

## Who is “Mystery, Babylon the Great, Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth”?

The seventh vial (KJV) or bowl (NKJ) is Armageddon. The destruction of Babylon the Great happens at Armageddon. Who is this Babylon that is destroyed in Revelation 18? There are three clues we can look to. Revelation 16 tells us when it happens, at Armageddon. Revelation 18 describes the judgment. But Revelation 17 tells us who Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the earth actually is...

Let's go step by step. What do we know? First we know that Babylon the Great is a woman. She is called a whore (KJV) or harlot (NKJ) in verse one. She is said to be the 'Mother' of harlots in verse five. (Traditionally, a mother is a woman. today's culture may call that offensive, I don't care. Today's culture offends me. You have XY or XX chromosomes, male or female at DNA level. All else is physical and a mutation or deformity. Enough said.)

*Rev 17:1 NKJ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,*

*Rev 17:5 NKJ And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*

Down in verse 18 we are told that the woman is a city.

*Rev 17:18 NKJ "And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."*

Back in verse one it also says that she “sat upon many waters”. What do the waters symbolize? We don't have to guess; verse fifteen tells us very clearly. It says,

*Rev 17:15 NKJ Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.*

Peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues mean she, the city, is an international city. This always refers to the Gentile nations in Scripture. (Although the words gentile, nations, and heathens used in the New Testament are all the same word in Greek. This gets into translator bias, but this is a topic for another day. Albeit a most important one.)

Now let's put this together here.

- The woman is a city.
- She sits on peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. So, not only is she is a city, but also an international city or system of some sort.

Now in verse three the woman is sitting on a seven headed, ten horned beast. Verse nine helps us by telling us what the seven heads are. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sits.

*Rev 17:9 NKJ "Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.*

So now what do we have?

- The woman is a city.
- The woman is an international system.
- The woman (city) sits on seven mountains.

Rome sits on seven hills and is known as the city that sits on seven hills. The names of the seven hills or mountains are: Capitoline, Quirinal, Viminal, Esquiline, Caelian, Aventine, and Palatine. Check out any

encyclopedia on Rome. I used Microsoft's Encranta 1999 to find the names of the hills and find out the secular story.

Now we have to be careful here because it is a time when many assemblies (churches) are going back to their mother, the Roman Catholic Church. But God again, and again, and again has told us of her judgment. And warned in Revelation 18:4 to get our of that assembly or go down with it, so to speak.

*Rev 18:4 NKJ And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.*

God always uses a woman to symbolize an assembly, a church. He uses a 'virgin' for the true church in Scripture, and a 'whore' or 'harlot' for the false church.

In the Holy Roman Empire, which began in 800 AD with an alliance between Charlemagne and Pope Leo III, there have always been two leaders... a spiritual leader and a political leader. Every single time.

Let's look at verse four... "The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color," the ruling body of the Vatican consists of two authorities. It's like the Senate and the House of Representatives of our own government. The Cardinals are the Senate, and Bishops and Archbishops make up the House of Representatives. The Cardinals wear red and the Bishops and Archbishops always wear purple.

*Rev 17:4 NKJ The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.*

Now let's put all these clues together. Verse six, And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus:" Has that ever happened? History tells us that countless millions were put to death by the Roman Catholic Church. This fact is so well known that the Pope was recently forced to apologize for all the past murders of his church. To his credit, he did that. It is said that as many as 68 million were put to death by the Catholic Church over the centuries. If you do a simple search, and don't use Google, they are part of the evil taking us down, of past popes that have apologized for offenses of the Catholic Church, you will find a lot of them from child sexual abuse to murder for non-compliance with their evil doctrines.

But let me make this clear, protestant churches did the exact same thing in the past, not nearly to the extent of the Catholic Church, by killing those that didn't "cowtow" to their doctrinal beliefs, but the same thing nevertheless. There will be true Christians, albeit few, from every Christian denomination.

Back to the issue at hand. I might also remind you that the book of Revelation was written before all of this even happened. Before the colors red and purple were ever adopted... before Rome was the headquarters for the Roman Catholic Church. Yet Almighty God wanted everyone who wants to know truth, to know.

We are even told in her name/title that she is the "Mother" of harlots. If she is a mother of harlots, then she has daughters. This is what the Church referred to as the Protestant churches that broke off at the time of the Reformation by Luther. When they broke off, they became the daughters.

This does make it a little more understandable why all the daughters are starting to go back home in these times. The heads of most of the modern Protestants met and went to Augsburg, Germany and signed an agreement saying that they were now back under the Catholic church because they all now agreed on the doctrine of **justification by faith**, and that was the issue which Martin Luther split the Church.

This might not be the most eloquent lessons I've given, but it could be the most important. In Matthew 24, when the disciples asked, "...when shall these things be? and what *shall be* the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:3) The first thing that Jesus Christ said was, "Take heed that no man deceive

you.” (Matthew 24:4) “Take heed that no man deceive you.” Jesus understood that the end times would be the most deceptive times in the world.

So when Jesus said, “...many shall come in my name...” that meant that many would come under the banner of Christian. In particular, the pastors in the churches. Most Christians are on the wrong path following the wrong pastors. That is why churches are so dangerous today. It is easy to know a Muslim or Hindu. It is the so-called Christians in the Church that you have to worry about. You have to thoroughly and intimately know your Bible in order not to be deceived.

In 1994 (article in the Indianapolis Star) big names like Pat Robertson, Chuck Colson, Bill Bright, as well as many others, had signed a statement of unity with the Catholic faith.

The Roman Catholic Church issued a new catechism in 1994 stating that Muslims were also included in the plan of salvation because they worship the "One God of Abraham", page 242-243 of the paperback edition. That is absolutely untrue. Jesus said, "Unless you believe that I am the Messiah you will die in your sins."

**John 8:24 NKJV** “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”

**Acts 4:12 NKJV** “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

The only salvation is through the world's only savior Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

The constitution signing for the United Religious Organizations took place in Pittsburgh on June 26<sup>th</sup> of 2000. They had the signing that day because that was the anniversary of the signing of the constitution or charter for the United Nations. This is a sister organization intending to bring the religions of the world together the same way the United Nations tries to bring nations together.

Now what do we have:

1. The woman is a city.
2. The city is an international system.
3. Vatican city sits on seven mountains.
4. The Church is arrayed in purple and scarlet color.
5. The Church and Rome are responsible for the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.
6. Daughters are returning home. Ultimately means that all pathways are pathways to God.

**Conclusion** - Rome, which houses the Vatican, is Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the earth. There are others who think that Mystery Babylon is the Jewish nation, or even America. While I admit there are striking resemblances, especially for America, but they still do not conform to **all** the points listed in this passage of Scripture. Only the Roman Catholic Church does.

*First written May 18, 2000*