

# THE POWER BEHIND RELIGIOUS BABYLON

Rev. 17:7-18

Study #37

**Introduction:** At the end of time Jesus will come back to destroy all the ungodly and evil of this world. Righteousness cannot exist with ungodliness and evil. The false religion of the last days has to be destroyed as well. There will be a world-wide false religion and its leader will be the antichrist. The worship of the government and its leader is called *religious Babylon* by God. How did this false religion ever get into power in the first place? This is our study.

## I. RELIGIOUS BABYLON IS A MYSTERY

1. How can an entire world be led to follow a counterfeit and false religion? God calls this a MYSTERY.
2. John saw what the world will be like in the last days, how people will be seduced to believe lies and worship the government and its leader. He saw millions upon millions following blindly after the state religion. He also saw millions of others who refused to follow the state religion slaughtered.
3. An angel begins to tell John how all this religious Babylon would come to an end.

## II. THE SOURCE OF POWER BEHIND RELIGIOUS BABYLON

1. There is the greatness and popularity of the antichrist.
  - The antichrist will have many governments who willing support him.
  - The antichrist will have supernatural power given to him by Satan.
  - The antichrist will be destroyed eventually, however.

Note: The antichrist will rule the world but will be doomed...because he never gave his life to Jesus Christ along with everyone else who:

- rejects the cross of Christ as the only way to God
- does not accept the death of Christ as payment for his/her sins.
- does not believe that Christ died for him/her, that is, as the punishment for his/her transgressions.
- does not believe that the penalty for his/her imperfection was borne by Christ on the cross.
- does not approach God in the name of Jesus Christ for salvation.

- claims that there are other ways to approach God than by Jesus.
  - considers the cross of Christ to be foolishness.
  - opposes and curses Christ and His cross.
  - persecutes and attempts to stamp out Christ and His cross.
  - denies and questions that Christ died for his/her sins.
2. The power of the antichrist will be phenomenal.
    - Only believers in Christ will be able to recognize who the antichrist is.
    - He will govern the seven greatest nations of the world.
    - He will be the full embodiment of Satan. (was, will be again)
    - He will have alliances with ten major nations of the world.
  3. The purpose of the antichrist and his government is to make war against the Lamb.

### **III. THE HEADQUARTERS OF FALSE BABYLON**

1. Seven nations and their leaders will be the government of false Bablylon.
2. The Old Testament gives the clue to the identity of the seven nations:
  - "five of the kings or empires are fallen": Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece.
  - One of the original kingdoms remain: Rome. It has continued to exist through the centuries.
  - One more to come: the revival of Rome as the supreme nation of the world. It is thought by most Bible scholars that in the last days, Rome will be the capital of the world - once again. (Does Catholicism play a part in this?)

### **IV. THE DESTRUCTION OF RELIGIOUS BABYLON**

1. Religious Babylon will gain enormous power in the end time. Religion will be used by the antichrist to pull the world together. Everyone will worship the antichrist.
2. The antichrist will turn on religious Babylon and destroy it completely once he has gained control of the entire world. Religion will no longer be needed.
3. God will have a hand in bringing an end to religious Babylon. God will arouse the nations to oppose the false religion and bring it to an end, totally erasing it from the face of the earth. (God will then deal with the antichrist and his government).

**Note:** As chaotic as it seems, there is an order to all this: God is in charge!