

Study Guide: The Fall of the World and the Mystery Religion-Lesson 8

April 19, 2026

This study guide examines the historical and prophetic elements of the "Mystery Religion" as discussed in the lesson on Revelation and the end times. It explores the origins of false worship in ancient Babel and its transition into modern and future religious systems.

Short-Answer Quiz

1. According to the lesson, what is the biblical definition of a "mystery"?
2. Who were Nimrod and Semiramis, and what was their role in the first false religion?
3. What happened to the religious system of Babel after the city was defeated by the Medes and the Persians?
4. How does the lesson describe the movement of this false religious system from Pergamos to Rome?
5. What is the significance of the title *Pontifex Maximus*, and how is it used today?
6. How does the story of Tammuz serve as a "counterfeit" to the story of Jesus Christ?
7. According to the discussion on Jeremiah 44, how did the people respond to the prophet's warnings about the "Queen of Heaven"?
8. What is the eventual fate of the "harlot" (the religious system) at the hands of the ten horns (the political system)?
9. Describe the role and appearance of the "False Prophet" as he serves the Antichrist.
10. What is the "Big Tent" philosophy mentioned in the context of modern church turmoil?

Answer Key

1. A biblical mystery is something that was once hidden in the Old Testament but has now been revealed in the New Testament. In this context, it refers to a worldwide religious system described in the writings of John in the book of Revelation.
2. Nimrod was the leader of Babel and the founder of the first false religious system. His wife, Semiramis, was the Queen of Babel and the central figure around whom a highly detailed system of worship was initiated and eventually spread throughout the world.
3. After the Medes and Persians defeated Babylon, the high priests and priestesses of the false religious system fled. They relocated to the city of Pergamos in present-day Turkey, where they established what the Bible calls "Satan's throne."
4. Julius Caesar eventually moved the false religious system from Pergamos to Rome to gain total political control. He understood that a conqueror must control the people religiously because humans have an inherent attraction to a deity.
5. *Pontifex Maximus* was originally a title for the chief priest of the pagan Roman system, which involved the worship of the fish god, Dagon. Today, this title is held by the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church and appears on formal papal attire.
6. Tammuz was the son of Semiramis, and she claimed he was conceived by a sunbeam rather than a man, mimicking the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ. Satan used this story to create a subtle counterfeit to confuse people about the true Savior.
7. The people flatly rejected Jeremiah's words, stating they would continue to burn incense and pour drink offerings to the "Queen of Heaven." They believed that they were well-off and had plenty of food only when they participated in that pagan worship.
8. The political system, represented by the ten horns, will eventually grow to hate the religious system. They will make the "harlot" desolate, "eat her flesh," and burn her with fire as the Antichrist replaces her worship with the worship of himself.
9. The False Prophet is described as having two horns like a lamb but speaking like a dragon, meaning he appears gentle but promotes the message of Satan. He performs great signs, such as making fire come down from heaven, to deceive the world into worshipping the Antichrist.
10. The "Big Tent" philosophy is a practice in some modern churches that allows for a wide variety of conflicting beliefs and the setting aside of traditional biblical doctrines. It often prioritizes social action and diversity over the foundational teachings of God's Word.

Suggested Essay Questions

1. Analyze the historical progression of the "mother-child cult" from Babel to various world cultures, such as Egypt, Greece, and Rome. How does this support the argument of a single root for false religions?
2. Compare and contrast the biblical requirements for church leadership mentioned in 1 Timothy 2:12 with the modern practices of the "Big Tent" churches described in the lesson.
3. Discuss the relationship between political power and religious control as demonstrated by Julius Caesar and the future Antichrist. Why is religious control necessary for a total dictatorship?
4. Examine the role of "signs and wonders" performed by the False Prophet. Why are these deceptions effective against those whose names are not written in the Book of Life?
5. Describe the "Final Victory of the Lamb" as found in Revelation 19. Who accompanies Jesus Christ in His return, and what is the ultimate result of this battle?

Comprehensive Glossary

- **Antichrist:** Also known as "the Beast," he is Satan's man who will rule the earth during the end times and eventually demand worship from all people.
- **Aphrodite:** The Greek name for the pagan queen goddess originally known as Semiramis.
- **Babel:** The ancient city led by Nimrod where the first false religion and the "mother-child cult" originated.
- **Baal:** The Phoenician name for the child Tammuz, often associated with a brass statue to which infants were sacrificed.
- **Dagon:** A Phoenician fish god; the pagan religious system in Rome was tied to the worship of this deity.
- **False Prophet:** The "public relations man" for the Antichrist who uses miracles and deception to force the world to worship the Beast.
- **Gracism:** A term used by some modern churches to describe classes on racial reconciliation, which the lesson critiques as a replacement for biblical teaching.
- **Harlot:** A symbolic term used in Revelation 17 to describe the false, mystery religious system that sits atop the political beast.
- **Lent:** A 40-day period of fasting or mourning; the lesson suggests its origins may be linked to Semiramis mourning for Tammuz rather than Christian tradition.

- **Martyr:** A person who is killed because of their religious stance or faith in Jesus Christ.
- **Mystery Babylon:** The end-times religious system that acts as an amalgamation of pagan and Christian thoughts, having its roots in ancient Babel.
- **Nimrod:** The biblical figure who led the rebellion at Babel and established the first system of false worship.
- **Pergamos:** A city in Turkey (formerly Mysia) where the high priests of the Babylonian religion fled and established "Satan's throne."
- **Purgatory:** In Catholic theology, a post-death place of purification; the lesson identifies this as a non-biblical concept used historically to benefit the church financially.
- **Queen of Heaven:** A title given to Semiramis and later applied to various goddesses and eventually to Mary in Catholic theology; a title not found in the New Testament.
- **Semiramis:** The wife of Nimrod and Queen of Babel who initiated the mother-child cult and the first false religious system.
- **Tammuz:** The son of Semiramis who was claimed to be born of a sunbeam and whose life and death were used to counterfeit the story of Jesus Christ.

Greek Terms and Pronunciation Guide

Term	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Aphrodite [¹]	af-ruh-DY-tee	The Greek name for the goddess Venus or Ishtar, derived from the original Queen of Babel.
Eros [²]	AIR-ohs	The Greek name for the child Tammuz, associated with the "mother-child" cult.
Pergamos [³]	PER-guh-moss	A city in Asia Minor (modern Turkey) where the Babylonian mystery religion was relocated.

[¹]: Mentioned as the Greek identity of the "Queen of Heaven" figure. [²]: Mentioned as the Greek name for the son in the mother-child religious counterfeit. [³]: Mentioned as the location of "Satan's throne" in Revelation 2.