

"The False Church"

Part 1

Introduction: We are living in a time of great deception which is preparing for what is coming in the Tribulation.

Matthew 24:11

¹¹ *And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.*

There is much false teaching that is infiltrating many churches today and the sad thing is that most in the church are embracing the false teaching.

2 Peter 2:1-2

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

² *And many shall follow their pernicious(destructive) ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*

One of the major false doctrines that is being taught is Replacement Theology which says that the church has replaced the Nation of Israel. Within this teaching you will hear that we as believers are the true seed of Abraham and therefore all the promises made to Israel now belong to the church.

Galatians 3:6-7

⁶ *Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*

⁷ *Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.*

This is used to teach that believers are the True children of Abraham. But there are many problems with this. Let us notice one of the problems.

Genesis 15:13-14, 18

¹³ *And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;*

¹⁴ And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.

¹⁸ In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

When I read these verses, I understand that the seed of Abraham that would receive the promises of the Abrahamic Covenant were Abraham's biological descendants. I show you this to help you to see how Scripture gets twisted and unlearned believers can fall right into the false teaching.

There is yet something else that is happening today in which many people are being deceived. There is a false church that is being built rapidly. It is made up of people that can name the name of Jesus, but they do not know Him as their Savior. I believe that Jesus referenced this false church in the Sermon on the Mount.

Matthew 7:13-14

¹³ Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

¹⁴ Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Matthew 7:21-22

²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

Today we are going to start to look at Revelation 17 to see the part this false church will play in the Tribulation. One thing we need to understand is that the building of this false church is setting the stage for what is coming in the Tribulation.

➤ The Great Harlot in the Present Day

The first 2 verses in this chapter tell us about the false church in the world today.

Notice Revelation 17:1

Here we are introduced to a great whore who is sitting upon many waters. This is the false church of the Tribulation, but it is also something else.

Notice Revelation 17:18

This woman is also a great city. So how are we to understand this? The answer is she is a place and she is a system. A good example would be Wall Street. Wall Street is a place, and it is also an economic system. The same is true for this great whore. Why is this system called a great whore. A whore is someone who sells her body for personal gain. This false church is guilty of exchanging the Truth of the Bible in order to gain more people and prosperity.

Application:

We can see this so clearly today. The organizations such as Turning Point are not concerned with Biblical Truth but they are all about bringing well known people aboard and giving them a platform in order to draw more people in. This system is very ecumenical. As long as someone mentions the name of Jesus they are accepted regardless of their lifestyle.

Notice Revelation 17:1 again.

We are told that she is sitting upon many waters. What is this? The Bible tells us exactly what this is.

Notice Revelation 17:15

This tells us that the false church is made up of many different people groups. The fact that the whore is sitting upon the waters/people groups tells us they support her. This false church is very popular and very influential.

Notice Revelation 17:2

Here we see that the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her. This means that this false religion has suppressed the LIGHT which God has given and the kings and the elites have joined her. This false church has very low standards if any at all. Therefore, those who are part of this church can claim to worship God and also live in their sin to satisfy the flesh.

Matthew 7:22-23

²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works?

²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

The inhabitants of the earth also get drunk on the wine of her fornication. What does this mean? When someone is drunk the alcohol floods the blood stream and they are then controlled by the alcohol. The inhabitants of the earth are drunk with the ungodly lifestyle that the false church allows, and it is to the point that they are controlled by their sins. They are blind to the Truth and live only for the desires of the flesh. So, the point is that the influence of this false church is very powerful and has many people blinded to where they are headed.

➤ **The Great Harlot in the Tribulation**

Notice Revelation 17:3

Here in this verse the woman is riding upon the scarlet-colored beast. The beast here is the Anti-Christ and the fact that she is on him tells us that the Anti-Christ will support this false church in the first half of the Tribulation. The beast will support her, and he will use her in the first half of the Tribulation. It will be different at the midpoint as we shall see. The beast is full of names of blasphemy, and he has 7 heads and 10 horns. The 7 heads are 7 mountains, and the 10 horns are 10 kings as we shall see.

Notice Revelation 17:4

This verse speaks of the wealth of the false church. She will be rich in the wealth of this world, but she will be bankrupt in spiritual wealth. This woman has a cup in her hand and it is a cup full of abominations and this is what she feeds to those who are part of her false church. Let us notice what Jude said about false teachers who would be part of this false church.

Jude 1:12-13

¹² These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

¹³ Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

Jude says they are clouds without water therefore they have nothing to offer. They are carried about with winds which means they are unstable. They are wandering stars and stars were used in Jude's day for direction, but these people of the false church cannot guide anyone for they are spiritually lost.

Notice Revelation 17:5

This verse speaks of the origin of this false religion. It all started in Babylon.

Genesis 10:8-10

⁸ And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.

⁹ He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.

¹⁰ And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

Genesis 11:1-9

And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

² And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.

³ And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.

⁴ And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

⁵ And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

⁶ And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

⁷ Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

⁸ So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

⁹ Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

This is where the false worship began. This was the first attempt at a one world government and a one world religion. What happened at the Tower of Babel is a picture of what is going to happen in the Tribulation. There will be a one world ruler and a one world religion. That is what is pictured here in Revelation 17.

Let me share with you the words of David Levy;

"When God scattered the people at Babel it did not mean the demise of the Babylonian religious system. History records that Nimrod's wife Semiramis became the head priestess of an idolatrous system of the secret religious rituals known as Babylonian Mysteries. Babylon became the fountainhead of idolatry and the mother of every pagan system that spread across the world. Semiramis supposedly gave birth to a son named Tammuz, who was miraculously conceived by a sunbeam. He was presented to the people as a savior, in fulfillment of the promise made to Eve concerning her seed in Genesis 3:15. Tradition says that Tammuz was killed by a wild boar, but after the people fasted for 40 days, he was resurrected from the dead on the feast of Ishtar. This legend of a mother-son cult became part of the Babylonian Mystery ritual and was quickly included in other idolatrous religious practices worldwide. The mother-son cult was headed by a priesthood that promoted salvation by means of sprinkling holy water, ceremonial cleansing, and purgatorial cleansing after death. Semiramis established an order of virgins dedicated to religious prostitution. She became known and worshipped as the "queen of heaven."

This system polluted every nation at the Tower of Babel. This is why God used Abram to make a new nation. This system has existed in the world since Babel and will rise again in the Tribulation.

Conclusion:

We will pick this up next week. As we close, I need to remind you that this false church exists today and there are many people joining the ranks daily. Let us be very careful that we do not get pulled into the false teaching of this false church.

2 Timothy 4:1-4

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

² Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.

³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

⁴ And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.