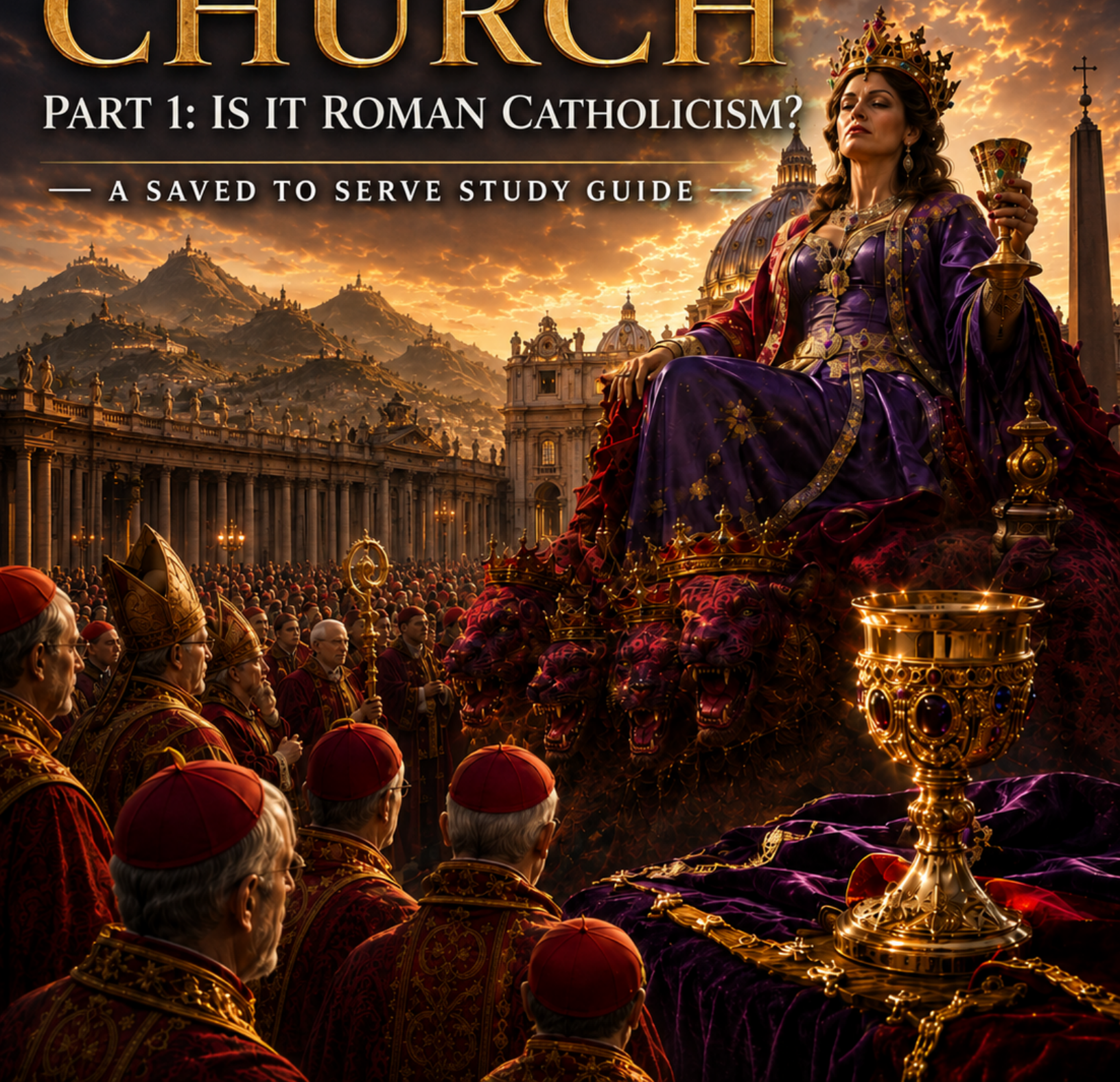


GOD'S TRUE CHURCH

PART 1: IS IT ROMAN CATHOLICISM?

— A SAVED TO SERVE STUDY GUIDE —



Identifying Babylon of Revelation 17

We let the Bible interpret itself, testing every claim by “the law and to the testimony” (Isaiah 8:20). The study runs in one continuous sequence — from Point 1 through Point 27. Read each reference in your Bible and write your answers on the lines provided.

1. **PURPOSE** In this series of doctrinal lessons we study Revelation 17 to identify who comprises Babylon and why Roman Catholicism is not the true church based on Bible prophecy.
2. **NOTE** Read Revelation 14:8. It says that Babylon is fallen, is fallen. To understand who comprises Babylon, we must study Revelation 17, especially verses 1–6.
“And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” — Revelation 14:8 (KJV)

In This Study

1	Babylon is a woman — a church	Revelation 17:1-5
2	Seated on many waters and a scarlet beast	Revelation 17:3, 15
3	Fornication with the kings of the earth	Revelation 17:2
4	Scarlet, purple, gold — and the blood of saints	Revelation 17:4-6
5	Seated on seven hills — Rome identified	Revelation 17:9
6	Babylon’s false doctrines	Revelation 2:4-5
7	The pure woman — God’s true church	Revelation 12:1, 17
8	Come out of her, my people	Revelation 18:1-4

◆ BEFORE YOU BEGIN

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”

ISAIAH 8:20 (KJV)

Open your Bible to each reference, read it prayerfully, and write your own answer on the lines provided. Let Scripture — not opinion — be your guide as you follow the evidence of prophecy from Point 1 to Point 27.

3. Read Revelation 17:1, 4, 5. What gender is given to Babylon?— *Read: Revelation 17:1, 4, 5*

4. What does a woman represent in Bible prophecy?— *Read: Jeremiah 6:2; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:23*

5. We now know that Babylon represents a church entity. Upon what is the woman — the great whore — sitting?— *Read: Revelation 17:1, 15*

6. **NOTE** This means that this church arose out of a populated area. It also means that this power once controlled many peoples and nations. We will see this in our next point.

7. In Revelation 17:2, with whom does the great whore commit fornication?— *Read: Revelation 17:2*

8. **NOTE** The church is called to be married to Christ, to be faithful to His claims, and not to unite with another (2 Corinthians 11:2; Jeremiah 3:14; Isaiah 54:5, 6). However, this church entity described in Revelation 17 leaves Jesus and His truth to form a union of church and state with the kings of the earth — the leaders of the nations. This church also illicitly mingles with the leaders of nations by serving “wine,” or false doctrines.

9. What scriptures show us that wine symbolizes doctrine?— *Read: Proverbs 31:4-5; Isaiah 28:7-9; Luke 5:37, 38*

NOTE When wine is described as new wine, it refers to true doctrine; old wine refers to false doctrine.

10. Upon what is the great whore sitting, and what does it represent in Scripture?— *Read: Revelation 17:3; Daniel 7:17, 23*

11. **NOTE** This woman in Revelation 17 is made up of a union of church and state. The woman riding the beast symbolizes a church that rules over a nation.

12. What names are on the beast? What does that term mean?— *Read: Revelation 17:3; John 10:30-33; Mark 2:5-7*

13. What colors is the woman wearing?— *Read: Revelation 17:4*

14. **NOTE** The main colors of this church are red (scarlet) and purple. Verse 4 also says the woman is decked with gold and other precious stones, symbolizing that the church has great wealth. Verse 6 tells us this church has also persecuted the saints of God and is guilty of the blood of many martyrs.

15. How is this church described in Revelation 17:5? What striking geographical markers are given in verse 9?— *Read: Revelation 17:5, 9*

Pope Francis: The Church, like Mary, is woman and mother ↗
The Church is described in the language of a woman and mother.

VATICAN NEWS · VATICANNEWS.VA

What Are the Seven Hills of Rome? ↗

Rome itself is built upon seven hills — the mountains of Revelation 17:9.

THE CULTURE TRIP · THECULTURETRIP.COM

16. **NOTE** Based on all the previously mentioned characteristics of this woman, she is none other than Roman Catholicism, whose headquarters preside in Rome, Italy. The Papacy arose out of a populated area (the Roman Empire in Europe, the Old World) and commits fornication with the rulers of the world — it is the only church that rules a country and has a seat at the UN. It has a man who claims to be God, has men (priests) who claim to forgive sins, and it claims to be the “Mother Church.” Bible prophecy couldn’t be any clearer!

17. What does “Babylon” mean?— *Read: Genesis 11:9*

18. Besides the Roman Catholic Church — “the Mother Church” — who else comprises Babylon?— *Read: Revelation 17:5*

19. What makes Babylon fallen and in a state of religious confusion? See also the short list of Babylon's false doctrines below.— *Read: Revelation 2:4-5*

- a) **Idol worship** — *Exodus 20:4-5; Jeremiah 51:47*
- b) **The natural immortality of the soul** — *Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10; Psalm 115:17*
- c) **Nature worship / Sunday worship** — *2 Kings 23:5; Ezekiel 8:16*
- d) **Music which leads into false worship** — *Daniel 3:1-6*
- e) **Blasphemy** — *John 10:30-33; Mark 2:5-7*
- f) **Human tradition placed above God's Word** — *Daniel 4:30; Matthew 15:9*

20. **NOTE** Notice the following headlines, which also confirm that the abominations of the Papacy continue in our present day.

Pope Francis asks for forgiveness for church's role in Rwanda genocide ↗

THE GUARDIAN · THEGUARDIAN.COM

Boston Globe Reports on Child Sexual Abuse by Roman Catholic Priests ↗

EBSCO · EBSCO.COM

The story of the abuse uncovered in the film Spotlight — it really did happen ↗

BBC NEWS · BBC.COM

Pope Benedict XVI implicated in report on sexual abuse in German diocese ↗

PBS NEWSHOUR · PBS.ORG

21. In contrast to the apostate church riding the beast in Revelation 17, we see a pure woman — a pure church — described in Revelation 12. Read Revelation 12:1. Since a woman represents a church in prophecy, what does it mean that she is clothed with the sun?— *Read: Malachi 4:2 with 1 John 2:1; Psalm 84:11*

ANSWER This pure church is clothed with the character of Jesus and experiences His kingdom of grace and glory. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, sinful humans can be made right with God, be born again, and gain victory over sin (Hebrews 4:16; Luke 17:20-21; John 3:3-13; Titus 2:11-14). Once we experience the kingdom of grace here on earth, we can then be fitted to enter God's kingdom of glory — heaven (Matthew 25:31-34).

22. **NOTE** Let us now look at a few identifying markers of God's true church. Read Revelation 12:17. The Bible says the dragon went to make war with the "remnant" of the woman's seed. Remnant means "the last of something, or that which remains." Those who are part of this church still maintain the pure faith of Jesus and the apostles. This church would arise sometime after 1798 — the year the Papal reign ended and the 1260-year period closed (A.D. 538–1798; Revelation 12:14, 6). These faithful people will be seen until the very end of time.

23. What is one characteristic of the true church?— *Read: Revelation 12:17; Revelation 14:12; James 2:24, 26*

a) What is said of the remnant church in addition to keeping the commandments of God?— *Read: Revelation 12:17; Revelation 19:10*

b) Which messages does this church teach, and how many people will hear it?— *Read: Revelation 14:6-11*

24. **NOTE** Based on this study from the Bible, God's true church is none other than Seventh-day Adventism (officially founded in 1863). Only the Seventh-day Adventist movement fits these characteristics, and God will have a people who will withstand all tests and overcome Satan, the dragon. Yet simply bearing the name Seventh-day Adventist does not automatically merit salvation. Each person must have a personal, saving relationship with Jesus, so that He can declare, "I know you" (Matthew 7:20-23; Revelation 14:12; Genesis 18:19; 2 Timothy 2:19).

25. **NOTE** Read Revelation 18:1-2. This message going forth to the whole world — represented as an angel having great power — is a repetition of the second angel's message in Revelation 14:8. When Babylon becomes wholly corrupted and her sins have reached unto heaven (Revelation 18:5), this message will be given with greater force to identify these fallen churches and their teachings, and to call people to join God's true body of believers. The repetition shows God's certainty of her sinful condition.

26. When will Babylon become entirely corrupt and cause the cup of her iniquity to be full in God's sight?— *Read: Revelation 18:3, 5; Revelation 17:4, 14*

ANSWER When all nations worldwide drink the false doctrine of the Papacy and the apostate Protestant churches, institute Sunday worship, and persecute God's saints — a global union of church and state.

27. What is God's final, loving message of warning which we must live and teach to those who are part of the fallen churches in Babylon?— *Read: Revelation 18:4; 2 Corinthians 6:17-18; Ezekiel 18:21-23*

Come Out of Her, My People

Throughout this study the Bible itself has identified Babylon and pointed us to God's true, faithful church. Heaven's final message is not one of condemnation but of love — a call to come out of every fallen system and into the pure faith of Jesus and His remnant people (Revelation 18:1–4). God has honest-hearted children in every church, and He is calling them home.

REVELATION 18:4 (KJV)

“And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”

Will you answer that call today — to leave behind every error of Babylon and follow the Lamb wherever He leads?

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Sources & Notes

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All Scripture is quoted from the King James Version (KJV). External sources are linked for documentation and comment; the views expressed there are the publishers’ own.