
Babylon the Great

Bill Holdstock

Luke 21:36

Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.

We will all wake up one morning to find the whole earth in great turmoil. The biggest event in history will be here, Jesus Christ will have returned just as He said He would. Millions upon Millions of people will be missing. Others will be confused and bewildered, still millions more will try to hide from the all-powerful brightness that will fill the earth and dispense the darkness and blackness that has prevailed since time began and mankind has embraced. For years many preachers and teachers of the Bible have done their very best to warn us what the Bible says about your future and mine and to help us recognise the signs unfolding that tells us of Christ's return.

The Bible warns us about the future of this world and how it will affect our lives, the lives of those around us, our families and friends. It doesn't make happy reading if you don't know Jesus. We had better wake up and find out what will happen at the end, which is not far away, the Bible warns us to be ready.

Be ready Jesus is coming very soon.

Let's see what the Bible says about this event, please read it with an open mind you can dismiss it later if you wish, but when you stand before God on judgement day, as undoubtedly you will, you cannot say you didn't know or you were not warned!

There is a natural instinct to think things can only get better, particularly when things are very bad as they are at the present. But that is not so. The Bible warns that life will get harder, food will get shorter, lawlessness will increase, violence will escalate, wars will get more frequent. Why is this? Because we all have ignored Jesus Christ and rebelled against Him.

In 2008 both US President George W. Bush and Condoleezza Rice, former Security Adviser to former US President George W. Bush spoke of a new world order, believing for peace. Condoleezza Rice spoke of her vision which was to "help developing countries and move from war to peace, poverty to prosperity, poor governance to democracy and the rule of law"

I guess most of the world would agree with them, we all want peace, prosperity and the like, but the Bible says that **man's heart is desperately wicked and full of sin**, notice God did not just say wicked, but *desperately* wicked so what chance has mankind got without a Saviour? With the world run by "desperately wicked" people our world is very unstable and volatile. The trouble is sin and wickedness pass us by every hour of the day, sin is thrown at us all day long in the newspapers, at work, on Television and so on. There is so much of it we have become used to seeing and hearing it we let it pass with a Tut! Tut! Let's have a cup of tea! But God is wanting accountability. And before we have drunk our tea there is another murder, bank robbery, Government official found sleeping with his secretary, or was it his friend's secretary, it gets so confusing?

Just before the return of Jesus Christ for the second time to establish His Eternal Kingdom, the world will get even worse, mankind will become terrifying and wicked to one-another, sin will abound as never before.

Matthew 24:23

For then shall be great tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time no, nor ever shall be.

Daniel 12:1

... and there shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered and those whose name is written in God's book.

“that time” has almost arrived! Daniel was promised that his people the Jews would be delivered, the Jews are the apple of God's eye, but after the cross Jesus made us all one in Christ Jesus.

Now we can all have right standing with God the father.

The Bible says “**and at that time your people shall be delivered**” make sure you are among the delivered ones. Give your heart to Christ accept Him as your Saviour and we will meet in heaven.

The purpose of this study is to help each one of us prepare for the coming of Jesus. He will come for you if you love and follow Him and your name is written in God's Book. God knows your name He wants you to know His and love and serve Him. Accept Him as your saviour and Lord and ask Him to forgive you of your sins.

A time of tribulation.

In that time of trouble, trouble that has never been, seen, or known of since time began, the Bible warns of killings in the streets, business fraud, family strife, marriage brake ups, children suffering, floods, fires, wars, earthquakes, famines and a whole lot more. It is surprising what depths mankind will sink to without the spiritual influence of the Holy Spirit, and whether we like it or not the Church in general has left Him out of church life as well.

According to their own paper of The Roman Catholic Church the (National Catholic Reporter August 1993) “The Roman Catholic Church is known for its adamant stand against divorce. Yet at the same time she is a veritable and unique divorce mill, hiding this fact by calling it by another name. The Church grants in the USA alone “annulments” by the tens of thousands each year.” (National Catholic Reporter 1993).

Things are not very good now, and a lot of what I've written happens every day. As I write the Television news is telling of a Nation that is killing its children every day, hundreds of them. There is a great outcry from the rest of the world and a special inquest being set up to investigate but the Bible warns us things like this will get a lot worse. No, I am not a ‘prophet of doom’ you know what you are reading is the truth and you can get confirmation of all this by simply comparing the Bible with the national newspapers and the TV news. Whether you believe it or not at least find out what we all face in the coming years if you don't know Jesus as your Lord and Saviour.

Matthew 24:21

For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; (or survive) but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

I would like to quote from the Amplified Bible

Mathew 24:3

While Jesus was seated on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately and said, tell us, when will this take place, and what will the sign of your coming and of the end be – (that is the completion, the consummation) of the age? Jesus said, be careful that no one misleads you-deceiving you and leading you into error. For many will come (in the strength of my name) in my name (appropriating the name which belongs to Me) saying I am the Messiah, the Christ; and they will lead many astray.

You will hear of wars and rumours of wars; see that you are not frightened or troubled, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.

For nation shall rise against nation kingdom against kingdom and there will be famines and earthquakes in place after place;

All this is but the beginning (the early pains of the birth pangs) of the intolerable anguish. Then they will hand you over to suffer affliction and tribulation and put you to death; and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will be offended and rebel and begin to distrust and desert (Him Whom they ought to trust and obey) and stumble and fall away and betray one another and pursue one another with hatred. And many false prophets will rise up and deceive many and lead many into error.

Why don't you read the rest of that chapter yourself in your Bible its Matthew 24?

This world is full of evil, living in spirit beings that are walking round about, in and out, just like Satan seeking whom they may tempt to do wrong. They are under the control of Satan and do his wishes all day long. Maybe you are under Satan's spell today and wish you could be free of him. "Satan's Ambition", is a study on my website www.wordlightmypath.com may help you see from scripture just what Satan is up to and he is someone to be reckoned with. Oh! You don't believe in evil spirits! You don't believe in Satan! Well the Bible dose, and so dose God!

Luke 21:31.

So, you also when you see these things happening, know that the Kingdom of God is near. Assuredly, I say to you, **this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place.** Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away,

Read what I came across which prompted a lot of this study.

Matthew 13:43

When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest and finding none. Then he says, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he finds it empty, and garnished. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself and they enter in and dwell there and the state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

Firstly, this involves an unclean spirit, there you are, I said the Bible believes in unclean Spirits in fact this story involves eight unclean spirits at least! Also, as the last part of the verse tells us it also involves a *generation*, *this generation*. This particular spirit has been cast out of his home. This could be, as in the case of the Bible story, a man, but it could be a woman, a child or a town or city, it could be a Church, or Temple it could even be a nation. Wherever it was this spirit found it very comfortable and even called it *his house*. To evict this intruder there must have been some prayer and Spiritual influence involved which had the desired effect, this spirit was sent packing! Make no mistake, evil spirits do not like anything relating to God, Jesus Christ or anything promised us found in the Bible.

I was once in a prayer meeting in the home of one of the elders of our church. As we were praying there was a knock on the door and there stood a man from one of the flats upstairs. "Would you please stop your praying for a while, we are spiritualists and we cannot 'get through' and our meeting is being spoilt" those were his actual words, well we did stop our praying and started praising! Yes, and your right they all went home early to a dry place.

The spirit in the Bible story being homeless wandered about in the dry and dusty place seeking rest but finding none says to himself I will go back to my house from whence I came out; but when he returns, he finds it has been swept clean and garnished. So, the house is not only swept clean but now garnished, with perhaps scripture texts on the wall, a Bible on the table opened at Luke 21:36. The faint perfume from the flowers neatly arranged on the sideboard. The smell of a roast in the oven. No, this is not my place says the spirit I will get some friends to help me and together we will wreck this place completely. We are told of the success of this evil spirit and his 7 other spirits friends and Jesus said. **So, shall it be to this generation.**

If the things of the Holy Spirit disturb evil spirits in such a way, when we give way to temptation and evils spirits, we give evil spirits permission to make our house and home his house and home and he brings in all sorts of other spirits with him. *This must not happen.* Jesus wrote the story and He knows where it will end. **He says so shall it be to this generation.**

This story is about one man and a house which is his home, He doesn't say a *certain man* or there was a man named Fred, our story starts with one man but ends up implicating a generation which could run into millions of people. If we all drop our guard, and let sin take a foothold in anyway, sin multiplies and multiplies, because the leader of these evil spirits, Satan himself, will simply take over your life. (house & home if you let him!) Your home includes your children who follow your example, they do what you do at least at an early age long enough for it to become a part of their lives too.

Build up a barrier against sin.

I remember as young lad of 10 going to what were called Rallies. These were held every quarter in the denomination my family brought me up in. We all looked forward to our Rallies, held in various churches in respective towns up and down Britain. Each Rally had special speakers who preached on Saturday morning and went on to the evening. At lunchtime and well into the afternoon we "fellowshipped" and my how we fellowshipped, the church was just a buzz with chatter laughter and singing. The chatter was often interspersed with someone starting up a hymn or chorus when we all joined in. Others gave testimony of how God had blessed them that week. Others requested prayer and, in those days, we could spend a lot of time singing praise to God for answered prayer which we were all witness to. A large chunk of madeira cake was passed to everyone and the tea flowed like a river! On Sunday many went back to their respective churches full of the joy of the Lord and lots to think and talk about. Others stayed and listened to great teaching from great preachers. There was great singing and great worship all day long.

My Mum and Dad had family in Wickford Essex and my uncle was the minister of the church there. I gave my heart to Jesus at 10 o'clock one Sunday night on the 8th April 1945 in that church at one of those Rallies. These meetings were attended by upwards of 200 people. Even as a young boy I knew the preaching was very edifying, and the praise and singing I still remember today! By the way none of the churches had musical instruments, the song starter, sitting on the front row stood up and 'pitched' the hymn for us all to start and away we went! A bit prehistoric by today's standards but when as a young boy sitting on an aisle seat watching big muscle bound farmers together with smart businessmen all singing with the ladies sitting one side of the church and the men on the other and these men walking up and down the aisle with hands in the air, tears running down their faces praising God and the ladies clapping their hands full of the joy of the Lord, singing to their hearts content. I saw all this; I was a part all this, so it was not that long ago. **Maybe a generation!**

The fight of good and evil

Why do I write all this? In the early 40's and 50's many denominations had similar 'Rallies'; They were all over Britain. Some were in very large tents and they spent a week or two in one area then moved on to somewhere else all the time spreading the Gospel, healing the sick and telling the good news of Jesus Christ reaching many for Jesus. Billy Graham and his Rallies did the same in the USA bringing thousands to Jesus. Just as the evil spirits led by Satan went from house to house seeking a place to live and when they found a welcome, they moved in and caused havoc, wickedness and sin. The Spirit of the Lord, the Holy Spirit had opportunity to spread goodness, kindness, joy, peace, and the love of Jesus all over our country, and they did. The United Kingdom was in a good place spiritually in the 40's and 50's. That was because we the Christian believers, welcomed the Spirit of God and opened up the way for Him with our praise and worship and prayers and the teaching of God's Word.

Since those days Satan has prevailed and he has stopped the prayers in parliament, stopped open air meetings, stopped hospital ministry, stopped prayer for those who are ill in public places, care homes and the like, he has opened up freedom for abortion, and stopped a lot of things that are Godly. He has stopped the prayers in schools. I remember singing "Guide me Oh thou great Jehovah" in the morning assembly at school with about 300 boys and all the teachers standing down one side of the Great Hall. I was one of the prefects and stood with the teachers. We sang loud and strong and the teachers sang at the top of their voices in harmony to the boys. There was something good and holy about those mornings, we all enjoyed starting the day singing hymns in assembly. But Satan took that Spirit away and introduced that Spirit of Babylon and we the Christians, the Salt and Light of the earth let him. (see The Tower of Babel) on the Web Site www.wordlightmypath.com

Make no mistake, if you think about it for a while you will have to admit that the Christians, and the Church, have gradually followed the same downward path. 'Church leaders' and 'Church board of Directors' have joined together in their towns to find out what would appeal to the public and bring them to church. In the north of England one church took out some seats and built a helter-skelter, another did the same but built a miniature golf course. This is *in* the church, not the hall by the side. There were photos of both in a national newspaper! Others have let the church out for fitness lessons, yet others bring and buy old unwanted items. God has been left out altogether and so has the Holy Spirit. Pastors, Vickers, Reverends, Very Reverend, Bishops, all grown up educated men reducing God to the fairground and not recognising the Spiritual apathy that has taken the UK by the throat and squeezed out all things Godly and good out of her. Can we wonder at the spiritual state of our nation, when we blatantly turn our backs on the One who went to the cross and shed His blood for us, something is wrong somewhere! Didn't Jesus say in that story about the evil spirit we read "**so shall it be to *this* Generation**" God is not pleased with what we do to Him or His house, let the world provide the entertainment the church must provide Jesus as the answer to the world's problems. I believe the repair begins with the heart, my heart, your heart, we must get back to the cross and ask forgiveness for our rebellion.

If my people, which are called by My Name shall humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land.

I mentioned the Rallies we went to when I was a young boy of about 10 years of age. If a person was unwell their first thought was to call the leaders of the church for prayer, according to the Bible. When they were prayed for, they were healed, then there was great rejoicing. I remember some Doctors sent some of their more difficult patients to the Church for prayer, they were great days.

“No! we will do it” we said to God “we don’t need you anymore we can do it”. Just like Nimrod did some 3000 years ago as he set up the Tower of Babel to reach heaven. I have researched the Tower quite a bit and most, if not all commentators say Nimrod’s tower was just over *one mile high*. If true that is extraordinary for a building built over 3000 years ago. Nimrod was a boastful man and very self-centred. But we have followed his patten. Aneurin Bevan set up a free NHS service in July 1948 for instance, costing £153 billion pounds. In 2021/22 the Department for Health and Social Care spent £190 Billion in one year to fund a range of health and care services.

Today there are millions in backlog waiting for serious operations and have been waiting for hospital attention for years! Let’s get back to God and the Bible and see healings as we did when I was a boy. “Look at us we said! we have travelled to the moon and back” “So what” says God “I created the sun, moon and the trillions of stars and I went to the cross and died for you that you may have eternal life, isn’t eternal life more important than any of man’s achievements?” Why don’t we get back to God and ask forgiveness He will forgive us and heal our land, He said so.

In the Bible story of the evil spirit seeking a new home in Matthew, Jesus says **So shall it be to *this* Generation.**

What generation is He talking about? The generation that sees, experiences, even is responsible for, the dryness, the barrenness, the wickedness and sin that is the result of our rebellion towards God. No! we can’t blame the result on the first or second wars, we can’t blame our grandparents, we can’t blame it on the distant passed but we must own up to our sin and rejection of a loving Saviour Jesus Christ and our rebellion of Him today! **or it is *this* Generation that will suffer, God said so.**

This is what happens when we compromise with the world. There are millions who wish to compromise with the world, they are happy in their sin and degradation they do not want change, they don’t like ‘good’ they like ‘evil’. One second after they stand to be judged before God in all His Majesty and Powerfulness, they will wish they could change their mind, but they won’t be able to, it will be too late! You can’t play fast and loose with Almighty God.

Do you feel the frustration of God as He pleads with His creation to turn from their rebellious ways and turn back to Him? Do you recognise the Covid disease in the verse we have just read, world-wide, taking lives, distress in families, heart failure, panic and on top of that there is great increase in the price of food, petrol, rents, mortgages, and a lot more. Some have said to me they do not believe such as Covid 19 comes from God. Maybe not but sometimes He allows what we do to come back and bite us because of our sin! Read that verse again, yes God is a God of love and He is King of kings and Lord of lords, but He will not be mocked. Don’t play fast and loose with God. Unless we turn back to God in profound, heartfelt repentance, turn from our sinful ways, give God our hearts, humble ourselves and put Him first, we stand very little chance indeed of missing what God has in store for us by way of correction. No, we may not get the diseases of Egypt, but we may well get our modern equivalent.

2 Chronicles 7: 14 A way of escape!

If my people, which are called by My Name shall humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land.

The Spirit of Babylon

That Spirit of Babylon, as we have studied, was birthed by Nimrod over 3000 years ago and his desire to be equal with God and Satan’s desire to outdo God altogether created the “Spirit of Babylon,” that of rebellion towards Almighty God which the world has taken to heart ever since. That spirit has spread world-wide and is predominant in man’s thinking today. Since those early days of the 40’s and 50’s we spoke about, this evil spirit has taken away that Holiness and reverence, respect and

peacefulness that once was in most of mankind. Today, the heart of man is full of sin, and wickedness, just as the Bible said it would be. Now it is affecting *our* generation, the generation you and I live in and see and even experience rebellion and wickedness today, God said it would if we ignore Him altogether, didn't He?

Norman Lear, Television Producer and Political activist said, "at no time in my life can I remember our culture being so estranged from this essential part of itself", referring to the spirit-led, and spiritual side of mankind.

Why is our civilization completely bankrupt of workable answers to all peaceful dialogue among nations? I believe it is because we have left God out of our lives, gone our own way and abandoned ourselves to the devil and therefore *this generation* is suffering as God warned us it would. (Matthew 13: 43)

Matthew 24:15 onwards

Jesus explains to his disciples the state of the world just before his return.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come, for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying it's power.

Know anybody like that!

These are the words of Jesus and He is talking about His creation, those He hung on a cross and died for, shedding His own precious blood for. For you and me is more to the point, and we are the ones who, with the leading of the Holy Spirit could be as kings and priests of the Almighty God, set an example to the world on how to live a victorious life. This rebellious spirit has got this nation by the neck and has suffocated us to the point that nearly all our Spiritual strength has gone! Our nation, if it continues down this road will head for big, big trouble. Do not become a part of it. Paul tells us about such people who *have a form of godliness but denying the power thereof from such people turn away.*

Jesus said there will be famines, famines mean no food.

Worldwide famines will attract vicious encounters between nations, that's the way man is. Famine! No food! Not possible why the supermarkets are full of food and they are almost on every corner. It is unthinkable to suggest that these food stores and eating-houses would have to close down because the food chain has crashed because of famines. How could that happen Bill? No, you're wrong. The USA, Canada, Australia and Britain are considered the breadbaskets of the world, and have been so for years why would that change now?

Listen folks this is serious! Famine and food shortages are on the way Jesus said it in Matthew 24 "THERE WILL BE FAMINES". Don't you think we should sit up and take notice?

1 Kings 8:35 and Hebrew 10.

When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain *because the people have sinned against You.* Vengeance is Mine: I will repay says the Lord.
The Lord will judge His people, it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God.

These are God's words not mine!

God Almighty controls the weather and sometimes He uses that power to get the attention of the nations who disobey Him. When you see pictures of floods and fires in different parts of the world and man's futile attempt to deal with them spending thousands of pounds and taking many years to build a defence there comes a time when our pockets are not deep enough and we stop giving. We see the same, or similar pictures time and time again and we have to admit we are not that clever after all and we cannot repair the damage that God allows, maybe, just maybe He will get our attention. Maybe just maybe we will ask Him to forgive us our sins so that He will heal our land. No! I don't think so either! We are in the grip of Satan and we are quite comfortable as we are thank you!

Earthquakes

I watched a TV programme about earthquakes the other day quite frankly it was frightening. These earth-jarring occurrences have been around for millions of years, Josephus, *Antiquities* 15. Chapter 5. The Bible records them and also predicts them in the future Zechariah 14:4-5.

In an article in the New York Times September 28,1999, a journalist William Broad wrote, "a million people died in earthquakes during the twentieth century, scientists believe that in the twenty-first century there could be as many as 10 times as many deaths with a million lost in any one single blow! Scientists have come to a better understanding of the immensity and magnitude of the fault systems that can be traced underneath the whole earth. What's more these quakes are all standing by to obey the voice of God? No, He is not pleased with His creation, but the amazing thing is He still loves us, and He is still calling after us!

God will do or allow, all these things to this world to get our attention, to make us think, what is happening to us all? What is happening to this world? Chronicles 7: 14 tells us the answer to this massive problem, but will we stop and listen, no we won't. Well we have to take the consequences, then won't we?

When God has something to say He wants us to listen, He will not be ignored. Afterall He is God, Creator of Heaven and Earth, Creator of you and me. He has good things instore for us He does not want to hear "I'll do it my way"

Babylon the Great

We are living in momentous times; we have had a period of relative peace and quiet as Lyndon B Johnson recognised in 1966 "Europe has been at peace since 1945. But it is a restless peace that is shadowed by the threat of violence." And he went on, "Now, with the cold war behind us and the Berlin Wall a fading memory, Europe is proceeding toward a unification that would have seemed improbable to most on that day in March 1957 when France, Germany, Italy, and the Benelux nations signed the Treaty of Rome, establishing the European Economic Community or European Union.

One of the major characteristics of this European Union which the Bible describes as "Babylon the Great", is its enormous economic prosperity and wealth. The Living Bible in Revelation 18:3 says.

"For all the nations have drunk the fatal wine of intense immorality. The rulers of the earth have enjoyed themselves with her, and businessmen throughout the world have grown rich from all her luxurious living."

Materialism and pleasure will be the order of the day, all humanity will become seduced by probably the oldest of false gods- *the golden calf of materialism*. And while most will be out to 'play' or our backs are turned the occupying sin driven powers will begin what the Bible calls "the abomination of

desolation”. What on earth is that? In Matthew 24: 15-20 Jesus Christ describes this time as the abomination of desolation.

Therefore, when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the Holy place... then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Prophecy foretells that Jerusalem is again to be surrounded by enemies (Zechariah 12:2) and an idol will be set up in the Holy place. The Idol it is believed to be placed in the New Temple which is being prepared right now (see Website the Third Temple). The Antichrist will be full of himself, proud, self-exalting and totally anti-God. (Remember Nimrod?)

Revelation 13:5-6

The beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words.

In fact, the first verse tells us the name of blasphemy is written across his head. When he first appears on the scene, he will appear a dynamic charismatic person well able to lead men and solve the world's problems, but he will be totally anti God. He will be so full of himself he will set up an image of himself in the new Temple and cause all to worship him. Of course, he will be driven and controlled by Satan what an abomination and a loathsome contamination of God's House this is “the abomination of desolation” spoken of in Matthew 14;15. This conveys an act of barbaric idolatry in God's Holy Temple utterly profaning and desecrating the House of God. Can you see that the Antichrist and his actions are very similar to that of Nimrod and the Tower of Babel? They both want to get rid of Jesus Christ and take His place.

Daniel 11:36.

And the king (the Antichrist) shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

Satan will see to it that the Antichrist will have the right answers to the problems the world is grappling with. He will be able to talk with world leaders and get them to do his will. He will be looked up to and respected because he is a charismatic person and well liked. But as the Bible warns **be not deceived**, it also says **watch and pray**. Halfway through a 7-year peace contract made with Israel the Antichrist will break his word and attack Jerusalem.

Luke21:20

But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near.

Matthew 24:15

Therefore, when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the Holy place...then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

The people in Judea are instructed by God to run and hide from the Antichrist because he will do such wicked things. Satan will be let loose on God's people, particularly the Jews. You need to be paying attention, the Bible says we are to watch and pray, look out for the beginning of these things and know that Jesus is coming very soon indeed. Do not be deceived.

2 Corinthians 11:1-2.

“For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ”

Clearly the true church is described in this verse as “betrothed” to Jesus Christ in the position of an engaged woman to her fiancé Jesus Christ. So, the church is portrayed as a woman.

For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is the head of the church; and He is the Saviour of the body. Therefore, as the church is subject to Christ so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything’

Again, as this is portrayed the Bible identifies the true church as being a woman. Verse 5 confirms the true New Testament Church is to flee to the mountain, a place prepared and protected by God, believed to be Petra, when the desolation comes which is the Antichrist, he will be given powers to torment and persecute those who follow after God. So, when we come to the woman of Revelation 17, it should be very obvious this woman is a church or the many religions of the world that have ever been who have done their best to replace the cross and introduce another Christ. She has entered into adulterous alliances with the leaders and kings of this world and the inhabitants of the earth are made spiritually drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When John saw her, he marvelled with great amazement. This is the fallen woman, in the form of a powerful church, a persecuting church, the Bible tells us she has been drunk with the blood of the saints during our history, and she will be drunk again. She is a mother church and will give birth to other spiritual harlots.

In his well-publicised book, *A Woman Rides the Beast* pp 243-244 David Hunt describes what “the woman” did for hundreds of years in the Middle Ages: *-not nice!*

“Thus, Roman Catholicism became the most persecuting faith the world has ever seen...commanding the throne to impose Religion on all its subjects. For instance, “Innocent 111 murdered far more Christians in one afternoon than some Roman emperors did in their entire reign”

“Scores of Catholic writers have been very embarrassed about what their church has practiced for hundreds of years. The vast records are now known to be very extensive, of priests sodomizing young boys, of popes maintaining mistresses and fathering illegitimate children, high office bought and sold for money, it seemed to many historians, newspapers, and public thinkers this powerful church was the embodiment of evil.”

The Prophet Daniel saw this foul religious system as a “little horn”. After the four great kingdoms of the Gentile world. (see *The Most High God is Sovereign over the Kingdoms of men* on my website.)

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BABYLON, MEDO-PERSIA, GREECE, ROME

Out of the Roman Empire Daniel was thinking about this system called “little Horn” and he saw yet another little horn come up in the middle of four of them and three of them were plucked up by the roots and they were no more. These three kingdoms were overcome or defeated in war and because they were taken up by the roots, they had no sustenance or foundation, so they lost their influence. The one remaining horn “**had eyes and a mouth and was able to speak pompous words.**” He would speak pompous words about Christ right up to the time that Christ returns. He will persecute the saints of God; he will intend changing the times and the law. He would have control over mankind for about three and a half years. Israel will be seriously persecuted during those years.

The “little horn” of Daniel is describing the false church and its leader and spokesman believed by many Bible students to be the Pope, who is speaking “pompous words” against Christ. Now I am writing what emerges as we unfold the Scripture and there may be many other interpretations, but at least you may want to check out what your reading, you may check this out to confirm your own thoughts, that is fine by me. The nearer we get to the Lord’s return greater revelation will be given. What we all must agree on is that Jesus is coming very soon and if we are not ready to meet Him, if

we have not given Him our lives, our love and we serve Him, life is going to get very difficult and very distressing in the coming years and we could, according to the Bible spend eternity in hell. As this man of sin is revealed he takes the names of Christ upon himself sitting in the place of God in God's Holy Temple demanding praise and glory from all and sundry— this is the ultimate in blasphemy against our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Jesus called God Holy Father; Roman Catholics call the pope Most Holy Father. This man will have supernatural power to deceive. He will have the ability to perform great miracles such as causing fire to come down out of the sky (Revelation 13:13).

There is a difference between the beast of Revelation 13. And the beast of Revelation 17. The beast of Revelation 13 corresponds to what Daniel saw in Daniel 7. John describes a creature from the time of Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon and continues to this day and has that spirit of Babylon, namely rebellion towards Christ, birthed by Nimrod and the building of the Tower of Babel. See the website. The beast in Revelation 17 however, speaks of a creature as the **one that was and is not**, the Roman Empire after the deadly wound is healed and now is.

That Woman riding the Beast.

Revelation 17:3

John saw in a vision a woman sitting on a scarlets coloured beast, and his attention is drawn to the woman's forehead and what is boldly written on it;

MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. (REVELATION.17;5).

This large and impressive title is that woman on the beast and is depicted by a city built on seven hills and reigns over the kings of the earth. What other city can be spoken of in such a way? Some have insisted Mystery Babylon is the United States, but the USA is a country not a city. The Woman is a city built on seven hills, only one city has for more than 2000 years been known as the city on seven hills and that is Rome!

The Catholic Encyclopaedia says, "It is within the city of Rome called the city of seven hills, that the entire area of the Vatican State proper is now confined." It is the world's smallest sovereign territory, called Vatican City. It maintains its own diplomatic relations with all the major powers, this tiny city is ruled by the Roman Pope, it has full participation in international affairs. But the aspirations of the Vatican are far more than mere *participation*. It seeks to achieve the guiding role it had for many centuries past when they ruled the world. Ancient Rome received a fatal wound with the death of Rome's last emperor in 476AD, but that was not the end!

Springing out of the old Roman Empire were the Vandals the Heruli and the Ostrogoths and these were uprooted by the mighty Eastern Emperor Justinian at the request of Rome's pope.

Watch this tiny city in Rome, they call it the "eternal city" but there is only one eternal city and that is in heaven, its ruler is God himself the King of kings not any Bishop of Rome, (now called Popes.) These may well hold the reins of power in time to come and how important is the women, the real rider astride the imperial beast. Remember look out for the rise of this beast, the blasphemous false religion in the form of a false modern church.

Pauline and I have been to Rome and walked round the Vatican, it is very small but surrounded by many soldiers all dressed in their colourful uniforms, there is something 'eery' about the place. Please remember that no matter what religion you find, in majority of cases, at some time or other it will seek to replace God and his Son Jesus from His church, leaving room for Satan and his crew to take away the cross. How dare they, but they will only do that if the true church lets them.

Why does the Bible tell us to watch and pray? Watch for what? Pray for what? The Bible confirms to us that Satan is the ruler of this world and the things we have studied have reminded us that this world

is being governed, in the main by Satan's followers. Satan is the mastermind of all that is anti-God, in the last days we will experience more wickedness, more sin, violence and much more hardship. Things can change with such subtlety that they are hardly noticed and all of a sudden, we are where we don't want to be through no fault of our own, except we have chosen the wrong path by leaving God out of our lives. A new law can be made which can be quite acceptable, but when it is put to use all sorts of bad complications may be applied. That's why we are exalted to watch and pray when these things happen that the Holy Spirit protects us and helps us keep true to Jesus our Saviour. When Satan sees his end is near, he is not going to like it, remember he used to live in heaven, he knows the end from the time he was created, he was there when God created the Earth. Mankind has had to contend with him all their lives many have given in to his temptations, the fight will continue until Jesus comes back. He also knows his own end, so he will fight God's people to keep them from their eternal home, he is a great deal more than spiteful.

A friend of mine wrote to the council of Europe and asked for a poster. They sent a copy and it showed a computerised image of the Tower of Babel, built by a bunch of people who, led by Nimrod, wanted to reach to heaven. The poster was crowned with 12 EU inverted stars, revealing the total control of Satan over the European project and below was the logo 'many tongues, one voice'. My friend, visiting later, asked why they built the European Parliament building in the image of the Tower of Babel? He was told "to complete what we failed to do back then!"- The spirit of Babylon and rebellion towards God is alive and well in Europe!



Painting by Pieter Bruegel the Elder



Parliament Building Brussels

What Nimrod did some 3000 years ago in creating rebellion towards God that caused the trinity to come to earth and disrupt the building of the Tower of Babel and hinder them in their work, man has continued to rebel against God to this present day. Rebellion towards God is rife the world over, we are responsible for the world we live in and we must take the consequences for what we have done with it. It is not God's fault for the mess it is in He gave us a perfect world to start with and WE messed it up.

I have written down some of the statements made by popes over time, statements that are pure blasphemy.

MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. (REVELATION.17;5).

David Hunt, internationally known author and lecturer describes the blasphemous claims of the woman riding on the beast in his book, A Woman Rides the Beast. He writes;

“The total submission that Rome requires has been expressed by many popes, but none more clearly than Pope Nicolas I. (858-67) he says, It is evident that the popes can neither be bound nor unbound by any earthly power nor even by that of the apostle Peter, if he should return upon the earth; since Constantine the Great has recognized that the pontiffs held the place of God upon the earth the divinity not being able to be judged by any man. We are then infallible, and whatever may be our acts, we are not accountable for them but to ourselves”
History of the Popes, p 243. A Woman Rides the Beast pp 153 154

“Divinity not being able to be judged by any living man. We are then infallible and whatever may be our acts we are not accountable for them but to ourselves”
(A Woman Rides the Beast)

Thus, as the moon receives its light from the sun, so the royal power (which is the state) derives from the pope’s authority the splendour of its dignity. The state of the world will be restored by our diligence and care, for the pope’s authority and the royal power fully suffice for this purpose.
(Pope Innocent 111 (1198-1216)

Catholic publicist Franz Taeschner praised “the Fuehrer, (Hitler) gifted with genius” and declared that he had “been sent by providence in order to achieve the fulfilment of Catholic social ideas”
(The Catholic Church and Nazi Germany pp 160-161)

In 1933 Pius XI called the Chancellor of Germany Reich (Hitler) the first Statesman who, together with the Bolshevik danger... Bishop Landersdorfer praised “the harmonious collaboration of Church and State”. On March 29, 1936, 45,453,691 Germans, or 99% of those entitled to vote, went to the polls. Of these, 44,461, 278 or 98% of those voting, voiced their approval of Hitlers leadership.

The Catholic vote approving Hitler was virtually unanimous. A joint pastoral letter was read from the pulpits on January 3, 1937 stating:

“the German bishops consider it their duty to support the head of the German Reich by all those means which the Church has at its disposal, we must mobilize all the spiritual and moral forces of the Church in order to strengthen confidence in the Fuehrer”. (Hitler)

In the Bible the word “abomination” is a spiritual term associated with idolatry. God condemned Israel for the “idols of thy abominations” (Ezekiel 16:36). Occult practices are also called abominations along with illicit and perverted sex. These evil practices are rooted in Babel, we are back to the Tower of Babel again and will, under the Antichrist be the foundation of the World Religion which this woman rider represents. Compare this with the history of the Roman Catholic Church.

The recent disclosures of widespread sexual misconduct on the part of certain members of the Roman Catholic clergy come as no surprise to most of us who were once priests or nuns. (Ex-nun Patricia Nolan Savas in USA Today)

St. Peter's church was largely built with monies given by people who were told they would reach heaven by paying sums of money to the Catholic Church and would "purchase" eternal life and a place in heaven. Pauline and I have visited St. Peter's Church in Rome it is a magnificent spectacle of grandeur and opulence all paid for by cheating millions of people out of knowing the gospel but still promising eternal life. (A Woman Rides the Beast)

The Roman Catholic Church is known for its adamant stand against divorce. But she is nothing but a unique divorce mill, calling it by a different name. That name is "Annulment" and the Church grants thousands of them each year. (National Catholic Reporter)

Every cleric must obey the Pope, even if he commands what is evil; for no one may judge the Pope. (Pope Innocent III 1198-1216)

We, the Popes alone have the power to bind and to loose, to absolve Nero and to condemn him, and Christians cannot, under the penalty of excommunication, execute other judgment than ours, which alone is infallible. (Pope Nicholas I 858-67)

A Catholic priest, Fr. Patrick Cogan, explained that annulments are granted even though the Church doesn't believe in divorce, because "the Catholic Church believes that it must hold onto a higher principle.

Five Catholic married women with families and wanting a divorce were on a TV programme called *Prime Time* on January 6, 1994 discussing "annulments". All were Catholics, some married 23 years, some 27, some with up to 5 children. Sheila Kennedy married to Bobby Kennedy's eldest son and mother of his twin sons was also there. Fr. Patrick Cogan a Catholic Priest also on the programme explained that annulments are granted even though the Church doesn't believe in divorce, because "the Catholic Church believes that it must hold to a higher principle". He went on to explain an annulment means "there was never a marriage from the very beginning." Mrs Kennedy responded angrily. "To say there was never a marriage that has lasted close to 13 years...that took place after a nine-year courtship and marriage that created two wonderful children never happened is to me outrageous. Joseph Kennedy explained to her. "but you have to understand that nobody believes this anyway, It's just Catholic gobbledegook. It's the way the Church requires you say these things, so don't take it so seriously" (from a transcript of "Primetime Live (ABC) January 6, 1994

We have Studied a very difficult subject but a very important one. Many are looking forward to the return of Jesus, many couldn't care less. Satan is the "god" of this world (2 Corinthians 4:3-4). I have explained how Satan has made full use of the apathy and compromise prevalent among individuals and churches alike. I believe Satan instigated the "spirit of Babylon" way back when Nimrod built the Tower of Babel, since then, more and more of God's creation have turned their backs on Him who loves us all and gave His life for us all.

The Bible says Satan is the **prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works. In the sons of disobedience.** (Ephesians 2:2) Who are these sons of disobedience? They are agents or followers of none other than Satan himself.

Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.

Give your heart to Jesus, ask Him to forgive you your sins and follow Him so you may escape the terrible things coming on the earth. May God bless you and draw you unto Himself, make sure your name is written in God's book along side mine and my families.

Amen.