

1 Mystery Babylon

The Great

- “Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour your doom has come!”
Rev. 18:10

2 Review

- Greed – by much of our society is no longer a vice but is something that is often celebrated. Getting rich quick not little by little is the vogue of our society.
- However, we learned from the Bible:
 - We must “Watch out and be on our guard against all kinds of Greed” (Luke 12:15).
 - That there must not be even a hint of greed found among God’s Holy People. (Eph. 5:3)
 - We are not to associate with anyone who’s greedy.
(1 Cor 5:11)
 - No greedy person (who is an idolater) will inherit the kingdom (Eph 5:5)

3 Review

- Must Fight the Good Fight of Faith
(1 Tim 6:9–12)
 - Resisting the temptation to run after money and riches.
 - Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.
- Understand “Godliness with contentment is Great Gain.”
- Learn the Secret of Contentment . . .
 - I can do everything through him who gives me strength. (Phil 4:12)
- God can do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us . . . when we exercise our faith. (Eph 3:20)

4 Mystery Babylon

- The Great Prostitute
(Rev. 17–18)
 - Sit on many waters
 - Seduces both high and low among men.
 - Full of moral depravity.
 - Grown rich by appealing to people’s greed and lust.
 - Drunk with the blood of the saints.
 - Is the great city that rules (influences) the whole world.

- MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

5 Mystery Babylon

- The Great City
(Rev. 17–18)
 - While she rides the beast, the Beast along with his 10 allied nations hate her and in one hour destroy The Great City.
 - And when the merchants, see her misery, they lament and cry out:
 - “Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour your doom has come!”(Rev 18:10 NIV)
 - “Your merchants were the world’s great men. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray. In her was found the blood of prophets and of the saints, and of all who have been killed on the earth.” (Rev 18:23–24 NIV)

6 The Beast

- “This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while. The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.” (Rev 17:9–11 NIV)

7 Middle East Empires

8 Middle East Today

- What is going on in the Middle East today?
 - Iran is defiant, promoting radical Islamic values around the world, and probably seeking to build nuclear weapons.
 - Iraq is literally on the brink of civil war and has become a haunt for every muslim radical group in the world.
 - Hezbollah has basically taken over Lebanon and is ready to attack Israel.
 - The West Bank of Israel is full of Palestinian discontent and their hatred for Jews runs very deep.
 - According to recent watershed elections in Turkey, Islamists have won major gains in the government.
 - Many muslims around the world deplore the decadence of the west and blame the United States for all the world’s evil.

9 Consideration

- Who do Radical Islamists hate:
 - Jews (Israel)
 - Christians
 - Western Civilization

10 Why 9/11?

- Why did Al-Qaeda attack the World Trade Center in New York City.
 - Hate America (Great Satan)
 - America's influence is a cultural and military threat to Islam.
 - Symbol of America's economic power, world trade and influence.
 - America's power is in her economy and NYC is the center of her wealth.

11 Intoxicated with Blood

- What is a Prostitute?
 - An individual who gains wealth by appealing and exploiting other people's lust and greed.
- According to Revelation 17, so successful is "Mystery Babylon the Great" that she is intoxicated over her success.
- Who are her victims?
 - "I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus."
(Rev 17:6 NIV)

12 The Way of Death

- "My son, pay attention to my wisdom, listen well to my words of insight, that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge. For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave." (Prov 5:1-5 NIV)
- "But a man who commits adultery lacks judgment; whoever does so destroys himself. Blows and disgrace are his lot, and his shame will never be wiped away;" (Prov 6:32-33 NIV)

- “Now then, my sons, listen to me; pay attention to what I say. Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths. Many are the victims she has brought down; her slain are a mighty throng. Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death.” (Prov 7:24–27 NIV)

13 Dangers of Prosperity

- When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, . . . to give you — a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant — then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the LORD, . . . (Deut 6:10–12 NIV)
- Jeshurun grew fat and kicked; filled with food, he became heavy and sleek. He abandoned the God who made him and rejected the Rock his Savior. . . . You deserted the Rock, who fathered you; you forgot the God who gave you birth. (Deut 32:15–18 NIV)
- “When I fed them, they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot me.” (Hos 13:6 NIV)
- “Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the LORD?’ Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.” (Prov 30:8–9 NIV)

14 Dangers of Prosperity

- For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. (1 Tim 6:10 NIV)
- According to a Christian leader,
 - CHRISTIANS have lost sight of the spiritual dangers of wealth, making it their greatest moral blindness.
 - He says Christians have allowed consumerism to make them self-centered and too concerned with their own comfort and economic security.
- Question
 - How successful would we be come face-to-face with Mystery Babylon the Great?

- Through our own lust and greed, would we fall prey to her seductions, or would we Fight the Good Fight of Faith?
- Would we heed the warning of Revelation 18:4–5?

15 Comparison

16 Words – Apostle Paul

- Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.
(1 Tim 6:17 NIV)
- Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.
(1 Tim 6:18 NIV)
- In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.
(1 Tim 6:19 NIV)

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