

Just a quick reminder. I have published a book entitled “**Liberating the Book of Revelation, Returning to the Source of the Message.**”

Liberating the Book of Revelation is intended to help us all know what the Spirit said and how He said it. This book is focused not so much on interpreting the book of **Revelation**, that is what this podcast is for, but on accurately representing the book of **Revelation** in the manner in which the Spirit originally spoke it to John.

I encourage you to go to amazon.com and you can find the book either under the title “**Liberating the Book of Revelation, Returning to the Source of the Message**” or by my name as the author: **Stephen Villanueva**. It is available in hardback, paperback, e-book format, and the *audible* version was recently released.

EP120 Revelation 14 verse 8

In our last podcast we addressed the message of the first of 3 angels who make pronouncements that seem different, but in effect are one-and-the-same message. With a cry pointing humanity to the one who was Creating, this first angel offered mercy and protection from idolatry for those who make creation itself an object of worship.

This angel said that if a person is *willing* to let God cause them to fear Him, both to be in awe of Him but also to fear life without Him, then the Spirit of God will guide them in giving God glory for His creation and provision, and ultimately in the worship of the one who was Creating.

This was called the “*eternal gospel*” because “... *His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been caused to now be clearly seen, caused to now being understood by the things made...*” And with the *hour of judgment* having arrived, this eternal gospel leaves each individual with a decision: be willing to let God cause you to fear Him so you might honor Him, or be prepared to face His terrible wrath.

The Angel Who Announces the Death of Religious Apostasy

Revelation 14:8

And another angel, a second one, followed, **now** saying, “Fell, fell Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the “wrath” of her immorality {or harlotry}.”

Babylon

The complete story of the fall of Babylon is found in **Revelation 17** and **18**, however, the timing of its fall is associated with the activities related to the blowing of the 7th Trumpet. Remember, all this stuff is happening at or near the same time, but immediately prior to the release of the 7 vials containing the wrath of God.

To help make sense of this second angelic message, we must first understand that “Babylon” is **Code**, it is a picture.

In **Revelation 17:1-7**, we are introduced to a woman of harlotry who rides the Beast. This woman is imaged as one who is **now** choosing to be sitting on the Beast. She bears on her forehead a name having been caused to being written, **Mystery Babylon the Great, the Mother of all Harlots and the Abominations of the Earth**.

In the same way that the name of the Father and the Son written on the foreheads of the 144,000 is a mark which indicates the identity of the 144,000 and their relationship to God (they belong to the Father and the Son; accordingly, they follow the Lamb wherever He goes), so too does this name indicate this woman's identity—she is the Mother of all Harlots and the Abominations of the Earth. And her ways are always in line with her identity: abominations and harlotry.

We were first introduced to “Mystery Babylon” in **Revelation 11:8** when we were told that the two witnesses were murdered in the “*great city*” which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where our Lord was crucified. We discovered that the “*great city*” is a **defined term**, and it is this Mystery Babylon (not the literal or physical city of Jerusalem).

Seven (7) times in **Revelation**, Babylon is referred to as, or connected with, the “*great city*.”¹ And with seven being **Code** representing completeness, we can understand this phrase “*great city*,” which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where our Lord was crucified, is a complete representation of Mystery Babylon the Great, the Mother of all Harlots and the Abominations of the Earth.

The Metaphor: Why Babylon?

According to the **Codex**, it was in the land of Shinar where a form of collective religion began which was founded upon the **Eve Imprint**, a religion that was based upon what man can do, how man can be like God knowing good and evil. At that time the people were as one and they spoke the same language. But like Eve, who lusted after the opportunity to be like God, the people were infected with this same desire (drinking the same delicious and intoxicating wine), and they desperately desired to find a way to cross over into the heavenly realms—to be like God.

According to the narrative, it seems that the motivation of their leaders was to secure their power and authority over the people, to ensure that the people do not scatter across the earth. And it is this same lust for power and authority that fuels religion. After all, religion, all religion, is based on power, hierarchy, authority, control, and the requirement for submission to man-made laws and regulations. And every religious group wants to gather together their flock together, and not let them scatter elsewhere.

All of this occurred during the time when the tower of Babel was built. The **Codex** reveals that it was during this time that God divorced the nations, reserving Israel for Himself as His own people, while giving the nations over to be ruled by the *Elohim*, the gods, the kings of the earth, the angelic rulers. It was also at this time that **Yahweh** struck a huge blow to religion and the lusts of its leaders, for He confused the languages of men and divided them so they could no longer be as one.²

But there is so much more to this tale. We will go into detail in **Revelation 17**, and rest assured, it is fascinating. In short, it is in the land of Shinar (which according to **Daniel 1:2** is ancient *Babylon*) where the worship of the *Elohim*, the hosts of heaven, first began, and where the rulers of man believed they too were gods. In fact, it is in Shinar (*Babylon*) where the first child was presented to the peoples as their

¹ See **Revelation 16:19, 17:18, 18:10, 16, 18, 19, 21**

² **Deuteronomy 32:8-9; Genesis 11:1-9, 20:25**

Messiah—literally as God on earth in the form of a man. This messianic like figure was known as Tammuz, and he was even worshipped as such by the women of Israel.³

In short, Babylon the Great, the “*great city*,” represents the demonic lie of religion, especially the Religion of Christianity which looks like the truth, incorporates aspects of the truth, calls on Jesus’ name, does great works in His name, casts out demons in His name, worships in His name, but simply does not know Him by His name. Again, we will get into the historical background of all this in **Revelation 17**.

Fell, Fell

This second angel is **now** saying, “*fell, fell Babylon the great*”.⁴ This rendering may seem awkward given that as most Bibles translate it as “*Fallen is, Fallen is Babylon the great.*” However, the Greek word is rendered in the *aorist active indicative*, which indicates the past tense – that something happened previously. It does not make a comment or statement upon the current condition.

In contrast, “fallen is” indicates a continued ongoing condition, i.e., lying on the ground needing to get up. If the Spirit wanted us to understand it as an ongoing condition, something that resonates from a past act, He would have used the *perfect* tense.

For instance, in the parable of the Sower and the seed, Jesus said that some seed “*fell*” among the thorns, not “fallen is among the thorns.” The same Greek word is used, and it also is rendered in the *aorist active indicative*.⁵

The point of the Spirit’s specificity and precision is that there is **NO** possibility, absolutely none, for this angelic spirit – represented by this woman and identified by the name “Mystery Babylon,” to be returned to the place from which she fell. It is a done deal. “*Fell, Fell Babylon the great ...*”

Why do you think the Spirit repeated this point (“fell, fell”)?

We are not specifically told the reason for the repetition, but *perhaps* it is because we find out later on that this Great Harlot **fell** off the Beast upon whom she now chooses to be sitting and she loses her historical place of prominence amongst the nations. This fall is a result of two antagonists: God and the Beast. The **Codex** is clear, God puts it in the heart of the Beast and his 10 horns to hate her and to destroy her. As a result, the Beast and his 10 horns destroy her, burn her, ensuring her fall from her famed position – “*fell, fell Babylon the great.*”⁶

The Wine of the Wrath

“... *she who has made drink all the nations of the wine of the “wrath” of her immorality.*” Babylon the Great is the harlot who has made ALL, not some but ALL, nations drink of the wine of the “*thumos*” the hot passion, anger, hate, or wrath of her immorality.

The Greek word translated as “*immorality*” is “*porneias*,” from where we get our English word pornography. Some translations use the word “harlotry,” but either way, it is a sexual idiom that is intentionally contrasted with the spiritual virginity of the 144,000. From the perspective of the **Code** and

³ **Ezekiel 8:14-15**

⁴ “saying” is rendered in the *present active participle*

⁵ **Luke 8:7**

⁶ See **Revelation 17:15-18**

how God views “immorality,” this woman is all about idolatry, the worship of demons, apostate religion, the **work of our hands** (all done in Jesus’ name), etc., all of which demonstrates a vehement hatred for the Light of God.

We saw this direct connection between immorality and idolatry described for us in the letter to *Pergamum* and in the letter to *Thyatira* where their idolatry is directly referred to as **sexual immorality**.⁷ Those people of the “great city” who choose to drink of the wine of her immorality are what we would call the “apostate church” which indulges in spiritually immorality, just as the people of Sodom were guilty of immorality.⁸

When we think of apostasy, we think of spiritual wackos, but that is not how the Spirit identifies apostasy. As referenced in **Revelation 9:20** and **Matthew 7:21-23**, apostates are those who “*refuse to repent of the works of their hands [all their religious deeds done in Jesus’ name], so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk...*”

It is odd to think that “immorality” has or is expressed in “*thumos*” (hot passionate anger, wrath or hate). Perhaps, the Spirit is communicating that those who are given over to idolatry, religious apostasy, and the worship of demons, in effect despise God, hate Him, and have nothing but hostility toward Him. You might be thinking, “WAIT A MINUTE, WE ARE TALKING ABOUT CHRISTIANITY HERE, AND GOOD HONEST SINCERE CHRISTIANS WHO SERVE AND WORSHIP GOD. THIS IS BEYOND INSULTING AND IS ABSURD.”

Mystery Babylon sure wants us to all think that way. We must not forget that the “great city,” represents the demonic lie of religion, especially the Religion of Christianity which looks like the truth, incorporates aspects of the truth, calls on Jesus’ name, does great works in His name, casts out demons in His name, worships in His name, but simply does not know Him by His name.

This *great city* of religious apostasy is populated by those who reject the truth that only God is good, and so they persist in performing the “*work of their hands*” – all their so called good religious deeds done for God and done in His name. They reject the truth that He alone is the **I AM**, their source for all things all the time, including their personal goodness. And that is why religious idolatry has always been such an affront to **Yahweh**; hence, the number one command is to have no other gods before Him.⁹

Matthew 7:21-23

Not everyone who is **now** saying to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will in the **future** choose to enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who is **now** doing the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. "Many will in the **future** say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy *in Your name*, and *in Your name* cast out demons, and *in Your name* perform many miracles?' "And then I will in the **future** declare to them, 'I never knew you; you are commanded to **now** depart from Me, you who choose to now be practicing lawlessness—**YOU WHO CHOOSE TO NOW BE PRACTICING LAWLESSNESS.**'

⁷ **Revelation 2:15-16, 20**

⁸ See **Genesis 19:4-5**

⁹ **Exodus 20:3-5**

This is such a big deal that the Spirit chose to parse the verb and express His sentiments in both the *nominative* and *vocative* case; hence, the repeating of the phrase and the emphasis associated with the *vocative* case.

Made Drink

One other note, “*made drink*” is one Greek word, and it is rendered in the *perfect active indicative*. Thus, from time past, she induced **all** the nations to drink wine, and the impact of that decision to drink has ongoing implications, for it resonates or echoes forward into eternity. All nations, all ethnic groups, have been poisoned by her apostasy and in their base state are filled with derision and hostility (“*thumos*”) toward **Yahweh**.

Perhaps this explains why the Spirit said about all of humanity (both Jew and Greek):

Romans 3:10-18

There **now** is none righteous, no not one; there **now** is none who is **now** understanding; there is none who is **now** seeking after God. They all turned aside, together they have been caused to become useless; there now is **now** who is doing good; there now is not one. Their throat has been caused to being an open grave, with their tongues they have used deceit, poison of asps under their lips, whose mouth is **now** full of cursing and bitterness, their feet swift to shed blood, destruction and misery is in their paths, and the path of peace they have not known. There **now** is no fear of God before their eyes.

The Wine

What is this “**wine**,” and why is this idiom used?

The **Codex** loves contrasting idioms, for instance wisdom (imaged as a woman) which prepares her wine is contrasted with this harlot who prepares her wine, both seeking those who will indulge in their respective libations. *Wisdom* is pictured as inviting those of simple minds, those who lack good judgment, to come in and drink of the wine she has prepared so they can leave their simple ways behind and begin to live and learn to use good judgment.¹⁰ Clearly, in this case, being intoxicated with wine is a good thing. But we also are given a picture of what it is like to indulge in the wine of immorality (idolatry and apostasy) and the effects are toxic.

Proverbs 23:29-35

Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who tarry long over wine; those who go to try mixed wine. Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. ***In the end it bites like a serpent and stings like an adder.*** Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart utter perverse things. You will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, like one who lies on the top of a

¹⁰ *Proverbs 9*

mast. "They struck me," you will say, "but I was not hurt; they beat me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake? I must have another drink."

This is the impact on the nations of the world which have drunk Babylon's wine. They were seduced, they were enticed, she captured their attention by the redness of her wine, the sparkles in the cup, and the smoothness in the taste. But they could not stop drinking, and it bit them like the bite of a serpent, like an adder. The serpent imagery clearly ties us to the demonic and its involvement with the religions of the world.

Those who drink this wine have become captive to the poison of the evil one. And it does not matter how much Babylon has used and abused those who have indulged in her drink, they have become addicted, they want more; they need more. It is never enough.

In contrast to the wine of wisdom, the wine which this harlot pours is spiritual immorality or the sort of apostasy that leads people into idolatry. As such, Babylon the great represents religion that will cause so many people who prayed the "sinner's prayer," asked Christ into their heart, "believed" in God and considered themselves to be good "Christians" to turn away from Him, and literally fall away. And one simply cannot fall from a place that they do not now stand.

This was clear in the letter to the church at Ephesus who had fallen away from their first {agape} love. Similarly, in the letter to the church at Sardis, Jesus said that none of their great works were the works of the Father, and despite their great reputation, they only had a few who would walk with Him in white. In the book of *Galatians*, the Spirit gave an intense warning about religious apostasy, *being seduced and bewitched by legalism*, and their falling away or being cut off from Christ. He also spoke of those who would depart from the faith devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose conscience are seared. Jesus too spoke of the great apostasy or the great falling away that was coming and the Spirit confirmed that this apostasy must occur before the man of lawlessness is revealed (the man we call the "Antichrist").¹¹

All that matters to God is faith expressing itself in God's *agape* love. Therefore, if anyone holds to any obligation, duty, or law in the name of Christ, they have been cut off from Christ, severed from the vine, and they have fell from grace, and that is a statement of fact.¹²

It is terrifying, but Babylon the great has seduced people to pay attention to false and deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons—those little whisperings in the ear, to that voice which comes from the Image of the Beast that is now standing where it ought not to be, in the Sanctuary of God. And they fall away!¹³

The Power of Wine

"Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. In the end it bites like a serpent and stings like an adder. Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart utter perverse things..."

The wine of religion can be so smooth, delicious, and intoxicating, but in the end, it is deadly. Religion,

¹¹ *Revelation 2:1-7, 3:1-6; Galatians 4 and 5; 1 Timothy 4:1-2; Matthew 24:9-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:3*

¹² See *Galatians 5:4*. Note: "fell" is rendered in past tense: the aorist active indicative

¹³ See *Jude*

all religion, is based on power, hierarchy, authority, control, and the requirement for submission to man-made laws and regulations. This is a path which provides many people access to the world's wealth and riches. It is with these attributes that this harlot rules the hearts of men (and by which the False Prophet marks them).

For some reason, mankind keeps coming back to drink this wine no matter how much damage they incur because of drinking this wine. Our *flesh* seems to crave the wine and long for it like an addict; we always seem to want more, to need more. This wine fuels our love for law, for judgment, comparison, condemnation, guilt, shame, penance, sacrifice, for goodness and all our "good" deeds, for division, and all manner of religious licentiousness. In addition, this wine of religious sensuality is what binds us in sin and fuels the perversions of grace which flow from our heart as we speak, teach, and follow.

We have seen this in the religion of Judaism, which **Jeremiah** captures so eloquently:

Jeremiah 5:30-31

A horrible and shocking thing has happened in this land—the prophets give false prophecies, and the priests rule with an iron hand. Worse yet, my people like it that way!

That is what the wine of Babylon does to us; it numbs us to the pain, it makes us tolerant of abuse so long as we can keep drinking. Soon, all that matters is access to the drink, the opportunity to imbibe.

Think about the legalism which is infused within the religion of Christianity. It is harsh. It is a system which pits those who are high achievers and can sustain some form or appearance of obedience and "goodness" against those who simply cannot. It is a system that is fundamentally divisive. But it gives the promise that if one can do things the right way, then they will also be able to share in the power, the authority, the position, the control, the glory, and the honor, and the money which so few get to enjoy.

Thus, the Harlot serves up another round of drinks and promotes another program, another discipline, another project, another outreach, thereby giving those in Christianity another chance to do it right.

This system of religion destroys people. It destroys the soul. It does more damage to the heart than outright *fleshly* sins, which is why Jesus was so harsh in His letters to Ephesus and Sardis and far more tender to the other churches whose struggle was predominated with their *flesh*.

This is also why He was so harsh to the religious leaders of His day calling them sons of their father the devil who want to do the desires of their father, who was a murderer from the beginning and who does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. He told them flat-out that they are **NOT** of God. That they are whitewashed tombs full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. And then He even called them serpents, a brood of vipers, in effect, He was saying that they are all demonic in nature.¹⁴

As with the Pharisees and Sadducees of Jesus' day, the religion of Christianity has always focused on the mess which is found on the outside of the cup and has for the most part ignored the filth that resides within the cup. And it seems that no matter how many people have been put down, kicked around, beat up, and pushed out of this system, they still want it. They demand it. They lust for it. They crave it. They

¹⁴ See **John 8:34-59; Matthew 23:27-33**

keep coming back for more, believing that one day they might get it right. And so, they keep drinking and drinking and drinking.

The system of religion, which by definition is founded upon some form of legalism, has damaged the soul of so many Christians who have drunk of the wine of Babylon's sexual immorality, and she has caused believers to stagger around like drunken men unable to find their way, like one who lays down in the midst of the sea or on the top of a mast and gets tossed around over and over and over and over again. *"They struck me," you will say, "but I was not hurt; they beat me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake? I must have another drink."*

In fact, the wine which this woman pours is so insidious that Jesus warns us: *"If the light that you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is."*¹⁵

**FELL, FELL IS BABYLON THE GREAT.
WHAT A GLORIOUS PROCLAMATION.**

Warning

This is not just a pronouncement of Babylon's demise, it is also to serve as a **WARNING** for all those who love their religion and who love what comes with the religion: prestige, power, control, respect, deference, money, and so on. It is also a **WARNING** to reject all the ways we measure and divide by contrasting our goodness with that of another. It is a **WARNING** to get sober and drink only the wine of wisdom.

Let's stop here and in our next podcast we will pick up with the message of the third Angel.

I am glad you "tuned in" and have been "ready to listen."

¹⁵ **Matthew 6:23**