

1. THE JUDGMENT OF SPIRITUAL BABYLON: ONE OF THE SEVEN ANGELS OF THE BOWL JUDGMENTS SHOWS JOHN THE JUDGMENT OF THE GREAT PROSTITUTE, 17:1-6.

- (Revelation 17:1–6 ESV) Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “**Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters,** 2 with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, **and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk.**” 3 And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. 4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. 5 **And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: “Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth’s abominations.”** 6 And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her, I marveled greatly.
- A. Spiritual Babylon will be judged for making drunk the dwellers of earth, 17:1-2.
- B. Spiritual Babylon is the mother of all false religions and all false pretense in opposition to the true worship of God, 17:3-5.

The false religions represented in Spiritual Babylon are identified in the phrase “full of blasphemous names.” By virtue of who and what they are they all blaspheme the name of God.

Deny the deity of Christ? Blasphemy. Deny the authority and inspiration of Scripture? Blasphemy. Deny that Christ is the only way to salvation and heaven? Blasphemy.

- C. Spiritual Babylon is motivated by and intoxicated with the murders of the saints of Jesus, 17:6.

Excursus: Spiritual Babylon is an unholy union between the mother of religious prostitution and the father of lies.

The husband of the mother of religious prostitution is the devil—the father of lies. The devil feigns support of the earth dwellers but the

reality is that he has enlisted and entrapped them for the purpose of achieving his original goal—to be like God and thus to be worshiped.

I. To understand Satan’s war against God and the people of God we must go back to the very beginning to Satan’s desire to be like God.

- (Isaiah 14:12–14 NLT) **How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, son of the morning!** You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world. 13 For you said to yourself, “**I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God’s stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north. 14 I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.**”

II. He has never let go of his obsession to be like God and to be worshiped.

- (Matthew 4:8–10 ESV) Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to him, “**All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.**” 10 Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “**‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’**”

III. Humans took their first “drink” of false religion in Genesis 3 when the father of lies offered Eve his cup of lies and said ... “and you will be like God.”

- (Genesis 3:4–5 ESV) But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, **and you will be like God,** knowing good and evil.”

IV. This is very same temptation by which Satan fell and by which will bring about his ultimate doom.

- (Isaiah 14:15-17 NLT) **Instead, you will be brought down to the place of the dead, down to its lowest depths.**
- (Revelation 20:10 ESV) **And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur** where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

V. Satan used this same temptation to bring death to the entire planet through the fall of Adam and Eve.

- (Romans 5:12 ESV) Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man

[Adam], and death through sin, **and so death spread to all men because all sinned.**

POINT OF EMPHASIS: Satan snared the false worshipers by targeting their desire to be like God.

POINT OF EMPHASIS: People who desire to be like God will not worship the Creator but a god they create.

POINT OF EMPHASIS: When a person chooses to worship a god he creates, then by default he sets himself in opposition to the only true God.

POINT OF EMPHASIS: Only God can truly be worshiped because only God is God.

- (Deuteronomy 4:35 ESV) To you it was shown, that you might know that **the LORD is God; there is no other besides him.**
- (Deuteronomy 4:39 ESV) Know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that **the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.**
- (Isaiah 45:5–6 ESV) **I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, 6 that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other.**
- (Isaiah 45:22 ESV) **Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.**

POINT OF EMPHASIS: Satan has and will ensnare the false worshipers by affirming their right to choose who they worship and how they worship.

VI. **EXAMPLE:** Cain was angry because God rejected his right to worship God as he saw fit.

- (Genesis 4:3–7 ESV) **In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground,** 4 and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, 5 **but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.** 6 The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? **And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.**”

VII. **Instead of listening to God and repenting, Cain blamed God for his rejection.**

- (Genesis 4:13–14 ESV) Cain said to the LORD, **“My punishment is greater than I can bear. 14 Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”**

POINT OF EMPHASIS: Cain directed the issue away from his sin and blamed God ... 1) for being heavy-handed, 2) for driving him away from God, 3) for his inability to now worship God, 4) for his loss of identity and 5) for his ultimate fate.

END EXCURSUS

2. **THE MYSTERY OF SPIRITUAL BABYLON: THE ANGEL REVEALS THE MYSTERY OF THE GREAT PROSTITUTE AND THE BEAST WHICH CARRIES HER, 17:7-14.**

- (Revelation 17:7–14 ESV) But the angel said to me, “Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. 8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come. 9 This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; 10 they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. 11 As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction. 12 And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, **but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast.** 13 **These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast.** 14 **They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”**

- A. The mystery is revealed in two alliances: 1) An alliance with the earth dwellers, and 2) an alliance with the beast—the antichrist.
- B. Spiritual Babylon forms an alliance with the earth dwellers that will ultimately carry her to a position of power, prominence and influence over the entire

planet.

- C. Spiritual Babylon forms an alliance with the beast to fulfill her dream of unifying the world's religions and proving God wrong.
- D. Spiritual Babylon forms the alliance by prostituting herself by accepting any and all religions except the true worship of God.
- E. She accomplishes this by appealing to the inherent need of the dwellers of earth for worship and their inherent rebellion in opposing the exclusive belief that God and God alone is worthy of worship.
 - (Ecclesiastes 3:11 NIV) He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.
 - (John 4:23–24 ESV) But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. **24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.**
 - (Isaiah 43:21 ESV) The people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.
 - (Revelation 4:11 ESV) Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.

3. THE DESTRUCTION OF SPIRITUAL BABYLON: THE ANGEL ATTRIBUTES THE DESTRUCTION OF THE PROSTITUTE AS THE RESULT OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE, 17:15-18.

- (Revelation 17:15–18 ESV) And the angel said to me, "The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. **16 And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire, 17 for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.** 18 And the woman that you saw is the great city that

has dominion over the kings of the earth."

- A. After the antichrist accomplishes his purpose with Spiritual Babylon, he turns on her making her desolate and shifting the base of power even more favorably to the devil.
- B. God in his providence put it into the hearts of the earth dwellers to carry out his purpose by handing over their power to the beast.
 - (Proverbs 16:33 ESV) **The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.**
 - (Acts 2:23 ESV) This Jesus, **delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God,** you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.
 - Example: Rehoboam in 1 Kings 12.
- C. God carries out his will until the words of God are fulfilled.
 - (Daniel 4:34–35 ESV) At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; **35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth;** and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"
 - (Luke 24:44 ESV) **Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."**

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DO THE MATH.

THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD.

WORSHIP HIM.