

Revelation's Last Appeal

Revelation's Last Appeal



1

The topic tonight is **Revelation's Last Appeal**



2

The book of Revelation describes two systems of religion. It describes two ways of worship.



3

The book of Revelation presents us with one of two choices. It really does not leave us with any middle ground. It presents a strong appeal to men and women in the last days of earth's history.

It's an urgent call to commitment. This appeal can be summarized in the symbolism of the two women in Revelation.

The woman in white is described in **Revelation 12**. Throughout the Book of Revelation, a pure woman symbolizes the bride of Jesus or the true church.



4

In **Jeremiah 6:2** the prophet says—

"I have likened the daughter of Zion to a lovely and delicate woman."



5

The "daughter of Zion" is a term describing God's people. Here God compares His people to a beautiful, pure woman.

In **Ephesians, Chapter 5**, he likens Jesus to a faithful husband and His church as the bride.



6

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In the 12th chapter of the Book of Revelation there is a striking symbol of a woman dressed in white. She is **faithful** to her true lover, Jesus. She is undefiled with the corruption of false doctrines.



7

She is described as Christ's **bride**, or His church on earth.

In Revelation 17, another woman arises. This woman rides upon a scarlet colored beast.



8

The Bible calls her a harlot woman. She has left her true lover, Jesus Christ. This is the **apostate system** of religion.

Tonight we're going to look especially at the harlot woman of Revelation 17.

I hope that as we study this subject that we will see how crucial our theme is:

If it's in the Bible, I believe it.

If it disagrees with the Bible,

It's not for me.



9

Even if the whole world follows fables and human dogmas, we need to stand on God's Word.

Before we look at the apostate church, let's briefly look at the true church in Revelation 12. The New Testament church is radiant with the Son of Righteousness, Jesus Christ. Christ is predominant in her life.



10

Her affections are affixed upon Him. Her heart belongs to Jesus. Her love can be given to no other.

The New Testament church in Revelation 12 is pictured as the faithful bride of Christ.



11

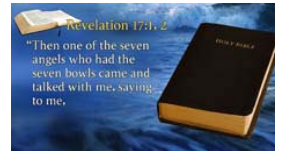
But the picture changes in Revelation 17:1.

Another woman comes on the scene in contrast to the woman of Revelation 12.

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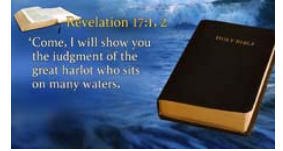
Revelation 17:1, 2

“Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me,



12

‘Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,



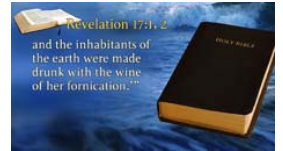
13

with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication,



14

and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.’”



15

A harlot is a woman who has left her true lover.

Here is a picture, not of the true church, but of the fallen church. She has walked away from her true lover, Jesus. The Bible says, “She sits on many waters.”



16

Now remember, the **15th verse of Revelation 17** says

“Then he said to me, ‘The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.’”



17

So the fallen church system, the harlot, has left her true lover. She dominates many peoples.

The Bible goes on, “with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication.”

What is fornication? It's an illicit union.



18

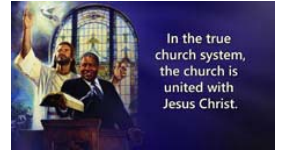
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In the fallen church system the church is united with the state.



19

In the true church system, the church is united with Jesus Christ.



20

The fallen church looks to the kings and the political leaders of the earth for power.



21

When the church leaves its true lover, Christ, it has to look for power from a secular source.

It looks for power from the kings of the earth or the state authorities.

The Bible says, "And the inhabitants of the earth are made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

The fallen church, the woman, dressed in purple and scarlet, sits upon a scarlet colored beast.

The fallen church gets her power from the state but she also influences the state to support her falsehoods.

She passes around her wine cup of false doctrine. The world becomes intoxicated with error. Millions drink of the "wine of Babylon" and are deceived. The Bible describes it this way—

Revelation 17:3

"So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast



22

which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns."



23

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The harlot woman of Revelation 17 represents a false system of religion.



The harlot woman of Revelation 17 represents a false system of religion, in opposition to the true system.

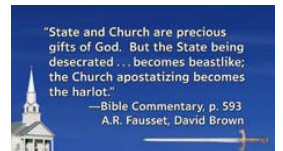
Now remember, in the Bible, a beast represents a king or a kingdom.



So it's the woman, a corrupt church, that's behind the power of the state, she derives power from the state but she also influences the state. Here is an illicit union.

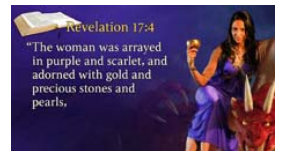
There is a marvelous Bible commentary by a group of Protestant scholars which comments on Revelation 17. On page 593 of this commentary, the authors make this remarkable statement.

“State and Church are precious gifts of God. But the State being desecrated . . . becomes beastlike; the Church apostatizing becomes the harlot.”



The text goes on, **Rev. 17:4,**

“The woman,”(remember this is the harlot woman, the fallen church) **was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls,**



What are the colors that God uses to describe this fallen system of religion that appeals to the state?

The colors are purple and scarlet.

Do you know of a religious system whose priests wear purple and scarlet? We continue,

having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.”



In other words, in the hand of this fallen system of religion whose colors are purple and scarlet, there is a wine cup and

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all the world drinks and becomes confused by these false doctrines.

The golden wine cup in her hand represents the intoxication of false doctrine.



29

Now, what is the name on her forehead?

Revelation 17:5

“And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”



30

She is the mother of churches. They have come out of her but have retained some of her false doctrines.

It is so plain in the Bible that God is calling people who've been part of the great mother church, God is calling people that are part of the daughters of that mother church, the Protestant daughters.

He's calling them from the errors that have slipped into the church from paganism.

God is calling His people to the truth of His word.

I believe tonight you want something more than sweet words which make you comfortable.



31

I believe that the longing of your heart is for truth directly from the Bible.

Am I right ladies and gentlemen tonight?

Does your heart long for truth?

You love truth and you want truth.

What does the Bible mean when it says, Mystery, Babylon the Great?

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By the first century, **literal Babylon**, a city that existed in the Old Testament had already perished.

So this is not talking about literal Babylon.

This is talking about **spiritual Babylon**. It's talking about a religious system that would depart from the pure teaching of God's Word.

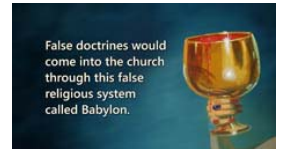
It's talking about a departure from the Bible religion.
It is talking about a departure from the faith of Scripture.

False doctrines would come into the church through this false religious system called Babylon.

Now notice, they would be sanctioned by the church but not by God.



32



33

John 17:17

“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

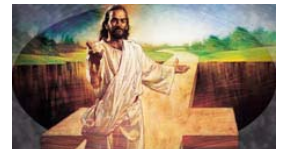
What does the word sanctify mean?

It means to set them apart.



34

So God says, I'm calling My people from the false doctrines of Babylon to the truth of My word.



35

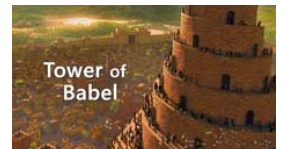
In the Old Testament, right after the flood, there were a group of men and women who rebelled against God. They built a tower which became known as the **Tower of Babel**. But came down and confused their language.

Genesis 11:9

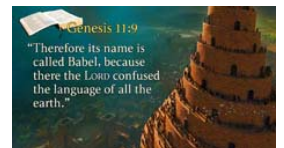
“Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth.”

As they built it they were erecting it in defiance to God.

They did not accept God's word that the world would never again be destroyed by a flood.



36



37

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They substituted a man-made idea.

Every time man substitutes a counterfeit for God's word, it is because there is rebellion in the heart.

God confused their languages. People could no longer understand one another and the work stopped.

Later, the city of Babylon was built on the site of the Tower of Babel. So when you think of Babylon, it means "confusion."

So in religion, when religion accepts man's ideas rather than God's ideas, it becomes confused.

It is babbling man's ideas. It's babbling man's tradition. And when a church babbles in confusion, it loses its' power.

But when a church clearly preaches God's truth, it is not babbling, it is proclaiming, and there is a difference between **proclaiming truth** and babbling tradition.



38

The Bible says in **Daniel 4:30**,

"The king spoke, saying, 'Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling



39

by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?'"



40

Spiritual **Babylon** represents a **man made religion** established by man, based on man's teachings, established on man's ideas.



41

There is a form of man-made religion that is built by brilliant, human religious leaders, that stands in opposition to the power of the gospel and the church that Jesus built. Jesus Himself said,

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Matthew 16:18

“I will build my church; and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it”



42

Two systems of religion; one man-made and one God-made.

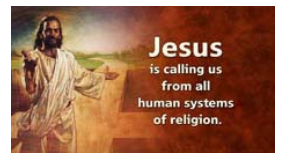
This church has a solid foundation, Jesus Christ.
It is built on true doctrine.

And so, Babylon first is a man-made system of religion.



43

Jesus is calling us from all human systems of religion.



44

He is calling us back to the Bible. He's calling us back to loyalty.

He's calling us back to faithfulness to His Word. The church of Jesus Christ is not a man-made institution.

The church of Jesus Christ was built by Jesus himself.



45

In fact, in **Colossians 1:18**, it says—

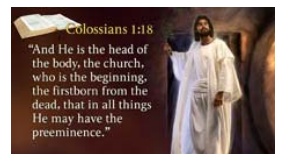
“And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”

Jesus Christ is #1 in the true church.

Jesus Christ has preeminence.

Jesus Christ is the only head of the church.

In fact, somebody put it this way once. They said—



46

The true church of God is the only organization so big that its body is upon earth, but its head is in heaven.

The head of the church is Jesus Christ, and the head of the church is in heaven, not on earth.



47

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What about mystery, Babylon the Great, where is her head?
What about this woman that rides upon the scarlet colored
beast?

What about this earthly Babylon?

Earthly Babylon in the Old Testament had an earthly head
that was preeminent.

The word of those Babylonian kings was law.

When King Nebuchadnezzar sat in his temple on his royal
throne, he spoke as god.

His commands were, supposedly, the voice of god.

Once again **in the last days a church-state system would
arise called Spiritual Babylon who would have a spiritual
leader claiming to speak as God.**



48

There would be one whose word would be declared to be
the very word of God.

Spiritual Babylon would have a leader who claimed that his
word had the authority and power, when speaking from his
throne, of the very God of heaven.

The first identifying feature of spiritual Babylon is that it has
an earthly head who speaks for God and in place of God.

But there is a second thing about this Babylonian system of
religion.

Babylon was the **center of image worship** through all of the
Old Testament.

We can never understand the impact of Revelation 17 and
the words "Mystery, Babylon the Great," unless we
understand Old Testament Babylon.

Babylon was a center of image worship.



49



50



51

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Now **Christ invites us to come directly to Him.**

We do not need to come to Him through images.

We do not need to come to Him through priests, saints or some other intercessor.



52

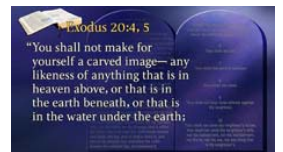
He is our intercessor. He is our priest.

The beautiful teaching of the New Testament is that grace is free. The beautiful teaching of the New Testament is that Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer invites us to worship Him alone.

The Bible says—

Exodus 20:4, 5

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;



53

you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God,. . .”



54

Jesus says to us, “Do not use images in your worship service.”

Babylon used images prolifically in its worship service, and many of those images found their way from paganism to Rome and into the Christian church.



55

These images are called sacred today.

These are the images that church fathers and leaders call holy.

The Bible says there is only one mediator between God and man—Jesus Christ our Lord.

There is salvation in no other.



56

Millions of Christians revere so called images as objects of worship.

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This is one of Satan's deceptions to cloud their minds from the truth of God's word.

There is a third characteristic of Babylon.

Babylon, in the Old Testament, was the center of false teachings about death.

It was the center of the doctrine of the immortality of the soul.

Now this idea that the dead live on, this idea that when you die there is an immortal soul that continues eternally, did not come from Christianity.

Now here is one of the most incredible texts in the Bible on all that.

Ezekiel 8:13, 14

“And He said to me, ‘Turn again, and you will see greater abominations that they are doing.’



58

So He brought me to the door of the north gate of the LORD'S house;



59

and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz.”



60

Now who was Tammuz?

Tammuz is the god of vegetation.

The Babylonians believed that when winter darkened the sky and there were long nights, Tammuz had died. But in the spring there would be a resurrection.

And some of God's people, the Jews, accepted this false idea from Babylon straight out of paganism. That's why Ezekiel describes them as “worshipping Tammuz.”



61

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They are worshipping the dead.

This false idea that the dead live on and the soul is immortal slipped into the Old Testament church directly from paganism.

Here's what the Bible has to say about the truth of death.

Ecclesiastes 9:5

“For the living know that they will die; but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten.”



62

The living know that they shall die, but the dead don't know anything. This was the Bible teaching.

What did Satan say to Eve in the Garden of Eden?
You shall not surely die.
He said, “Eve, you are immortal.”



63

That idea of the immortality of the soul, of worshipping the dead, of bowing before images supposedly representing the dead, that idea of the immortality of the soul gave way to the pagan doctrine of bringing offerings for the dead.

It gave way to the Christian doctrine of saints that are supposed to be hovering around.

You see that the idea of the immortality of the soul takes away the power of the second coming of Christ. It eats at the very heart of the church.

If you believe in the immortality of the soul, you believe that when you die you will immediately go to heaven, why then would Jesus come to resurrect the dead if they were already in heaven?

This false teaching undercuts the second coming of Christ.

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It was God's intent that the church in every age would long for the second coming of Christ.



64

According to the Bible, our loved ones rest in Jesus until the second coming of Christ.

Together, with them, we will be caught up to meet Jesus in the air.

So why is it today that many churches are spiritually dead? Why is it today that many churches lack spiritual power?

It is because they have lost the urgency of the second coming of Christ. It is because they have lost this burning passion for Jesus to come.

I thank God that the Bible teaches truth.



65

I thank God that the Bible leads us to have that sense that Jesus Christ is coming, and He is coming soon.

And our hearts can beat with the eager anticipation that our dead loved ones who are sleeping, who are resting, will be resurrected to meet Christ in the sky.



66

Babylon, was also **the center of sun worship.**



67

All sun worship came through varying pagan channels.

Ezekiel 8:16

“So He brought me into the inner court of the LORD’S house; and there, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar,



68

Here is a fascinating bit of history which helps understand the origin of Sunday worship.

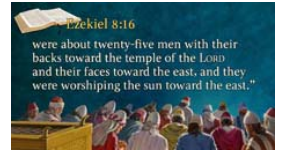
The Jews, accepted the Babylonian idea that the soul was immortal, so they were praying to Tammuz.

But, they were doing something else in the inner court of the Lord's house. What was it?

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Here it is—

There “were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the LORD and their faces toward the east, and they were worshiping the sun toward the east.”



69

Now they came to the temple of the Lord's house. They came to the Jewish temple. They came to worship God.



70

But you see, when they came into the temple, they had to turn back toward the sun. But this says they turned around and faced the sun.

They were facing the sunrise toward the east.
They were worshipping the sun.

Sun worship crept into the church.

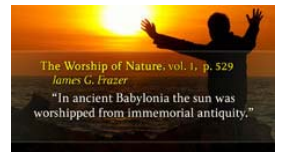
Babylonian religious practices united with Judaism.
Then the worship of the sun came in.



71

“The Worship of Nature” by James G. Frazer, vol. 1, p.529, says this...

“In ancient Babylonia the sun was worshipped from immemorial antiquity.”



72

The sun was worshipped; the sun was part of that worship system.
It's very plain what happened in the early Christian church.



73

The book, **“The Two Babylons” by Dr. Alexander Hislop, p. 105** says...

“To conciliate the Pagans to nominal Christianity, Rome, pursuing its usual policy, took measures to get the Christian and Pagan festivals amalgamated,



74

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and to get Paganism and Christianity — now far sunk in idolatry — in this as in so many other things, to shake hands.”



75

So **Christianity and paganism “shook hands.”** Sunday became a vehicle to unite paganism and Christianity.



76

Do you see what God is saying in Revelation 17? He’s saying that many false doctrines would come into the church.

He’s saying that the great mother church has drifted away from the truth of scripture.

The only one who can speak powerfully, without mistake is Jesus.

A church based on the idea of human merit for salvation, a church based on the idea of images in worship, a church based on the idea of the soul being immortal, a church based on the idea of Sunday worship is part of a culture called Babylon.

Now, here is probably the most incredible, amazing statement I’ve ever read by a Baptist author.

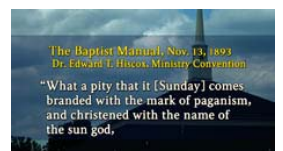
Those of you that are Baptist’s will be interested in this.

The author of *The Baptist Manual*, was Dr. Edward T. Hiscox.

He made this statement in 1893, to hundreds of Baptist ministers.

He was explaining about how Sunday came into the church.

“What a pity that it [Sunday] comes branded with the mark of paganism, and christened with the name of the sun god,



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then adopted and sanctioned by the papal apostasy, and bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism!”



78

Now, what a statement by the author of *The Baptist Manual*.

He says it's a pity that Sunday has come through the muddy waters of paganism, then into Catholicism, then we Protestants have accepted it.

Ezekiel the prophet would also say what a pity because God gave us Sabbath as a sign—

Ezekiel 20:12

“Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them.”



79

Teachings from ancient Babylon would slip into the large mother church.

Protestant churches would leave the large mother church—

God would raise up great men, but unfortunately they would retain errors from the mother church like the immortality of the soul.



80

They would retain errors from the mother church like Sunday worship. Somebody says again,

“Are all those people lost?” No, they are not!
By grace we are saved through Christ.

Many of them love Jesus, but we are living in the last days.
Truth is truth and must be followed.

God is unfolding the prophecies of Revelation to Baptists and Catholics and Methodists and Episcopalians and Pentecostals who love Jesus and who love truth.

They are learning new things from God's word.

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As they learn those new things they say, "This is truth. There is something in my heart that responds. This is truth.

These are things I always wondered about, these are things that have always troubled my mind. This is a time to move for God."

In the days of Ezekiel when error slipped in among the people of God, he cried out,

Ezekiel 22:26

"Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy,



81

nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean;



82

and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them."



83

I believe that Ezekiel the prophet would cry out today, "Many religious leaders have hidden their eyes from God's truth."

The apostle John would cry out today to flee from the errors that have become part of a fallen church system called spiritual Babylon.

God is leading us today back to His Word.
God is leading us back to His truth.
God is leading honest-hearted men and women by the thousands.



84

There would be a power, according to Daniel that would—

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Daniel 7:25 KJV

“ . . . think to change times and laws . . . ”

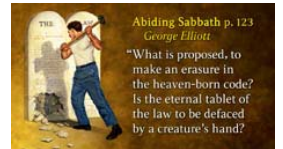
Oh I love what the Protestant writer George Elliott said in his book,

The Abiding Sabbath, p. 123, he was commenting on Daniel 7 and man's attempt to change God's law.



85

“What is proposed, to make an erasure in the heaven-born code? Is the eternal tablet of the law to be defaced by a creature's hand?”



86

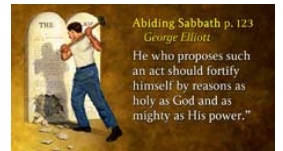
I think that's a good question don't you?

Is the eternal tablet of God's law that says, 'Thou shall not make unto thee any graven image', is that to be defaced by man's hand?

Is the eternal tablet of God's law that says, 'Remember the Sabbath,' to be defaced by the creature's hand?

Elliot goes on—

He who proposes such an act should fortify himself by reasons as holy as God and as mighty as His power.”



87

Ladies and gentlemen, I say unto you that no earthly church has the authority to change God's law or change God's word.

I say unto you that preachers should get back to preaching from the Bible, God's word, and God's truth, and flee the harlot woman.



88

I believe that God is calling us back today to preaching God's word.

I believe that God's word is calling us to truth. I believe that Jesus Christ is calling us to truth.



89

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Our Lord is gathering a group of people who believe Christ is one in their lives.



90

A group of people who believe that you can come directly to Jesus and you don't have to go through images.

A group of people whose hearts long for the Christ who came once, to come again the second time and take us home.

They cannot accept the unbiblical idea of the immortal soul.

Jesus Christ's' bride will worship Him as the creator of heaven and earth.



91

The bride of Christ calls His people back to the true Sabbath.

The woman in scarlet and purple, the woman who is riding on the scarlet covered beast, has passed around her wine cup and the world is drunk with false doctrines.

And churches have accepted those doctrines, but God is giving us a call.

Revelation 18:2

“And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, ‘Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen. . .’”



92

The fallen church systems have drifted from God's Word.

Revelation 18:4

“And I heard another voice from heaven saying, ‘Come out of her, my people,



93

lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.’”



94

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Where are many of God's people?
In churches that don't understand these truths.

Most of God's people today, loving Christians of every religious persuasion are in churches that God calls Babylon.



95

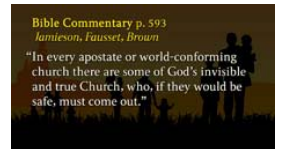
So what does God say to His people? Come out lest you share in her sins, lest you receive of her plagues.

What is sin?

It is transgression of God's law, it is the breaking of God's law.

So God says, 'My people, I love you, My people, you've been drinking the wine of Babylon. My people you are confused by the wine of Babylon.' But My people, God's truth can sober you up, God's truth can convict your hearts. Look at this **commentary by Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown, p. 593.**

"In every apostate or world-conforming Church there are some of God's invisible and true Church, who, if they would be safe, must come out."



96

Revelation 18:4

"Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins."

With tones of mercy, with tones of love, Jesus says, "Come out of her my people."



97

You say, "I have been looking for truth. I am a truth-seeker. I haven't been satisfied. Something within me longs for truth." Or you may be thinking, "I once walked with God's people but have drifted away and I have never been happy. There's some big emptiness inside. I have been longing for something more, something of substance, something I can hold on to."

And things have come together in this lecture series.

Revelation's Last Appeal

I believe that God has brought you here.

I believe that God looked down upon you.

Maybe you're a husband, you're alone. A wife, you're alone.

You may be the only one in your family.

God is calling you. God has brought you here.

And in tones of tenderness and love, Jesus is saying to you,
"Come out of her my people."

Let us stand together.

Would you like to bow your head right where you are?

Make this a special moment between you and God and say,

"God, I have that sense that You brought me here, I have felt
that tugging in my heart.

Lord I commit myself to follow you all the way. Would you
like to make that decision as we pray?

Just raise your hand if you would like to make that decision.

Yes, just say yes to Jesus, just raise your hand.

Let us pray.
