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Mystery Babylon

Radio Sermons



by
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Introduction

“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.” Rev. 17:3-5.

Babylon, which is mentioned more often in the Bible than any other city, except Jerusalem, is the basis for one of the prominent themes of the holy Scriptures. This theme begins in Genesis 10, where the city of Babel is first mentioned, and there are continuing references to it throughout the Word of God, climaxing in the latter part of the book of Revelation. Because this name appears so often, it must be important. Therefore, it is important for us to grasp its significance if we wish to have a clear understanding of God's prophetic Word.

As we study the various Bible passages relating to Babylon, it becomes clear that this name stands for both a great system of religious error and a great system of political error. The religious system's downfall is recorded in Revelation 17. The political system's end is seen in Revelation 18.

To properly understand the significance of the events in Revelation 17 and 18, we need to know the origin and background of this dual system God calls “Mystery Babylon.” In order to understand the history of the post-Flood world and the present world situation, which seems ready to plunge us into the drama of the end of the age, we need to be knowledgeable about the world system known as “Mystery Babylon.”

The passages of Scripture that deal with “ecclesiastical” (or “religious”) Babylon show that the name “Mystery Babylon”

refers to the counterfeit (or "pseudo") religion that plagued Israel in the Old Testament as well as the church in the New Testament. Since the apostolic days, this system has tremendously influenced the church's move from Biblical simplicity to apostate confusion. In keeping with Satan's principle of offering a poor substitute for God's perfect plan, "Mystery Babylon" is the source of all counterfeit religion. Sometimes it takes the form of pseudo Christianity. Sometimes it takes the form of pagan religion. Its most confusing form, however, is found in that religious system of our age known as "Romanism."

In its political form, "Mystery Babylon" describes a plan for a one-world empire that is to control all peoples of the world from a single capital. This world system is to be governed by one man whom Satan will place upon the world throne. The first manifestation of this aspect of "Mystery Babylon" is found in Genesis 11, where the people of the early post-Flood world gathered together to build Nimrod's capital. *"And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth."* Gen. 11:4.

The woman described in Revelation 17:3-5 is designated as "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." Scripture often illustrates earthly religious systems by a woman. The true church of this age is called a "chaste bride." In the Old Testament Israel was pictured as the "wife of Jehovah." The false system of "Mystery Babylon" is designated as an impure and filthy woman.

The Apostle John was introduced to "Mystery Babylon" by the voice of an angel, saying, "Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of 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." Rev. 17:1,2.

"Mystery Babylon" has spawned all the false religious systems of this earth. Each of these, in their various forms, are

known to God as "harlots." Therefore, "The great whore that sitteth upon many waters (many peoples of the earth)" is properly designated as "THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

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1.

The Legacy of Nimrod

"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."
Gen. 10:8-10.

The dual-natured religious and political system of "Mystery Babylon" actually emerged from the early civilization of the post-Flood earth. However, the seed of the system was present even in the pre-Flood world. The very first man-centered civilization on earth spread from the exiles of the garden of Eden, when "Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden." Gen. 4:16. It was there that Cain built a city and called it after the name of his son Enoch.

The pre-Flood civilization and cultural system that resulted from this beginning was Cainitic in origin, character and destiny. It was a totally materialistic, man-centered civilization. This civilization perished in the great Flood -- except for a strain transmitted into this world by the survivors on the ark.

Very soon after the Flood, another Cainitic-type civilization sprang up. A large portion of the technical and cultural achievements of that first world had been transplanted into the early post-Flood world. Ham was the father of Cush, and Cush was the father of Nimrod -- the one whose very name means "rebel."

It is not exaggeration to say that historically Nimrod was one of the most important men who ever lived. Nimrod was the very epitome of the failure of all natural men that causes them to fall short of the glory of God. Nimrod was completely wrapped up in his pride, boastfulness and desire for hero-

worship. In *Antiquities of the Jews*, Josephus, the first-century Jewish historian, wrote, "Nimrod persuaded mankind not to ascribe their happiness to God, but to think that his own excellence was the source of it. And he soon changed things to tyranny, thinking there was no other way to wean men from God and fear of him than by making them rely on his own power."

Founder of Babylon

When we go back into post-Flood history recorded in Scripture, we learn that the founder of Babel (that is, "Babylon") was Nimrod. The brief account of Nimrod's unholy achievements is found in Genesis 10 which records that "the beginning of his kingdom was Babel."

According to information that has been preserved through pagan records, Nimrod (who was known in Babylonian lore as "Ninus", or "the son") taught men to build walls around cities to protect themselves from wild beasts. Men of the early post-Flood world were overwhelmed by the personality, wisdom and leadership ability of this man. Therefore, most of the early population accepted him as their leader. They considered him a benefactor to all mankind. This gave him the opportunity he needed to exert his influence and to lead his followers away from God.

Going out in his own strength from the presence of the LORD, Nimrod (contrary to the express command of God) actively sought to gather the people of the world under his personal leadership. He actively opposed and defied the commandment God has given through Noah to spread abroad upon the face of the earth and "fill" it. Gen. 9:1. His great influence and power permitted him to persuade the people of the world to join together in building "a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven." Gen. 11:4.

A Tower of Defiance

These words do not mean that Nimrod's followers were building a tower by which they thought they could climb into the third heaven, the place of the immediate presence of God.

That was the last place those rebels wanted to be. This tower was built in *defiance* to the third heaven. The structure was intended to be a tower of great renown, that would rise to a great height in the atmospheric heaven there on the plain of Shinar. This tower was to be recognized as a temple, a rallying center for those who had been dissuaded from walking in obedience to God.

The Tower of Babel was actually a ziggurat. The ziggurats of the ancient Mesopotamian Valley were heathen temples devoted to prostitution in the name of religion. Both priests and priestesses served in this capacity in the Mesopotamian ziggurats. This is the type of "tower" Nimrod and his associates were to build as a world center.

The ziggurat of Babel bore the mark of a counterfeit from the very beginning. Speaking of the rebellious tower builders, Scripture records, "They had brick for stone and slime had they for mortar." A counterfeit, an imitation of that which is real and true, is what has characterized the satanic system of this world that God's Word has called "Mystery Babylon" ever since that time. Brick is synthetic stone, and slime (or bitumen) is synthetic adhesive. Both speak of the works of man, done by man's will and in man's energy. The structure of the Babylonian system was built of man-made material, held together with an artificial man-made unity.

Only God can make real stone. In Scripture "stone" represents that which comes from God. God is jealous that this spiritual symbol be reserved to His usage, that it not be polluted by man.

We see this symbol brought out quite sharply in Exodus 20:24-25. God had just given Moses the law. And God continued with these words. *"An altar of earth thou shalt make unto me, and shalt sacrifice thereon thy burnt offerings, and thy peace offerings, thy sheep, and thine oxen; in all places where I record my name I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee. And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone; for if thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted it."*

Natural Stone - Important to God

God would not allow the children of Israel to build altars of anything but natural stone. God will not allow His works to be polluted by the works of men. If man so much as placed a tool upon the natural stone, the stone was no longer acceptable for the construction of an altar of God. In type the altar of burnt sacrifice represents the Lord Jesus Christ and His special atoning work of the cross. This work was of God, not of man. It is through this work of God that man approaches God, not through any works of man's hands.

In the New Testament, God continued to use the symbol of natural stone -- untouched by human workmen -- as a symbol of His work in making those redeemed by the blood of His Son acceptable for heavenly purposes. In I Peter 2:5 we read, "*Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*" Christians are referred to as living stones, fitly framed together for a habitation of God. That spiritual building so formed of living stones is the church of this inter-advent age.

The person who has been spiritually reborn is like a stone formed entirely by a work of God and put into a building that is a suitable habitation for God. The building formed of such unified living stones is also a fit altar upon which spiritual sacrifices may be offered to God. Thus the altar of unhewn stones, built by the children of Israel, is a picture of the spiritual structure of this age. In a true work of God, there is no "brick for stone" and "slime for mortar."

A Man-Made Counterfeit

But what did these followers of Nimrod do? They used man-made stone and man-made adhesive. Such a "unified body" entirely of human origin brings to mind several things in the world today. First, it reminds us of liberalism in the so-called ecumenical Christian "church" of our day. Modern, apostate "churches" teach that if one *does* certain things, such as submit to church ordinances and place his name of the church register, he is a "Christian." One who responds to such

teaching becomes a "brick" in a Babylonian structure, not a "living stone" that can be "suitably framed together into a habitation of God." Even as the "tower builders" of Babel used "brick for stone," so a major part of the professing Christian churches use "brick for stone" in building their congregations. And, as we might expect, the liberalism in doctrine of these very churches offers a man-made unity of "social action" Gospel -- "slime for mortar" -- rather than the true unity of the Holy Spirit of God. Liberal Christianity uses *brick for stone* and *slime for mortar* to form that ecumenical building (or "tower") that is *not* of God.

Today's liberalism would force us all into one human mold, a "brick mold" designed of men energized by Satan. That which seals true Christians together is the indwelling Holy Spirit of God. But those without the Holy Spirit depend upon an adhesive of human origin to preserve their unity -- social Gospel and social action. This is necessary to preserve their structure because the *Holy Spirit does not unite that which is false*. Those without Jesus Christ have to produce a substitute unity. Our present-day ecumenical movement is a man-made program that can *only* produce a man-made unity. It is Babylonianism!

Next, we also have a growing system of "Babylonianism" in the political movements of our day. The United Nations organization is an exact parallel to the building of the Tower of Babel. It is man's present effort toward a one-world kingdom. The languages of the peoples, though different, are made a "oneness" in understanding through interpreters and modern electronic communication instruments. The thought and intent behind the political structure of the United Nations is to reverse God's judgment on Babel.

An Artificial Unity

The nations of the world are seeking to bring about their own particular brand of "cosmos" (that is, order) out of the world's "chaos" (that is, confusion). This artificial unity is entirely a work of man, energized by Satan, in direct opposition to the expressed will of God. Again, this is

“Babylonianism.” “And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.”

When Nimrod’s followers attempted to build their tower, God intervened. His intervention is described in Genesis 11:5-8. *“And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.”*

The LORD intervened by changing the language and thus bringing confusion on the people. *“Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.”* Gen. 11:9. The confusion, the “chaos” that began at Babel, has continued through the entire social order of the post-Flood world under present Gentile domination. This is the legacy of Nimrod.

2.

Semiramis, the Queen of Heaven

“Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink-offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger.” Jer. 7:17-18.

The ancient post-Flood Babylonian history is the source of the information that is so important to understanding the

world system of our day. There we find that the wife of Ninus, "The son," or "Gilgamesh," as Nimrod was known in Babylonian literature, was none other than the infamous "Semiramis I."

Secular historians consider Semiramis I, the queen of the ancient Babylonian Empire, to be nothing but prehistoric myth. *The World Book Encyclopedia* refers to her as follows: "Semiramis was a mythical queen of Assyria. She supposedly founded the ancient city of Babylon, and conquered Persia and Egypt. Semiramis was the daughter of Syrian youth and a fish goddess. Her mother left her, and she was fed by doves. Semiramis grew to be a beautiful woman and married King Ninus of Assyria. She became queen when he died, and won many battles, but her son overthrew her. Herodotus mentions a Semiramis who was queen of Babylon in the 700's B.C."

Most of the sketchy information mentioned in this quotation is not myth but fact. Documentation is available to those willing to delve into the subject. The Semiramis mentioned by Herodotus is not Semiramis I, however. That Semiramis was a later queen who also played a part in Babylonian history.

The system of idolatry and pagan worship that had its beginning at the time of the building of the Tower of Babel, only a few centuries this side of the Flood, was very much "alive and well" at the time of Jeremiah. The children of Israel had, to a great extent, succumbed to the Babylonian mystery rites and their system of lustful worship. The practice of such abominations by God's chosen people prompted the words of God found in Jeremiah 7:17-18: "*Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink-offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger.*"

A Reason for the Babylonian Captivity

Largely because of such idolatrous practices, God permitted His people to be carried off captive into Babylon and thus

drink deeply of the "golden cup in the hand" of the defiled Babylonian "queen of heaven." This is verified in *Jeremiah* 44:25. "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saying; Ye and your wives have both spoken with your mouths, and fulfilled with your hand, saying, We will surely perform our vows that we have vowed, to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her: ye will surely accomplish your vows, and surely perform your vows."

Semiramis was the originator of the Babylonian mystery religion. She was also the first high priestess of this system of idolatry. Although, as we have seen, secular historians consider Semiramis as only a "mythical queen of early Babylon," the "Babylonian mysteries" can be traced back to this one who was most definitely a literal figure in ancient history. This depraved woman is known to have impressed upon the followers of Nimrod the concepts of idolatrous worship conceived in her own depraved and polluted mind.

The religious system that Semiramis founded included many secret rites, among which stood out very prominently acts of "consecrated" prostitution. Priestesses and priests were kept within the Babylonian ziggurats for the purpose of prostitution in the name of religious worship. This type of "religious service," of course, appeals to the flesh. Semiramis had no problem recruiting followers to her Babylonian cult.

Rapid Spread of "Mystery" Religion

The Babylonian mysteries spread like wildfire, and the practices, originating at the time of Semiramis and Nimrod, spread rapidly among the peoples of the early post-Flood world. The grosser aspects of the mystery system became the culture of Sodom and Gomorrah. And as Scripture tells us, it became necessary for God to totally annihilate those wicked cities during the time of Abraham.

The practices of this system had fully flowered among the Canaanites at the time of Moses and Joshua. It was this that

prompted God to order His people to exterminate the early occupants of Palestine. However, God's instructions were not carried out, and religious pollution spread to the children of Israel. It was the practice of the Babylonian mystery rites in the northern kingdom that led God to declare, "Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they sold the righteous for silver, and the poor for a pair of shoes; That pant after the dust of the earth on the head of the poor, and turn aside the way of the meek: *and a man and his father will go in unto the same maid*, to profane my holy name." Amos 2:6-7.

3.

The Satanic Decree

"And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." Gen. 11:4.

Nimrod and his queen, Semiramis, the leaders in the building of the Tower of Babel, founded the system Scripture refers to as "Mystery Babylon." The Babylonian mystery religion claimed that adherents who faithfully climbed the ladder of the mysteries by practice and sequential initiation into higher and higher orders would attain the highest possible wisdom and illumination. Because this enlightenment "came" directly from the Babylonian gods, they would have the ability to know divine secrets. And, eventually, they too would become gods. Therefore, the early leaders of the system were considered to have passed into the divine state of death, and it was to these early leaders that later worship was directed.

The real plan behind this system was formed in the mind of Satan, not in the mind of any man. The "Satanic decree" was that all the peoples of the world were to be brought together

in a one-world political empire that was to be ruled over by one satanically indwelt man. This political system was to incorporate a mystery religion that directed all worship to the chosen man who was to sit upon the throne of the world. Worship was not to be directed to the true and living God but to the usurper who was to sit in the place of God's Christ.

Nimrod and Semiramis became the willing tools of Satan. It was through these early characters that the system came into the post-Flood world. The basic purpose of Nimrod's cult was to control the whole world.

Each adherent to the Babylonian mystery system went through a process that we know today as "brainwashing." To practice the Babylonian rites, it was necessary to drink of "mysterious beverages," which were intoxicating. These "mysterious beverages," at least in part, were composed of wine, honey, water and flour. As a part of the indoctrination into the system, each adherent was required to forsake all outside ties of patriotism and moral ethics. He was to be kept in blind ignorance of real truth, and he was made to act in willful obedience of all of his superiors within the cult.

A high priest or priestess was placed over groups of members, and the word of this leader became law. The member of the cult was no longer a Hamite, Japhethite or Shemite. Instead, he was a member of the mystical brotherhood. The leaders of this brotherhood controlled the lives and fortunes of all subordinate members.

Thus early Babylon became the source and fountainhead of idolatry. The Babylonian mystery religion became the "mother" of every heathen and pagan system in subsequent world history. The mystery religion (which originated at the time of the Tower of Babel) spread in various modified forms throughout the whole earth. It is with us today. This religious system is the "mystery of iniquity" which ran rampant in Paul's day and of which he remarks in II Thessalonians 2:7, "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work." A significant part of the Babylonian system has been grafted into the practice of professing Christianity.

Babylonianism will have its fullest development after the true church and the restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit has departed. It is then that the "Mystery Babylon" of Revelation 17 and 18 will hold sway.

4.

The Legend of the Mother and Child

"He said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations that they do. Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD's house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz. Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these." Ezek. 8:13-15.

Semiramis, the wife of Nimrod and the original queen of ancient Babylon, was worshipped as the queen of heaven after her death. This wicked woman was the epitome of uncontrolled lust and licentiousness. She was worshipped as Rhea, the mother of the gods. In later Ephesus she was known as Diana. To the Greeks, she was Aphrodite. To the Romans, she was Venus. To modern man, she is known by many names. She is "Mother Nature" and in children's stories, "Mother Goose." Within the religious rites conducted by Semiramis, prostitution was compulsory. Orgiastic rites were observed to proclaim days of worship to the Babylonian gods.

Nimrod, the great rebel against God, met an untimely death. Ancient lore seems to teach that Nimrod was executed by Shem and his descendants who had remained faithful to the Lord. Semiramis, the queen and high priestess, outlived her husband by a number of years. Through licentious living, she gave birth to a son several years after the death of Nimrod. Building on the primeval promise of God that a coming "Seed

of woman" was to be the salvation of mankind, Semiramis claimed that this son was miraculously conceived. This was Satan's counterfeit of the virgin birth. The event took place almost 4,000 years before our Lord's birth at Bethlehem. Semiramis used the birth of her son to advantage toward the building of the religious cult she headed.

God's promise that the Seed of woman was to come as a Deliverer for all mankind was common knowledge in the early days of the post-Flood world. Building on that promise and on the claim that her son was miraculously conceived, Semiramis established herself as the mother of the false messiah.

Semiramis named this son "Tammuz." She claimed that Tammuz was the reincarnation of her late husband, Nimrod. Tammuz was hailed far and wide as the saviour of men of the earth. He was recognized within the Babylonian mystery system as a "messiah" ("an anointed one") and as the divine fulfillment of the promised "Seed of woman." Tammuz was also known as "Baal," a name that actually means "lord," or "master."

It was to the worship of this false "son of god," Tammuz, that the weeping was directed in Ezekiel 8:13-15. Ezekiel goes on to describe this worship of Tammuz by apostate sons of Israel in verse 16. *"And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east."* Similar worship of Tammuz, under the name of Christ, is often carried on in professing Christianity today.

Mystery Babylon in its religious form came into existence at the time of the Tower of Babel under the leadership of Nimrod and his wife, Queen Semiramis I. Semiramis was the first high priestess of the Babylonian religious cult. She became the mother of the one who was falsely proclaimed to be the promised Messiah. Tammuz was worshipped as Baal, or "lord."

After the death of Semiramis, her followers considered her a goddess. She was the goddess mother who had borne the "god" man Tammuz. Because she was the mother of Tammuz, she was then worshipped as Rhea, the mother of the gods and the queen of heaven.

5.

The Spread of the Legend

"And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger. And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth."
Judges 2:12-13.

The origin of the legend of the mother and child that is today hailed by the world as the "Christmas Story" was not in Mary and Jesus but rather in Semiramis and Tammuz (Ashtaroth and Baal). The mother and child worship was incorporated in Babylonian religious rites thousands of years before the birth of Christ.

This legend has been repeated in various pagan religions. It is very prominent in the religions of the American Indians. And, of course, the ancestors of the American Indians migrated across the Aleutian land bridge after the Tower of Babel, but many centuries before the birth of Christ.

The Pagan "Mother and Child"

Images were made to represent the "holy" mother and her supposed "god-child." The mother was portrayed as the "queen of heaven," and she held the babe in her arms. Some of these images -- still in existence today -- are considered as prophecies of Mary and Jesus. But in these images the mother represents Semiramis and the child represents Tammuz.

From early Babylon, the worship of mother and child spread to

the ends of the post-Flood earth. In Babylonia, the origin of the legend, the two were known as Semiramis and Tammuz. But they were soon better known under the names "Rhea" ("the great goddess mother") and "Bacchus" ("the lamented one").

In Egypt, the mother and child were worshipped under the names of Isis and Osiris. In India, even in modern times, they are Isi and Iswara. In Asia Minor, the pair were Cybele and Deoius. In pagan Rome, they were Venus and Cupid. In Greece, they were Aphrodite and Eros, or Pan. (The ancient Greek pagan religion is the source of the fairy tale character that we know today as "Peter Pan," the eternal boy.)

An Astonishing Discovery

Even in Tibet and China, the characters of the mother and child were well-known and worshipped devoutly. The early Jesuit missionaries were astonished when they entered heathen China and found that statues of the mother and child were as devoutly honored there as they were in papal Rome. "Shing Moo," the holy mother in pagan China, was represented with a child in her arms and with a halo around her head. It was just as though the images were fabricated by an artist of the papal system.

The ancient records provide irrefutable evidence that the honoring and worship of a mother and child *did not* originate in Christianity. Pagans the world over held a reverence for a holy mother and her "demi-god" son thousands of years before our Lord Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem.

There are notable parallels between the development of the Babylonian system of worship of the mother and child and some of the distortions of Christianity so prevalent in our day. It was from the fact that Semiramis bore the son, Tammuz (supposedly a divine being), that she derived her glory and her claims to deification.

Essential "Deification" of Mary

This is precisely the path that has been followed in certain branches of professing Christianity. Mary, the mother of Jesus,

has been lifted up to a position of essential deification by virtue of the fact that she is the mother of the humanity of a divine Person, not because of any inherent merit of her own. However once the lifting up was accomplished, then the personage of the divine mother soon overshadowed and eclipsed the glory of the son.

This is exactly what took place in the Babylonian mystery cults. The queen mother, Semiramis, was deified by virtue of the fact that she bore Tammuz. But when deification was accomplished, Rhea became the supreme deity, the goddess mother. So certain branches of Christianity pay homage to none other than Semiramis, or Rhea, under her Christianized name of "Mary"!

It was the Babylonian religious system that introduced the "mystery" of the mother and child cult. Going out from ancient Babylon, the devotees of the Babylonian system spread this "mystery" to all parts of the earth. The languages were changed at Babel, and because of this the names of the goddess mother and her god son were different among the various pagan cultures. But the legend was the same.

This is a form of idolatry that is older than any other known to man. This early counterfeit of the virgin birth was Satan's effort to delude mankind with an imitation so like the truth of God that the true "Seed of woman" would not be recognized when He came in the fullness of time.

6.

"Weeping For Tammuz"

"Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD's house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz." Ezek. 8:14.

Ezekiel penned this verse to describe what he observed in the temple of Jerusalem when the Lord revealed to him the

abominations committed by the apostates of His people. These dwellers in Jerusalem had submitted themselves to practicing the Babylonian mystery cult. Instead of worshipping the God of Israel, these women were worshipping the "messiah" of Babylon. They were "weeping for Tammuz," for Baal.

The Lord's comment concerning this practice is given in verse 15. *"Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these."*

Ezekiel's reaction to God's comment is brought out in verse 16. *"And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east."* Not only were the women weeping for Tammuz, but the men also joined in this worship of the god of the Babylonians. They had turned their backs toward the temple of the Lord. And they had turned their faces toward the east, toward the rising sun. They were worshipping Baal, the "lord," the sun-god of Nimrod's followers. The rising sun was hailed as the symbol of the resurrection of Tammuz. Both the men and women of Jerusalem were involved in that 40-day season of "weeping for Tammuz" that was celebrated as an annual event in the Babylonian pagan religion.

Among the pagans this season of "weeping for Tammuz" seems to have been an indispensable preliminary to the great annual festival that was celebrated in commemoration of the death and resurrection of Tammuz. This season was celebrated by alternate weeping and rejoicing. In the Babylonian legend Tammuz, the "messiah," was killed by his enemies. His body was placed in the tomb, and it remained there for 40 days. Then Tammuz was brought back to life. He returned from the dead to his people.

This, of course, was Satan's counterfeit of the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Just as the

Babylonian legend of the mother and child was Satan's counterfeit of the virgin birth, so the legend of the death and resurrection of Tammuz was the counterfeit of the truth of the Gospel. However, instead of "three days and three nights in the heart of the earth," Tammuz was supposed to have spent 40 days and 40 nights in the earth. During this entire time from his death to his resurrection, the devotees to Tammuz was involved in a continuous state of weeping and lamentation. The time after Tammuz's death, but before his supposed "reincarnation," was a time of great sorrow among the Babylonian worshippers.

It became customary to observe a season of "weeping for Tammuz" each year, beginning on the anniversary of the day of Tammuz's death. This traditional weeping was supposedly climaxed by the resurrection of the young god. Such "weeping for Tammuz" continued through the centuries and the millennia down to modern times. When the Babylonian mysteries were mixed into the practicing Christian church during the time of Constantine in the fourth century A.D., the practice of "weeping for Tammuz" was converted into a supposed practice of "weeping for Christ." The "Christianized" name for this season is "Lent."

The season of "weeping for Tammuz," which was brought into the Christian tradition in the form of the season of Lent, is observed just before Easter each year. There is no Biblical authority to lament for Christ in this way. Actually, great numbers of Christians annually spend a portion of their time "weeping for Tammuz." Babylon has imposed her mysteries on the professing Christian faith. Babylon is with us today.

7. Astrology

"So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel. And Elijah came

unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word." 1 Kings 18:20-21.

This question, directed by the Prophet Elijah to the people of apostate Israel, needs to be directed to the people of apostate Christianity. Each day, millions of people in the United States alone engage in a form of pagan worship that goes all the way back to the Tower of Babel. A great number of these "Baal worshippers" are professing Christians. And yet, either in their ignorance or in their complacency, they engage in a practice that is thoroughly condemned in Scripture as abhorrent to God. These people are involved in the study and practice of the religion of astrology.

On the top of that super ziggurat that was being constructed by Nimrod and his followers as the Tower of Babel (as well as on top of all later Babylonian ziggurats), there was placed an observatory called a "zodiac". On these heights, the priests of the Babylonian mystery religion consulted the stars, attempting to predict future events. The zodiac of each ziggurat was the very center of the cult where the sun, moon and stars were said to be deities and were therefore worshipped.

Ancient Babylon at the time of the Tower of Babel was the origin of the system of astrology that has swept our modern world in the last two decades. Millions of people right here in the United States (a supposedly "Christian" nation) grab up their newspapers, not because they are interested in the news of the day, but rather because they are anxious to see what some astrological prognosticator has to reveal about their daily horoscopes.

Just look at the tremendous increase in interest in astrology these last few years. Many parents allow their children to grow up on a diet of astrological signs and prognostications, thinking this is but a harmless pastime. In a typical teenager's room -- even in many Christian homes -- the walls are covered with the signs of the zodiac. Many families today own sets of

dishes -- even fine china -- that are imprinted with astrological signs. Often one of the first questions asked when two people meet for the first time is, "What sign were you born under?" Behind this question lies the idea that the relationship between people is determined by astrological signs. And this is not just in the United States -- it is worldwide.

It was against the very practices of Babylonianism that are rampant in the world today that the Lord issued an emphatic warning to Israel just before that people entered the promised land. They had left the devilish system of Babylonianism in Egypt, that land that was bound up with astrological gods. Now they were on their way to be surrounded by pagans that were even more deeply immersed in the Babylonian mysteries than the Egyptians. God issued His warning through His servant Moses, and it is found in Deuteronomy 4:19,24. *"And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the hosts of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven . . . For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God."*

Isaiah tells Babylon of God's great end-time judgment upon her in these words: *"Therefore shall evil come upon thee; . . . thou shalt not be able to put it off: and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, which thou shalt not know. Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail. Thou are wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from the things that shall come upon thee."* Isaiah 47:11-13.

The judgment of which God warns is still to be fulfilled. The Babylonian mystery religion has been forced underground in many parts of the world for centuries. but in our day it has once again fully emerged. Can God's judgment be far in the future?

8.

“Christ’s Mass”

“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”
Luke 2:8-11.

The world observes a holiday that purports to honor the birthday of the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. Have you ever wondered how it came about that that holiday is connected with December 25?

There is not a direct word in the Scriptures about the precise day of our Lord’s birth -- or even about the time of year that He was born. However, though Scripture does not designate the exact day or even the time of the year of our Lord’s birth, the facts given show that it was definitely not December 25.

Joseph Mede, the distinguished Bible scholar of the eighteenth century, published a very decisive argument on this subject. One of his concluding opinions is worth quoting. “At the birth of Christ every woman and child was to go to be taxed at the city whereto they belonged, whither some had long journeys; but the middle of winter was not fitting for such business, especially for women with child, and children to travel in. Therefore, Christ could not be born in the depth of winter. Again, at the time of Christ’s birth, the shepherds lay abroad watching with their flocks in the nighttime; but this was not likely to be in the middle of winter. And if any shall think the winter wind was not so extreme in these parts, let him remember the words of Christ in the Gospel, ‘Pray that your flight not be in the winter.’ If the winter was so bad a time to flee in, it seems no fit time for shepherds to lie in the fields in, and women and children to travel in.”

During a Lambing Season

At the time the angel announced our Lord's birth to the shepherds of Bethlehem, they were watching over their flocks by night in open fields. It is true that the climate of Palestine is not as severe as the climate in many parts of our own country. But in spite of this, it gets extremely cold -- especially at night -- beginning the last of November and extending through February. It was not the custom of the shepherds of Judea to watch over their flocks in the open field later than the end of October. The purpose for watching over the flocks by night was so that the shepherds would be present to help the ewes during the lambing season. The fact that the shepherds were in the field at night places the birth of our Lord during a lambing season. And we should expect that God would have chosen such a time to bring the true "Lamb of God" into the world.

There were actually two lambing seasons in Palestine. One was in the spring, during March and April. The other was in the fall, during September and October. It seems incredible that the world should have chosen December 25 as the date of our Lord's birth since that date seems to have been the least likely time that could possibly be selected.

Why was December 25 chosen then? Is it possible that this date is of great significance to the Babylonian mystery system? Could it be that this date actually was the birth date of the child of that original mother-child combination that was so important to the Babylonian system of worship? Let me point out that it is not only possible, but there is significant evidence to conclude that the actual birth of Tammuz *did* occur very close to our present December 25. The birth that is celebrated at our so-called Christmas festival is not that of the Lord Jesus Christ at all. It is the birth of Tammuz, the false messiah of the Babylonian mystery cult. Babylonianism is *not* dead!

Within professing Christianity no such festival as Christmas was ever heard of until after the beginning of the fourth century A.D. How was it then that the organized church, headquartered in Rome, brought the observance of Christmas (the name comes

from the two words "Christ's Mass") into professing Christianity, and how was the date of the celebration fixed on December 25?

Pagan Festival at the Winter Solstice

Again, it is a matter of fact -- not opinion or interpretation -- that long before the fourth century A.D., and long before the birth of Christ, a festival was celebrated among pagan peoples at that precise time of year. The festival honored the birth of the son of the Babylonian "queen of heaven." The celebration was in honor of the reincarnation of the slain Babylonian god Ninus, or Nimrod, in the person of Tammuz, the supposedly miraculously conceived son of Semiramis, who was the surviving wife of Nimrod and the female head of the Babylonian mystery cult.

The child Tammuz, who was simultaneously considered to be the husband and the son of this "queen of heaven," was born about the time of the winter solstice, (that is, the shortest day of the year) which occurred on or about our present December 25! It is clearly brought out in the surviving Egyptian literature that Osiris, the son of Isis (the Egyptian name for the Babylonian "queen of heaven"), was born at that very time -- "about the time of the winter solstice."

One of the very names by which Christmas is popularly known today is further proof of the pagan origin of this holiday. We often hear Christmas referred to as "Yule Day." "Yule" is the Chaldee (that is, Babylonian) name for an infant or little child. The 25th of December was called by the pagan Anglo-Saxon ancestors of our English culture by the very name "Yule Day", that is, the "child's day." The night that preceded it was called "mother night." This was a fact of Anglo-Saxon culture long before the Anglo-Saxons ever came into contact with Christianity.

The Christmas tree, now so common in our world, was equally common in pagan Rome and pagan Egypt. In Egypt that tree was the palm tree. In Rome, it was the fir tree. The Egyptian palm tree denoted the pagan messiah as Baal-Tamar. The Roman fir referred to him as Baal-Berith.

“Learn Not the Way of the Heathen”

The idea that the so-called Christmas tree is a unique development of Christianity is disallowed by the Scriptures themselves. In Jeremiah 10:2-5 we have the actual description of the preparation of the “tree idol” used in the worship of Tammuz on each anniversary of his birth. This holiday was observed by the pagan peoples of Jeremiah’s day at the time of the winter solstice, on or about December 25. *“Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workmen, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good.”*

This same idol of Jeremiah’s description, prepared in the very same way, appears in millions of modern homes on the same day of the year. We call it a “Christmas tree.” Many professing Christians honor this idol to Tammuz, and in some way they feel they are paying homage to the Lord Jesus Christ by its presence. “For one cutteth a tree out of the forest . . . They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails, and with hammers, that it move not.”

The legend behind Nimrod, Semiramis and Tammuz is what accounts for the custom of putting the “Yule-log” into the fire on Christmas Eve and the appearance of the Christmas tree the next morning. It must be remembered that Tammuz was supposed to be the reincarnation of Nimrod. The dead god, cut down to the ground and stripped of all his branches, represented the dead Nimrod. He was placed in the fire of destruction. But out of the fire sprang his reincarnation, Tammuz. And the idol that represented the small child was the young tree.

The world’s present “Christian celebration” is just the carrying on of the ancient custom of worshipping Tammuz, or

Baal, on the anniversary of the date of his birth. The ancient Babylonian lore shows how much the Babylonian mysteries have shaped our supposedly "Christian" customs. We can begin to see how "MYSTERY BABYLON, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS" could easily hold sway over the earth after the true church is gone. Biblical prophecy will be fulfilled.

9. "Ishtar"

"And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth."
Judges 2:13.

The ancient Babylonian mysteries are still very much a part of the culture and religion of the world today. Even within professing Christianity we find that a great number of church customs, as well as a large part of church liturgy, are actually traceable to the ancient Babylonian mystery cult. All so-called Christian holidays have their origin outside of Christianity. This includes Christmas and Easter, along with all the so-called minor Christian holidays.

What is the origin of that spring holiday that we refer to as Easter? In its original form, did this holiday commemorate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ? What about the term "Easter" itself? Where do we get such a word and what does it mean?

It should be obvious to even a casual observer that Easter is not a Christian name. It is true that the word "Easter" does appear in Acts 12:4 in the King James Version of the Bible. But this word appears there without authority, since the Greek word for which "Easter" is substituted is actually "Pascha," which should be translated "Passover." The sixteenth century translators of the King James Version were already so caught

up in the tradition of "Easter" that they believed "Easter" was a legitimate substitute for "Passover."

Actually, the name "Easter" is nothing else than an Anglicanized form of the name of the Babylonian "queen of heaven," Ashtaroth, or Astarte. This name, as pronounced by the people of Nineveh, is practically identical to the word we use today. That name has been found on the Assyrian monuments as "Ishtar."

The worship of Baal and Ashtaroth, Bel and Astarte (the son and mother), was introduced into the British isles long before Christianity. It was as a part of Bel and Ishtar worship that the pagan priests known as the "Druids," or "the priests of groves," or "the witches," came into existence. And this "worship in groves" is the practice that was so thoroughly condemned by God in the Old Testament.

Part of the Pagan Festival of Spring

The customs that are now observed in our own country as a part of the holiday of "Easter" actually came to us from the pagan spring festival which originally commemorated the return to her people of Semiramis, the Babylonian queen of heaven. She supposedly survived a flood of waters in a craft that was represented by an egg. (This legend seems to have the elements of truth associated with Noah and his survival of the great Flood in the ark. But to the Babylonians, it was Semiramis, their "queen of heaven," who survived the great Flood.)

It would take pages to describe all the pagan history of the Easter holiday. The popular practices that are still a part of the Easter celebration are sufficient to confirm that the origin of this holiday is Babylonian.

The hot cross buns of Good Friday and the dyed eggs of Easter Sunday played a very big part in the ancient Chaldean celebrations, just as they do today. The "buns" were known by that exact name. The word "buhn" is from the Chaldee, and it

means "a small cake." These buns were used in the worship of the "queen of heaven," the goddess "Ishtar." The symbol that we place on these Good Friday buns, which we call a cross, was also placed on those ancient Babylonian cakes that were offered to the "queen of heaven." Only the symbol was not a cross to the Babylonians! It was a Babylonian "tau," the initial letter of the name "Tammuz." It symbolized the son born to the "queen of heaven."

The origin of our so-called Easter eggs is also clearly Babylonian. The ancient Druids bore an egg as the sacred emblem of their order. In the mysteries of Bacchus (that is, Tammuz, or Baal) as celebrated in Athens, one part of the ceremony involved the consecration of a sacred egg. The Hindus of India worshiped a golden egg as a part of their spring festival. The usage of eggs in religious ceremonies was common in ancient China and Japan.

The Pagan "Ark"

The occult meaning of the mystic egg of Ishtar (in one of its aspects) had reference to the ark. After Semiramis was deified as the "queen of heaven," the legend that she had lived before the Flood in a previous incarnation and that the human race survived through her became a part of Babylonian lore. The egg, the representation of the ark, became a pagan symbol of life and rebirth.

The so-called Christian holiday of Easter is not at all Christian in its origin. It is simply the ancient spring festival of the Babylonians grafted into the practices of professing Christendom. The seasons of the celebration of the pagan spring festival and the Jewish Passover were almost identical. Our Lord Jesus Christ died on the day of the Jewish Passover. He was resurrected three days later at the Feast of the Firstfruits. It was an easy matter for Satan to associate the pagan spring festival with the resurrection of the true Messiah. Thus the pagan practices have been "Christianized." The Easter holiday practice of the world today is simply the carrying on of the pagan spring festival under the name of Christianity.

10.

"The Mystery of Iniquity"

"And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way." II Thess. 2:6,7.

We have considered the system of pagan worship that originated in ancient Babylon at the time of the Tower of Babel. This cultic religion, under different names but based on the same original concepts, by the time of Abraham had spread all over the ancient post-Flood world. Abraham grew up in the house of his father, Terah. Terah was an idolator. He was deeply immersed in the Babylonian system of worship.

God called Abraham and said, *"Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."* Gen. 12:1-3.

It was from the mystery religion of Babylon that the patriarch Abraham was separated by the divine call. The nation which sprang from Abraham had a constant and continuing conflict with the Babylonian system until under Jezebel, wife of King Ahab, the cultic system was grafted on to the apostate version of the religion of Israel practiced in the northern kingdom in Ahab's day.

Why Judah Went into Captivity

The practices of Babylonian worship were the cause of Israel's captivity by the Assyrians and of the disappearance of the northern kingdom. Judah was also polluted by this same abomination. The Baal worship mentioned by Scripture in reporting Judah's apostasy was also just the Canaanitish form

of the Babylonian mysteries. It was only through sending the southern kingdom into captivity to Babylon itself that God was able to cure Judah of her fondness for idolatry. Baal was the sun god, the "life-giving one," and he was one and the same as Tammuz.

In about A.D. 51, the Apostle Paul wrote in his second epistle to the church in Thessalonica the following words: "Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. *For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now restraineth will restrain, until he be taken out of the way.*" II Thess. 2:5-7.

Babylonianism -- Everywhere in Evidence

When Christ was born into the world, the Babylonian mystery system which Paul referred to as "the mystery of iniquity," was everywhere in evidence. It was widely practiced by a majority of the population, except in those places where the Word of God, as revealed in the Old Testament, was known and followed. So when Paul and the other early Christian missionaries set out on the great task of carrying the Gospel to the ends of the earth, they found themselves everywhere confronted by Babylonian paganism in one form or another.

Paul and Barnabas came in direct confrontation with the Babylonian mystery religion in Lystra, in that incident recorded in Acts 14. As a result of the confrontation, Paul was stoned to death and then restored to life by the power of God. It was this death and restoration that led to Paul's revelation of his memories of the sights and sounds of heaven that are recorded in II Corinthians 12:1-5.

During Paul's day, Babylon, as a city, had long been dead. But her mysteries had not died with her. They were very much alive and well! Scholars, delving into the history of Babylon itself, have traced the story of the survival of the mystery religion, at least in some of its aspects.

It seems that when the city of Babylon and her temples were destroyed after the time of Nebuchadnezzar and his immediate successors, the high priest of the mystery system fled with a company of initiates and their sacred vessels and images to Pergamos. It was there in Pergamos that the serpent was set up as the emblem of the hidden wisdom of the Babylonian mystery system. This seems to be the origin of the "Caduceus" the symbol that is so widely used in the medical profession. The symbol pictures two serpents entwined about a staff.

Pagan Priests Wore Miters

From Pergamos the mystery system crossed the sea and came to Italy, where headquarters were set up on the Etruscan plain. There the ancient cult was propagated under the name of the Etruscan mysteries. Eventually the headquarters of Babylonianism moved to Rome. The chief priests of the Roman system wore miters, hats shaped like the head of a fish. This symbol honored Dagon, the fish-god of the ancient Philistines, called "the lord of life," who was none other than our old "friend" Tammuz in a different manifestation. The chief priest, when established in Rome, took the title "Pontifex Maximus," and this was imprinted on his miter. The head of a large segment of the professing Christian church, headquartered in Rome, still bears this title today.

As we continue to trace the Babylonian mystery religion down through the centuries of this post-Flood world, we find that prophetic Scripture, written at the end of the first century, predicted that this pagan system would become a part of professing Christianity. The seven letters of our Lord, dictated through the Apostle John and recorded in Revelation 2-3, provide a prophetic view of church history during the time of our Lord's bodily absence from this world.

In his letter to the church of Thyatira, we find that the Lord rebuked that particular church saying *"Not withstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which maketh herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols."* Rev. 2:20.

In the prophetic view, the church at Thyatira represents the great church of the Middle Ages. It was, and is, the system that sprang from the blending of Christianity and paganism under Constantine the Great into that mixed system headquartered in Rome, which stretches throughout the earth.

Paganism Was Blended In

To understand the Lord's reference to "that woman Jezebel," we have to look back to Israel's history in the days of King Ahab. Jezebel, his wicked pagan Phoenician queen, carried the northern kingdom into Baal worship. She was adept in the art of mixing and sought to unite the religion of Israel with that of Babylon (which was practiced in Phoenicia).

That is exactly what happened in the Roman system, when it achieved its position of world power under Constantine the Great in the fourth century A.D. What emerged at the time of Constantine was a mixture of Babylonianism, Christianity and Judaism, with Babylonianism soon gaining the upper hand. This system is "the mystery of iniquity." It is the ancient Babylonian mysteries, continued under the name of Christianity down through these centuries of the inter-advent age.

11.

Ripe For Judgment

"And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of 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." Rev. 17:1-2.

Revelation 17 opens with these words describing the Apostle John's invitation to view God's judgment upon the

ecclesiastical system that God designates as "Mystery Babylon." This judgment is in the future. It is obvious that the Babylonian mysteries are to spread over the earth and are to become a dominating system on the earth before the second coming of Christ.

During the centuries of church history immediately after Constantine, the "mystery of iniquity" operating inside the organized church gained with such astounding effects that Babylonian practices and teaching soon dominated. The truth of the Scriptures was in many points totally obscured. Instead, idolatrous practices were foisted upon the people as "sacraments," and Babylonian practices took the place of Gospel instruction.

It is rather surprising to some to find out that many things in modern professing "Christianity" are not of Christian origin at all. Rather, they are parts of the Babylonian mystery system in which worship was directed to Tammuz, the false messiah, and to Semiramis, his mother, the "queen of heaven." The evidence testifying to this is overwhelming. Many so-called Christian traditions are Babylonian in origin, nature and intent.

The Babylonian religious system had both mystery rites and immoral practices of worship. It originated the custom of sprinkling "holy water." Virgins were brought to the Babylonian ziggurats (temples) and were dedicated to serve the Babylonian gods as religious prostitutes. The cult of the mother and child, the very center of the Babylonian system of worship, also became the center of apostate "Christian" worship. The mother, representing Semiramis, was pictured as the "queen of heaven," with the babe, Tammuz, in her arms.

Rites Have Hidden Meanings

Linked with the central mystery of the mother and child were a number of lesser mysteries. The meaning of each rite and image was known only to the initiates. But the outward forms of worship were practiced by all the people over which the system held sway. Among the lesser mysteries were doctrines of purgatorial purification after death. "Salvation"

was by the practice of "sacraments." There was an order of practicing priests, and these priests were able to offer priestly absolution. Worshippers were sprinkled with "holy water" for cleansing and blessing.

Round cakes, imprinted with the Babylonian "tau," the symbol of Tammuz, were offered to "the queen of heaven." The practice of "weeping for Tammuz" for a period of 40 days before his supposed "reincarnation" was a part of the pagan system. To Semiramis, the egg was sacred. It symbolized her preservation and reincarnation. Also, the evergreen tree was the symbol of Tammuz. It was set up to honor his birth, which occurred at about the time of the winter solstice, that is, about the 25th of December. During the festival of the winter solstice, a boar's head was eaten in memory of the conflict of Ninus, or Nimrod, who was, according to legend, slain by a wild boar. (Tammuz was accepted as the reincarnation of Nimrod.) The yule log was burned to represent the destruction of the dead god. The decorated evergreen tree was set up to symbolize the reincarnation of the dead god in the young god Tammuz, or Baal.

Does this sound like practicing Christianity? It is not Biblical Christianity! Rather, it is that pagan system that dominated most of professing Christianity for over 1,000 years. Only the Reformation of the sixteenth century brought a measure of deliverance from Babylonianism. This pagan system is the religion that will be left when our Lord Jesus Christ calls His true church out of this world.

Belief in a One-World System

The effects of the ancient Babylonian mysteries on present-day "Christendom" can be clearly seen. There are many sincere people today who believe that unification of all peoples of the world in all things is the answer to the world's problems. They believe that it is God's will that men unite themselves with an earthly unity. These people hope and believe that a one-world government and a one-world religious system will bring in an era of righteousness and peace upon the earth.

Men seem to have forgotten (or, perhaps, never have known) that it was God Himself who separated the nations of the post-Flood world at the Tower of Babel. And it is God who throughout the church age has allowed the separation of organized Christendom into many factions. This has been necessary because of the rapid spread of apostasy and evil within religion.

Today's ecumenical movement in world politics and world religion is soundly refuted by God's Word. God has forewarned us that at the end of this age a one-world government and a one-world "church" will be organized. But Scripture clearly says that this unification is of man, energized of Satan -- not of God! Once again men will use 'bricks for stone and slime for mortar,' as they did so long ago at the Tower of Babel.

No "Peace" Under The Antichrist

The early chapters of Revelation reveal the sad happenings that will take place in the world after a one-world government has been established. A world ruler will emerge. The world will be torn by war, famine and plague. At least two-thirds of the world's population will die. Under the antichrist all freedom will be taken from the people of the world. There will be no buying and selling without his approval or "mark." Satan will realize his age-old ambition. For a brief time, he will rule the earth through His chosen man. At last, a Babylonian "Nimrod" will carry out Satan's bidding in the earth.

It should be obvious to Christians with the slightest knowledge of the Scriptures that unification of the world's religious systems -- even the so-called Christian religious systems -- would be a sad mistake. Already the present ecumenical movement has departed far from the teachings of the Scriptures.

No Teaching of Personal Salvation

This movement, sparked by decades of liberalism, sees no need for personal salvation -- that salvation which Scripture

teaches comes through personal repentance and personal faith in the substitutionary death of the Lord Jesus Christ. In place of personal salvation, they have substituted a social gospel and "mass" conversion. This concept comes directly from the Babylonian mystery system. In modernism and ecumenism the truth of personal sin and personal salvation is completely ignored. Satan's teaching has been substituted. Modern liberalism has far outdone the system of paganism that came from the "mixing" of Judaism and Christianity by Constantine the Great in fourth century Rome in its departure for God's Word.

Liberalism, with its one-world church movement, is playing directly into the hands of the evil one. Satan will bring this movement to full fruition during the Great Tribulation period, which will come after the true church and the restraining power of the Holy Spirit of God have been removed from this world.

The final result of world religion is seen in Revelation 17. The success of this movement will be followed by the one-world social order under the "beast" described in Revelation 13. Thus, Nimrod's and Semiramis's dream of a one-world government and a one-world religion with a latter-day Nimrod -- not God -- at its head will come to its fullest development in the Babylon of Revelation 17 and 18. God will bring the judgments upon "Mystery Babylon" that are prophesied in these two chapters of Scripture.

"And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

The End