

MYSTERY BABYLON



REVELATION 17-18

COMPILED BY
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The Mother of Harlots

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Text: Revelation 17–18

Purpose: To warn God’s people from spiritual compromise, to call the faithful to separation from false systems, and to point hearts to Christ as the only true Bride.

Order of Service

- Opening hymn
- Opening prayer
- Scripture reading: Revelation 17:1–6, 9, 15–18; Revelation 18:1–5
- Sermon: “Mystery Babylon — The Mother of Harlots”
- Response hymn / altar call
- Prayer of commitment and blessing
- Small-group discussion / study time
- Benediction

Sermon Summary (one-line)

Revelation 17–18 warns of a powerful, world-wide religious-political system — “Mystery Babylon” — whose influence corrupts nations and persecutes the saints; God calls His people to separate, hold fast to Scripture, and remain faithful to Christ.

Sermon Outline

1. Introduction — Why Revelation 17–18 matters

- This passage gives a stark prophetic warning about organized, seductive spiritual power that opposes Christ and His church.

2. Who/What is “Mystery Babylon”?

- Biblical description (woman on many waters; sits on seven mountains; decked in purple and scarlet; drunken with saints’ blood; called “the mother of harlots”).
- Interpreting the clues: religious system, world influence, political entanglement, persecution, claimed authority.
- Note: This sermon presents the historic evangelical interpretation identifying the entangled religious-political system centered in a dominant city/authority (often understood by some as Rome/the Vatican). Listeners are urged to study Scripture and act in love and wisdom toward all people.

3. The methods of Babylon’s power

- Seduction: “wine of her fornication” — compromise of truth, unity without truth, spiritual syncretism.
- Political influence: “with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication.”
- Wealth and spectacle: purple, scarlet, gold — attractive trappings that hide spiritual corruption.

- Persecution: “drunken with the blood of the saints” — history and pattern of silencing true testimony.

4. The judgment pronounced

- Revelation declares God’s wrath against Babylon because her sins have reached to heaven.
- God calls for the fall of that system and the vindication of the persecuted.

5. The call to God’s people: “Come out of her”

- Revelation 18:4 — a direct summons to separation so that the people of God do not share in her sins or receive her plagues.
- Practical meaning: refusal to embrace doctrinal compromise, refusal to place institutional allegiance above Scripture, willingness to endure separation when Scripture calls for it.

6. Distinguishing the Bride from the System

- The Bride is defined by fidelity to Christ and His Word, not by institutional size or power.
- Genuine faith is lived (holiness, adherence to Scripture, love, endurance), not framed by human titles or honors.

7. Application — What must we do now?

- Examine personal and corporate loyalties (Is my trust in Christ or in a system/leader/organization?).
- Hold to Scripture as the final authority (Matt. 4:4).

- Cultivate holiness and biblical separation without malice toward those we disagree with.
- Prepare for persecution and suffering with the hope of Christ's vindication.
- Share the gospel faithfully and lovingly with those in error.

Exposition Notes (concise)

- Revelation 17:1–6 — The vision uses symbolic language: a woman (religious entity) seated on many waters (peoples, nations, tongues). Her adornments indicate wealth and a claim to authority; the cup signifies the defiling influence she spreads.
- Revelation 17:9 — “Seven heads are seven mountains” — a geographical/historical marker in some readings; in symbolic readings it can denote major empires or centers of power.
- Revelation 17:15 — Waters = peoples, multitudes, nations, tongues; her reach is global.
- Revelation 18:4–5 — God's people are told to come out so as not to participate in her sins.

Pastoral Cautions

- Avoid hateful or violent language toward individuals or groups. The call is to separation from systems of

error and to steadfast faithfulness to Christ, not to personal hatred.

- Distinguish between biblical critique of systems and disrespect toward persons who are caught up in those systems. Our evangelistic posture must be both truthful and loving.
- Affirm Christian unity built on the Word of God; unity that compromises plain biblical truth is not God's unity.

Practical Steps for Individuals and Congregations

- Personal audit: Pray and ask God to search for any loyalty that competes with loyalty to Christ. Confess and repent of compromise.
- Word-centered worship: Reaffirm Scripture as the final authority in preaching, teaching, and church life.
- Church discipline and care: Maintain doctrinal clarity while practicing gospel compassion toward those in error.
- Evangelism with truth and love: Share the gospel with those within powerful religious structures, remembering that many are sincere but mistaken.
- Prepare spiritually: Encourage discipleship that readies believers to stand when pressure comes.

Response Suggestions (for the service)

- Hymns focusing on Christ’s supremacy and the call to holiness.
- Prayer topics: repentance from compromise, protection for persecuted saints, boldness in truth, wisdom for church leaders.
- Invitation to commitment: A short altar call for those who will “come out” by renewing allegiance to Christ and the Word.

Small-Group Study Questions

1. Read Revelation 17:1–6 and 18:1–5. What images stand out to you? What do they suggest about the nature of Babylon’s power?
2. In what ways can a religious system “seduce” or compromise people today? Give contemporary examples (do so carefully and respectfully).
3. What does “Come out of her” look like in practical terms for believers and congregations?
4. How can we hold doctrinal conviction while still loving and praying for people who follow different religious systems?

5. What steps will you take this week to strengthen your personal fidelity to Christ and the Scriptures?

Suggested Hymns / Songs

- “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation” (or similar hymn emphasizing Christ’s headship)
- “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”
- “Take Time to Be Holy”
- Contemporary worship centered on God’s holiness and Christ’s authority

Prayer of Commitment (sample)

Lord Jesus, we hear Your call. Help us to be faithful to Your Word above all human systems. Give us courage to separate from error, love to reach those who are lost, and holiness to stand firm in time of trial. Preserve Your Bride until You come. Amen.

Further Reading / Resources

- Read Revelation 17–18 in several translations.
- Historical and theological works on interpretations of Babylon (survey differing views: historicist, preterist, futurist, symbolic).

- Shepherding resources on how to engage people in other religious systems with gospel compassion.

Benediction

May the Lord keep you from compromise, fill you with His truth, strengthen you to endure, and prepare you and the church to be a spotless Bride, ready for Christ's return.

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