

### Identifying God's End-Time Community of Faith

Does God still have a \_\_\_\_\_ on earth today? The answer must be: \_\_\_\_\_. If the answer is: \_\_\_\_\_, then Jesus was wrong when he said, "the gates of hell will not prevail against" her. Jesus wasn't wrong, and he wasn't lying! His church is still alive, and amidst the confusion and fallen-ness of the contemporary religious environment, she upholds *God's Word*, *God's Law*, and most importantly *God's Gospel*. List the identifying characteristics of God's last-day community of faith. Be sure to give textual support.

- 1.
2.
  - a.
  - b.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

### Is God Calling You? Yes!

Could it be that God is calling you to join His end-time movement? Will you accept that invitation? God has a plan for your life, and it is not by accident that you came to these meetings. God has brought Bible truth to you because He believes you can be trusted with it. "Walk in the light while you have it."

# —Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

No. 21

Discover: Babylon is Alive and Well!

Many people wonder why there are so many Christian denominations. This is a fair question. After all, there is just *one* Bible, *one* Savior and *one* God, so it is difficult to understand why there should be so many different churches. The purpose of this lesson will be to understand both *the cause of* and *the solution to* this phenomenon.

### How Many Churches Did Jesus Establish?

According to Matthew 16:13-19 (especially v. 18), how many churches did Jesus Christ establish? \_\_\_\_\_. Ephesians 5:25-32 reveals the same thing. Jesus Christ established, and "gave Himself" for "\_\_\_\_\_ church", that is, \_\_\_\_\_ church. This is an essential point to grasp. There are over 1000 separate Christian denominations and sects in the world today, yet Jesus established just a single church. What happened? Revelation holds the key...

### Is Jesus A Polygamist?

Revelation 12 depicts a chaste, beautiful and virtuous woman. This woman represents God's \_\_\_\_\_ church, His \_\_\_\_\_ people. (Remember, a woman in Bible prophecy represents a church. See Jeremiah 6:2; 2Corinthians 11:2) In Revelation 17 we find an unfaithful, adulterous woman the Bible calls a \_\_\_\_\_. In verses 1-5 she is accused three times of having committed \_\_\_\_\_. She also has numerous \_\_\_\_\_ who are themselves adulterous and unfaithful. Notice that there are many different women (churches) here in Revelation. This is especially incredible when you remember that we have already learned that Jesus Christ established just \_\_\_\_\_ church prior to his ascension.

### A Babylonian Bride

Revelation 17:5 tells us the "name" of this unfaithful woman: "Mystery, Babylon the Great the Mother of Harlots and of the Abominations of the Earth". This reference to Babylon is an important one, and we must not overlook it!

Genesis 11:1-9 and Daniel 4:30 are two passages that sum up what Babylon represented and stood for. Babylon (both *ancient* and *neo*) was:

- A \_\_\_\_\_ system of religion
- A \_\_\_\_\_ of image worship
- The center of false teachings about \_\_\_\_\_
- The center of \_\_\_\_\_ worship

The two cardinal characteristics of end-time Babylon are:

- 1) man-made (a tribute to man and his “wisdom” and artifice)
- 2) a center of confusion

### **Identifying End-Time Babylon**

Revelation 17 gives not less than nine identifying characteristics of end-time Babylon. They are as follows:

1. Church
2. Area of many nations
3. City
4. Rules over kings
5. Seven mountains/ hills
6. Purple and scarlet in color (missing the *blue* of the High Priest)
7. Rich
8. Persecutes
9. Blasphemous

Significantly, Revelation describes this woman, this unfaithful church, as dressing in the same colors as the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Old Testament. There is just one color missing: *blue*, see Exodus 28:5, 6, 13-15. According to Numbers 15:37, the *blue* in the priestly garment in the Old Testament was a symbol of the *remembrance of* and *adherence to* the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. The woman of Revelation 17 purports to be God’s priest, God’s representative, but in the absence of the color *blue*, John, the author of Revelation, is communicating that this unfaithful church has forgotten the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. Clearly, she cannot be Christ’s true bride, for Christ’s true bride at the end of time keeps the commandments of God. See Revelation 12:17; 14:12; 22:14. The above identifying characteristics make it

clear that the identity of end time Babylon is none other than the Roman Church. Her daughters are those churches or communions which adhere to either Roman or Babylonian doctrines, dogmas, and teachings. Daughters look similar to their respective mothers, yet are not \_\_\_\_\_. In short, end-time Babylon is a fallen, unfaithful group of churches which adhere to the teachings, doctrines, and commandments of men and ignore the plain teachings of the word of God. They thus create a confusion-laden environment. End-time Babylon is the \_\_\_\_\_, fallen. She is not the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

### **Come Out of Her My People**

Rev. 18:1-5 finds God calling His people out of end-time Babylon. God claims the people, but the systems that teach error and ignore the plain teachings of the Bible are judged and disavowed. The importance of this point cannot be overstated. Like Lot of old, God calls His people out prior to the coming destruction. Babylon is not to be \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_. It is not difficult to discern whether or not one is “in Babylon”; one need only ask, and answer, a simple question: Does my church, my “community of faith”, contain any residual papal, pagan, or Babylonian elements or teachings?

### **Out of Babylon, Into What?**

We have seen the “exit” sign, but now we need to know, from the Bible, where to go—the “enter” sign. Fortunately, the Bible is clear on this. The woman of Revelation 12 is depicted as being clothed with those things that bring \_\_\_\_\_ to this planet—sun, moon and stars. God’s end-time church will be steeped in the Bible—its teachings, its principles, its practices, and its commandments. Verse 17 of this chapter makes it clear that God’s end-time people will be a commandment-keeping people. This would include, of course, the \_\_\_\_\_ commandment of the Ten Commandments, which tells of the sanctity and beauty of the \_\_\_\_\_. God’s end-time church will uphold the teachings and commandments of God over the traditions and teachings of man. God’s end-time church will adhere to the faith of Jesus. It will uphold the divine law as the great moral standard, but it will point to Jesus Christ as the only way of salvation. Law and gospel will be joined beautifully in this end-time community of faith. Faith and obedience will be inseparably coupled; like the old Gospel hymn says: “*Trust and obey for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus, than to trust and obey.*”