

Briefing Document-1 John Lesson 7-The Mystery Religion and the Fall of the World

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Executive Summary

The following briefing examines the development of the "Mystery Religion" of the end times as outlined in Revelation 17. The central thesis posits that all non-Christian religious systems share a common origin at the Tower of Babel and are currently converging into a singular, worldwide ecumenical system. This "False Church," referred to as Mystery Babylon, is characterized by its rejection of biblical inerrancy and its reliance on social action, subjective experience, and emotionalism as bases for unity. This religious system will eventually form a symbiotic alliance with a global political power—the Antichrist—to exercise total control over the earth's population.

The Origins of Global False Religion

God created mankind with an inherent "disposition towards deity," an internal anxiety or anticipation that draws individuals toward the idea of a higher power. When this disposition is not directed toward Christ, it manifests in "religions of the self."

- **The Babel Connection:** All non-Christian religious systems find their systemic source in Genesis 11 at the Tower of Babel.
- **The Nature of False Systems:** These religions are described as being fundamentally satanic, involving the worship of demons, Satan, and self.
- **The Trajectory of History:** The Bible predicts a worsening of religious deception, where disparate beliefs eventually consolidate into a single, totally satanic system in the end times.

The Convergence of the Ecumenical Movement

The end-times religious system is defined by a unification of diverse beliefs under an "ecumenical council." Because these groups cannot unite under the objective truth of the Bible or sound doctrine, they find commonality through three specific pillars:

1. Social Action and Community Involvement

Churches and denominations increasingly unite through psychological services, educational programs, and community initiatives. While these actions may appear beneficial, they often cause the church to lose its specific identity and doctrinal foundations, trading biblical truth for secularized social involvement.

2. Existential Experience

Unity is frequently sought through "existential living," where religious validity is based on personal, "otherworldly," or undefinable experiences rather than scriptural mandates.

Liberal theologians may reject the virgin birth or the resurrection while simultaneously claiming validity through subjective spiritual encounters that they refuse to define.

3. Emotionalism

Emotionalism serves as a powerful driver for unification, particularly within movements that prioritize spiritual "fullness" over doctrinal accuracy. This trend is noted in the blurring of lines between different sects, such as the intersection of the charismatic movement with Roman Catholicism or Mormonism.

The Decline of Biblical Authority in America

A significant factor enabling the rise of the Mystery Religion is the widespread rejection of biblical inerrancy within major American denominations. Statistical data from Glock and Stack illustrates the percentage of members within these denominations who do not believe the Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God:

Denomination	Percentage Rejecting Inerrancy
Episcopalians	95%
Presbyterians	88%
Methodists	87%
American Lutherans	77%
American Baptists	67%

Overall, only 20% of the general American population believes the Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God. This vacuum of authority allows for a religious landscape where there are no objective rules, facilitating the transition toward the ecumenical system of Mystery Babylon.

The Identification of "Mystery Babylon"

In Revelation 17, the end-times religion is named "Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and of the Abominations of the Earth." This system is contrasted with the true church, which is described as the "Bride."

- **The Harlot vs. The Bride:** The true church (the Bride) is raptured to heaven, leaving behind the false church (the Harlot) to dominate the earth.
- **The Role of Rome:** While many identify this system specifically with the Roman Catholic Church due to descriptions of purple and scarlet vestments, wealth (gold and precious stones), and the "seven hills" (Rome), the term "Babylon" is considered broader. It represents the culmination and coming together of all false religions—including distorted versions of Buddhism, Islam, and Hinduism—into one worldwide system.

- **Wealth and Power:** The false church is characterized by immense wealth and a "golden cup" representing a singular, shared system of abominations that the entire world will "drink" from.

The Alliance of Church and State

The final stage of the world's fall involves a "union with Satan" through a joining of religious and political systems.

- **The Beast and the Harlot:** Revelation 17:3 describes a woman (the false religion) sitting on a scarlet beast (the Antichrist). This indicates that the religious system is supported and propped up by the political leader.
- **Political Necessity:** The Antichrist utilizes the religious system because "religion is the opiate of the people." To achieve total political and economic control, he requires a religious mechanism to manage the attitudes and loyalties of the masses.
- **Historical Precedent:** This joining of church and state mirrors historical systems such as the Roman Empire (emperor worship), the Third Reich, and the Japanese Empire.
- **The Global Scope:** This system is described as sitting on "many waters," which Revelation 17:15 defines as *peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues*. It is a comprehensive, globalized deception.

Scriptural References (NKJV)

The following scriptures are central to the analysis of the end-times religious system:

- **Galatians 5:13:** *For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*
- **Revelation 17:1:** *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..."*
- **Revelation 17:2:** *...with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.*
- **Revelation 17:5:** *And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*
- **Revelation 17:15:** *Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues."*

Glossary of Terms

Word	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Ecumenical ^[^1]	ek-yoo-MEN-i-kuhl	Pertaining to the whole Christian church or promoting unity among different religious denominations.
Eucharist ^[^2]	YOO-kuh-rist	A Christian sacrament commemorating the Last Supper, in which bread and wine are consumed; in certain traditions, believed to become the actual body and blood of Christ.

[^1]: Derived from the Greek *oikoumene*, meaning "the inhabited world." [^2]: Derived from the Greek *eucharistia*, meaning "thanksgiving."