

## WHO IS THIS WOMAN CALLED BABYLON?

Who is this woman the Bible refers to as MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH? Does the Bible identify her? Or do we need to look outside the Bible for her identity? May I suggest we look in the Scriptures for her identity? If we will permit it, the Bible will interpret itself. Let us go now to the Word of God and see if it will identify her for us.

In **Revelation 17:4** we read, *“And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls.”* Where did she obtain this beautiful raiment and precious jewels? Let’s see if the Word of God will give us the answer.

Let us now look at the **sixteenth chapter of Ezekiel**. In **verse 8** God says that He entered into a covenant with a WOMAN. In **verse ten** God says, *“I clothed thee also with brodered work, and shod thee with badgers’ skins, and girded thee about with fine linen, and covered thee with silk. (11) I decked thee also with ornaments, and I put bracelets upon thy hands, and a chain on thy neck. (12) And I put a jewel on thy forehead, and earrings in thine ears, and a beautiful crown upon thine head. (13) Thus wast thou decked with gold and silver; and thy raiment was of fine linen, and silk, and brodered; thou didst eat fine flour, and honey, and oil: and thou wast exceeding beautiful, and thou didst prosper into a kingdom.”* Reminds you of the gifts a bridegroom might give to his bride, doesn’t it? After all, this is God talking to His wife who had played the harlot. Sounds like the woman in **Revelation 17:4**, doesn’t it? Let us continue.

**Revelation 17:4** also tells us that she had *“a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication.”* Where did she get this cup? The Bible provides the answer to this also.

Let us now look at **Ezekiel 23:33-35**. “*Thou shalt be filled with drunkenness and sorrow, with the CUP of astonishment and desolation. (34) Thou shalt even drink it and suck it out, and thou shalt break the sherds thereof,*

*and pluck off thine own breasts: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD. (35) Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast forgotten me, and cast me behind thy back, therefore bear thou also thy lewdness and WHOREDOMS.”* The judgment of God was coming upon this woman as well as the one in Revelation seventeen. Ezekiel and Revelation certainly appear to be speaking of the SAME woman, don’t they?

**Isaiah 51:17** speaks of Jerusalem drinking from the cup of the fury of the LORD. “*Awake, awake, stand up, O Jerusalem, which hast drunk at the hand of the LORD the cup of his fury; thou hast drunken the dregs of the cup of trembling, and wrung them out.* Isaiah 51:17, Ezekiel 23:33-35, Revelation 17 and 18 (see verse 6) are all speaking of the same thing; the judgment of God upon His unfaithful wife, old covenant Israel. Israel was judged by God numerous times for her sins. The “cup” of sin became full when she rejected her Messiah and had Him crucified. In A.D. 70 God poured out His cup of fury when He brought the Roman army to destroy Jerusalem and the temple.

**Revelation 17:5** tells that the whore had daughters. She was the mother of harlots. The woman in **Ezekiel 16** also had daughters. “*As I live, saith the Lord GOD, Sodom thy sister hath not done, she nor her daughters, as THOU hast done, THOU AND THY DAUGHTERS.*” (**Verse 48**). Is this just a coincidence, or do Ezekiel and Revelation speak of the same woman? I don’t believe there are any coincidences in the Bible, do you?

In **Ezekiel 16:36**, God says, “*And I will judge thee, as women that break wedlock are judged.*” Leviticus 20:10 tells us what this judgment is: “*...the adulterer and the ADULTERESS shall be put to DEATH.*” What was the judgment of the harlot in **Revelation 17**? “*And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire*” (**Verse**

**16).** In **Revelation 18:8** we read, “*Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, DEATH, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.*” The same judgment was coming to the woman in Ezekiel and in Revelation. Could this be because Ezekiel and Revelation are speaking of the SAME woman? Sure looks like it, doesn’t it?

**Revelation 17:18** says, “*And the WOMAN which thou sawest is that GREAT CITY, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.*” The Book of Revelation gives us the identity of this GREAT CITY in **chapter eleven verse eight**. “*And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the GREAT CITY, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, WHERE ALSO OUR LORD WAS CRUCIFIED.*” We know that Jesus was crucified at Jerusalem, don’t we? Sodom, Egypt, and Babylon, are all names used in the Bible to refer to Jerusalem.

We read in **Revelation 17:6**, “*And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the SAINTS, and with the blood of the MARTYRS of Jesus.*” **Revelation 18:24** says, “*And in HER was found the blood of PROPHETS, and of SAINTS, and of ALL that were slain upon the earth.*” **Chapter 18, verse 20** says, “*Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy APOSTLES and PROPHETS: for God hath avenged you on her.*” Though it may be true that the papacy is guilty of the blood of many who resisted it, all of the APOSTLES AND PROPHETS were long dead before the papacy came into existence. Besides, the Bible leaves no room for doubt as to whom this is referring. Let’s continue our study.

I think if we would carefully read **Matthew 23:29-38** all doubt would be removed. “*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because YE build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, (30) And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the PROPHETS. (31) Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the PROPHETS. (32) Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. (33) Ye*

*generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? (34) Wherefore, behold, I send unto YOU prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them YE shall kill and crucify; and some of them YE shall scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city.*” [We can see the truth of this simply by reading the Book of Acts]. Let’s continue in **Matthew 23. (Verse 35)** *“That upon YOU may come ALL the righteous blood shed upon the earth from the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom YE slew between the temple and the altar. (36) Verily I say unto YOU, All these things shall come upon THIS GENERATION.* Who is Jesus talking about? Sure sounds like the same woman **Rev. 18:24** is speaking about. Let us read a little further and see if we can learn her identity.

Let’s continue in **Matthew 23:37, 38.** *“O JERUSALEM, JERUSALEM, thou that killest the PROPHETS, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not. (38) Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.”* God was going to bring judgment upon His unfaithful wife in the not too distant future. Her Husband had come to her robed in FLESH, and she was rejecting Him. Just a short time later she would have Him crucified.

The **Book of Revelation** says that the blood of *“prophets, and of saints, and of ALL that were slain upon the earth”* was in that whore called **BABYLON THE GREAT (17:6 and 18:24)**. Jesus said it was in **JERUSALEM (MATTHEW 23:29-38; Luke 11:49-51 and 13:34)**. Therefore, Old Covenant **JERUSALEM** was the **GREAT WHORE, BABYLON THE GREAT**.

I would like to make one other point lest some say that this has to be Rome because the Bible says that the woman was sitting on seven mountains, and everyone knows that Rome sits on seven hills. Let’s see what the Bible says. *“And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of THE BEAST THAT CARRIETH HER,*

*WHICH HATH THE SEVEN HEADS and ten horns” (Rev. 17:7).* It was the BEAST that had the seven heads and ten horns. The beast did represent Rome. Rome ruled Jerusalem in the time Revelation was written. Jerusalem was the WHORE riding upon the back of the beast. It was the ten horns (kings, verse 12) that *“shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire” (Revelation 17:16).* It was Rome that turned on Jerusalem and destroyed her in A. D. 70. The destruction of Jerusalem by the armies of Rome in A.D. 70 was the judgment of God upon His unfaithful wife.

We do not need the news of current events to interpret the Bible. The Scriptures will interpret themselves if we will permit it. If we will do this, it will eliminate the wild and unbiblical speculations about the Word of God, especially the Book of Revelation.

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

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