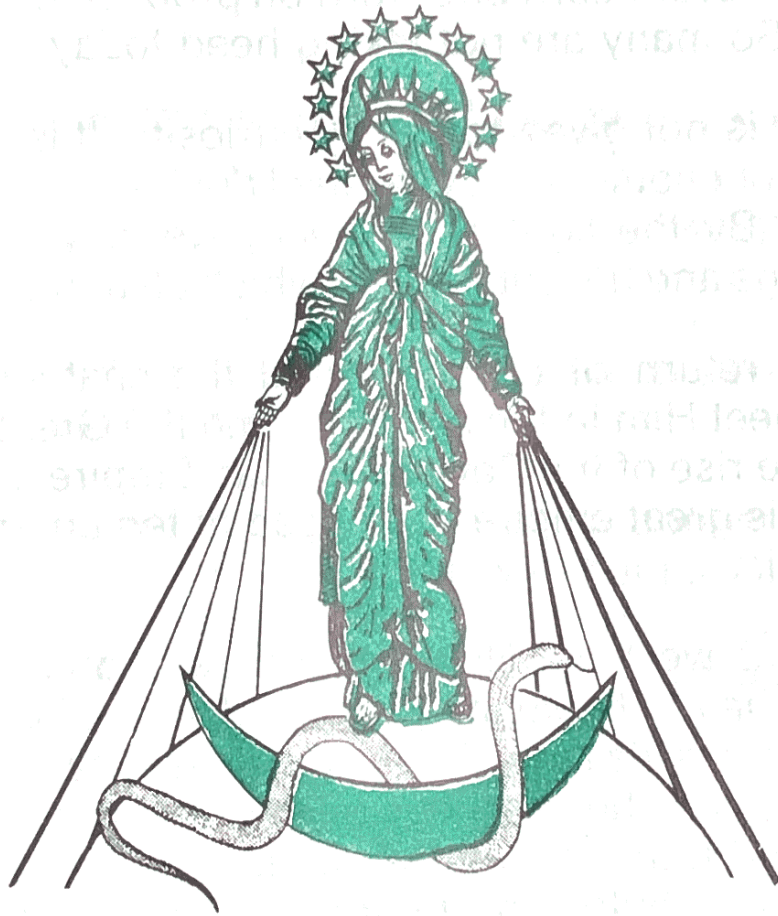


# Babylon the Great and Antichrist



*by Radio Pastor Perry F. Rockwood*

## 1. THE REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE

The hope for every believer is the Lord's coming. Jesus comforted His disciples, sorrowing over the fact that He must soon leave them, with these words: **"I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I WILL COME AGAIN, AND RECEIVE YOU UNTO MYSELF: that where I am, there ye may be also"** (John 14:2,3).

The Bible declares: **"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts"** (2 Peter 1:19). It is important that we take heed to prophecy. I went through seven years of university and seminary and never heard one word on prophecy, yet God says, **"take heed."** So many are not taking heed today.

Prophecy is not given to satisfy curiosity. It is given to be a light flooding our souls so that we shall not grope in the darkness of this world. By the light of prophecy we may know the real course of things and the end toward which all things are moving.

After the return of our Lord and the snatching away of believers to meet Him in the air, will come the Great Tribulation Period and the rise of the Revived Roman Empire. Rome will be the head of this great empire composed of ten united kingdoms under Antichrist.

In Daniel 2 we have Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a great image with its head of gold, its breast and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of brass, its legs of iron, and its feet part iron and part clay. God revealed the meaning of this dream to Daniel. The image portrayed four different world empires. The head of gold represented the Babylonian Empire which was followed by the Media—Persian Empire, then by the Grecian Empire, and finally by the Roman Empire. The iron Roman empire, with its Eastern and Western branches represented by the two legs of iron, is now a matter of past history, but its final form represented by the ten toes is yet future.

In Revelation 17 we see the Roman Empire under the figure of the beast ascending to power again. The revival of this empire will come in the form of a ten-power kingdom as taught in Daniel 2:32-45. Christ, **"the stone . . . cut out of the mountain without hands"** falls in judgment upon it and breaks it in pieces. He sets up in its stead His own millennial kingdom which fills as a mountain the whole earth.

We see the stage being set today for the Revived Roman Empire in the formation of the European Common Market which is striving for economic and political power. The threat of Russia's strength is driving Western Europe to a closer alliance. The European Common Market is gradually controlling imports and exports of commodities worldwide. We feel its effect here in Canada in respect to fish, lumber, vegetables, and other commodities.

In Daniel 7:7-27 we are taught other important details. The beast here mentioned is the empire from its beginning to its final doom. In the final form that the empire will take, ten kings represented by ten horns will arise, and after them will arise another, A LITTLE HORN, which will subdue three of these kings. The little horn becomes the final dictator of the revived Roman Empire, and it is because of his doings that judgment falls upon the empire.

In Revelation 13:1-8 and 17:3 the little horn of Daniel's prophecy is symbolized by the beast itself. He unites and controls the whole government of the empire. The ten kings, or heads of the ten kingdoms, give supreme dictatorship to the beast, and they are subordinate to him. He will become the head of a one-world government, a one-world economic system, and a one-world ecumenical church.

There are several things to notice in connection with the revival of the Roman Empire. The power behind this Empire will be Satan himself. He will ascend out of the bottomless pit according to Revelation 17:8. In Revelation 13:2 we are told: "... **the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.**" Antichrist will be energized by Satan. This is the result of complete apostasy from God when man takes sides against God and His Word and becomes a part of the work of Satan.

When we look at the moral aspect of the Revived Roman Empire we see it promoting everything that is wicked and sinful while opposing everyone whose desire is to honour God. In Revelation 13:4 we read: "**And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast.**" This man, Antichrist, as the head of the empire, will be worshipped along with Satan, the dragon. This worship is enforced by a decree for the death penalty (Rev. 13:14-19) which brings down the fierce wrath of God upon them.

We look over the land today and see man being worshipped instead of the Lord Jesus Christ. The leaders of many of the false cults, like the Moonies and Armstrong, have become as gods to

their followers. They reject the true gospel and all who preach it.

The Pope's visit to Canada this year brings before us the plain fact that he usurps the place of Christ. Notice his titles: "Most Holy Bishop of the Catholic Church"; "Most Blessed Lord"; "Chief of the Church of the World"; "Vicar of Jesus Christ"; "The Sovereign Pontiff"; "The Supreme See which cannot be judged by any other." How sad that the Canadian Council of Churches, which includes the Salvation Army, accepts this recognition and calls the Pope "a brother in Christ" when he actually represents the Antichrist and the whore church of Revelation 17.

The Antichrist is described as one who exalts himself in his own pride and has "**a mouth speaking great things**" according to Daniel 8,9. He will be full of his own importance and self-sufficiency.

Antichrist, who takes the place of Christ, will be found speaking against God Himself and against His heavenly saints. "**And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven**" (Rev. 13:6). Those who dwell in heaven are the glorified saints who are caught up to be for ever with the Lord when he comes for His own before the beast comes to power.

Antichrist will oppose everything that is of God upon the earth. "**The same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them**" (Dan. 7:21). The saints upon the earth are the godly remnant from among the Jews who will refuse to worship the beast and who preach the gospel of the kingdom, announcing that Christ is coming to destroy the power of the wicked and to reign upon the earth.

The final step will be when Antichrist gathers the armies together to Armageddon in Palestine to attack Christ at His coming from heaven with His glorified saints: "**And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him (Christ) that sat on the horse, and against His army**" (Rev. 19:19).

Praise God, the Lamb will have the last say: "**These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them**" (Rev. 17:14). I also read in Revelation 19:19,20: "**And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he**

deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone."

Let us keep in mind that the revived Roman Empire is definitely anti-God. It will raise itself up in open and blasphemous opposition against God and His interests on earth. We believe the stage is being set today. The next great event is the Lord's return for all who believe in His substitutionary blood-atoning work of the Cross.

You can personally rest assured that just as our Lord has the last say over the Antichrist, He will have the last word concerning your life. He calls upon you today to forsake sin and receive Him by faith as your own personal Saviour.

## 2. BABYLON THE GREAT

**"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: 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. 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. 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: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. 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" (Revelation 17:1-7).**

This scarlet colored beast "**full of names of blasphemy**" is the revived Roman Empire under Antichrist. The great harlot who sits upon the beast is the ecumenical professing church left behind after the rapture of the true believers.

It is interesting to see the development of Babylon as

portrayed in the Bible. In Genesis 10:1 we find the sons of Noah listed: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Verse 6 speaks of the development of the line of Ham through Cush. In verses 8 and 9 we are told that Cush begat Nimrod who became a mighty hunter before the Lord. Now notice verse 10: **"And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel (or Babylon)."**

In Chapter 11 we have Nimrod and his people building the tower of Babel as their way of approach to God. When God saw that the people were of one language, He said, verses 7-9: **"Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; (or confusion)."**

Nimrod's desire in building the tower of Babel was to establish a new religious system and to offer the people a new approach to Heaven. But this was a false system. God came down and pronounced this system confusion. That is why the Apostle John speaks of Babylon as the **"MOTHER OF HARLOTS"** for this was the beginning of every false religious system and of the ecumenical church.

In order to understand something of the final form of Babylon in the Tribulation Period, let us examine the teachings of Nimrod, the first apostate. Nimrod married a girl by the name of Semerimus and when their son Tammuz was born they claimed him as the fulfillment of the Messianic promise of Genesis 3:15. She instituted a religious system in Babylon and became the high priestess making herself and her son the objects of worship. The symbol of this religion was a figure of a mother holding a child in her arms. She adopted the title, "the queen of heaven."

This idolatrous religious system had a very definite influence upon Israel. Ahab, king of Israel, married Jezebel, a foreigner who was brought up in this mother-child cult. It was not long before the people of Israel gave themselves over to the worship of Ashteroth and Baal, the mother-child cult. In Jeremiah 44 we read why God said He would send the children of Israel into Babylonian captivity. This message, delivered by Jeremiah, was a warning of the judgment of God that would surely come upon them because of their idolatrous practices. The people answered Jeremiah saying: **"As for the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of the Lord, we will not hearken unto thee. 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 . . . 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" (verses 16-18). As a nation, Israel repudiated the worship of Jehovah for the worship of Ashteroth and Tammuz, or Baal.

In Ezekiel 8:6-18 we find that the mother cult had come right into the temple of Jehovah in Jerusalem: Notice verse 13: "**Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations that they do.**" Ezekiel was shown one after another the manifold idolatries that were being carried on in the very house of God. Verse 14: "**Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the Lord's house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz.**" Here the people are found doing special penance to honour the queen of heaven and her miracle son Tammuz. Such abominations made it necessary for the Lord to withdraw. His people having so defiled His house, He could no longer dwell there.

A careful study of God's Word reveals the development of this whole system which will culminate during the Tribulation Period under the title of Babylon or the Ecumenical Church of the Antichrist.

But there is another interesting development that is an important background to our study.

In the days of Christ, when the Caesars were crowned, they were crowned not only as Emperor of the Roman Empire, but as *PONTIFEX MAXIMUS* or High Priest. Every Roman Emperor from the time of the Caesars were thus given the title of high priest of the same mother-child cult that had spread to Rome. There was now a definite union of church and state with the Roman Emperor administering and controlling the system of worship. This mother-child cult brought in the observance of lent, hot-cross buns, easter eggs, the tree at the mid-winter birthday of the child Tammuz, and all the rest that went with it.

In the year 312 when Constantine defeated Maxentius, as *PONTIFEX MAXIMUS*, he declared Christianity to be the religion of the Roman Empire and said that everybody in the Roman Empire was to be a Christian. There was, however, no change of heart. The people went to the same temple and worshipped the same mother-child god. They followed the same calendar year, the same rituals of lent and Easter with Easter eggs and hot-cross buns and all had officially become Christians.

As this whore church comes to its final development there

will be a close alliance with secular government. The woman rides the beast and the beast upholds the woman. We see this today with special ambassadors to the Vatican and in the way our Governments in Canada gave millions of dollars for the Pope's visit in 1984.

Revelation 17 gives a brief but comprehensive description of the wickedness and final judgment of the professing Church. This church is the seat and fountain head of a system of idolatry that surpasses in subtlety and corruption that of ancient Babylon. So it falls heir to its name and becomes the instrument of Satan.

### 3. BABYLON AND THE CHURCH CONTRASTED

The mystery religion of Babylon has been symbolically described in the last book of the Bible as a woman **"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: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH"** (Revelation 17:4,5).

In relation to all our study of the Bible, I want to share with you a very important rule of Bible interpretation that will help you understand the Word of God. **"WHEN THE PLAIN SENSE OF SCRIPTURE MAKES COMMON SENSE, SEEK NO OTHER SENSE. THEREFORE, TAKE EVERY WORD AT IT'S PRIMARY ORDINARY, LITERAL MEANING; UNLESS THE FACTS OF THE IMMEDIATE CONTEXT, STUDIED IN THE LIGHT OF RELATED PASSAGES AND AXIOMATIC AND FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS, INDICATE CLEARLY OTHERWISE."**

Now when the Bible uses symbolic language, a "woman" can symbolize a church. The true church, for example, is likened to a bride, a chaste virgin, a woman without spot or blemish. I read in Revelation 19:7,8: **"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."**

In striking contrast to the true church, the woman of our text is spoken of as an unclean woman, a defiled woman, a harlot, a whore. If it is correct to apply this symbolism to a church system,



it is clear that only a defiled and fallen church could be meant. She is called "**MYSTERY BABYLON.**"

What are the characteristics of this ecumenical church of Antichrist during the Great Tribulation Period?

1. It is a religious system essentially of the earth though she claims to be the true church of God. It is earthly in origin, associations, and character. She is the "**MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**" She is the guilty associate and friend of the "**kings of the earth**" and the kings and governments of the earth will honour her with large gifts of tax money and a reception that supercedes all other dignitaries. She reigns over the kings of the earth (17:18) and "**... did corrupt the earth with her fornication**" (19:2).

Jesus said concerning His little flock: "**they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world**" (John 17:14). The true church is heavenly in its citizenship: "**our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven**" (Phil. 3:20). The true church is heavenly in its blessings: "**God . . . hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ**" (Eph. 1:3). The affections of the true church are set on heavenly things. "**Seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth**" (Col. 3:1,2). The true church is united to Christ: "**Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world (system)**" (Gal. 1:4).

2. It has the name "**MYSTERY BABYLON**" and her shameless character is written upon her forehead. Her name is MYSTERY, yet it is written on her forehead. Her character is plain, if only you can read it. If you are pure, you may soon know that she is not. If you are true, you may quite easily detect her falsehood. In lands where she bears sway, as represented in this passage, she has managed to divorce morality from religion in such a manner that all the world knows the width of the breach. The "mysterious" religious rite of transubstantiation is an affair of the hands, combined with the magic of a little breath, by means of which the most sinful of His creatures can create the God that made him! This great mystery which she herself conceives as a sacrament, you may see clearly on her forehead then.

In contrast, the true church has the name of Christ on her forehead. Christ is Lord. Christ is uplifted—not the cross. Christ is all in all.

3. Babylon seeks a place of supremacy over the world, in

contrast to the true Church which is **"subject unto Christ"** (Eph. 5:24). It is now the portion of true believers to be witnesses of the Lord Jesus Christ before a world that has rejected Him, while awaiting the time when they shall reign with Him (Rom. 8:17 and 2 Tim. 2:12). The great whore **"sitteth upon many waters"** (Rev. 17:1), and the waters are explained in verse 15 as **"peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues."** This shows her power and domination over many nations. She sits upon the **"beast full of names of blasphemy"** (vs. 3) and **"reigneth over the kings of the earth"** (vs. 18). Think of her power. No wonder we read: **"Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird"** (Rev. 18:2). Instead of being a vessel through which the Holy Spirit works in divine power and grace, the professing ecumenical church of Antichrist becomes the habitation of devils and the instrument of Satan to suppress every true voice that is raised for Christ and the truth.

4. Another awful characteristic of the church of the Antichrist is given in Revelation 17:6: **"And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus."** Instead of being an ambassador for Christ to carry the life-giving message of God to a lost world, she is found shedding the blood of the saints and suppressing every voice that is raised in true testimony for God.

This description reminds us of the torture-chambers and of the countless victims who were cruelly tortured and burned to death, and of the unspeakable horrors of centuries of violence and murder.

In Revelation 6:9,10, when the fifth seal was opened, the Apostle John wrote: **"I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?"** In Chapter 7 verse 9 we see other martyrs: **"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands."** Verse 14: **"These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."**

5. Let us notice that the whore is decked with gold, pearls, jewels, etc.. It requires a lot of adorning to make her look beautiful. Wherever this church goes to hold her celebrations money is poured into the outward making of beauty on altars and

luxurious and colorful clothing. But all this outward show is to distract from her true form. The true church, on the other hand, is clothed in purest white, without any make-up. SHE is His adornment—HIS pearl of great price.

6. An illicit union with the world is another characteristic of the whore church, whereas union with Christ is the portion of the true church. Notice Revelation 17:2: "**With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication.**" The kings of the earth love her adultery as well as her idolatry.

7. The whore church is the fountain head of the worst kind of idolatry that Satan ever brought into his kingdom of darkness. Revelation 17:4,5: " . . . **having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**" In God's Word "abomination" is a term often used for idols as being hateful to God and abominable in man. The words "fornication and adultery" are constantly used for idolatry or any false religious system to which men turn in unfaithfulness to the Lord who has espoused His people to Himself (Ex. 34:15,16; Lev. 17:7; Ezek. 6:9). What is more abominable than to worship anyone else or to venerate anyone else above the Lord?

To sum it up in a few words, Babylon, the whore church, is a widespread system of religious corruption claiming to be the true church of God. She seeks supremacy over the political systems of the world while corrupting and stupefying the masses with her religious ceremonies, thus giving the appearance of godliness while denying the power thereof (2 Tim. 3:5). Under the guise of worshipping God and while giving herself over to worldly splendor and riches, she becomes the fountain head of a Satan-inspired idolatry that surpasses the idolatry of all past history. She becomes the bloodthirsty persecutor of all the saints who dare to bear witness to Jesus and to the truth of God's Word that exposes her guilt, whether it be the saints of the present Church Age or the Jewish remnant that will bear witness after the rapture takes place. Revelation 18:23,24 tells us clearly: "**For by thy sorceries (that is trafficking with Satan) were all nations deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.**"

There is now a tremendous movement towards this world whore church. The ecumenical church is the growing interest of both Protestant and Roman Catholic churches. The charismatic

movement also is working overtime to bring all religions together.

But the Bible teaches something different. God's people are instructed to "**believe not every spirit**". We are told to TRY THEM (1 John 4:1); MARK THEM (Rom. 16:17); REBUKE THEM (Titus 1:13); HAVE NO FELLOWSHIP (Eph. 5:11); WITHDRAW THYSELF (2 Thess. 3:6); RECEIVE THEM NOT (2 John 10:11); HAVE NO COMPANY WITH THEM (2 Thess. 3:13); REJECT THEM (Titus 3:10); BE YE SEPARATE (2 Cor. 6:17).

#### 4. THE GREAT TRIBULATION

While the term "Antichrist" is a vague one to many in these days of neo-evangelical and liberal theology, yet to the early church and to all Bible students it speaks of the last and the greatest of the enemies of God and of His Christ. As we study the Bible we find these facts clearly taught:

1. Before the end of the age of Grace, there will be apostasy which will not only be a corruption of the Christian faith, but a total denial of it. It will substitute "the lie" for "the truth." It will be counterfeit faith.

2. That the last representative and leader of this apostasy will be a man—the Antichrist, "**the man of sin**", "**the wicked one**", **the son of perdition.**"

3. That during the Tribulation Period of seven years following the rapture of the church, this man will attain universal dominion, all nations being subject to him. The world today is looking for such a man, a man of peace, a man that can unite the nations, a man who will control the world.

4. The Antichrist will claim honors for himself and will persecute all upholding the faith of Christ, suppressing, as far as possible, all genuine Christian worship.

5. That the Jews as a whole will receive Antichrist at the beginning of the Tribulation Period, and then later on he will turn on Israel and persecute the Jews even unto death.

6. That Antichrist and his adherents will be destroyed by the

Lord Jesus Christ at His appearance, at the end of the Tribulation Period.

A careful study of the Bible will reveal that Antichrist will take the place of God and will bring humanity to the place of worshiping himself. We read in 2 Thess. 2:4: **"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped: so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."** He will be known as God. He will be one of the most important theologians of all times. He will teach all mankind to believe **"the lie."** Men will turn from the truth of God's Word.

We can see the stage being set today for the theology of Antichrist to take over the thinking of the unsaved world. We are living in a day of naturalism which denies the supernatural. It teaches that scientific laws within nature account for all phenomena. It rejects the revelation of God as the means of attaining truth. It denies the existence of a personal God. They teach that if there be a God, He is "One with nature" for all nature is God's body. This does away with the Bible, with miracles, with supernatural power, and with eternal life.

This has always been the desire of the Devil. He told Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, **"Ye shall be gods, knowing good and evil."** The devil wants to make gods out of men and he himself wants to be the chief god. This will come to a climax during the Tribulation Period. Man will not have the man Christ Jesus to rule over them, but they will choose another man—a man who is humanity's representative—a man who finally ascends the throne in the temple of God showing himself that he is God.

Therefore we can easily see that the Great Tribulation Period will have its religion. The false church, the worldwide ecumenical church, will be the church of the Tribulation Period. In Revelation 17:1—6 we see the adulterous woman sitting upon the beast which is a picture of the ecumenical church bringing together all the apostates who have entered this period of time. We know that the present ecumenical movement will succeed. But since all true believers will be taken away in the Rapture of the Church, it will be nothing more than a federation of unbelievers. This is the reason why God calls His own children out of the ecumenical movement of our day. How can God's people, in any way, support or encourage or help the ecumenical movement by being a part of it when they know from the Bible it is the building of the church of Antichrist? Hear God's call in Rev. 18:4: **"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partaker of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."** Are we going to remain true to our Church or to our Christ? Are we going

to follow the teaching of men regarding the ecumenical movement or the teaching of God in His Word?

The next step for Antichrist in Rev. 13:2—4 is to destroy the harlot, ecumenical church system, and from that moment on, will demand that all people worship him. All kinds of deception and lies and wonders will be employed by Antichrist to obtain worship from man, and terrible persecution will fall upon those who refuse to give him the place he demands.

The Great Tribulation is set forth in the Bible under various terms. In Daniel 12:1 it is described as "**a time of trouble.**" In Matthew 24:21—29 it is called "**great tribulation.**" In Luke 21:34—36 it is referred to as "**that day**", that is, the day that is described in the previous part of the chapter. In Jeremiah 30:4—7 it is called "**the day**" and "**the time of Jacob's trouble.**"

From the political point of view, it is taught in both Daniel and Revelation that there will come a united political world just as there will be a united ecumenical church religious system. There will be the ten kingdoms in this revived Roman Empire. In Daniel 7:1—28 we have the picture of the ten horns. In Revelation 13:1—10 we have the same picture, and in addition the horns have a crown, meaning the time of their power and rule have arrived. The rule of this political world and power will be despotic and blasphemous.

There will also be one economic system. Let me read Rev. 13:16,17: "**And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.**"

I wonder if you realize that the pattern has already been set for one world government under the United Nations 16 International Agencies:

1. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) whose aim is to promote peaceful use of the atomic bomb.
2. International Labor Organization (ILO) whose purpose is to coordinate labor demands throughout the world.
3. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) which is set up to standardize food qualities.
4. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) which is designed to internationalize money standards, and to develop an international currency.
5. International Development Association (IDA) which seeks to control the natural resources of the world.

6. United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is set up to promote collaboration among nations through education, science and culture.

7. World Health Organization (WHO) to internationalize medicine, surgery, and all treatments of diseases.

8. International Finance Corporation (IFC) which is a plan to take over the "poorly developed" areas of the world. This will bring smaller nations of the world in subjection to a one-world government.

Then there are other world organizations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF); International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO); International Postal Union (IPU); International Telecommunications Union (ITU); World Meteorological Organization (WMO); Intergovernmental Maritime Consultive Organization (IMCO); International Trade Organization (ITO); General Agreement on Tariffs and Trades (GATT).

Jesus spoke of the time when the complex problems would result in **"Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth"** (Luke 21:26). It is then that they will unite and look for a leader and that leader will be revealed after the Rapture of the Church as Antichrist.

Yes, and we conclude by saying that while Antichrist will have full powers during this seven year period, God will still have the final say. Christ will return to this earth with miraculous powers to put down the authority of Antichrist. May I read Rev. 19:20: **"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone."**

Sin always ends with death, whether it is in a nation or a person. **"The wages of sin is death."** This is spiritual death and separation from God. If you are not saved you are dead already in trespasses and sin. Yet there is hope for you in Christ for **"the gift of God is eternal life."** Christ died to pay your sin debt. He took your place. He was your substitute. Will you come to Him today, turn from sin, and by faith receive Christ into your life?

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