

## Babylon – The Enemy of God

Romans 8:5-9

*“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”*



The Word says that we are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit if the Spirit of Christ is inside of us. We must realize this so that we do not enter into fear when hearing the Word of the Lord. We are in the Spirit, we have been crucified with Christ and we have been raised up together and seated in heavenly places. Because of that, we can be transformed by the renewing of our minds to what is true in eternal realities. As we are washed by the Word, we see what Kingdom we are of, we learn who we are in Christ and it begins to manifest through us in our outward actions. That is finished, that cannot be changed. The battlefield is not in the heavens, that is forever settled and the Lamb has won! THE BATTLEFIELD IS IN OUR MINDS!

*Ephesians 4:22-24 “That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”*

*Galatians 5:17 “For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other..”*

The flesh and the spirit are at war with each other. The flesh = carnal mind and the Spirit = the Lamb. The Flesh makes war with the Lamb. That is what nature, Kingdom and mind we are partaking of every time we quarrel and fight with one another. The more thoughts of hatred, strife, jealousy and division that we allow, the closer we are joining to that. It starts out small, Satan tries to pervade our thoughts, even our dreams. The devil is called the “Accuser of the Brethren” and that’s exactly what he does. He hits our weaknesses – pride, insecurity, fear of rejection and starts accusing people, stirring up strife, reminding us of injustice. WE MUST TURN FROM THIS!!! VIOLENTLY, QUICKLY, AND GIVE HIM NO PLACE!!! We must do this even to the point of extreme personal loss because this will eventually ensnare us into his realm of war and violence which leads up ultimately to this verse: *Revelation 17:4 “These shall make war with the Lamb.”*

The whole 17<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelation is about Babylon, the great harlot and the beast that she rides upon. These chapters have so many meanings, but we will discuss the spiritual realities they could represent. Babylon is a representation of power that wars against Jesus and God. And we know that the carnal mind is the enemy of God. Babylon could represent the carnal mind, the Adam nature. The number seventeen represents completion. That is carnal or spiritual. This chapter 17 could be signifying the ultimate completion of the flesh, carnality at its peak! The flesh’ ultimate manifestation - riding the beast of Satan and making war with the Lamb! This is the build up of everything, it may start out small, but our flesh that has not been mortified is screaming this same song, just in a less dramatic way.

Remember Galatians 5:17 it’s about war, the spirit and the flesh. This is what we see in Revelation chapter 17, an ultimate show-down, or the Lord showing us what the flesh really is. “This woman is seen riding on a beast that comes out of a bottomless pit and goes into perdition. There is only one power that comes for a pit and goes into perdition. It is clear to see that the beast this woman is shown riding on represents the power of Satan. The beast is not bridled so the woman does not have control of the beast. Rather the woman, Babylon is held up by the beast.”

The carnal man is deceived into thinking he is in control, but ultimately Satan controls the flesh. That has been his dominion since the fall of man, we gave him that control. When we abide in the flesh, when we allow that carnal mind to govern and rule us, we ultimately are puppets for the enemy to control.

(Excerpt from Matthew Henry's Commentary) "**Mystery!**" Where have we heard that word before, and in what connection? Paul calls the Church a "Mystery" because it was not known to the Old Testament Patriarchs and Prophets. Eph. 3:1-21. That Christ was to have a "Bride" was first revealed to Paul (Eph. 5:23-32), and the "Mystery" that Antichrist is to have a "bride" was first revealed to John on the Isle of Patmos. The name of Antichrist's "bride" is "Babylon the Great." Some one may ask why give to a "bride" the name of a "City"? The answer is that it is not unusual in the Scriptures. When the same angel that showed John in this chapter "Mystery, Babylon the Great," came to him in chapter 21:9-10 and said—"Come hither, I will shew thee the Bride-**The Lamb's Wife,**" he showed John, instead of a woman, that great City, the "**Holy Jerusalem**" descending out of Heaven from God. Here we see that a "city" is called a "bride" because its **inhabitants**, and not the city itself, are the **bride**. "Mystery, Babylon the Great," the "bride" of Antichrist, then, is not a literal city, but a "**System,**" a religious and apostate "System." As the Church, the Bride of Christ, is composed of regenerated followers of Christ, so "Mystery, Babylon the Great," the bride of Antichrist, will be composed of the followers of all **False Religions**.

Just as the New Jerusalem is the corporate Bride of Christ – Babylon is the corporate Bride of the Anti-Christ, the exact opposite of all that He died to bring forth. Which one shall we be? It depends what nature is being revealed in us.

*Revelation 17:7 "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."*

7 heads + 10 horns = 17

This is the number of heads and horns on the beast that gives Babylon power and makes war with the Lamb in Revelation 17. Could these horns and heads represent the carnal nature? There are 17 attributes of the flesh mentioned in Galatians 5:19-21! Every one of these attributes gives power to this harlot and are totally contrary to the nature of the Lamb. These "works of the flesh" are what the beast uses to make war with the Lamb and with His Saints. When we allow to rule us, we are the tools the beast is using to make war with the saints and overcome them!

*Rev. 13:1-7 "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. ...and he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations."*

**Galatians 5:19 "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these;**

1.adultery

2.fornication

3.uncleanness

(physical in a moral sense: the impurity of lustful, luxurious, profligate living of impure motives)

4.lasciviousness

(Broadly speaking, *aischrotes* signifies "whatever is disgraceful;" *rhuparia*, "that which is characterized by moral impurity;" *molusmos*, "that which is defiling by soiling the clean;" *aselgeia*, "that which is an insolent disregard of decency.")

5.idolatry

6.witchcraft .

( the use or the administering of drugs, poisoning, sorcery, magical arts, often found in connection with idolatry)

7.hatred

(It is the opposite of *agape*, "love.")

8.variance

( "strife, quarrel," especially "rivalry, contention, wrangling," as in the church in Corinth)

9.emulations

(excitement of mind, ardour, fervour of spirit, zeal, ardour in embracing, pursuing, defending anything, an envious and contentious rivalry, jealousy)

10.wrath

(passion, angry, heat, anger forthwith boiling up and soon subsiding again)

### 11.strife

(denotes "ambition, self-seeking, rivalry," self-will being an underlying idea in the word; hence it denotes "party-making." It is derived, not from *eris*, "strife," but from *erithos*, "a hireling;" hence the meaning of "seeking to win followers," "factions," "Faction" is the fruit of jealousy. Cp. the synonymous adjective *hairetikos*, *Tts 3:10*, causing division (marg., "factious")

### 12.seditious

(dissension, division)

### 13.heresies

( act of taking, capture: e.g. storming a city, choosing, choice, a body of men following their own tenets (sect or party, dissensions arising from diversity of opinions and aims)

### 14.envyings

( "envy," is the feeling of displeasure produced by witnessing or hearing of the advantage or prosperity of others; this evil sense always attaches to this word)

### 15.murders

### 16.drunkennes

### 17.revellings

Now the opposite of all this is the nature of the Lamb. The fruits of His Spirit are: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance. The important things to Him: *"Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."* *Ephesians 4:3.*

How different these attributes are than Babylon's and the beasts! Some of the Greek definitions of this verse are:

#### **Bond**

- 1) that which binds together
- a) of ligaments by which the members of the human body are united together
- 2) that which is bound together, a bundle

#### **Peace**

- 1) a state of national tranquillity
- a) exemption from the rage and havoc of war
- 2) peace between individuals, i.e. harmony, concord
- 3) security, safety, prosperity, felicity, (because peace and harmony make and keep things safe and prosperous)
- 5) of Christianity, the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is
- 6) the blessed state of devout and upright men after death

This is what nature we are to manifest. And we can because of the cross, we have the power to live by a divine nature! We have all things that pertain to life and Godliness through Christ!

*1 Peter 1- 8 "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Romans 6:3-13 We don't have to be a slave to the monster of self and Satan, to the great harlot and the beast! We have been crucified with Christ, this old man has been put to death, and we are free to live in the newness of his life! We can cast down every thought before it takes root and climaxes to that level! For the end of that chapter is that they make war against the Lamb, but He overcomes them! The Lamb has won the victory, He has set us free and

now we can win it in our everyday lives. May we be aware of these thoughts, painstakingly awake to what the battle really is! It is not flesh and blood, but principalities and powers. It is two worlds colliding, two natures contrary to one another. It is not just a bad attitude or thought, it is choosing to join to one kingdom or another. May the Holy Spirit open our eyes and reveal Christ in us as our life, so we will always, effortlessly have His nature come forth out of us! *2 Corinthians 10:4-6 (King James Version)*

*“(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.”*