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I would also encourage you to go to Amazon and pick up a copy of “**Liberating the Book of Revelation, Returning to the Source of the Message.**” This book is intended to help us all know what the Spirit said and how He said it. This book is focused not 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. It is available in all formats: hardback, paperback, e-book format, and as an *audible*.

In our last podcast, we discussed **Plan-A**, and the 6 commands God gives His people to flee the Harlot, to run from the great city of religious apostasy, to abandon Babylon. We learned that her house is a prison for the people of God and their guardians are demonic entities, spirits, birds, and beasts that hate the people of God. Let’s pick back up with our study of the Harlot’s city and these unclean spirits, birds, and beasts.

## EP149 Revelation 18 verses 2-3

### **Revelation 18:2**

... and has become by choice a dwelling place of demons and a watch {or hold} of every unclean spirit, and a watch {or hold} of every unclean bird and a watch {or hold} of every unclean beast caused to have been hating.

### *A Watch or a Hold*

Babylon the great, “*has chosen to become a dwelling place of demons and a watch {or hold} of every unclean spirit, and a watch {or hold} of every unclean bird and a watch {or hold} of every unclean beast caused to have been hating.*”<sup>1</sup> One of the reasons that many have not understood the true implications of the command to come out of her is because of how this section has been translated in all but a few Bibles to imply that though Babylon the great has become a home for demons, the spirits, birds, and beasts are prisoners in this city of religious apostasy. For example, a common translation renders the verse as follows:

... and has become a dwelling place of demons and a **prison** of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird...

The Greek word at issue is *phulake*” which is from *phulasso*, which means to be guarding, to watch or to be on guard. To use the word “**prison**” is misleading and inaccurate. As a result, so few understand that the Spirit is letting us know the shocking truth that it is the people of God who are the prisoners, and the spirits, birds, and beasts are their guardians who are assigned the task of watching over them as a prison guard would watch over prisoners. A watch or a hold is like a guard tower, and it provides a more accurate representation of the Greek and the message which the Spirit wants us to understand.

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<sup>1</sup> “become” is rendered in the *aorist middle indicative*

*The Prisoners: Christians*

The children of God who have been drinking the wine of the Harlot are literally her captives, her prisoners, and they operate and do Christianity in the great city of religious apostasy that is the home for the demonic. The unclean spirits, birds, and beasts are their guardians, their overlords.

**Jeremiah 50:33**

Thus says **Yahweh Sabaoth** (the Lord of hosts), "The sons of Israel are oppressed, and the sons of Judah as well; and all who took them captive have held them fast, they have refused to let them go.

Those in God's Household, who have not come out of her are trapped, captive, imprisoned, by the demonic. Sadly, most do not seem to mind so long as they can continue to drink of the wine of her immorality and stay busy doing ministry, worshipping the Lord, and serving God.

*Caused to Have Been Hating*

Most translations say "hateful," when referring to these demons, but the verb is rendered in the *perfect passive participle*. Their hatred began in the past and their hatred still resonates such that it seems to be happening now (the *perfect* tense), it was caused by something (the *passive* voice), and being a *participle*, it is an ongoing aspect of their experience. The word, could also be translated as "detest" or "persecute." They have been caused to be detesting, hating, and persecuting all whom they are charged to watch or guard. With the use of the *perfect* tense and the *passive* voice, the Spirit is wanting us to understand that these unclean spirits, birds, and beasts do not hate by their very nature, but by cause. Something happened to cause them to hate. And being a *particle*, they continue in their hatred.

Perhaps the reason or the cause for the hatred is the fact that God has given His people the authority or the right to be children of God, if they just choose to exercise that right, regardless of how many times they have sinned and continue to sin.<sup>2</sup> Though captive in the city of religious apostasy, they can escape any time they want to, for God gives them help, which ironically the unclean spirits, birds, and beasts are a part of providing. Yes, even these demonic entities are ministering spirits. This must really fuel their hatred.

Through their oppressive oversight, some people are caused to wake up from their drunken stupor and they realize that they need to flee *Babylon the great* and come out of her. But the **Codex** is quite specific, God does not give help to the angels who fell, they are doomed with no opportunity to repent, and they are provided no help from God. They must simply serve and minister, as He instructs, to those who are now being heirs of salvation. Again, this must really fuel their hatred.<sup>3</sup>

**The Harlot's City**

The general idea is that the realm of apostate religion, the realm of what man can do for God, is a terrible place, an evil place, a place that has no love-lost for the believer in God. They hate and detest the

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<sup>2</sup> *John 1:12; Mathew 18:3*

<sup>3</sup> *Hebrews 1:12, 2:16*

people of God, even while they watch over them doing all they can to keep people addicted to the wine of this Harlot. They have in effect created for Christians a make-believe world, a spiritual delusion, where Christians believe they are truly serving God and doing His work, while the truth is something quite sinister, foul, and dark.

**THE PEOPLE OF GOD ARE DRUNK WITH SPIRITUAL DELUSION,  
AND THEY DO NOT EVEN KNOW IT!**

***Revelation 18:3***

For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality {strenuousness}

The harlot's domain, the waters upon which she sits, are quite expansive. The seven mountains that now are seven kings, that now are seven kingdoms span the entire world. **ALL THE NATIONS** have drunk, none have passed her by or escaped her vice.<sup>4</sup> And they have drunk of the wine of the "**wrath**" of her immorality. This word, often translated "passion" in many Bibles, is the Greek word "*thumos*" which is the same word used for the Great "**Wrath**" of God and it refers to intense fierce indignation. Perhaps the translators were attempting to stay with the theme of "immorality" which is why they substituted "passion" for "wrath," but it is inaccurate and does not convey the intensity of the Spirit's communication. Though the word "passion" expresses an intense emotion, it unfortunately loses its connection to fierce anger and indignation.

The Harlot's immorality is seductive, and it is more than pleasing, she offers everyone a chance to participate in the lusts of the flesh, the apostasy of Cain (6), the lusts of the eyes, the apostasy of Balaam (6), and the boastful pride of life, the apostasy of Korah (6). Underlying her religious pretense is malice expressed in wrath, much like the hatefulness coming from those unclean spirits, birds, and beasts.

To help us with this picture, we must remember that the Harlot herself is drunk with the blood of the holy ones and the blood of the two witnesses of Jesus, and those who drink from her cup have been guzzling down abominations and the unclean things of her immorality. In drinking of her wine, the Kings of the Earth and the nations have also come to hate or have wrath for the true people of God, and they participate in her bloodshed.

## **Kings of the Earth**

"... and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her ..." The Kings of the Earth, those spiritual rulers over territories of mankind, have committed acts of immorality with her. They have not only permitted her to operate in their territories, but they also actively participate in her sexual deeds.

Not only the seven heads who have manifested themselves to humanity as gods, but so too these

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<sup>4</sup> "drunk" is rendered in the *perfect active indicative*

“Kings of the Earth.” This would explain the millions, literally millions of gods that are worshipped around the world. By way of example, though Hinduism believes there is one supreme being, Krishna, they believe Krishna has put in place many “demigods” (to the tune of 33 million) to oversee and run the functioning of the universe. These demigods are worshipped in form, function, and name, by approximately 1 billion Hindus. In effect, the Hindus worship the hosts of heaven, the Kings of the Earth who manifest themselves to humanity as gods.

Other examples where the “Kings of the Earth” have manifested themselves to humanity as gods would include Taoism (indigenous to China), Shenism (Chinese folk religion), Japanese Shinto, Santeria (an Afro-Caribbean religion founded in Cuba), most traditional African and Native American religions, and various neopagan faiths such as Wicca (a syncretic earth-based religion). But wait, we must not leave out the 45,000+ versions of Jesus that are out there and are being worshipped by the 45,000+ different denominations, each with their own unique take on some aspect of Jesus regarding who He is, what He has said, what He did, what He is doing and will do.

The angelic Kings of the Earth have committed acts of immorality or sexuality with the Harlot as they have seduced humanity into idolatrous worship.

## Merchants of the Earth

*“... and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the power of her sensuality {strenuousness}.”* A spiritual being that operates across the globe and is so powerful and influential that even the Kings of the Earth follow her ways, is bound to control many resources of the earth. Thus, the merchants of the earth have become rich literally by the force of her strenuousness or the force of her intense effort.

The Greek word “*strenos*” translated as “sensuality” in most Bibles is used only this one time in the **Codex**. It comes from a root word which means stiff or stable, and therefore “strenuous” is a better translation. Some translations chose the following renderings: passionate immorality, unrestrained love of luxury, revel, adulteries, delicacies, abundance of her luxury, the power of her wantonness, and sexual immorality. The idea, however, is simply that through her intense efforts she has made these merchants rich. She has been the source of their abundance, and it is by the force of her will or her strength that she has provided.

We will dive further into this at the end of the chapter, but the phrase “**merchants of the earth**” is a picture of all those who trade in this woman’s immorality and make their living off her commerce, those whose lives are dependent one way or another on the survival and operation of this system. We will spend time on these merchants of religion in the latter part of this chapter, but let it be said that no one who is part of, or benefits from, this “*great city*” is going to escape when her final judgment arrives.

The human avatars of these merchants of the earth would include the religious institutions, churches, schools, ministries, religious leaders, pastors, teachers, writers, worship leaders, para-church groups, and so on—all those whose specialty and occupation is religion and who have participated in her business of keeping men and women dependent upon **Yahweh** plus their own efforts and/or the efforts of others, like the merchants.

The word translated “*merchants*” can also be translated “wholesaler” or “tradesman.” A wholesaler is one who buys from a producer and then sells to the public. A wholesaler does not come up with the product, but just markets the product and transacts deals with the consumer. Accordingly, this is a picture

of our churches, our media outlets, our bookstores, our religious colleges, and every organization that is involved in merchandising this religious product for monetary gain. After all, it does take a lot of behind the scenes support for any “ministry” or religious operation to stay afloat.

The ministers (who are referred to as shipmasters and sailors, whose trade is on the sea) are only a small part of this system. They are on the sea of humanity and have a more visible role, but the numbers of people both within and outside many “ministries” which make this system work are not insignificant. Especially when you consider any ministry that sells its wares through television, radio, print, digital or other media. The support system is huge.

These merchants have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living or from her strenuous effort. She feeds them, she is their livelihood, and she is their source of prosperity and success in this life. In fact, a big part of this woman’s attraction is that she promises riches and a nice life to those who are her most ardent followers, to those who protect her interests the most and though they may teach the “truth” they do not teach the entire truth. They avoid those parts of the “truth” that would alert their fare paying passengers of their need to simply get off the boat.

Unfortunately, there are many who have gone into the ministry as a job, and they are professionals in the business of religion. Sadly, they would never leave because it is essentially a trade. They have no other way of making a living, so by perceived necessity (which is not God’s perspective), they are bound to this woman’s system, and they learn to make it work for their benefit.

The entire religious framework supports this system. For example, school kids, who often have no idea what to do with their lives, are encouraged by their youth minister to go to Bible College (a merchant) with the promise of graduating and getting a job in the ministry (becoming a tradesman). It has little to do with what God is calling them to do, it has more to do with finding gifted and talented kids a way to make a living in this world of ministry and to perpetuate the system.

Once a person heads down this path, it is exceedingly difficult to get out of it. For instance, their degrees are generally not useful in the economy of the world, it is only marketable in the economy of this religious system which this woman controls. This manipulated system is the reason the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her strenuousness.

## ***Come Out of Her!***

### ***Revelation 18:4-8, 20***

I heard another voice from heaven, **now** saying, "You are *commanded*, the people, ***the people***, mine, to come out of her so that you **may** not participate of her sins and **may** not receive of her plagues; for her sins have been caused to be glued up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

You are *commanded* to pay her back even as she has paid, and you are *commanded* to give back to her double and double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, you are *commanded* to mix twice as much for her.

To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree you are *commanded* to give her torment and mourning; for she **now** says in her heart, 'I **now** choose to SIT as A QUEEN AND

I **now** AM NOT A WIDOW and **may** never see mourning.' For this reason, in one day her plagues will in the **future** come, death and mourning and famine, and she will in the **future** be caused to be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who has been judging her is strong."

You are *commanded* to **now** be caused rejoice over her, O heaven, and the holy ones, **and the holy ones** and the apostles, **the apostles** and the prophets, **the prophets**, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her."

## The Six Commands

Six commands, with six, according to the **Code**, being the number representing mankind, these six commands are for the people, **the people** who belong to God, to whom He says "*mine*." Therefore, if you belong to God, if you are His, it is imperative to understand these commands and to receive them as part of your calling and then, by the Spirit of God, by His leading and His grace, to walk in them.

But how do we wrap our minds around these commands? We are told what to do but not how to do it. What will it mean for us personally and collectively to walk in obedience to these commands? Let's explore and see if we can make sense of it all.

### Command 1

*"I heard another voice from heaven, **now** saying, "You are commanded, the people, **the people**, mine, to come out of her so that you **may** not participate of her the sins and **may** not receive of her plagues; for her sins have been caused to be glued up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities."*

The voice from heaven that is giving these commands to the people of God is clearly that of **Yahweh**, for only He can claim us as His own, saying "*mine*." Being rendered in the *present* tense, He is now saying this command; it is for us even now. But with the use of the *vocative* case, the Spirit is conveying this command to all those in God's household, "*the people*" (the Called who are in the "temple" at large), but even more specifically this command is targeted at those in the Sanctuary who are the **Called and Chosen**, "**the people**." In effect, it is a cry for the **Called and Chosen** to now have ears to now hear what the Spirit is now saying to His people and to now be **faithful**.

This first command is to "*come out of her*." We will get to the reasons for this command, which are super intense, but let us ruminate on this command and its practical implications.

### The Spiritual Scene

To properly understand what we are to do with this command "*to come out of her*," we must keep in mind the scenario we have been given by the Spirit of God. He has told us that this great Harlot, who is drunk with the blood of the holy ones of God and the two witnesses (the **Called and Chosen and Faithful**), has seduced practically everyone, all peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues with her religious apostasy, her delusion of goodness and godliness, and with her idolatrous practices filled with mysteries or secrets.

Shockingly, we found out that the people of God who are **not** now worshipping in the Sanctuary are held captive in the great city of religious apostasy, Babylon the great, and their caretakers, their prison guards, their overlords, are all manner of nasty demonic beings who are filled with hatred for their

captives.

### **Jeremiah 50:33-34**

Thus says **Yahweh Sabaoth** (the Lord of hosts), "The sons of Israel are oppressed, and the sons of Judah as well; *and all who took them captive have held them fast, they have refused to let them go.* Their Redeemer is strong, **Yahweh Sabaoth** (the Lord of hosts) is His name; He will vigorously plead their case so that He may bring rest to the earth, but turmoil to the inhabitants of Babylon.

The captives, however, are so drunk with her wine that they do not care. They are those who say, *"They struck me, but I did not become ill; they beat me, but I did not know it. When shall I awake? I will seek another drink."*<sup>5</sup>

This Harlot of religious apostasy is so lovely, attractive, and her wine addicting, that people easily follow her seductions. So much so that she uses those who think they are serving God, those from the synagogues (the local churches), to persecute and kill "*the people*," the **Called and Chosen and Faithful** of God.<sup>6</sup> We saw this happen with Jesus as He was slaughtered amongst those who claimed to worship only **Yahweh**, which ironically was and is Him.

That is the scenario the Spirit has explained. This is the background to the command to "*come out of her.*" The Spirit did not specifically tell us how to come out of her great city of harlotry, but it seems that the only safe place for "*the people*" is for them to remain in the Sanctuary worshipping God, and to have nothing to do with the temple at large, to not even enter her house.

### **The Reason**

*"You are commanded, the people, the people, mine, to come out of her so that you **may** not participate of her sins and **may** not receive of her plagues ..."*

### **Proverbs 7:24-27**

Now therefore, my sons listen to me, and pay attention to the words of my mouth. Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, do not stray into her paths. For many are the victims she has cast down, and numerous are all her slain. Her house is the way to Sheol, descending to the chambers of death.

This command to come out of her, as hard as it is going to be to do, is for our protection and for our safety. If we remain in her house participating in her sins, we will "*receive of her plagues,*" her strikes or wounds. In verse **18:8**, those plagues are described as death, scarcity (or famine), and mourning.

There is a price to pay for sleeping with this woman, that is why she is a Harlot. One may not have to pay her fee upfront, but make no mistake, payment will be made. And the price for participating in her

<sup>5</sup> **Proverbs 23:35**

<sup>6</sup> **John 16:1-4**



sins is to share in the plagues that will be poured out upon her.

Remember, according to the great culling in **Revelation 11:1**, even those priests, who are authorized to be in the Sanctuary, but were busy serving in the temple at large, leading people in worship and sacrifice, are excluded from God's measurement of "*mine*." They are not measured off as belonging to God. They belong to the great Harlot and will suffer as she suffers, for they will have no part in the first resurrection, in the rapture of the church. They will be left behind, and those who cling to her ways of religious apostasy, those who continue to drink from her cup, will know her judgment, for it will be their judgment, death, scarcity (or famine), and mourning.

The Spirit provides this **WARNING** because He wants us out of her city and in the Sanctuary, and in the Sanctuary is where He wants us to remain.

As we have learned, once a person is born-again, or converted by God, they are imbued with the power or the authority to choose to become a son of God and live in unrestrained freedom, trusting **Yahweh** as their sole source of all things, or they can choose to be enslaved and held captive to this harlot, under the supervision of some real nasty demonic entities: unclean spirits, birds, and beasts. The choice is there for each "child of God" to make.<sup>7</sup> Will they choose to be enslaved and live like Ismael, or will they live free like a son, just like Isaac. Either way, those who choose to be enslaved, bound with shackles of the law, will not inherit with those who choose to live free.<sup>8</sup>

### It's Piled Up

"...for her sins have been caused to be glued up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities." There is a truism that, due to the mercy of God, is often overlooked. What people do is recorded in the books, and they will be judged according to their deeds.<sup>9</sup> The mercy that God has on us and His forbearance in bringing judgment into our lives, makes us feel as if we can get away with sin. But that is just not the case. It is metaphorically glued together and piled up. And in the case of the great Harlot, her pile is so immense, it has reached as high as heaven. Despite His mercy, even though God has held this cup, Babylon, in His hands, He has not forgotten. He has remembered her iniquities.

### Spiritual Irony

This phrase "*glued up as high as heaven*" is a statement of spiritual irony and a play on history. This spirit of religious apostasy got her start in Babylon as she urged Nimrod to build the great tower, the gateway to heaven. Nimrod lead those in Shinar (the territory of Babylon) to say, "*Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven ...*"<sup>10</sup> This tower, this work of the hands, this symbol of religious apostasy, though physically destroyed, has continued to be built, brick by brick, with the mortar of iniquity, and it has reached into the heavens just as she hoped. But she did not count on the fact that God has remembered her iniquities and judges her accordingly.

### Let's Get Real

Stepping aside from the imagery and metaphors, we must understand that there is a fundamental

<sup>7</sup> See **John 1:12; Matthew 18:3**

<sup>8</sup> See **Galatians 4:21-31**

<sup>9</sup> See **Revelation 20:12-13**

<sup>10</sup> **Genesis 11:4**



difference between those who are very busy serving God, doing ministry for God, trying so very hard to be good for God, to be good Christians, good witnesses to the world, and those who live at rest and stand only on the goodness of God, doing only what God tells them to do and say, when He tells them.

With that in mind, Christianity is the largest religion in the world comprised of 2.38 Billion out of 8 billion people on the earth, and it accounts for just under 30% of the world's population. Christianity is replete with those who claim to know the pathway to life (the pathway to Jesus who is life). But since this path is "*narrow*," the truth is that despite the optics surrounding Christianity and its size, only few are now finding this pathway to life.

#### **Matthew 7:14**

For the gate is small and the way has been caused to being narrow that is **now** leading to life, and there **now** are few who are **now** finding it.

#### **Luke 13:24-25**

You are commanded to now strive {agonize} to enter through the narrow door; for **many**, I **now** tell you, will in the **future** seek to enter and will not in the **future** be able.

When Jesus said that this path is "*narrow*" he was playing off an old Hebraic saying. The Hebrew word "*tsar*" (translated in the Old Testament as "*narrow*") means to be distressed, as in the pangs of birth (trying to push a big baby out of a very small opening) or making reference to an enemy combatant trying to get through a small space between two large stones in the walls of Jerusalem, a space that can easily be blocked by one man. As a Hebraism, "*tsar*" communicates a psychological or spiritual status of being in distress because of scarcity. And Jesus made a play on this Hebraism to make his point about the kingdom of God.

As we have learned, not everyone who says "*Lord, Lord*" will enter the kingdom of Heaven, just a few. Jesus tells us that **many** will seek to enter the Kingdom of God and will in the **future** not be able for He will tell them, "*I never knew you.*" Even now He commands them to depart from Him, for they are workers of iniquity.<sup>11</sup> Just like the great Harlot, all their good deeds done for God are lawless, not authorized by God, not performed before the face of the Father, and are therefore morally and spiritually void.

We learned in the letters to the churches that we must not be deluded by our religious institutions, by our religious leaders, by our local churches and church groups, by good sounding Christianity, by those on the radio, TV, or YouTube, by famous authors, prophets, teachers, and so on. More importantly, we learned that we must not be deluded by our *own* religious experiences, by any results that occur when we "serve" God. After all, Jesus said that there are **many** who call Him Lord and perform **many** miracles, cast out demons, and prophesy in His name, but do not know Him. In other words, they experienced God use them in supernatural ways to touch and minister to other people; still, He did not know them. He used them, like He used the donkey to minister to Balaam. But as to their works, they were lawless despite

<sup>11</sup> See **John 14:6; Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23; Luke 13:27**

their good intentions and sincerity in “serving God” and “ministering to people.”<sup>12</sup>

Again, this is in accord with what we learned in **Revelation 11:1**. Those priests who are busy, albeit with good intentions, helping the people of God serve and worship God and sacrifice to God will not be measured off as belonging to God, they will not be part of the “mine.”

In the book of Hebrews, the Spirit describes it all as follows:

#### **Hebrews 6:4-8**

For in the case of those who once were caused to being enlightened and had chosen to be tasting of the heavenly gift and were caused to being made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and had chosen to be tasting of the good word of God and the powers of the age that are **now** coming, and then have been falling away, it is impossible to **now** renew them again to repentance, since they again are **now** crucifying to themselves the Son of God and are **now** putting Him to open shame.

For ground that has been drinking the rain which often chokes to **now** be falling on it and **now** bringing forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also caused to **now** be tilled, **now** receives a blessing from God; but if it is **now** yielding thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to cursed, whose the end to burn.

Many, many Christians have been partakers of the Holy Spirit, are tasting of the word of God and have operated in the unseen realms dealing with the powers of the age (for instance, like casting out demons or prophesying), and they have done many great acts “for God,” but still they have fallen away and have been cut off from Christ. Like those at the church of Ephesus and Sardis, and even some of those at the church of Galatia, they have gone apostate.<sup>13</sup> The clue to the nature of their fall is found in the statement that “they again are **now** crucifying to themselves the Son of God and are **now** putting Him to open shame.”

This tells us that they do not operate in grace (what God does for them); rather, they are obsessed with what they can do and must do for God. They are fixated on sin and in so doing they put a burden on their own lives, and the lives of others, to be good for God and to do it right, Christianity that is. In effect they are now putting Jesus to open shame by proclaiming that the work Jesus did on the cross to not just forgive us of all our sin, but to remove our sin as far as the east is from the west, was not enough, there must be more that needs to be done.<sup>14</sup>

Over-and-over again they are now crucifying to themselves the Son of God requiring more repentance, more holiness, more discipline, more accountability, more, more, more. They do not live with themselves or with others as if sin is no longer an issue between man and God; instead, they make sin one of the central issues in the lives of believers.

We are told that through the cross Jesus shamed, or put on public display, the spiritual rulers, and

<sup>12</sup> **Matthew 7:21-23; Numbers 22:28**

<sup>13</sup> See **Galatians 5:1-9**

<sup>14</sup> **1 John 1:9; Psalm 103:10-12; Hebrews 9:28**

authorities, having triumphed over them. He literally blew open the doors of our captivity and gave us the opportunity to live in absolute unrestrained freedom. For while we were dead in our sins and the and the uncircumcision of our *flesh*, He made us alive together with Him, having forgiven us **all** our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.<sup>15</sup>

In effect, Jesus took our criminal record filled with charges against us and destroyed it, leaving no charges remaining for the spiritual rulers and authorities to prosecute, torment, and by force hold us in their prisons where we are enslaved to the law, the cages or holds which are found in the great city, Babylon the great. That is the reason the Harlot must tempt us to drink of her wine so that we become so inebriated we are not even aware of the freedom that is available to us.

When we remain obsessed on sin (those charges against us that were forever destroyed), and we repent, and repent, and repent, we are putting Jesus to shame. We are putting Him back on the cross and crucifying to ourselves the Son of God and are now putting Him to open shame. And though the gates to this prison are wide open and we are free to leave and to live, we stay in our little cages under the supervision of the hateful demons because that is what we are used to and that is where we are comfortable, and that is where so many want us to stay. At least there in our cages we get to keep drinking the wine of the Harlot's immorality and are fully supported and encouraged in all our attempts at being good Christians and being good for God. In this prison, no one wants to see us even attempt to leave her city and walk out in freedom, as any attempt to do so will be met with strong opposition from all the other prisoners, just as the unclean spirits, birds, and beasts' command.

The sad and terrifying truth is that **many, so, so many**, will try to enter the pathway that is **now** leading to life and will not in the **future** be able because they are **NOT** now believing the truth. Our imprisonment is over, we are free, and we need to live free. *"Therefore, let us be caused to fear if, while a promise is caused to now be remaining of entering His rest, any one of you may **now** seem to have come short of it."*<sup>16</sup>

Let's stop here and we will pick up with a "test" to know if we have been deceived by our religion.

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

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<sup>15</sup> *Colossians 2:13-15*

<sup>16</sup> *Hebrews 4:1*, but see *Hebrews 3-4*