

"...we should not interpret Genesis literally..." Peter Stravinskes, Editor 1991 The Catholic Encyclopedia

8. Is a portion of the first angel's message a quote from the Sabbath commandment? Revelation 14:7

First Angels Message

"and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea and the fountains of waters."

Sabbath Commandment

"For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is."

9. What is this impure woman called? Revelation 17:5

Note: No woman is a mother unless she has children. The apostate church is called the Mother. They are called the daughters (fallen protestant churches) because they bear semblance to the great mother church. They resemble the mother church by teaching some of her doctrines. Some teach more and some teach less of Rome's doctrines, but the common thread between all the fallen protestant daughters/churches is Sunday sacredness and the immortality of the soul!

"A similar fundamentalist view position prevailed in June when the Vatican ordered bishops to avoid references to "sister churches" and instead remember that "the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church is not sister but 'mother' of all particular [Christian] churches." The Cleveland Plain Dealer 09/06/2000. Quote from Cardinal, Joseph Ratzinger (later known as Pope Benedict XVI) 09/04/2000

*"But since Saturday not Sunday is not specified in the Bible, isn't it curious that non-Catholics who profess to take their religion directly from the Bible and not from the church observe Sunday instead of Saturday? Yes, of course it is inconsistent, but this change was made about fifteen centuries before Protestantism was born and by that time the custom was universally observed. They have continued the custom even though it rests upon the authority of the Catholic Church and not upon an explicit text in the Bible. That observance remains as a reminder of the **mother** church from which the non-Catholic sects broke away. Like a little boy running away from home, but in his pocket, still carrying a picture of his **mother** or a lock of her hair." Father John A O'Brien. The Faith of Millions p. 421*

10. What is God's counsel for those in spiritual Babylon? Revelation 18:4

Note: Come out of Babylon and into God's true church (see also John 10:10).

MY CHOICE: Because I love Jesus I want to come out of Babylon and seek for God's last day people who follow Jesus and refuse the wine of Babylon.



Lesson #18 The Mystery of Babylon

There are a couple of mother/daughter teams in the Bible that have fought against God and His people. Athaliah and Jezebel persecuted God's people in the days of the kings of Israel. Herodias and Salome teamed up to kill John the Baptist. There is another mother/daughter team in Revelation that wars against God and His people at end time. Who could this end time mother/daughter team be?

1. What does the second angel's message warn us of? Revelation 14:8

Note: In the book of Revelation there is a struggle at end time between two women. One is found in chapter 12 and the other is found in chapter 17.

2. What does a woman represent in Bible prophecy? 2Corinthians 11:2

Note: A woman in Bible prophecy symbolizes a church. A pure woman = pure church and an impure woman = an impure church (see also Jere 6:2).

3. What are the two women like? Revelation 12:1, 17:1-5, 15

Note: One is pure (God's woman) and the other impure (Satan's woman).

Revelation's prophetic symbols Explained

Woman = Church 2Cor 11:2, Jere 6:2 Beast = Kingdom Dan 7:23
Pure woman = Pure church Kings of the earth = Political leaders

Impure woman = Impure church
Water/Sea = Population Rev 17:15

Wine = False doctrine Luke 5:37
Drunk = Deceived

4. What does this Babylonian system represent? Genesis 11:4-9

Note: The terms "Babel" and "Babylon" mean confusion. The name Babel originated at the Tower of Babel. Even though God promised never to flood the earth again they began to build the tower. As a result, the Lord confused their languages, which created such confusion that construction ceased. Revelation uses the imagery of Genesis. There is literal confusion in Genesis 11 and spiritual confusion in Revelation 17. Babylon symbolizes man's way rather than God's way.

5. What does it mean when the Bible says this woman commits adultery? Revelation 17:1-3, James 4:4

Note: When the church leaves its husband, Jesus and takes up the practices of the world, it commits spiritual adultery. She is joined with the kings of the earth through diplomacy instead of Jesus. The woman (church) riding the beast (kingdom) represents a union of church and state at end time.

6. How does God picture the impure woman? Revelation 17:4

Note: When you compare the clothes of this fallen religious system with the vestments of the priests of Israel we learn something amazing. In Exodus 28:4-8 we see that there is only one color missing from the woman in Revelation 17, blue. What does blue represent? Numbers 15:38 tells us that blue represents the law of God. Satan is working through this fallen spiritual system of religion to change God's law and establish his own authority.

7. What is in the hand of the impure woman? Revelation 17:4

Note: What does the wine in the golden cup symbolize? Luke 5:37 says, "And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined." In this story, wine symbolizes Bible teaching as it does in Revelation 17. Revelation predicted that thousands would be deceived as the teachings of ancient Babylon entered the church. If you want to know what false doctrines of

Babylon are in churches today we have to go back to ancient Babylon to discover what their system of beliefs were all about.

Babylon was the center of false teaching about God's word. In ancient Babylon, the word of the king under the authority of the sun god was the law.

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires... and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables." 2Timothy 4:3-4

"Christianity had now become popular, and a large proportion, perhaps a large majority of those who embraced it only assumed the name... They are as much heathen as they were before. Error and corruption now came in the church like a flood" James Wharey Wharey's Church History p. 54

"Sanctify them through your truth. Your word is truth." John 17:17

Babylon was the center of false teaching about death. It was the concept of the Babylonians that an immortal soul left the body at death and lived on. Therefore the Babylonians established a system of gods and goddesses, worshiping the spirits of those who supposedly lived on.

"If you have fallen in with some who are called Christians, but who do not admit this [truth of the resurrection], and venture to blaspheme the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob; who say there is no resurrection of the dead, and that their souls when they die, are taken to heaven; do not imagine that they are Christians." Justin Martyr (died 165 AD) Ante Nicene Fathers Vol. 1, p. 239

"For the living know that they shall die but the dead know nothing" Ecclesiastes 9:5

"Enlighten my eyes lest I sleep the sleep of death." Psalm 13:3

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven... and the dead in Christ will rise first." 1Thessalonians 4:17

Babylon was the center of sun worship.

"In ancient Babylonia the sun was worshipped from immemorial antiquity..." James G. Brazier. The Worship of Nature Vol. 1, p. 529

"Christendom is indebted to the Catholic Church for the institution of Sunday as the Sabbath day..." Our Sunday Visitor Jan. 4, 1931

"The sun was a foremost God with Heathendom... The sun has worshippers at this hour in Persia and other lands... There is in truth something royal, kingly about the sun, making it a fit emblem of Jesus, the sun of justice. Hence the church in these countries would seem to have said, 'Keep that old pagan name, that Sunday, it shall remain consecrated, sanctified.' And thus the pagan Sunday, dedicated to Balder, became the Christian Sunday sacred to Jesus" The Catholic World, March, 1994, pg. 809

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God..." Exodus 20:8-10

"Did God create mankind in His image, as the Bible says, or did humans evolve from animals, as Darwin theorized nearly 150 years ago? According to Pope John Paul II, evolution may be a better explanation." U.S. News & World Report. Nov. 4, 1996

"The statement is unlikely to influence the curriculum of Catholic schools, where evolution has been taught since the 1950s. Indeed, reading the entire Bible literally has not been a dominant practice among Catholics through much of the 20th century" Time Magazine November 4, 1996