



LESSON #8 - BABYLON'S ABOMINABLE WINE

Review of Israel's History

God **married** Israel at **Mt. Sinai** and wanted her to be **His only** to **obey His laws** and **remain pure**.

Early in her history Israel **apostatized** and became a **harlot** by embracing the **teachings** and **practices** of the surrounding **nations**.

She embraced the **abominations** of those nations

She committed **fornication with the kings** of those nations

She **decked herself** with **silver** and **gold** to impress the kings

God said to her: "You are an adulterous wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband."
Ezekiel 16:32

Ezekiel 16:30: "How degenerate is your heart!" says the Lord God, "seeing you do all these things, the deeds of a brazen ["to exercise autocratic control over, to get one's way, domineering"] harlot."

She defiled God's **sanctuary** and **trampled** on His **holy Sabbath**

Her **daughters** did as the **mother** did

Her hands were **full of bloodshed**

God said that she would drink the dregs of the cup of His wrath and **destruction would fall** upon her from the **four corners** of the earth

The **worst** abomination was **sun worship**

God promised that the **kings** she fornicated with would **rise against her**

God had a **faithful remnant** which did not practice Israel's abominations. God sealed them so they would **not be destroyed**.

Desolation fell upon the city and the people

God had warned Israel early in her history

Leviticus 18:26-30: "You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations, either any of your own nation or any stranger who sojourns among you ²⁷ (for all these abominations the men of the land have done, who were before you, and thus the land is defiled), ²⁸ lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, as it vomited out the nations that were before you. ²⁹ For whoever commits any of these abominations, the persons who commit them shall be cut off from among their people. ³⁰ Therefore you shall keep My ordinance, so that you do not commit any of these abominable customs which were committed before you, and that you do not defile yourselves by them: I am the Lord your God."

2 Chronicles 36:14: "Moreover all the leaders of the priests and the people transgressed more and more, according to all the abominations of the nations, and defiled the house of the Lord which He had consecrated in Jerusalem."

The Christian Church has repeated the history of ancient Israel

Jesus **married His church** (II Corinthians 11:2)

Early in her history she apostatized (II Thessalonians 2:3, 4)

She assimilated many of the **beliefs** and **practices** of the **pagan nations she came in contact with**. She actually **became Babylon**

She has **repeated the history** of God's **Old Testament people**. Even during the **latter part of the first century**, heresies were beginning to **encroach** upon the Christian church. This would lead her to lose her **simplicity** and **purity**.

A **harlot** represents a fallen church

Revelation 17:1: "Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters."

This **apostate religious system** will exercise **worldwide dominion**

Revelation 17:1: "Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters."

Revelation 17:15: “Then he said to me: “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.”

It is a system that is **joins politics and religion** because she **fornicates with the kings** of the earth

Revelation 17:2: “. . . with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”

She has **daughters** that were born from her and **share many** of her **teachings** and **practices**

Revelation 17:5: “And on her forehead a name was written: “MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”

Her favorite colors are **purple and scarlet**, not blue.

Revelation 17:4: “The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.”

Blue a protection against harlotry

Numbers 15:37-41: “Again the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ³⁸ “Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners. ³⁹ And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the Lord and do them, and that you may not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined, ⁴⁰ and that you may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy for your God. ⁴¹ I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the Lord your God.”

She is a **very rich religious system** majoring in **gold, silver** and precious stones

Revelation 17:4: “The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.”

She is filled with **rage and persecutes** those who **will not drink** her wine

Revelation 17:6: “I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.”

The **kings** of the earth will **hate the harlot and make her naked**

Revelation 17:16: "And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire."

The Cup in her hand

She has a golden **cup in her hand** full of **abominations** and the **filthiness** of her fornication – all the **false doctrines, teachings and practices** that she has **acquired from the nations**

Revelation 17:4: "The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication."

She makes the inhabitants of the earth **drunk** with her **wine from the cup**

Revelation 17:2: ". . . with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

The cup not only fills those who drink with wrath but it also causes the nations to become **mad** or **lose their sanity**.

Jeremiah 51:7: "Babylon was a golden cup in the Lord's hand that made all the earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; therefore the nations are deranged."

Rejected the first angel's message

The **first angel** tells us that:

- Jesus was **sacrificed once for all**
- He is our **only** and **sufficient high priest**,
- We **saved by his righteousness alone and not by our works**
- We should reflect **God's character**
- We should care for our **body and mind**
- To keep **God's law**
- We are in the hour of **God's judgment**
- The **dead are dead** until the resurrection and that only God can give us life
- We should keep the **Sabbath** in honor of the Creator

Revelation 14:8: "And another angel followed, saying: "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

Another urgent call at the end of human history

Revelation 18:2, 3: "And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying,: Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a

cage for every unclean and hated bird! ³ For **all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication**, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."

Why did Babylon fall? If she had accepted the first angel's message she would never have fallen. She fell because she **became an alcoholic** and then **gave her wine** to the inhabitants of the world.

Worshipping idols is an abomination

Deuteronomy 7:25, 26: "You shall burn the **carved images** of their gods with fire; you shall not covet the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, lest you be snared by it; for it is an **abomination** to the Lord your God. ²⁶ Nor shall you bring an **abomination** into your house, lest you be doomed to destruction like it. You shall **utterly detest it** and **utterly abhor it**, for it is an **accursed thing**."

Deuteronomy 27:14-15: "And the Levites shall speak with a loud voice and say to all the men of Israel: ¹⁵ '**Cursed** is the one who makes a **carved or molded image**, an **abomination** to the Lord, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and sets it up in secret.' "And all the people shall answer and say, 'Amen!'"

God condemns **idol worship**

Exodus 20:4-6: "You shall not make for yourself a carved image — any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments."

Delving into the occult and New Age

Deuteronomy 18:9-12: "When you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. ¹⁰ There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, ¹¹ or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. ¹² For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord, and because of these abominations the Lord your God drives them out from before you."

Turning away the ear from hearing the law is an abomination. One extreme is not listening to the law. The other is thinking you can be saved by keeping it which is the emphasis in **Luke 16:15**.

Proverbs 28:9: "One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination."

Proverbs 15:8-9: “The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but the prayer of the upright is His delight. ⁹ The way of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but He loves him who follows righteousness.”

Believing that you can be **saved by your works** is an abomination

Luke 16:15: “And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.”

Fornication or adultery is an abomination

Jeremiah 13:26, 27: “Therefore I will uncover your skirts over your face that your shame may appear. ²⁷ I have seen your adulteries and your lustful neighings, the lewdness of your harlotry, your abominations on the hills in the fields. Woe to you, O Jerusalem! Will you still not be made clean?”

Eating unclean animals is an abomination

Deuteronomy 14:3: “You shall not eat any detestable [ESV: “Abomination”] thing.”

Burning your children in the fire is an abomination

Jeremiah 32:35: “And they built the high places of Baal which are in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire to Molech, which I did not command them, nor did it come into My mind that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.”

Shedding innocent blood is an abomination

Ezekiel 22:1, 2: “Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ² “Now, son of man, will you judge, will you judge the bloody city? Yes, show her all her abominations!”

Proverbs 17:15: “He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, both of them alike are an abomination to the Lord.”

Proverbs 6:16-19: “These six things the Lord hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: ¹⁷ A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ A heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, ¹⁹ a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.”

Homosexuality

Leviticus 18:2: “You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.”

Sun worship is an abomination. All the sun bursts in Roman Catholicism and other religions are an abomination. Sunday was adopted as **THE** Day of worship because it was the Day of the Sun. Is it the same to worship the sun as it is to worship on Sunday?

***Ezekiel 8:16, 17:** "So He brought me into the inner court of the Lord's house; and there, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the Lord and their faces toward the east, and they were worshipping the sun toward the east.¹⁷ And He said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it a trivial thing to the house of Judah to commit the abominations which they commit here? For they have filled the land with violence; then they have returned to provoke Me to anger. Indeed they put the branch to their nose."*

The mark on the forehead is a sign of loyalty of those who do not practice the abominations

***Ezekiel 9:1-6:** "Then He called out in my hearing with a loud voice, saying, "Let those who have charge over the city draw near, each with a deadly weapon in his hand."² And suddenly six men came from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with his battle-ax in his hand. One man among them was clothed with linen and had a writer's inkhorn at his side. They went in and stood beside the bronze altar.³ Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub, where it had been, to the threshold of the temple. And He called to the man clothed with linen, who had the writer's inkhorn at his side;⁴ and the Lord said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it."⁵ To the others He said in my hearing, "Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity.⁶ Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary." So they began with the elders who were before the temple.*

Jerusalem was destroyed because of **trampling on the Sabbath**

***Jeremiah 17:27:** "But if you will not heed Me to hallow the Sabbath day, such as not carrying a burden when entering the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day, then I will kindle a fire in its gates, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched."*

"When faithful teachers expound the word of God, there arise men of learning, ministers professing to understand the Scriptures, who denounce sound doctrine as heresy, and thus turn away inquirers after truth. Were it not that the world is hopelessly intoxicated with the wine of Babylon, multitudes would be convicted and converted by the plain, cutting truths of the word of God. But religious faith appears so confused and discordant that the people know not what to believe as truth. The sin of the world's impenitence lies at the door of the church." GC 389

At the end people will be lost because they will receive the teachings of the antichrist and his miracles instead of the truth.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12: *“The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”*

John 17:17: *“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”*

At the end Babylon will be filled with demons. Our beliefs translate into our actions. Rapture, dead, law, Sabbath, health, judgment, second coming. A misunderstanding of these doctrines leads to implications in our behavior.

Revelation 18:1-5: *“After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.² And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying: “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!³ For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.”⁴ And I heard another voice from heaven saying: “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.⁵ For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.*

Practices in the church that are not Biblical—, infant baptism, lent, venerating the saints, lighting candles, burning incense Sunday, bowing down before idols, vestments, Easter cross on the forehead, praying for and to the dead, auricular confession, the rosary, the sign of the cross, celibacy, purgatory, convents, etc.