



Mystery: Babylon the Great

Revelation 12:17b - 13:18 1 John 2:15-17 John 8:42-44

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A “**mystery**” in the New Testament is a **special truth** that **God reveals to us**; if God would not have revealed it, we would not know it or understand it. A “**mystery**” is God revealing **something important** to us. When we believe the **mystery** that God reveals, then we are **wise**. If you do not believe what God reveals, then you are **foolish**.

In the Book of Revelation, the **mystery** that is revealed is this: that there is an **Unholy Trinity** at work in the world: (1) Satan, (2) all ungodly secular influences, and (3) all the false religions, false teachers, and false doctrines.

This **Unholy Trinity**
is called Babylon the Great¹.

Babylon the Great **Wars against**
Christ, His Word, and His People.

The name “Babylon” comes from the Old Testament. Babylon was the capital of the Babylonian Empire. The Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar invaded Israel, destroyed Jerusalem, burned down the Temple of God, and carried the Israelites away as slaves (See 2 Kings 25). Babylon became the powerful image of the enemies of God and His People. That image is now used in Revelation to describe the **Kingdom of Satan**.

¹ **Babylon the Great** is introduced in Rev 13, as Satan brings up his beast from the sea (secular) and his beast from the land (religious). Together, Satan and his two beasts form a *unholy Trinity*; they comprise the **Kingdom of Satan**. Those who follow Babylon are figuratively (*not literally!*) marked with 666. Babylon is an image of the world and its ideas and values (1 John 2:15-17). People either trust in Christ and His Word and live in the Kingdom of God; or they reject Christ and His Word and follow after Babylon the Great and live in the Kingdom of Satan. *There is no middle nor neutral ground*. Babylon is prominent in Revelation chapters 14-20 --- there are warnings of its fall (14:8), warnings to avoid it (14:9-11), plagues will fall on Babylon (16:1ff), Babylon is confronted at Armageddon (16:16,19), Babylon is described (17:1ff), Babylon is condemned (18:1ff), and Babylon is destroyed (19:1ff, 20:1ff). Babylon the Great is portrayed in Revelation with a plethora of Old Testament images. Like in the Old Testament times, Babylon the Great in Revelation is the enemy of God, His Word and His People in these End Times. Besides the immense image of evil and danger; Babylon is also depicted as “Fallen! Fallen! Is Babylon the Great!” – just like the Old Testament Babylon fell!

Babylon the Great is pictured as two great and terrible *Beasts* that *Satan* manipulates. The *Beast from the Sea* is all the ungodly secular influences in the world. The *Beast from the Land* is all false religion. Together, they fight against Christ, His Word, and His People.

Another way to think about this *Unholy Trinity*,
which is called Babylon the Great,
is that it is the **Kingdom of Satan**
as opposed to the **Kingdom of God**.

Satan works through the **SECULAR** and the **RELIGIOUS** to deceive and destroy people.

The **SECULAR INFLUENCES** include all who deny Christ and contradict His Word in the realms of government, politics, science, philosophy, culture, education, media, and entertainment. **Secular influences** are powerful; it is easy to see how this has been intensifying even during our lifetime. The world is getting more and more hostile to Christ and His Word. These secular influences are what John warned us of in the Scripture lesson for today: *Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them.* We are to expect these ungodly secular influences to get even more intense as we get closer to the Last Day.

The **RELIGIOUS INFLUENCES** include all who deny Christ and contradict His Word under the guise of “spiritual”. This beast “*looks like Lamb, but speaks like Dragon.*” It looks holy and spiritual, but in reality, it is Satan at work to deceive people. This includes all world religions, all “new age type” spirituality, and all the false doctrines and false teachers that have infested the Holy Christian Church. This would include the Antichrist and the Apostate Protestant Church.

The **Mystery of the End Times** that God reveals to us in Revelation is that *Satan* actively works through the **SECULAR** and the **RELIGIOUS** to deceive and destroy people.

This is the *Unholy Trinity*,
This is Babylon the Great,
This is the **Kingdom of Satan**.

In the Book of Revelation, we are warned to **FLEE BABYLON!** Run for your life. The danger is imminent! Do not get caught up in the ways of this world! Babylon is a clear and present danger!

Then I heard another voice from heaven say: “‘**COME OUT OF HER, My People,**’ so that you will not share in **her sins**, so that you will not receive any of **her plagues**; for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered **her crimes**. REVELATION 18:4-5

The warning is not to compromise your faith.

Do not let Babylon influence you. Do not let your heart desire the ways of the world. Don't get tangled up sin, evil, or corruption. Don't chase after the things of the world! Don't believe the lies of the world. You are to **FLEE BABYLON!** --- your faith and life are in imminent danger! Don't get distracted from Christ, His Word and His Kingdom. ***The warning is not to compromise your faith.***

On the **Last Day** when Jesus returns, **Babylon will be destroyed**; and all who **follow after her** will be eternally condemned as well.

Therefore in **ONE DAY** her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine. She will be consumed by fire, for **mighty is the Lord God who JUDGES her**. REVELATION 18:8

You are to **FLEE BABYLON!** The Lord will judge and condemn you if you follow the ways of the world and live in the Kingdom of Satan. **DON'T BE DECEIVED:** you cannot live in the Kingdom of God and at the same time have a foot in the Kingdom of Satan. ***The warning is not to compromise your faith.***

Remember, the Lord has rescued you from Babylon. Jesus came into the world to establish His Kingdom. His death and resurrection saves you from Babylon the Great. Through faith in Christ, you have been brought into the Kingdom of God.

Your Baptism was the transition point in your life: In Holy Baptism, God claimed you as His own, He marked you with the sign of the cross, He put His Name on you, He washed your sins away, and He gave you eternal life. You have been rescued from the evil, corrupt darkness of this world and brought into God's Kingdom of Light. **You might live IN the world; but you are not OF the world!** You no longer serve Satan and follow His ways; you belong to the Lord and live in His Kingdom and follow His ways!

There has to be a **CLEAN BREAK** between you and the ways of the world! You cannot live in the Kingdom of God and at the same time have a foot in the Kingdom of Satan.

- † *So put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.* Romans 13:12
† *You were once in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as a child of light!*
Ephesians 5:8
† *You are to have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness* Ephesians 5:11

There has to be a **CLEAN BREAK** between you and the ways of the world! You cannot live in the Kingdom of God and at the same time have a foot in the Kingdom of Satan.

Everything you see – *the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life* – will be utterly destroyed on the Last Day. Don't get caught up in the ways of the world: **FLEE BABYLON** while you still can!

- ✓ You do not belong to the Kingdom of Satan!
- ✓ Don't fill your heart or mind with Babylon the Great!
- ✓ Don't chase after the things of the world!

Your Baptism was the transition point in your life: In Holy Baptism, God claimed you as His own, He marked you with the sign of the cross: You have been rescued from the evil, corrupt darkness of this world and brought into God's Kingdom of Light. **Live your life in holiness, godliness, and righteousness!**

As we live our lives in these terrible Last Days and increasingly evil End Times, **the Lord has revealed a mystery to us.**

There is an *Unholy Trinity*,
There is a Babylon the Great,
There is a **Kingdom of Satan**.

The Lord has warned of us of our great enemy: Satan is real and he is at work through all the **secular** and **religious** influences that deny Christ and contradict His Holy Word.

FLY BABYLON THE GREAT

Don't get caught up in the Kingdom of Satan;

You have been baptized into Christ:

You live in the Kingdom of God!

Amen!