

Tool Box Series

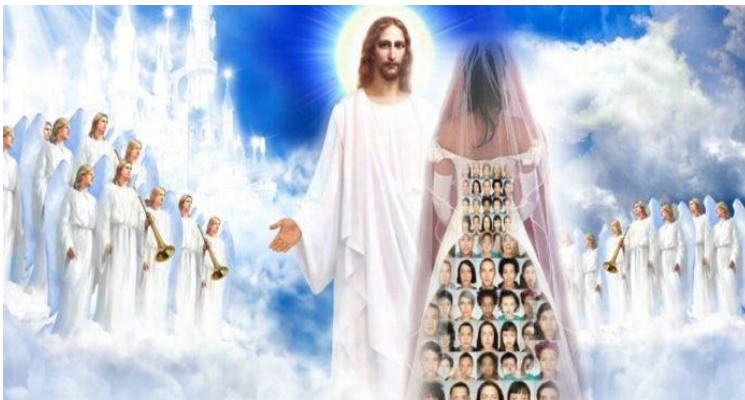
History, Traditions, Prophecy

Bride vs Harlot Churches



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History, Traditions, Destiny Bride & Harlot Churches

Introduction

Jesus said that one of the signs of the end times would be deception, which has never been more relevant than today. Just who can we trust these days? We cannot trust anything we hear on the news and media platforms with so much propaganda, fake news, and agendas that have thrown the world into turmoil. You would think the one place you would find the truth would be the church, but sadly, many times, it is not. And when you enter the halls of the building called the church, believing you have arrived at the bastion of truth, safe from the onslaught of deception, you may discover the enemy has breached the walls and is inside. And you may be surprised to find out that you are the enemy! You enter the sanctuary with all your preconceived ideas, traditions, and denominational biases, looking to have your brand of faith reinforced by the church. The most difficult enemy to detect is the one that lives inside us.

The correct understanding of God's character and ways is of primary importance in our relationship with him, followed by fellowship with believers of a like mind. If we join a group with misconceptions of God, his purposes, and ways, we could accept a different gospel and a different Jesus than the one the apostles preached in the Bible. Removing false beliefs and restructuring your thoughts to align with God's word requires diligence, time, and a heart that yearns for truth and sincere worship. Such was the dilemma of the Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well when she posed her questions about different religions to Jesus.

John 4:20-24 "Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. "You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for

the Father is seeking such to worship Him. "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Fellowship with other believers can be great or bad, depending on whether they walk in truth or error. But we all must individually be responsible for answering to God for our lives, so we are best served to personally exhaust every resource in our search for the truth, especially regarding things that have eternal consequences. There are no blanket pardons for church memberships, corporate or group salvations. Our responsibility is to seek God for ourselves, learn God's ways, and build a relationship with Jesus based on the Bible and our convictions.

Religious deceptions take many forms, and Jesus had fierce debates with the religious leaders of his time, exposing their spiritual blindness, legalism, and self-righteousness. Jesus contended for the word of God, while the religious leaders strictly and mercilessly enforced compliance to the traditions of men and rituals they received from their fathers.

Matthew 15:2-6 "Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread." He answered and said to them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? ... you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition."

Jesus told a parable explaining how the children of God and the children of the Devil can sit side by side in the pews of the same church. By all outward appearances, they all look the same; you can't tell them apart. Jesus' example is a simple analogy from a farmer's point of view. Even though they look the same, wheat is a major food staple, while the tares are destructive weeds that must be uprooted and destroyed. The children of God are the wheat, the tares are children of the Devil, and the harvest is the judgment day.

Matthew 13:24-30 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; "but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. "But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. "So, the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' "He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' "But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 'Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Patterns

This study will highlight differences between the Wheat and Tares, True and Fake churches, Bride of Christ, and Harlot churches. We can see types of the bride, and the harlot, from the second chapter of Genesis to the last chapter of Revelation. We will look at the beginnings of both movements and identify their parallel paths through the Bible to their ultimate fulfillment at the rapture and the second coming of Christ. We soon discover what separates the Wheat people and the Tare people is whether they follow God's word or the world of non-biblical religious nonsense.

Jeremiah 23:25-29 "I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' "How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? Indeed, they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart, "who try to make My people forget My name by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their fathers forgot My name for Baal. "The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat?" says the LORD. "Is not My word like a fire?" says the LORD, "And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"

Introducing the Bride

The Garden of Eden was the perfect paradise for Adam, except he was alone, so God put Adam into a deep sleep, performed a surgical procedure, removed a rib from his side, and created Eve from Adam's pierced side.

Genesis 2:21-24 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then **the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman**, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: **"This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;** She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." **Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.**

The apostle Paul revealed that the passage we read in Genesis, where God made Eve from Adam's pierced side, symbolized Jesus redeeming the church from his pierced side on the cross. Paul also revealed the church as Christ's body and bride, which were mysteries before that time.

Ephesians 5:23-32 For the husband is head of the wife, as also **Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.** Therefore, just as **the church is subject to Christ**, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as **Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.** So, husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as **the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.** "For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." **This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.**

Adam and Eve walked in the most beautiful perfect paradise that we cannot even imagine, and it was like a picture of heaven until Satan, temptation, and sin came onto the scene.

*1 Timothy 2:13-14 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but **the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.***

Immediately after Adam and Eve fell into sin, God judged them and the serpent and gave the first prophecy about Christ coming to crush Satan and redeem mankind.

*Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you (the Serpent, a.k.a. Satan) and the woman, and **between your seed and her Seed;** (Christ) **He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."***

That prophecy was for Adam and Eve, but it also informed Satan of God's plan to redeem or buy back humankind from the power of sin with a Messiah that would come from the woman's seed. First, this prophecy uses the word "seed" in the singular, speaking of one person, Christ. By the sin of one man, the first man Adam, passed the curse of sin and death to all men, making all men sinners. To redeem humankind from the curse and penalty of sin, the promised "seed" must be without sin and not subject to Adam's curse. Secondly, women do not produce seeds but make eggs. The father provides seed that fertilizes the egg. For that reason, Jesus was born of a virgin, and the Holy Spirit supernaturally implanted into Mary the perfect, sinless, divine seed from God. By Adam's curse, all die, but by the sinless sacrifice of one man, Jesus, many are made righteous by faith in him and have everlasting life.

*Romans 5:12-19 Therefore, just as **through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men,** because **all sinned** but the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the **one man's offense** many died, much more the grace of God and **the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.** Therefore, as **through one man's offense judgment came to all men,***

resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

In the Garden prophecy, God mentioned two different seeds when he spoke to Satan, saying I will put enmity between your seed and her seed. The seed of Satan will ultimately be the antichrist when the Devil enters him and releases hell on earth during the great tribulation. History provides a long list of bloodthirsty tyrants and dictators who have auditioned for the part of Satan's seed, but only the coming antichrist will uniquely fill that position.

*1 John 4:3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And **this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.***

*1 John 2:18 Little children, **it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.***

We have identified the two sides, the children of God and the children of the Devil. And that's it, that's all there is; it's either one or the other; you are with God or the Devil, and nothing in between. God's children trust God's promises of a "seed," a savior, to save them from sin's curse. Everyone else remains under the curse of sin and death, whether they know it or not.

Consider the first sons of Adam and Eve, the two brothers Cain and Abel. They both built altars and offered sacrifices to God, showing they understood their need for atonement or reconciliation with God. Cain offered a bloodless, painless sacrifice with vegetables. Abel slew a lamb which symbolically gave its life for Abel's sin. God was pleased with Abel's sacrifice but not with Cain's. Cain got jealous and killed Abel. Here we see the first two religions in world history one produced a murderer, the other a martyr.

*Genesis 4:3-8 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And **the LORD respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry**, and his countenance fell. ... Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that **Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.***

From the first encounter with Eve in the Garden of Eden until now, Satan's agenda has not changed. We see how Satan tries to infiltrate, deceive, divide, and conquer by imitating and perverting everything God does. Paul wanted to present the church as a bride to Christ but feared Satan would slither into the church to deceive them. Paul compared Eve's conversation with the serpent to modern preachers who preach a counterfeit Jesus powered by a demonic spirit, and they preach a perverted version of the gospel of Christ. Satan can even make himself appear as an angel of light, and he has false apostles and fake ministers.

*2 Corinthians 11:2-4 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. **For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.** For if he who comes preaches **another Jesus** whom we have not preached, or if you receive **a different spirit** which you have not received, or **a different gospel** which you have not accepted you may well put up with it!*

*2 Corinthians 11:13-15 For **such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.** Therefore, it is no great thing if **his ministers** also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.*

Introducing the Harlot

The harlot church was a mystery until the apostle John wrote the book of Revelation and gave details that are keys to understanding the harlot, the great tribulation, and the second coming of Christ. Theologians calculate the number of prophecies about the second coming, the day of the Lord, and the Millennial kingdom, to be over eight hundred. The book of Revelation combines all the Old Testament prophecies, like connecting the dots, providing a framework to assemble the puzzle of end-time events. We will first look at a picture of the harlot church from the apostle John's Revelation perspective. His description reveals the mystery of the woman riding the beast system of the antichrist.

*Revelation 17:3-5 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And **I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast** which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. **The woman** was arrayed 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. And on her forehead a name was written: **MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS** AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*

The woman in these verses represents a global religious system in league with the beast or antichrist. In chapter 18, she appears to be a financial system. We will explore those details later, but for now, we will look at her identification as Babylon, mother of harlots and abominations of the earth.

This story starts just after Noah's flood with Nimrod, a mighty hunter against the Lord, and he is the prototype of a global dictator and antichrist. Nimrod built Babylon and the Tower of Babel, and that Tower was the starting point of all false religions that spread around the world. That is



why Babylon is the mother of Harlots. Spiritual harlotry is worshipping anything other than the one true God (*James 4:4*).

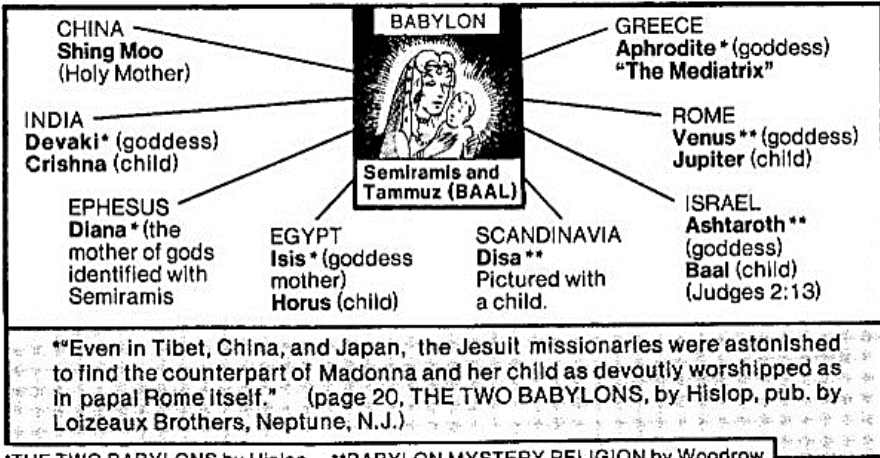
Genesis 10:8-10 *Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before (in defiance of) the LORD*

Without going too far into Babylonian mythology, here is a brief outline. Babylonians believed in a false trinity, and Nimrod was the supposed Lord of Heaven, and Semiramis, or Ishtar, his wife, was the supposed Queen of Heaven. (*Jeremiah 7:18; 44:17-25*) Tammuz was portrayed as her infant child and was the pagan version of the resurrected son. (*Ezekiel 8:14*) The Babylonians were heavily involved in astrology, idolatry, and mysticism.

Nimrod built the Tower of Babel, and it was the first type of antichrist global government and was a religious center in opposition and defiance against God. God told Noah to fill the earth (*Genesis 9:1*), but Babylon concentrated the population in a centralized location around a building project. It's funny how when people are thinking of starting a church, the first thing they do is look for a building. Instead of using stones created by God, they manufactured bricks. Believers are compared to living stones expressing different colors and character (*1 Peter 2:4-5*), while bricks, on the other hand, are all the same, conformity with zero individuality, replaceable, monotone, like being under a dictatorship. They built the tower to reach the heavens for religious purposes, as they were into astrology and possibly in defiance, believing they could make its construction higher than another flood. They wanted to make a name for themselves, and like Lucifer, they were proud, arrogant, and wanted to be above God (*Isaiah 14:12-15*).

Genesis 11:1-4 *Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. ... "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. And they said, Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.*

When God scattered the people out from the tower of Babel (*Genesis 11:8*), they spread the Babylonian mystery religion to every part of the world. But since God confused their languages, the Babylonian names were changed into different languages in different countries.



*THE TWO BABYLONS by Hislop **BABYLON MYSTERY RELIGION by Woodrow

We just reviewed two parallel tracks, the true believers, the bride of Christ, and the harlot of Babylon, spiritual adulterers. They may look similar in their outward appearance, but they are spiritually as far apart as heaven and hell. We will continue to follow these two tracks through the Old Testament and to the last pages of the Bible.

Kings, Leadership

When Joseph went into Egypt, the family was seventy souls; four hundred years later, Moses led them out of Egypt, and they were about two and a half million strong. When Moses died, Joshua took the mantle of leadership and led them into the promised land. After being established in their own country, they came to Samuel and asked for a king. They were family. Do you know any children who would go to their parents and ask to make their brother a king over them? What could go wrong when you take a proud, selfish, sinful human and give him total control over slavish subjects?

*1 Samuel 8:4-7 Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, and said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now **make us a king to judge us like all the nations.** But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, **give us a king to judge us.** And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. And the LORD said unto Samuel, hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but **they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.***

The LORD responded by telling Samuel that they have not rejected you but have rejected me from reigning over them. But God had a plan and promised to raise a king from the line of David who would be faithful, righteous, and rule forever. That king's name means the anointed one; in Hebrew, it



translates as the Messiah, and in Greek, the Christ. Israel rejected God as their king, and centuries later, they rejected Jesus as their Messiah and their king and crucified him. But Jesus will come again, judge the world, and be their king for one thousand years and eternity.

*1 Chronicles 17:11-14 "And it shall be, when your days are fulfilled, when you must go to be with your fathers, that **I will set up your seed** after you, who will be of your sons; and **I will establish his kingdom.** "He shall build Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever. "I will be his Father, and he shall be My son; and I will not take My mercy away from him, as I took it from him who was before you. "And I will establish him in My house and in My kingdom forever; and his throne shall be established forever."*

Running parallel to Christ's rule and kingdom are all the Satanic imposters who rule governments and religious movements. We will follow some historical accounts to show the evil spirit behind some false leaders that are just a shadow of the coming antichrist, a tyrannical global dictator, and his sidekick called the false prophet that will rule over all the religions of the world.

Buildings, meeting places

When God called Abraham, he left the idolatry of a big Babylonian city, went into the wilderness, and dwelt in tents. He didn't know where he was going, moving around as a stranger and pilgrim. Why? He was looking for the city of God!

*Hebrews 11:8-10 **By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go** out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. **And he went out, not knowing where he was going.** By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; **for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.***

Abraham was looking for a city designed and built by God, a heavenly city, so nothing on earth could hold his attention. He had left Babylon, where the building project of the tower of Babel brought confusion to the world. More than 400 years later, Moses constructed a tabernacle (tent) for God's presence to travel with Israel while they journeyed 40 years through the wilderness and as a dwelling place with them after they conquered the promised land. The Tabernacle was Israel's portable place of worship for centuries until King David.

King David wanted to honor God by building him a temple, and he mentioned his desire to Nathan, the prophet. God answered that he never asked anyone to construct a permanent structure for him because he was with them wherever they went.

1 Chronicles 17:4-6 "Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: **"You shall not build Me a house to dwell in. For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought up Israel, even to this day, but have gone from tent to tent, and from one tabernacle to another. Wherever I have moved about with all Israel, have I ever spoken a word to any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?'"**"

God denied David's request to build the temple but allowed his son Solomon to oversee the project. The tabernacle and the temple were a type of God's presence in the person of Jesus Christ, who is God, the eternal word who became flesh, took on a human body (tent, tabernacle, temple) as a man, and dwelt among us. It also points to the future heavens where God dwells with man.

John 1:14 And **the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.**

John 2:19-21 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ... **But He was speaking of the temple of His body.**

Revelation 21:1-3 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also, there was no more sea. **Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.**

God has always met with his people in different meeting places like a garden [Eden], a boat [Noah's Ark], a tent [Tabernacle in the Wilderness], buildings [Solomon's Temple], and mountains [Sermon on the Mount], but the location and structures in and of themselves have no blessings without the presence of God. On the contrary, many buildings are symbols of rebellion, like the Tower of Babel. Other buildings can be monuments of the leader's pride and ego, only to make a name for themselves.

Daniel 4:29-32 ... he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?" While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you!" (He went insane for 7 years and live in the fields, until he acknowledged God)

2 Samuel 18:18 Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and set up a pillar for himself,

Psalms 49:11 Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue forever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names.

Or worse, their buildings and monuments can become idols and the habitation of Satan and his demons.

Revelation 2:9-13 (Jesus) ... I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan ... "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

Revelation 18:2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "**Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!**

Matthew 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into **the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:**

The symbolism of temples points to the current and future reality that heaven and hell are under construction and populated with the souls of men, angels, and other creatures. After judgment, each individual will go to their assigned eternal dwelling place with God or Satan.

Laws, traditions, myths

The Bible is a collection of divinely inspired writings documenting man's experiences with God leading us to a relationship with him and giving guidance and instructions about living a godly life.

John 6:63 (Jesus) "It is **the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.**

John 10:10 ... **I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.**

Moses gave 613 laws intended to be a blessing, leading to a healthy life, not oppression or control. The Jewish sanitary, dietary, and civil laws made them a people dedicated to God and separate from other nations. During the black plague of the 1300s, tens of millions died, but Jewish deaths were much fewer by proportion because they kept the laws of Moses which protected them. Unlike the Gentiles, orthodox Jews washed their hands frequently, bathed often, buried their dead, kept unclean waste and sewage away from their houses.



As a result of Jewish laws and diet, they experienced significantly fewer Jewish deaths during the plague than the Gentiles around them., So the Jews were blamed for the plague and came under deadly persecution, thousands got killed, and sadly the persecutors claimed to be Christians.

The law was supposed to save and preserve life, but the religious leaders added rules above and beyond the law to make religious boundaries like guard rails to prevent people from breaking the law. For example, how far could a person walk on the Sabbath without breaking the Sabbath? Even worse, they said it was illegal for Jesus to heal on the Sabbath. That was a huge source of contention between Jesus and the Pharisees (John 5:6-16). How much worse is legalism when men with wrong motives create traditions and rules outside the boundaries of the scriptures and weaponize them to gain power, control, or wealth? Jesus rebuked the scribes and Pharisees for replacing and making the word of God void with their religious routines and tradition.

Mark 7:7-9 And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' "For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do." He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.

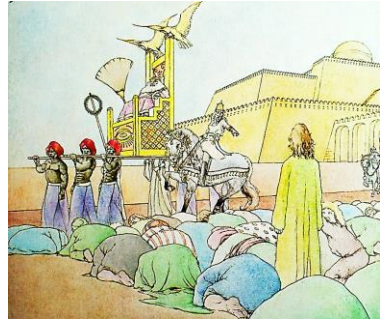
Paul warned the churches about legalism and warned them to avoid following myths or fables. He warned that in the end times, the church must confront doctrines that demons teach, superstitious and concocted gimmicks of false teachers.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Jesus came as the word of God, representing the Father in human flesh, teaching and pointing out the differences between the inspired word that brings spiritual life versus the traditions, religious rules, myths, and superstitions of the false religious leaders that lead to bondage and death.

The Remnant

God always has faithful believers who refuse to bow to the demands of ungodly leaders and cultures in times of prosperity, compromise, persecution, and afflictions. The remnant stands for righteousness in the face of danger without regard for their safety or consequences. These committed believers are just a few, and they may endure persecution and might be outcasts, but they are precious to God, and he sets them apart for himself. In the days of Elijah, Jezebel had killed the prophets of the Lord, and Elijah was just one man who stood his ground against the 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the (Ashtoreth) groves. Elijah felt alone and thought he was the only prophet of the Lord left in Israel serving God.



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***Romans 11:2-5** God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, "LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and **I alone am left, and they seek my life**"? But what does the divine response say to him? **"I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal."** Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.*

The remnant is not a group of preppers or off-the-grid survival types of people, and they are not saved or survive based on their human abilities and efforts. They rely on God's grace and stand by their convictions of faith.

Ecclesiastes 9:11 I returned and saw under the sun **that the race is not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to men of understanding, nor favor to men of skill; but time and chance happen to them all.**

Romans 9:15-16 For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion." **So, then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.**

Humans tend to have a herd mentality and follow the crowd like sheep, having a false sense of security. Many times, the remnant are mavericks who stand alone. Moses sent 12 spies to survey the land of Canaan for military conquest. And ten spies gave a bad report scaring the 2.5 million people of Israel, turning them against entering and fighting to take the promised land. Two spies, Joshua and Caleb, stood against the multitudes and argued that they could and should conquer the land (*Numbers 13,14*). Who would you stand with, the 2.5 million people or the two zealots? God chose the two zealots, and they were the only ones that survived the desert and lived to conquer the promised land 40 years later.

Jude 1:5 But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, **having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.**

A great multitude followed Jesus and loved the miracles, healings, and free food. You could not have a better group to follow than Jesus and his disciples. But one day, Jesus challenged them with a hard saying, and the multitudes walked away from him. Then Jesus asked his disciples if they also wanted to leave. Peter said where else can we go? You have the words of eternal life. The remnant clings to Jesus as if their life depended on it, and it does.

John 6:60-68 Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, **"This is a hard saying;** who can understand it?" When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, **"Does this offend you? ... From**

that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

As we look at Israel and the church's history and future, we understand that no matter how dark times were or will be, there have been, and always will be, a remnant of faithful believers, but they are in the minority. Every generation passes through a sifting process, separating the wheat and tares, sheep and goats, light from darkness, and choosing between the broad road and narrow path.

Israel's Harlotry

After the death of Solomon, Jeroboam led a revolt and took ten tribes of Israel in the northern territory, and Solomon's son Rehoboam held on to the kingdom of Judah in the south. All the biblical mandates for Israel to worship God were in Judah, with the temple in Jerusalem, the Levitical priest, and the descendants of King David in the Messianic lineage. Also, all Jewish men were required to appear at the temple in Jerusalem three times a year for the feasts (*Deut. 16:16*).

The possibility of people from the northern kingdom returning to Jerusalem for the temple feasts presented a problem for Jeroboam. He feared that his people would give their loyalty back to Judah in the southern kingdom. So, he devised a plan by imitating everything in Jerusalem, except he paganized it. He built pagan temples, ordained pagan priests, and held feasts to pagan gods. He renamed and celebrated feasts on the same days as the feast in Jerusalem, and he made two golden calves and many pagan idols.



*1 Kings 12:28-33 Therefore the king asked advice, **made two calves of gold, and said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!" And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. ... He made shrines on the high places (to Ashtaroth), and made priests from every class of people, who were not of the sons of Levi. Jeroboam ordained a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the feast that was in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. So, he did at Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he had made. And at Bethel he installed the priests of the high places which he had made. So, he made offerings on the altar which he had made at Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, in the month which he had devised in his own heart***

Jeroboam built his worship centers in Dan at the northern extreme of Israel and Bethel in the south bordering Judah, just twelve miles from Jerusalem. He said it was too far to go the extra twelve miles past Bethel to Jerusalem to worship, and he lured them into a counterfeit religion that was an abomination to God. Jeroboam established a dynasty where he was head of the church and state (like Nimrod). He also implemented the worship of Baal and Ashtaroth, and Israel never recovered from it.

On the contrary, the kingdom of Judah preserved the Messianic line of David for their kings, and their priests were Levites, the sons of Aaron, and they had Solomon's temple. They were not perfect saints, but they were children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and God preserved a remnant to honor his covenants and promises with the patriarchs and David. The northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah were like a divorced family when they split. They were both God's chosen people and Abraham's children, and both laid claim to the patriarchs, covenants, and the promised land. They both claimed to be the people of God, but the northern kingdom forsook the God of their fathers for a false religious system. Israel had the golden calves, but Judah had the son of David to be their King. They looked similar but were worlds apart spiritually, like the wheat and the tares, the sheep and the goats, the bride and the harlot, heaven, and hell.

Jezebel, pagan worship

Every king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel did evil by following the idolatry of Jeroboam. They rejected the royal line of David, so they were ruled by tyrants who ascended the throne by sedition and murder. They had bloody takeovers and power struggles amidst continuous moral decay and cultural rot. That culture led to Ahab, an incredibly evil King, but his wife Jezebel may have been the most wicked and vile person in Israel's history.

1 Kings 16:30-33 Now **Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him. And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him. Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.**

Ahab walked in the sins of Jeroboam and ruled as king. But he married Jezebel, a pagan high priestess of the cult of Baal, and she was the nation's religious leader. Jezebel's name means: Baal exalts; Baal is husband to, or unchaste. The literal meaning of her name could be the harlot wife of Baal. Jezebel is a type of the whore of Babylon from the book of Revelation. Not only was Jezebel a priestess of Baal, but she killed the true prophets of God, and she had 400 false prophets on her staff. She promoted the pagan religions and ruled Israel with an iron fist; even the prophet Elijah ran for his life to escape from her. But, in the end, she was trampled to pieces underneath the hooves of Jehu's horse, and then she was eaten by dogs (fulfilling Elijah's prophecy).

Jezebel typifies the spirit that will influence leaders of the harlot church in the end times. Jesus told the church in Thyatira that they were tolerating that woman Jezebel and followed by saying that he had feet of brass. Jesus implied that as Jehu trampled Jezebel, he would cast the harlot church into the great tribulation and stomp them to pieces. The true church, and the harlot church, will be separated at

the rapture, the church (bride) will go with Jesus, and the harlot church will go into the seven-year tribulation with her husband, the antichrist.

Revelation 2:18-23 "And to the angel of ***the church in Thyatira*** write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and ***His feet like fine brass***: ... I have a few things against you, because ***you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols***. "And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. ***"Indeed, I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. "I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.***

Baal means lord or master, but it's not the same word as the LORD (Jehovah) to represent God Almighty. The children of Israel served the lord, but it was Baal, and all their religion was a counterfeit, temples, prophets, priests, idols, and gods. They justified their evil in the name of religion and did horrendous things. In the end times, there will be an apostate church, the harlot of Babylon, that will work with the antichrist and Satan, and she will be drunk with the blood of the saints, having the same evil spirit as Jezebel did when she killed the prophets of the LORD.

God judged the northern kingdom of Israel for all the sins of Jeroboam, Ahab, Jezebel, and others, and they were conquered and destroyed. The Assyrians laid siege to Samaria, the capital of Israel, deported a large segment of the Jewish population, and replaced them with people from different nations. The remaining Israelis living in the land mingled with the implanted foreign immigrants and adopted their pagan culture and gods. From that time, the Samaritans lost their identity as Jews and were considered a mixed breed and hated by the Jews from Judah, and cut off from the God of Abraham and they never recovered (2 Kings 17:24-41). (Similarly, the Romans paganized the church, as we will see later)

Old Testament	Jezebel - Ahab's Wife Church of Thyatira	Rev	Woman, Harlot Babylon & Tribulation
2 Ki 9:22-2 Chron 21:13	Jezebel a whore, worshipped gods of fertility, witchcraft, human sacrifice, Depths of Satan, Rev 2:24	17:3-6	Babylon the great whore, sorcery, sitting on the back of the beast
1 Ki 16:30-32	Jezebel was both a princess & queen, and ruled over 2 nations, multitudes	17:15	Babylon sits on many waters, peoples, multitudes, nations, tongues
1Ki 16:30-32	Jezebel was wealthy, her father & husband both had wealthy kingdoms	17 & 18	Babylon wealthy, prosperity gospel, religion as big business
1 Ki 18:19 1 Ki 22:6 2 Chron 18:5	Jezebel feeds 400 false prophets (prophets of the groves) at her table	2:20	That woman Jezebel & false teachers, and prophets
1 Ki 18:4 1 Ki 19:1-2	Jezebel persecuted, killed true prophets, threatens to kill Elijah	12:17 13:7-18	Dragon persecutes the remnant of her seed, take mark of beast or die
2 Ki 9:7	Jezebel killed the true prophets of the Lord	17:6	Babylon drunk with blood of Martyrs
2 Ki 10:6-14 1 Ki 21:17-24	Elijah prophesied Jezebel's and her children's death, (Mother of Harlots)	2:21-22 17:5	Jesus - Cast Jezebel into great tribulation & kill her children (Mother of Harlots)
2 Ki 9:30-37	Jezebel trampled to death by horses, dogs ate her & drank her blood	2:18 19:17-18	Jesus' feet of brass, comes on white horse, tramples nations, beast, birds, feast on dead bodies

Beginning with Solomon (*1 Kings 11:4-9*), Judah was involved with idolatry and the same perverse and wicked things as Israel, so God judged them. Then God used the Babylonians to punish Judah by laying siege to Jerusalem, destroying the city and the temple, and carrying the people captive in Babylon for seventy years (*Jeremiah 29:10*). The Jews living in Babylon built community centers to teach their children the Torah (Bible) and the history and culture of Israel to preserve it and called those meeting places synagogues. Synagogues are only mentioned once in the Old Testament (*Psalms 74:8*). Seventy years later, the Jews left Babylon and returned to Jerusalem but never regained their former glory. Four hundred years of silence existed between the last Old Testament prophet and John the Baptist. During the four hundred years of silence, the Jewish leaders added multitudes

of traditions of men on top of the 613 laws of Moses. The religious leaders became more like tyrants and oppressors rather than members of the same family descended from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Jesus' ministry

Jesus came to fulfill the prophecies of the Old Testament. To Daniel, he was the Messiah who would get cut off and die; to Moses, he was the prophet like himself; to Isaiah, the suffering servant; and to David, he was the Son, Lord, and the great King. Jesus came to save the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Jesus came to his own, the Jews, he was their King, their promised Messiah, but they rejected him.

John 1:11 He came to His own (Jews), and His own did not receive Him.

Matthew 15:24 But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

When Jesus sent his disciples out to preach the kingdom, he strictly charged them not to speak to the Gentiles or Samaritans (non-Jews) but to the house of Israel, Jews. And this may be a shocker to some people, but Jesus was not a Christian! Jesus focused on the Jewish people, and any ministry to Gentiles was an exception.

Matthew 10:5-6 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. "But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Jesus began to travel from place to place doing great miracles, walking on water, raising the dead, healing the blind, and feeding multitudes with a few loaves and fishes, which were signs proving his authority as the Messiah (Christ). Jesus turned the Jewish religious world upside down, and he did not fit into their religious template, mold, or box. He did not submit to rules and traditions made by man, which scandalized the religious zealots. Jesus interacted with everyone regardless of social status, eating with despised people who were the outcasts of society, and going from place to place with no buildings, musicians, or offering plates.

Worship Spirit & truth

The temple was the center of the Jewish universe, and they had to attend the feasts yearly. Although the people had sinned, committed idolatry, and strayed from God, they thought God would spare them from destruction because they had a temple building sanctioned by God, so it had become an idol to them.

*Jeremiah 7:3-4 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place. "**Do not trust in these lying words, saying, 'The temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD are these.'**"*

The religious Jews were highly offended and angered when Jesus mentioned destroying the temple. They used it as a false accusation against him at his mock trial (*Matt 26:61*). But he spoke about his body as a temple.

*John 2:19-21 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ... But **He was speaking of the temple of His body.***

Even the disciples got caught up with the beauty of the temple, and Jesus startled them when he prophesied of its destruction, which happened around 37 years later, and not one stone would remain on top of another, and the beloved temple was gone.

*Matthew 24:1-2 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and **His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple.** And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, **not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.**"*

Another time, the question of a building came up by a Samaritan woman of questionable morals who had asked Jesus where people should worship. The disciples were surprised that Jesus would even talk to her, a despised Samaritan and an immoral woman, and they may have been even more shocked by the answer he gave her.

John 4:20-24 *"Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when **you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.** "You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for **salvation is of the Jews.** "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the **true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth;** for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. **"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."***

You may imagine how orthodox Jews reacted to hearing that true worship would not be at the temple in Jerusalem! In fact, at that moment, Jesus stripped away every outward, physical, and material aspect of traditional worship to say God is Spirit, and worship must be in the spirit and truth. Take away all religious trappings, buildings, rituals, music, and other people, and block out every outward physical distraction, and when it is just you and God, you enter the place of true worship. In your heart, mind, soul, and spirit is an inner sanctuary, a holy place known only to you and God, carried about by your body, the temple of the Holy Spirit. Our bodies are the temple that never closes, we can fellowship, experience, and worship God anytime, anywhere, and under any circumstances, and no one can stop it. Everything outward can be a mere religious show, but true worship is directly from the heart and focused exclusively on God.

Romans 8:38-39 *For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

1 Corinthians 3:16 *Do you not know that **you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?** If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.*

Jesus did not confine himself to a building but always traveled from place to place, teaching, healing, and eating meals with the people. He demonstrated the pattern of his ministry to his disciples and sent them to make disciples and duplicate his ministry in others.

Jesus - Meeting Places & Meals (other than Temple & Synagogues)		
Luke 5:3	Preached from a boat	Teaching, afterwards miracle of great catch
Matt 5	Preached on a hillside	Sermon on the mount
Matt 24	Prophesied, Mount of Olives	Prophesied to disciples about 2 nd Coming
Matt 26:6	Simon the lepers house	Heals the leper eats & teaches at his house
Matt 8:14	Peter's house	Heals mother-in-law & teaches disciples
Luke 19:5	Zacchaeus house	Gets saved, Jesus stays at his house a day
Luke 14:1	Pharisees house	Meeting, teaching & Meal
Matt 9:9-10	Matthew's house	Leaves tax booth, eats & meeting at house
Luke 11:37	Pharisees house	Eats, meeting, condemns the Pharisees
Luke 10:38-40	Lazarus, Martha, Mary house	Eats, meets, teaches disciples
Mk 14:12-14	Upper Room of house for the Passover (last Supper)	Jesus has disciples follow a stranger thru city & ask to use a room for Passover meal
At a well, a funeral, synagogues, at the temple, in homes, hillsides, waters edge, middle of the sea in a storm, walking town to town, everywhere Jesus went he had encounters that became teachable moments, healing campaigns, meals, miracles, answering questions, continuously everyday, all day, Jesus ministered everywhere he went during his three an a half years of ministry.		

Israel's fall

As the multitudes that followed Jesus grew, the religious leaders became more jealous and offended by his unorthodox ways, and fearing that they may lose their power, they decided to kill him to get rid of him. The religious leaders started a smear campaign against Jesus by saying he cast out demons by Satan. Blasphemy is attributing to Satan the works done by God and is an unforgivable sin. The generation of Jewish leaders who rejected the Messiah and blasphemed the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness for what they did.

Matthew 12:24 But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, **"It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow (Jesus) drives out demons."**

Matthew 12:28 (Jesus) But if **I drive out demons by the Spirit of God,** then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Matthew 12:31-32 (Jesus) And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, **but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.** Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man (a Messianic Title) will be forgiven, **but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.**

That was a turning point for Israel because they rejected the Messiah, Jesus' tone and message changed, and he responded by delivering scorching condemnations directed at the religious leaders. Jesus pronounced woes against the Scribes and Pharisees eight times in one sermon alone (*Matthew 23*). As Jesus approached Jerusalem on the exact day prophesied by Daniel (*Dan 9:25-26*), he wept over the city. Their rejection of him as Messiah ultimately resulted in the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans. He added you will not see me again until you say, blessed is he who comes in the name of the lord (at His second coming).

Luke 13:34-35 **"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing! "See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'"**

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The Jews had one last chance to acknowledge Jesus as their Messiah and king, but they reaffirmed their position of rejecting Christ, and they chose allegiance to a Roman king, which would come back to bite them later.

John 19:14-15 It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour. **"Here is your king,"** Pilate said to the Jews. But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" **"Shall I crucify your king?"** Pilate asked. **"We have no king but Caesar,"** the chief priests answered.

Jesus said to Israel that their nation would not have another opportunity to receive Him as their Messiah and king until they would say blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, at His second coming. What were the consequences to Israel for rejecting Christ? About 37 years later, the Romans destroyed the temple in Jerusalem, not leaving one stone of the temple standing, ending their priesthood and sacrifices, losing their homeland, and scattered everywhere for two millenniums.

But everything the Jews lost, the temple, the priesthood, and the sacrifices, Christ either fulfilled, replaced, or will restore (*Acts 1:6, 3:21*) to the nation of Israel at the second coming during the millennium. Until that time, Israel will have partial spiritual blindness. Israel's fall (Rejection of Christ) led to the salvation of the Gentiles (non-Jews), provoking the Jews to jealousy so they would return to the Lord.

Romans 11:11-12 I say then, have they (Israel) stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: **but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.** Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness? (*Restoration*)

Romans 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that **blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.**

For the followers of Jesus, individual Jews, and Gentiles under the new covenant, Christ is our eternal high priest, the perfect sacrifice for sin, and has given us a better covenant with better promises and sealed us with the Holy Spirit. We could list much more, but to summarize, Christ is our salvation, righteousness, and justification,

who has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).

We can learn a hard lesson of history from the High Priest, Pharisees, and Sadducees who rejected Christ and were left desolate with no temple, sacrifice, or priesthood but had an outward form of religion void of God's presence and grace. After 400 years of separation from God, Israel had become spiritually callous, deaf, and so blind that they didn't recognize God but persecuted and killed him when he spoke to them face to face. The glory departed from Israel, they rejected Christ, but he is coming back as their King of Glory to rule from Jerusalem for one thousand years.

Psalms 24:7-10 Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts (armies), He is the King of glory. Selah

History repeats itself when God departs from a religious group. The group continues as an institution without God, being self-righteous, full of routines and traditions, spiritually dead, and finally becoming a secular business. Dead denominations like Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists, and others could hang a sign on their front door saying, Ichabod, the glory has departed. These institutions will be part of the coalition of world religions known as the Harlot church.

Birth of the church

After Jesus rose from the dead, he told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received power. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon 120 disciples, and after Peter preached a sermon, 3,000 people came to faith in Christ, and the church was born. The following verses show the growth of the first church. The following chart shows how the disciples followed the example Jesus demonstrated for them by turning every situation, in every place, into an opportunity to minister, testify, and fellowship.

The Apostles & Disciples Meeting Places	
Matt 10:5-11	Whatever town, village, search for worthy person and stay at his house until you leave.
Lk 10:4-8, 17	When you enter a house ... Stay in that house , eat & drink what they give
Acts 1:13	120 meet in upper room (of a house) on day of Pentecost
Acts 2:46	3,000 disciples daily in one accord in the temple, breaking bread from house to house,
Acts 3:1	Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer,
Acts 3:11	Peter, John, Solomon's porch (outside temple) healing, preach to multitudes
Acts 5:12	Apostles, many signs and wonders multitudes at Solomon's porch
Acts 5:18-20	Peter in prison (for preaching in the temple), Angel releases, he preaches in the temple
Acts 5:42	Apostles daily in the temple, in every house , ceased not preaching Jesus Christ.
Acts 8:3	Saul (Paul), persecuting the church, entering into every house
Acts 9:43	Peter many days in Joppa in Simon's house (a tanner), servants from Cornelius met him
Acts 10:48	Peter preaches to Cornelius household (all get saved) stays for a few days.
Rom 16:5	Greet Priscilla and Aquila , and greet the church that meets in their house. (1 Cor 16:19)
Col 4:15	Greet Nymphas , and the church which is in his house.
Phm 1:2	Greet Apphia our sister & Archippus and the church that meets in your home:

*Acts 2:41, 46-47 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day **there were added unto them about three thousand souls** ... So, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and **breaking bread from house to house**, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. **And the Lord added to the church daily** those who were being saved.*

*Acts 4:4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about **five thousand.***

*Acts 5:14 And believers were **increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes** of both men and women,*

*Acts 6:1, 7 Now in those days, when **the number of the disciples was multiplying**, ... Then the word of God spread,*

and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Acts 9:31 Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.

The growth of the first church was the work of God, totally supernatural, with tens of thousands of souls coming to repentance, being water baptized, and receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. They did not have a building, no board, no hierarchy, no meeting times, no musicians, no offering plates, no nursery, no 501 C3 tax exemption, and no compromise or hypocrisy. But what they did have cannot be bought, imitated, or manufactured by human efforts. It was a genuine move of God, and all the congregation was Spirit-filled with the gifts of the Spirit in operation, and everyone was obedient to the Spirit in unity.

Gentiles (Church Age)

Are you sitting down? Every one of those tens of thousands who joined the church that we reviewed up to this point was Jewish! We do not see the inclusion of the Gentiles until Acts chapter 10, around ten years after the day of Pentecost when the church was born. You could say that was when the Gentiles got accepted by Jews into the church. God spoke to Peter through a vision and sent him to preach to a Gentile named Cornelius and the members of his household. Peter and the Jews with him were surprised that God saved the Gentiles and filled them with the Holy Spirit the same as them.

Acts 10:44-47 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"

When Peter returned to Jerusalem, the Jews were outraged that he went to the house of a Gentile, and Peter had to defend his visit. After Peter explained all the circumstances and the outcome of the visit, the other Apostles, disciples, elders, and church leaders (all Jewish) were satisfied.

Acts 11:18 When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, **"Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."**

About ten years before Peter's encounter with Cornelius, Jesus tried to tell the disciples that they would be privy to mysteries and revelations that many prophets, righteous men, and even angels had longed to know but never did. We will cover a few mysteries revealed to the church by the Holy Spirit after Pentecost.

Matthew 13:16-17 But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For I tell you the truth, **many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.**

1 Peter 1:12 the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the **Holy Spirit sent from heaven things which angels desire to look into.**

The first of those mysteries we briefly touch on is regarding God's plan for the Gentiles. Although Abraham was called the father of many nations, and there were other hints about God's dealing with the Gentiles, the Jews had no idea Gentiles would get adopted into the family and become one with them.

Ephesians 2:11-15 Therefore, remember that formerly you who are **Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised"** by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men) remember that **at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in**

Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

Paul uses the analogy of how the Gentiles were like a branch from a wild olive tree and got grafted onto a fruitful olive tree, Israel. Gentiles should not be arrogant against Israel because they rejected Christ, but we should be grateful to partake in the promises and be joined with Christ.

Romans 11:17-18 And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.

From Pentecost to the second coming can be called the fullness of the Gentiles. Some people would say that the church age ends at the rapture, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and gifts of the Spirit will cease. Once the church gets snatched away in the rapture, the prophetic events pivot and focus on the Jews and how the nations relate to them.

Romans 11:25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

Another prophetic event, the times of the Gentiles, ends with the destruction of the last Gentile Empire, the antichrist global kingdom (*Daniel 2:31-45*). From the middle of the tribulation, for 3 1/2 years, the Gentiles trample the temple, the antichrist, and all the world's armies will attack Jerusalem. When it looks like Israel is doomed, they will cry out to Jesus and say blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, and Christ will return and destroy the armies of all the nations.

Luke 21:24 "And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are

fulfilled.

Revelation 11:1-2 Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. **"But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.**

Another reason to examine the Gentiles and the church is to expose antisemitism (hatred of Jews) and replacement theology. Church history is full of leaders and movements that have persecuted or rejected the Jews as God's people. Replacement theology teaches that the church has replaced Israel in God's plan of salvation, and the covenants and promises intended for Israel switched to the church. This thinking multiplies false teachings and is divisive and destructive. Jesus died to destroy the walls between Jews and Gentiles and make them one in Christ.

Ephesians 2:14-19 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity ... For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

Paul's ministry

In the book of Acts, God uses Peter to bring Gentiles into the church, then the narrative shifts from Peter to Paul. Paul was so zealous as a Jew that he persecuted the church, and after his conversion to Christ, he was the most zealous and unstoppable preacher to the Gentiles.

*Galatians 2:2, 7-8 And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them **that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles** ... But on the contrary, when they saw that **the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me**, as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter (for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also **worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles**),*

Paul's burning zeal made him an unstoppable missionary that blazed the trail to start many new churches, and he trained many young missionaries to carry his torch after he was gone.

Paul's Meeting Places	
Acts 9:19	Saul (Paul) in Damascus certain days with disciples
Acts 16:14-15	Paul & Silas, (others?) in Thyatira , stay at Lydia house
Acts 16:40	Paul & Silas out of prison & meet the brethren at Lydia's house
Acts 19:9, 10	Paul in Corinth , rented lecture hall for 2 years & taught his disciples daily
Acts 20:4-6	Paul & eight co-workers, stay with believers in Troas 7 days
Acts 20:17-35	Paul reminds Ephesians he taught them publicly & house to house
Acts 21:3, 4-6	Paul & co-workers in Tyre finds disciples, stay with them 7 days
Acts 21:7	Paul & co-workers in Ptolemais , find disciples stayed a day
Acts 21:8-10	Paul & co-workers in Caesarea stay at Philip the evangelist's home
Acts 21:16	Paul & co-workers in Jerusalem stay at home of Mnason,
Acts 27:3	Paul a prisoner in Sidon meeting with friends who provided for his needs
Acts 28:13-15	Paul in Puteoli finds brothers stays a week with them, other brothers travel from Rome meet with him

The body of Christ

Paul also gave instructions to all the churches he started and judging by the letters he wrote; their form of meetings and fellowship was much different than we do today. The idea that the church was an

institutional organization represented by a building, board members, paid staff, and an annual budget would have been totally foreign to them. They thought of themselves as the body of Christ, like a human body where each member (eyes, nose, ears, mouth, arms, legs, etc.) plays a different role (different gifts) in contributing to the whole body (of believers) to create balance and full function of the body.

Romans 12:4-8 For as **we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ,** and individually members of one another. Having then **gifts** differing according to the **grace** that is given to us, let us use them: if **prophecy**, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or **ministry**, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in **teaching**; he who exhorts, in **exhortation**; he who **gives**, with liberality; he who **leads**, with diligence; he who shows **mercy**, with cheerfulness.

Paul told the church that God works "in all," and the Spirit is given to "each one" to profit all, then lists various gifts used by multiple people. Notice the words "to each" and "all" regarding the distribution of special abilities given by the Holy Spirit. However, what you see inside most church buildings today is one person (the preacher) who is the only one with any gifts and a congregation of spectators.

Corinthians 12:4-11 There are diversities of gifts, but the **I** same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. **But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:** for to one is given the **word of wisdom** through the Spirit, to another the **word of knowledge** through the same Spirit, to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healings** by the same Spirit, to another the **working of miracles**, to another **prophecy**, to another **discerning of spirits**, to another different kinds of **tongues**, to another the **interpretation of tongues**. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and **he gives them to each one, just as he determines**.

In small churches, the Pastor does everything, and in larger churches, the Pastor may delegate some things, but he does all the pulpit (preaching, teaching) ministry. Sometimes, the Holy Spirit has to be funneled through the Pastor for everything in a church service, to the point that the Pastor replaces the Holy Spirit in guidance, direction, and control. In those situations, the verses we just read would more accurately portray many churches if we read them as follows; using the titles of Pastor, Priest, Prophet, Bishop, or Grand Poobah if that fits your situation:

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 There are diversities of gifts, but the same **Pastor**. There are differences of ministries, but the same **Pastor**. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same **Pastor** who works all. But the manifestation of the **Pastor** is for the profit of all: for to the **Pastor** is given the word of wisdom, to **Pastor** the word of knowledge through the same **Pastor**, faith by the same **Pastor**, gifts of healings by the same **Pastor**, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, different kinds of tongues, the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same **Pastor**, and he gives them just as he determines.

The first church was not a one-man show; to the contrary, they were a fully functioning body with many moving parts.

1 Corinthians 12:28-31 And God has appointed these in the church: first **apostles**, second **prophets**, third **teachers**, after that **miracles**, then **gifts of healings**, **helps**, **administrations**, varieties of **tongues**. **Are all** apostles? **Are all** prophets? **Are all** teachers? **Are all** workers of miracles? **Do all** have gifts of healings? **Do all** speak with tongues? **Do all** interpret? **But earnestly desire the best gifts...** (We could cynically add to that list, **Are all spectators?**)

Colossians 3:15-16 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly **as you teach and admonish one another** with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your

hearts to God.

Family of believers

Another analogy of the church is that of a family and especially the love, concern, compassion, hospitality, and care that family demonstrates towards each other. Just like Israel began with one man, Abraham, and his 12 great-grandsons, the church started with the 12 apostles, and the early church was like a family. They referred to each other as brothers and sisters and ate meals together from house to house. When Paul started churches, he said he was like their father and cared for them like a mother.

*1 Corinthians 4:14-17 I do not write these things to shame you, but as **my beloved children** I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, **yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus, I have begotten you through the gospel.** Therefore, I urge you, imitate me. For this reason, I have sent **Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord**, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.*

*1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 But we were gentle among you, **just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you,** we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.*

They operated as the family of God in the power of God, and they recognized spiritual authority, gifts, different levels of spiritual growth, and the grace of God in someone's life. Paul and John used examples of how to treat widows, older men, older women, fathers, younger men, younger women, little children, and spiritual babies. They spoke in terms of the family with love.

*1 Timothy 5:1-3 Do not rebuke an **older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger as sisters,** with all purity. Honor widows who are really widows.*

1 John 2:12-14 I write to you, **little children**, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. I write to you, **fathers**, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, **young men**, because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, **little children**, because you have known **the Father**. I have written to you, **fathers**, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one.

1 Corinthians 3:1-2 **And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal (worldly, fleshly minded), as to babes in Christ.** I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able;

Humble servants

The example of a family structure type of leadership that recognizes, acknowledges, and submits to the spiritual authority of the individual can only work voluntarily with humble and discerning people who are sensitive to the Spirit. In families, the parents work hard to provide for and care for the kids while they grow and mature into responsible adults and have children and repeat the process. The great leaders in the Bible were humble mentors with a servant's attitude, like Jesus, Moses, and Paul, who prepared the next generation to lead others.

Numbers 12:3 (Now the man **Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.**)

Mat 11:28-29 (Jesus) "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, **for I am gentle and humble in heart**, and you will find rest for your souls.

Philippians 2:2-9 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. **Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each**

of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore, God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.

On the contrary, the ego-driven dictator style of leadership wants to be served by others and covets more power and money. They turn religion into a secular business, with Hollywood marketing, church growth, fame, and money as goals, not humble servant leadership like Christ.

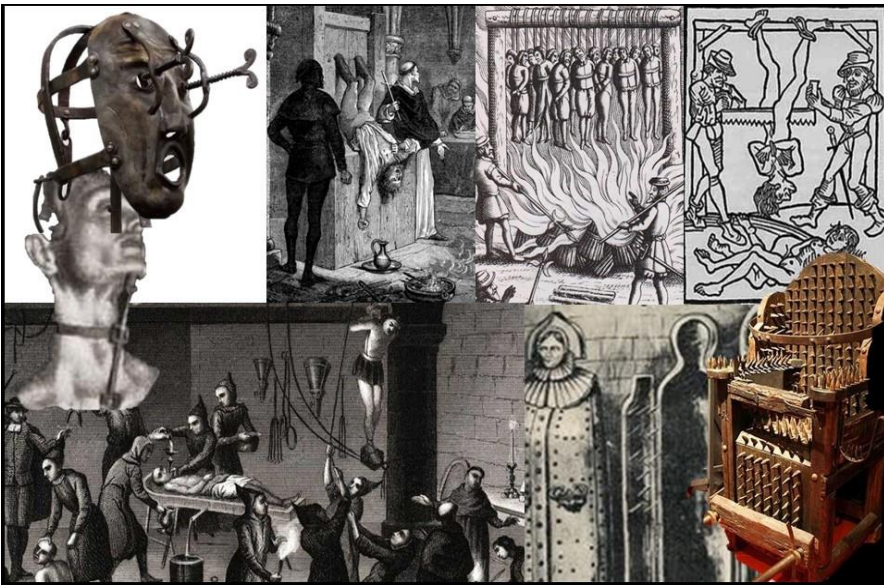
Matthew 20:25-28 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. "And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Persecution

One of the most glaring differences between the early churches of the Apostles and modern American churches today is persecution. All the original Apostles died as martyrs except John. They tried to kill John by boiling him in oil, but nothing happened to his body. So, they put him on the Isle Patmos, where he wrote the book of Revelation.



The apostles and early church martyrs considered it an honor to suffer for Christ. When people challenged the validity of Paul's ministry, he didn't give a list of miracle crusades but a list of all the sufferings that he endured for the cause of Christ (*2 Cor 11:22-33*). Persecution against the church is like pouring gas on a fire, burning away hypocrisy and sin and making the conversion of new believers spread like a forest fire.



Roman Catholic Inquisitions

Acts 5:40-42 *And they agreed with him, and when **they had called for the apostles and beaten them**, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. So, **they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.** And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.*

2 Thessalonians 1:3-5 *We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for **your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure**, which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, **that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer;***

2 Corinthians 4:16-17 *For which cause **we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;***

1 Peter 1:6-8 *In this you greatly rejoice, though **now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire,** may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,*

James 1:2-4 ***My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,** knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*

Despite severe persecution, the churches experienced phenomenal growth. The church was strong and challenged the pagan religions, shaking and conquering the world for about 300 years, **and then the church was hijacked!**

Constantine & Catholics

The Roman Emperor Constantine made the Edict of Toleration in 325, overturning the laws forbidding Christianity, and he urged all his subjects to become Christians. Constantine became the head of church and state, declaring Christianity the state religion, and Romans were Christians by the Emperor's decree, not spiritual rebirth. Thus began the evolutionary process of paganizing Christianity by mixing it with Roman mythology and idolatry, perverting the scriptures, creating a political hierarchy in the church, selling priestly offices, and committing spiritual adultery with pagan gods. All the pagan temples changed to Christian, and statues of pagan gods like Jupiter, Apollo, and Mercury changed their names to saints like Peter, John, and Paul.



They Christianized Pagan holidays like the winter solstice and renamed Christ's Mass. According to Catholic theology, in the mass service, once the bread and wine are blessed, they become the actual, literal, physical body and blood of Jesus, called transubstantiation. Disagreeing with transubstantiation was an act of heresy that led to the deaths of many dissenting voices during the Catholic inquisitions. To think we drink and eat the actual, literal body and blood of Jesus is sick and demented. That is one reason the reformers opposed the Catholic Christ Mass tradition.

During the Passover meal with his disciples, Jesus commemorated a new covenant with bread and wine, symbolizing his death which would seal the covenant with his broken body, blood, and death (*1 Corinthians 11:24-25*). The heirs receive their inheritance only after the person who left a will dies. Jesus secured our inheritance with his death, and the communion meal is symbolic and is supposed to bring to our remembrance Jesus' sacrificial death for us.

Adding to the Christ Mass tradition, they took Nicholas of Myra, made him a saint, embellished his story, and mingled it with pagan mythology to make Santa Claus and the Christmas traditions. In England, by the 1100s, Christmas replaced the old German word Yule, representing pagan winter festivals. The Protestants and Puritans in the early 1600s were against the Romish, Popery, and pagan roots of Christmas, but as time passed, they became more widely accepted. Then American businesses secularized those traditions to make Christmas the most popular holiday season and the most profitable for business. And just for the record, the actual date of Jesus' birth is unknown and has always been a subject of debate, but there is clear evidence that it was not the 25th day of December. But admittedly, Christmas is a precious time for families and people worldwide. However, governments and businesses have removed Jesus, made it a secular holiday, and commercialized it.



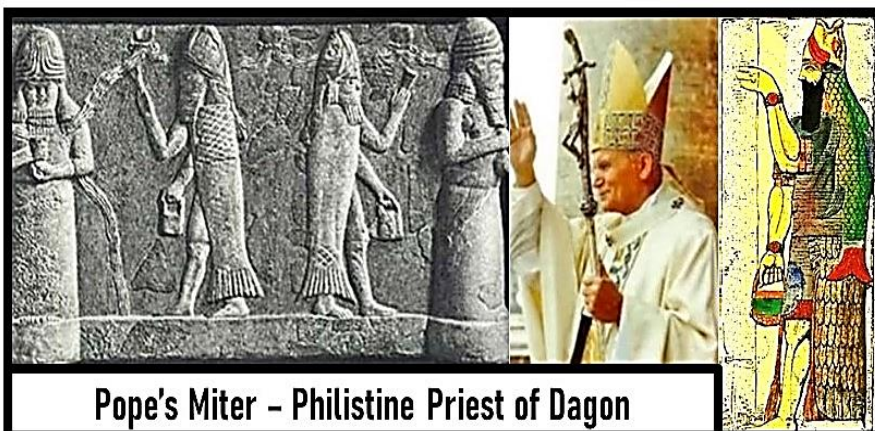
At the spring equinox, the pagans held a festival celebrating the goddess of sex and fertility. This goddess had different names in different cultures and times; her name was Diana or Artemis (Acts 19:24-35), Astarte, Ashtar, and others with symbols and idols of fertility going back 2500 years. The American use of the Easter egg first appeared in 1825, the Easter bunnies in 1888, and current traditions gained popularity in the 1900s. German immigrants in Dutch Pennsylvania had their children make boxes with straw and grass for rabbits to nest in and picked colorful flowers to feed the rabbits so they would produce colored Easter eggs.

The pagan Easter fertility celebration replaced the Biblical Jewish Passover in the King James Version of the Bible (*Acts 12:4*) and has for many people since. But the first Christians acknowledged that Christ died on the Passover, and even more important is that Jesus rose from the dead three days later. However, every year, multitudes of “churches” have public Easter egg hunts to celebrate a pagan tradition.



Rome institutionalized the church and patterned it after the Roman government, with political assignments or selling the offices like Pope, Bishops, and Cardinals. The Roman Catholic church idolizes Mary, and they also worship idols, pray to dead saints, and so much more that make them guilty of spiritual adultery (*James 4:4*), making it a harlot church.

Not only did Catholicism paganize Christianity, but it exercised iron-fisted governmental control over countries and kings. Anyone who criticized or disagreed with them could be labeled a heretic, imprisoned, tortured, or killed. The height of their murderous tyranny was called the Inquisitions, in which tens of thousands died, and the Jesuit priests tortured hundreds of thousands for disagreeing with Catholic teachings.



Catholic Heresies

Mary Worship	Virgin & Child, Queen of Heaven Babylonian cult, Mary not god, or intercessor
Papal Succession	Roman Emperor Nero had Peter crucified upside down, he had no successors
Infallibility of Popes	Claims by any human to divine perfection are blasphemous and antichrist
Priestly Orders	Separation of priest from laity (body of people) was for power and control
Celibacy of Priest	All the Apostles were married but Paul, Paul had constant travels and dangers
Purgatory	12 th Century, a place of cleansing - money making scam, pay to get out of Hell
The Inquisitions	Protesters against Catholic teaching were labeled heretics, tortured & killed
Jesuit Priests	The priest who conducted the inquisitions, torturers, killers of the opposition
Latin Bibles	Weaponized to keep uneducated ignorant, Bible translators were killed
Transubstantiation	Blessed communion bread & wine become physical body & blood of Jesus
Confessionals	1700s French - worthless, should confess directly to God & person offended
Indulgences	Pay to play, forgiveness for money, fundraising fraud built St. Peters Basilica
Penance	Acts of attrition to pay for sin by afflicting yourself, useless, Christ alone paid
Idolatry	No idols, statues or images of saints, Mary or Jesus, God is Spirit and invisible
The Rosary	Pagan prayer beads a ritual to count prayers, mindless repetitions, scripted
Prayers to Saints	Jesus is the only mediator we can pray to; it is a sin to talk to the dead
Prayers for the Dead	The dead are either in heaven or hell, there is nothing that can change that
Baptism	Baptism represents burial by immersion not sprinkling, if unsaved it is worthless
Infant Baptism	Age requirement, old enough to repent & belief in resurrection of Christ
Last Rites	Person who is dying must repent & believe in Christ for forgiveness to be saved

False religious leaders from Nimrod, Jezebel, Pharisees, Jesuits, and eventually the Antichrist have one thing in common they will kill for power. With the comingling of pagan religions, secular government, and Christianity, the Roman Catholic church became a mother of harlots because all of the protestant denominations came out of her. The protestant denominations may have renounced the blatant Catholic church heresies, but most have retained the church hierarchy system with institutional and doctrinal errors. The deceptions in the end times will be so powerful that even the elect will be vulnerable to joining a global religious coalition (*Matthew 24:24*). Knowingly or not, Pastors, ministers, and preachers in the harlot churches will sell their flocks straight into the arms of the Antichrist because harlots and hirelings have never cared about God's people. But the remnant separates from the Harlots and gravitates to the Word of God even if they are branded as heretics and have to pay a heavy price.

Martin Luther

In the early 1500s in Germany, an Augustinian Friar was upset by the sin he saw in himself and the Roman Catholic church. He was grieving and strived to earn salvation by doing religious works until he read, "The just shall live by his faith." When he realized that salvation is a gift and not by his works, Martin Luther was a changed man, and that moment changed the world.

*Habakkuk 2:4 "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; **But the just shall live by his faith.**"*

*Romans 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "**The just shall live by faith.**"*

*Galatians 3:11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "**the just shall live by faith.**"*

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther wrote what has become known as the 95 Theses, in which he listed his 95 objections to selling indulgences and Papal powers and nailed it to the door of his church. At that time, the Catholic church took money to forgive future sins that someone wanted to indulge in or pardon the sins of their dead relatives in purgatory. Purgatory, invented by the Catholics in the 12th century, was a place of punishment where souls stayed to purge their sins to become fit to go to heaven. And for the right price, you could pay to have your dead relatives delivered from purgatory to heaven. The proceeds from the sales of indulgences were a fundraising scam to build St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.



Pope Leo X demanded that Luther renounce his writings voicing his opposition, but he refused, and by 1521 he was excommunicated from the Catholic church. He began a movement that became the Lutheran Church denomination. Most historians and theologians place this as the beginning point of the reformation movement of the church. Martin Luther was not the only reformer but was probably the most influential, and the theological divide and power struggle between the Catholics and Reformers became bitter and bloody.

In the dark ages or medieval times, anyone who disagreed with Catholic teachings was a heretic. A determination of guilt was by an inquiry, like a trial with no jury, and carried out in a torture chamber, not a courthouse. These inquiries became known as the Inquisitions; the most infamous were the Spanish Inquisitions. Heretics were tortured and could recant and renounce their heresy or face a painful death. Maybe the cruelest tortures ever invented happened in those dungeons to believers in Jesus who refused to partake in Roman Catholic pagan idolatry and ritualism. (Recommended reading free book [Foxes Book of Martyrs](#), or [YouTube](#))

Those who stood against Roman Catholic teachings were called reformers, and the Reformation movement became labeled as a protest, so they became known as Protestants. The more the true believers got persecuted, the more the movement grew, but it took centuries for the movement's liberation from the tyranny of the Catholic church. Luther and the Protestants Reformers got the basics right, like justification by faith, and they exposed idolatry and many of the false teachings of Catholicism. But in a sense, they were daughters of the harlot because they kept the hierarchy, Augustinian doctrines, and other Catholic baggage with them when they left. One unfortunate flaw was how some Protestant Reformers persecuted others who wanted to make more radical sweeping reforms to purge Catholicism from the church. Luther attacked Catholics, Jews, Anabaptists (Baptists), and others. The infighting, power struggles, and disagreements caused divisions and resulted in numerous denominations.

Successive generations have had to sift traditions from the truth while questioning what was handed down by the reformers and go back to the scriptures to find the truth as it was in the first church in the book of Acts. Getting to the truth is like peeling the layers of an onion, peeling away lies, deception, and tradition with tears and troubles. This process is also God's way of separating the bride of Christ from those in the harlot church.



King James & church

In considering the King James Version, aka the Authorized Anglican Version of the Bible, we should start by looking at the word church, which appears nowhere in the original Greek writings but was inserted into the English Bible by translators. The original word was **ekklesia**, which translated means; called-out, a congregation or assembly of people. Ekklesia speaks of people and has nothing to do with a building or an institution. So, for example, the correct reading of Matthew 16:18 would be, “And I also say to thee, that thou art a rock, and upon this rock, **I will build my assembly**, and gates of Hades shall not prevail against it (Youngs Literal Translation).

There is nothing Christian about the word church; its roots are pagan. So how did a pagan word replace the word congregation or assembly in our Bibles? Following the history, starting from 1382, John Wycliffe translated the word ekklesia as chirche, which was in the Old English of his time. But Wycliffe did not speak Greek and translated from a Latin Bible into English (translation of a translation). That may explain why he used the word chirche instead of ekklesia. However, Wycliffe was not a proponent of religious buildings and institutions and spoke of the invisible church of the elect. The translations that followed Wycliffe rendered the word ekklesia as a congregation:

Renderings of Matthew 16:18

In the year 1526 Tyndale’s Bible, is rendered “congregation”

In the year 1535 Coverdale Bible, is rendered “congregation”

In the year 1537 Matthew Bible is rendered “congregation”

In the year 1539 The Great Bible is rendered “congregation”

In the year 1568 Bishops Bible is rendered “congregation”

In 1611, the translators inserted the word church into the King James Version, and we will look at some of their motives. But before we do, we will go back a few years to get some background history. In 1526 William Tyndale was the first to translate an English version of the Bible directly from the original languages. In 1534, King Henry the 8th broke away from the Catholic Church, so He could divorce his wife, which the Pope would not allow. Ironically, King Henry used one of William Tyndale's writings as the rationale for the split from Catholicism and later killed Tyndale for his writings. So basically, breaking away from the Catholic church just meant Henry renounced the Pope and the Catholic church, appointed himself the Head of the church, and changed the name to the Anglican Church. King Henry 8th became the Head of the church and state, and those powers transferred to successive kings.

That was a time of persecution for true believers; anyone who challenged church authority or practice could be deemed a heretic and severely beaten, imprisoned, or killed. The church used Biblical ignorance as a weapon to have power over the people. Most Bibles were in Latin and not available to the general public. Translating the Bible into English was considered a threat to the church and government powers. In 1535 William Tyndale was arrested and jailed for heresy because he translated the Bible and for his writings. In 1536 he was convicted of heresy and sentenced to be burned alive. When

the executioner tied him to the stake, he shouted, "Lord! Open the King of England's eyes," the executioner then strangled him to death and burned his body afterward.



Just 75 years after William Tyndale's martyrdom, King James became Head of the church and state. The reformation movement (salvation by faith in Christ alone) had grown more and more, creating a division between the Anglicans (state religion) and Puritans (reformers). That ever-increasing friction created political and religious problems for King

James. King James sought a way to control both factions, so he thought by creating a new Bible version, he could consolidate the religious groups while strengthening the monarchy (state power).

King James selected 47 Scholars and gave them 15 edicts controlling how they translated the new version. In the 3rd edict, He made it forbidden to use the word “congregation” as it had been in earlier translations. Also, for anything that pertained to church leadership, they inserted words like bishop, deacon, office, and rule to give a mindset of church institution as an official designation, university educated, being sanctioned and ordained by the government for the clergy.

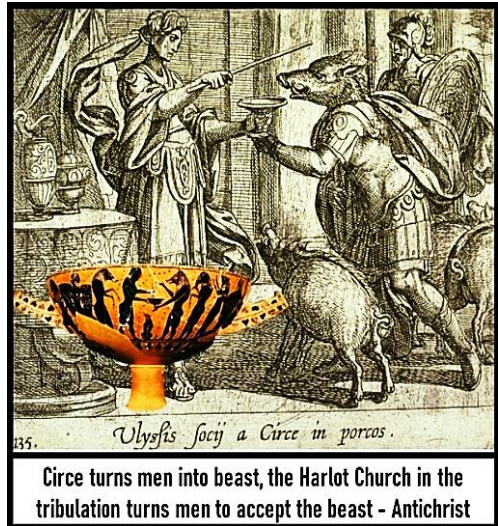
King James, the Head of the church and state, worked to keep the church under submission to the monarchy and maintain control. The King James Version, or the Authorized Anglican Version, was the only version endorsed by the King. But he branded other versions as seditious, like the Geneva Bible (a study Bible with commentary), the Bible brought by the Puritans on the Mayflower to America.

Before moving on, just a side note about the word “church” and its pagan origins, which existed in all the Celtic dialects long before its Greek counterparts. No doubt the word means a circle. The places of worship among the German and Celtic nations



were always circular. The Druids had their Stonehenge, and the Celts and Saxons also met around stone circles to worship their gods. Many of the first English buildings for Christian worship were located on top of those same circle sites or built using stones from those sites. That may be why William Tyndale used the word “chirche” (circle) in his Bible translation in 1382. We also get the word circus (like a three-ring circus) from chirche, or we speak to our circle of friends or influence. The church can be like a three-ring circus or sitting with a circle of friends. There is also possibly another, darker meaning for this word.

In the dialects of the Anglo-Saxon, it was circe, a small church, with circol, a circle. In the Scottish dialect, it was called Kirk; in German, it was Kirche; in England, it is the word Circe. Circe was also the name of a Goddess in Greek mythology. Circe was the daughter of the Sun god Helios, the fertility goddess, and a sorceress. She supposedly lived and was buried on the island of Aiaiai, which was in a chain of islands within eyesight of the isle of Patmos, where the Apostle John was banished when he wrote the book of Revelation. Circe was famous for taming wild animals for her circus. She was said to have the power to change men into lions, wolves, and especially pigs. She would seduce men to drink from her Gold Cup, which she had mixed with wine and drugs. After drinking from the cup, they transformed a man into a hybrid of part man, part animal. The men would retain their human senses but got trapped in an animal body. We don't know if the King James translators knew about Circe and Greek mythology, but one thing is clear, Circe and her story have a striking resemblance to the Great Whore of the book of Revelation.



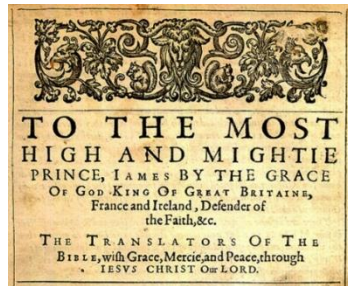
Revelation 17:3-6 ... And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast ... The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marvelled with great amazement.

Revelation 18:3 *"For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication,*

Revelation 18:6 *"Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her.*

Revelation 18:23 *For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. "And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."*

The King James Version is good, but some keywords associated with church leadership got translated to influence a mindset that supports orthodox clergy, institutions, government ordination, and official education. Words like Deacon and the "office of Bishop" were translated to reflect the attitude that church leaders must have a professional education in an accredited government school. Hence the word "office" is tied to the word Bishop giving a different impression than the original meaning. In the original Greek, a bishop was an elder with oversight to look after and a caregiver. Similarly, the Greek definition of a Deacon was an errand runner, servant, or one who waits on tables, not a church official with a high-ranking status.



The KJV Bible forever altered the English vocabulary, describing the church as a building instead of a congregation or assembly of people. Or, a Deacon is an administrative official with institutional authority instead of a servant leader. The institutional church mindset in the culture is irreversible and permanently ingrained in modern Churchianity. We have to use the word church if we want people to know what we are talking about. It may be semantics, but it has a profound psychological impact on our thinking. All that to say, most Christians are "institutionalized," like long-term prison inmates or troops fresh out of boot camp, to think according to a set administrative structure. Our minds are programmed to think of the

church as a building, institution, or organization rather than a spiritual family with fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, and elders.

Romans 12:2 *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

Colossians 3:9-10 *Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,*

The last 500 years

Let's summarize and look at the pattern left by Jesus and the apostles for believers to follow after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said true worship is not primarily external, with material things like the temple buildings and religious trappings. But in the Holy Spirit and the truth, coming from the innermost being (*John 7:38*). After Pentecost, the believers met daily from house to house and around the temple, synagogues, and public squares. The congregations experienced tremendous growth, and the Apostles received revelations regarding the Gentiles, the bride of Christ, the rapture, the end times, and the eternal heavenly places.

They functioned as a body, with every member participating and contributing to the encouragement and faith of the others. They were like a family, caring for and serving each other based on love and respect. Their leaders were humble servants with recognizable gifts and callings of the Holy Spirit, having proven character and grace in their lives. Submission to elders was out of respect for a godly character and spiritual authority, not because of some clergy title or superior organizational rank or seniority. And despite severe persecution, the congregations experienced phenomenal growth, and the gospel spread worldwide.

Like ancient Israel with its 400 years of silence, we have had 2000 years since Christ and the original apostles, and since then, men have added a lot of traditions, routines, and rituals that were never part of

the original gospel. Many of those rituals came from the Catholic influence from 300 AD until the 1500s. After the 1500s, more traditions got created and handed down to us by the Puritans, Baptists, Pentecostals, and other movements. We will look at a few of the most common additions.

The Puritans came to America for religious freedom, and with their new liberty, they did things differently, some by choice and some by necessity. The Anglican Church in England received financial support from the government, but the financial aid stopped for the Puritan churches in America after the Americans declared their independence from England. Their solution was to **pass an offering plate** at church for financial support.



During the 1700s, the American colonies experienced the "Great Awakening" through the ministry of fiery preachers," where multitudes turned to God for salvation. Because of messages like "Sinners in the hands of an angry God" by Jonathan Edwards, people were so afraid that they would go to hell that they clung to the pews in fear. To accommodate those gripped with fear, they designated a bench in the front row for sinners to stay and pray until they felt assurance of salvation, and they called that pew the **mourner's seat**.

Evangelists like Charles Finney tweaked the mourner's seat in the 1820s and eventually evolved into our modern "**altar call**," later popularized by Billy Graham in the 1950s. Billy Graham also modified something used for over 100 years before him but turned it into the standard operating procedure for evangelism by most Christians, known as the **sinner's prayer**. The sinner's prayer is the most basic evangelistic tool, which is done by having the sinner repeat a prayer that asks Jesus to come into their heart and be their personal Savior.

Ok, let's knock over this golden calf and illustrate how something esteemed as essential to the gospel is only a tradition invented by man. First, the sinner's prayer is not a "get out of hell card" or a "now you are ready for the rapture card." That can be a false promise of security, especially if the sinner who prays doesn't repent and lives like the

Devil afterward. Nobody in the Bible ever had anyone repeat a sinner's prayer or anything remotely close to that. Nowhere in the Bible is Jesus referred to as someone's personal Savior (*Philippians 2:10, Rev 19:16*), or that people should ask Jesus into their hearts. Jesus was against repetitious prayers, and no magic formula of words said in prayer format can save souls. Salvation is only by grace through faith in Christ.

To have souls repeat a prayer to mass produce conversions to Christ only reflects the commercialization of the American gospel. Making blanket declarations of salvation over people is dangerous, and treading into a realm of authority reserved for God alone. Only by the conviction of the Holy Spirit does anyone repent and believe in Jesus for salvation. The Colonial Puritans had the mourner's bench where souls might stay for days under the conviction of the Holy Spirit until they felt released from their sins and knew they had become born again. The sinner's prayer is not a shortcut or an assembly line for salvation. Jesus said to make disciples and teach them and said nothing about leading them in the sinner's prayer. (Sorry if you want to kill me).

*Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them** to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

Next, the first Sunday school started in England in 1751. In America in 1855, a young shoe salesman converted to Christ in a Sunday school class. And since he had great compassion for Chicago's poor children, he started a **Mission Sunday School**, and by 1864 he rented a hall (a converted saloon) for his outreach to children. When that became too small for his kids, he purchased a building and started a church. His church, the Moody Bible Church, is still a historical landmark in Chicago, and D.L. Moody became a world-famous preacher in his life and church history. One of his accomplishments was to make the Sunday school movement popular and widespread.

We just mentioned the origins of the **altar call**, the **sinner's prayer**, the **passing of the offering plate**, and **Sunday school**, which are standard operating procedures for nearly all Western churches. Do you feel like we have just been to church? But those are evangelistic tools or techniques created by men over the last couple of hundred years and are not scriptural. And many times, these traditions can be mindlessly repeated, blindly following religious routines void of God's presence and power (*2 Tim 3:5*). We could say the same for many other new traditions, teachings, and trends that blow through the church. For those who dogmatically and staunchly defend church traditions, what is the difference between our modern church traditions and those of the Scribes and Pharisees that Jesus condemned? When the rains, floods, and winds come, we can only stand if our foundation is on the Rock of the word of God, Jesus Christ, and everything else is sinking sand (*Matthew 7:24-27*).

The Harlot Church

Whatever does not align with what we see in the first church in the Book of Acts is questionable and should be evaluated. The traditions we just mentioned are pretty harmless, but the things that some professing churches are doing in the name of Christ are an abomination and just plain evil. One example would be “drag queens” (men dressed as women) who read books to small children in Sunday school, celebrating homosexuality and other perversions. Our culture is no better than the ancient Israelites who threw their children into the fires of Molech. In the US alone, we have committed over 63 million abortions since 1973, and America’s public schools are currently teaching sexual perversions, creating gender confusion, and funding sex changes for children. We could cite many examples, but we will spare you. It should go without saying that there are church denominations that approve and condone these things. America has already reached the threshold of judgment regarding sin in the church. Soon, Christ will snatch his bride away, the tribulation will begin, multitudes of believers will get killed, and the harlot church will join the antichrist.

During the Covid plandemic, we started seeing church groups divide over whether to submit to lockdowns and vaccine protocols. One group sided with the government, and the others had



Tower of Babel - European Union Parliament Building

convictions about obeying God and not forsaking the assembling of yourselves (*Hebrews 10:25*). We can know the direction and trends that current Harlot churches will take by starting with the Book of Revelation and working backward, it is not a question of "what" is going to happen, but only a question of "when" will it happen. We will see persecution against the remnant of believers intensifies to comply with a global council of Religions, eventually leading to universal worship of the worldwide leader, the Antichrist.

The Harlot church will consolidate power with all religions of the world (compliance mandatory) and leverage the multitudes of people in exchange for power with the antichrist global government. If we add up the population of the three largest religions in the world: Christian 2.3 billion, Islam 1.9 billion, and Hindu 1.1 billion, that's 5.3 billion out of the 7.9 billion total world population with just three religions. The billions of people in the global religious community will create tons of leverage at the bargaining table with the antichrist, giving the Harlot power to ride the beast's (antichrist) back with influence and control for a season.

Revelation 17:1-3 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of **the great harlot who sits on many waters**, "with whom **the kings of the earth** committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication." So, he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. **And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast** which was full of names of blasphemy, **having seven heads and ten horns**.

The harlot church will try to exterminate all true believers in Christ and will succeed in killing many martyrs.

Revelation 17:5-6 *And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marvelled with great amazement.*

Believers not killed by the Harlot church will die by the antichrist and false prophet, and they will exterminate all who refuse to worship the image of the antichrist or take his mark 666. Without the mark, you cannot buy or sell, so naturally, the members of the harlot church will be first in line to take the vaccine. Oh, did I say vaccine? I meant to say the mark of the beast.

Revelation 13:14-17 *He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*

The harlot church is a mother with daughters, the mother has a leader, and we have clues to who that is.

Revelation 17:9 *"Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.*

Revelation 17:18 *"And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."*

Rome is known as the city on seven hills, and all the reformers from the 1100s until today believe the mother of harlots is the Roman Catholic church. The Harlot began in Babylon and spread around the world, and 300 years after Christ, she mixed her pagan religion with

Christianity in Rome. There will be a revived Roman Empire, with ten regions that the Antichrist will reign over. That is in the formation process right now. And very soon, the Harlot will again combine all the world's religions into a global coalition, eventually serving the Antichrist. At the forefront of bringing the world's religions together is the Pope, with 1.2 billion Roman Catholic followers. All the reformers believed the Pope was the Antichrist by the cruelty displayed during the inquisitions. Many current teachers believe the Pope will be the False Prophet because he is a religious leader, while the Antichrist will be a government leader.

We have just seen how the harlot church will compromise with all religions, cultures, and sins to become partners with the global governance system. They will be the woke political followers, climate change advocates, transgender lgtbqrstuvwxyz supporters, gender-confused, medical tyranny backers, pro-abortion, and whatever the government wants them to be. Worst of all, they will play church while sleeping with the Devil.

The Bride of Christ

Unlike everyone else, the true church, the bride of Christ, will increase in expectation as things worsen because the rapture is called the blessed hope. Jesus said when you see all these things happening, look up your redemption, the rapture is getting closer.

Luke 21:28 "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

Titus 2:13-14 ... looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

The rapture is the wedding day for the bride of Christ, and it is our blessed hope. The bride gets ready by trusting Christ and keeping her spiritual wedding garments clean and pure. Jesus, the heavenly bridegroom, is faithful to present us faultless and blameless before the

presence of His glory. We can encourage ourselves by his promises, God is faithful.

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that **He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.**

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; **and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.**

Titus 2:11-14 For **the grace of God that brings salvation** has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, **looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.**

1 Corinthians 1:7-8 so that you come short in no gift, **eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jude 1:24-25 Now **to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,** To God our Savior, who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

When the rapture happens, all those who died in Christ and the living in Christ will be snatched off the earth and caught up to heaven to meet Jesus in the air. On the way up, they receive new resurrection bodies, like Jesus did when he rose from the dead.

Philippians 3:20-21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

The New Jerusalem will be the eternal home of the followers of Jesus, with resurrected bodies and joy unspeakable and full of glory in God's presence. We can read the description, but on this side of eternity, we cannot comprehend what God has prepared for us. The only way to vaguely understand the glory of the New Jerusalem is by the revelation of the Holy Spirit. The apostle Paul momentarily stepped out of time and into eternity in a vision, was caught up, harpazo, raptured to Paradise, and heard inexpressible words which were not lawful for humans to utter.

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

Jesus told the disciples that he would go and prepare a place for them, his bride, the church, and that place is beyond human description, the most glorious city, the New Jerusalem.

Revelation 19:7-8 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Revelation 21:1-2 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also, there was no more sea. Then **I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**

Revelation 21:9-11 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

Revelation 22:1-2 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Jesus finishes the vision with three warnings that he is coming quickly and to watch. The Holy Spirit and the bride speak as one giving the invitation to come and drink from the river of life freely. The fact that the Spirit and the bride have one voice shows that we depend totally on the Holy Spirit to prepare us, so it is crucial to walk in the Spirit and drink freely from the water of life!

Revelation 22:7 "**Behold, I am coming quickly!** Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

Revelation 22:12 "And **behold, I am coming quickly**, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

Revelation 22:16-17 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." And **the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"** And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

Revelation 22:20 "Surely **I am coming quickly.**" Amen. **Even so, come, Lord Jesus!**



Call to Action

We are in the end times; our world is changing quickly to line up with Bible prophecy. Jesus said the signs of his return would be like birth pangs, growing globally in intensity and frequency. We are seeing those signs happening weekly in real-time with wars, food shortages, pandemics, shutdowns, and natural disasters, all leading to global tyranny. There will be global persecution of Christians and Jews, and it's not a question of if, but when. There will also be a great falling away from Christ, and we can see it happening already. So-called churches are already becoming sexually immoral, politically woke, and in bed with the government. As more churches go apostate or get shut down, true believers may have to find or create small groups for fellowship. While we have time and freedom, we should study the scriptures, share the gospel, and watch for Jesus to return.

This book is part of a series of studies that all Christians should know and teach. We call it the "toolbox series" because these studies are tools to equip you to share your faith with others. For free resources and study materials, visit our website at Ears2Hear.online.



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