

(19a) NIGHT CRY: Demonic Dimensions

John saw a prostitute riding a scarlet coloured beast, with the name, *"Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of the Harlots and of the Abominations of the Earth,"* written on her forehead (Revelation 17:3,5). Who or what is Babylon the great prostitute? Revelation's symbols are interpreted by the Bible. In Revelation there are contrasting pairs: A marriage supper of the Lamb and a supper of the vultures; the seal of God and the mark of the Beast; a pure woman and a prostitute. To understand one of the pair, it is important to study the other also.

John saw a woman clothed with the sun (Revelation 12:1,2). She symbolized God's faithful people through the ages: *"I have likened the daughter of Zion to a comely and delicate woman"* (Jeremiah 6:2). This woman of course referred to the Old Testament people of God. The vision continued: *"Then being with child; she cried out, in labour, and in pain to give birth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her child as soon as it was born. She bore a Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her child was caught up to God, and His throne"* (Revelation 12:2,4,5). God's Old Testament people longed for the Christ. *"And when the dragon saw he was cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who brought forth the man child"* (Revelation 12:13). This woman now represented God's faithful people since Christ, who the Bible calls Christ's bride: *"...For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I might present you as a chaste virgin to Christ"* (2 Corinthians 11:2). Paul is clearly referring to the true and loved Church or people of God in New Testament times.

Understanding who this pure woman is, we can now understand more easily who the adulterous prostitute represents. She symbolizes an apostate or fallen Church or people of God. The Bible says, *"Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?"* (James 4:4). So adulterers here refers to Christians who belong to the world while professing love for Christ.

Babylon, the Great Prostitute, is made up of 3 parts: *"Now THE GREAT CITY was divided into THREE PARTS and...GREAT BABYLON was remembered before God"* (Revelation 16:17-21). What are the 3 parts?: *"And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river, the river Euphrates; and the water of it was dried up, so that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared"* (Revelation 16:12). King Cyrus came from east of Babylon, dried up the Euphrates river and took Babylon. Euphrates is code for Babylon the Great: *"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet"* (Revelation 16:13).

End-time Babylon consists of: the dragon or Satan and all non-Christian religions and world views that are used as his fronts; secondly, the Sea Beast or Dark Age church, revived after receiving a deadly wound; and the Land Beast or False Prophet, representing Protestant USA, no longer following Bible truth. Thus Babylon in Revelation represents all religions and world views opposed to God.

John saw, *"The woman was clothed 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"* (Revelation 17:4). Christ likened his teachings, or doctrines to "New Wine" or unfermented grape juice (Luke 5:37). Thus the golden wine cup in her hand represents the intoxication of false doctrine. Paul predicted: *"Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons"* (1 Timothy 4:1). The intoxicating wine is the false doctrines of Babylon, such as: baptism by sprinkling, which replaced baptism by immersion; the immortal soul doctrine, that replaced death as a sleep; Sunday sacredness, which replaced Saturday, the 7th-day-Bible Sabbath; eternally burning hell, that replaced the fires of destruction at the end of the world that go out after they have done their work. This is why a second angel was sent with the following message: *"A second angel, followed, saying, 'Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, because she made all the nations drink of the WINE of the wrath of her fornication'"* (Revelation 14:8). Babylon's false teachings have influenced and corrupted the entire world!

These 3 powers gather everyone to the Battle of Armageddon. How? *"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils working miracles, which go forth to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon"* (Revelation 16:13,14,16). Demonic Deceptions from these three entities gather everyone to The Battle of Armageddon! Revelation gives more information earlier in the book: *"He (The Land Beast) performs GREAT SIGNS, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he DECEIVES those who live on the earth by those SIGNS which he was granted to do...And he...causes the earth and those who dwell in it to WORSHIP the first Beast...So they WORSHIPED the Dragon (Satan) who gave authority to THE BEAST"*

(Revelation 13:13,14,4). These deceptive signs and wonders lead ultimately to the global worship of Satan!

Are signs and wonders - miracles to deceive the world, taking place today? What about signs and wonders in non-Christian religions and world views? Just think of Hollywood for a moment. Over the last few years the world has been fed from Hollywood a movie diet heavy on the supernatural – Harry Potter; Ghost; The Blair Witch etc. Go into any book store and you will discover the New Age movement is growing exponentially. An increasing number of new age books can be seen on book shelves. Witchcraft and magic are increasing. Live Television séances are occurring. Yet we know it is not the dead appearing or talking because the Bible says, “*The dead know NOTHING...*” (Ecclesiastes 9:5). Look in magazines and you will notice reports of reincarnated lives are increasing as the west gets further into eastern religions. We know it can't be reincarnated lives that are communicating because the Bible says, “*The dead know NOTHING...*” (Ecclesiastes 9:5). The Bible also says, “*It is appointed unto men ONCE to DIE, and after that the Judgment*” (Hebrews 9:27). No question that signs and wonders are increasing in non-Christian religions and world views today.

What about signs and wonders in the Church of Rome? Is it happening? In a book called, “The Thunder of Justice” by a Roman Catholic couple, is a report on the increasing number of Marian apparitions or appearances that are taking place globally today: Time Magazine ran an article called, “MARY: Handmaid or Feminist?” Notice what the article said, “*He (Pope John Paul II) firmly believes that her (Mary's) personal intercession spared his life when he was shot at St. Peter's Square in Rome in 1981.*” Mary the mother of Jesus died like all of us, and the Bible says, “*The dead know NOTHING*” (Ecclesiastes 9:5). So it is not Mary who is speaking. Someone else is appearing or speaking like Mary. No question signs and wonders are increasing in the Church of Rome.

What about signs and wonders in American led Protestant Christianity. Is it happening? The main activities of the Protestant signs and wonders movement are healings and prophecies. The Bible supports prophecies and healing, but it also warns us that we need to beware of the signs and wonders movement: “*Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name and done many wonders in Your name? And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you: depart from me, you who practice lawlessness!'*” (Matthew 7:22,23). We must test who is behind such people by the fruits of their actions and by whether they follow God's word and His commandments (1 John 4:1; Matthew 7:16,20,21; Isaiah 8:20). No question signs and wonders are increasing in American led Protestant Christianity.

How can we avoid demonic deceptions? Paul, talking of these things said, “*The coming of the LAWLESS ONE [Anti-Christ] is according to the working of Satan, with ALL POWER, SIGNS and*

LYING WONDERS, and with ALL UNRIGHTEOUS DECEPTION among those who perish, BECAUSE THEY DID NOT RECEIVE THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH, that they might be saved” (2 Thessalonians 2:9,10). We will not be deceived if we love and follow the truth wherever it leads us.

Demonic deceptions will lead almost the whole world to worship Satan. The result is End-time destruction at the Battle of Armageddon. Because of His great love God sends Earth's final message, when a fourth angel joins the second angel: “*After this I saw ANOTHER angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was lighted by His splendour. With a mighty voice he shouted: 'Fallen! Fallen is BABYLON the Great. She has become a home for DEVILS and a haunt for every EVIL SPIRIT...Then I heard ANOTHER VOICE from HEAVEN say: 'COME OUT of her MY PEOPLE, that you have no part in her sins and that you receive none of her plagues; for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her sins'*” (Revelation 18:1,2,4,5). Babylon – all religions and world views opposed to God's word have fallen beyond repair! So God himself cries out in the darkness of this world's evil, “*Come out MY people before it is too late!*” There are only two groups in the end: 1. Those in Babylon; and 2. those outside of Babylon. Who are those called who come out of Babylon? Come to ancient Babylon, which was situated on the Euphrates River. Cyrus the Medo-Persian conquered Babylon. God had said to His people living in Babylon, “*Leave it (Babylon), my people! Run for your lives! Run from the burning anger of the LORD*” (Jeremiah 51:45). A REMNANT came out of Babylon: “*And there shall be a highway for the REMNANT of his people that shall remain, from Assyria (taken over by Babylon); as there was for Israel in the day they came up out of the land of Egypt*” (Isaiah 11:16). Just as a REMNANT came out of ancient Babylon, so a REMNANT comes out of End-time spiritual Babylon: “*And the dragon was angry with the woman, and went to make war with the REMNANT of her SEED...*” (Revelation 12:17). In a previous program we saw that the woman's seed or offspring is Jesus. So this is “The Remnant of Jesus” - the Remnant of His Body or Church - those faithful to God while the majority are unfaithful. Notice what Paul says: “*Elijah appealed... 'Lord they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars.'...And what was God's answer to him? 'I have...7000 who have not bowed the knee to Baal.'*” So too (as in Elijah's time) at the present time (Paul's time) there is a REMNANT chosen by GRACE” (Romans 11:2-5). Elijah and the faithful 7000 were a REMNANT, and the early Christian Church was a “REMNANT” - The Jews faithful to God while the rest turned from God by crucifying Christ. During end-time global unfaithfulness, God will have a faithful end-time REMNANT people.

How is their faithfulness to God revealed? “*And the dragon was angry with the woman, and went to make war with the REMNANT of her seed who*

KEEP the COMMANDMENTS of God and have the testimony of Jesus” (Revelation 12:17). Their faithfulness is seen in keeping all of God’s commandments. But why are they faithful? “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and have THE FAITH of JESUS” (Revelation 14:12). They have put their trust firmly in Jesus, and so obey all of His commandments, no matter the cost. Just as Israel was able to come out of Egypt after sprinkling the blood of slain lambs on the doors of their homes, so only the blood of Jesus will give us the strength to come out of belief systems and religions that are not following all God’s commandments (Exodus 12; 15; Revelation 15:1-3). Why not determine right now to be among God’s faithful end-time Remnant who keep all of His commandments, including His 7th day Sabbath. Call on God by trusting in the death of Jesus for the power and strength that you need. He will help you abundantly.