Three Angels, One Message God's Everlasting Gospel



By Pastor and Author John T. Anderson

Welcome & Announcements







For God So Loved the World, that He Gave His Only Begotten Son, that Whosoever Believeth in Him Should Not Perish, but Have Everlasting Life.

For God Sent Not His Som Into the World to Condemn the World; But that the World Through Him Might Be Saved. John 3:16-17



"Babylon Has Fallen" Evangelistic Series Sermon Six





"Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."



What does "Babylon" mean?

What is meant by its being "fallen"?

What is "fallen" mentioned twice?

The "Seven Faces" of Babylon

1. The "Babylon" of the tower of Babel

2. The Babylon of Hammurabi

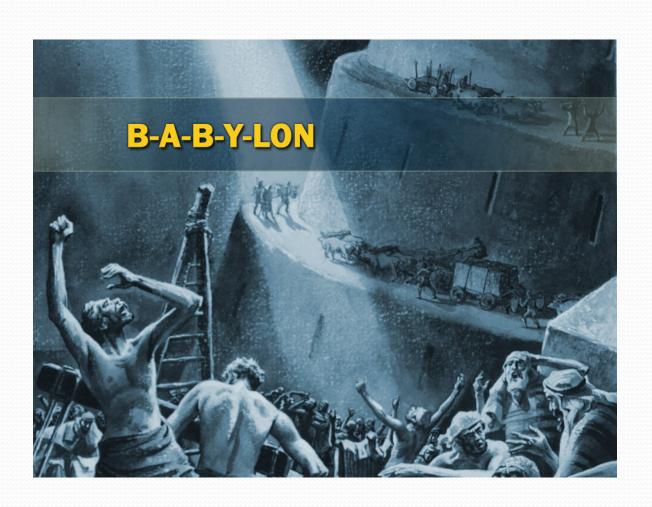


3. The Babylon of Nebuchadnezzar

- 4. The "Babylon" of Civil Rome
- 5. The "Babylon" of the Middle Ages
- 6. The "Babylon" of the last days
- 7. The "Babylon" of Babel



1. The Tower of Babel



"Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. 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.



"Then they said to one another,
'Come, let us make bricks and bake
them thoroughly.' They had brick
for stone, and they had asphalt for
mortar.

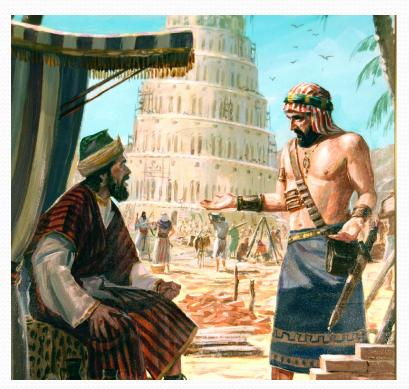


"And they said, 'Come let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." **Genesis** 11:1-4

"And the beginning of his Nimrod's) kingdom was Babel." Genesis 10:10



The "Babylon" of Babel stood for unbelief, defiance and salvation by works. It resulted in confusion.



The name "Babel" meant literally, "gate of the gods."



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tower_of_Babel

Who does the Bible present as the "Door," the "Mediator," the "Ladder" of Jacob's dream that links earth and heaven?

Jesus!

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 14:16



This blasphemous and boastful claim to take the position occupied only by our Savior Jesus is a brick in the foundation of biblical Babylon.

The ancient priests of Babylon promoted themselves as being the connecting link between earth and heaven. They were the "bridge" across the chasm separating the visible from the invisible.

They chose the title "bridgemaker" in view of their supposed role. Later this concept migrated from Babylon to the emperors of ancient Rome and then filtered into the Church of Rome.

Today the head of the Catholic Church is called the "Pontiff," which is an abbreviation of the title "Pontifex" (from pont, "bridge" and fex, "to build") Maximus ("the greatest")

meaning "the greatest bridge builder." How absurd! Jesus is the Bridge! He is the Ladder! He is the Gate to heaven.





The Bible makes it clear that all attempts to learn the secrets of the future by way of astrology, the séance or divination are futile and dangerous, and therefore off-limits to the child of God.







What's the only "palm-reading" the Christian should engage in? Contemplating the scars of sacrifice in the palms of Christ's hands!

"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."

Deuteronomy 29:29



Defiant obstinacy, unbelief, salvation by works, blasphemous claims to divine wisdom and confusion: these are the components of the "Babylon" of Genesis 11.

2. The Babylon of Hammurabi



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Hammurabi



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Code_of_Hammurabi

Similarities between this Babylon and God's Kingdom: A law that was the foundation of its government A law written in stone

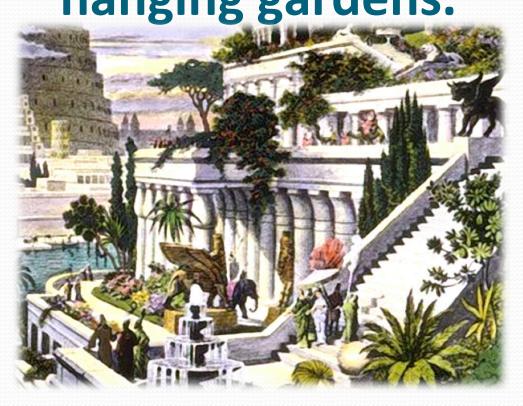


http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Code of Hammurabi



Dissimilarities: Hammurabi's law was similar to the laws given by God to Israel, but not exactly the same Hammurabi's law was chiseled by man; God's law was written by the finger of Jehovah

3. The Babylon of Nebuchadnezzar Babylon was a paradise with its "hanging gardens."

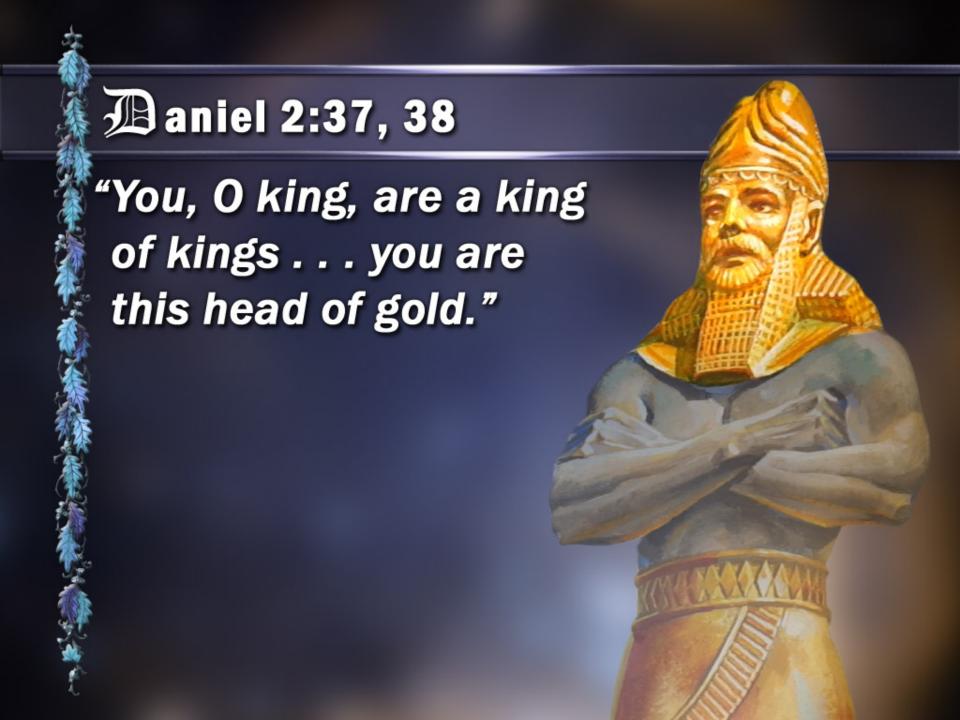


It was a city of gold.

"Take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say: 'How the oppressor has ceased, the golden city ceased!"

Isaiah 14:4



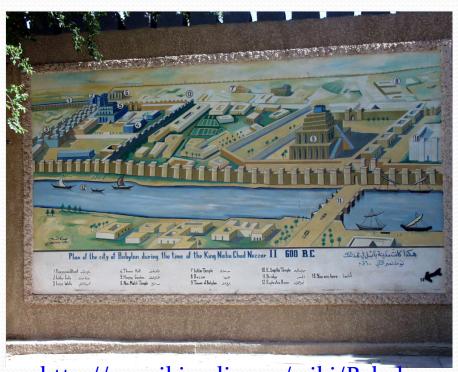


Babylon thought herself invincible, an "eternal city."

Isaiah 47:7



The city was laid out roughly in shape of a square, with a river running through it.



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylon

Think of it! An eternal, golden city built "foursquare" with a river running through it, a city of "paradise."

Does this remind you of anything?

Ancient Babylon was Satan's counterfeit for the New Jerusalem! The Bible is the book that is truly the "Tale of Two Cities"!







Babylon's story is the story of pride (Daniel 4) and oppression.

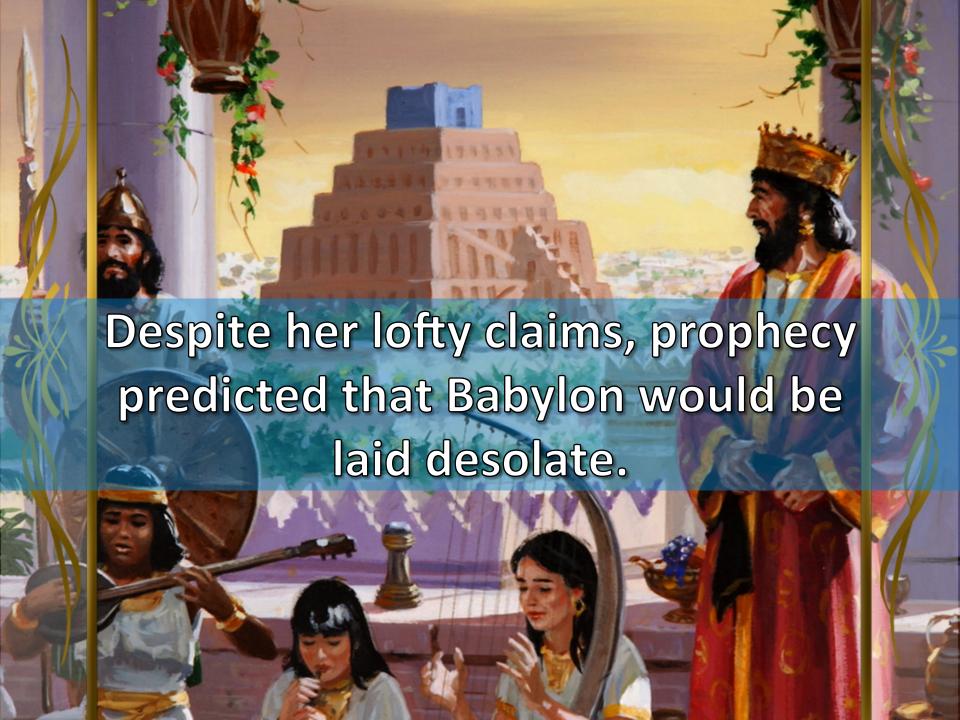
"You were glad, you rejoiced, you destroyers of My heritage."

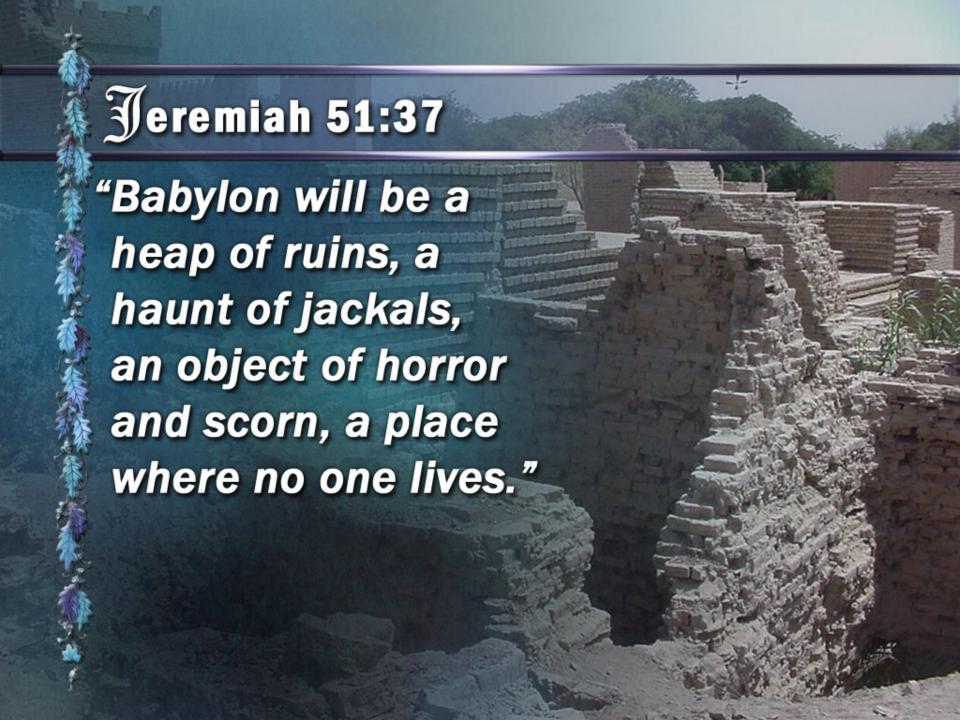
Jeremiah 50:11

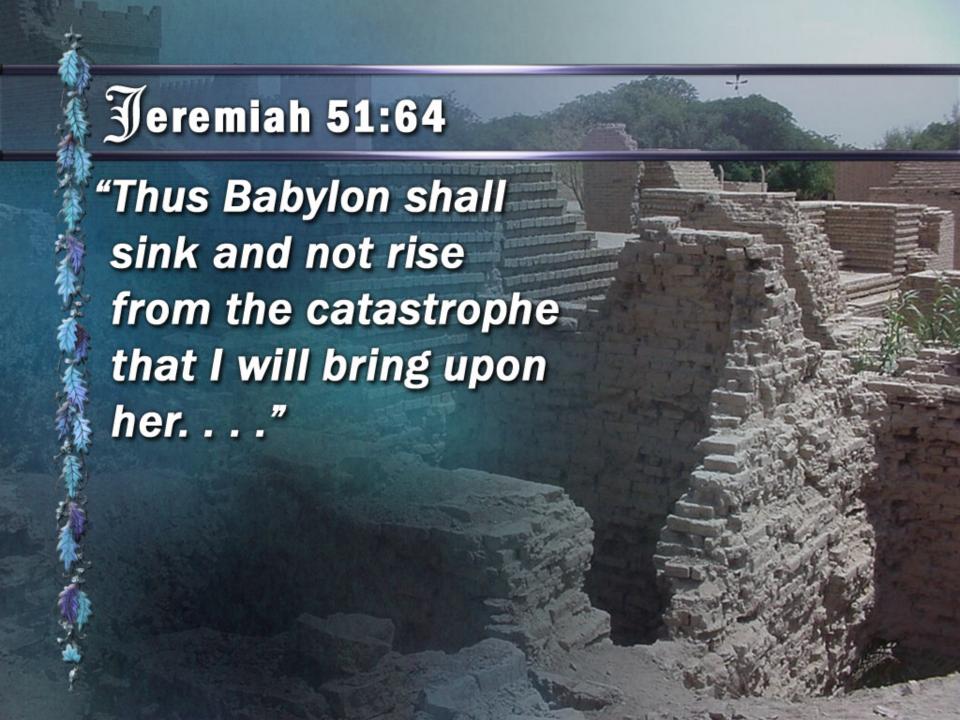


"The children of Israel were oppressed, along with the children of Judah; all who took them captive have held them fast; they have refused to let them go." Jeremiah 23:33





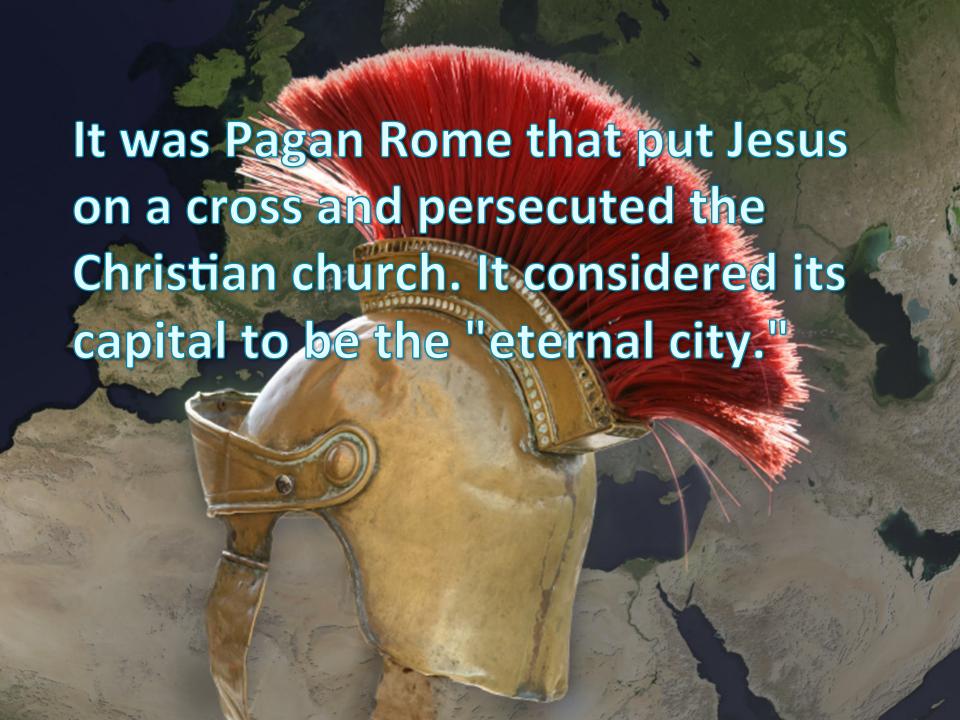




For her pride, her arrogance, her cruelty, her attempt to take the place of God and to become "God;" for all of these things, ancient Babylon became the template for apocalyptic Babylon.

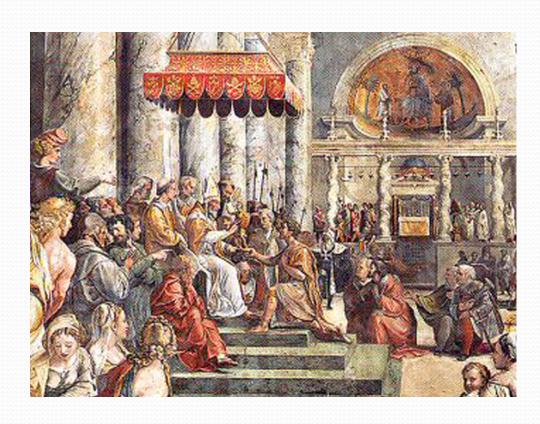
4. The "Babylon" of Civil Rome

The fourth "Babylon" is the city to which Peter referred when he closed his first epistle with the words, "She who is in Babylon, elect together with, greets you." I Peter 5:13



5. The "Babylon" of the Middle Ages





During the long centuries of the Middle Ages, God's people suffered greatly. Some estimate that as many as between 50 and 100 million martyrs shed their

blood for their faith.

The system of the papacy fits all the prophetic specifications given in Revelation 13 and 17 as representing "Babylon."

While the papacy is certainly part of the structure of the "Babylon" of Revelation 17 and 18, this "Babylon" is seen to be composed of 3 parts which all share in common the characteristic of apostasy against God, His kingdom and His law.

6. The "Babylon" of the last days

The "last" Babylon is made up of:

- The "beast" (the system of the papacy),
- The "false prophet" (fallen Protestantism)
- "The dragon" (spiritualism).

It is the epitome of all the characteristics of apostasy seen in those who rebel against God, including persecuting God's faithful and arrogant defiance against God's Word.

Revelation 14:8 says, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen."

What does this mean?

Why is the phrase "is fallen" mentioned twice?

The tower of Babel "fell" and came to naught. Hammurabi's kingdom is no more, nor is the Babylon of Nebuchadnezzar. The glory of ancient Rome has faded.

All these literal "Babylons" suffered a physical "fall." Compare Gibbon's The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire.

The Church of the Middle Ages likewise suffered a "fall" from her lofty position.



"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!" Isaiah 14:4, 12





In analyzing Satan's fall the Bible says, "For you have said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven...I will be like the Most High."

Isaiah 14:13, 14



Solomon put his finger on Lucifer's problem when he penned, "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

Proverbs 16:18



He began as the "covering cherub" but made himself into God's archenemy. He started as the "bearer of light," but made himself into the prince of darkness.



His mysterious fall from glory became the template for later similar falls. We speak of the failure of Adam and Eve in the Garden as the "Fall."

I Timothy 2:14



David lamented King Saul's tragic ending with the sorrowful words, "The beauty of Israel is slain on your high places! How the mighty have fallen!"

II Samuel 1:19



A glorious beginning followed by a shameful decline is a story that has been told all too often in Scripture and history.

Lest we become haughty and highminded, let us recognize that it is only through the grace and mercy of Christ that this not be our story. "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." I Corinthians 10:12

"Babylon is fallen, is fallen! And all the carved images of her gods He has broken to the ground."

Isaiah 21:9



"Shout against her all around; her foundations have fallen, her walls are thrown down."

Jeremiah 50:15



"Babylon has suddenly fallen and been destroyed. Wail for her!"

Jeremiah 51:8



Paul predicted that the Christian church, toward the establishment of which he gave his life, would experience a fall.

"Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first."

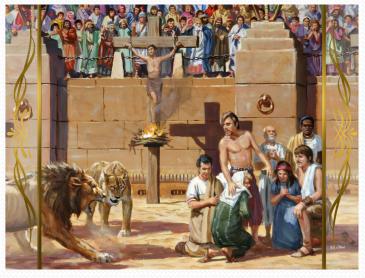
II Thessalonians 2:3



The church that began as the cradle of Christ's truth ended up banning the Bible and punishing those who would own, read or

follow its precepts.

How could this happen?



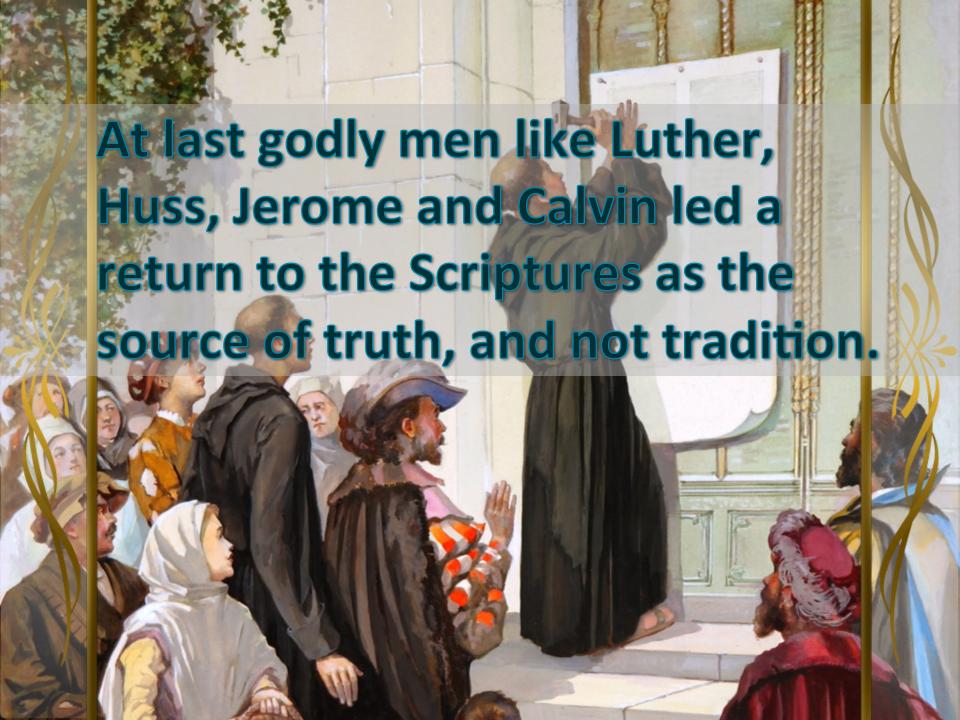
The first "fall" of the second angel refers to the incredible fall of the Church of the first century, a church clothed in purity and

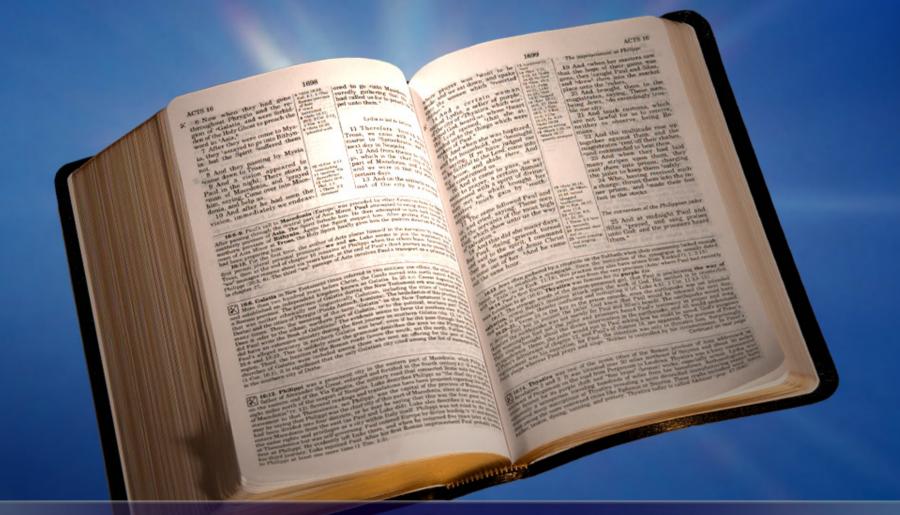
holiness,

to the depths into which she descended centuries later, with her garments stained with the blood of martyrs, "teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

Matthew 15:9







The light of truth would penetrate the darkness.







What happened to the glorious Protestant Reformation?

What happened to ancient Israel?

"So the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua,

"who had seen all the great works of the LORD which He had done for Israel. When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.

"Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals."

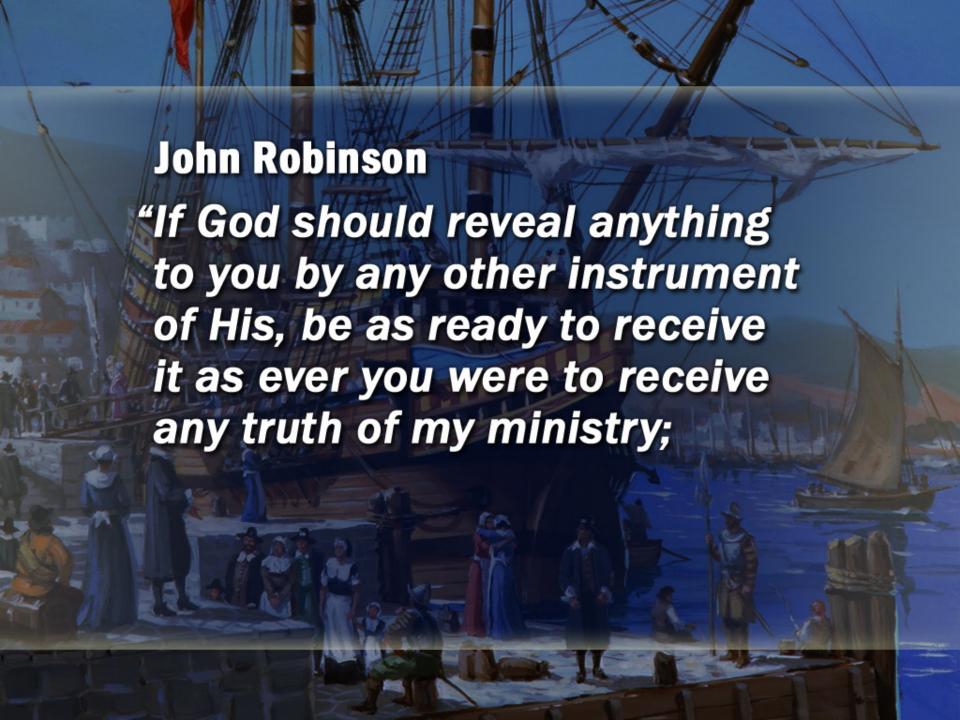
Judges 2:7, 10, 11

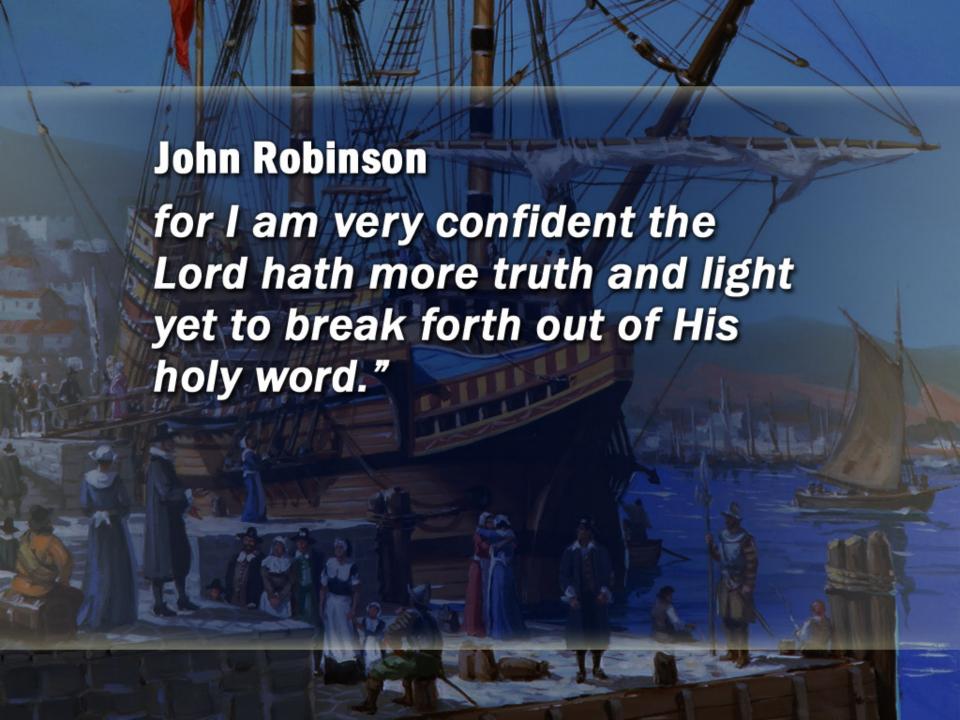


When the leaders of the various Protestant movements passed to their rest, the movements themselves refused to go any further to search out and apply

more of God's truths.





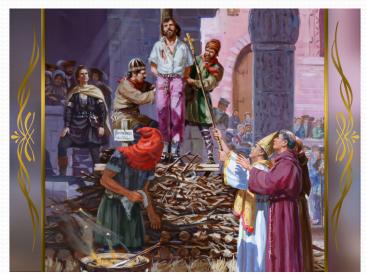


Centuries ago, there was a reason why the followers of the Reformers were called "Protestants." They were "protesting" the abuses and unscriptural teachings of Rome.

Is the word "Protestant" out of date today?

The first "fall of Babylon" refers to the falling away of the church founded by Christ and the apostles, representing the papacy of the Middle Ages.





The second "fall of Babylon" refers to the decline of the Protestant Reformation, which began in such glory but eroded into traditionalism and formalism.

Still, we recognize that God has many of His children within the walls of Babylon. Many there are who have not yet heard the truths of the Scripture proclaimed with certainty and conviction. The Lord is calling "His people" out of Babylon.

7. The "Babylon" of Babel

There is a still greater fall of Babylon yet to come.

"Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

Revelation 14:8

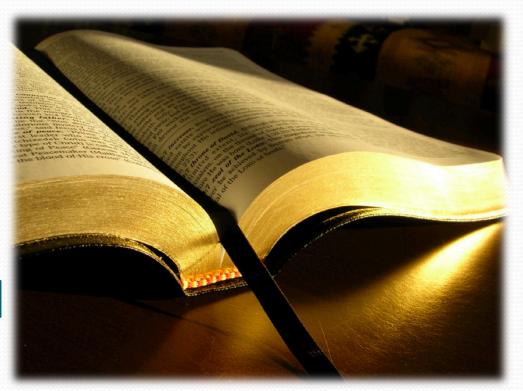
What is the "wine" of Babylon?



It is her false teachings which intoxicate, create dependency, confuse and people to "stumble."

"6Then Jesus said to them, 'Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.' 12 Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees." Matthew 16:6, 12

At the root of **Babylon's** doctrine is the teaching that the Church and its traditions



wield the highest authority, higher than the Word of God.

The Church of Rome has made it plain that she feels superior to the Scriptures and placed herself in the position of having authority to interpret, tamper, change or delete those things in the Bible with which she disagrees, even the Ten Commandments written by God's own finger in stone.

The Lord said, "Therefore I have hewn them (His people) by the prophets."

Hosea 6:5

It is the teachings of God, given through the prophets which have carved and chiseled the church.

What is it that Paul says is "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"? Il Timothy 3:15, 16



Was he speaking of tradition?

Of church authority?

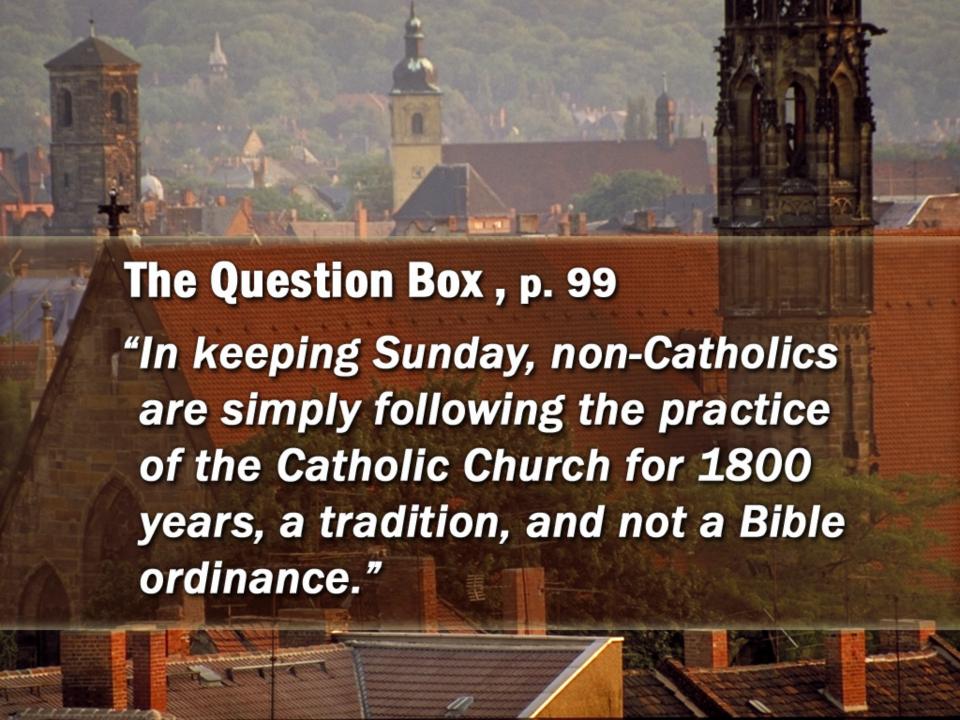
No! He was referring to "the Holy Scriptures," which he said were "given by inspiration of God," or "God-breathed."

"In vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

Matthew 15:9







The Baptist Manual, Nov. 13, 1893

Dr. Edward T. Hiscox,

Ministry Convention

"What a pity that it [Sunday] comes branded with the mark of paganism, and christened with the name of the sun god,

The Baptist Manual, Nov. 13, 1893

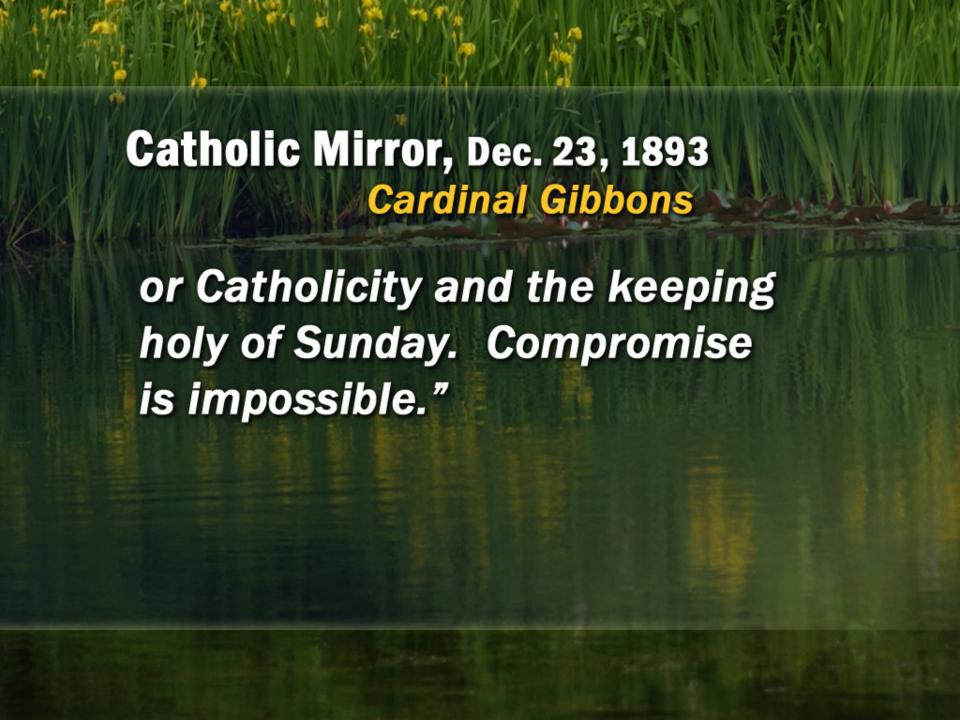
Dr. Edward T. Hiscox,

Ministry Convention

then adopted and sanctioned by the papal apostasy, and bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism!"

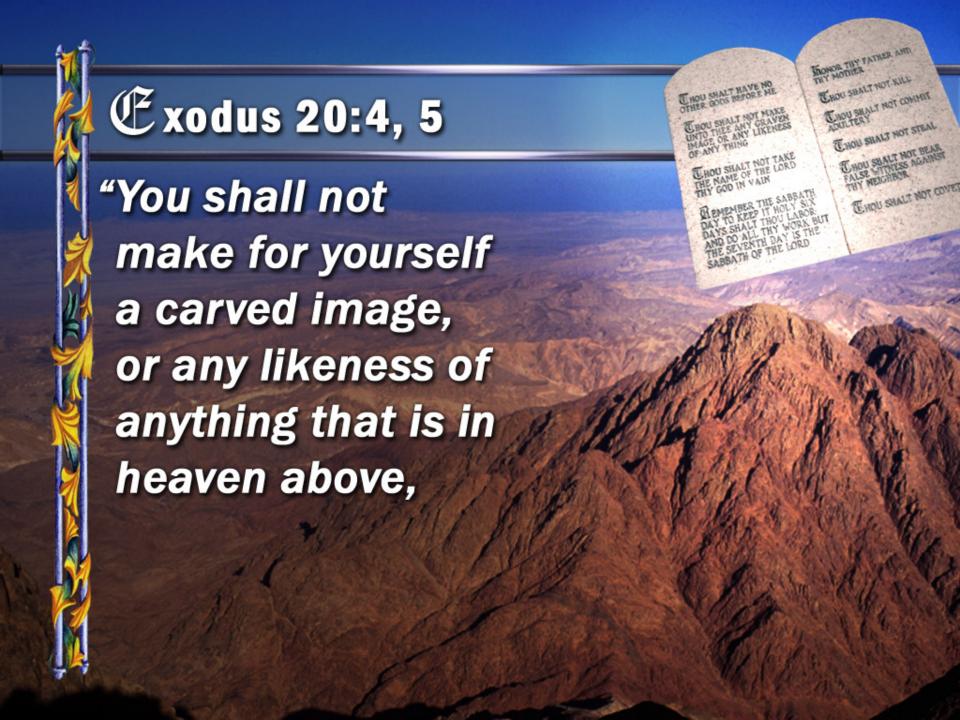
Catholic Mirror, Dec. 23, 1893 Cardinal Gibbons

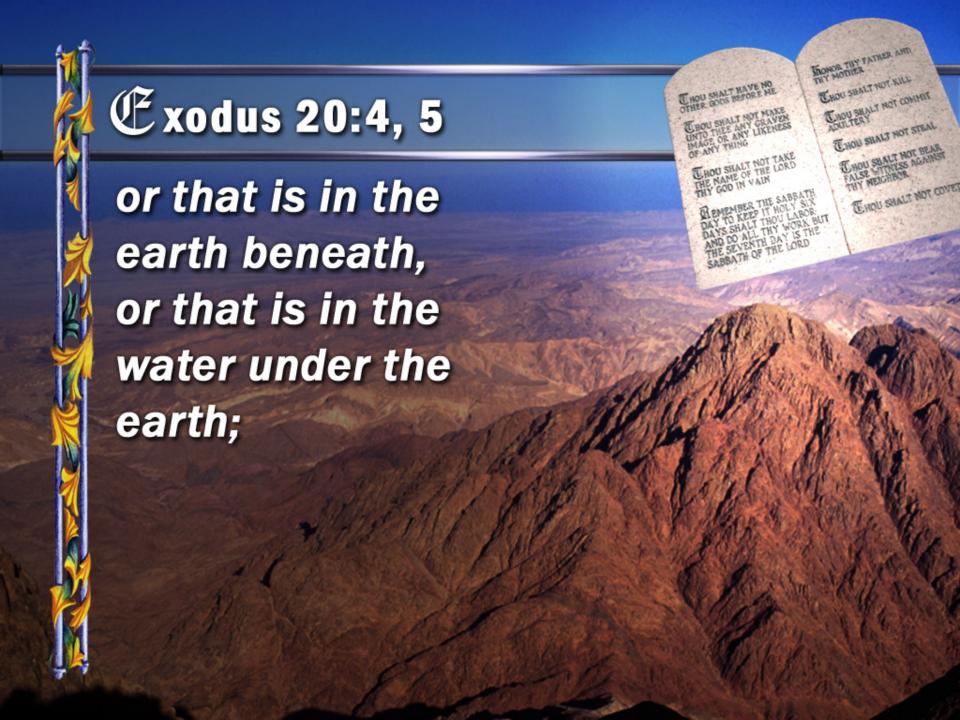
"Reason and sense demand the acceptance of one or the other of these alternatives: either Protestantism and the keeping holy of Saturday,

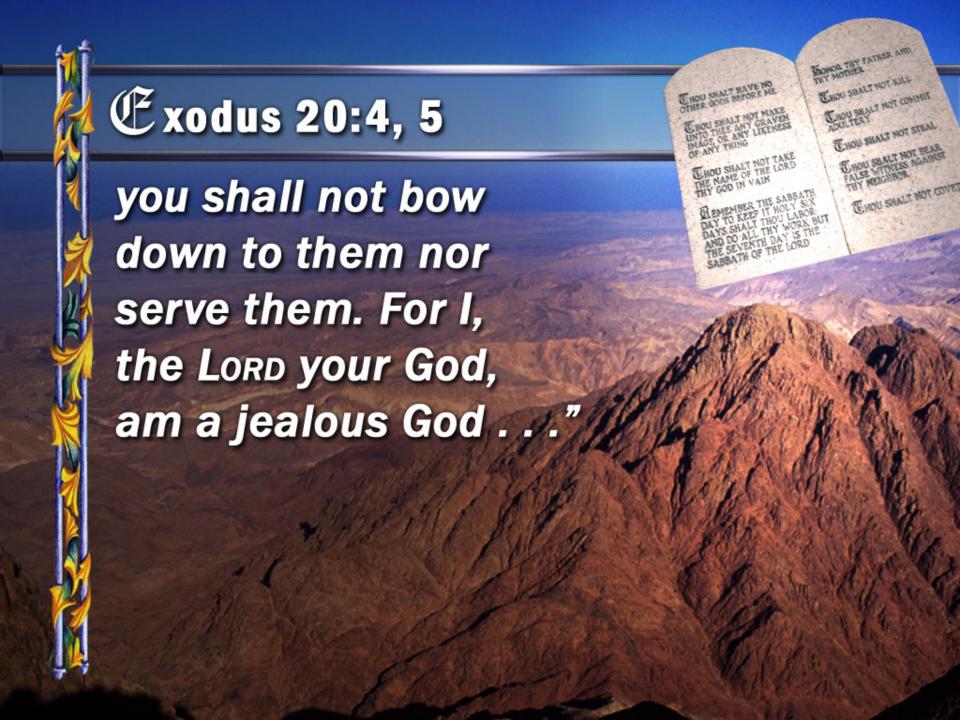




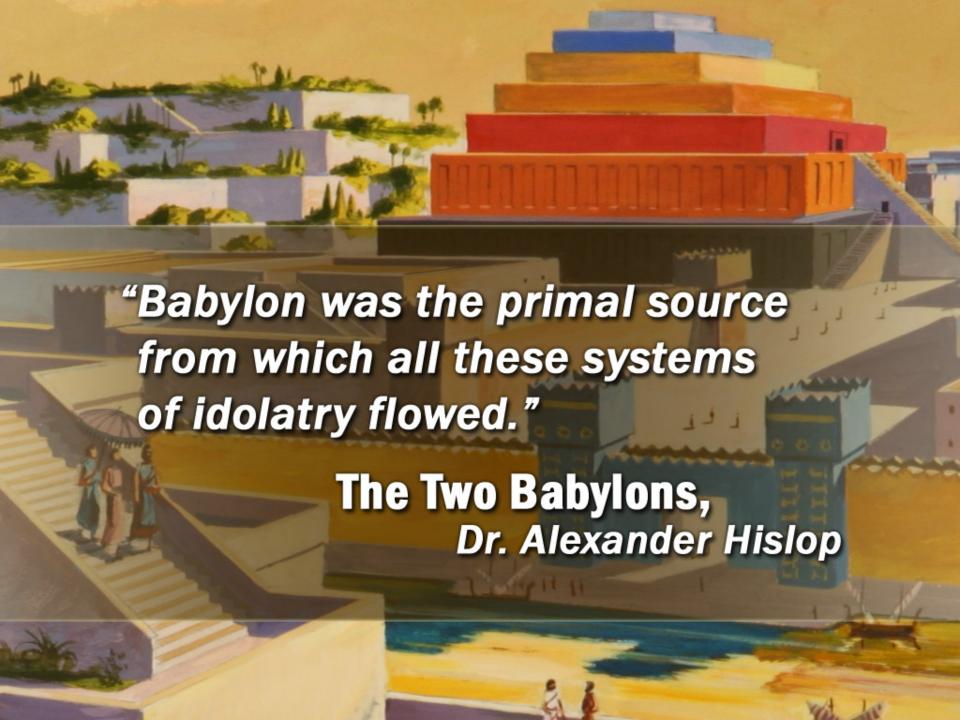
Babylon:
A center of image worship









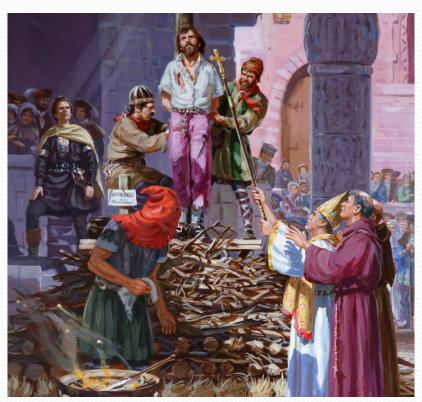




The Bible teaches there is only One Mediator, Jesus Christ.



During the Middle Ages, those who refused to accept Babylon's doctrines suffered her "wrath."



Prophecy predicts a revival of religious intolerance and persecution before Jesus returns.

The Bible says she "made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

Revelation 6:8

The word "fornication" describes an illicit union. In this case it is the unholy alliance of church supported by the state, the same dangerous combination that produced the atrocities of the Middle Ages.

Some might consider this unthinkable, but the prophecy is clear. Remember, it was the "church" (Jewish leaders) which twisted the arm of the "state" (Pilate, the Roman governor) which led to Jesus' crucifixion.

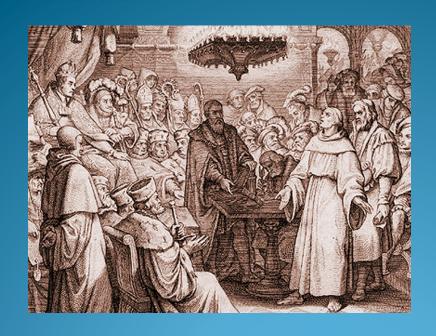
"None of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."

I Corinthians 2:8



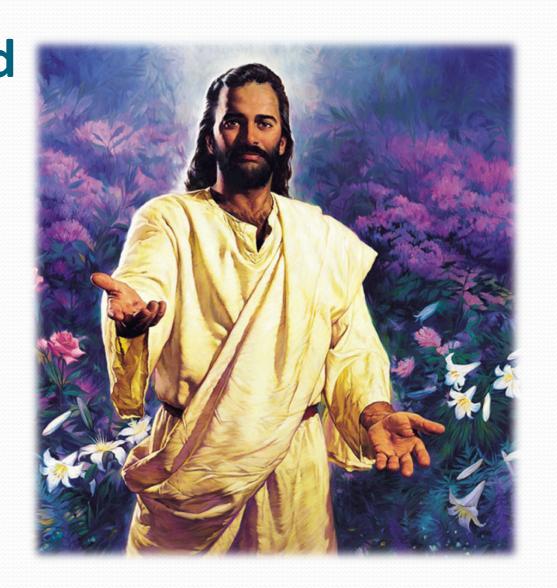
"The time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service."

John 16:2

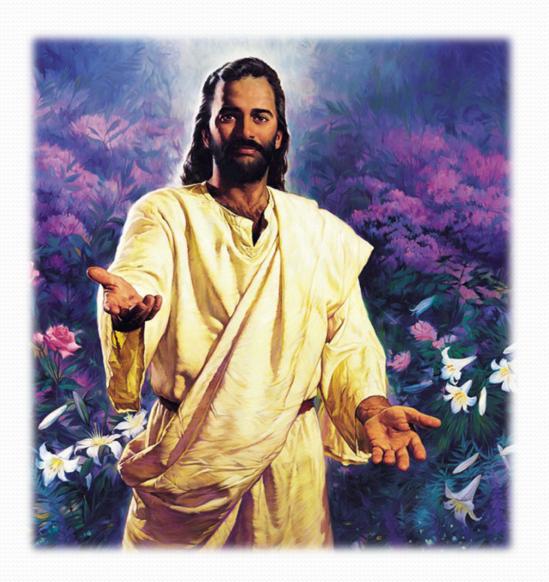


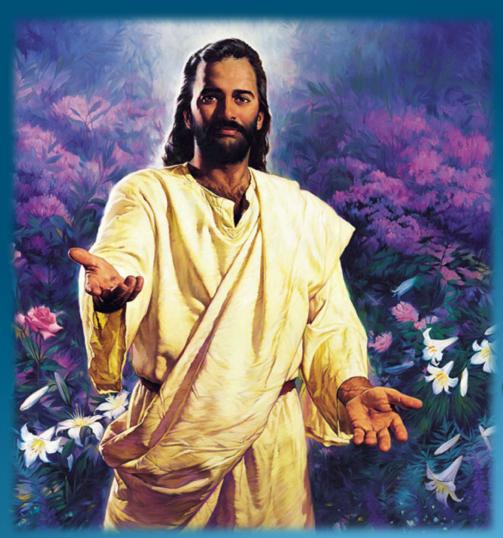


God has loved us with an everlasting love! He deserves our worship and our allegiance.



What should you do if you find yourself in spiritual "Babylon"?





"Come out of her, My people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues." Revelation 18:4

Topic For Sunday, Sept, 30 at 7pm

"The 'Beast' of the Third Angel's Message" Evangelistic Series Sermon Seven



