

Babylon the Great **Dr. J. B. Buffington**

Let us turn in our Bibles to Matthew chapter 13. Matthew 13:33: *Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.*

Now, let us pray. Our Father, tonight, I pray in Jesus' name that our minds might be alert to the hour in which we live, that our minds might be open to the Word of God; and Heavenly Father, I pray for liberty to preach. I pray, Father, that you would blot out anything of my mind that should not be said. Bring to my thoughts that which needs to be said. And we pray for hearts to be hungry for truth, wherever that leads. In Jesus' name, Amen.

I have preached this message several times. I have preached John 3:16 several times. Peter said, "I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance." Folks who have heard it before need to hear it again; folks who have never heard it need to hear it. If you go to church just for something new, you will not go very long. You know, in trying to find something that somebody else has not preached, you will not stay very long. It is the old things that anchor us. Tonight, "Babylon the Great." We are talking about four end-time things. We talked about the Rapture of the church. The next thing on God's calendar is the trump that catches away to the presence of the Lord. After the Rapture, I believe the next dramatic event on this earth will be God dismantling Russia, when God disarms Russia — I preached about that last Sunday night. The next thing is this matter of the overflow of the world church. There is going to be an overflow of an ecumenical church that is called Babylon the Great. It will be comprised of all churches of all creeds and all denominations, but they are apostate. They do not go up in the Rapture. Church will be held, I mean, the morning after the Rapture, if it happens on a Saturday night. Their folks will not miss anything. They will go on just as before. So, the matter of church will not cease with the Rapture. Last, church members, apostate Christianity will be very active in the absence of the Bride of the Lamb. Next Sunday, we will be dealing with the Battle of Armageddon. We are talking about peace and all of this. A world war, I mean a global war will take place surrounding Jerusalem. Will the United States be in it? I believe she will, *all nations* the Scripture says. So, the Battle of Armageddon next Sunday night.

Now, tonight, "Babylon the Great." Here we have a parable in Matthew 13. The Son of God has been blasphemed. In the twelfth chapter, they said that what the Lord Jesus Christ did He did in the power of the devil. As far as I am concerned, that is Israel's national sin. He walked aside, and then He began to change the subject and began to deliver in the thirteenth chapter the parables of the kingdom. He is talking about the kingdom of Heaven, that which will transpire on earth in the absence of the King until the King comes again.

The popular view is not a view that requires much study. It sounds good, but it is not Bible. The popular view is leaven is the gospel and the woman is the church and the three measures of meal is the human race and that the world gets better and better and better until the whole world has been evangelized and converted to Jesus Christ. Now, that is not taught in the Bible, and that is called post-millennialism. You do not have many post-millennialists anymore after World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and everything else. No, that is not in line. This verse, this passage must be interpreted in the light of the other parables. The first parable is the sowing of the seed, the Word of God. What will happen in the absence of the King? Well, there will be a time of sowing. Some will fall on the hard ground; some will fall on the shallow ground; some will fall on thorny ground; some will fall on good ground. Everybody is not going to get converted. I mean, all sorts of hearts will hear the Word. But, only one part of it brought forth a harvest. Then, in this age while the Lord is sowing the Word of God, the devil is busy. What happens? The tares get up right beside the true wheat or the true people of God, and the devil has his people. I mean, they grow side by side. Then the next parable is the matter of a mustard seed. A mustard seed never becomes a tree. Here is a false growth. The first is the opposition to the Word of God is false Christians. Those are the tares. The next is a false, external expansion or external growth, a monstrosity. What we see in Christianity or Christians today is a monstrosity; it is not Christianity; it is a monstrosity. The Bible talks about what the birds represent here, a hiding place. The devil has a hiding place behind Christendom today.

Then, there is the parable of the leaven. Now, in this parable, he does not interpret. He interprets and tells what he means in the thirteenth chapter. I do not have time to deal with the others. But this parable He intends for us to study if we are going to find out what He means. Here is the parable. It talks about three things. It talks about leaven, meal, and a woman. Now, consider first of all the prophecy of this age. All of these others have been a prophecy of what will happen in the absence of the King from His rejection until He comes again. What will happen? A woman will take leaven and hide it in three measures of meal. Well, what in the world does that mean? Well, let us see if we can study and find out tonight.

First of all, the word *leaven*. In the Bible, leaven always (You cannot refute that!), always is symbolic of evil. He is talking to His disciples, a Jewish audience. And the moment that you talk about leaven, immediately they know He is talking about something that is evil. Leaven — beware of the doctrine of the Pharisees. Matthew 16:6, 11,12 talk about beware of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees; that is false doctrine. In Galatians chapter five, it says the whole lump will be leavened unless you deal with it. He was talking about the leaven of legalism. It is used the same way in Mark 8:15 about false doctrine. It is used in Luke 12 about hypocrisy — *Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy*. Here he is talking about the leaven of hypocrisy. In 1 Corinthians 5, immorality was in the church. He said, “Now, you clean it out, and it will leaven the whole business.” It is called the leaven of immorality. But purge out the leaven. So, it is symbolic of evil. So, we are looking for an evil influence — doctrine, hypocrisy, immorality — but it gets our attention — leaven.

Secondly, *meal*. Well, one of the sweet savor offerings that typifies the perfections of the Lord Jesus Christ was a sweet savor offering found in Leviticus the second chapter. It is a sweet savor offering, and it speaks of Christ. The five offerings in the book of Leviticus point to Christ. The meal or meat offering was the food of the priest, the people of God. Now, there was a prohibition that they were not to put in a meal offering. There was no leaven to be added to the offering. It sours and puffs up. This leaven, this meal, the food of the priest, typifies the food which God’s people feed upon, the Word of God, the Living Christ. Now, you do not need to add any leaven to Christ to make it taste better. We have got a lot of people who make Christ taste better. But, it is not the Christ of the Scriptures. They have added something that puffs up and blows up and sours, but it is not the Christ of the Scriptures. Neither were they to add any honey. Honey speaks of nature’s sweetness, and the sweetness of Christ is not a natural sweetness; His is a supernatural sweetness of oil and frankincense. He is the Son of God. Now, what is the woman doing? She is adding leaven to the food of the priest, false doctrine, and consequently, we have a corrupted Christ. There are a lot of people talking about Christ that is not the Christ of the Word of God. The three measures of meal, we will come back to that in just a moment, the three measures of meal, I do not know what that refers to. It may refer to the Trinity — God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. Colossians 2:9 *For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily*. I submit to you tonight that we have a false god presented to a world and Christendom today. Hear me now. The god of the cults is not the God of the Bible. The “Christ” of the cult is not the Christ of the Bible. The “Holy Spirit” of the cults is not the Holy Spirit of the Word of God. They have corrupted the Godhead — God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. I am telling you to believe on a Jesus Christ that is not the Christ of the Scriptures will not save your soul. The “Christ” of the Mormons is not the Christ of the Bible. The “Christ” of Jehovah’s Witnesses is not the Christ of the Bible. The “Christ” of Unity is not the Christ of the Bible. The “Christ” of all the other cults is not the Christ of the Bible. The Christ of the Bible is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is perfect God and perfect humanity, united in one person. He is the Christ of the Scriptures. Now, if you believe on a “Christ” that is not the Christ of the Scriptures, you will die and go to hell. There is a lot of adding to Him nature’s sweetness — “He was just a man, a good man!” If He was not God, He was not a good man. Those who talk about the fact that He was a good man do not believe in His deity. They are preaching a false Christ. Those who add something to make it taste better and make it more palatable say, “Let’s do away with the blood. Let’s do away with this matter of judgment. We are all the children of God.” That is not so. It sounds good to people who want their ears tickled and do not want the truth. But I am telling you tonight, this is a leavening age, and the false doctrine that covers our world covers it like a blanket.

Now, so here is the woman. Who was that woman? Well, I want to talk about her tonight. She is dealing

with a sphere prohibited. Turn to 1 Timothy 2. Now, it makes no difference; the generations can come and go, but the Word of God is relevant. Ladies, this is an age when the women are casting off their shackles. Women want to be equal with men. You already were. A woman is not inferior to a man. But, a woman cannot do what God intended a man to do, and a man cannot do what God intended a woman to do. I read the other day that they are saying now that men can have babies. Well, that is one experience I do not particularly care for. Let us read 1 Timothy the second chapter. Now, Paul said this, and Paul did not say this because of the fact that he hated women. He was not a women-hater, and I am not a women-hater. Man, I could not ever hate a woman. My mother was a woman. Was yours? My wife is a woman. I have got four daughters, and I have got four sisters, and I have got three granddaughters, and there are a lot of lady members of this church. But I believe the Word of God. It does not make any difference what you think or what I think. It is what the Word of God has to say. Time does not change the Word of God. You say, "Well, these are different times." Yes sir, but the Word still stands. God said what He meant and meant what He said. I read in 1 Timothy 2. Now, listen very carefully. It talks about the matter of doctrine. 1 Timothy 2:12-14: *But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.* Now what? A woman can teach surely. But, she is not to be in the position of authority over a man. Shame on these folks who say, "We're going to ordain women." You may ordain them, but God does not have anything to do with it. God does not have anything to do with that. "Oh, you think man's better than woman?" No, man is not better than woman; but God chose men. God could have chosen women, but He did not. A woman is not to be in the place of the dispensing or the origin of doctrine. Most of your cults are started by women — Spiritism - the Fox sisters; Christian Science - Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy; Theosophy - Madam Lovatsky; Seventh Day Adventism - Ellen G. White; The Tongues Movement - Agnes Osmund. Now, that goes back in time where the modern tongues movement began; and they trace it to Agnes Osmund. No woman wrote any Scripture. No woman served in the tabernacle. No woman was an apostle. And here in the Word of God, it has forbidden her. So, here is this woman. She is dealing with this fear of doctrine. What is she doing? She takes leaven, representative of false doctrine; she puts it in the meal, representative of the food of the priests; and in her actions, she took but did not receive. Paul talks about his theology. He says, "I received it from God." She took this; she got it from somewhere else and hid it. She deceived, an act of deception by the meal, until the whole was leavened. What do you have? The food, supposedly of the people of God, will be totally leavened. This will take place in the tribulation period during its absolute fulfillment after the Rapture when the church is gone and then the Lord comes back. So, this does not prophesy of revival in end days but prophesies of apostasy. You hear it talked about that these are days of revival. Has anybody heard that? You have. "This is end time revival." They call end time revival the matter of tongues. Wait just a minute. Revival stops the divorces. Revival will empty jails. You read of the revivals of Charles Grandison Finney. You read of when Mordecai Ham came to town. You read of Billy Sunday. I mean, he put the liquor business under. We have an increase in Christians today; leave the world out. There is not an increase of reverence for God. There is a disrespect for God. There is a lack of fear of God. People openly come in the house of God, do not obey the Word of God, do not intend to obey the Word of God. We are not having a revival; we are having apostasy. "Oh, a kill joy," you say. No, I am not a kill joy if I am preaching truth. All these parables in Matthew 13 talk about not revival but a departure from the Word of God.

Now, who is this woman? Let us look at the course of the age. I have already covered it. But, the fourfold response to the Word of God, that is the first parable. Secondly, there will be the lives of the tares beside the wheat. I mean that is the devil's children. That is what he says. Number three, there will be an abnormal external growth furnishing a hiding place for Satan. I mean the mustard seed becomes a tremendous tree, and a mustard seed never becomes a tree. The leaven will be working suddenly and silently until the end of the age. Our Lord did not interpret the parable, but we must study it. All right, we begin to talk about the kingdom of Heaven. Here we have a survey from the days of our Lord until He comes again at the close of the tribulation. That survey is found in Matthew 13. This chapter gives a survey. Now, there is something else happening in this age. God has called out a people for His name called His church. There is a survey in the

Scriptures of the church that is in church age that is encompassed in the kingdom of Heaven and that from the cross to the Rapture. Inside the kingdom of Heaven here, God is doing something in the church age. There is a survey of the church age found in Revelation 2 and 3. You have seven churches; you have seven parables of the kingdom of heaven. You have seven local churches. It is how a church can examine their standing before God by looking at this. A Christian can also examine his relationship to God by doing this. But it is also very clearly a picture of this church age from beginning to end. Now, the first church is the church at Ephesus. They had lost their first love. The second church is the church at Smyrna, a suffering church — persecution because of their faith in Christ. The next church is the church at Pergamos, the compromising church, the worldly church. It came along when Constantine supposedly got saved and he recognized Christianity as a religion. He showed favor upon the church; and brother, the heathen flocked into the church by the thousands. They thought the kingdom had come. Instead of that, the world had moved into the church, and thus you have a worldly church. In verse 18, you have the church at Thyatira. It is strange that we go from the fourth parable in Matthew 13 to the fourth church in the survey before we come to a woman dealing with a matter of teaching and doctrine. I will not camp long here, but look at it; let us study it. Revelation 2:18-23: *And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.* Now, let us stay a little bit on this church here at Thyatira. It calls attention to a woman named Jezebel. I doubt, now I am not doubting Scripture, but often times God called Jerusalem Sodom. What was He saying? Her perversion. And in this verse of Scripture, I cannot think of a mother in the church who would name their daughter Jezebel. But God when He calls Jezebel's name, is talking about her character and her actions; her actions parallel what Jezebel in the Old Testament did. Now, Jezebel, her name meant unmarried. She was the daughter of Ethbaal who was a priest of Baal, which means living with Baal of the Zidonians. He was an ancient fish god. Her character — she corrupted the government of Israel and then used the government to oppose God's work. You can read that in 1 Kings 12. She introduced and supported a priesthood that corrupted Israel with immorality, idolatry, witchcraft, and black arts. Now, I am just calling the references tonight, and I am not reading them. 2 Kings 9:22 talks about her witchcraft. 1 Kings 18:4, 13 talk about her immorality and idolatry. Now, her actions, what did she do in the book of Revelation? It was an act of presumption; she calleth herself a prophetess. A prophetess is infallibility, "I'm speaking for God." A prophet spoke for God. He was infallible when He was speaking for God. Now, this is presumption for anybody today to say, "I'm infallible." The only infallibility is not found in the church; infallibility is not found in the pulpit. Infallibility is found in the Word of God. That is infallible. Now, she presumed; she called herself a prophetess. Now, I may call myself lots of things. I may call myself George Washington, but I do not think I am. I know I am not. You can call yourself a lot of things. There are a lot of titles and a lot of things in the religious world that people are making claims. And I open the Word of God, and according to the Word of God, they are lying. Now, her action is the matter of presumption of infallibility and that she speaks for God. If she is a prophetess speaking for God, look at her curriculum. Look at it now in verse twenty. What's the curriculum? This is in the church at Thyatira. Let me read it to you again *which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants.* If she is a prophet for God, she is tempting people to sin. Is that a prophet for God? *to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.* She is teaching idolatry and immorality. This is a self-styled prophetess, a woman in the church at Thyatira that was teaching the servants of God to be immoral and that they could get by with it and God would approve it and it is all right; not only that, but to worship idols! She is a prophet of the devil. I am looking for a woman in all of the New Testament. Here is this woman hiding three measures of meal. What is He talking about? Where do you find it? I searched and searched and searched, and this is the first reference

to a woman connected with doctrine between Matthew 13 and the passage in Revelation 2. I repeat again it is interesting that the fourth parable and the fourth church deal with the same subject matter. So, her curriculum, her actions, her tools or her teaching and seduction, her obstinacy — God said what? Verse 21 *And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.* God dealt with the system behind this woman in the Old Testament and the New Testament. Elijah cried out against this system, and he ran from this system in the Old Testament. We will find that a little later on. In the New Testament, God sent preachers and prophets, and they cried out against it in the New Testament. Savonarola cried out in Italy, Wycliffe and Cramer in England, Knox in Scotland, Luther in Germany, Zwingli in Switzerland, and Calvin in France. He said I gave her space to repent in the Old Testament; I gave her space in the New Testament. And if she is not going to repent, she is going into the great tribulation period. Look at it down in verse 22. *Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.* All right, her future — tribulation.

Now, let us look at her identification. How can we identify her? We are looking for a woman that takes leaven and puts it in three measures of meal until the whole of the three measures are leavened. I have searched every verse, every verse dealing with a woman and doctrine, and the only verse I find is the one in Revelation 2 in the church at Thyatira. But, I have still got to identify this woman or system. All right, I identify her by her character. Look at verse 22. *Behold, I will cast her into a bed,* And I want to tell you, she has been in bed a long time. She is attractively attired, and she is for hire. Turn to Revelation 17. She is not a prophetess. God calls her a harlot. That is a bad word. That is the word translated whore. That is a bad word. Here is somebody calling herself a prophetess, and God says, “No, you’re no prophetess; you’re a harlot; you’re a whore.” She claims to be the bride of the Lamb. But, she is a harlot. She is clothed in scarlet; the bride is clothed in white. She is dropped with the blood of the martyrs of Christ. The saints are saved by the blood. What a contrast! Now, let us look at Revelation 17. And do not jump to conclusions. It is a little more than what you think. Revelation 17:1: *And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:* Look at Revelation 21:9: *And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife.* When she comes down out of Heaven as a bride adorned for her husband, she’s clothed in white. The Spirit of God shows us the false and the truth. Look back to Revelation 17; go to verse 5. *And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT,* Now, just stop there. *MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT; MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT.* Well now, that’s not a New Testament name. That is an Old Testament name. I am reading an excerpt from the book *Things to Come* by Dwight Pentecost, who earned his Doctor’s Degree at Dallas Theological Seminary; and he is not one to throw things around. He is a man that researches and researches. I could read from every scholar and other students of the Word of God. I am reading an excerpt from his book, and he is quoting Harry Ironside. Now, give me your attention. It is easy to let your mind move all around while somebody is reading something. But, I could never relate this as well as I could read it tonight. Please listen, and remember what I am reading about is Old Testament. It sounds like today; it is not today; it is Old Testament. All right, now listen carefully. I am reading again from Dwight Pentecost’s doctor’s thesis at Dallas Theological Seminary. The whole book is entitled *Things to Come*. It is the greatest book that I know in eschatology on the market. Now, that is my conviction. Now, the identity of this harlot. “Hislop, in his carefully documented book, *The Two Babylons*, has traced the relationship existing between ancient Babylon and the doctrine and practice of the harlot system, called Mystery Babylon. Ironside has traced the same development as he writes: ‘The woman is a religious system (That is obvious.) who dominates the several power, at least for a time. The name upon her forehead should easily enable us to identify her. But in order to do that, we will do well to go back to our Old Testament and see what is there revealed concerning literal Babylon, for the one will surely throw light upon the other. We learn that the founder of Bab-el, or Babylon, was Nimrod. (By the way, idolatry is not in slow growth; idolatry happened immediately. It is an act of rebellion against God. When they knew God, they

glorified Him not as God. When Noah came out of the ark with Shem, Ham, and Japheth and their wives, I want to tell you, everybody on that ark knew that there was a God. They had firsthand evidence that there was a God. They had firsthand evidence that there was a flood, a universal flood. And they came out of that ark and what happened in the outgrowth in the table of the nations found in Genesis 10, you come across this fellow named Nimrod at Babylon. And his act was an act of deliberate rejection and deliberate rebellion in building a tower high up in the sky bringing about a false system of idolatry. All false systems are idolatry. He brought it about. It was an act of defiance; it was not an act of ignorance. It was not just natural growth. Listen, idolatry began with an act of one man's will. All right, now I will take up where I left off.) We learn that the founder of Bab-el, or Babylon, was Nimrod, of whose unholy achievements we read in the tenth chapter of Genesis. He was the arch apostate of the patriarchal age. He persuaded his associates and followers to join together in 'building a city and a tower which would reach unto Heaven.' (On the top of that tower, archaeologists found places of idolatry where they worshiped astrology, where they worshiped the sun, the moon, the stars. Ezekiel cried out against that worship.) . . . to be recognized as a temple or rallying center for those who did not walk in obedience to the Word of the Lord . . . They called their city and tower Bab-El, the gate of God; but it was soon changed by divine judgment into Babel, Confusion. It bore the stamp of unreality from the first, for we are told, 'they had brick for stone and slime had they for mortar.' An imitation of that which is real and true has ever since characterized Babylon, in all ages. Nimrod, or Nimroud Bar-Cush, was the grandson of Ham, the unworthy son of Noah. Noah had brought through the flood the revelation of the true God. Ham, on the other hand, seems to have been all too readily affected by the apostasy that brought the flood, for he shows no evidence of self judgment. His name means 'swarthy,' 'darkened,' or more literally 'the sunburnt.' And the name indicates the state of the man's soul darkened by light from heaven. Ham begat a son named Cush, 'the black one,' and he became the father of Nimrod, the apostate leader of his generation. Ancient lore now comes to our assistance, and tells us the wife of Nimroud Bar-Cush was the infamous Semiramis the First. She is reputed to have been the foundress of the Babylonian mysteries and the first high priestess of idolatry. Thus, Babylon became the fountainhead of idolatry, and the mother of every heathen and pagan system in the world. The mystery-religion that was there originated spread in various forms throughout the whole earth and is with us today and shall have its fullest development when the Holy Spirit has departed and the Babylon of the Apocalypse holds sway. (The devil is a counterfeiter. Now, he knows the Word of God. If you do not, he does.) Building on the primeval promise of the woman's Seed, who was to come, Semiramis bore a son whom she declared was miraculously conceived! And when she presented him to the people, he was hailed as the promised deliverer. This was Tammuz, whose worship Ezekiel protested against in the days of the captivity. (Read about it in the eighth chapter of Ezekiel.) Thus was introduced the mystery of the mother and the child, a form of idolatry that is older than any other known to man. The rites of this worship were secret. Only the initiated were permitted to know its mysteries. It was Satan's effort to delude mankind with an imitation so like the truth of God that they would not know the true Seed of the woman when He came in the fullness of time. From Babylon, this mystery-religion spread to all the surrounding nations. Everywhere the symbols were the same, and everywhere the cult of the mother and the child became the popular system; their worship was celebrated with the most disgusting and immoral practices. The image of the queen of heaven with the babe in her arms was seen everywhere, though the names might differ as languages differed. It became the mystery-religion of Phoenicia, and by the Phoenicians was carried to the ends of the earth. Astoreth and Tammuz, the mother and child of these hardy adventurers, became Isis and Horus in Egypt, Aphrodite and Eros in Greece, Venus and Cupid in Italy, and bore many other names in more distant places. Within 1,000 years Babylonianism had become the religion of the world, which had rejected the Divine revelation. (We are still in the Old Testament.) Lined with this central mystery were countless lesser mysteries. Among these were the doctrines of purgatorial purification after death, (We are talking about Old Testament religion, not the Hebrew Judaism, but Old Testament false religion.) salvation by countless sacraments such as priestly absolution (or the priests forgiving your sin), sprinkling with holy water, the offering of round cakes to the queen of heaven as mentioned in the book of Jeremiah . . . (Now would you turn to the book of Jeremiah and let me just read a few passages to you to see how many times Jeremiah cried out against this queen of heaven. And the queen of heaven does not refer to Mary. Jeremiah 7:16-18:

Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee. Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, (I guess that is where the woman got the “I need some money problem.” That is not exactly what that verse means.) to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger. Would you turn to Jeremiah 44? In this chapter, four times he cries out against the worship of the queen of heaven, the mother and child, Babylonianism. When he preached and warned them against it, listen to what they said. Jeremiah 44:17-19: But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: (I mean people in high places and ordinary citizens, and this was an old system. Our fathers did this.) for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil. But since we left off to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, we have wanted all things, and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine. And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven, and poured out drink offerings unto her, did we make her cakes to worship her, and pour out drink offerings unto her, without our men? Verse 25, the latter part of the verse: We will surely perform our vows that we have vowed, to burn incense to the queen of heaven, Did you ever hear that before? Jeremiah cried out against that system. Let me go on again.) . . . dedication of virgins to the gods, which was literally sanctified prostitution, weeping for Tammuz for a period of forty days, prior to the great festival of Istar, (from which we get our word Easter, forty days from Easter we call what? Lent. Well, wait a minute. This was in the Old Testament. This is not New Testament days. This was back in the days of Jeremiah and Elijah.) who was said to have received her son back from the dead; for it was taught that Tammuz was slain by a wild boar and afterwards brought back to life. To him the egg was sacred, as depicting the mystery of his resurrection, (Where did Easter eggs come from? They came from Babylon. Where did Lent come from? It came from Babylon. Where did the matter of the birthday for the god come from? It came from Babylon. I read on.) Even as the evergreen was his chosen symbol and was set up in honor of his birth at the winter solstice, (Evergreen tree — where did that come from? — December 25) when a boar’s head was eaten in memory of his conflict and yule-log burned with many mysterious observances. (All of our popular songs about Christmas) The sign of the cross (You know down this way and over that way — where did that come from? It came from Babylon) was sacred to Tammuz, as symbolizing the life-giving principle and as the first letter of his name. It is represented upon vast numbers of the most ancient altars and temples, and did not, as many have supposed, originate with Christianity. From this mystery-religion, the patriarch Abraham (Turn to Revelation 2.) was separated by divine call; and with this same evil cult the nation that sprang from him was in constant conflict, until under Jezebel, a Phoenician princess, it was grafted onto what was left of the religion of Israel in the northern kingdom in the day of Ahab, (Jezebel — Now, Jezebel, we got on Jezebel about doctrine and so forth in the second chapter of Revelation. Now, we are dealing with Jezebel in the Old Testament, and we have the system in the New Testament.) and was the cause of their captivity at last. Judah was polluted by it, for Baal-worship was but the Canaanitish form of the Babylonian mysteries, and only by being sent into captivity to Babylon itself did Judah become cured of her fondness for idolatry. Baal was the Sun-God, the Life-giving One, identical with Tammuz. Though Babylon as a city had long been but a memory, her mysteries had not died with her. When the city and temples were destroyed, (Now, this is history.) the high-priest fled with a company of initiates and their sacred vessels and images to Pergamos, where the symbol of the serpent was set up as the emblem of the hidden wisdom. (Where did the doctor’s symbol come from? Babylon. Now, let me read in Revelation 2. They fled to Pergamos. The serpent spoken of in Revelation is the devil. Revelation 2:12-13: And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan’s seat (Satan’s throne) is: (Where did the Babylonians flee? They fled to Pergamos.) and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. Interesting! They fled to Pergamos! Interesting! Satan’s throne! Interesting! Babylon fled there, and here it is interesting that the medical emblem shows up at Pergamos. From here on, you will find the

introduction in the church of Babylonianism all the way until the Lord comes in the Revelation. Now, let me finish reading what Ironside said.) From there, they afterwards crossed the sea and emigrated to Italy. There the ancient cult was propagated under the name of the Etruscan Mysteries, and eventually Rome became the headquarters of Babylonianism. The chief priests wore mitres shaped like the head of a fish, (Have you ever seen a hat like the head of a fish? It came from Babylon.) in honor of Dagon, the fish-god, the Lord of life — another form of the Tammuz mystery, as developed among Israel's old enemies, the Philistines. The chief priest when established in Rome (Now, we are talking about Babylonianism. We are not talking about the church. We are talking about Babylonianism.) took the title Pontifex Maximus, (The bridge builder — Have you ever heard that word? Where did it come from? Babylon.) and this was imprinted on his mitre. When Julius Caesar (who, like all young Romans of good family, was an initiate) had become the head of the State, he was elected Pontifex Maximus, and this title was held henceforth by all the Roman emperors down to Constantine the Great, who was, at one and the same time, head of the church and high priest of the heathen! The title was afterwards conferred upon the bishops of Rome, and is borne by the pope today, who is thus declared to be, not the successor of the fisherman -- apostle Peter, but the direct successor of the high priest of the Babylonian mysteries, and the servant of the fish-god Dagon, for whom he wears, like his idolatrous predecessors, the fisherman's ring. During the early centuries of the church's history, the mystery of iniquity had wrought with such astounding effect, and Babylonian practices and teachings had been so largely absorbed by that which bore the name of the church of Christ, that the truth of the Holy Scriptures on many points had been wholly obscured, (the leavening process) while idolatrous practices had been foisted upon the people as Christian sacraments, and heathen philosophies took the places of gospel instruction. Thus was developed that amazing system which for a thousand years dominated Europe and trafficked in the bodies and souls of men, until the great Reformation of the sixteenth century brought in a measure of deliverance.”

Now, let us turn to Revelation 17. I am through reading there. We identify her in the seventeenth chapter. She is called *MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT*. We identify her first of all by her history. Now remember, we are talking about a religious system. That religious system goes all the way back to this side of the flood, Nimrod. It has gotten into Christianity. It is introduced early in the church history in the church at Pergamos. It is the leavening process under the guise of Christianity. The mustard seed has become a tree, and the birds of the air representing Satan and his evil demons are finding a lodging in it. That is the teachings of Matthew. The woman, this system, is adding to the food of the people of God, or the servants of God, leavening it and leavening it and leavening it and breaking it down and leavening and leavening. She is leavening, tearing down the Word of God. It is popular. It is palatable. Now, let us identify her quickly by her history. Look at Revelation 17:6: *And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: (Martyrs of Jesus, that is New Testament; blood of the saints, that is Old Testament.) and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.* Look at the eighteenth chapter and verse twenty-four: *And in her was found the blood of prophets, (That is Old Testament.) and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth. (She is a persecutor of God's people.) For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.* Read *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*. Fifty million Christians were put to death by this system, and it was supposedly called the bride of Christ. I wish people would read history. She is a persecutor in the Old Testament and New Testament; and wherever she gets in power, brother, she enforces. Her doctrine teaches it is all right to slay those who will not bow to their teaching. That is doctrine. She is not only identified by her history; she is a persecutor; but look at chapter seventeen verse two. Her international intrigue with the kings of the earth — political. That is an illegitimate relationship. She mettles in political and economic affairs of the world. Revelation 17:2: *With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.* Now, the kings of the earth understand this system and do business with the system. If you do not believe that, then you better do a little reading. Not only her international intrigue with the kings of the earth but her intoxicating power. Look at verse two again: *. . . and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.* She has an intoxicating power over people. It appeals to the masses. Why? It has leaven in it. It has honey in it, nature's

sweetness. It has that which makes it more palatable. “You can live in sin, and hey, it is all right; you can be forgiven, and you can go sin again.” That is what sparked Martin Luther of the Reformation, the matter of the sin of indulgences. Okay, let us move on further. Revelation 17:3: *So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, . . .* (In the Bible, that is the Roman empire; that is the antichrist and his system. This apostate religious system will control the antichrist, and the antichrist will support that apostate system in the first part of the seven-year tribulation. You mean the church, supposedly the church of the Son of God? It brings the power. The antichrist, yes sir. Let us go on. Look at her vast riches in verse four: *And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:* By the way, scarlet is the color of the beast and the harlot in Revelation 17:3-4, also the dragon, 12:3; it is the color of the papacy; the papal throne is scarlet. It is born by twelve men clad in scarlet. The cardinals’ hats and robes are scarlet. It was originally the devil’s color. It has now become the color of Atheistic Communism. They are commonly spoken of as red — Red Army, Red Territory, Red Square in Moscow. The devil is again marching with his hosts from without. *So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.* Let us talk about the names of blasphemy. Can you think of claiming to hold the place of God on earth? “I am the vicar of Christ on earth.” Can you think of anybody on earth that says, “I can forgive your sins.”? Who can forgive sins but God only? That is blasphemy. That is blasphemy to say, “What I’ll say now is infallible.” You read the history of this system. I am talking about Babylonianism finding its way into Christendom. I will read a whole lot of things a little later on, but that claim is full of blasphemy. I did not get to the riches. *and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls,* I want to read an article. Did you know that false religion has a whole lot of money? The things on television in the last year ought to tell you that, and you ought to know where you send your money. I am dead serious about that. I do not drop money into the cup and offerings and all these sorts of appeals. I do not do that. Here is her wealth. I am quoting; this came from Van Gorder or M.R. Dehan. I had the name upstairs, but I cut it off inadvertently. “The huge amount of wealth accumulated in religious traffic is hardly believable to the average person.” “The role of the Roman Catholic church (The Roman Catholic church is not Babylon the Great totally.) and the Protestant denominations combined adds up to many billions of dollars. The major religious denominations are not poor (If you want to search something, you look at the Southern Baptist Convention; find out if they are poor in stocks and bonds.) but possess rich holdings in real estate stocks, cash, and many different kinds of investments. In 1952, J.J. Van Gorder stated that a survey showed that the Roman Catholic church maintained in the United States 337 seminaries, 228 colleges, 1,596 high schools, 7,777 elementary schools, 348 orphan asylums, 731 general hospitals, 110 special hospitals, 244 homes for the aged. Add to this the wealth of Jews and Protestants held in the name of religion, and you have a possible contributing factor to the alliance between the antichrist and the great world church (called here the great whore). In verse four, we see the symbol of the wealth of the ecumenical church under the leadership of Rome, but in reality, she is the rich poor church of the Laodicean period and to whom our Lord addresses a solemn warning in Revelation 3:14.” Her financial support and power, her vast riches, her abominations — look at verse four: *And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:* Now, let me read; I could read you to death; but, hey, this is where you get doctrine. If it is not in here, it is false doctrine. Now, let me say this. Apostate Baptists will be in the great whore movement. There are a lot of apostate Baptists. They do not believe in the blood; they do not believe in the virgin birth; they do not believe in the inspiration of Scriptures. And what? They will go into the tribulation period and will be a part of the great ecumenical movement. I wanted to say that so you do not think I am just picking on one. This is not found in the Scripture — prayer for the dead; waxed candles introduced in the churches; worship of the saints and angels; the mass; worship of Mary; priests dressed different from laity; the doctrine of purgatory; worship in an unknown tongue; pretensions of the pope to supremacy; peace in honor of the virgin Mary; worship of images and relics; holy water invented; worship of Saint Joseph; baptism of bells;

canonization of saints; peace to the dead; celibacy of the priesthood; doctrine of the infallibility of the church; prayer beads; doctrine that the seven sacraments are taught; the origin of the Inquisition, which is a slaughter of God's people; the sale of indulgences, and that gives you license to sin; water substituted for bread in the Lord's Supper; transubstantiation adopted; confession instituted; Inquisition introduced in France; adoration, or lifting up the wafer for the host; hand bell used during mass; cardinals ordered to wear red hats; scapular invented; Ave Maria; procession of the holy sacraments; communion in one kind; cup taken from the laity; purgatory decreed; Inquisition introduced in Spain; Roman tradition placed on the same level as Scriptures; apocryphal books received in the sacred canon; immaculate conception of the virgin Mary; doctrine of temporal power to papal claim; proclamation by pious ninth syllables condemning modern liberties; pious ninth syllables solidified by the Vatican council; mixed marriages condemning as null and void all marriages between two Catholics or a Catholic and a Protestant if not celebrated by a priest; the assumption of Mary — that is she bodily went into Heaven without ever experiencing death, and she is the queen of Heaven. That is all lies. In this system, what is it? It is filled with abomination and blasphemies. That is not truth. All right, let us go a little further. I am not far; I am closer to being through than I was. Her abominations, her influence — look at verse fifteen: *And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.* I mean, she has an international influence. Revelation 18:3 says this also. *For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.* If you want to read something that will really curl your hair (Even if you do not have any hair, I believe it will curl it; that is not exactly that miraculous.) but, you ought to read *Fifty Years in the Church of Rome* by Father Chinaquey, a Jesuit priest converted to Christ. Read it and read the American history, and you will be shocked as you read that book. Now, her influence worldwide.

Identify her by her location. Well, she is a city. Revelation 17:18: *And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.* Revelation 17:9: *And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.* She is known as a seven-hilled city. She sits on seven hills. Have you ever heard Rome called the seven-hilled city?

You identify her by her associates. Revelation 17:5: *And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.* She is not just only a harlot herself, but she is a mother of harlots; they are illegitimate children. Every false system in this world today came out of Babylon. She is a mother of harlots. Turn back to Revelation 2 where it talks about Jezebel. Revelation 2:22-23: *Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.* That is not exactly the verse I wanted, but her associates. Have you ever heard of the ecumenical movement, the world counsel of churches? It is composed and this system here is composed of all apostate Protestantism; headquarters will be at Rome. You will find that all the way through the early church history, it talked about the pope. That is early church history that talked about that. Rome will be the headquarters, and every apostate Methodist and Baptist and Presbyterian and Church of God and Assembly of God and Unity and Christian Science and Apostate Judaism, and all of that — every false system, she is the mother of it. They are going back to mother. For you see these folks quoting, "Mother, we want to go back to you. You know, Martin Luther did not go back far enough. Boy, we want to go back to mother." Hey, I did not come from her. My heritage — there is another distinction in Christian history. It is not divided with the matter of Catholic or Protestant or Jewish. There has always been a group of Bible-believing folks that were not in that great Babylonian system. They were outside, and they are the ones that suffered persecution. My heritage — I did not come out of the Roman Catholic church; I did not come out of that system. All that came out go back. The world counsel of churches has this to say. They have 400,000 churches. They claim 230,000,000 people; and it is composed of Protestants, Catholics, Anglican in ninety countries. In that apostate day, we hear, "Get together! Get together!" God said, "Come out! Come out! Come out! Come out!" The hardest thing in the world for a Christian to get a hold of is this matter of separation — separation in doctrine, separation in life. The word *church* means "called out assembly." Get

out! Come out! All the churches, apostate churches, are going through the tribulation, and they are going to be a part of the harlot system. The capitol will be at Rome. It will be a terrible system. The antichrist will get fed up with her one day. Revelation 17:15: *And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.* He and the ten kings will destroy her. Revelation 17:16-17: *And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.* Today we have an apostate system. Watch television. Look who gets all the free time. Look who is always on television that looks like a nice guy. Look how he is dressed. Watch the news media. Read your Bible. Read *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*. Read it.

Now, in closing, let me say something. What are folks in the world council of churches to do? Revelation 18:4-5: *And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.* Did you know that there are some folks that are genuinely born again in the Roman Catholic church? Every now and then, you find them. What are they supposed to do? Get out! If you belong to a church that belongs to the world counsel of churches, what do you do? Get out! Mama and Papa worship there. Mama and Papa would not have worshiped there if they knew it was going to become what it is. What? Get out! My, you think of all the money that people pour into this false system. By the way, this system is worldwide. This system began in the Old Testament. It is infiltrated into Christianity. But watch now; I want to tell you something. I did not know much about church history or much about the Bible. I got converted before I went overseas. But, I was stationed in Italy during the war. I have been to Rome. I have seen the pope. I have seen riches that you just cannot imagine, I mean just stacked riches given to that system from the kings of the world; I mean huge slabs of gold. And all over that country, the nuns go begging, begging, begging. Out on the front steps of the Roman Catholic church, there are little boys trying to sell you their sister — poverty! I am talking about during the war. Begging, begging, begging — talking about the matter of the poor, that is a bunch of hypocrisy. That is not so. I had another article about the wealth of the Vatican City. You cannot imagine how much just the Vatican City alone, the center of this apostate system, the riches that they have. How did she get it? She got it from the kings of the earth. You read history. Man, this system put an interdict on an area. If a king did not bow, man, they shut him out. If he died, he could not go to Heaven. I mean, kings shut out in the snow begging forgiveness and barefooted. Now, what are you to do? You are to get out of it. Now, let me say this. I said “in closing,” but this is part of in closing. Elijah ran from that system in 1 Kings 18-19, but he is coming back again. Malachi says so. He is coming back again. In Revelation 11, there are two witnesses. The prophecy said he is coming back again. He is coming back to this earth in the first part of the tribulation and will confront that system. He will not run this time. He is going to be martyred this time. But, he is going to rise again and go to Heaven. The whole world is going to see him. Read that in Revelation 11. So, Elijah is going to come back again; he is going to face that system. Now, what are you doing with the system? Try to win Roman Catholics to Jesus Christ. Most Roman Catholics have no idea what their church teaches. Many people in cults have no idea. They have been fed a little bit of this and that, and they have gotten into it. They have no idea what their church teaches. You ought to know what this church teaches, and if you want to know, you can find out. Now, what is the woman doing during the course of this age? She deliberately took leaven, and what is she doing? She hid it. What is she doing hiding it? She hid it in three measures of meal until the whole was leavened; and when the Rapture takes place and the salt is removed, the leavening process will move in greater ability until the whole is leavened. The Bible is your food. Do not let anybody add water to it and dilute it. You ought to be able to take it straight. You do not need it to be leavened. “Well, Preacher, just make it a little more easy.” No, just take it straight. You do not need nature’s sweetness. Jesus is sufficient. He is desirable just like He is. You do not have to add anything to Him. He satisfies the heart, the Son of God. Babylon the Great, the Rapture, the rapid rise of the apostate system, the ecumenical church will take place and assist the antichrist to power. When the antichrist has had enough of that and he wants to be worshiped, God will use him to destroy the apostate, ecumenical system. I do not belong to the ministerial association. I am not going to join the Unity, the Christian Science, and the cults, and

“-isms.” I am not going to do that. You can call me a “fuddy duddy,” but I am not going. I do not have to go.