

**What follows represents the unedited lecture notes of Pastor Merritt's teaching of The Book of *The Revelation*. Please feel free to reproduce all or part for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

1. Last week we completed a study of Rev 14:8. When time expired we were reviewing a history of ancient Babylon's religious practices and their effect on organized religion.
2. Before we continue I want to provide "1Jo 1:9 time" as may be necessary.
3. Let's first look at an expanded translation of Rev 14:1-8.

### **Expanded Translation**

**Rev 14:1 I looked up and saw Christ as the Lamb of God standing in heaven on Mount Zion, the millennial city of God, and with Him was the original 144,000 Jewish Evangelist; they had the name of God the Father on their foreheads.**

**Rev 14:2 Then I heard a sound from heaven that was like a roaring flood of loud thunder accompanied by the music of many harps.**

**Rev 14:3 And I also heard a new song being sung before the throne of God and standing before that throne were the four special angels earlier seen; and with them were the Church Age saints earlier raptured. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had functioned so nobly during the Tribulation.**

**Rev 14:4 All of those before the throne were declared to be pure and perfect. The 144,000 were called the first fruits of God. They had refused to worship in the whore church. In heaven they could be seen following the lamb wherever He went. The whore church was that very popular ecumenical body headquartered in Rome and allied with the Antichrist. This was the very large and wealthy "Christian church" to which many nominal and real Christians belonged.**

**Rev 14:5 The 144,000 were as pure as the driven snow and worthy of special praise.**

**Rev 14:6 Then I saw another angel. He would sweep across the sky dipping down in slow descent to the earth. He would periodically announce the good news of Christ's impending return when He would judge all those living on planet earth. His message was made clear to all people of every race and nation; they could all hear thus mankind was once again without excuse.**

**Rev 14:7 The angel shouted, "Worship and honor God! The time has come for Him to judge everyone. Kneel down before the One who created the heavens and the earth, the oceans, the seas, the rivers and every stream."**

**Rev 14:8 A second angel was next seen. He pronounced a curse on all those who made the nations drink of the maddening wine of ecumenical Rome. Fallen! yes fallen is the apostate church which made false doctrine so palatable. Her heterodoxy foisted on the many fanciful tales involving various astrological characters.**

4. I want to review some of that learned and then return to new material on page three.

NIV

Rev 14:8 A second angel followed and said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries."

Principles:

1. The prophetic cameo continues.
2. First John saw an event on Mount Zion where the Lord begins His millennial reign; there Christ could be seen with His beloved 144,000 Jewish Evangelist.
3. Men like Thieme, LaHaye and Lindsay believe Babylon represents both political and ecumenical Rome.
4. Babylon according to Walvoord represents only the religious system. I tend to side with Walvoord's position.
5. The false religious system mentioned in point three above once characterized the ancient city of Babylon; this because its religion was based on black magic, witchcraft, and astrology so characteristic of ancient Babylon.
6. Dr. Dwight Pentecost in his book "Things to Come," has put together a compilation of the historical identity of BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS.

"The woman is a religious system, who dominates the civil power, at least for a time. The name upon her forehead should easily enable us to identify her. But in order to do that we would do well to go back to our Old Testament, and see what is there revealed concerning literal Babylon, for the one will surely throw light upon the other ... we learn that the founder of Bab el, or Babylon, was Nimrod ... Nimrod ... was a grandson of Ham, the unworthy son of Noah ... Noah had brought through the flood the revelation of the true God ...

"Ham on the other hand seems to have been all too readily affected by the apostasy that brought the flood, for he shows no evidence of self-judgment ... And the name (the sunburnt one) indicates the state of the man's soul ... Ham begat a son named Cush, the black one, and he became the father of Nimrod, the apostate leader of his generation. Ancient lore now comes to our assistance, and tells us that the wife of Nimrod bar Cush was the infamous Semiramis the First. She is reputed to have been the foundress of the Babylonian mysteries and the first high priestess of idolatry. Thus Babylon became the fountainhead of idolatry, and the mother of every heathen and pagan system in the world.

“The mystery religion that was there originated spread in various forms throughout the whole earth ... and is with us today ... and shall have its fullest development when the Holy Spirit has departed and the Babylon of the Apocalypse holds sway. Building on the primeval promise of the woman's Seed who was to come, Semiramis bore a son whom she declared was miraculously conceived! ... when she presented him to the people, he was hailed as the promised deliverer ...

“This was Tammuz ... Thus was introduced the mystery of the mother and the child, a form of idolatry that is older than any other known to man. The rites of this worship were secret ... It was Satan's effort to delude mankind with an imitation so like the truth of God that they would not know the true Seed of the woman when He came in the fullness of time ... From Babylon this mystery religion spread to all the surrounding nations ... everywhere the symbols were the same, and everywhere the cult of the mother and the child became the popular system; their worship was celebrated with the most disgusting and immoral practices.” The image of the queen of heaven with the babe in her arms was seen everywhere, though the names differ as languages differed. It became the mystery religion of Phoenicia, and by the Phoenicians was carried to the ends of the earth. Ashtoreth and Tammuz, the mother and child of these hardy adventurers, became Isis and Horus in Egypt, Aphrodite and Eros in Greece, Venus and Cupid in Italy, and bore many other names in more distant places. Within 1000 years Babylonianism had become the religion of the world, which had rejected the Divine revelation. Linked with this central mystery were countless lesser mysteries ...

“Among these were the doctrines of purgatorial purification after death, salvation by countless sacraments such as priestly absolution, sprinkling with holy water, the offering of round cakes to the queen of heaven as mentioned in the book of Jeremiah, dedication of virgins to the gods, which was literally sanctified prostitution, weeping for Tammuz for a period of 40 days prior to the great festival of Ishtar, who was said to have received her son back from the dead; for it was taught that Tammuz was slain by a wild boar and afterwards brought back to life.

“To him the egg was sacred, as depicting the mystery of his resurrection, even as the evergreen was his chosen symbol and was set up in honor of his birth at the winter solstice ... The sign of the cross was sacred to Tammuz, as symbolizing the life giving principle and as the first letter of his name. It is represented on many altars today ... and did not, as many have supposed, originate with Christianity.

“From this mystery religion, the patriarch Abraham was separated by divine call; and with this same evil cult the nation that sprang from him was in constant conflict, until under Jezebel, a Phoenician princess, it was grafted on to what was left of the religion of Israel in the northern kingdom in the day of Ahab and was the cause of their captivity ... Judah was polluted by it, ... and only by being sent into captivity to Babylon itself did Judah become cured of her fondness for idolatry ... From there they afterwards crossed the sea and immigrated to Italy ... under the name of the Etruscan Mysteries, and eventually Rome became the headquarters of Babylonianism.

“The chief priest wore mitres shaped like the head of a fish, in honor of Dagon the fish god, the lord of life. Another form of the Tammuz mystery, as developed among Israel's old enemies the Philistines. The Chief Priest when established in Rome took the "title Pontifex Maximus.” And this was imprinted on his mitre. When Julius Caesar... had become the head of the state, he was elected Pontifex Maximus, and this title was held henceforth by all the Roman Emperors down to Constantine the Great, who was at one and the same time head of the church and high priest of the heathen! The title was afterwards conferred upon the bishops of Rome, and is borne by the Pope today, who is thus declared to be not the successor of the fisherman apostle Peter, but direct successor of the high priest of the Babylonian mystery, and the servant of the fish god Dagon, for whom he wears, like his idolatrous predecessors, the fisherman's ring.

“During the early centuries of the church's history, the mystery of iniquity had wrought with such astounding effect and Babylonian practices and teachings had been so largely absorbed by that which bore the name of the Church of Christ, that the truth of the Holy Scriptures on many points had been wholly obscured, while idolatrous practices had been foisted upon the people as Christian sacraments, and heathen philosophies took the place of gospel instruction. Thus was developed that amazing system which for a thousand years dominated Europe and trafficked in the bodies and souls of men, until the great Reformation of the sixteenth century brought in a measure of deliverance.”

7. This system is actually destroyed at the beginning of the Great Tribulation in preparation for the worship of the beast.

8. The destruction of the city of Babylon itself, whether a reference to Rome, as is commonly held, or to a rebuilt city of Babylon on the ancient site of historic Babylon, does not take place until the end of the great tribulation.

Rev 18:1 After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor.

Rev 18:2 With a mighty voice he shouted: "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird.

Rev 18:3 For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries."

Rev 18:4 Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues;

Rev 18:5 for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.

Rev 18:6 Give back to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done. Mix her a double portion from her own cup.

Rev 18:7 Give her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself. In her heart she boasts, 'I sit as queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn.'

Rev 18:8 Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine. She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.

9. Inasmuch as the context here seems to deal primarily with the end of the Great Tribulation and the beginning of the millennial kingdom, the position of those who believe we have a reference to the destruction of both an ecumenical system and a literal city takes on special "merit."

10. Given the fact that both the fall of the religious system in the middle of the Tribulation and the fall of the city at the end of the Great Tribulation are future, we can only guess as to the extent of this prophecy: "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great."

11. The fall of Babylon is occasioned by her iniquity, which in the best manuscripts is described in these words: "... made all the nations to drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

12. The resultant meaning is that the nations participated in her spiritual corruption; they will ultimately share with her in her well-deserved divine condemnation and judgment.

Rev 14:10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

13. Notice an almost identical use of the phrase "wine of her adulteries" as the NIV translates in Rev 17:2 "wine of her fornication."

Rev 17:2 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.

14. Like the pronouncement of the previous angel and the other prophecies of this chapter, the promise of judgment upon the iniquitous Babylonian system is designed to bring comfort to those suffering under her ecumenical and political travesties.

15. Now let's see what we can learn from verses nine, ten and eleven:

KJV

Rev 14:9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

Rev 14:10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

Rev 14:11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

NIV

Rev 14:9 A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand,

Rev 14:10 he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.

Rev 14:11 And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name."

Principles:

1. The third angel will pronounce doom on the worshipers of the Antichrist. His message is not called the gospel message.

2. On the contrary, he issues a warning of the awful consequences of accepting the mark of the Antichrist and becoming his worshiper.

3. We have already seen that during the Tribulation people will be required to worship the Antichrist and receive his mark (666) on their foreheads or on their hands.

4. Such people will "drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath." They have turned their backs on God's method of salvation and taken to themselves human methods.

5. This will incur the displeasure of Almighty God and bring on themselves judgment and destruction.

6. We have already seen that at the breaking of the fourth seal 25 percent of the earth's population will be destroyed (Rev. 6:8) and during the blowing of the sixth trumpet (Rev 9:18) a third part of the earth's population is destroyed.

Rev 6:8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

Rev 9:18 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

7. Many have tried to classify those killed by the fourth horseman (Rev 6:8) and the 3rd woe (Rev 9:18) as a special genre of people however such to my mind cannot be supported.

7.1 As an example is Dr. David L. Cooper who has written "these are the incorrigible of the Tribulation period."

7.2 That is, these are the ones who turned their backs on the Messiah and become the worshipers of the Antichrist thus forfeiting their chance for eternal life. Rather than be allowed to pollute others ... they will be destroyed in these two great purges ..."

8. During the latter half, as we will see in our study of the bowl judgments great persecution will fall on all those who take the mark of the beast and become worshipers of the Antichrist.

9. Burning sulfur will be their lot, and they will be tormented forever.

10. John Walvoord has written:

"The third angel adds immediately to the pronouncement of the previous angel by proclaiming with a great voice the sad doom of those who worship the beast. Anyone who receives the mark of the beast as required in Rev 13:17 shall also partake of the judgment of God.

"As he drinks of the wine of spiritual fornication, so he also shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God. The wrath of God is described in most dramatic terms as wine that is unmixed, that is, untempered by the mercy and grace of God."

11. These worshipers of the beast are declared to be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb.

12. The same Scripture which assures all Christians of the love of God and the grace of God as extended to those who trust in Christ is unequivocal in its absolute statements of judgment upon those who do not.

13. Concerning the destiny of the wicked, J. B. Smith writes,

"Anyone disposed to discredit the Biblical teaching on the eternal destiny of the wicked should be reminded that Jesus ... said more in regard to this doctrine than all the remaining contributors to the New Testament record."

14. This is supported by the fact that Jesus referred to hell (**Gehenna** eleven out of the twelve occurrences, made twelve out of nineteen references to hell fire, and used other similar expressions more than any other person in the New Testament).

15. The righteousness of God is as inexorable as the love of God is infinite. The love of God is not free to impose His love on those who have spurned that love.

16. Their torment is not a momentary one, for it is described in verse 11 as continuing forever, literally "into the ages of ages," the strongest expression of eternity of which the Greek is capable.

17. To emphasize the idea of continued suffering, they are declared to have no rest day or night.

17.1 In describing the worshipers of the beast, the word worship and the word receiveth in verse 11 are in the present tense emphasizing continued worship of the beast.

Rev 14:11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

17.2 The worshipers spurning the testimony of the godly remnant plunge blindly to their doom.

18. The same present tense is used in describing their torment.

18.1 They are said to have no respite from their torment.

18.2 As the worship of the beast is not interrupted by repentance, so their torment is not interrupted when repentance is too late.

18.3 How dangerous it is for men to trifle with false religions, which dishonor the incarnate Word and contradict the written Word.

19. The total destruction of both ecumenical and political Babylon proves Christ's complete triumph over the evil satanic system that tyrannizes the Tribulation world.

20. The message of the third angel is really a heavy one. Anyone who worships the Beast or receives his mark of allegiance will "drink of the wine of the wrath of God" forever.

21. In other words, he will go to hell! The choice between Christ and the Beast will be so clear that no one will be able to plead ignorance. Such has always been the case.

Rom 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

2Co 3:15 Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.

2Co 3:16 But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Joh 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

Joh 1:7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

Joh 1:8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

Joh 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Joh 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

Joh 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

Joh 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

22. Those who worship the Beast, do so in any age deliberately, they must recklessly disregard all the warnings they have been given. Here the warning is rather spectacularly by angels.

23. The destiny for people who reject Christ during the Tribulation period is the same as that for people who reject Him at any other time. They will spend eternity in hell.



23.1 Most people don't like to talk about the subject of hell it's such a horrible prospect. But the Bible has plenty to say on the subject, and it's an important thing for us to know.

24. The most familiar verse in the whole Bible, John 3:16, draws by implication a sharp contrast between heaven and hell.

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whomsoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

25. If there were no hell, Christ's death was a needless sacrifice and a tragic blunder.

26. As stressed earlier it was Christ Himself who spoke more about hell than anyone else in the Bible.

26.1 In Mat 25:41 Christ tells us that hell is a place of eternal fire, originally prepared for Satan and the angels who joined with him in his primeval revolt against God.

Mat 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

27. In Mark 8:36 and 37 Christ asked this question: "What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Mar 8:36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Mar 8:37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

28. People joke about hell with silly comments like "I want to go to hell because all my friends are going to be there and together with the devil we will have a good time raising hell."

29. It will however be difficult to party in a sea of fire where pain and suffering never ends.

Luk 16:22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

Luk 16:23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

Luk 16:24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

30. There is no doubt there is a heaven to seek and a hell to shun.

31. Now let's take a look at an expanded translation of Rev 14:9-11:

### **Expanded Translation**

**Rev 14:9** A third angel followed the first two shouting as it flew behind the other two angels: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand,

**Rev 14:10** they will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the elect angels and the Lord Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God.

**Rev 14:11** And the smoke of their torment will rise and never end. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name."

End Lesson Taught 7-26-17

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