

# **MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH**

by Elder Bob Allgood

**John the apostle, who was exiled to the Isle of Patmos, wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit the things that was revealed to him. He said, “So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration” (Rev. 17:3-6).**

**While I lack the wisdom, knowledge and ability to understand all that is involved in Mystery Babylon – I believe with all my heart that this WOMAN represents the ungodly, anti-Christ system of “beliefs and practices” of false religions - (if I may use that phrase) which were started by Nimrod at the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11:1-9) and have spread down through the ages to include not only Babylonian, but the pagan teachings and customs of the Chaldeans, Egyptians, Phoenicians, Greeks and Romans. The names of their gods are many and sometimes confusing when we try to bring an ancient name into modern day perspective. But the truth is, Mystery Babylon is at work today just as much as she has been since the Flood. The details may have changed - but the principles of Mystery Babylon have not changed.**

**The Bible does not tell us a great deal about Nimrod - we must learn that from the learned of ancient history. Hislop writes, “According to the system which Nimrod was the grand instrument in introducing, men were led to believe that a real spiritual change of heart was unnecessary, and that so far as change was needful, they could be regenerated by mere external means.” This tells me the entire Works System can be attributed to Nimrod and his father the devil. While we modern day ministers attribute the Works System to Arminius and the Arminians – behind it all is Nimrod and his Mystery Babylon. Hislop says of Nimrod, “it is evident that he led mankind to seek their chief good in sensual enjoyment, and showed them how they might enjoy the pleasures of sin, without any fear of the wrath of a holy God”. That sounds pretty up to date if we consider what Paul wrote about the “last days” in II Tim 3:1-5.**

**BAAL is the “Sun God” of the Babylonians. He is mentioned about 60 times in the Scriptures. His name changes when the Eastern religion changes. Sometimes Baal is called Baalim (Judges 2:11), or Bel (Jere. 50:2).**

Ashtaroath is the wife of Baal, and her name also changes - sometimes to Beltis (My Lady), Astarte (Queen of Heaven), or Ishtar (the goddess of fertility). Israel in their weakness worshipped these gods and goddess. “And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroath, and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines, and forsook the LORD, and served not him.” Judges 10:6

There are many “false or man made gods” mentioned in the Scriptures. Many of them were in the form of a “statue”. Some were in the form of “objects of nature” such as the Sun, Moon or Trees . God warned Israel against making “Images” of the likeness of any creature and against worshipping the sun, moon or stars. “Lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them –“. (Deut. 4:14-20). Many of these “false or man made gods” are representative of man’s vain imagination of the True and Living God. This becomes obvious from Paul’s statement to the Athenians (Greeks) on Mars Hill, “For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions (gods that ye worship), I found an alter with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you ” (Acts 17:23). Therefore, let it be understood that in my discourse on this subject, the eternal destiny of those who worship “false or man made gods” is not part of my consideration.

In the 12<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of Ahaz over Judah, a man named Hosea began to reign in Samaria over Israel. He led Israel to disobey God. “And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree: And there they burnt incense in all the high places, as [did] the heathen whom the LORD carried away before them; and wrought wicked things to provoke the LORD to anger: For they served idols, whereof the LORD had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing.” (II Kings 17:10-12). God in his mercy and longsuffering “testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, [and by] all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments [and] my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets.” (II Kings 17:13).

**BUT** they “would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God. And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that [were] round about them, [concerning] whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them. And they left all the command-ments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, [even] two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.” IT was not enough that they did these things **BUT**, “they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger” (14-17).

**“So these nations feared the LORD, and served their graven images, both their children, and their children's children: as did their fathers, so do they unto this day” (II Kings 17:41). This is indeed a seemingly contradictory statement. IT says that these nations “feared the Lord” - but they served “their graven images”. HOW could this be ? How did it come about ?**

**When Israel disobeyed God’s and begin to “walk in the statues of the heathen, and fear other gods, did secretly those things that were not right, and wrought wicked things to provoke the Lord to anger” – “ the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only. Also Judah kept not the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made. And the LORD rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of spoilers, until he had cast them out of his sight.” (II Kings 17:18-20)**

**“ So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria” and held in Syrian captivity by Shalmaneser for nine years. The Assyrians did not fear the Lord - so the Lord sent lions among them to slay them. Then the king of Assyria decided to teach the Nations (heathen) the manner of the God of Israel. “ Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, Carry thither one of the priests whom ye brought from thence; and let them go and dwell there, and let him teach them the manner of the God of the land. Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD.” (II Kings 17:27-28).**

**It is one thing to “know how to fear the Lord” and it is another thing to “fear the Lord but serve other gods”. These Nations (heathen) heard about God, “Howbeit every nation made gods of their own, and put [them] in the houses of the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in their cities wherein they dwelt.” That is alot of gods - gods from every nation – all made in the likeness of man’s vain imagination of the True and Living God. Here are some of the gods they made: “ And the men of Babylon made Succothbenoth, and the men of Cuth made Nergal, and the men of Hamath made Ashima, And the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvites burnt their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.”**

**So the Babylonians made a god called Succothbenoth. The Cuthites made a god called Nergal. The Hamathites made a god called Ashina. The Avites made two gods called Nibhaz and Tartak. The Sepharvites (Syrians) burned their children in a fire to the double “god” Adrammelech and Anammelech, probably representing the “Sun and Moon” or the “winter solstice and the spring festival”. We could list many other “false gods” talked about in Scripture. We have already mentioned Baal and his female counterpart Ashtoreth. Baal is also Bel and Baalim. The Moabite gods was Baal-peor and Chemosh. The Philistine gods were Beelzebub and Dagon. The Ammonite gods were Molech and Milcom. The pagans of Rome worshipped Saturn, during the Winter Solstice on December 25<sup>th</sup>, which has just passed. Saturn**

corresponds to the Greek god Cronus which is the same as Baal who is Nimrod deified.

“So they feared the LORD, and made unto themselves of the lowest of them priests of the high places, which sacrificed for them in the houses of the high places. They feared the LORD, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence. Unto this day they do after the former manners: they fear not the LORD, neither do they after their statutes, or after their ordinances, or after the law and commandment which the LORD commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel - --“

### Come Out Of Her My People

“Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. (Rev. 18:4-6).

Many consider The Revelation a “closed book” because it contains many things that are difficult to understand. Others have tired to merchandise it by giving their sensationalized prophetic interpretations which they periodically revise as time proves them wrong. I certainly am no authority on the book and therefore my comments will often be expressed in my opinion (IMO for short). My observations may differ from some you have read, but I hope they will be received with charity and patience. If you disagree with anything, or have additional light on this subject, please let me hear from you. We all must depend upon the Spirit of Truth to guide us, but we surely can not neglect reading the book, for it says, “Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand”. I am glad it does not say that we must fully understand each and every word of the book in order to be Blessed.

The Revelation was written in signified language. “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and SIGNIFIED IT by his angel unto his servant John” (Rev. 1:1). Mystery Babylon is described with signified words or sign language, which is symbolic or token type words. This is a common language within the Scriptures. Much of the Bible is written with allegorical, symbolic or token words. Jesus used parables to teach the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. Parables are facts told with token words which must be spiritually discerned (Matt. 13:10-17). Token words are just as valid and important as literal words. A token is designed to get you what you want or where you want to go without using real money. Symbolic words point us to the facts and are just as authoritative as literal words, but they require more study and godly wisdom to understand them. Sometimes we may never understand them. Unless God gives us seeing eyes and hearing ears, we can not discern the simplest of words within the Scriptures.

Symbolic language can often have multiple applications, but each should harmonize with Scripture and Sound Doctrine. There will be no more “Revelations”, therefore if we are to learn WHO or WHAT that WOMAN IS, Scripture must tell us. Whatever our conclusion, we should not be able to point a finger and say, I did not know about that woman !

We do not know the date The Revelation was written by John. There are as many speculative dates as there are speculative writers with speculative opinions. The date makes a difference as to which field of interpretation one wants to follow. There are those who believe Revelation is mostly future, and those who believe it is mostly historical, and those who hold to more or less of each position. The futurist generally place the date between 96-98AD, or later. However many reputable historians fix the date at 68-69AD, or earlier, but prior to the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem by Titus in 70AD. I agree with this later position, believing that John was banned to the Isle of Patmos by the Roman Emperor Nero before Nero’s death in 68 or 69AD. Paul had written to the Thessalonians in 53AD. “For the mystery of iniquity doth already work”. All of the epistles written by Paul and Peter were written prior to 70AD because Nero was responsible for their death. Nero was a mad man who ordered the war against the Jews, starting about 66AD, which Vespasian and his son Titus directed, intending to exterminate the Jews. Nero began “atrocious barbarities” against Christians in 67AD with the intention of their extermination. Whatever the date, we do know that when it was written, John said, “the time IS at hand”.

The angel told John that the Revelation was about “things which must shortly come to pass” and later told him of “things which must be hereafter” (Rev. 4:1). I think the “things which must be hereafter” were also “things which must shortly come to pass”, because he said “the time IS at hand”. Some say the “things which must be hereafter” are yet FUTURE. The Arminian premillennial dispensationalist who believe in the Postponed Kingdom Theory say most of the things in Revelation have not yet been fulfilled. These futurist have put a 2,000 year gap in between the last seven years of Daniel’s 490 year prophecy (Dan. 9:24-27). They are the folks who claim that God HAD to postpone the kingdom, even though Jesus said, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand –“. At hand means near or nigh - or about to happen. The Dispensationalist believe that the Church will be secretly caught away from this earth (raptured), before a seven year period of great tribulation on this earth, during which time the antichrist numbered 666 will make a covenant with the Jews, whom Christ will consume with flames upon his physical return to this earth, to reign in his earthly Davidic kingdom for 1000 years in a physical temple in the city of Jerusalem. They view Revelation as future, and anyone who believes these things needs all the time they can get. Sadly this includes the vast majority of professed Christians and the multitude of denominations.

The futurist view is easily refuted with Scripture right here in the Revelation. We know the seven churches which are in Asia existed at that time, because John directed this entire Revelation to them (1:4-6). Furthermore, if we go to the last chapter we read, “I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you

these things in the churches” (Rev. 22:16). The last verse reads, “He that testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen.” And John adds, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (Rev. 22:20). Whatever The Revelation contains, it is intended for the saints of God IN the churches of God, prior to the coming of Christ. IMO most of Revelation has already been fulfilled IN Christ or IN time. I do not know of any unfulfilled events, other than the return of Christ for his saints, and the final judgement of the wicked. At that time those whose names were written in the Lamb’s book of life before the foundation of the world will be ushered into glory, and the wicked will be judged and cast into the lake of fire, along with the Devil, the beast and the false prophet. If I am right about this, we are waiting with hope, for what Scripture calls the “resurrection of the just and the unjust” (Matt 13:36-43, 25:31-34, 41, 46, John 5:26-29, Acts 17:24-31, 24:14-15, I Thess. 4:13-18, II Thess. 1:7-10). Therefore most of my comments about Mystery Babylon will relate to history, with a few comparisons to the present time. Whatever we learn from this study, it can be summed up ahead of time with these words, “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie” (Rev. 22:14-15).

### THE WHORE AND WHOREMONGERS

THE WOMAN of ill repute IS described in Revelation 17:1 as “the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: 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” (v.1) and then we are told, “The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues” (v. 15). It is said that upon her forehead is written A name (or her name) “MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH” (v. 5). So we know the woman sitteth ON, controls or influences the religious doctrine and practices of multitudes of people.

The word woman is often used in the Bible to indicate a form of religion or religious system, be it good or evil. For example in Gen. 3:15 when the Lord was announcing judgment on the Serpent, he said, “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed –“. We know this was not speaking of the children of Eve, for Cain, her first son was of the wicked one and slew righteous Abel, her second son (I John 3:7-12). As I see it, the word woman was used to speak prophetically, specifically of the Virgin Birth (Isa. 7:14, Matt. 1:18-23) and of Israel in general, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, through which the Lord’s Christ, the promised seed, was born. Paul specifically names Christ as the “promised seed” (singular) in Galatians 3:16-29 and adds, “When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman - “ (4:4-6). This woman is allegorical of the “Jerusalem which is above, which is the mother of us all” (Gal. 4:26), and this is the same woman who “brought forth the man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne” (Rev. 12:5). Symbolically this woman represents the heavenly or

new Jerusalem, the holy Jerusalem, the holy city, that great city, the Israel of God, the True Church, of which Jesus Christ is the Head.

Therefore IMO, one could make an application and say that the woman, called Mystery, Babylon the Great, as an anti-type, is also symbolic of Hagar or the “Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children” (Gal. 4:25). In doing that, an application of the symbolic words the great whore would have to be made to the natural Jerusalem which existed at the time Jesus Christ pronounced her destruction and the “abomination of desolation, spoken by Daniel the prophet” (Matt. 23:15). That same apostate condition would have had to exist when John wrote the Revelation. Does such an application harmonize with Scripture? Many times in the O.T. national Israel is said to have “played the harlot” with her acts of spiritual fornication or adultery. In Ezekiel 16 we read this condemnation of apostate national Israel, which resembles the description of Mystery Babylon.

“Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations. --- I clothed thee also with brodered work, and shod thee with badgers' skin, and I girded thee about with fine linen, and I covered thee with silk. I decked thee also with ornaments, and I put bracelets upon thy hands, and a chain on thy neck. And I put a jewel on thy forehead, and earrings in thine ears, and a beautiful crown upon thine head. Thus wast thou decked with gold and silver; and thy raiment *was of* fine linen, and silk, and brodered work; thou didst eat fine flour, and honey, and oil: and thou wast exceeding beautiful, and thou didst prosper into a kingdom. And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it *was* perfect through my comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord GOD. But thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown, and pouredst out thy fornications on every one that passed by; his it was. And of thy garments thou didst take, and deckedst thy high places with divers colours, and playedst the harlot thereupon --- Thou hast also taken thy fair jewels of my gold and of my silver, which I had given thee, and madest to thyself images of men, and didst commit whoredom with them --- Moreover thou hast taken thy sons and thy daughters, whom thou hast borne unto me, and these hast thou sacrificed unto them to be devoured. *Is this* of thy whoredoms a small matter, That thou hast slain my children, and delivered them to cause them to pass through *the fire* for them? And in all thine abominations and thy whoredoms thou hast not remembered the days of thy youth, when thou wast naked and bare, *and* wast polluted in thy blood. --- Thou hast also committed fornication with the Egyptians thy neighbours, great of flesh; and hast increased thy whoredoms, to provoke me to anger. -- Thou hast played the whore also with the Assyrians, because thou wast unsatiable; yea, thou hast played the harlot with them, and yet couldest not be satisfied. Thou hast moreover multiplied thy fornication in the land of Canaan unto Chaldea; and yet thou wast not satisfied herewith. How weak is thine heart, saith the Lord GOD, seeing thou doest all these *things*, the work of an imperious whorish woman --- Wherefore, O harlot, hear the word of the LORD: Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thy filthiness was poured out, and thy nakedness discovered through thy whoredoms with thy lovers, and with all the idols of thy abominations, and by the blood of thy children, which thou

didst give unto them; Behold, therefore I will gather all thy lovers, with whom thou hast taken pleasure, and all *them* that thou hast loved, with all *them* that thou hast hated; I will even gather them round about against thee, and will discover thy nakedness unto them, that they may see all thy nakedness. And I will judge thee, as women that break wedlock and shed blood are judged; and I will give thee blood in fury and jealousy. And I will also give thee into their hand, and they shall throw down thine eminent place, and shall break down thy high places: they shall strip thee also of thy clothes, and shall take thy fair jewels, and leave thee naked and bare. They shall also bring up a company against thee, and they shall stone thee with stones, and thrust thee through with their swords. One can see from these words that scriptural justification can be made for an application of “the great whore” to “the Jerusalem that now is, and in bondage with her children”. Nor would it be too extreme to assign the judgment of “the great whore” and “that great city” to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by Titus in 70AD, as was foretold by Daniel and confirmed by Christ.

Similar applications can be made to the word woman in John 2:4 where Jesus said, “Woman, what have I do to do with thee ?” He was not being disrespectful to Mary, but was separating himself as the Messiah, which is clearly seen by the added words, “mine hour is not yet come”. It seems to me, he was denouncing, with these token words, the apostasy of national Israel under the old law covenant. The general condition of the Jewish nation at the time of Christ was apostate as clearly seen from the scriptures. “For he came unto his own, and his own received him not”. Only a small remnant of prepared Jews received him. The apostate Jewish leaders proclaimed, “We have no king but Caesar”. Within the statement “Woman, what have I to do with thee” may also be found prophetic significance and reference to the Babylonish system of religion known today as Roman Catholicism, which would be born several hundred years later as a continuation of the Roman Empire, and certainly has a part in Mystery Babylon.

Not only is national Israel referred to as a woman, but the true Church of God IS referred to as a woman, the Bride of Christ. Therefore it is reasonable to conclude that the false or apostate religious system or “false church” belonging to Satan, the great imitator, would be described as a woman. In Revelation 12 we read of the woman in heaven (the Jerusalem which is above, true Israel) ready to bring forth a man child, and then the dragon ready to devour the man child as soon as he was born (Cf Matt. 2:16). We then see the dragon persecute the woman, and when he could not prevail, he created a beast in his image upon which sitteth the great whore which must be a counterfeit form of the true church.

We could give several other examples to prove this, such as the seven women of Isaiah 4:1 who said “We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach”. Bread is a token word for doctrine, and Apparel is a token word for practice. This was a condition that existed in the days of Christ, for he said, “Ye hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart

is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men” (Matt. 15:7-9). This is a condition that dominates many so called “Baptists” today compared to the true NT Baptist Church. But that is another article. We could also consider the influence the more infamous woman Jezebel was having on the church in Thyatira where she was teaching the Lord’s servants to “commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols” (Rev. 2:20). Many times Solomon warned against being entangled with the “strange woman”, which we could contrast to the virtuous woman of Prov. 31:10-31. Obviously the woman of Revelation 17 is not a virtuous woman.

### **THE WOMAN - THAT GREAT CITY**

**THE WOMAN** of ill repute **IS** described in Revelation 17:18 as “that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth”. Without a doubt “that great city” under consideration **IS** called Babylon (Rev. 14:8, 16:19, 18:2, 10, 21). We can not limit ourselves to Revelation 17 if we are to understand this Mystery. I found the expression “great city” seventeen times in Scripture. One time it refers to Sodom and Egypt, five times to Nineveh, and seven times to Babylon. Nineveh is the city built by Nimrod, and Babylon is in Assyria, where Nimrod expanded his Kingdom. At the time The Revelation was written, the literal city of Babylon no longer existed. Alexander the Great died in Babylon on June 10, 323BC, after conquering the then know world. After his death, “the great city” was abandoned and its buildings fell into ruin.

Therefore the token word Babylon must be symbolic for a Babylonish type city or a Babylonish type religion that existed at that time. I say this because John seemed to be satisfied with the answer he was given in Rev. 17:18, “And the woman which thou sawest **IS** that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth”. At least he did not ask, “What great city”? Many have said that Mystery Babylon is symbolic for Rome and Romanism as being that great city and the great whore. Some have claimed that the “Jerusalem that now is”, or as it was at the time Revelation was written, fits that type. In contrast, the new Jerusalem, the holy Jerusalem, the holy city, the city of Christ, the true Church prepared as a bride adorned for her husband, is called “that great city” (Rev. 21:1-3, 10). But we know the two are not the same.

### **THE WOMAN AS MYSTERY BABYLON**

There is little doubt that the woman, Mystery, Babylon the Great represents an evil religious system. That system continues to exist today, even though the “judgment” of the great whore has already been declared, and that woman awaits the ultimate sentence of that judgment. The sentence which is described in Revelation 20:10-15 will be carried out when Christ returns on that appointed day (Acts 17:31). This is much like a criminal, tried and convicted, but waiting on death row for the sentence to be carried out. Except with the woman, there are no appeals. The question arises, did the woman represent a future system to be established, or a historical system

already in operation ? The use of the name Babylon indicates it was an historical system which had been carried forward. Knowing this, let's go back and examine briefly the Babylonian Empire under Nebuchadnezzar during the time Daniel was a Prophet. Nebuchadnezzar had dreamed a dream and saw a vision, and Daniel was called upon to declare and interpret that dream. Here is what Nebuchadnezzar saw.

**“Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.”** Nebuchadnezzar saw these symbolic things in his dream and Daniel was given the wisdom to know what he saw and the interpretation thereof. **“This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. “**

And next comes the good part. **“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.”** (Dan 2:31-45)

This image includes four of the kingdoms or empires that make up the seven horns or kings of the Beast that John saw in Revelation. Daniel's interpretation of that Image was sure. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, was the head of gold, and the Medo-Persian empire followed, and the Grecian

empire followed, and the Roman Empire was the fourth. This is a vital part of Scripture interpreting Scripture. Daniel's interpretation tells us that the Kingdom of God and of Christ, the chief corner stone, was established during the fourth kingdom or the Roman empire. Jesus began his ministry by preaching "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15). Therefore the Roman Empire was the king described as the one that IS in Rev. 17:10 and we all know what the word IS means.

### **THE WOMAN AND THE BEAST**

We are told that John saw this woman "sit upon a scarlet colored beast - having seven heads and ten horns (v. 3, 7). Then we are told that the seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth (v. 9) and "There are seven kings" (v. 10) and "the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings which received no kingdom" (v.12). Again scripture must interpret scripture. The ten kings with no kingdom correspond to the ten toes of the divided Roman Empire in Nebuchadnezzar's Image. In 330AD, the Roman emperor Constantine the Great moved the capital of the Roman Empire from Rome to Byzantium (now Istanbul, Turkey). The city was renamed Constantinople in his honor. In 395 AD the Roman Empire divided into the West Roman Empire and the East Roman Empire. I put no stock in the futurist idea that the ten European Countries that make up the Common Market are these ten kings with no kingdom.

The Beast is the image or likeness of the dragon (CF Rev. 12:3 and 13:1), and is obviously an instrument being used of the Dragon. We are told the dragon gave the beast "his power, and his seat, and great authority" and "power was given him over ALL kindreds, and tongues, and nations" (Rev. 13:2, 7). The Beast like Daniel's Image represents a series of or continuation of world empires or great kingdoms which have ruled over many people. We see the continuation of these empires in the fact that the seven heads of the beast are seven kings, five of which are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come (Rev. 17:10). We see the conflict within these empires, because the beast had power to make war against the saints (God's elect), because they would not worship him, while ALL those who are not written in the Lamb's book of life did worship the dragon and the beast (Rev. 13:4, 8). Putting this in perspective, it appears to me that all of this is about the age old battle of Satan versus God's people, and the Devil's attempt to prevent them from giving God glory and honor in true worship. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12). This battle has been going on since the Garden of Eden.

The dragon is not hard to identify, for we are told "And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his head" (Rev. 12:3), and "the great dragon" is identified as, "that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan" (Rev. 12:9). In dealing with the seven heads of the beast, (Rev 17:7) which are the same seven heads of the Dragon (Rev. 13:3), which are seven kings

(with kingdoms) (Rev. 17:9-10), upon which the woman sits, we must now look for a total of six aggressive historical Babylonish Empires. We need only six because five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come (17:10). I suggest: Babel (or Babylon), the beginning of Nimrod's Kingdom, was the first one started after the flood of 2390 BC, Assyria, the continuation of Nimrod's Kingdom, and that great city of Nineveh, became the second, Babylon, the Kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar, which grew out of Nimrod's beginning, was the third; the Persian Empire (Medo-Persian under Cyrus and Darius) was the fourth; the Grecian or Macedonian Empire under Alexander the Great was the fifth; and the Roman Empire was the sixth.

We could include Egypt and make the total seven, but how would we deal with these words, "And there are seven kings, five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space" (v. 10). Therefore, regardless of whether or not I have the six correct, the first five had fallen and the Roman Empire was the ONE that IS. Everyone should agree with that. IF Roman Catholicism is supposed to be Mystery Babylon, it seems to me that the Beast that carries her, and the seven horns or seven kings would have to be in the future from the time Revelation was written. We would then need to identify the seven horns or seven kings or seven empires that existed from about 313AD or 590AD through 1999. According to my calculation Roman Catholicism has been a false Babylonish religious system under the name of Christianity for at least the past 1,500 years.

But if Mystery Babylon is an historical ungodly religious system that began with Nimrod and will continue on until the end of time, the seventh king or world empire could arise at any time. If this is true, it may turn out that Satan has been loosed from the bottomless pit and the New World government under the anti-God United Nations is the seventh kingdom or world empire. In the lobby of the UN you will find the Babylonish Greek god Zeus. The UN, which was formed in 1945, attempts to overcome the language bearer God inflicted at the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11:4-9). I certainly believe that there are characteristics about this Beast that implies a ONE World government, for "power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations", a ONE World Economy, for "no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of the beast", and a ONE World Religious System, imposed on the people of the world, so much so, "that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed". IF this is true we can only pray that "when he cometh, he must continue a short space", provided that Jesus comes quickly. Even so, come, Lord Jesus, come !

## THE WOMAN AND ROMAN CATHOLICISM

This woman called Mystery, Babylon the Great, is an easy type of Roman Catholicism (i.e. Romanism) for the futurist looking back on history. But was the "Great Whore" being presented as a prophetic event using the symbolism of Mystery Babylon, OR was this an imminent event "which must shortly come to pass" using the historical symbolism of Mystery Babylon. Roman

Catholicism was born out of the Roman Empire under Emperor Constantine the Great, about 313 AD. Romanism is the continuation of the mythological aspect of the Roman Empire under the name of "Christianity". After the fall of the Roman Empire this whore began adopting titles for her Popes instead of Emperors, starting about 590 AD with Pope Gregory the Great. Before this date those they call "Popes" were nothing more than "high and mighty" regional Bishops under the doctrine of the Nicolaitans as they separated the "clergy" from the "laity" and began their rule over the people. (Rev. 2:6, 15). While Romanism claims Popes all the way back to Peter, we know that is a lie, for Peter declared himself to be an Elder and condemned "being lords over God's heritage" (I Peter 5:1-4). There is no evidence whatsoever that Peter and his wife or mother-in-law (Mark 1:30) were ever in Rome. When Peter wrote, "The Church that is at Babylon saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son" (I Pet. 5:13) he was talking about the church that was at Jerusalem as being at Babylon, and John Mark, called Marcus, the son of a Mary, who was the sister of Barnabas (Acts 15:36-39 with Col. 4:10).

We are told the number of the beast with seven heads and ten horns is the number of a man; and his number is 666 (Rev 13:1. 18). Some have connected that number with the Papal throne, which sits on a platform with six steps. We can also connect that number with Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, and with other Babylonish related religions. Paul speaks of "The man of sin - Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple as God, shewing himself that he is God" (II Thess. 2:4). Was Paul speaking of future Popes or of Titus, the prince of the Roman Emperor and the people who were to come (Dan. 9:26) ? Was Paul speaking of future Popes sitting in the Vatican or of the Roman Emperor Vespasian who sat in the Temple before its destruction, with the Roman ensigns of their pagan gods, and mocked the God of glory. The destruction of the Temple caused the typical animal "sacrifice and oblation" of the Jewish economy to cease in 70AD according to Daniel's prophecy. Destruction and judgment was brought upon the Jewish nation. They had filled up the measure of their fathers. Their house was left unto them desolate, according to the words of Christ (Matt. 23:29-38).

But that happened forty (40) years after Jesus Christ had "confirmed the covenant with many" and then was cut off "in the midst of the week". It was Christ who caused "the sacrifice and oblation to cease" when he entered into the Heavenly Sanctuary and presented himself as the One Sacrifice that perfected forever them that are sanctified (Heb.9:23-28, 10:12-14) ? Roman Catholic Pope's sit in the Vatican and claim to be the Vicar of Christ - a substitute for Christ. Such a claim by itself makes them an antichrist, for Christ sitteth on the right hand of the Majesty on high, and no man can sit in his seat. These Popes speak as infallible gods. They are bowed down to as gods. Those who approach them must kiss their hand or feet. However this was also true of Roman Emperor's. I assume Bill Clinton had to kiss the ring or big toe of Pope Paul when he visited him in St. Louis, MO. But that's another article.

Popes, like the Emperors of Rome, adopt “names” by which they are worshipped and many are “deified” as Saints upon their death. During the reformation many Protestant leaders declared Rome with her Popes to be the Mother of Harlots that “sitteth upon seven mountains” and “that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth” (Rev. 17:1,9,18). Sadly her Protestant daughters did not “come out of her” all the way and recently began reuniting with their Mother in an ecumenical movement which now includes many so called Protestant “Baptists”. Primitive Baptists are not Protestants, but some of them are beginning to act like they are. Some Primitive Baptists are observing the same Roman holidays and engaged in the same types of practices, such as Ministerial Training, Missionism and Ecumenicism. Remember the plea of the seven women, “we will eat our own bread and wear our own apparel”? But I had better leave this for another time.

There is little doubt in my mind that the physical location of the great whore of Romanism sits on the seven hills of Rome. But, as I see it, Mystery, Babylon the Great, is more than Roman Catholicism by itself. Mystery Babylon began long before Roman Catholicism. Mystery Babylon is more than a denominational problem, it is a world wide system of “Babylonish” religious principles and practices that touches every form of Idolatry and Apostacy (Jew and Gentile) and every person that does not and will not walk in the path of righteousness.

To prove this we read: “And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him (the beast that carries the woman), whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If any man have an ear, let him hear” (Rev. 13:8-9). These words include ALL religions and ALL people of ALL nations, excluding those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life. God’s people are told, “Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. (Rev. 18:4-6). Not ALL of God’s people are involved with Roman Catholicism, but ALL of God’s people are IN the world under one form of government (rule) or another. If a Babylonish Religious System dominates the government under which we live, it is up to God’s people to refuse to bow down to the image set before us. I point you to the three Hebrew children in Daniel 3:13-18 as proof of this. This is true whether that system be Romanism, Hinduism, Buddhist, Humanism, Materialism or any other form of Babylonish idolatry, in some foreign country or here in the United States. There is no shortage of “Babylonish garments and wedges of gold” right here at home, and some of them are being hid in Primitive Baptist churches.

### THE NATURE OF MYSTERY BABYLON

Mystery Babylon began with Nimrod and the Tower of Babel, after the great flood. Nimrod’s philosophy, “Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach into the heaven; and let us make us a name –“ has permeated

down through the ages for almost 4,000 years. This philosophy can clearly be seen in the “great whore” arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, and “hath glorified herself” and tried to exalt herself above the God of Glory. This is the same philosophy that existed in the King of Babylon who is called Lucifer in Isaiah 14, where God said, “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.” This philosophy can be seen in Nebuchadnezzar who said, “Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty” (Dan. 4:29-32). This philosophy dominates the Scientific efforts to manipulate and create life, and to prove man’s superiority over God or the non-existence of God. This philosophy can also be seen in denominational “religious practices” today, where so many have departed from the Faith and have given heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and are building themselves “a kingdom”. Sadly this departure is again happening among Primitive Baptists.

Nimrod’s kingdom of Babel spread to Assyria, wherein is located the cities of Nineveh and Babylon. But Mystery Babylon is not just speaking of the old physical kingdom of Babel or Babylon in Iraq, or Asshur in Assyria, for this System has spread throughout the earth to all succeeding kingdoms and nations. Mystery Babylon is spread around the world, “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”. This includes nations which are not involved denominationally with Roman Catholicism, but are partakers of the Babylonish System of Religion.

This woman Mystery Babylon is a system of religious idolatry that “shall make war with the Lamb” and is “drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus”. While Romanism has certainly persecuted the children of God, and perhaps more than any other part of this Babylonish system, Jesus said to the Apostate Jews, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee” (Matt. 23:37). Read again Ezekiel 16. The war against God’s people has been going on since Cain slew Abel, and includes heathen (Gentile) nations as well as Jewish apostates. Mystery Babylon represents an all inclusive deliberate system of ungodly, anti-Godly, anti-Christ and devilish religious beliefs and practices. I believe this Mystery of Iniquity and Abominations of the Earth represents all man made false gods and doctrines of devils, whether they be vain imaginations, graven images, objects of nature, religious inventions or humans deified as gods. It goes far beyond simple error. It is a deliberate attempt to destroy the principles of Truth.

But thanks be unto God, The Truth as it is in Christ Jesus will prevail. The Dragon was cast out of heaven, and can no longer accuse the elect. Salvation was secured in Christ Jesus. The Kingdom of God was established, and for

the Elect of God, Babylon IS fallen (Rev. 12:7-11, Isa. 14:12, John 12:28-33, Dan.7:9-14). “Alleluia; Salvation and glory and honor, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.” -- “Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God” (Rev. 14:6-8, 19:1-9).

Mystery Babylon is a religious system that involves “Man-made gods and Men made gods”. This is known as Idolatry and the study of it is called Mythology.

### **Man-made gods and Men made gods**

#### **Mystery Babylon and Mythology**

According to Webster’s Dictionary “Mythology is about the history and origin of a people and their ancestors, deities and heroes”. Myths sometimes start as repetitive stories or fairy tales that turn into rituals or celebrations that become Idolatrous. Sadly many of God’s people engage in such rituals and celebrations either ignorantly or deliberately as “they fear the Lord, but serve their own gods”. Most myths start in one of two ways: (1) by personifying things of nature in an effort to explain their cause or purpose, and (2) the deification of heroes and great or mighty rulers who actually lived at one time. Mythology is almost always “overlapping” between nations and religions. The gods of one people become the gods of another, but by different names. That part would get somewhat complicated if we considered the many names that the same gods and goddess have under the various heathen nations, but it is really very simple if we go to the beginning and start there.

Mythology is in direct opposition to the ONE true and living God of Creation. “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” and there is only ONE true and living “God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.” (Acts 17:24-29). This Creator God,

who is JEHOVAH God, the I AM THAT I AM God, has said “Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God –“ (Exodus 20:3-6). Throughout scripture we find warning after warning to God’s people, and judgment after judgment pronounced upon God’s people for “serving other gods”. In spite of all this, “They feared the Lord, and served their own gods – and so do they unto this day” (II Kings 17:33-41).

The first lie told by that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, was “Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil” (Gen. 3:5). Unless God humbles a man and puts his Spirit in him, his natural sinful tendencies toward pride causes one to exalt himself as a god. The poor and lowly are seldom recognized for this tendency because they are overshadowed by the “high and the mighty”. God hates pride (Prov. 6:16-19) and warns us against being “self exalted”. Still “self exaltation” is one of man’s dominant desires. We do not have to go far into the Scriptures to find this truth taught, but for the sake of proof, I will start in the New Testament and work my way back to Genesis.

It seems to me, that in Romans 1:18-32, Paul is speaking about the general adult condition of the Gentile nations before the flood. Please remember the “eternal destiny” of those who do these things is not under consideration. Those who knew (about) God from creation, glorified him not as God and became vain in their imaginations (Gen. 6:5) “And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.” We have here a description of what happens to nations when they become absorbed in Idolatry, and this is true whether it be “before the flood” or “after the flood” as described in II Kings 17 which ends with these words - “So these nations feared (knew about) the LORD, and served their graven images, both their children, and their children’s children: as did their fathers, so do they unto this day”. That “unto this day” could well extend from 660 BC in Assyria “unto this day” in 1999 AD in the United States.

All but eight souls of the human race were destroyed in the Great Flood of 2390 BC or 1656 years after Creation (according to the Wonders of Bible Chronology, which follows the work of Dr. Martin Anstey). Scripture gives us some facts about the life of Noah after the flood in Genesis 9, and then goes into detail about the generations of the “sons of Noah” ending with these words, “These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood” (Gen. 10:1-32). Therefore it seems logical to conclude that all forms of

human perversion and idolatrous worship of “false gods and goddess” had to originate in the “heavens and the earth, which are now” OR be carried over from “the world that then was” (II Peter 3:5-7) by Noah or the sons of Noah, and the descendants of the sons of Noah. The record is clear that man’s depravity and a great amount of human perversion and Mythology was carried over in the Ark, and Scripture clearly identifies the guilty parties. It is a sad thing that when a man is saved from “the other side” into the Church of Jesus Christ, he insist on bringing some of his excess baggage with him. He that hath an ear to hear let him hear.

The Bible has an abundance of references to mythological gods and goddess, whose names are recorded in Scripture after the flood. Many sincere Archeologist and Historians have uncovered written records of the names of these gods and goddess that existed prior to the flood. That tells me that many of these names had to be carried over from the flood by Noah and his family. We have already mentioned the Babylonian Sun-god Baal and his female counterpart Ashtoreth. Other names for Ashtoreth are Astarte and Ishtar, from which we get the Easter celebration. Baal is the same as Bel and Baalim. [The Moabite gods were Baal-peor and Chemosh. The Philistine gods were Beelzebub and Dagon. The pagans of Rome worshipped Saturn in the Feast of Saturn on December 25<sup>th</sup>. Saturn corresponds to the Greek god Cronus which is the same as Baal or Bel.] Who was “Baal or Bel or Baalim” in Mythology and how are they connected to Mystery Babylon? Alexander Hislop, in his book The Two Babylon’s offers the following comments: “Thus, then, Nimrod, or Ninus, was the builder of Nineveh; and the origin of the name of that city, as “the habitation of Ninus,” is accounted for and light is thereby, at the same time, cast on the fact, that the name of the chief part of the ruins of Nineveh is Nimroud at this day. Now, assuming that Ninus is Nimrod, the way in which that assumption explains what is otherwise inexplicable in the statements of ancient history greatly confirms the truth of that assumption itself. Ninus is said to have been the son of Belus or Bel, and Bel is said to have been the founder of Babylon. If Ninus was in reality the first king of Babylon, how could Belus or Bel, his father, be said to be the founder of it? Both might very well be, as will appear if we consider who was Bel, and what we can trace of his doings. If Ninus was Nimrod, who was the historical Bel? He must have been Cush; for “Cush begat Nimrod” (Gen. 10. 8); and Cush is generally represented as having been a ringleader in the great apostacy. But again, Cush, as the son of Ham, was Hermes or Mercury; for Hermes is just an Egyptian synonym for the “son of Ham” (Page 25). One can see from this how complicated it can be following the names of Mythological gods.

### Men-Made Gods After The Flood

Let’s examine what the Scriptures say about “god” Nimrod, whose kingdom was Babel, also pronounced Babylon. To do that, let’s start with what happened right after Noah and his family got out of the Ark. It was Ham who violated his drunken father in the manner described in Romans 1:24 and 27 - for “Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him”. A curse was then pronounced on Canaan, the unborn son of

Cush, the unborn son of Ham. Note that the curse was not upon Ham, the guilty party. One needs only to read of all the “ITES” that came forth from the descendants of Canaan (Gen. 10:15-20), to understand his rebellion against the curse of God. These CANAANITES are listed as the enemies of God to be overthrown in the land of Canaan which was promised to the Hebrews, the children of Eber, descendants of Shem (Gen. 9:26). It should be noted that Sodom and Gomorrah and Nineveh and Jericho were cities builded by descendants of Ham. But the question is: Where would Ham have learned such conduct ? In my opinion, he learned this from the “accepted standards of conduct” that existed before the flood, when “God saw the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Gen. 6:5). The same standard that can be seen later in Sodom and Gomorrah, Nineveh, Babylon, Jericho, and other wicked cites like Corinth and Rome. A standard that is rapidly and generally being accepted in the United States today. When immorality, homosexuality, lesbianism, and all other forms of ungodliness are readily accepted by a nation - that nation shall be judged by God (Psalms 33:12, Proverbs 14:34).

In Genesis 10:6-12, we read, “And the sons of Ham; Cush, and Mizraim, and Phut, and Canaan. And the sons of Cush; Seba, and Havilah, and Sabtah, and Raamah, and Sabtecha: and the sons of Raamah; Sheba, and Dedan. And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. Out of that land went\* forth Asshur, and builded Nineveh, and the city Rehoboth, and Calah, And Resen between Nineveh and Calah: the same [is] a great city.” I find the expression “great city” seventeen times in Scripture. One time it refers to Jerusalem which is called Sodom and Egypt (Rev. 11), five times to Nineveh, and seven times to Babylon. Nineveh is the city of Nimrod, and Babylon is in Assyria, where Nimrod was King. Thank God that the “great city”, the Heavenly Jerusalem, is the city of Christ.

“Cush begot Nimrod: and he began to be a mighty one in the earth”. This becomes relevant in mythological religions which try to imitate the Biblical principle that “Christ was the only begotten Son of God”, by having one god begotten by another god. But Christ was not a “begotten God”. Christ (the Word) was in the beginning with God and was in the form of God and was God (John 1:1-3, Phil 2:5-8). Mythological gods are presented as “family members” starting with a husband/wife or male/female god and goddess. It is said “Nimrod the mighty hunter” before the Lord. This indicates he was “high and mighty in his ways”. History proves he was a warrior. It says “the beginning of his kingdom was Babel”. This is the first mention of any human kingdom in the Bible. (The next is that of Abimelech, a Philistine King in Gen. 20:2). Note that it says, “the beginning of his kingdom was Babel”. This implies that “more was to follow”. It says that his kingdom was in the land of Shinar. Shinar is a land or nation in Babylon, which is in Assyria.

## Asshur: The First Deified Name

It then says, “Out of that land went\* forth Asshur, and builded Nineveh”. My first thought was that a man named Asshur went forth out of the land. But upon close examination – the only Asshur in the genealogies of Shem, Ham and Jepheth is the second son of Shem. It is not consistent with scripture or history that he would continue the kingdom of Nimrod (Cf Gen. 10:31-32). Shem, the father of the Hebrews, settled in the UR of the Chaldees, far south of Nineveh, from where Abraham was called out about 1963 BC. (Gen. 11:31). Granted the Chaldeans had their mythological “gods and goddess” but that is another subject. The center references of all the Bibles I own (Cambridge, Oxford, Nelson, Thompson Chain Reference) indicate that Gen. 10:11 could also read \* “Out of that land he went forth into Assyria” or “He went out of that land into Assyria”. In other words Nimrod went out of Babel or Babylon into Assyria OR Nimrod’s first deified name was Asshur. I suggest the later because Asshur IS Assyria and Ashur WAS the Assyrian god. The name is spelled both ways, Asshur and Ashur.

Archeological History tells us there were four major religions in Mesopotamia before the flood, starting about 3500 BC. They were the Sumerians (in the land of the Chaldees), Babylonians, Assyrians and Persians. According to the World Book Encyclopedia: “Babylonia held a firm grip on Assyria from 1950 to 1850 BC. Assyria was an ancient country on the upper Tigris River in Mesopotamia. It covered roughly the northern part of present-day Iraq. It’s civilization was similar in many ways to that of ancient Babylonia, it’s neighbor to the south”. Under Religion we continue to read, “The Assyrian religion is based on the older religions of Sumerians and Babylonians. The biggest difference was the Assyrians called their chief god Ashur. Ashur was also their name for their country and for their chief city. Patriotism and religion were closely related. This led to the development of a form of worship centered around the king and the state.” [Does this not sound like the Roman Empire and Romanism that was to come hundreds of years later?] We also read, “Other Assyrian gods, such as Nabu, god of wisdom, and Ishtar, goddess of love (the goddess of fertility from which we get the Easter celebration - ba), came from Babylonia.” The key to understanding this bit of Mythological History as it relates to Mystery Babylon lies in these words: “The biggest difference was the Assyrians called their chief god Ashur. Ashur was also their name for their country and for their chief city.”

There is little doubt that Nimrod can be connected with Nineveh in Assyria, and with Asshur in Assyria, and with the Babylonian sun-god Baal, and with the great dragon, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan. From the book *Morals and Dogma, the Bible for the idolatrous religion of Freemasonry*, we read, “Bal (Baal), representative or personification of the sun, was one of the Great Gods of Syria, Assyria, and Chaldea, and his name is upon the monuments of Nimroud (Nimrod’s city of Nineveh - ba), and frequently occurs in Hebrew writings. He was the Great Nature-God of Babylonia, the power of heat, life and generation. His symbol was the Sun, and he was figured seated on a bull.” (page 590). Then we read, “Near the image of

Rhea, in the Temple of Bel (Baal) at Babylon, were two large serpents of silver, says Diodorus, each weighing thirty talents; and in the same temple was an image of Juno, holding in her right hand the head of a serpent. The Greeks call Bel (Baal) Beliar; and Hesychius interprets that word to mean a dragon or great serpent. We learn from the book of Bel and the Dragons that in Babylon was kept a great, live serpent, which the people worshipped” (pages 499-500). These statements clearly connect Nimrod with Baal and sun worship and with Nineveh in Assyria and to Serpent or Satan worship.

The personal name of Nimrod is mentioned only four (4) times in the scriptures, Genesis 10: 8 and 9, I Chronicles 1:10, and in Micah 5:6 which says, “And they shall waste the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod in the entrances thereof –“. Babylonia is the southern entrance to the ancient land of Assyria, which is now redistributed to Syria and Iraq. Babylonia is located in the southern part of present day Iraq. Babylon is a few miles east the Euphrates River, 150 miles north of the UR of the Chaldees, which is southwest of the Euphrates, which flows into the Persian Gulf. Asshur, the once “triune” name for the chief city, the national god, and the king of Assyria, is located about 225 miles north of Babylon, and about 65 miles south of Nineveh. Gen. 25:18 indicates that Asshur is the same city of Shur in Assyria, the city where Ishmael died, connecting this kingdom with Hagar. Again all of these physical places are in present day Iraq where Saddam Hussein is sitting on Nimrod’s old physical throne.

The fact that Babel or Babylon in Assyria was Nimrod’s empire is of little doubt. We read in Gen. 10:10, “And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel”. This Babel is the same Hebrew word baw-bel’ translated as Babylon 257 times, Babylonia 3 times and Babel 2 times in the Old Testament. The Greek counterpart is translated Babylon 12 times in the NT. (See Strong’s Hebrew # 894 and Greek # 897). And then we read the “alternative translation” for Gen. 10:11 “Out of that land he went forth into Assyria”. Therefore it seems conclusive that Nimrod’s kingdom of Babel was his first kingdom, and one of the seven heads of the Beast. The greater empire of Assyria, which he began, was his second kingdom, and also one of the seven heads of the Beast. For the scripture is clear that he left Babel and builded Nineveh, Rehoboth, Calah, and Resen which was a great city. He did not live long enough to build the greater empire of Babylon, but we can consider it as his, for his philosophy “Let us make us a name” is clearly seen there in the mind set of Nebuchadnezzar.

### **MORE MEN-MADE GODS**

Let us now consider how that men in high places are “deified as gods”. Scripture clearly give us an abundance of examples of “Men made gods”. The Pharaoh of Egypt was exalted as a “god” and even made Joseph to be as a “god” as they cried before him “Bow the knee” (Gen. 41:41-44). In Daniel we read of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, who made a golden image (it is believed of himself), which measured 6x6x60 (666) cubits. He insisted that everyone bow down and worship that image (Dan. 3). When the Babylonian empire fell to the Medes and the Persians, King Darius ruled over the Medo-

Persian empire and was exalted as “a god”. A decree was passed that “whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee ---“. Thus making him to be as “a god” (Dan. 6:7-8).

We have already mentioned that Paul speaks of “The man of sin - Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple as God, shewing himself that he is God” (II Thess. 2:4). Roman Catholic Pope’s are an example of this type of “self exaltation and deification”. They are bowed down to as gods. They like the Emperors of Rome adopt “names” by which they are worshipped and many are “deified” upon their death. Deification is the by-product of Mythology. Consider the mythology surrounding Mary and how Romanism has made her, the mother of God, and the queen of heaven (Cf Rev. 18:7).

In Acts 12:21-23 we read, “And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. And the people gave a shout, [saying, It is] the voice of a god, and not of a man. And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost”. Herod is not a personal name, but a family name for the Herodians who ruled over Jerusalem. There are several Herod’s mentioned in the New Testament. Herod the Great, whose father was named Antipater, was appointed a procurator of Galilee when only 15 years old. Mark Anthony later persuaded the Roman Senate to make him King over Pallestine under Caesar Agustus, who was himself deified as a god. This Herod in Acts 12 is Herod Agrippa I, the son of Bernice and Aristobulus, a son of Herod the Great. While the Herod of Acts 12 was not an Emperor of Rome, he made himself “a god”. And the angel of the Lord killed him !

The Emperors of Rome, who were called Caesar, were deified as gods. A brief list of those who lived during the New Testament days should suffice as proof. ROMAN history reveals, Augustus, also commonly known as Octavian [31 BC -14 AD] was DEIFIED as DIVVS AVGVSTVS in A.D. 14; Tiberius [14 AD - 37 AD] the Caesar who ruled during the Crucifixion of Christ, and Caligula [37 AD - 41 AD] used "DIVI AVGVSTI pron." and "DIVI IVLII abn." signifying their DEIFICATION ; Claudius I [41AD-54AD] was DEIFIED as DIVVS CLAVDIVS AVGVSTVS in 54AD; Nero [54 AD-68 AD] who ordered the burning of Rome and had Paul beheaded used his grandfather’s name Germanicus Caesar, as a link to the earlier Julio-Claudian Emperors. Nero’s DEIFICATION was usually shown in inscriptions, "imp. Neroni Claudio, divi Claudi f., Germ.; Vespasian [69AD - 79 AD] who was Emperor while his son Titus destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD was deified as DIVVS VESPASIANVS AVGVSTVS in 79 AD; and Titus [79 AD-81 AD] was deified as DIVVS TITVS AVGVSTVS in 81 AD.

Moving ahead in history, Emperor Constantine I, the Great [306AD-337AD] founder of the Roman State Church, following the first declared division between Regular (Primitive) and Irregular (disorderly) Churches in 251 AD,

was deified as DIVVS CONSTANTINVS AVGVSTVS in 337AD. This State Church later became Roman Catholicism under the POPES after the fall of the Roman Empire. Many of the pagan sun worshipping festivals such as the December 25<sup>th</sup> Winter Solstice or Feast of Saturn (now Christ-Mass or Christmas) and the Spring Fertility Festival (now Easter, after the goddess Ishtar) became official “Roman Christian Holidays” during the reign of “god” Constantine. These pagan festivals were adopted by the “Roman Church” but never accepted by the Primitive Churches. They were never rejected by the Protestants. But they were never adopted by the “primitive Christians” and should not be adopted by God’s people today. However, most of God’s people still have difficulty in identifying these as pagan celebrations, and embrace them just as those nations who “feared the Lord, and served their graven images” (II Kings 17:33, 40-41).

### BABYLONISH FESTIVALS AND HOLIDAYS

In his book “The Two Babylon’s” Alexander Hislop writes about these Festivals and Roman Holidays. Primitive Baptists would do well to heed these words:

“IF Rome be indeed the Babylon of the Apocalypse, and the Madonna enshrined in her sanctuaries be the very queen of heaven, for the worshipping of whom the fierce anger of God was provoked against the Jews in the days of Jeremiah, it is of the last consequence that the fact should be established beyond all possibility of doubt; for that being once established, every one who trembles at the Word of God must shudder at the very thought of giving such a system, either individually or nationally, the least countenance or support. Something has been said already that goes far to prove the identity of the Roman and Babylonian systems; but at every step the evidence becomes still more overwhelming. That which arises from comparing the different festivals is peculiarly so.

The festivals of Rome are innumerable; but five of the most important may be singled out for elucidation-viz., Christmas-day, Lady-day, Easter, the Nativity of St. John, and the Feast of the Assumption. Each and all of these can be proved to be Babylonian. And first, as to the festival in honour of the birth of Christ, or Christmas. How comes it that that festival was connected with the 25th of December? There is not a word in the Scriptures about the precise day of His birth, or the time of the year when He was born. What is recorded there, implies that at what time soever His birth took place, it could not have been on the 25th of December. At the time that the angel announced His birth to the shepherds of Bethlehem, they were feeding their flocks by night in the open fields. Now, no doubt, the climate of Palestine is not so severe as the climate of this country; but even there, though the heat of the day be considerable, the cold of the night, from December to February, is very piercing, and it was the custom for the shepherds of Judea to watch their flocks in the open fields later than about the end of October. It is in the last degree incredible, then, *within the Christian Church* no such festival as Christmas was ever heard of *till the third century*, and that not till the *fourth century* was far advanced did it gain much observance. How, then, did the

Romish Church fix on December the 25th as Christmas-day? Why, thus Long before the fourth century, and long before the Christian era itself. a festival was celebrated among the *heathen*, at that precise time of the year, in honour of the birth of the son of the Babylonian queen of heaven; and it may fairly be presumed that, in order to conciliate the heathen, and to swell the number of the nominal adherents of Christianity, the same festival was adopted by the Roman Church, giving it only the name of Christ. This tendency on the part of Christians to meet Paganism half-way was very early developed; and we find Tertullian, even in his day, about the year 230 AD bitterly lamenting the inconsistency of the disciples of Christ in this respect, and contrasting it with the strict fidelity of the Pagans to their own superstition. \*\* "By us," says he, "who are strangers to Sabbaths, and new moons, and festivals, once acceptable to God, the Saturnalia, the feasts of January, the Braniolia. and Matronalia, are now frequented; gifts are carried to and fro, new year's day presents are made with din, and sports and banquets are celebrated with uproar; oh, how much more faithful are the heathen to *their* religion, who take special care to adopt no solemnity from the Christians." Upright men strove to stem the tide but in spite of all their efforts, the apostacy went on, till the Church, with the exception of a small remnant,\*\* was submerged under Pagan superstition. That Christmas was originally a Pagan festival, is beyond all doubt. The time of the year, and the ceremonies with which it is still celebrated, prove its origin. In Egypt, the son of Isis, the Egyptian title for the queen of heaven, was born at this very time, about the time of the winter solstice." (Pages 91-93)

Hislop has quoted comments written by Tertullian before the 251 AD split between the Regular Churches and the Irregular Churches, and added "Upright men strove to stem the tide but in spite of all their efforts, the apostacy went on, till the Church, with the exception of a small remnant was submerged under Pagan superstition" Could the "small remnant" be the "primitive Baptists", our Church forefathers, in the Regular Churches on 251 AD ? There was a Remnant !

This split was over many heresies, but more ultimately over Baptismal Regeneration and Infant Baptism. According to Revelation, the Babylonish doctrine of the Nicholaitans was in place, and the practice of "eating things sacrificed unto idols" was being taught by students of Balaam and Jezebel, in the seven churches of Asia. The church at Ephesus had left her first love. The church of Smyrna was afflicted with "the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but of the synagogue of Satan". The church of Pergamos dwelled "even where the seat of Satan IS" and had seen martyrs for Jesus sake. Jezebel appears to dominate the church of Thyatira, and was teaching "spiritual fornication". But praise God not all the Saints had fallen to apathy, or false doctrine or known the "depths of Satan". Jesus said, "Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments, and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy". The church at Philadelphia was also afflicted by "them of the synagogue of Satan" but Jesus said thou "hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name". The church of the Laodiceans was lukewarm and had need of nothing, and the Lord was ready to spue her out of his mouth.

**But there was a “Remnant” of God’s people who would not bow the knee to Baal, who would not worship the Beast, who would not commit fornication with the woman. There has always been a remnant, and there always will be a remnant. When Elijah said “I only , am left; and they seek my life, to take it away” - The Lord answered, “Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him” (I Kings 19:9-18). Jesus said, “Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”. There shall be a remnant of the Lord’s people on this earth until He comes to take them home. I pray that God will grant unto me the grace to be faithful unto death. Some Primitive Baptist want to be modern day Primitive; some 1832 Primitive; I want to be 251 AD --- Yea, even first century Primitive.**

**How Primitive should we be ? Written with love for Christ and His churches and The Faith once delivered unto the saints. (BA)**