

Ten Clues to the Identity of Mystery, Babylon (SN59)

Revelation 17

1. She is a prostitute – promiscuous and unfaithful
2. She has universal influence - all over the world
3. She is seated upon the beast – she steers and dominates
4. She is clothed with purple, scarlet, gold and jewels (precious stones)
5. She has a Golden cup – it is precious but it is a counterfeit and
filled with abominable things
6. Mystery, Babylon the Great is linked with the Babylon of Nimrod
 - The Babylonian priesthood migrated first to Pergamos then to Rome
7. She is the Mother of Prostitutes – she has spiritual offspring and is not alone
 - To assume she is just the Vatican is naïve – there are many false religious systems – in the end times it may be that these unite
 - However, the Pope does call himself the ‘Vicar of Christ’ – and the word anti-Christ does not mean against Christ but in place of Christ (a pseudo-Christ)
 - Note ‘anti-Christ’ is a spiritual power (*1 John 1: 22, 4: 3*) – the power behind the two beasts of *Revelation 13*
8. She is a persecutor of Christians – revels in their blood
9. The beast she rides has seven heads (seven mountains or hills) –
Rome is built on seven hills
 - The Seven Heads are Seven Governments (mountains)
 - There are Seven Kings/Kingdoms – the empires throughout history – Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome I and Rome II
 - It is these kingdoms over which the Harlot has influence and seducing power
10. She is the ‘great city that reigns over the kings of the earth’
 - In John’s day this could only mean Rome
 - We live in the days of Rome II – and the harlot still rides and deceives

Thus the ‘woman’ of Revelation chapter 17 is often closely identified with Rome – but we should not restrict our understanding to this.

She is false, idolatrous worship in all its guises... and so other world religions would match this description (e.g. Islam)

But Spiritual Babylon is idolatry in all its forms, not simply religious; including worship of money, sex and power – so prevalent in these days

See the following note on ‘The Woman in the Ephah’.

The Woman in the Ephah

Zechariah 5: 5-11

Then the angel who talked with me came out and said to me, "Lift your eyes now, and see what this is that goes forth."

So I asked, "What is it?" And he said, "It is a basket that is going forth." He also said, "This is their resemblance throughout the earth: here is a lead disc lifted up, and this is a woman sitting inside the basket"; then he said, "This is Wickedness!" and he thrust her down into the basket, and threw the lead cover over its mouth.

Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there were two women, coming with the wind in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between earth and heaven.

So I said to the angel who talked with me, "Where are they carrying the basket?"

And he said to me, "To build a house for it in the land of Shinar; when it is ready, the basket will be set there on its base."

Basket (Hebrew: *ephah*) – a measure for grain (= 10 *omer*), about 7 gallons

- Going forth in the earth
- Its resemblance is a woman (the woman that rides the beast)

The woman is called ‘Wickedness’

- She is sealed in with a talent of lead
- She is called in Revelation 17 ‘Mystery Babylon’
- Indicative of all idolatrous worship (Catholicism, Islam, Humanism etc)

The basket is carried by two women

- With wings of a stork (unclean bird – demonic)
- A Basket lifted up between earth and heaven (a high ‘power’)
- To ‘build a house for it in the land of Shinar’ – Babylon
- When ready, it will be set on its base (Babylon restored then destroyed)

Relevance to Babylon in Revelation 17 & 18

- ‘Mystery Babylon’ more than just the Catholic Church it is all apostate churches
- Spiritual Idolatry is anything worshipped other than the One True God
- Today many peoples, nations and tongues are not religious in a ‘church’ sense
- Today many people worship other gods, such as money, sex and power
- Babylon the physical city, in the land of Shinar, is also in view