatries. Then you will know that I am Adonai ELOHIM.'"

In Ezekiel 23, Babylon is split between religious and military entities. In Revelations, Babylon City is the religious entity, whereas the Beast is the military entity. However, Babylon is found in the dreams of Daniel. It is the first major military power, and a type of the last major military power.

Israel, based in Jerusalem, loved the idols of Babylon too much. Babylon's military came and destroyed Israel. It also seems that God's people will continue to love the idols of Babylon too much, and become

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a part of it. It will end badly. The military Beast, a type of Babylon, will look for God's loose people, and find them in the religious Babylon. The military Beast will then destroy it.

Most will not see it coming. However,

*John 10:3-4 This is the one the gate-keeper admits, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep, each one by name, **and leads them out.** After taking out all that are his own, he goes on ahead of them; and **the sheep follow him because they recognize his voice.***

*John 10:27 **My sheep listen to my voice, I recognize them, they follow me,***

Today is a good day to follow His voice, leading you out. We can either follow the voice of Babylon, or the the voice of Jesus, but not both.