

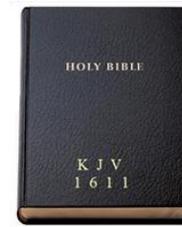
Mt. Pleasant Bible Institute

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations” (Matt 28:19)

Dr. Joseph Speciale, Instructor

A ministry of the
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church

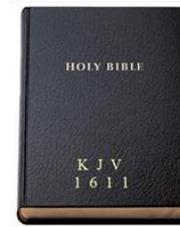
Lee Swor, Pastor



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The Mysteries Of God

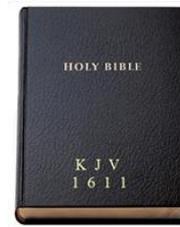
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- MYSTERY= “a sacred secret; that which is beyond human comprehension until explained; something wholly unknown; something that was concealed but is now revealed”
- The Bible definition of *mystery*, based on (Rom 16:25-26; Eph 3:3-5; Col 1:26), is as follows: “something that was kept secret, hidden, and not made known unto men in times past, but is now revealed and made manifest and known to the apostles, prophets, saints, and all nations by the Holy Spirit and the scriptures for the obedience of faith”
- The word appears 27x in the Bible (all in the NT)
- The first appearance is in Matthew 13:11
- There are at least 15 mysteries mentioned in the NT, of which seven will be covered in this lesson
- We are to be faithful stewards of mysteries of God (1 Cor 4:1-2)

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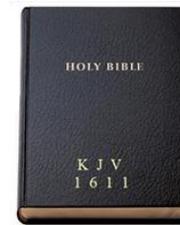


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The 15 Mysteries Mentioned In The New Testament

1. The mysteries of the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (Matt 13:11)
2. The mysteries of the KINGDOM OF GOD (Mark 4:11; Luke 8:10)
3. The mystery of the TEMPORARY PARTIAL BLINDNESS OF ISRAEL (Rom 11:25)
4. The mystery of the RAPTURE (1 Cor 15:51)
5. The mystery of the WILL OF GOD (Eph 1:9)
6. The mystery of the CHURCH AS THE BODY AND BRIDE OF CHRIST (Eph 3:3-6,9; 5:31-32; Rom 16:25-26)
7. The mystery of CHRIST (Eph 3:4; Col 4:3)
8. The mystery of the GOSPEL (Eph 6:19)
9. The mystery of the INDWELLING CHRIST (Col 1:26-27)
10. The mystery of GOD, AND OF THE FATHER, AND OF CHRIST (Col 2:2)
11. The mystery of INIQUITY; THE BEAST (2 The 2:7; Rev 17:7)
12. The mystery of the FAITH (1 Tim 3:9)
13. The mystery of GODLINESS (1 Tim 3:16)
14. The mystery of the SEVEN STARS (Rev 1:20)
15. The mystery of BABYLON THE GREAT (Rev 17:5)

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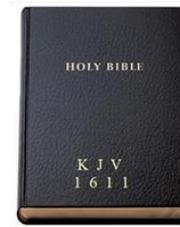


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The 7 Mysteries Covered In This Lesson

1. The mystery of the TEMPORARY PARTIAL BLINDNESS OF ISRAEL (Rom 11:25)
2. The mystery of the RAPTURE (1 Cor 15:51)
3. The mystery of the CHURCH AS THE BODY AND BRIDE OF CHRIST (Eph 3:3-6,9; 5:31-32; Rom 16:25-26)
4. The mystery of the INDWELLING CHRIST (Col 1:26-27)
5. The mystery of GODLINESS (1 Tim 3:16)
6. The mystery of INIQUITY; THE BEAST (2 The 2:7; Rev 17:7)
7. The mystery of BABYLON THE GREAT (Rev 17:5)

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I. THE BLINDNESS OF ISRAEL (Rom 11:25)

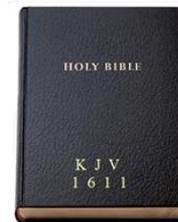
A. The Conditions Of The Blindness

1. It Is A SPIRITUAL Blindness (2 Cor 3:14-15; Luke 24:16)
2. It Is A PARTIAL Blindness (Rom 11:1-2,5,25; 1:16)
3. It Is A TEMPORARY Blindness (Rom 11:25; Acts 15:14; Rev 7:3-4; 12:17; Acts 15:16-17; Isa 66:8; Zec 12:10; 2 Cor 3:15-16; Rom 11:26)

B. The Consequences Of The Blindness

1. The ENTRANCE Of The Church (Acts 15:14; Rom 11:11)
2. The ENVY Of Israel (Rom 10:19; 11:11)
3. The EGOTISM Of The Ignorant (Rom 11:25; Rev 2:9; 3:9)

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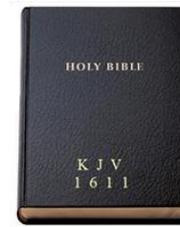
II. THE RAPTURE (1 Cor 15:51-52)

A. The Phases Of The Rapture

1. The TRANSFORMATION

- The saints are CHANGED; there is a RESURRECTION
- It is the second of the three stages of the first resurrection (1 Cor 15:22-24)
- It is a change from corruption to incorruption and from mortality to immortality (1 Cor 15:53)
- It consists of the dead in Christ (Church saints and possibly OT saints) and the saints who are alive and remain at the time of the Rapture (both saved and safe) (1 The 4:16-17; John 11:25-26)
- It is the saints' victory over the grave and death (1 Cor 15:55)- for those who are alive and remain, it is an eternal cancellation of the appointment with death (Heb 9:27)

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2. The TRANSLATION

- The saints are CAUGHT UP; there is a REMOVAL
- It consists of a REUNION (1 The 4:17) and a RELOCATION (John 14:3)

Note: We have long assumed that both phases of the Rapture occur, “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye” (i.e.- one billionth of a second) but this refers only to the TRANSFORMATION. There may be a gap of time between the transformation and the translation (Matt 27:51-53), and the translation may be visible to the eye (Acts 1:11)

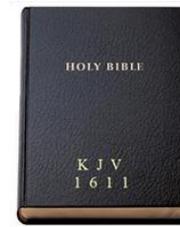
B. The Purpose Of The Rapture

1. A REUNION

- With our LOVED ones in the Lord (1 The 4:14)
- With those who LED us to the Lord (2 Cor 1:14; 1 The 2:19)
- With our Lord (1 The 4:16; 1 Pet 1:8)

2. A REMOVAL

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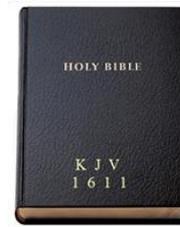
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- Of God's REPRESENTATIVES (2 Cor 5:20) to AVOID the Tribulation (1 The 1:10; 5:9; Rev 3:10)
- Of God's RESTRAINER (2 The 2:6-7) to ADVANCE the Tribulation (2 The 2:8-10)
- 3. A REDEMPTION (Rom 8:19,23; Phl 3:21; 1 John 3:2)
- 4. A REALIZATION (Tit 2:13)
- 5. A REWARD (Rom 14:10; 1 Cor 3:12-15; 2 Cor 5:10)

C. The Phenomenon Of The Rapture

- 1. The SIGHTS- a flash of light above the brightness of the sun (Acts 26:13) so PIERCING, that it causes people to fall down (Acts 26:14; Rev 1:16-17)
- The DOOR of heaven (Rev 4:1)
- The DESCENT from heaven (1 The 4:16; Acts 1:11)

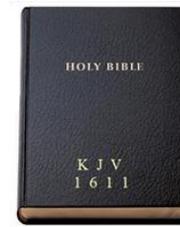
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2. The SOUNDS- a clap of thunder (John 12:28-29) so pealing, that it causes people to fall down (John 18:5-6)
- The trump of God (1 The 4:16)- there will be at least two trumpet blasts (1 Cor 15:52) cf. (Num 10:1-3)
 - ✓ First trump = **“the calling of the assembly”** = the ALARM
 - ✓ Last trump = **“the journeying of the camps”** = the ASCENSION
- The shout of the Lord and the voice archangel (1 The 4:16)
 - ✓ Michael the archangel is associated with RESURRECTION (Dan 12:1-2; Jude 9)
 - ✓ The shout of the Lord is like a trumpet (Rev 10:3) and what might be said is, “Come up hither” (Rev 4:1)

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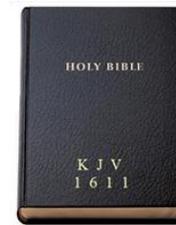


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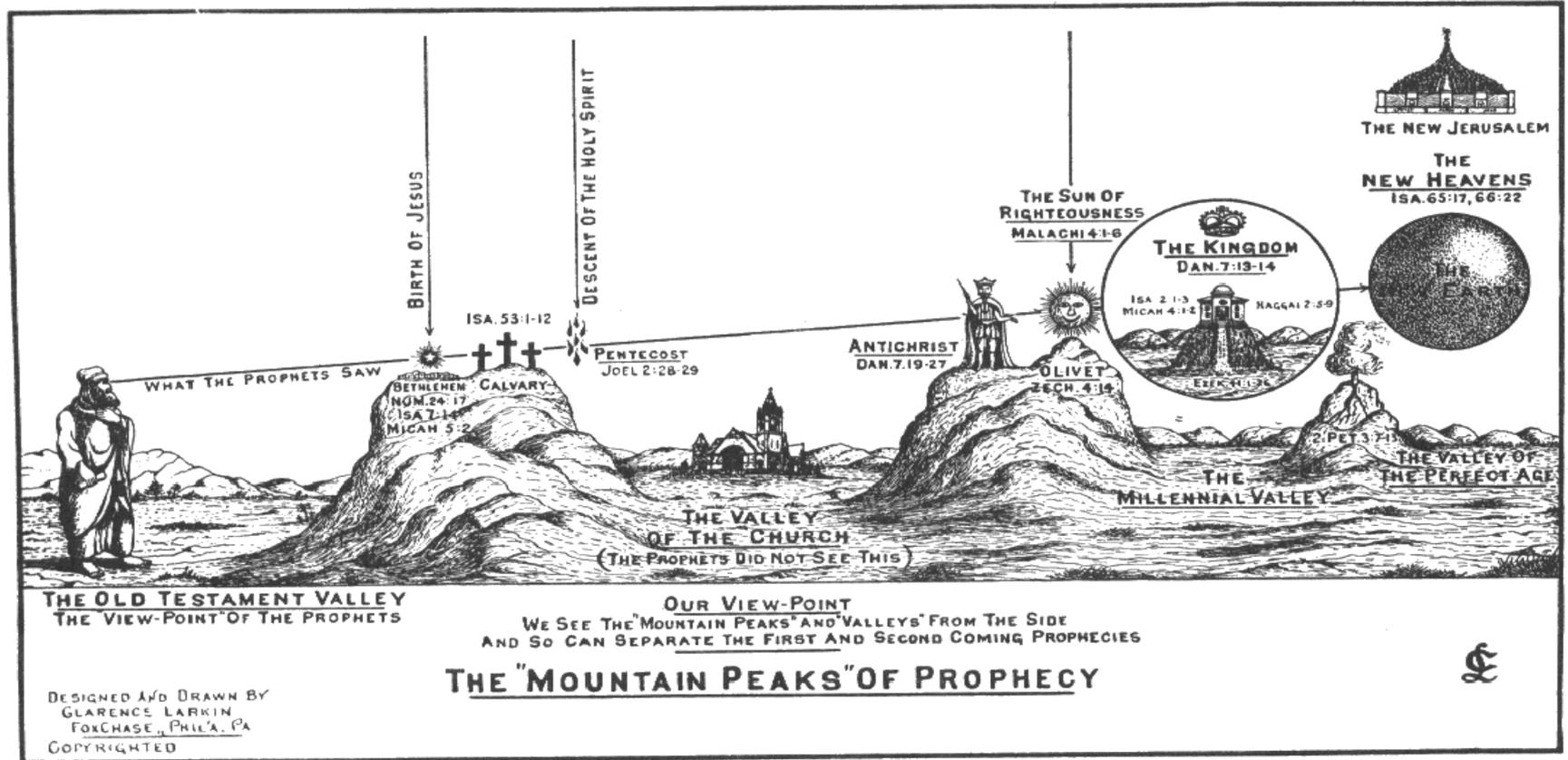
Come up hither!

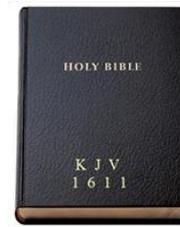
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III. THE CHURCH (Eph 3:1-6,9; 5:22-27,30-32)



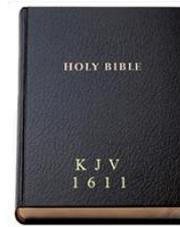


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- The mystical church does not refer to: (1) a LOCATION (i.e.- a *church* building); (2) a DENOMINATION of professing Christianity (e.g.- the Roman Catholic *Church*; the *Church* of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints; the *Church* of Christ; the Baptist *Church*); or (3) an INSTITUTION (i.e.- the local *church* or local *churches*)

A. The Church Is The BODY Of Christ (Eph 3:3-6)

1. Christ is the HEAD (Eph 1:22-23; 4:15-16; 5:23; Col 1:18)
 2. All born again Christians are the BODY (i.e.- members) (Rom 12:4-5; 1 Cor 12:12,27; Eph 5:30)
- The body is FREE from all earthly distinctions, including Jew and Gentile (1 Cor 12:13; Gal 3:28; Eph 2:14-16; 3:6; Col 3:11)
 - The body is FORMED by the baptism of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:13; Gal 3:27)

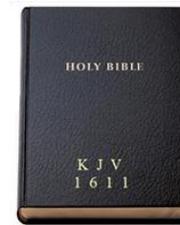


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B. The Church Is The BRIDE Of Christ (Eph 5:31-32)

1. Christ is the BRIDEGROOM (i.e.- the husband) (John 3:29; Psa 19:5; Eph 5:25)
 2. All born again Christians are the BRIDE (i.e.- the wife) (Rom 7:4; 1 Cor 6:17; 2 Cor 11:2; Rev 19:7-8)
- The church is SUBJECT to Christ (Eph 5:24)
 - The church will be SOVEREIGN with Christ (1 Cor 6:2-3; Rev 20:6)

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Types Of Christ And The Church

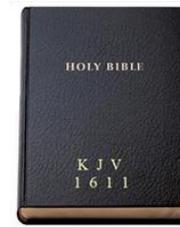
1. Adam and Eve (Gen 2-3; Eph 5:31-32)
 - The bride was created from the bridegroom's side
 - The bridegroom loved the bride so much he chose to die for her

2. Isaac and Rebekah (Gen 24)
 - The father of the bridegroom sent his servant to get a bride for the bridegroom
 - The servant endows the bride with gifts from the bridegroom
 - The bride accepts the bridegroom's offer by faith- sight unseen
 - The bridegroom goes out to meet and greet his bride

3. Joseph and Asenath (Gen 41:45)
 - The bridegroom gets a Gentile bride
 - The bride is from "Egypt"
 - The marriage occurs during the time the bridegroom was rejected by his brethren

4. Boaz and Ruth (Ruth 4:13)
 - The bridegroom gets a Gentile bride
 - The bride is one who trusts in the Lord
 - The bridegroom was a kinsman-redeemer to the bride

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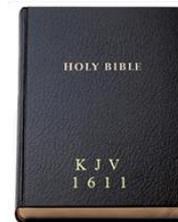


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IV. THE INDWELLING CHRIST (Col 1:27)

- A. **It Is A PERSONAL Indwelling** (John 17:23; 2 Cor 6:16; Gal 2:20; Rev 3:20)- through the person of the Holy Spirit (John 14:17-18; 1 Cor 3:16; 6:19)
- B. **It Is A PRECIOUS Indwelling** (1 Pet 2:6-7)- through the presence of the Holy Spirit (2 Cor 4:7)
- C. **It Is A PERMANENT Indwelling** (Matt 28:20; John 14:16; Heb 13:5; 2 John 2)- through the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5), which is equated to RECEIVING the Holy Spirit (Acts 11:15-16; 10:44-47)
- D. **It Is A POWERFUL Indwelling** (Acts 1:8)
 - 1. Power To LEARN of Jesus Christ (John 14:26; 16:13)
 - In order to be LOW (Matt 11:29)
 - In order to KNOW (Phl 3:10)
 - In order to GROW (2 Pet 3:18)

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2. Power To LOVE like Jesus Christ (Rom 5:5; 2 Cor 5:14)

➤ To love God SUPREME (Matt 22:37; Rev 2:4)

➤ To love the brethren CONTINUALLY (John 13:34-35)

➤ To love the lost COMPLETELY (Matt 5:44)

3. Power To LIVE like Jesus Christ (2 Cor 5:15; Gal 2:20)

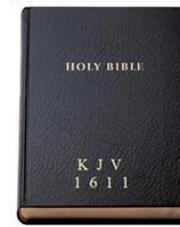
4. Power To LAST for Jesus Christ (Eph 1:13; 4:30) cf. (1 Pet 1:5; 1 Cor 1:24)

E. It Is A PROMISSORY Indwelling (Col 1:27; 2 Cor 1:22; Eph 1:14)

1. It is the HOPE of our glory (*Hope* = “assurance or certainty in waiting; earnest expectation”) cf. (Rom 8:19)

2. It is the EARNEST of our inheritance (*Earnest* = “a token of what is to come; pledge; collateral; something of value given by a buyer to a seller to bind a bargain”)

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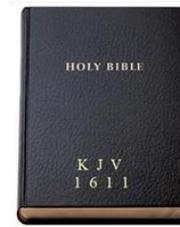


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V. GODLINESS- The Person And Work Of Jesus Christ (1 Tim 3:16)

- Jesus Christ is ONE person but he has TWO natures
- The theological term used to describe the union of these two natures in one person is “the hypostatic union”
- *Hypostatic* = “the substance or essential nature of a person”
- The born-again believer is also one person with two natures, whereas our two natures are a sinful nature (the old man) and a sinless nature (the new man); the two natures of Jesus Christ are human (sinless) and divine
- The hypostatic union (TWO natures; ONE person) is just as incomprehensible to the finite mind as the Trinity (THREE persons; ONE God)
- As Savior, Jesus Christ had to be a MAN in order to take the place of the POSSESSORS of the sin debt; and he had to be GOD in order to pay the PRICE of the sin debt

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A. The Factual View

1. The HUMANITY Of Jesus Christ- **“God was manifest in the FLESH”**

a. He had human LINEAGE

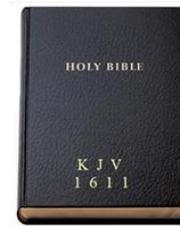
- In his genealogy (Matt 1:1-16; Luke 3:23-38)
- In his nativity (Gen 3:15; Gal 4:4; Luke 2:7)

Note: It cannot be overemphasized that it was the HUMANITY of Jesus Christ that had a BEGINNING and a BIRTH

b. He had human LIKENESS (Rom 8:3; Phl 2:7)

- In his COMPOSITION- he had a tri-partite human nature (Luke 23:53,43,46), consisting of a flesh and blood body (Heb 2:14), soul (John 12:27), and spirit (Mark 2:8)
- In his COUNTENANCE- he looked like an average man (Isa 53:2); he looked like an average Jewish man (John 4:9) with reddish brown skin, bushy black hair, and dark brown eyes (Song 5:10-12)

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c. He had human LIMITATIONS

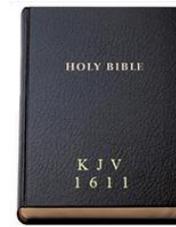
➤ PHYSICAL

- ✓ He had to grow (Luke 2:40)
- ✓ He got hungry (Matt 4:2; 21:18)
- ✓ He got thirsty (John 4:7; 19:28)
- ✓ He got tired (John 4:6)
- ✓ He slept (Matt 8:24)
- ✓ He wept (John 11:35)
- ✓ He felt pain (Luke 22:44)
- ✓ He died (Matt 27:50)

➤ EMOTIONAL/INTELLECTUAL

- ✓ He asked questions (Luke 2:46)
- ✓ He learned obedience (Heb 5:8)
- ✓ He was subject to temptation (Matt 4:1-11; Heb 4:15)
- ✓ He felt compassion (Matt 9:36), anger and grief (Mark 3:5), love (Mark 10:21), and joy (Luke 10:21)

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➤ SPIRITUAL

- ✓ He needed to pray to the Father (Matt 26:36)
- ✓ He needed to be filled with the Spirit (Luke 4:1)

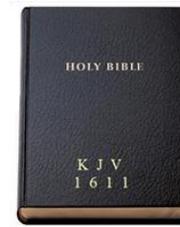
d. He had human LABELS

- JESUS (Matt 1:21)- a name not uncommon (Col 4:11) and equivalent to the Hebrew JOSHUA (Acts 7:45; Heb 4:8)
- THE SON OF MAN (Matt 8:20)- a title used over 80x in the NT, 40x by Jesus himself
- He is called a MAN (John 6:52; Acts 2:22; 1 Cor 15:47; 1 Tim 2:5; Heb 10:12)
- It is appropriate to speak of Jesus Christ as the “God-man” when referring to his PERSON, but not his NATURE- he is one person, but he has two natures

2. The DEITY Of Jesus Christ- **“GOD was manifest in the flesh”** (but not in many other “bibles”)

NIV	“HE appeared in a body”
NASB	“HE WHO was revealed in the flesh”

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- a. Jesus Christ is IMMANUEL which means “GOD with us” (Isa 7:14; Matt 1:23)
- b. Jesus Christ is the WORD

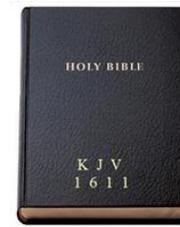
- The Word was God (John 1:1)
- The Word was full of grace and truth (John 1:14)
- Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ (John 1:17)
- The Word is the second person of the Trinity (1 John 5:7)

- c. Jesus Christ is the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Col 2:9) cf. (John 14:9)

B. The Fictional Views

1. Jesus Is A Spirit-Filled Man- this view disregards his deity and reduces him to the same level as born-again believers
2. Jesus Is A Deified Man- this is the Mormon and Mystical (New Age) view; the idea that Jesus was exalted to godhood; Jesus did not BECOME God, he has always BEEN God
3. Jesus Is Half-God And Half-Man- this view reduces both his deity and his humanity; half of a man is not a man, and a half of God is not God

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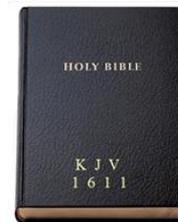
VI. INIQUITY; THE BEAST- The Person And Work Of The Antichrist (2 The 2:7; Rev 17:7)

- *Anti-christ* means “to be against” Christ, but also “to be in place of” Christ
- The mystery of INIQUITY is the opposite and counterfeit of the mystery of GODLINESS (1 Tim 3:16); the BEAST is in contrast to the LAMB in Revelation (Rev 17:13-14)
- The mystery of iniquity has a partial fulfillment in the perpetual presence in the world of the SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST (2 The 2:7; 1 John 4:3) and periodic manifestation of many ANTICHRISTS (Matt 24:5,24; 1 John 2:18)
- The complete fulfillment of the mystery of iniquity is the manifestation of THE ANTICHRIST (1 John 2:18)
- The Bible speaks more about the Antichrist than any other individual except Jesus Christ

A. His REVELATION

1. RESTRAINED Until After The Rapture (2 The 2:6-7)
2. RESULTING From A Great Apostasy (2 The 2:3; Rev 17:3)

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B. His IDENTIFICATION

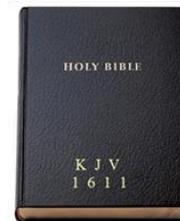
1. He is a MAN

- He is called a man (Rev 13:18)
- He is referred to as a king (Rev 17:10-11)
- He is referred to by personal pronouns (2 The 2:4,6,9; Rev 13:4-8; 17:11)
- He is “that man of sin” (2 The 2:3)- a man INFLUENCED by Satan (for 3 ½ years)
- He is “the son of perdition” (2 The 2:3)- a man INDWELT by Satan (for 3 ½ years)
cf. (John 17:12; 6:70; 13:10-11,27)

2. He is a MONSTER

- He is the seed of the serpent (Gen 3:15)
- He is “that Wicked” (2 The 2:8)
- He is “the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit” (Rev 11:7; 13:1-4,12,14; 17:7-8,11-13)
- He is the INCARNATION of Satan (Rev 12:3,9,17; 13:1-4,7; 17:3,8,11)

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C. His ADMINISTRATION

1. DECEPTION (2 The 2:9-11)

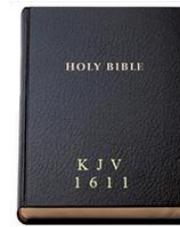
- a. Satanic power (2 The 2:9; Rev 13:2,4,12)
- b. Signs (2 The 2:9)
- c. Lying wonders (2 The 2:9)

- RISING from the dead (Rev 13: 3,12; 17:8)
- CALLING fire down from heaven (Rev 13:13)
- GIVING life to the image of the beast (Rev 13:14-15)

2. DESECRATION (Rev 13:6)

- a. By blaspheming God, heaven, and the inhabitants of heaven (Rev 13:6)
- b. By sitting on the mercy seat in the temple and DECLARING himself God (2 The 2:4)
- c. By erecting an image of himself and DEMANDING worship (Rev 13:14-15)

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3. DESOLATION

- a. Of the great WHORE (Rev 17:16)
- b. Of the WORLD (Isa 24:3,6)

4. DEATH (Rev 13:7,15)

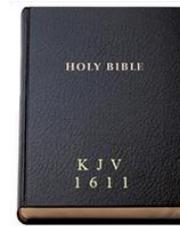
- a. Of the two witnesses (Rev 11:7)
- b. Of the 144,000 (Rev 7:4; 12:17; 14:1-4)
- c. Of the Tribulation saints (Rev 13:7,15; 6:9; 7:9,14; 20:4)
- d. Of at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the world's population (Rev 6:8; 9:15; Luke 17:34)

4. DAMNATION (2 The 2:12; Rev 6:8)

D. His DESTINATION

- 1. CONSUMPTION – by the spirit (word) of the Lord's mouth (2 The 2:8)
- 2. DESTRUCTION – by the brightness of the Lord's coming (2 The 2:8)
- 3. PERDITION – by the power of the Lord and his angels (Rev 17:8; 19:20)

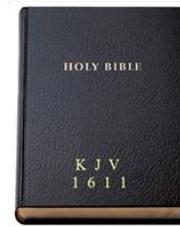
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- MYSTERY= “a sacred secret; that which is beyond human comprehension until explained; something wholly unknown; something that was concealed but is now revealed”
- The Bible definition of *mystery*, based on (Rom 16:25-26; Eph 3:3-5; Col 1:26), is as follows: “something that was kept secret, hidden, and not made known unto men in times past, but is now revealed and made manifest and known to the apostles, prophets, saints, and all nations by the Holy Spirit and the scriptures for the obedience of faith”
- The word appears 27x in the Bible (all in the NT)
- The first appearance is in Matthew 13:11
- There are at least 15 mysteries mentioned in the NT, of which seven will be covered in this lesson
- We are to be faithful stewards of mysteries of God (1 Cor 4:1-2)

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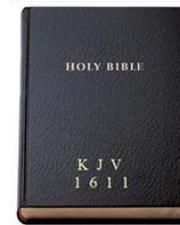


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The 15 Mysteries Mentioned In The New Testament

1. The mysteries of the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (Matt 13:11)
2. The mysteries of the KINGDOM OF GOD (Mark 4:11; Luke 8:10)
3. The mystery of the TEMPORARY PARTIAL BLINDNESS OF ISRAEL (Rom 11:25)
4. The mystery of the RAPTURE (1 Cor 15:51)
5. The mystery of the WILL OF GOD (Eph 1:9)
6. The mystery of the CHURCH AS THE BODY AND BRIDE OF CHRIST (Eph 3:3-6,9; 5:31-32; Rom 16:25-26)
7. The mystery of CHRIST (Eph 3:4; Col 4:3)
8. The mystery of the GOSPEL (Eph 6:19)
9. The mystery of the INDWELLING CHRIST (Col 1:26-27)
10. The mystery of GOD, AND OF THE FATHER, AND OF CHRIST (Col 2:2)
11. The mystery of INIQUITY; THE BEAST (2 The 2:7; Rev 17:7)
12. The mystery of the FAITH (1 Tim 3:9)
13. The mystery of GODLINESS (1 Tim 3:16)
14. The mystery of the SEVEN STARS (Rev 1:20)
15. The mystery of BABYLON THE GREAT (Rev 17:5)

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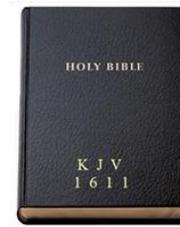


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The 7 Mysteries Covered In This Lesson

1. The mystery of the TEMPORARY PARTIAL BLINDNESS OF ISRAEL (Rom 11:25)
2. The mystery of the RAPTURE (1 Cor 15:51)
3. The mystery of the CHURCH AS THE BODY AND BRIDE OF CHRIST (Eph 3:3-6,9; 5:31-32; Rom 16:25-26)
4. The mystery of the INDWELLING CHRIST (Col 1:26-27)
5. The mystery of GODLINESS (1 Tim 3:16)
6. The mystery of INIQUITY; THE BEAST (2 The 2:7; Rev 17:7)
- 7. The mystery of BABYLON THE GREAT (Rev 17:5)**

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VII. BABYLON THE GREAT- The “Antichurch” (Rev 17:5,7)

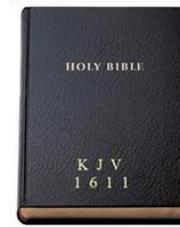
- The word BABYLON appears 294x- 282x in the OT and 12x in the NT
- The last six appearances are in *Revelation* (14:8; 16:19; 17:5; 18:2,10,21), and all refer to mystery Babylon rather than ancient Babylon
- The inscription on her forehead (17:5) consists of 13 words and 65 (5x13) letters

A. Her IDENTIFICATION

1. She is a CITY

- She is called THAT GREAT CITY (17:18) cf. (14:8; 18:10,16,19,21)
 - She is called THAT MIGHTY CITY (18:10)
- a. She is **not** ancient BABYLON rebuilt, although she is called Babylon (14:8; 16:19; 17:5; 18:2,10,21)
- We all know about the ancient city/state of Babylon located between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in what we know today as Iraq, so reading Rev 14:8; 16:19 before Rev 17, we would assume BABYLON means the ancient city/state unless told otherwise
 - We are told otherwise by the fact she is called a MYSTERY (i.e.- “something that was NOT KNOWN to men, but is now revealed”); there is nothing mysterious about a rebuilt city

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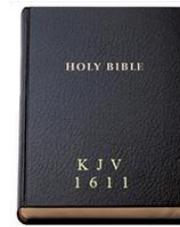
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- John knew about the ancient city of Babylon and still marveled at what he saw and needed a heavenly explanation as to who she was (17:6-7)
- Babylon is not the Empire that controls the world at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (Dan 2:34,40-44)
 - ✓ The last Gentile world empire is represented by the FEET AND TOES on the image, and they are made of IRON and clay (meaning they are a different form of the IRON empire- ROME) not GOLD and clay (gold was what the head was made of and the head represented Babylon)
 - ✓ The stone (Christ) smites the image on the FEET (i.e.- the revived ROMAN empire) not the head (i.e.- the Babylonian empire)

b. She is ROME

- She is a city that SITS ON (i.e.- controls; influences; directs) many WATERS (17:1), which is interpreted to be peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues (17:15); in other words, she is the capital of an empire or kingdom
- She is a city that SITS ON (i.e.- controls; influences; directs) seven MOUNTAINS (17:9) (Rome is called “the city of seven hills” because it is situated on seven hills: the Aventine, Caelian, Capitoline, Esquiline, Palatine, Quirinal, and Viminal)
- She is the city that ruled over the kings of the earth at the time *Revelation* was given (17:18)
- A different form of the old Roman Empire is what controls the world at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (Dan 2:34,40-44)

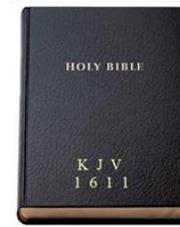
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- Rome also fits the following descriptions:
 - ✓ She is a merchant city (18:3,11-19)
 - ✓ She is a city where a large number of true Christians and Jews have lived (18:4)
 - ✓ She is called “the city of God” and “the eternal city” (18:7)
 - ✓ She is a city near a large body of water (18:17-19)
- She has to be more than just the CITY OF ROME because John was also well aware of Rome (Rome martyred all his fellow disciples and banished him to Patmos), and still marveled at what he saw and needed a heavenly explanation as to who she was (17:6-7)

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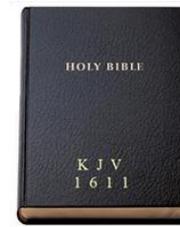


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2. She is a RELIGIOUS SYSTEM

- She is referred to as A/THE WOMAN 6x (17:3-4,6-7,9,18), THE (GREAT) WHORE 4x (17:1,15-16; 19:2), the MOTHER OF HARLOTS (17:5); and the personal feminine pronoun (“she”; “her”; “herself”) is used 50x (14:8; 16:19; 17:2,4-7,16; 18:3-10,15,18-20,24; 19:2-3)
 - In Bible symbolism, a (STRANGE) WOMAN, WHORE, or ADULTRESS represents SPIRITUAL INFIDELITY, FALSE RELIGION, and SIN (Pro 2:16; Jer 3:8-9; Eze 16:29-35; 23:8,17,45; Hos 2:2,5; Zec 5:7; Matt 13:33)
 - This symbol is personified in JEZEBEL (2:20-23; 2 Kin 9:22)
- a. She is a religious system that SITS ON (i.e.- controls; influences; directs) MANY WATERS (17:1), which is interpreted as peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues (17:15); in other words, she is a dominant WORLD RELIGION
 - b. She is a religious system that has used its influence over the people to receive riches from kings in exchange for her support and approval (17:2) cf. (18:3,9)
 - c. She is a religious system that has deceived and intoxicated the world with her doctrines and deeds into believing she is something that she is not (17:2) cf. (18:3,23)

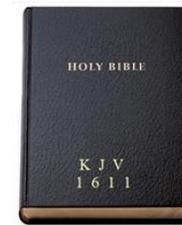
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- d. She is a religious system that SITS ON (i.e.- controls; influences; directs) A SCARLET COLORED BEAST, FULL OF NAMES OF BLASPHEMY, HAVING SEVEN HEADS AND 10 HORNS (17:3), which is interpreted as the Antichrist (17:8,11); in other words, she brings him to power and controls him for a time (e.g.- during the time of the Holy Roman Empire, the pope crowned a king to be emperor)
- e. She is a religious system associated with the colors PURPLE and SCARLET (17:4) cf. (18:16)
 - Purple and scarlet are the colors of ROME (Matt 27:28; John 19:2)
 - Purple symbolizes ROYALTY (Jud 8:26) and scarlet symbolizes SIN (Isa 1:18); together they symbolize a kingdom of sin (Amo 9:8) cf. (2 The 2:3)
- f. She is a religious system that has amassed untold wealth and ECONOMIC power (17:4) cf. (18:7,11-17)
- g. She is a religious system associated with a GOLDEN CUP (17:4) cf. (18:6; Jer 51:7)
- h. She is a religious system shrouded in MYSTERY (17:5)

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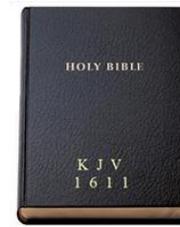
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- i. She is a religious system that has **KILLED** true Christians for their faith in Christ (17:6; 19:2)

- j. She is the religious system known for the past 1700 years as **ROMAN CATHOLICISM**



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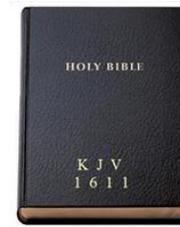
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- She is more than just the Roman Catholic Church because she pre-dates the origin of the Roman Catholic Church
 - ✓ The Roman Catholic Church originated in 313 AD when the Roman emperor Constantine issued the Edict of Milan, which ordered the end of Christian persecution and established his version of Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire
 - ✓ Just before the battle at Milvian Bridge against rival Maxentius, Constantine saw a vision of a cross (actually an Egyptian ankh) in the sky with the Latin inscription, *In Hoc Signo Vinces* (“In this sign, conquer)
 - ✓ He took this as a sign from the Christian God and made a deal that he was victorious in battle, he would become a Christian; he then had the “sign of the cross (ankh)” put on his soldiers’ uniforms and shields
 - ✓ Constantine was victorious and became a “Christian”, and immediately issued the Edict of Milan
- k. She is a religious system that SITS ON (i.e.- controls; influences; directs) SEVEN HEADS (17:9), which represent seven KINGS (of which six pre-date the Roman Catholic Church) (17:10) that have persecuted Israel throughout history cf. (12:3,13)

Note: From the aspect of a CITY, these heads represent MOUNTAINS, but from the aspect of a SYSTEM, these heads represent KINGS

- The five that are fallen: (1) the king of Egypt; (2) the king of Assyria; (3) the king of Babylon; (4) the king of Persia; (5) the king of Greece
- The one that is: (6) the king of Rome (i.e.- ruling at the time *Revelation* was given)
- The other yet to come and continue a short space: (7) the king of revived Rome
- The Antichrist is the EIGHTH KING but not an eighth head because he is the seventh
- Another thing these kings have in common is that they demanded worship as gods

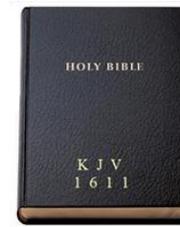
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- I. She is a religious system responsible for the blood of ALL (the servants of the Lord) that were slain upon the earth (17:6; 18:24; 19:2)
- The Lord Jesus Christ issues a similar accusation against THIS GENERATION stating they are responsible for ALL THE RIGHTEOUS BLOOD shed upon the earth (Matt 23:35) cf. (Luke 9:50)
 - ✓ He called THIS GENERATION a generation of VIPERS (Matt 23:33)
 - ✓ He was speaking to THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES who he characterized as: (1) those who believe in salvation by works; (2) those who wear special clothing to identify themselves as clergy; (3) those who demand special treatment for clergy; (4) those who demand clergy be addressed by special titles like “Rabbi” and “Father”; (5) those who refuse to get saved and hinder or prevent others from getting saved; (6) those who prey upon widows for money; (7) those who make long repetitious prayers to appear spiritual; (8) those who have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof (i.e.- hypocrites); (9) those guilty of killing the prophets of God and the righteous; (10) those who reject the word of God to keep their own tradition cf. (Matt 23: 2-32; Mark 7:9,13)
 - ✓ He included ABEL and ZECHARIAH as part of those whose righteous blood was shed (Gen 4:8-10; 2 Chr 24:20-21), but how could the scribes and Pharisees be guilty since they did not exist at those times?
 - ✓ Cain killed Abel (Gen 4:8-10; 1 John 3:12) and a band of conspirators killed Zechariah at the command of king Joash (2 Chr 24:20-21)- the motive for both murders was SPIRITUAL/RELIGIOUS in nature
- *Generation* = “a race; a FAMILY”
- THIS GENERATION refers to a SPIRITUAL family consisting of FATHERS (Matt 23:30) and CHILDREN (Matt 23:31) who all have the DEVIL as their father (John 8:44) because they are not saved
- Babylon the Great is the source of all FALSE RELIGIONS so she is ultimately responsible for all slain in the name of religion

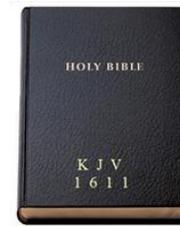
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- m. She is called Babylon the Great because Babel (Babylon) is where the system of false religion was INSTITUTIONALIZED under Nimrod (Gen 10:8-12; 11:1-9)
 - She is the MOTHER OF HARLOTS because she is the ultimate SOURCE of ALL false religions throughout history (i.e.- they can all trace their roots eventually back to Babel)
 - She is the MOTHER OF...ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH (i.e.- she is the source of ALL that is abominable to God, particularly IDOLATRY)
 - As part of this system, Nimrod introduced IDOLATRY to humanity (Isa 10:10) and a mystical priesthood
 - Nimrod was both the KING and HIGH PRIEST of Babel and this system, combining political and religious power thus creating the first “state church”
 - When the Lord confused the tongues at Babel and the people scattered abroad the face of the earth, they took this false religious system with them (Gen 11:8)
 - As time passed and distinct cultures developed, the foundation of this false religious system spawned variations among the nations
 - After the fall of both the Babylonian and Persian empires, the seat of the mystical Babylonian priesthood moved from Babylon to Pergamos (“Satan’s seat”- Rev 2:13)
 - When Attalus III, the king and high priest of Pergamos died in 133 BC, he bequeathed his kingdom and headship of the mystical Babylonian priesthood to the Roman Republic (a rising power at the time)

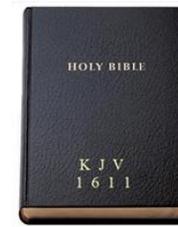
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- When the Etruscans migrated from Lydia to (Tuscany) Italy, they brought the Babylonian religion and rites with them
- Julius Caesar was made “Pontiff” of the Etruscan Order in 74 BC and “Supreme Pontiff” of the Babylonian Order in 63 BC
- All Roman emperors held this title until 376 AD when Gratian refused it and it passed to Damasus, the bishop of the Church of Rome, where it has been the title of popes ever since
- All POPES are referred to as “Supreme Pontiff” and their term of office/reign as a “pontificate”
- These facts of history link ancient Babylon to Rome as one religious/political system
- A man named John Doe is guilty of numerous crimes and decides to flee town before he gets identified, caught, and imprisoned. Before he leaves he makes sure those he has mentored can continue the crime wave in his absence. He flees to a town on the other side of the country and changes his name. He then proceeds to commit the same crimes in the new town. There may be two different names associated with crimes committed in two different places, but the source is still the same man.
- When Babylon was judged, this religious system moved and avoided detection by changing its name to ROME (first pagan Rome, but now papal Rome)
- It may have a different name in this different time, but Revelation 17:5,18 is clear that the religious system situated in the city of ROME (what we know today as the Vatican and Roman Catholic Church) is same system that originated in the city of BABYLON- she is appropriately named **“Babylon the Great”**

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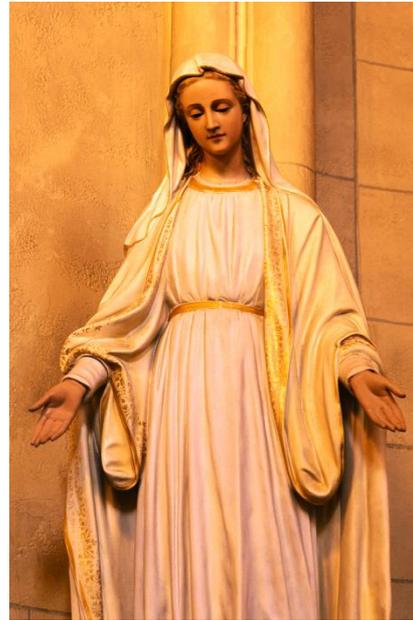
- Some of the rituals of Roman Catholicism that originated in ancient Babylon:



Vestal Virgins/Nuns



Special (black)
vestments for clergy



Idolatry/Worship of
the Queen of Heaven



Veneration of
Madonna and Child

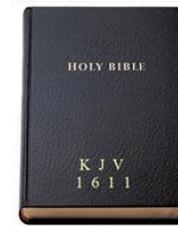


The Confessional



Rosary/Prayer
Beads

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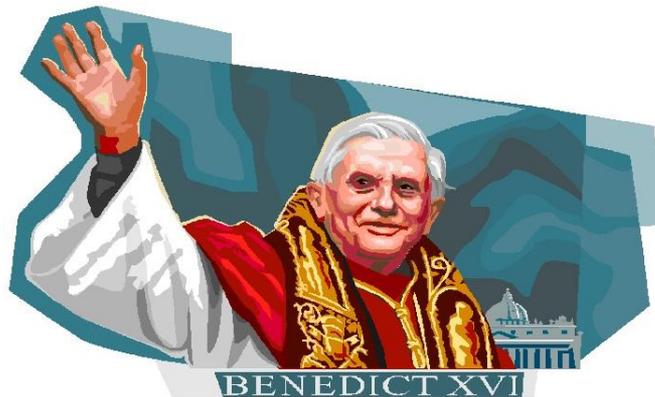


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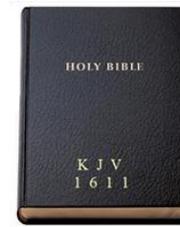
- The Vatican is located within the city of ROME and it is the headquarters of the Roman Catholic CHURCH and an independent STATE



- The POPE is not only the head of the “church” but also the head of “state”



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B. Her DESTRUCTION

1. In the MIDDLE of the Tribulation

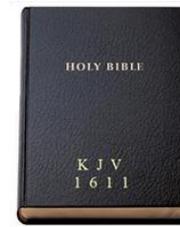
- The religious SYSTEM is destroyed (what we know today as the Roman Catholic Church)- Vatican City (17:16) cf. (14:8)
- She is destroyed by the 10 kings who receive power with the Antichrist in the second half of the Tribulation (17:16-17)
- She is destroyed so the Antichrist can be rid of her control and set up a global religion where he is the lone object of worship (17:16-17; 13:11-15)
- She is stripped of her riches and glory and burned by fire (17:16)

Note: the beasts of Revelation 13 and 17 both symbolize the Antichrist and his empire, just at different points of the Tribulation. Chapter 17 is the beginning of the Tribulation because the great whore is sitting upon the beast and the 10 horns are not crowned. Chapter 13 is the middle of the Tribulation because the great whore is no longer sitting upon the beast (she has been destroyed) and the 10 horns are crowned.

2. At the END of the Tribulation

- The political/commercial CITY is destroyed- Rome (18:1-24) cf. (16:19)
- She is destroyed by the Lord (18:8)
- She is destroyed to complete the judgment against the great whore and avenge the blood of the saints (19:2)
- She is destroyed by a great earthquake (16:18-19) and fire (18:8) immediately preceding the Second Coming of Christ (19:11-16)

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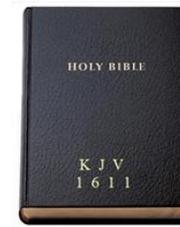


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Comparison/Contrast Of The Two “Cities” In Revelation

Babylon The Great (Rev 17)	New Jerusalem (Rev 21)
The great WHORE (17:1)	The BRIDE (21:9)
The BEAST’S wife (17:3)	The LAMB’S wife (21:9)
The beast comes from HER (17:3)	The bride comes from HEAVEN (21:2,10)
Arrayed in purple and scarlet (17:4)	Arrayed in fine linen, clean and white (19:8; 21:2)
Decked with GOLD, PRECIOUS STONES, and PEARLS (17:4)	Garnished with PRECIOUS STONES, with gates of PEARL, and a street of pure GOLD (21:18-21)
The mother of HARLOTS (17:5)	The mother of US ALL (Gal 4:26)
Consumes the saints (17:6; 18:24)	Consists of the saints (19:7-8)
A CITY called “that great city” (17:18; 18:10,16,19,21) (i.e.- ROME)	A CITY called “that great city” (21:10)
Rome is the SELF-PROCLAIMED “city of God”	New Jerusalem is the SCRIPTURAL “city of God”
A universal false “CHURCH” (17:5,15)	The universal true CHURCH (21:9) cf. (Eph 5:31-32)
The JUDGMENT of God (17:1; 18:8; 19:2)	The GLORY of God (21:11)

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