

## Demonism (part 16)

(Continuation of study of the ten ways Satan is effectively paving the way for the Antichrist)

**#1, Globalism, One-World Order.**

**#2, Occultism.**

**#3, Apostasy.**

**#4, Worldwide Web.**

**#5, Animosity towards Israel.**

**#6, Buildup of the kings of the east, Asian power.**

**#7, Buildup of the king of the north, Russian power.**

**#8, Buildup of Europe (the European Common Market), the Revived Roman Empire.**

**#9, Preparation of the Jews to accept the False Prophet.**

**#10, Destruction of the United States.**

### **#3 Apostasy**

1. John, in Revelation, warns about the pagan apostate church that will rise sometime after the rapture of the believers at the end of the church age. While this worldwide apostate church will not come to power until the Tribulation, it is being preparing by Satan now.

Revelation 17:3 And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 And the woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, 5 and upon her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

2. This emerging worldwide apostate “church” will include people who are in both the **Roman Catholic Church as well as in Protestant churches**. These individuals are not saved because they have not personally exercised faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31) for one reason or another, even though they often call Jesus “Lord” and do wonders in His name:

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'

3. During the rapture, hundreds of millions of true believers will be instantaneously translated to heaven to be with their Lord. However, among the various churches around the world there will be hundreds of millions of people who will remain on earth during the tribulation period because they have never exercised true faith (apart from works) in Jesus Christ. After the rapture, an ecumenical organization involving many religious groups from the Roman Catholic Church and Protestant churches will be created by negotiation and conferences between all of those who are left behind. While some may believe after the rapture, most will explain away the rapture as their god getting rid of those unenlightened ones who hold to classical theism.
4. Those who are left behind will form a worldwide universal church and become allied with the Antichrist during the first 3 ½ years of the tribulation period. This ecumenical church will provide the propaganda support for Antichrist’s New World Order. This church will have great power and will persecute anyone who refuses to join in her pagan worship rituals.

Revelation 17:6 And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. And when I saw her, I wondered greatly.

5. This ecumenical church is in Rome and is called a whore. This is the worst thing any woman could be called. However, God spares no language in exposing the wickedness of false religions of the world, and particularly the cruel, voracious one that has its seat and headquarters in Rome. Roman Catholicism has corrupted nations over the centuries. It offers its followers pleasure and protection from God’s wrath while taking from them their money, their persons, their pleasures, and their souls. Christ will judge the Roman Catholic Church of the tribulation period.

Revelation 19:2 because His judgments are true and righteous; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants on her."

Revelation 17:1 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I shall show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the earth committed

acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality."

6. The identification of the apostate church of the tribulation is often made with the church of Rome. In Revelation 17:7, 9 the angel tells John, "I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns . . . Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits." There is *some* evidence for the seven heads referring to Rome:
  - a. Coins issued by the Roman government during the first century of the Christian era carried the motto "the city on seven hills" as the well-known designation of the capital of the Roman Empire. The Christians of the first century would have recognized the prostitute sitting on the seven hills as representing Rome.



- b. Virtually every one of the classical Roman writers and poets, including Virgil, Horace, and Ovid, referred to Rome as the "city of seven hills."
  - c. Some of these writers referred to Rome as the *Septiceps*, the seven-headed city, which is virtually identical with the phrase use in Revelation.
  - d. The apostate harlot is described as having on her forehead "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT" (Rev. 17:5). The harlots of that ancient city used to identify themselves to their customers by wearing their names on a label on their foreheads.

- e. Roman Catholic Bible commentaries, like the one written by Bernard Leonard, identify the harlot of Revelation with Rome: “This great harlot is a city whose apostasy from the true faith is a monstrous thing. This may point to Rome. Rome is the Holy City of Christ, the center of His eternal kingdom . . . And the apostasy of this city, and her becoming the head of an empire that would lead all possible nations and people into Antichrist-worship, would indeed merit for her the title of ‘THE GREAT HARLOT. The apostles called ancient Rome “Babylon” (1 Peter 5:13). So the conclusion is clear that the great harlot of the future shall be Rome.” This commentary is still sold in many Roman Catholic bookstores.
- f. While there is evidence of the seven hills referring to Rome, the context in Revelation indicates that the hills refer to successive kings. I would have to do more research on this before coming to a settled conclusion.

Revelation 17:9 "Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, 10 and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. 11 "And the beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth, and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction.

## 7. Apostasies of the Roman Catholic Church.

- a. This criticism of the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) is not a personal attack on Catholics. The criticism is leveled against the RCC which has endangered the souls of millions of people for the last 1500 years.
- b. The most fundamental difference between true Christianity and the RCC is the ultimate source of spiritual truth. As the Roman Catholic Council of Trent declared in 1564 (it has never been rescinded), Rome believes that the truth concerning salvation and worship is determined solely by the popes and the church councils, not by the Bible as the Word of God.
- c. The RCC is apostate in that they set themselves up above God, Jesus Christ, and the Bible regarding salvation and the spiritual life. There is a profound difference between the teaching of the RCC and the teaching of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible.
- d. The RCC is apostate in that they incorporate a multitude of pagan rituals in their “worship” services.
- e. The RCC is apostate in that they declare that no one can be saved apart from membership in the RCC and being faithful to their sacraments, confessional, and last rites.

- f. The RCC is apostate in that it teaches that water baptism and works are needed to be saved. They do not believe a person is justified by faith alone apart from works as explicitly taught in Ephesians 2:8-9.

Safe and Sound in Him,

*Pastor Don*