

So much Torment and Sorrow give her

In this lesson we will be learning about many of the sorceries and abominations that “MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT” or the Roman Catholic Church is committing of which “the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.” (Revelation 17:2)

According to Revelation chapters 17 and 18 we find that “MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT” is a City and the headquarters of an International system. The city sits on Seven Mountains and the Woman is arrayed in Scarlet and Purple. The Woman was a Persecutor of the Saints and also will have Daughters. The Woman used Sorceries and Abominations as a means to commit Whoredoms against God and by these Sorceries and Abominations the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

THE ONLY POSSIBLE ANSWER TO FIT ALL of the clues given to us from Revelation chapters 17 and 18 for this woman IS THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH of which headquarters is located in THE CITY OF ROME.

This woman who is sitting upon “a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns” from Revelation 17:3 is “drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus” according to Revelation 17:6.

Just as the scribes and Pharisees of the time of Jesus were responsible for “all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar”, (Matthew 23:29-36) even so is “MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH” responsible for “the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.” (Revelation 18:24)

In this lesson the most important point to realize is that the practices of Catholicism, whether or not they have stemmed from paganism, or only parallel other pagan religions, or whether or not paganism may have borrowed practices from Christianity or Judaism are irrelevant to the whoredoms and abominations that lead to the fornications that are taking place between her and the inhabitants of the earth against God. The sorceries of which she, “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH” is fornicating against God with are unbiblical practices that she is employing that cause the inhabitants of the earth to commit spiritual whoredoms against God.

It is a well documented fact that the Roman Empire was full of Greek Paganism, Roman Paganism, as well as a vast assortment of Middle Eastern Mystery Religions of which were based on polytheism or the belief in many gods.

These pagan religions and philosophic ideologies became a major influence upon the early Christian church as is also well documented. During the first few centuries of early Christianity the Roman Empire persecuted Christians because their belief in only one true God and salvation only through Jesus Christ as well as a high moral standard of which, by choice, prevented them in participating in the state religion of the Roman Empire as well as the other ungodly practices that were taking place during their many celebrations of pagan religions.

During this time of persecutions and misunderstandings of the Christian faith **many philosophic Apologists began to write letters in defense of the Christian faith**. However, **these early Philosophic Apologists who later became known as early Church fathers** were in many cases **very inaccurate** in their teachings concerning **the One God and how one is saved by grace through faith**. This led to **many schisms** taking place within the Church.

Though the Roman Catholic Church did not yet exist at this time, **they lay claim to being the true Apostolic Church** that was built upon the teachings of Jesus Christ as well as his Apostles and Prophets. The Church at that time was standing in opposition to the many false teachings and practices that were being developed by the Philosophic Apologists and that of Greek Paganism, Roman Paganism, as well as a vast assortment of Middle Eastern Mystery Religions of which were based on polytheism or the belief in many gods.

During these early centuries the majority of Christians were struggling against the Philosophic Apologists and the Bishops who were teaching what the majority of Christians recognized as two and three gods instead of the one true God of Israel as this can be seen in one of the early Philosophic Apologists Tertullian's writings. Tertullian is the person who **not only created the word Trinitas meaning Trinity**, but also **gave it's meaning as "three persons, one substance"**. Tertullian who died in 220 AD wrote "The simple, indeed, (I will not call them unwise and unlearned,) **who always constitute the majority of believers**, are startled at the dispensation (of the Three in One), on the ground that their very rule of faith withdraws them from the world's plurality of gods to the one only true God". He goes on to say "They are constantly throwing out against us that we are preachers of two gods and three gods, while they take to themselves pre-eminently the credit of being worshippers of the One God". This can be found in his work "Against Praxeas" chapter 3. Sundry Popular Fears and Prejudices. The Doctrine of the Trinity in Unity Rescued from These Misapprehensions.

In the year 312 AD it is recorded by Constantine's biographer, Eusebius that Constantine appealed to the God of the Christians to give him victory over his rival Maxentius. **Constantine claimed that he and his army were given a vision** of a shining cross in the sky with the inscription, "In this (sign) conquer." Constantine did win this battle and he and his brother-in-law, Licinius became co-emperors of the Roman Empire. This brought about a significant change for Christianity. In 313 AD Co-emperors Constantine and Licinius held a summit at which **they agreed to grant full religious freedom to Christians**. This was known as **the Edict of Milan**. This edict brought about **a mass acceptance of Christianity from all of the pagan Roman Empire**. Constantine himself, in the year 324 AD, became the first Emperor of Rome to be called **by title** a Christian.

Meanwhile there was a **major dissension taking place** in his newly won Empire concerning **the deity of Jesus Christ and in recognizing the repercussions to his Empire of such a dissension he brought about the first ecumenical council of the Church in 325 AD.** **Emperor Constantine had seized control of the church's hierarchy.** On the second day of the council **the Emperor Constantine declared himself to be the Bishop of Bishops** this showing his **political power and personal agendas.** **At the conclusion** of this council of which Emperor Constantine **ordered,** he then declared that the decrees of the council were **divinely inspired, declared them as laws of the empire, and made them punishable by death.**

This was **the first major step in bringing forth the Trinitarian Doctrine** of which is one of **the many sorceries of which the Roman Catholic Church is responsible for.** As dissensions continued author William J. Moylan of the book "The King of Terror" writes "The term "Roman Catholic" was defined by Emperor Theodosius on February 27, 380 in the Theodosian Code. In that document, he referred to those who hold to the "religion which was delivered to the Romans by the divine Apostle Peter" as "Roman Catholic Christians," and gave them the official sanction of the empire.

The fall of the Roman Empire and the rise of the Catholic Church are really two branches of the same story, as the power was transferred from one entity to the other. From the time of Constantine (AD 312) until the fall of the Roman Empire in 476, the emperors of Rome claimed a certain amount of authority within the church, even though it was disputed by many church leaders. During those formative years, there were many disputes over authority, structure, and doctrine. The emperors sought to increase their authority by granting privileges to various bishops, resulting in disputes about primacy within the churches. At the same time, some of the bishops sought to increase their authority and prestige by accusing others of false doctrine and seeking state support of their positions. Many of those disputes resulted in very sinful behavior, which are a disgrace to the name of Christ.

Just like today, some of those who lived in the leading cities tended to exalt themselves above their contemporaries in the rural areas. The third century saw the rise of an ecclesiastical hierarchy patterned after the Roman government. The bishop of a city was over the presbyters, or priests, of the local congregations, controlling the ministry of the churches, and the Bishop of Rome began to establish himself as supreme over all. Though some historians tell these details as the history of "the church," there were many church leaders in those days which neither stooped to those levels nor acknowledged any ecclesiastical hierarchy. The vast majority of churches in the first four centuries derived their authority and doctrine from the Bible, and traced their lineage directly back to the apostles, not to the church of Rome. In the New Testament, the terms "elder," "pastor," and "bishop" are used interchangeably for the spiritual leaders of any church (see 1 Peter 5:1-3 where the Greek root words are translated "elders," "feed," and "oversight"). By the time Gregory became pope in AD 590, the empire was in a shambles, and he assumed imperial powers along with his ecclesiastical authority. From that time on, the church and state were fully intertwined as the Holy Roman Empire, with the pope exercising authority over kings and emperors." - William J. Moylan

In Doctor David K. Bernard's book "A History of Christian Doctrine The Post-Apostolic Age to the Middle Ages A.D. 100 - 1500 Volume 1" found in Appendix G we find a partial listing of non Biblical doctrines and practices of the Roman Catholic Church.

#### "Development of Roman Catholicism

Here is a partial list of nonbiblical doctrines and practices of the Roman Catholic Church along with the dates of their official adoption, or in the case of some practices, the date of their widespread acceptance. Where there was a discrepancy between sources, the earlier date was chosen. Most of the dates before 1000 are approximate. Sources are Loraine Boettner, Roman Catholicism; Will and Ariel Durant, The Story of Civilization; and Otto Heick, A History of Christian Thought.

#### Practice or Doctrine Date of Acceptance

Prayers for the dead (beginning of practice) 300  
Making the sign of the cross 300  
Use of wax candles in worship 320  
Veneration of angels, dead saints, and images (practice) 375  
Trinity (Council of Constantinople) 381  
The mass as a daily celebration 394  
Mary called "Mother of God" 431  
Priestly dress 500  
Feast of the Assumption of Mary (celebrated by some) 500s  
Extreme unction 526  
Purgatory (Pope Gregory I) 593  
Latin language for all prayer and worship 600  
Prayers to Mary, dead saints, and angels 600  
Title of pope as the universal bishop 610  
Use of penitentials (lists of penances for each sin) 700s  
Kissing the pope's foot (Pope Constantine) 709  
Temporal power of the pope (Boniface III) 750  
Veneration of the cross, images, and relics (doctrine) 787  
Use of indulgences 800s  
Baptism by sprinkling replacing immersion 800s  
Holy water 850  
Veneration of St. Joseph 890  
College of cardinals instituted 927  
Baptism of bells (John XIV) 965  
Canonization of dead saints totaling 25,000 (John XV) 995  
Fasting on Fridays and during Lent 998  
The mass as a sacrifice, with obligatory attendance 1000s  
First plenary indulgence 1040  
Prayers for the dead (doctrine) 1070s  
Celibacy of the priesthood (Gregory VII) 1079  
Rosary (invented by Peter the Hermit) 1090

Sacraments fixed at seven 1100s  
 Ave Maria (Hail Mary) prayer 1100s  
 Sale of indulgences 1190  
 Transubstantiation made an essential doctrine 1215  
 Confession to a priest made an annual obligation 1215  
 Adoration (worship) of communion wafer (Honorius III) 1220  
 Papal Inquisition 1229  
 Bible forbidden to laity (on Index of Forbidden Books) 1229  
 Festivals 1264  
 Feast of Corpus Christi 1311  
 Communion cup officially forbidden to laity 1414  
 Seven sacraments officially sanctioned 1439  
 Tradition declared equal in authority to Scripture 1545  
 Apocryphal books declared to be Scripture 1546  
 Immaculate conception of Mary (Pius IX) 1854  
 Syllabus of Errors (proclaimed by Pius IX and Vatican I) 1864  
 It condemned freedom of religion, speech, conscience, and press; condemned scientific discoveries not approved by the church; and asserted the pope's temporal authority over all civil rulers.  
 Papal infallibility in faith and morals (Vatican I) 1870  
 Public schools condemned (Pius XI) 1930  
 Assumption of Mary (Pius XII) 1950

In addition to these nonbiblical doctrines and practices there are many others, such as monks, nuns, monasteries, convents, Lent, All Saints Day, fish day, incense, holy oil, Christopher medals, charms, novenas, and so on. Vatican II (1962-65) revised some traditional practices. It allowed masses in the vernacular, eating of meat on Fridays, and greater use of the Bible, and it eliminated a number of saints who were deemed legendary.” - Doctor David K. Bernard

“And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, **having great power**; and the earth was lightened with **his glory**. And **he cried mightily with a strong voice**, saying, **Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.** 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.** For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.” (Revelation 18:1-8)