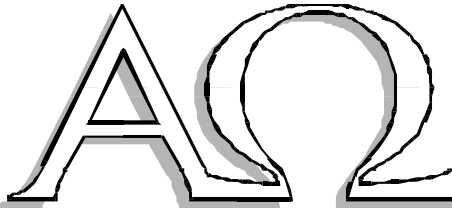


Creation Revelation



God is in the details

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Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one
of thy righteous judgments endureth forever.

Psalm 119:160

SEMIRAMIS, QUEEN OF BABYLON

{The Last Days Mystery Religion}
Part 1

The Trend Toward Apostasy

There are numerous Scriptures in the Bible that show that the Church will trend toward apostasy in the last days. However, the postmillennialist's view is that the Church will grow progressively better until finally all are saved.¹ However, this is not what the Bible says, as you will notice in the following:

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that **in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.** ¹ Timothy 4:1-3

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; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.** ² Timothy 4:3, 4

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.** And **many shall follow their pernicious ways;** by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. ² Peter 2:1, 2

These verses do not sound as if the condition of the world is to steadily improve until all are saved. In fact, we will see that the world's religious systems will culminate into one final end time religion, especially after the Rapture when the restraining power of the Holy Spirit indwelling born-again believers will be removed (² Thessalonians 2:7). What we see happening in the

“Absolute apostasy, or total departure from the faith, is held in check in the present age by the true Church, the body of Christ, and the restraining power of the Holy Spirit. However, even the true Church can be corrupted to a degree by these doctrinal and moral problems. At the Rapture, much of what restrains evil now will be removed and apostasy will take its final form.”

John Walvoord, *The Final Drama*

Church today is theological apostasy, where modern Bibles have removed the power of the Scriptures, the deity of Christ has been challenged, the literal interpretation of Scripture has been reduced to allegory in this morally challenging age, and from the pulpit we receive only seeker sensitive, non-confrontational, sin avoiding messages of love and self help.² If the Bible can be made to say anything that you believe, then that same theological apostasy will lead to moral apostasy.³ That is what we do see happening today. According to John Walvoord:

“Absolute apostasy, or total departure from the faith, is held in check in the present age by the true Church, the body of Christ, and the restraining power of the Holy Spirit. However, even the true Church can be corrupted to a degree by these doctrinal and moral problems. At the Rapture, much of what restrains evil now will be removed and apostasy will take its final form.”⁴

What does the Bible say about the final apostasy?

The Last Days Babylonian Mystery Religion

The last day's world religion is seen in Revelation chapter 17. In this issue and the next we will

attempt to define and identify this religion. This final religion will be based on the worship of the world ruler and Satan.⁵ The final religion is represented in the book of Revelation as a woman, a great whore.

And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the **great whore** that sitteth upon many **waters**: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her **fornication**. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and **I saw a woman** sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.... And he saith unto me, **The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues**. Revelation 17:1-3, 15

To help identify this final religious system we will look at two other women who play prominent roles representing religious ideas. Just as the Church has a trend towards apostasy, we also see that Israel played the harlot and went after false religion (“stones and stocks”). Israel is the first of the women that represent a religious idea.⁶

The LORD said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen that which **backsliding Israel** hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath **played the harlot**. And I said after she had done all these things, Turn thou unto me. But she returned not. And **her treacherous sister Judah** saw it. And I saw, when for all the causes whereby **backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away**, and given her a bill of divorce; yet **her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also**. And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that **she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks**. Jeremiah 3:6-9

Even though the Church will trend toward apostasy, there are those, the true saved Church, known as the Bride of Christ, which will walk in the kingdom of Christ. Therefore, the Bride of Christ is the other woman representing a religious idea.⁷

And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee **the bride, the Lamb's wife**. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, **the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven** from God.... And **the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it**: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.... And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but **they which are written in the Lamb's book of life**. Revelation 21:9, 10, 24, 27

The Harlot of Revelation 17, a woman, represents false religion. Israel played the harlot as we saw in Jeremiah chapter 3. "Waters" of Revelation 17 refers to peoples, nations, races and languages. This illustrates that the harlot has such influence over masses of people that she has been able to control entire nations. We could be speaking of religious systems such as Secular Humanism, apostate Christianity (including Papal Rome), or both? The woman therefore represents a spiritual or religious witness.⁸

When we speak of the Bride of Christ we see that the woman is also a symbol representing the Church. This reinforces the interpretation of the woman representing a spiritual or religious witness. Therefore,

the symbol for the end-time "church" is a woman. The true religious woman (the Bride of Christ) in Revelation 21:9-27 represents a spiritual religious notion, a church assembly, and many saved people. Therefore, the false religious woman of Revelation 17 represents a religious movement.⁹

Before we learn the identity of the harlot, we need to reflect on the origin and spread of false religion. Satan opened the door when he enticed Eve to consider disobeying God's command to refrain from eating the forbidden fruit. Satan presented a false religious concept that twisted and changed God's Word and appealed to Eve's lustful desires to be like God. This is the beginning of false religion, and all false religions follow this pattern. This false religion says that man can do it himself without faith in God.

Next, we see that Cain applied these same principles when he engaged in his own false religious practice of bringing the fruit of his own labor to the altar of God. His was a purely humanistic, man centered, effort. He approached God on human terms, rather than bringing an offering by faith.

We next encounter Nimrod at Babel, defying God, with a humanistic man-centered worship in the building of the Tower. He also desired to glorify himself, to become like God. We see this expressed in the statement, "... and let us make us a name."

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. Genesis 11:4

Mystery

Revelation 17 speaks of a mystery religion. The Greek word *mysterion* (English – mystery) refers to a mystery of divine nature that remains hidden from human beings because their normal powers of comprehension are insufficient. "Mystery" refers to, "secret teachings, religious and political in nature, concealed within many strange customs and ceremonies." Modern examples would be *Freemasonry* and such other secret societies like *Skull and Bones* for the power-elite. The mysteries are for humans and are said to be profitable in the following ways: They heal people's afflictions, provide success in their life endeavors, and assure them of blessed immortality. In search of the final religion, we are looking for a religious system with secret teachings denied to the masses, but reserved for an inner circle of priests or religious leaders.¹⁰

The New Testament meaning of *mysterion* refers to the secret thoughts, plans, and dispensations of God. Even though they are hidden from human

reason, they are being disclosed by God's revealing act to those for whom such knowledge is intended, born-again believers.¹¹

Mystery Religion

Mystery religions, as contrasted with public state religions, were secret religious cults that flourished during the Greco-Roman period. They involved worship of deities from Greece, Anatolia, Egypt, Persia, and Syria. Common elements of these religions include sharing of a sacred meal among those initiated and secret ceremonies involving enactments of death and rebirth.¹²

- **Eleusinian Mysteries (Greek).**

A fertility cult involving Demeter, the "Grain Mother", and Kore, the "Maiden" in a death (rape of Kore by Hades) and resurrection to a better life experience.

- **Andanian Mysteries (Greek).**

Involved several deities: Demeter, Hermes, Apollo Karneios, Hagna (possibly Kore), among others.

- **Mysteries of Dionysos, or Bacchos (Greek).**

Dionysos was the Greek God of fertility, animal maleness, wine, drama, and ecstasy. This mystery involved phallic worship, bestiality, sexual irregularities, and gluttony.

- **Mysteries of the Great Mother and Attis (Middle Eastern, became popular in the Roman world).**

Mystery of the Great Mother (Magna Mater) and her young lover Attis.

One ritual involved a person descending into a pit, being drenched in the blood of a slain bull, signifying being "reborn for eternity".

- **Mysteries of Isis and Osiris (Middle Eastern, became popular in the Roman world).**

A mystery of darkness, death, and rebirth.

- **Mysteries of Mithras (Middle Eastern, became popular in the Roman world).**

Supposedly had Persian origins.

Involved meals for initiates, who took bread and a cup of water and wine, and uttered certain formulae.

Ritual involved Mithras slaying a bull, which act represented salvation through shedding eternal blood.¹³

Comparison to New Testament Christianity

There can be seen certain similarities between the ancient mystery religions and Christianity. Those similarities may be from the corruption of the embryonic Messianic and salvation message found in the salvation

theme of the Old Testament. It is also clear that from the 4th century AD on, Christianity adopted a significant number of non-Christian practices. Clement of Alexandria stated that Christianity is indeed a mystery religion with "truly sacred mysteries" that offer pure light and a vision of the only true God, but Clement sharply contrasted the Christian mysteries with what he judged to be shameless and corrupt Greco-Roman mystery religions.¹⁴

Constantine

Emperor Constantine (306-337 AD) won the battle of Milvian Bridge near Rome, on 27 October 312 AD, after seeing a sign of the cross in the sky with words above saying "In this sign conquer." After taking control of the entire Roman Empire, he issued the Edict of Toleration in 313 AD that allowed all people to worship in whatever religion they chose, ending years of Christian persecutions. He favored Christianity in every way, and eventually in 325 AD he encouraged his subjects to embrace Christianity.¹⁵

After Constantine, Emperor Theodosius made Christianity the state religion and made membership compulsory; thus filling the churches with unregenerate people. The church now became a political organization after the pattern of Rome. Conversion of the barbarians (Goths, Vandals, and Huns) further filled the church with pagan practices.¹⁶

The Spread of the Mystery Religions From Babel

It is entirely possible, and probable that the pagan religious practices that entered the church were reflections of religious practices originally carried away from Babel, and had taken hold in the mystery religions and religious practices of whatever land the people settled.¹⁷ An example is the corrupt religious practice during the Exodus, when the Israelites reverted to the Egyptian practices in the worship of the golden calf. They had retained these practices in their memory.

Again, when the Israelites entered Israel, they found corrupt abominable pagan practices firmly rooted in the land. A study done by Alexander Hislop in his book, *The Two Babylons*, shows how the mysteries spread from Babylon, by the religion of Semiramis, Nimrod's wife, as a possible scenario, but some believe that much of the fact may be distorted by Hislop's assumptions and historical inaccuracies. However, the similarities of Babylonian pagan practices to some symbols and practices of orthodox Christianity, in particular that of the Roman Catholic Church, is striking.

According to John Phillips in his commentary, *EXPLORING GENESIS*, Semiramis is "the woman who first introduced idolatry on the earth and who made

Babylon the eternal home of the 'mysteries'.... The vast system of pagan religion, which thereafter swiftly inundated the globe, stemmed from Babylon."¹⁸ It is my belief that, while the story of Semiramis may be clouded with myth, it is illustrative of the spread of religious practices from Babel during the scattering, just as the story of the Flood is retained in over 300 stories of people scattered to the remotest parts of the world.

If Babel was indeed the starting point, as the Bible says, it is likely that the people retained the religion of Babel as they were scattered over the earth. Undoubtedly, priests of the Babylonian religion were included with those fleeing Babel. The Bible makes it clear that it is from the base of this tower in Babylon that man was scattered over the face of the earth, most likely bringing with him various forms of the Babylonian false religion. It is this false religion that Revelation chapter 17 refers. Before we look at the details of Revelation 17, let's look at the legend of the Queen known as Semiramis of Babylon.

Man's Rebellion

We see the story of man's collective rebellion against God in the story of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11.

And the whole earth was of one language, and of 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. And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. 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.** And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. 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. Go to, let us go down, and there **confound their language,** that they may not understand one another's speech. So **the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth:** and they left off to build the city. Genesis 11:1-8

Who is Nimrod?

History at this juncture is a little confusing. Historically it may be that Nimrod is the same as the Babylonian King known as Belus, the first king to be deified. His son was Ninus, of which the city of Nineveh was named. However, Semiramis is said to be alternately wife and mother of Ninus. This may be because Ninus is derived from the Hebrew word "niyn," meaning "a son."¹⁹ But if Nimrod is Ninus, and Belus is his father, then Cush is Belus, the founder of Babylon. Cush is said to be the leader of the great apostasy to build the city and Tower of Babel. Cush is also said to be represented as Hermes or Mercury in mythology. It is worthy to note that Hermes is an Egyptian synonym for "Son of Ham." Cush may have begun the walls and tower, and his son Nimrod was the finisher, together with Semiramis.²

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

Genesis 11:5

Man built for his own glory. The tower represents a world effort. It was therefore the first example of the joining of religion and politics as world religion and world government.²¹

A tradition states that during the battles when Nimrod conquered Babylon, Nimrod met his future wife Semiramis, who was an inn/brothel keeper in the city of Erech. Semiramis is a Greek form of Sammu-amat, or "gift of the sea." "Sammu" in Hebrew becomes "Shinar," the name for lower Mesopotamia, "the land of Shinar," or Semiramis. To hide the fact that she was an ex-harlot, the fiction that she was a virgin sprung from the sea at Nimrod's landing was concocted (gift of the sea). Thus, Semiramis' original name is lost.²²

Semiramis supposedly originated the "mystery religion" in the form we now call astrology. Semiramis is also known as Ishtar, the Babylonian goddess of love and fertility. She became Isis in Egypt, Venus in Rome, Aphrodite in Greece, Astarte in Phoenicia, Diana in Ephesus, and Ashtoreth in Israel.²³

The mystery religion has as its premise that the great dragon is the rightful heir of the universe who has been overthrown and will one day be restored by a child born of a divine mother. The result is the worship of the heavenly hosts (fallen angels) through astrology.²⁴ Modern day dabbling into Eastern religions, and the environment movement through Gaia, or mother earth worship is another example. Shirley MacLane standing on the seashore with outstretched arms proclaiming "I am God" is part of the mystery religion. Emperor worship has been a part of this as well.²⁵

According to the Luciferian dogma of occult Theosophist Society founder Madam Helena Blavatsky

in *THE SECRET DOCTRINE*, writes that Lucifer is older than Jehovah, and he is the angel of light.²⁶ She writes of the divine “Father-Mother and Son” who shapes the universe.²⁷ She alleges that Lucifer (Satan) is good, that he is both “Holy Ghost,” and “Satan,” and our “Tempter and Redeemer” at the same time.²⁸

The Death of Nimrod and the Mystery Religion – The Legend of Semiramis

The Babylonian mystery religion developed around tradition concerning Nimrod, his wife Semiramis, and her child Tammuz. Babylonian Worship was carried on through symbols (a mystery religion).²⁹

A rift occurred between Semiramis and Nimrod when she was found to have been pregnant with a bastard son. To maintain power she overthrew Nimrod and had him torn into pieces by drug crazed priests.³⁰

Semiramis installed the bastard son Tammuz as King. Tammuz is from “Damu” meaning blood, in Greek, Adonis.³¹ Or his name may be from “tam,” meaning to “make perfect.” And “muz,” meaning fire. Both together meaning “perfecting fire.”³² Since fire was a representation of Baal (Nimrod), candles are lighted in his honor.³³ Votive candles are lighted as part of Roman Catholic worship. The Egyptian goddess Isis is the same as the Babylonian Semiramis. In Egypt, the son of Isis (Babylonian Tammuz) was born on 25 December.³⁴ Tammuz was the son of the sun-god, and the golden calf was one of his symbols.³⁵ We see this golden calf among the Israelites during the Exodus.

And Aaron said unto them, Break off the **golden earrings**, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me. And all the people brake off the **golden earrings** which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron. And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a **molten calf**: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. Exodus 32:2-4

Tammuz eventually killed his mother in a power struggle.³⁶

Maimonides calls Tammuz a false prophet who advocated worship of the Zodiac and the seven stars of the Pleiades.³⁷ Tradition states that Shem had Tammuz executed for apostasy, and on that night supposedly all the images (demons) around the world wept all night. Thus the practice of weeping for Tammuz on the first day of the month of Tammuz, mid June/July, was begun.³⁸ Ezekiel speaks of this practice.

Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD'S house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat **women weeping for Tammuz**. Ezekiel 8:14

The Chaldean, Assyrian, Phoenician, and Jewish women wept for Tammuz, while the Egyptian women wept for Osiris, the Greeks for Adonis, and the Romans for Bacchus, thus showing the common connection. “Bakhah” means “to weep,” and so Bacchus means “the lamented one.”³⁹

In another version of the death of Nimrod, Shem petitioned the Egyptian courts for the trial and execution of Nimrod for his great apostasy.⁴⁰ Nimrod was then cut into fourteen pieces which were distributed to each city in the empire.⁴¹ Semiramis searched for every part of Nimrod's body and had it buried where-ever it was found. This was the origin of relic worship.⁴² This Babylonian and Egyptian relic worship became integral with Buddhism and Greek paganism, as well as Roman Catholicism.⁴³ Embedded in every Catholic altar there is a relic, usually a fragment of the bones of a Catholic saint.

Nimrod became a false messiah after his death.⁴⁴ Semiramis now claimed that Nimrod was the Sun-god Baal, and when she gave birth to her son Tammuz, she claimed that he was the reincarnation of Nimrod.⁴⁵ The doctrine of reincarnation began. Satan clumsily counterfeits the resurrection of Christ.⁴⁶ Semiramis also claimed that Tammuz was supernaturally conceived. Semiramis was claiming for Tammuz, that he was the “promised Seed.”⁴⁷

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and **her seed**; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. Genesis 3:15

The Spread of False Religion

Notice now how these stories of Semiramis were used and expanded upon by the various cultures, and that they had their roots in Nimrod, Semiramis, and the Babylonian Mystery Religion. In Egypt, Osiris, whose wife/sister/daughter is Isis and their child is Horus, was murdered by his brother Set. Set cut Osiris' body into fourteen pieces. Isis recovered all pieces except his private parts which had been cast into the sea. Horus defeated Set, and Osiris was proclaimed a resurrected god, and his body parts were encased in fourteen different statues.⁴⁸

Phallic worship originated with reverence of the missing private parts of Osiris [Nimrod].⁴⁹ According to Diodorus, Semiramis erected a 130 feet tall obelisk in Babylon. The obelisk was originally associated with Sun worship, a symbol of “Baal,” a title of Nimrod. The

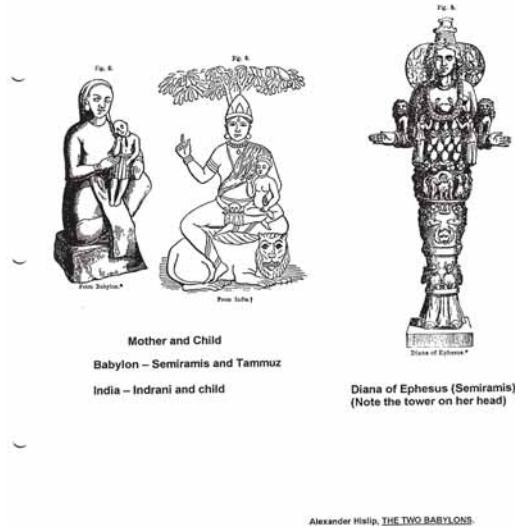
Sun being considered the source of life, the phallus, or male sexual organ, was also considered a symbol of life, and was therefore represented by the obelisk as well. Many of these obelisks stood in Egypt. One was eventually transferred to Rome and now stands in front of St. Peters in the Vatican. The Washington monument in Washington DC is an obelisk of this type.⁵⁰

In mythology, Nimrod is known, among other names, variously, to the Greeks, Hercules; the Egyptians, Osiris and Horus; the Greeks, Apollo; and even Baal. Nimrod and his followers were the Greek Titans.⁵¹ Nimrod was symbolized by Sun images, fish, trees, pillars, and animals.⁵²

The Apostle Paul refers to the practice of image worship in his day:

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And **changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.** Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who **changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator,** who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: Romans 1:21-26

Semiramis is the origin of the mother and child cult of various religions, including Roman Catholicism.⁵³ Semiramis and Tammuz were worshipped in Babylon. Roman Catholics worship the Mother and Child.⁵⁴ The Greeks worshipped Venus and Adonis. The Hindu have Ushas and Vishnu.⁵⁵ The Chinese had a virgin goddess called Shingmoo, with child in her arms. In Germany the mother was called Hertha, in Scandinavia she was Disa, the Etruscans called her Nutria, to the Druids she was Virgo-Patitura, the Indians called her Indrani. She was Aphrodite or Ceres to the Greeks, She was Nana to the Sumerians, to the Romans she was Venus or Fortuna, and her child was Jupiter. She is also known as Devaki and her child Crishna, Indrani and child, as well as Isi and her child Iswara in India. In Asia she is Cybele and her child Deoius. As Nimrod became Baal, the female deity would be Baalti, which translated means "My Lady." In Latin it would be "Mea Domina." The Italians would call her "Madonna."⁵⁶



Mother and Child
Babylon – Semiramis and Tammuz
India – Indrani and child

Diana of Ephesus (Semiramis)
(Note the tower on her head)

Alexander Hislop, THE TWO BABYLONS.

We have only one mediator, the Lord Jesus, yet Catholics believe Mary to be "Mediatrice."⁵⁷ Pope Leo XIII and Pope Benedict XV ascribed to her the office of Co-Redemptrix. The Vatican Council II fell short in this pronouncement for fear of disturbing Protestants and the ecumenical nature of the Council.⁵⁸ If this were to happen, it would make her equal with Jesus in our redemption. No matter what she is called, she is Semiramis (Ishtar) of Babylon, and Tammuz is her husband (child).⁵⁹

For there is one God, and **one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;** 1 Timothy 2:5

Catholics believe that Mary is Queen of Heaven.⁶⁰ Semiramis had herself deified as "Queen of Heaven," and her son, "god."⁶¹ Isis of Egypt was known as the "Mother of God." This title was first applied to Mary by the theologians of Alexandria, Egypt. The Phoenician goddess of fertility, Astarte, was associated with the crescent moon. Mary is pictured by the Catholics as standing on a crescent moon.⁶²

According to Hislop, we get our word "Easter" from the goddess Astarte.⁶³ According to THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD BIBLE ENCYCLOPEDIA, the name Easter is derived from the Anglo-Saxon "Eostre," the name of the goddess of spring. The

goddess Astarte (Ashtaroth) was a Canaanite and Phoenician goddess of fertility, whose name and cult were derived from Babylonia (Ishtar).⁶⁴ It would appear that Hislop is not far wrong.

Easter customs, such as making “hot cross buns,” reflect remembrance of making cakes for the Queen of Heaven. Eggs are represented in many pagan cultures, and the egg is used to signify the miraculous birth of Venus (Astarte) from an egg fallen from heaven into the river Euphrates. Fishes rolled it to the bank, and doves hatched it. To the Catholic Church, Easter Eggs became a symbol of Christ’s resurrection.⁶⁵ In other traditions, the egg represents rebirth from the Ark after the Flood. This was later corrupted. Notice the Bible references to abominable practices that have their source in the Babylonian mysteries we have been discussing.

The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to **make cakes to the queen of heaven**, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger. Jeremiah 7:18

Then all the men which knew that their wives had burned incense unto other gods, and all the women that stood by, a great multitude, even all the people that dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying, As for the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of the LORD, we will not hearken unto thee. But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to **burn incense unto the queen of heaven**, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil. But since we left **off to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her**, we have wanted all things, and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine. And when **we burned incense to the queen of heaven, and poured out drink offerings unto her, did we make her cakes to worship her**, and pour out drink offerings unto her, without our men?... So that the LORD could no longer bear, because of the evil of your doings, and because of the abominations which ye have committed; therefore is your land a desolation, and an astonishment, and a curse, without an inhabitant, as at this day.

Because ye have burned incense, and because ye have sinned against the LORD, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD, nor walked in his law, nor in his statutes, nor in his testimonies; therefore this evil is happened unto you, as at this day. Jeremiah 44:15-19, 22, 23

And he brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, behold a hole in the wall. Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall: and when I had digged in the wall, behold a door. And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. **So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed upon the wall round about....** Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD’S house which was toward the north; and, behold, **there sat women weeping for Tammuz....** And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD’S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and **their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.** Ezekiel 8:7-10, 14, 16

The Sun rises in the east. In the Masonic Lodge the Worshipful Master sits in the east. A Mason’s journey is to the east.

The Scattering

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. Go to, **let us go down**, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech. **So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.** Genesis 11:6-8

“Let us go down” foreshadows the descent of Christ to destroy the Antichrist and Satan. This scattering divided the people into the various races and national groups, which we now have. Twice humankind had received God’s mercy (Adam and Noah), and twice forsook Him.⁶⁶

At this scattering the people carried the Babylonian religious beliefs and practices with them. The Babylonian religious system was a salvation by works plan. The symbolic weighing of human beings to see if they were justified was taught in both Egypt and China, and Belshazzar understood Daniel's warning.⁶⁷

TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. Daniel 5:27

When they were scattered it was natural that they carried their religious symbols and practices with them.

Baptismal regeneration was a part of the system. Besides the Babylonians and others, even the Aztecs were found by Cortez to be baptizing their children to purify them.⁶⁸ We find the practice of infant baptism in many Christian churches today. Catholics believe that baptism is necessary for salvation, and it is necessary to remove the penalty of "original sin" and all sins committed before baptism.⁶⁹

Scourging and cutting of the body to pay for sin was Babylonian. This was practiced in Egypt and some Hindus and Chinese still do this. Baal worshipers did this.⁷⁰

And they cried aloud, and **cut themselves** after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them. 1 Kings 18:28

This is reflected in the practice of self-flagellation and corporal penance practiced by some extreme Christian worshipers today.

The colored eggs were used in the religions of Greece, Hindus, Japanese, and Chinese.⁷¹

The Rosary (prayer beads) also had its roots in Babylon. Prayer beads are used by Catholics, Brahmins, Tartars, Hindus, Tibetans, and Buddhists. They are also found in Mexico. In Greece the goddess Diana wore prayer beads.⁷²

Babylonians and Egyptians lighted candles to their gods, as do Catholics to their saints.⁷³

The sign of the cross was universal, from Babylon, Chaldea, Egypt, Celts, Druids, Indians of Mexico, and Buddhists.⁷⁴ The cross was the mystic Tau of the Chaldeans and Egyptians. The Tau was marked in pagan baptism on the foreheads of those initiated into the mysteries.⁷⁵ This is the same practice today in the Roman Catholic sacrament of infant baptism.

Most cultures have retained their Babylonian worship of stars, astrology, and fortune telling.⁷⁶

The Christian Compromise

The Roman Empire brought into their religious system the various gods and religions from pagan countries which she ruled, of which the Babylon Mystery Religion was the source. It was at this time that Jesus Christ, the true Son of the true God, was born. Christians would eventually suffer persecution for not worshipping the pagan gods.⁷⁷ After severe and cruel persecutions of Christians by the state, finally in 313 Licinius and Constantine issued the Edict of Milan which caused persecutions to cease, and allowed Christians to worship openly. Constantine believed that a ruler's chief duty was to assure freedom of religion.⁷⁸

Constantine himself, in allowing religious freedom, opened the floodgate of pagan religious practices being incorporated into our own celebrations of Christian holidays and rituals. The pagan Babylonian beliefs are most pronounced in many of the beliefs and practices of the Roman Catholic Church.⁷⁹

We should not forget that the concern God had for Israel going into the Promised Land was that, by mixing, they would water down the truth, and go after other gods. Our spiritual leaders are accountable to God to hold fast to sound doctrine. This same concern is spelled out clearly in the New Testament.

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so **your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him....** For such are **false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.** And no marvel; for **Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.** Therefore it is no great thing if **his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness;** whose end shall be according to their works. 2 Corinthians 11:3, 4, 13-15

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto **another gospel:** Which is not another; but **there be some that** trouble you, and would **pervert the gospel of Christ.** But though **we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.** As we said before, so say I now again, **if any man preach any other gospel**

“Having rejected biblical Christianity, educational ‘change agents’ have realized that some kind of global spirituality is needed to fuel a collective pursuit of global unity. Although Native American spirituality provides the perfect model—and brings the least resistance from concerned parents—any one of the world’s New Age or neopagan religions will do.”

Berit Kjos, *Brave New Schools*

unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. Galatians 1:6-9

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that **in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;** Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; 1 Timothy 4:1, 2

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should **earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.** For there are **certain men** crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, **ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.** Jude 1:3, 4

Modern Applications

The following are some modern applications of the mystery religion in our time.

Former Vice-President Al Gore seems to advocate a return to some form of (Gaia) goddess worship in his book, EARTH IN THE BALANCE, when he speaks of the spiritual *“richness and diversity of our religious tradition throughout history”* that has been ignored by minds closed to teachings outside their own

system of belief. He then says that the fast pace of knowledge in our time has *“led to an intense new interest in the different perspectives on life in other cultures and has spurred a renewed investigation of the wisdom distilled by all faiths. This panreligious perspective may prove especially important where our global civilization’s responsibility for the earth is concerned.”* Gore then praises the Baha’i faith, and advocates a change in our Christian religious beliefs when he quotes pantheist Catholic theologian Teilhard de Chardin: *“The fate of mankind, as well as of religion, depends upon the emergence of a new faith in the future.”*⁸⁰

According to Berit Kjos in her book *Brave New Schools*:

*“Connecticut fourth-graders use guided imagery to ‘experience’ Indian tribal life and meet ‘wise’ spirit helpers. Colorado sixth-graders enjoy ‘spirit dances’ wearing their class-made masks. Oregon students celebrate Winter Solstice by acting the roles of the Sun God, Moon Goddess, drummers, and animal spirits. California students wear masks that help them identify with their favorite Greek gods and goddesses. Earth-centered religions are in.”*⁸¹

She then says:

“Having rejected biblical Christianity, educational ‘change agents’ have realized that some kind of global spirituality is needed to fuel a collective pursuit of global unity. Although Native American spirituality provides the perfect model—and brings the least resistance from concerned parents—any one of the world’s New Age or neopagan religions will do. Offering a common alternative to the biblical God, they all blend one or more of the following:

- *Pantheism: All is God and God is all, since a universal force infuses all things with spiritual life. Today’s popularized versions encourages everyone to ‘look within’ for the strength, wisdom, and guidance needed to empower oneself for success.*
- *Monism: All is one, joined together through the pantheistic spirituality.*
- *Polytheism: Many gods. Since the pantheistic deity makes everything sacred, people can worship anything or anyone they choose. Children learn that in the end, all the world’s gods lead to the same happy spirit world.”⁸²*

She continues:

“Few classroom texts dare mention the terrors and tortures that have always oppressed pagan cultures—those that sought power and wisdom from occult forces.”⁸³

She writes that the new spirituality in the schools is neopaganism, which is:

“... an idealized blend of any of the world’s pagan religions. Disguised as personal empowerment and harmony with nature, this global or earth-centered spirituality seduces both young and old who ignore the tragic lessons of history.”⁸⁴

Conclusion

In Part 2 we will attempt to define and identify the final religious system which the Whore of Babylon (Revelation 17) represents.

As we approach the end, we need to be especially careful to adhere to sound doctrine. We

need to be ever vigilant by staying immersed in God’s Word (our sword). Knowing the type of system that might represent the end time religious delusion, staying in the Word, and by examining its fruit will help us discern false doctrine.

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravaging wolves. **Ye shall know them by their fruits.** Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore **by their fruits ye shall know them.** 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. 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? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Matthew 7:15-23

Many have already left sound doctrine and gone after false teachers who promise prosperity and well being. We forget that the Disciples of Christ suffered poverty, persecution, and martyrdom as they adhered to the simple teachings of Christ. They set their compass on the heavenly treasure (true prosperity and well being for eternity), promised those that love and serve Him. **AΩ**

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