

**“MYSTERY BABYLON – REVELATION 18  
THE TALE OF TWO CITIES: ROME AND ISTANBUL”**

LESSONS 7 & 8 • by Bishop David W. Kramer • March 30, 2016

**INTRODUCTION**

Revelation 18 talks about the destruction of Mystery Babylon, “*that great city,*” which is destroyed by God in the last 7 years before the return of Jesus Christ at the 7<sup>th</sup> Trump. Who is Mystery Babylon? She is Satan’s counterfeit “city”—a mimic of God’s Holy City, New Jerusalem. Remember, Satan is a imitator of God. If God has a city, then Satan has a city as well.

She is described in Revelations as “*...a woman sitting on a scarlet beast...and on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH...I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns...Here is the mind which has wisdom: **The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.***” (Revelation 17:3,5,7,9). The church has always recognized the Roman Catholic Church as Mystery Babylon the Great, which is located on 7 hills in Rome, Italy. The Church also identifies the beast on which the woman was riding as the Islamic Kingdom which is yet to arise.

So, how in the world are the Roman Catholic Church and the Islamic Kingdom connected? A careful examination of Rome’s history—under the leadership of Emperor Constantine—will produce a very interesting link. While Constantine made Rome the capital of the newly-established Catholic Church (which means “Universal”), he was also busy constructing another city that is built on 7 hills: The city now known as Istanbul.



Istanbul is located in Turkey, the country which is the last vestige of the once-great Ottoman/Islamic Empire, and was formerly known as “Constantinople” under the Roman Empire. Istanbul had the title of “head of the Islamic Caliphate” for over 400 years during the Ottoman Empire. Some say the name is a variation of “Islambul” which means “plenty of Islam”. So, the Roman Emperor Constantine, who founded the Roman Catholic Church, also founded the city now called Istanbul—which served as the capital of the Islamic Caliphate for over 400 years. Are you beginning to see the connection?

The Church of God believes that the Roman Emperor Constantine (272 - 337 AD) lead the Early Church to its demise. According to our church MANUAL OF APOSTLES DOCTRINE AND PROCEDURE, I,B,5. The Nicene Era (A.D. 311-325):

*“Another aspect of the Nicene Council represented a devastating blow to the governmental system of the church. **This occurred when Constantine established himself as the head of the church and joined the church to the state of Rome. At this point the church as an organism of theocratic government ceased to exist.***

*Why the church would have accepted the emperor of Rome as its head, especially when he was also titled Pontifex Maximus as the high priest of the pagan Roman religion, is a mystery. It was probably a result of the toll that the continuing persecutions of the past three centuries had brought upon the church and the contrasting peace and acceptance that the church found after Constantine proclaimed the Edict of Milan in A.D. 313. Its freedom from state-sponsored persecution and its endorsement by the emperor himself left the church vulnerable to the intrusion of Constantine into the affairs of the church; In A.D. 321 Constantine proclaimed Sunday as the day of rest throughout the Roman Empire. In A.D. 325 he issued a circular letter in which he denounced participation in Passover observance and other Judaic practices saying, "We would have nothing in common with that most hostile people, the Jews...it is our duty to have nothing in common with the murderers of the Lord."*

*The final death blow was delivered in A. D. 325 when Constantine arrogated to himself the leadership of the church and presided over the Council of Nicaea. The church became the church of the Roman state and ceased to be the Church of God. Though the kingdom of God (the corporate church) and the Christian faith were to continue even during the darkest of the Dark Ages, the church as an organism of theocracy for the fulfillment of Bible prophecy ceased to exist."*

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## **1. THE ROMAN EMPEROR CONSTANTINE AND ISTANBUL, TURKEY.**

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### **A. What role did Constantine play in the formation of Istanbul—a city in Turkey?**

- 1) The Roman Emperor Constantine made Constantinople (now Istanbul) the eastern capital of the Roman Empire in 330 AD.
- 2) *"The only and the strongest administration center of Roman Empire for centuries, Rome began to pass on this duty to Istanbul beginning from the 4th century. The emperor Constantine realized the pressure from the northern borders and understood how defenseless Rome had been. In order to move into a more fertile and safer Eastern lands and to immortalize his name, he decided to turn the Greek colony Byzantium into a co-capital of Rome. In order to do so, he ordered his architects and engineers to turn this small village-like city into a capital of an empire.*

***Upon this order, Romans designed a city founded upon seven hills just like Rome and the new city was built under the name "New Rome".*** Within time, the city started to be known as Constantinople, the city of Constantine. Emperor Theodosius who succeeded Constantine divided Roman Empire into two between his sons. Therefore the capital of the Western Rome became Rome and the capital of Eastern Rome became Constantinople.

*Istanbul became the capital of an empire once again with the expansion of Ottomans and it started to rise. Rome, on the other hand, has always kept its importance."*

### **B. Some interesting facts about Istanbul, Turkey:**

- 1) Istanbul, historically also known as Constantinople and Byzantium, is the most populous city in Turkey with a population of around 14 million residents.
- 2) Istanbul is one of the world's most populous cities and ranks as world's 6th-largest city proper and the largest European city.
- 3) After its reestablishment as Constantinople in 330 AD, it served as an imperial capital for almost 16 centuries, during the Roman and Byzantine (330–1204 and 1261–1453), the Latin (1204–1261), and the Ottoman (1453–1922) empires.



- 4) It was instrumental in the advancement of Christianity during Roman and Byzantine times, before the Ottomans conquered the city in 1453 and transformed it into an Islamic stronghold and the seat of the Ottoman Caliphate.
- 5) The Ottoman Dynasty claimed the status of caliphate (a Muslim-ruled kingdom) in 1517, with Istanbul remaining the capital of this last caliphate for four centuries (until 1922).
- 6) Istanbul is located on a peninsula. Following the model of Rome, the historic peninsula is said to be characterized by seven hills, each topped by imperial mosques.

## 2. THE CITY OF ROME AND VATICAN CITY IN ITALY.

### A. The City of Rome, Italy – The City of Seven Hills.

- 1) Rome is known as the city of seven hills. The Vatican sits on one side of the Tiber River, facing the seven hills. In ancient times, hills were sacred high places, used to worship and offer sacrifices to deities.

### B. The “Vatican City” is located in Rome, Italy and serves as the capital of the Roman Catholic Church.

- 1) **VATICAN CITY**, officially the Vatican City State, is a walled enclave within the city of Rome. With an area of approximately 110 acres, and a population of 842, it is the smallest country in the world by both area and population.

It is an ecclesiastical state ruled by the Bishop of Rome—the Pope. The highest state functionaries are all Catholic clergy of various national origins.

The independent city-state, on the other hand, came into existence in 1929 by the Lateran Treaty between the Holy See and Italy, which spoke of it as a new creation. According to the terms of the treaty, the Holy See has "full ownership, exclusive dominion, and sovereign authority and jurisdiction" over the city-state." (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)



Vatican City in Rome which is governed by the Holy See [seat]. The Roman Catholic Church/State has established diplomatic relationships with 179 nations around the world.

### C. Did you know that the Pope believes that the Catholics and the Muslims are worshipping the same God?

- 1) Consider this excerpt from an article entitled, **“Christians, Muslims, and the “One God”** written by Todd Agliano, March 25, 2013: *“Last week, Pope Francis received a collection of world religious leaders in his first ecumenical and interreligious event. His address to them contained diplomatic niceties and specific expressions of good will aimed at Orthodox, Protestants, Jews, and Muslims. His remarks to the latter recognized that Muslims “worship the one living and merciful God, and call upon him in prayer.” In this he echoed the 1964 dogmatic constitution Lumen Gentium, which gave a nod to “the Mohammedans, who, professing to hold the faith of Abraham, along with us adore the one and merciful God, who on the last day will judge mankind.”*
- 2) How’s that for a connection between Catholicism and Islam?



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### 3. REVELATION CHAPTER 18

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#### A. THE FALL OF BABYLON THE GREAT – REVELATION 18:1-8

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- 1 ***“After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.”***
- 2 ***“And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!”***

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#### 1) The Church of God believes that the Roman Catholic Church is Mystery Babylon as referred to in Revelation 17:1-6.

##### a. Revelation 17:1-6,

- 1 *“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,*
- 2 *with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”*
- 3 *So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.”*
  - ***This beast is the Islamic Kingdom as defined in previous lessons.***
- 4 *“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.*
- 5 *And on her forehead a name was written:*

**MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT,  
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS  
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS  
OF THE EARTH.**
- 6 *I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.”*

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- 3 ***“For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.”***
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#### 1) Notice the use of the word “fornication” which means *sexual intercourse with someone one is not married to.*

- a. It was the Roman Catholic Church that mixed the pagan customs of the heathens with the holy doctrines and articles of God.
- b. They introduced Christmas, Easter, Halloween and Sunday-observance into the Christian faith.
- c. Isaiah 1:21, ***“How the faithful city has become a harlot! It was full of justice; righteousness lodged in it, but now murderers.”***

#### 2) Notice the scripture says that ***“the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.”*** Let’s examine the Roman Catholic Church’s wealth.

- a. *“Although the wealth of the church has been on display throughout history, its financial details are not. Paolo Cipriani—director of The Institute for Works of Religion (IOR), often referred to as the ‘Vatican Bank’—last year pledged to “lift the veil of secrecy” surrounding the organization. **The institute manages \$8 billion of the church’s worldwide wealth and investments as well as 33,000 accounts***

***for clergy and parishes, held in euros***” (“Inside the Vatican: The 8 billion dollar global institution where nuns answer the phones” by Alastair Jamieson, Staff writer, NBC news).

- b. ***“The Catholic church is the biggest financial power, wealth accumulator and property owner in existence.*** *She is a greater possessor of material riches than any other single institution, corporation, bank, giant trust, government or state of the whole globe. The pope, as the visible ruler of this immense amassment of wealth, is consequently the richest individual of the twentieth century. No one can realistically assess how much he is worth in terms of billions of dollars*” (“The Catholic Church is the Biggest Financial Power on Earth” by Alexander Light).

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**4 “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.”**

**1) This scripture tells us emphatically that there are still God’s people within the Roman Catholic Church.**

- a. I also believe this scripture is telling all Christians to leave the pagan practices that the Catholics have intermingled with the Gospel.

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**5 “For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.”**

**6 “Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her.”**

**7 “In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, ‘I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.’”**

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**1) The Roman Catholic Church calls the Pope the “Vicar of Christ”.**

- a. The term *vicar* means “instead of”. Calling the pope the “Vicar of Christ” implies that he has the same authority over the church that Christ had.
- b. The Catholic Church acknowledges openly that they have the right to change the Bible as they see fit. This is why they blatantly take responsibility for changing the Sabbath to Sunday as well as the addition of Christmas and other pagan-influenced celebrations and customs to the church.

**2) The Catholic Church openly refers to herself as the queen of heaven.**

- a. In fact, while researching this point, I pulled up a website for “Queen of Heaven Roman Catholic Church” in Seneca, New York.

**3) The Catholic Church refers to itself as the one and only true church—a continuance of the Early Church that Christ authored.**

- a. They do this because they can trace their history through Constantine and the Roman Empire to the days when they abrogated [def. *to abolish by authoritative action*] themselves as rulers of the Christian Church which effectively married church and state together.

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**8 “Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.”**

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## **B. THE WORLD MOURNS BABYLON’S FALL – REVELATION 18:9-20**

**9 “The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning,”**

10 *“standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’”*

11 *“And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore:”*

12 *“merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble;”*

13 *“and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men.”*

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1) **It was the Catholic Church that introduced Valentine’s Day, Easter, Halloween, and Christmas.**

- a. Each of these “holidays” are tied directly to merchants and the purchasing of gifts or decorations.
- b. These are the times of the year when the merchants make their profits. No wonder they weep when she is destroyed.

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14 *“The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all.”*

15 *“The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,”*

16 *“and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls!’”*

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1) **ARTICLE: “Roman Catholic Church’s wealth impossible to calculate”**

- a. *“It is impossible to calculate the wealth of the Roman Catholic Church. In truth, the church itself likely could not answer that question, even if it wished to. Its investments and spending are kept secret. Its real estate and art have not been properly evaluated, since the church would never sell them. There is no doubt, however, that between the church’s priceless art, land, gold and investments across the globe, it is one of the wealthiest institutions on Earth”* (by Kristopher Morrison 03/08/13).

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17 *“For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.’ Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance”*

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1) **The phrase “in one hour” is not referring to a period of 60 minutes.**

- a. “One hour” refers to the period of the last 7 years before the 7<sup>th</sup> Trump return of Jesus Christ. It is the 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel’s Vision.
- b. Revelation 17:12, *“The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, **but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.**”*

2) **According to Daniel 9:27, we know that the Antichrist will rule the world for a period of 7 years.**

- a. Daniel 9:27a, *“Then he [the Antichrist] shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but **in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and suffering...**”*
- b. Remember that one week equals 7 years. Ezekiel 4:6b, *“...**I have laid on you a day for each year.**”*

3) **This is confirmed in Revelation 8:1**, *“When He opened the seventh seal, **there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.**”* This is the beginning of the plagues being used.

- a. Revelation 11:3,6, *“And I will give power to my two witnesses, **and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days clothed in sackcloth...**[6] These have power to...strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.”*
- b. It takes 3½ years to pour out God’s plagues upon the earth as judgment which according to Revelation 8:1 was equal to one-half hour.

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**18 “and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What is like this great city?’”**

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- Notice the reference to Bablyon being a “great city”.

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**19 “They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.’”**

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- Consider that the majority of the merchandise bought during the holidays is transported across the oceans from China and other areas of the world.
- It’s amazing how precise the Word of God is.

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**20 “Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!”**

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**1) Bablyon’s destruction will be a time of rejoicing in the heavens because of all the injustice and filth that has polluted what we call “Christianity” today.**

- a. God is a God of judgment. He has full knowledge of every incident of wrongdoing and He will punish those who have participated in wrongdoing.
- b. Revelation 6:9-11, *“When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.”*

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### **C. FINALITY OF BABYLON’S FALL – REVELATION 18:21-24**

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**21 “Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore.”**

**22 “The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore.”**

**23 “The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.”**

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**1) Notice the reference to “all the nations were deceived.”**

- a. As noted above, the Catholic Church maintains diplomatic relationships with 179 nations around the world.
- b. Vatican City State has an area of approximately 110 acres and it is the smallest internationally recognized independent state in the world.

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**24 “And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on**

***the earth.”***

**1) Historians estimate that as many as 50 million people have been martyred by the Roman Catholic Church throughout the Dark Ages.**

a. In fact, Pope Francis recently apologized for persecuting Protestants as we near the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

**2) ISTANBUL – The capital of the Islamic Caliphate.**

a. Consider how many millions of believers will be killed/martyred because they refuse to submit to the Mark of the Beast system which will be initiated during when the 8<sup>th</sup> Kingdom to arise, the Islamic Kingdom, rules the world (Revelation 13:7).

b. According to Revelation 20:4, believers will be beheaded because they refuse to take the Mark of the Beast in the Last Days.

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**4. WHILE GOD WILL BE JUDGING BABYLON BY USING THE 7 PLAGUES LISTED IN REVELATIONS, THE ISLAMIC KINGDOM WILL ALSO HELP DESTROY HER.**

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**A. Revelation 17:11,15-18,**

[11] *“The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.”*

☞ The Church of God identifies the 8<sup>th</sup> beast as the Islamic Kingdom.

☞ The Antichrist will come out of the Islamic Kingdom.

[15] *Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.*

[16] ***“And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.***

☞ The 8<sup>th</sup> Beast–The Islamic Kingdom–will turn against the Roman Catholic Church and will work to destroy her–most likely because of their hatred of any religion other than the Islamic faith.

[17] *“For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.*

☞ God will use His own enemies to accomplish His will.

☞ However, it will not be the first time that He has done so. In the Old Testament God used Nebuchadnezzar–King of Bablyon–to punish Israel for their disobedience.

☞ God even referred to King Nebuchadnezzar as His servant (Jeremiah 25:9).

[18] ***“And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.”***

☞ Again, the Vatican City, the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church, has diplomatic relationships with 179 countries and yields great influence in many of those nations.

☞ Did you know that in Mexico, we, The Church of God, have to get permission from the Roman Catholic Church before we can legally establish a church? That’s how much power and influence they have in that country.

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**CONCLUSION**

The word *Babylon* is synonymous with *confusion*. The Roman Catholic Church is the author of much of the confusion that exists in the Kingdom of God including the mixture of pagan traditions with the holy things of God. They even changed the day of worship from Saturday to Sunday!

However, the Islamic Kingdom, which consists of some 2 billion followers, has also deceived and polluted the world by preaching a works-based religion based on a false god, Allah, who is a derivative of Baal, the ancient pagan moon god. Both cities will be destroyed in one hour (the last 7 years) when God’s hand of judgment comes upon them as He pours out His wrath on the wicked of the earth.



## “REVELATIONS CHAPTER 14”

LESSON 8 • by Bishop David W. Kramer • April 13, 2016

### INTRODUCTION

Revelations 14 begins with the Bride of Christ standing on Mount Zion with Jesus Christ and they are singing a new song before the throne of God. This song is unique and is only known by the 144,000 who were redeemed from the earth.

This group of people—God’s Bride—are not defiled with women (other churches) and they are virgins (pure). They follow the Lamb of God—Jesus Christ, Himself—wherever He leads them. Also, there is no deceit found in their mouths. They stand before God’s throne without fault.



As the chapter continues, an angel makes a proclamation that the hour of God’s judgment has come upon the earth. The rest of the chapter gives more details about how Jesus punishes the wicked of the world. The scripture likens it to grapes being crushed in a great winepress, “*the great winepress of the wrath of God.*”

The last verse finishes by saying, “*...blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses’ bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.*” Chapter 14 is a great summation of the plan of God for His Bride body and His assurance that He will judge the wicked of this earth.

### 1. REVELATIONS 14:1-20

#### A. THE LAMB AND THE 144,000 – REVELATION 14:1-5

**1** “*Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father’s name written on their foreheads.*”

#### 1) Satan is an imitator of God.

a. His Mark-of-the-Beast program is an imitation of God’s marking program.

#### 2) DIVINE LAW PRINCIPLE – Ezekiel 9:4-10,

4 “*And the Lord said to him, “Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, **and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it.**”*

- In other words, put a mark on the foreheads of the faithful people within the city of Jerusalem.
- Notice, these are the ones who are crying out over the abominations that are being committed in God’s Kingdom.

5 “*To the others He said in my hearing, “Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity.*

6 “*Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; **but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary.**” So they began with the elders who were before the temple.*”

- Notice that this judgment began at the House of God—His Sanctuary.
- 7 “Then He said to them, “Defile the temple, and fill the courts with the slain. Go out!” And they went out and killed in the city.
- 8 So it was, that while they were killing them, I was left alone; and I fell on my face and cried out, and said, “Ah, Lord God! Will You destroy all the remnant of Israel in pouring out Your fury on Jerusalem?”
- 9 Then He said to me, “The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceedingly great, and the land is full of bloodshed, **and the city full of perversity**; for they say, ‘The Lord has forsaken the land, and the Lord does not see!’”
  - Again, we now have churches that have welcomed homosexuality—which God calls an abomination—into the Kingdom of God.
  - The largest church in the country has a pastor that refuses to preach about sin. In other words, he overlooks “abominations” and sinful practices in general.
  - When we don’t address sinful actions from the pulpit—we are *condoning it*.
- 10 “And as for Me also, My eye will neither spare, nor will I have pity, but I will recompense their deeds on their own head.”
  - God is talking about judgment coming upon the kingdom of God.
  - Amos 9:10, “All the sinners of My people shall die by the sword, Who say, ‘The calamity shall not overtake nor confront us.’”

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- 2 “And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.
  - 3 They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.
  - 4 These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.
  - 5 And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.”
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- 1) Who is God’s Bride body? They are the group of people who have followed God’s Word without compromise.
  - a. Revelations 14:4, “**There are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes.** These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.”
  - b. Exodus 19:5, “Now therefore, **if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.**”
    1. While God initially made this covenant with all of Israel, He later allowed Israel to be split in two because of their disobedience and stubbornness at the end of King Solomon’s reign (read I Kings 11:31-36).
    2. After the split, God divorced Israel. Jeremiah 3:8,14, “**Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce;** yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but went and played the harlot also...[14] “Return, O backsliding children,” says the LORD; **for I am married to you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion.**”

3. While God divorced Israel, He still claimed to be married to Zion (Judah) and promised restoration concerning His Bride body.
4. I Kings 11:36, **“And to his son I will give one tribe, that My servant David may always have a lamp before Me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen for Myself, to put My name there.”**
  - Jerusalem is found in the area given to the tribe of Judah as an inheritance.

## 2) The Bride is not defiled with women, for they are virgins.

### a. The women referred to here are churches.

1. Songs of Solomon 6:8,9, **“There are sixty queens, and eighty concubines, and virgins without number, [9] My dove, my perfect one, is the only one, the only one of her mother, the favorite of the one who bore her. The daughters saw her and called her blessed, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her.”**
2. The Bride is not influenced by what other churches teach that is not biblically sound.
3. Consider today’s mainstream churches that are embracing homosexuality and other doctrines that are forbidden by Scripture.
4. Don’t forget about the influence that the Roman Catholic Church has had on the kingdom of God by introducing St. Valentine’s Day, Easter, Halloween, Christmas and other non-biblical customs.
  - There are approximately 1.25 billion Catholics in the world today.
5. People now embrace pagan-influenced festivals while ignoring God’s biblical feasts and holy days.

### b. The reference to virgins means that they have not intermingled with other churches or with pagan practices.

1. II Corinthians 6:17, **“Therefore “Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch the unclean, and I will receive you.”** (Quote of Isaiah 52:11).

### c. That’s what happened to the Early Church after the death of the Apostles.

1. Isaiah 1:21, **“How the faithful city has become a harlot! It was full of justice; righteousness lodged in it, but now murderers.”**
2. The Early Church became a harlot when its sacred truths were intermingled with pagan practices when the Roman Empire overtook the church and formed the Catholic (*def. universal*) Church that we know today.
3. Acts 20:29,30, **“For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. [30] Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.”**

## 3) The Bride will follow the Lamb of God (Jesus) wherever He goes.

### a. Jesus will lead you into absolute truth because HE IS THE TRUTH.

1. John 14:6, **“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”**

### b. Jesus will not lead you to any pagan practices, fables, confusion, darkness, or half-truths.

1. I John 1:5,6, **“This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. [6] If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the**

**truth.**

**c. The Bride of Christ will not engage in any practices that were not authored by Jesus Christ Himself and His Word.**

1. We will not be governed by any form of tradition that is contrary to the Word of God.
2. We will not compromise the truth of God's Word for any reason.

**d. We will willingly pay the price for truth.**

1. II Thessalonians 2:12, "*That they all may be condemned **who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.***"

**4) The Bride will be redeemed from among men and be the firstfruits to God.**

**a. The Bride of Christ will consist of 288,000 people.**

1. Song of Solomon 6:13, "*Return, return, O Shulamite; return, return, that we may look upon you! **What would you see in the Shulamite—As it were, the dance of the two camps?***"
2. God's beloved—His perfect dove (the Shulamite)—is referred to as "two camps".
3. This is the 2-part Bride of Christ: 144,000 from among Israel (Revelation 7:4) and 144,000 from "among men" (Revelation 14:1-5).
  - The Jewish Part of God's Bride has already attained their "Bride-status" and they have been sealed by God.
  - Romans 11:7, "*What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; **but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded.***"
  - Revelation 7:4, "*And I heard the number of those who were sealed. **One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed.***"
4. It took 288,000 to rule Israel and supervise God's Temple in the Old Testament.
5. I Chronicles 27:1b, "*...These divisions came in and went out **month by month throughout all the year, each division having twenty-four thousand.***"
6. 12 months x 24,000 people per month = 288,000 people to rule Israel.

**b. This Last Days' part of the Bride will be "redeemed from among men earth"—in other words, they will not be redeemed from among "Jews" as described in Revelation 7:4.**

1. Revelation 7:4, "*And I heard the number of those who were sealed. **One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed.***"
2. The Bride will be the firstfruits to God—they will have made God their first priority in life.
3. They will not bow down to anyone or anything—other than God—thus fulfilling the first commandment, "*You shall have no other gods before Me*" (Exodus 20:3).

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**B. THE PROCLAMATIONS OF THREE ANGELS – REVELATION 14:6-13**

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- 6** "*Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—*
- 7** *saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."*
- 8** *And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."*



- We talked about this in the Lesson 7 which expounded upon Revelation 18.

**9** *Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand,*  
**10** *he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.*  
**11** *And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."*

**1)** **So much for the theory that those who go to hell are burned up instantly and simply cease to exist.**

- a. This scripture makes it clear that hell is a place of eternal punishment.
- b. There is no escape from hell.

**2) Who will take the Mark of the Beast?**

- a. Revelation 13:8,15-18, "**All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world...** 15 He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. 16 **He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,** 17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666."
- b. Everyone whose name is not written in the Book of Life will receive the Mark of the Beast.

**12** *"Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.*

**13** *Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."*

### **C. REAPING THE EARTH'S HARVEST – REVELATION 14:14-16**

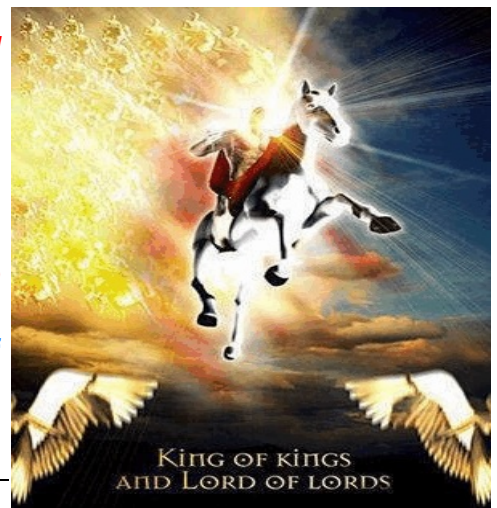
**14** *"Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle.*

**15** *And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe."*

**16** *So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped."*

**1)** **This is none other than Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who comes to judge the world.**

- a. Revelation 19:11-16, "Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. **And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in**



**righteousness He judges and makes war.** 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. **He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.** 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

- b. **Matthew 25:31-34**, “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 **All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.** 33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’”

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#### D. REAPING THE GRAPES OF WRATH – REVELATION 14:17-20

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17 “Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

18 And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, “Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.”

19 So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

20 And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses’ bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs”



1) **Isaiah 26:20,21**, “Come, my people, enter your chambers, And shut your doors behind you; Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, Until the indignation is past. 21 **For behold, the Lord comes out of His place To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity;** The earth will also disclose her blood, And will no more cover her slain.”

2) **Isaiah 63:1-6**, “Who is this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength?— “I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.” 2 Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? 3 **“I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes.** 4 For the day of vengeance is in My heart, And the year of My redeemed has come. 5 I looked, but there was no one to help, And I wondered That there was no one to

uphold; Therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; And My own fury, it sustained Me. 6 I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, Made them drunk in My fury, And brought down their strength to the earth.”

**a. What is a “winepress”?**

1. “Grapes would be tossed into the winepress in olden days and then a person or persons would stomp on the grapes with their feet until all the grape juice was pressed out. The winepress in Revelation 19:15, is of God's wrath. The grapes are people (unsaved). The harvesters are the angels. Jesus, Himself, will tread upon the grapes (people) and their BLOOD will flow out of the winepress.”



**b. “The Supper of the Great God.”**

1. Revelation 19:17-18, “Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, 18 **that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great.**”

**3) The Battle of Armageddon.**

**a. Zechariah 14:1-5,**

- 1 “Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst.
- 2 **For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem;** The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.”
  - Revelation 16:13-16, “And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 **For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.** 15 “Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.” 16 **And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.**”
- 3 “Then the Lord will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle.
- 4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.
- 5 Then you shall flee through My mountain valley, For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee As you fled from the earthquake In the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the Lord my God will come, And all the saints with You.”

**b. Zechariah 14:12-15,**

12 *“And this shall be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, Their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, And their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.*

13 *It shall come to pass in that day That a great panic from the Lord will be among them. Everyone will seize the hand of his neighbor, And raise his hand against his neighbor’s hand;*

14 *Judah also will fight at Jerusalem. And the wealth of all the surrounding nations Shall be gathered together: Gold, silver, and apparel in great abundance.*

15 *Such also shall be the plague On the horse and the mule, On the camel and the donkey, And on all the cattle that will be in those camps. So shall this plague be.”*

**3) Jesus destroys the Antichrist upon His 7<sup>th</sup> Trump Return to the earth.**

**a. II Thessalonians 2:8,** *“And then the lawless one will be revealed, **whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.**”*

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**CONCLUSION**

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While it may seem that the wicked of this world get away with their wicked deeds and go unchallenged, Revelation 14 tells us emphatically that Jesus Christ will punish them for their wickedness in due time.

Revelation 14 also defines the qualities that are necessary to be the Bride of Christ. This will be a unique group of people who have paid the price to have the seal of God on their foreheads. They will stand up for the truth of God’s Word no matter the cost and they will not be influenced by what other churches are doing.

They will be without deceit and they will follow Jesus Christ—the Lamb of God—wherever He leads them. Take a moment to ask yourself this question concerning your life: “Has Jesus led me to where I am today?” If the answer is “yes,” then continue forward on your journey. If the answer is “no,” then prayerfully ask God what His will is for your life.