

THE "BABYLON" OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Symbol	Meaning
<i>A corrupt and dissolute woman (vv 1, 5)</i>	<i>A fallen apostate church, (Contrast with true Church—Rev. 12)</i>
<i>Clothed in purple, scarlet, precious stones and pearls (v 4)</i>	<i>The embodiment of worldly wealth and luxury. (Contrast with simplicity of true Church)</i>
<i>Seated on a scarlet beast with seven heads and ten horns (v 3)</i>	<i>Obviously related to the Dragon of Rev. 12, and the Leopard beast of Rev. 13</i>
<i>Seated also upon many waters (vv 1, 15)</i>	<i>Holds despotic sway over the multitudes of earth</i>
<i>A cup with the wine of her fornication (v 4)</i>	<i>False doctrines and policies which deceive the nations</i>
<i>Her name is "Babylon"—Mother of Harlots (v 5)</i>	<i>Inherits and perpetuates the spirit of ancient Babylon</i>
<i>Drunk with the blood of saints and martyrs (v 6)</i>	<i>Opposes and persecutes the true people of God</i>
<i>The kings of the earth have committed fornication with her (v 2)</i>	<i>Lives in unlawful alliance with the political powers of earth</i>
<i>Is allied with, and receives support from, ten kings (vv 12, 13, 17)</i>	<i>Is supported by a confederacy of political powers</i>
<i>Is the great city which reigneth over the kings of the earth (v 18)</i>	<i>An unmistakable reference to Rome</i>

From this evidence it is clear that the "Babylon" of the book of Revelation is a comprehensive symbol of the corrupt and fallen church, which lives in unlawful alliance with the political powers of earth, and has its roots in all the great apostasies of the past.

So gravely has the apostate church departed from the original Christian faith, that in the eyes of God it has become the reincarnation of ancient Babylon!

NOTE: The "Babylon" of the New Testament is not a symbol of ANY ONE CHURCH OR DENOMINATION VIEWED IN THE EXCLUSIVE SENSE. Ellen G. White, whose comments on Biblical subjects are always so dependable, applies the term "Babylon" to "THE WORLD-LOVING CHURCHES OF THE LAST DAYS" (PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS, p 124). Some have restricted this symbolic woman to the Roman Catholic Church alone, but though Rome is obviously included here, the symbol has a much wider significance than this. "Babylon" is essentially the symbol of INWARD CHARACTER, rather than name or location. Accordingly, ANY RELIGIOUS SYSTEM WHICH SUBSCRIBES TO THE FALSE PRINCIPLES LISTED ABOVE—whatever its name or location—is a part of modern "Babylon".

3.—WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR BABYLON TO "FALL"?

This is not a description of a political or military overthrow, but refers to a process of tragic moral and spiritual decline—a departure from first principles.

II Thess. 2:3: "A falling away", or departure from the true faith.

Rev. 2:4: "Thou hast left thy first love."

Rev. 2:5: "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen".