

Session 14: Come out of Her My People (Part 2)

I. A Cup Full of Abominations

1. The bride must come out of the snare of the harlot called Babylon the great in order to be made ready as a bride for Christ.

a. In this session we will continue our look at the call to come out of the harlot Babylon the great. The passage we have been exploring and will continue to look at in this session is recorded in Revelation 18:4-8. It reads,

I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues; for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back to her double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her. To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, "I SIT AS A QUEEN AND I AM NOT A WIDOW, and will never see mourning". For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong (Rev. 18:4-8).

b. As you will recall, in the last session we addressed the call for the bride to come out of all allegiance with Babylon the great looking at the three components of this global antichrist system: government, economy and monetary system, and religion. As we stated in the last session, the bride must come out of her so as to not "receive of her plagues".

c. In this session, we want to explore again the urgent demand for the bride to come out of Babylon the great, but in this session we will examine her seductions in the context of Babylon as "the great harlot who sits on many waters" (Rev. 17:1). Therefore, this session will focus on the need for believers to come out of her immoralities and abominations so that we do not "participate in her sins" (Rev. 18:4).

d. With that introduction, let's begin.

2. The harlot Babylon will attempt to seduce believers and non-believers alike away from the purity of bridal readiness.

a. The two chapters which speak of this harlot include these verses which refer to immoralities, seduction, uncleanness, and witchcraft,

...[the great harlot] with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality (Rev. 17:2).

The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality (Rev. 17:4).

...and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" (Rev. 17:5)

Session 14: Come out of Her My People (Part 2)

For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion 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 (Rev. 18:3).

And the kings of the earth, who committed acts of immorality and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning (Rev. 18:9).

- b. Not only will Babylon the great be a global cabal that will attempt to control the world through its antichrist system of government, monetary control, and religion, it will also function as a harlot who will attempt to seduce and entice the nations into idolatry, sexual immorality, witchcraft, and blasphemy of the true God. Clothed in purple and scarlet, this harlot will stand in stark contrast to the bride who will be clothed in fine linen, white and clean (Rev. 19:7).
- c. Joel Richardson in his book, *Mystery Babylon*, writes this about the great harlot,

She is at once a queen, a prostitute, and a cold-blooded killer. High in the air, she proudly waves a gold cup. Though it gleams on the outside, it is filled with a horrific mixture of the shed blood of God's holy martyrs and the sickening, "impurities of her prostitution" (17:4, HCSB). Not only has she drunk from this cup, but she has also enticed "the kings of the earth" and even entire nations to drink from it (17:2). The woman is full of arrogance, rebellion, and raw self-glorification. Like the proverbial ring of gold in a swine's snout, though masquerading as a queen, she is in fact a vile and classless prostitute. ...she has seduced the kings of the earth to live "luxuriously with her (18:9, HCSB).ⁱ

- d. As the above quote so accurately conveys, she is a seducer and a killer of the people of God. As a seducer, she has made the people of the earth drunk with the wine of her immorality (Rev. 17:2) and, as a killer, she is drunk with the blood of the saints and the blood of the witnesses of Jesus (Rev. 17:6).

3. Before proceeding, it will be helpful to highlight the meanings of the words "abominations" and "immorality" in the context of this session.

- a. First, let's delve into what is meant by abominations. The English dictionary defines abomination as anything greatly disliked or abhorred. The definition further describes abomination as anything vile, detestable, or shameful.ⁱⁱ Commenting on this word as it is used in the scriptures, Robert Thomas in his commentary on Revelation includes this about "abominations",

Abominations was a characteristic term for idols in the Old Testament. Here it denotes ceremonial and moral impurity, but especially idolatrous rites. These are blasphemous activities that God detests and the harlot's cup is full of them.ⁱⁱⁱ

- b. Let's next look at the idea of "immorality" in these chapters. When spoken in the Old Testament about Israel, words and ideas such as immorality, fornication, and adultery often refer to spiritual unfaithfulness rather than sexual sin. However, as used of Babylon the great, the idea of immorality and harlotry refer both to spiritual seductions and sexual issues that lead people astray from purity and cleanliness. Again, I quote Robert Thomas,

Session 14: Come out of Her My People (Part 2)

The unclean things of her fornication further defines those abominations. The adjective in the New Testament has associations with idolatry and perhaps cult prostitution. So the harlot thrives on spreading her filthy vices and corruptions by allowing earth's inhabitants to drink from her beautiful but contaminated cup.^{iv}

- c. Summarizing the implications of these two ideas as they are used in Revelation 17-18, they refer to the harlot's attempt to lead people away from being made ready as a bride for Christ through seduction into false religion, witchcraft, perversion, blasphemy of the true Christ, and through the gross immorality that permeates the global culture. To be made ready as a bride for Christ, believers must come out of the great harlot's abominations, sorceries, and immoralities.
- d. Therefore, with the exhortation to come out of all participation in her sins, let's look next at the spirit behind the harlot.

II. The Spirit Behind the Harlot

1. The demonic spirit behind the harlot which is directing her actions is the queen of heaven.

- a. As we observe the predominant culture throughout the nations, it is very evident that the global harlot holds a cup full of abominations of every vile and perverse manner. We know as well that believers must come out of her evil ways. To help us understand how to come out of her sins, it will be helpful to understand the spirit behind the harlot's abominations.
- b. We find the key to the spirit behind the harlot in Revelation 18:7. It reads, "...she says in her heart, 'I sit as a queen and I am not a widow, and will never see mourning'". This verse is a quote from Isaiah's description recorded in Isaiah 47:5-9 of the Babylonian goddess that so strongly influenced that nation. The entire chapter of Isaiah 47 is a prophecy about the judgment of the Babylonian fertility goddess, Ishtar. Our Lifeschool class, *The Overcomers*, includes this about Isaiah 47,

Although not obvious at first, and many commentators have missed this extremely important point, Isaiah began the prophecy of Isaiah 47 like he did in 46:1-2, this time addressing a Babylonian goddess rather than the two Babylonian gods. Notice carefully that Isaiah is not talking to the Babylonian empire, as many presume, but to the "virgin daughter of Babylon" who is "tender and delicate". As we just saw in the background section, the virgin daughter of Babylon refers to Ishtar...

- c. Thus, Isaiah 47 focuses on the Babylonian fertility goddess, Ishtar. Moreover, the prophecy of Isaiah 47 identifies not only the pagan goddess, Ishtar, but also the demonic spirit behind her. The spirit behind goddess worship in Babylon and behind the end-time harlot Babylon is a territorial principality, or world ruler, who calls herself the queen of heaven.
- d. The queen of heaven was a constant nemesis to Israel throughout her history. In addition to Isaiah's prophecy about her, Jeremiah spoke against this demonic entity and Israel's entanglement with it. Note these passages,

As for you, do not pray for this people, and do not lift up cry or prayer for them, and do not intercede with Me; for I do not hear you. Do you not see what they are doing in the cities of Judah

Session 14: Come out of Her My People (Part 2)

and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough to make cakes for *the queen of heaven*; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods in order to spite Me" (Jer. 7:16-18).

Then all the men who were aware that their wives were burning sacrifices to other gods, along with all the women who were standing by, as a large assembly, including all the people who were living in Pathros in the land of Egypt, responded to Jeremiah, saying, "As for the message that you have spoken to us in the name of the Lord, we are not going to listen to you! But rather we will certainly carry out every word that has proceeded from our mouths, by burning sacrifices to *the queen of heaven* and pouring out drink offerings to her, just as we ourselves, our forefathers, our kings and our princes did in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; for then we had plenty of food and were well off and saw no misfortune. But since we stopped burning sacrifices to *the queen of heaven* and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have met our end by the sword and by famine." And said the women, "when we were burning sacrifices to *the queen of heaven* and were pouring out drink offerings to her, was it without our husbands that we made for her sacrificial cakes in her image and poured out drink offerings to her?" (Jer. 44:15-19).

- e. As we see, the principality, the queen of heaven, is the demonic spirit behind the sins of "the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth" (Rev. 17:5).
2. We can trace the origins of the queen of heaven back at least to the tower of Babel.
 - a. The Tower of Babel was a structure called a *ziggurat*. A ziggurat is a religious structure built as a pyramid-shaped temple. The construction of ziggurats was common from 4200 to 2500 years ago. The word ziggurat means a multi-storied temple. The ziggurat is a tower-like stepped pyramid-shaped temple with several floors above which the main temple was located.^v As such, the tower was much more than an observation lookout. It was a temple complex, considered the literal homes of the gods where their statues were fed, bathed, and clothed daily as the priests and priestesses cared for them as one would a king or queen. It was a structure that among other uses housed pagan religious ceremonies including goddess worship. At the Tower of Babel, Ishtar, the fertility goddess of love, war, and sex, was worshiped.
 - b. When God destroyed the tower of Babel, scattered the people, and confused their language, the descendants of those scattered throughout the earth took with them their pagan idols and false worship. With the destruction of the Tower of Babel, goddess worship and the worship of the queen of heaven was scattered all over the earth. There is a large body of historical evidence of goddess worship in the pagan religious practices of ancient peoples throughout the middle east. We see also that even in New Testament days, the worship of the queen of heaven existed. For example, Paul battled this spirit in Ephesus (Acts 19:34). No matter where goddess worship sprang up, the spirit behind this horrid idolatry was the demonic world force of darkness, the queen of heaven.
 3. The manifestations of the queen of heaven through ancient goddess worship included virtually the same practices everywhere goddess worship took place.
 - a. With the purpose of enhancing fertility of the worshipers including their families, crops, and livestock, goddess worship focused on venerating the reproductive powers of the female.^{vi} Even

Session 14: Come out of Her My People (Part 2)

though the names of the goddesses were different, the practices were similar. The religious practices included drunkenness, drug induced frenzies, heterosexual and homosexual perversion and fornication, witchcraft, demonically inspired control of men and women which led them away from God and His purposes, emasculation of men, demonically inspired prophetic oracles, and even human sacrifice.

- b. Let's look at a few examples of the worship of pagan fertility goddesses in different places.

Hetero and Homo Sexual Immorality and Perversion

- a. Goddesses were normally worshiped with ritualistic sex to cause the gods to join together ensuring good harvests and fertility. Where Baal and Asherah were worshipped, believing the sexual union of Baal and Asherah produced fertility, their worshipers engaged in immoral sex to cause the gods to join together, ensuring good harvests. This practice became the basis for religious prostitution (1 Kings 14:23-24). The priest or a male member of the community represented Baal. The priestess or a female member of the community represented Asherah. It is said that in Corinth alone, there were more than 1,000 prostitutes in Aphrodite's temple.^{vii} Augustine wrote that the Phoenicians offered a gift by prostituting their daughters to Venus before they united them to husbands.^{viii}
- b. Jennifer LeClaire in her book, *Defeating Jezebel*, writes the following,

Babylonian girls were steeped in fertility cult rites and offered the most precious gifts they could devote: their virginity, chastity and modesty. Rather than bowing to the one true God, every knee bowed to the goddess, every hand was stretched out to her, every lip revered her name. The name was Ishtar, an alias for Semiramus and Jezebel.^{ix}

- c. In this way, God's incredible gift of sexuality was perverted to the most obscene public prostitution. No wonder God's anger burned against his people and their leaders.^x But it was not only heterosexual prostitution practiced in the temples of the queen of heaven. Note this quote by Jonas Clark in his book, *Jezebel*,

There is a connection between homosexuality and Ashtoreth (the goddess that Jezebel worshiped). Ashtoreth was worshipped in temples by those who had both male and female prostitutes in their service, many who were also homosexual and lesbian prostitutes. In the sexual rites associated with the worship of Ashtoreth, homosexuality was common place.^{xi}

Drunkenness and Drug Use

- a. Goddess worship often included not only licentious sexual promiscuity, but also the worshipers hallucinating through drunkenness or drug use. For example, in the worship of the goddess Dionysus, participants danced seductively and drank intoxicating drinks—above all wine which they believed contained the spirit of Dionysus. As they began to hallucinate, they perceived the world of nature as supremely beautiful and sweet. They felt possessed by the goddess and in a state of extreme ecstasy prophesied.^{xii}
- b. There are numerous other examples of worshipers working themselves into a drunken or drug induced frenzy and then participating in ritual prostitution and even taking extreme actions such as men castrating themselves for the purpose of honoring the goddess.

Session 14: Come out of Her My People (Part 2)

Witchcraft

- a. As we stated earlier, Isaiah 47 describes the spirit behind the great harlot. As you read through Isaiah 47, you will quickly see the predominant place witchcraft had in the worship of the queen of heaven. Phrases like “in spite of your many sorceries”, “in spite of the great power of your spells”, “evil will come upon you which you will not know how to charm away”, “stand fast now in your spells and in your many sorceries”, and “let now the astrologers, those who prophesy by the stars, those who predict by the new moons” are sprinkled through the chapter. Therefore, as you can see the spirit behind the harlot is also the same spirit behind all witchcraft. As our spiritual mentor on the queen of heaven frequently said, the queen is the “mother goddess of witchcraft”.

Control

- a. Fertility goddesses were almost universally goddesses of love, war, and sex. As such, they controlled their adherents through those traits. As mentioned previously, young virgins were *required* to give themselves to someone other than their husband before they could marry and to do this as an act of worship of the goddess. In this way, sex was used to control worshipers. They were required to do certain acts in order to be approved by the group.
- b. Goddesses were also goddesses of war. Because of this character trait, they were strong and powerful in war. We see this in the great harlot as she is drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus (Rev. 17:6). As a warrior, they were at times referred to as goddesses of strife, discord, contention, and rivalry. Read the following quote about the goddess Eris,

ERIS was the goddess or personified spirit (*daimona*) of strife, discord, contention and rivalry. She was often portrayed, more specifically, as the *daimona* of the strife of war, haunting the battlefield and delighting in human bloodshed. Because of Eris' disagreeable nature she was the only goddess not to be invited to the wedding of Peleus and Thetis. When she turned up anyway and was refused admittance, she raged and threw a golden apple amongst the goddesses inscribed "To the fairest." Three laid claim to it--Hera, Aphrodite and Athena--and in their rivalry brought about the events leading up to the Trojan War. Eris was closely identified with the war-goddess Enyo.^{xiii}

- c. These traits of ancient goddess worship illustrate how this demonic spirit controlled others through persecution, murder, sex, anger, rage, and discord.

Emasculation of Men

- a. Virtually everywhere it was practiced, goddess worship elevated the feminine with the result being the exaltation of women over men and the emasculation of men.^{xiv} For example, the priests of Cybele were eunuchs. The young men who wanted to avail themselves to the service of the goddess would castrate themselves at the height of a worship service in honor of the goddess and then dress with women's clothing.^{xv} In another example, the male priests of Caelestis were not eunuchs but they attempted to be effeminate having womanish voices, rubbed their skin smooth, wore female clothing, flaunted their impure bodies, and boasted of their depravity.^{xvi}

Session 14: Come out of Her My People (Part 2)

III. Ways the Queen of Heaven Manifests Today

1. The queen of heaven manifests today with many of the same traits as occurred in ancient times.
 - a. Most likely, as you were reading through the above paragraphs you thought that this is just like today. Of course, the circumstances are different. You don't find a temple to Ishtar on every corner; however, those things practiced in the goddess temples of old still permeate our society today. The queen of heaven still manifests in global society today in very significant ways. In fact, the activities of the queen of heaven permeate western culture. In this section, we identify seven different areas in which the queen of heaven impacts culture in today's society. The seven areas we will consider are: 1) sexual immorality and perversion, 2) the emasculation of men, 3) drunkenness and drug use, 4) false religion and religious compromise, 5) witchcraft, 6) abortion, and 7) control and independence.
 - b. Of course, referring once again to our primary scripture passage for this session, the bride being made ready must come out of all of these ways the queen of heaven manifests in society today. The church might not be able to stop the rapid increase of these horrible manifestations of the queen of heaven in society and even in certain elements of the church; however, believers must come out from her sins so they don't receive of her judgment. Let's begin with a look at sexual immorality and perversion.
2. Sexual immorality and sexual perversion permeate today's global culture.
 - a. As we noted earlier in the session, the queen of heaven manifested as goddesses of love, sex, and war. The love that characterized ancient goddesses was not the *agape* type of love we associate with Christianity; rather, it is more accurately labeled as lust or sexual love. Goddesses were the goddesses of lust, sex, and war.
 - b. We are all aware of the gross immorality and sexual perversion which permeates society today. Premarital sex and adultery are rampant in western culture even to the point that it is extremely rare for a couple to be virgins when they marry and to remain faithful to one mate throughout their life.
 - c. In addition, homosexuality, lesbianism, and even transgenderism permeate the culture. Homosexuality and sex change is now even being taught to our kindergartners and elementary students. Movies and mainstream TV shows exalt homosexuality and homosexual marriage. Even children's films and businesses venerate homosexual behavior.
 - d. Many men and women are deeply involved in pornography. Men are being enticed by lust and attempting to impose unreal expectations on their wives. Pornography pressures couples to sexual practices beyond the boundaries God desires, and both men and women are tempted with and many succumb to extramarital affairs.
 - e. Ancient goddesses were not only goddesses of love, but also were goddesses of war. As such, lust, pornography, and sexual perversion bombards many marriages with discord, anger, rage,

Session 14: Come out of Her My People (Part 2)

arguments, criticism, and judgment. Many times in marriages, both husbands and wives draw upon the warring nature of the queen to control or dominate their mate. These issues separate husbands and wives rather than drawing them to a closer union with each other.

3. Global culture emasculates men, taking them from the biblical authority figures they are intended to be.

- a. In addition to the sexual perversion and immorality that is impacting culture in such major ways, there is also a major thrust to emasculate men. As we stated previously, in ancient goddess worship, men would dress as women or even castrate themselves to honor the queen of heaven. As unimaginable as this sounds, similar perversions are happening today.
- b. Many men are becoming much more feminine in their behavior and dress. Homosexuality is rising dramatically. Schools and governments are promoting transgenderism and even children changing their sex. A recent activity that is being pushed on adults and kids are drag queen performances where men dress as women and perform in provocative ways. Much of culture elevates women above men and many TV shows and movies characterize men as completely incompetent while portraying women as wise.
- c. The Bible is clear in discussing the role of men and women especially as it relates to their roles in marriage. Biblically, husbands are to follow Christ and their wives are to follow them as they follow Christ. As husbands and wives relate in this manner, they model the relationship between Christ and His bride. As men are emasculated by the work of the queen of heaven, this beautiful and scriptural picture is greatly distorted, both men and women are distracted from their biblical roles, and people are hindered in the pursuit of bridal readiness.

4. Drunkenness and drug use also permeate today's culture.

- a. Alcohol and drug use are also rampant in global culture. As you will recall from our earlier discussion of ancient goddess worship, alcohol and drugs were used in pagan worship ceremonies to put the worshipers into a state of ecstasy in their worship of the queen of heaven. Once they were in a condition in which they lost all wisdom and rational decision making, they did things they would not normally do in the worship of the goddess.
- b. The same is happening today through drunkenness and drug use. Many people are destroying their lives through these lifestyle choices. In many large cities in America, the sidewalks are lined with homeless who have made the choice to abuse alcohol and drugs. People are not only ruining their life through their actions and harming themselves and others, they are developing addictive behaviors that lead them far away from worshiping Christ and being made ready for Him as His bride.

5. The Queen of heaven is also leading people into false religions and religious compromise.

- a. It would take quite a lot of space to trace false religions back to their demonic roots; however, Islam, Hinduism and all occult practices find their source in the queen. She is the mother goddess of

Session 14: Come out of Her My People (Part 2)

witchcraft and she is also the mother of most false religions. Another tentacle of the queen of heaven is to seduce the global church and individual believers into great religious compromise. We know from previous sessions, that when the bride is made ready, then Christ will return. As the queen of heaven leads believers, local churches, and even dominations away from true biblical Christianity, the bride is not made ready delaying Christ's second coming.

- b. We discussed the religious compromise of Babylon the great in the last session. The following is a quote from that session,

One example of how the harlot religion is being raised up in our day is the joining of the three monotheistic religions of the earth into unified houses of worship. The center for a One World Religion will open in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) the Abrahamic Family House which will consist of a mosque, a church, a synagogue, and an educational center. Similar unified faith houses of worship are planned in other locations throughout the earth. For example, the House of One is another multifaith house of worship being built in Berlin. In addition to this unified faith movement, there most likely will also include the rise of pagan religions and practices.

- c. The queen of heaven is not only leading believers into a false religion like what we just mentioned, it is also leading people into great religious compromise in the church. Many parts of the church are now promoting as an accepted practice in their church or denomination homosexuality, homosexual marriage, and the ordination of homosexuals into pastoral leadership.
- d. Churches are also accepting or at least ignoring rampant pre-marital sex in their congregations and allowing leaders who are known to be involved in sexual immorality to continue in leadership roles.
- e. The Catholic Church has venerated Mary much beyond where Mary the mother of Jesus should be elevated. In fact, the Catholic church with its Mariology is actually worshipping at the altar of the queen of heaven as much as it is the Lord Jesus.
- f. The global church in many places is far removed from the biblical norm as described in the scriptures and is great need for the people to come out of her religious snare.

6. The queen of heaven is also the basis for the occult and witchcraft.

- a. In addition to false religion and compromised religious practices within the church, the occult and witchcraft are prevalent in society today as well. As we stated earlier, the queen of heaven is the mother goddess of witchcraft. There are covens practicing witchcraft throughout America and the west. In addition, witchcraft has permeated the lives of believers in the west. Many predict their fortune from horoscopes, tarot cards and other seemingly innocent practices. Movies and books like Harry Potter and films produced by Disney and others promote overt witchcraft but in ways that make the practice seem like a fantasy that is perfectly acceptable for Christians participation.
- b. Even parents whose children attend Christian schools are totally ignorant of the witchcraft that is being promulgated to their children. The bride must separate totally from these seemingly innocent practices that are leading believers astray.

Session 14: Come out of Her My People (Part 2)

7. Abortion is the modern day human sacrifice in the same manner in which children were offered on ancient pagan altars.
 - a. Thankfully, the United States Supreme Court has overturned Roe versus Wade sending the issue of abortion to the 50 states for ruling. Even so, abortion is still legal in many places in America. It is the human sacrifice to the idols of today. For the convenience of men and women, babies routinely are offered before the queen of heaven.
 - b. Just like goddess worship venerated the powers of the female, abortion and other women's rights issues have fueled the feminist movement. In many places, women are in a rage over the restrictions placed on abortion rights and other similar issues. Just like the other categories, Christians must not participate or support abortion in any way. It is no different than a believer supporting or offering a child to human sacrifice on the altar of a pagan god in ancient times.
8. The queen of heaven will lead believers to attempt to control others or to live independently of God's ordained order.
 - a. The queen of heaven and her spiritual daughter, Jezebel, are fiercely independent and controlling. In fact, the name Jezebel in the Hebrew means "unhusbanded"^{xvii} Individuals in marriages, families, and the church who are affected by the queen of heaven will often be very controlling and independent. They refuse to follow biblically ordained authority figures so as to function independently of what God has dictated in the scriptures.
 - b. These attributes of the queen of heaven often manifest in marriages, between parents and children, and in the church. In marriages, often a wife will rebel against the leadership of her husband. She will refuse to follow His leading even if he is attempting to follow Christ to the best of his ability. Many times, the children are affected. A controlling mother will many times cause her children to leave the home as soon as possible. The same is true with a domineering father.
 - c. The queen also manifests by opposing the leadership of the local church. Most likely we have all heard story after story about how the spirit of Jezebel opposes true shepherds of the Lord. Through flattery, criticism, deceit, and lies this spirit uses the church's congregants to oppose the pastor, his wife and the leadership of the church. Basically those controlled by this spirit want the job of the pastor. They think they can do it better than the pastor and they use whatever means available to resist the pastor for the purpose of taking over. Just like it was said of Jezebel, she does this to lead the bondservants astray.
 - d. This spirit will lead people to act independently of what leadership has heard from God and to respond in rebellion to leadership as they attempt to follow God.
 - e. Summarizing this section, the queen and her horrid practices are penetrating into the global culture and preparing the world for the coming antichrist kingdom. In light of this and all of the other ways the queen is manifesting in the culture today, it is imperative that God's people come out of her that we do not participate in her sins or receive of her plagues.

Session 14: Come out of Her My People (Part 2)

IV. Come Out of All Participation

1. For the bride to be made ready, she must come out of all participation with the sins of Babylon and the tentacles of the queen of heaven.
 - a. As stated in our primary text, the scriptures call believers to come out of the abominations of the harlot Babylon. It reads, "I heard another voice from heaven, saying, 'Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues'" (Rev. 18:4). The harlot Babylon will receive severe judgment for the abominations, immoralities, and unclean things she has released into the earth and upon the people of the earth. In light of this coming judgment and because the bride made ready will be clothed in fine linen which is bright and clean, that is, brilliantly white and free of all uncleanness, the Lord is calling the bride to come out of all participation in the sins of the harlot Babylon.
 - b. Coming out of participation of the sins of the harlot Babylon requires a believer to get victory over the world, their flesh, and the devil and, said another way, over their body, that is their actions; the soul, that is their thoughts, choices, and feelings; and their spirit, that is, to allow their spirit to be strong in the Lord and for the Holy Spirit to lead. Therefore, for the bride to be made ready, she must come out all participation with the sins of Babylon in every dimension of her being.
2. The bride must separate from people, places and things connected with the evils of the world.
 - a. James offers these powerful warnings about friendship with the world,

Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world (James 1:27)

You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God (James 4:4).
 - b. Anyone who has walked with God for a while has experienced the Holy Spirit's leading to separate from friendships, acquaintances, places, and activities which are associated with Babylon's cup of uncleanness. This is an important aspect of the bride being made ready—to come out of participation in these things so as to keep oneself unstained by the world.
3. The bride must also separate from the snares of the harlot Babylon in body, soul, and spirit.
 - a. Paul wrote this powerful and important exhortation to us all, "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass" (1 Thess. 5:23-24).
 - b. As we meditate on what it means to have our body, soul, and spirit preserved complete without blame at the coming of the Lord and comparing this passage to the call to come out of all agreement

Session 14: Come out of Her My People (Part 2)

with the harlot Babylon, we quickly come to the understanding that we must go free from demonization and defilement of the flesh.

- c. Therefore, as the apostle John wrote, we must overcome the evil one (1 Jn. 2:13-14). We must overcome in our actions; in our thoughts; in our choices; and in our desires. We must separate through deliverance from demonization and through death to the flesh.
- d. Based on the seriousness of the exhortation of Revelation 18, we must take the call to come out the harlot Babylon very seriously. Thus, as we close these two sessions of coming out of Babylon, let's come out of all allegiance with this antichrist system and let's come out of all participation in her abominations and unclean immoralities.

ⁱ Joel Richardson, *Mystery Babylon* (WND Books, Washington, DC, 2017), p. xi.

ⁱⁱ <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/abomination>

ⁱⁱⁱ Robert L. Thomas, *Revelation 8-22, An Exegetical Commentary* (Moody Press, Chicago, 1995), p. 288.

^{iv} *Ibid*, p. 288.

^v <https://www.iransafar.co/what-is-a-ziggurat/>

^{vi} Stephen Benko, *The Virgin Goddess* (E. J. Brill, New York, 1993), p. 25.

^{vii} <https://www.thatttheworldmayknow.com/fertility-cults-of-canaan>

^{viii} Benko, p.38.

^{ix} Jennifer LeClaire, *Defeating Jezebel* (Baker Publishing Group, Minneapolis, 2013), p. 67.

^x <https://www.thatttheworldmayknow.com/fertility-cults-of-canaan>

^{xi} Jonas Clark, *Jezebel* (Spirit of Life Ministries, Hallandale, FL, 1998), p. 66.

^{xii} Benko, p. 66.

^{xiii} <http://www.theoi.com/Daimon/Eris.html>

^{xiv} Benko, p. 49.

^{xv} <http://www.psa91.com/pagancontext.htm>

^{xvi} Benko, p. 40.

^{xvii} JEZEBEL, *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, Electronic Database Copyright © 1996, 2003, 2006 by BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved.