

Bereans Bible Institute

Module XI – Revelation

Lesson 39 – Revelation 17 Introduction to Mystery Babylon

I. Rev. 17-18 is a detailed expansion on the statement in Rev. 14:8 – “*Fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great! She has made all nations drink from the wine of her fornication.*”

A. This statement was made to coincide with the mid-point of Daniel’s 70th week, when Antichrist arises to power and is worshipped.

1. Just before this repentance is still allowed during the 1st 3.5 years (Rev. 14:6-7).

2. Next “*Fallen, fallen, **IS** Babylon the Great*” (Rev. 14:8)

3. Next, the 3.5 years of worship of the Beast occurs (Rev. 14:9-11).

4. This timing confirmed later in Rev. 17.

B. Description of “Mystery Babylon” uses many symbols from Old Testament prophecy. Understanding those prophecies in their historical setting and fulfillment is necessary to understand these symbols.

1. The “great prostitute” fornicated with the kings of all nations (Rev. 14:8)

2. “Fornication” & “prostitution” are consistent metaphors in Scripture for worship of idols & gods other than the one true God and His Son.

a. Fornication and prostitution of God’s covenant people under the Old Covenant, whom God temporarily divorced. The result was the total destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple, then 70 years of exile (Ezek. 16:1-63; Ezek. 20:27-44; Ezek. 23:1-49).

b. Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylon seduced Jerusalem, but God destroyed her by Cyrus the Medo-Persian (Jer. 51:1-9).