FINAL WARNING

P. GERARD DAMSTEEGT, DR. THEOL.



The Second Angel's Message (Revelation 14:8)



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. (Rev. 14:8)

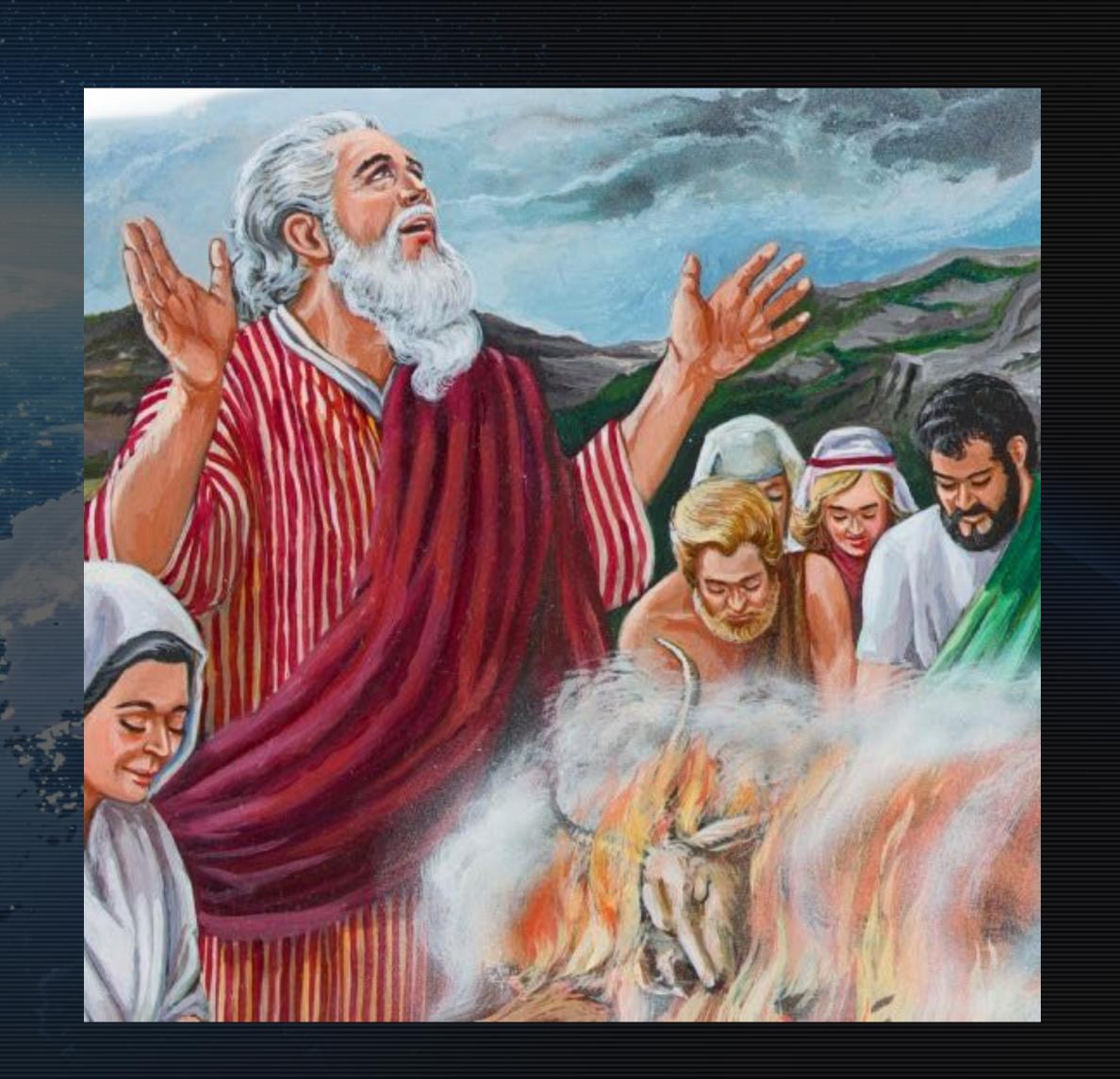
BABYLON OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



AFTER THE FLOOD

God's plan for human beings after Noah's flood:

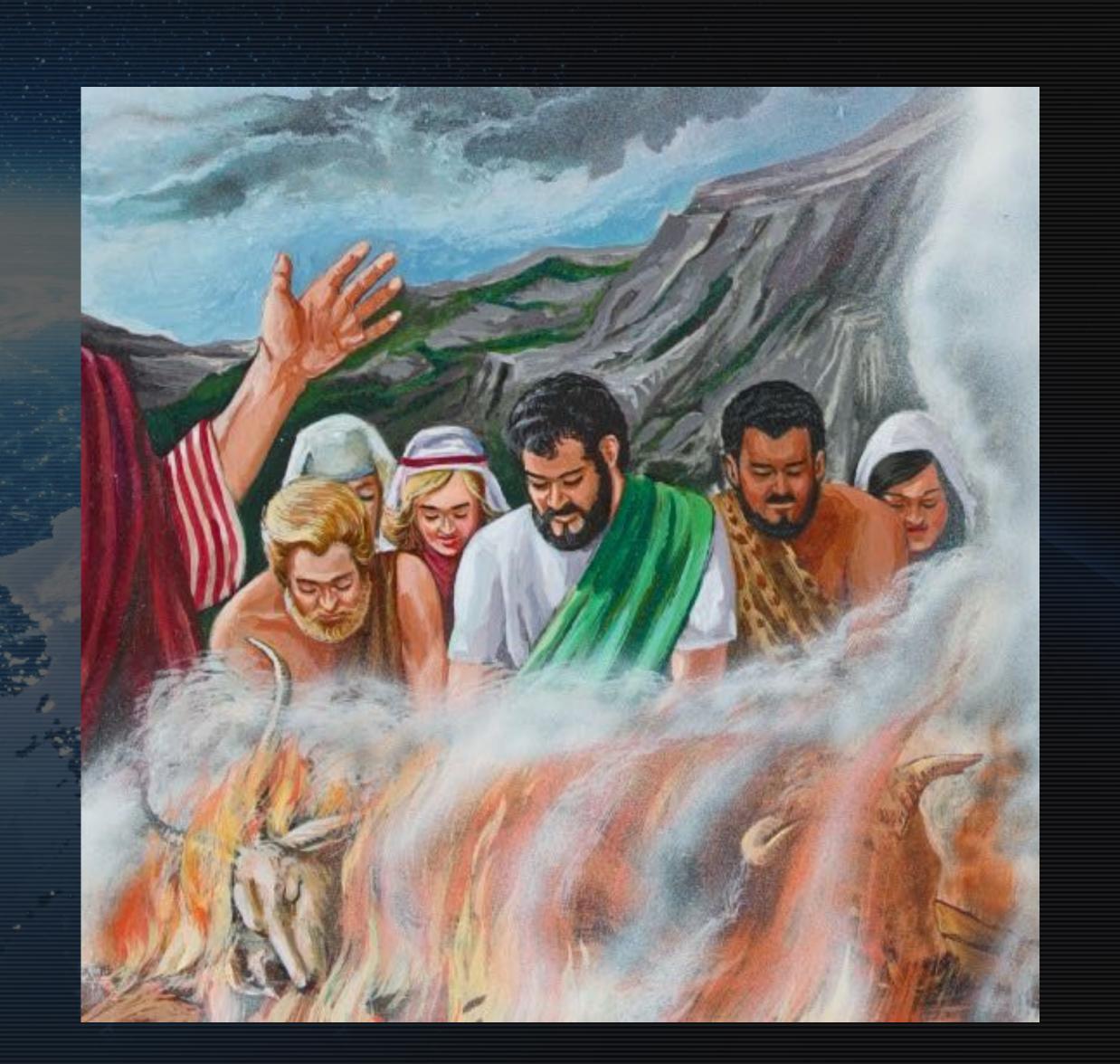
"Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth" (Gen 9:1).



AFTER THE FLOOD

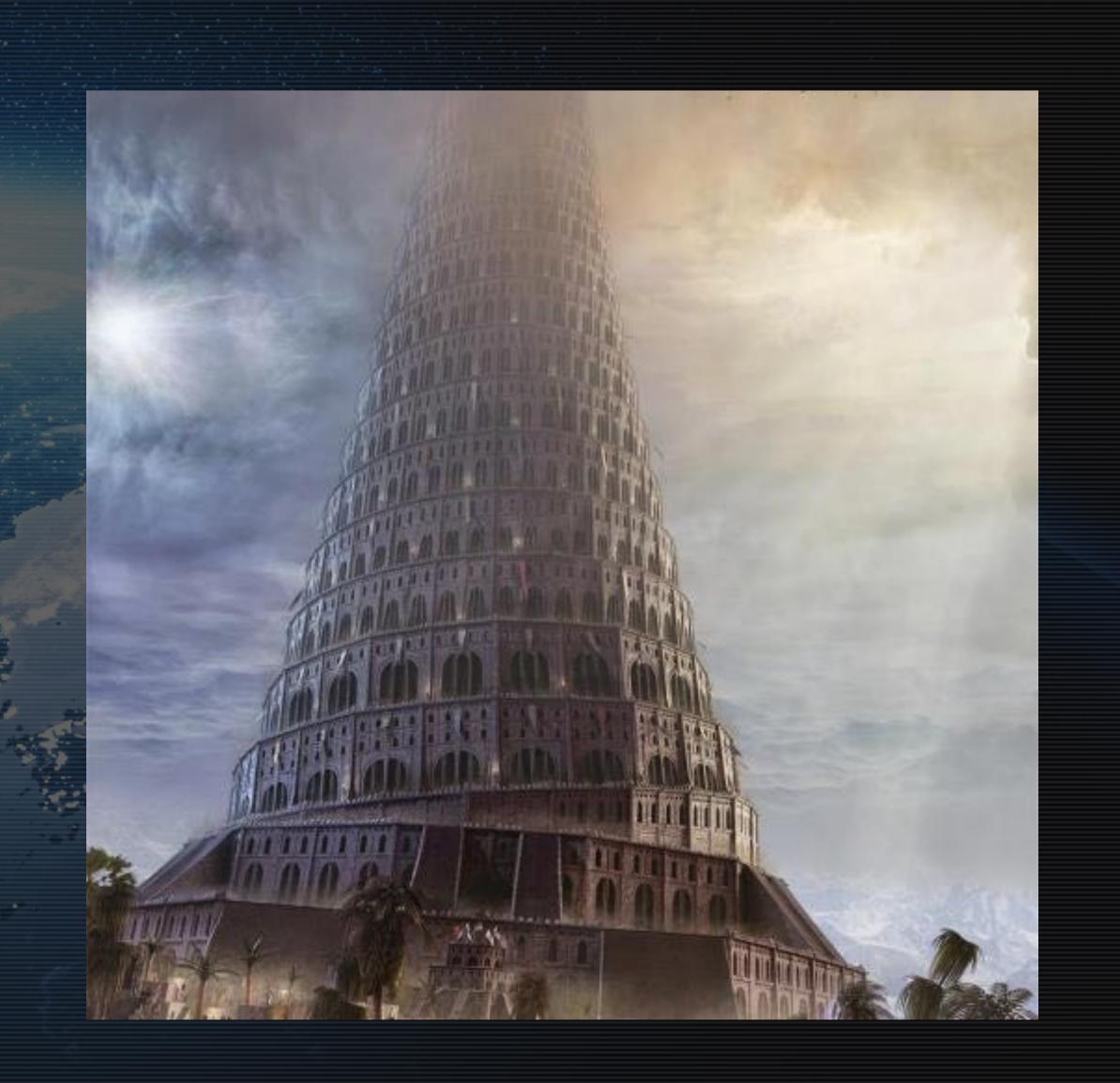
Condition of the world:

One language for all.



REBELLION AGAINST GOD

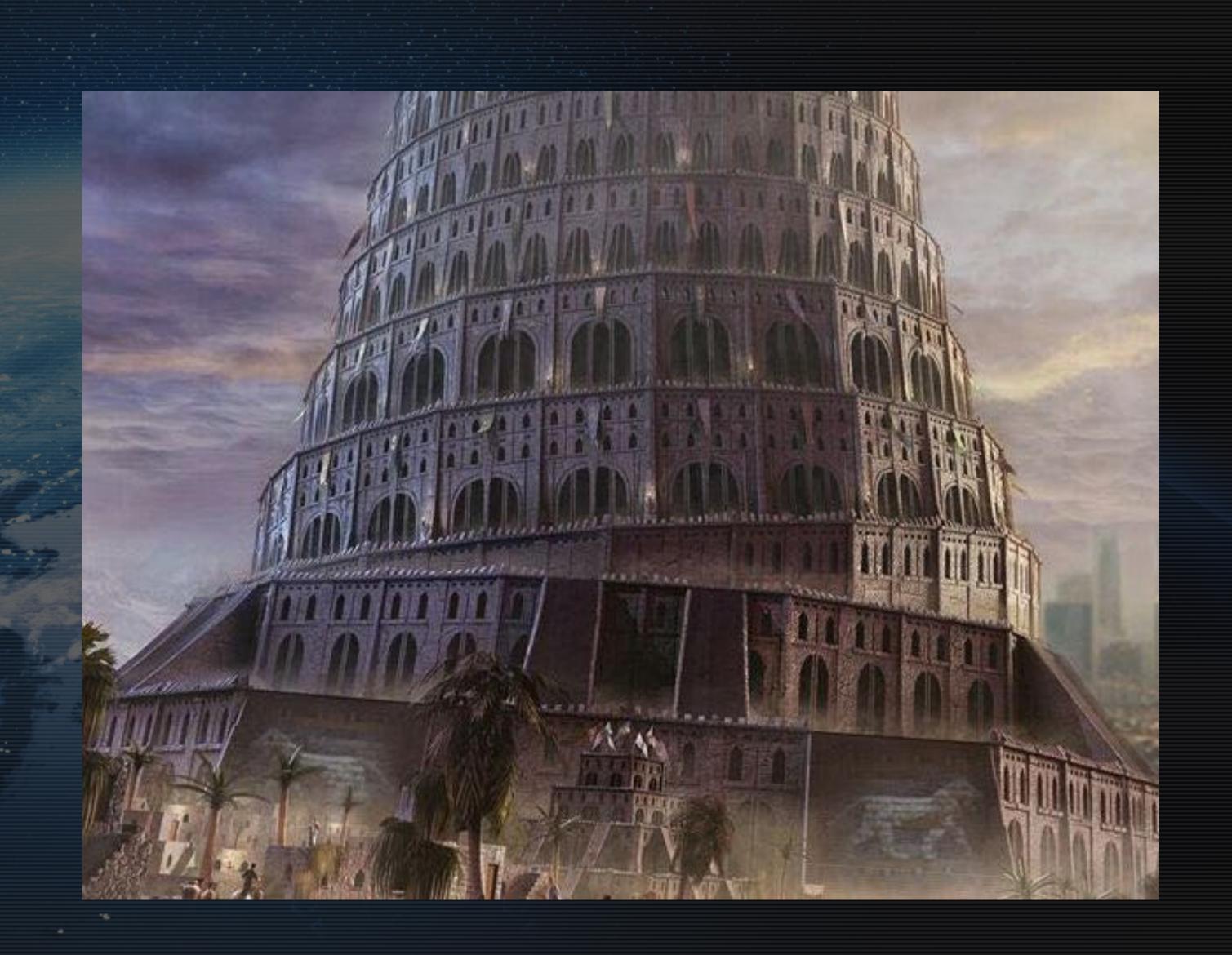
"Let us build a city and a tower whose top reaches in the heavens so we will not be scattered over the whole earth" (Gen 11:1-4).



REBELLION AGAINST GOD

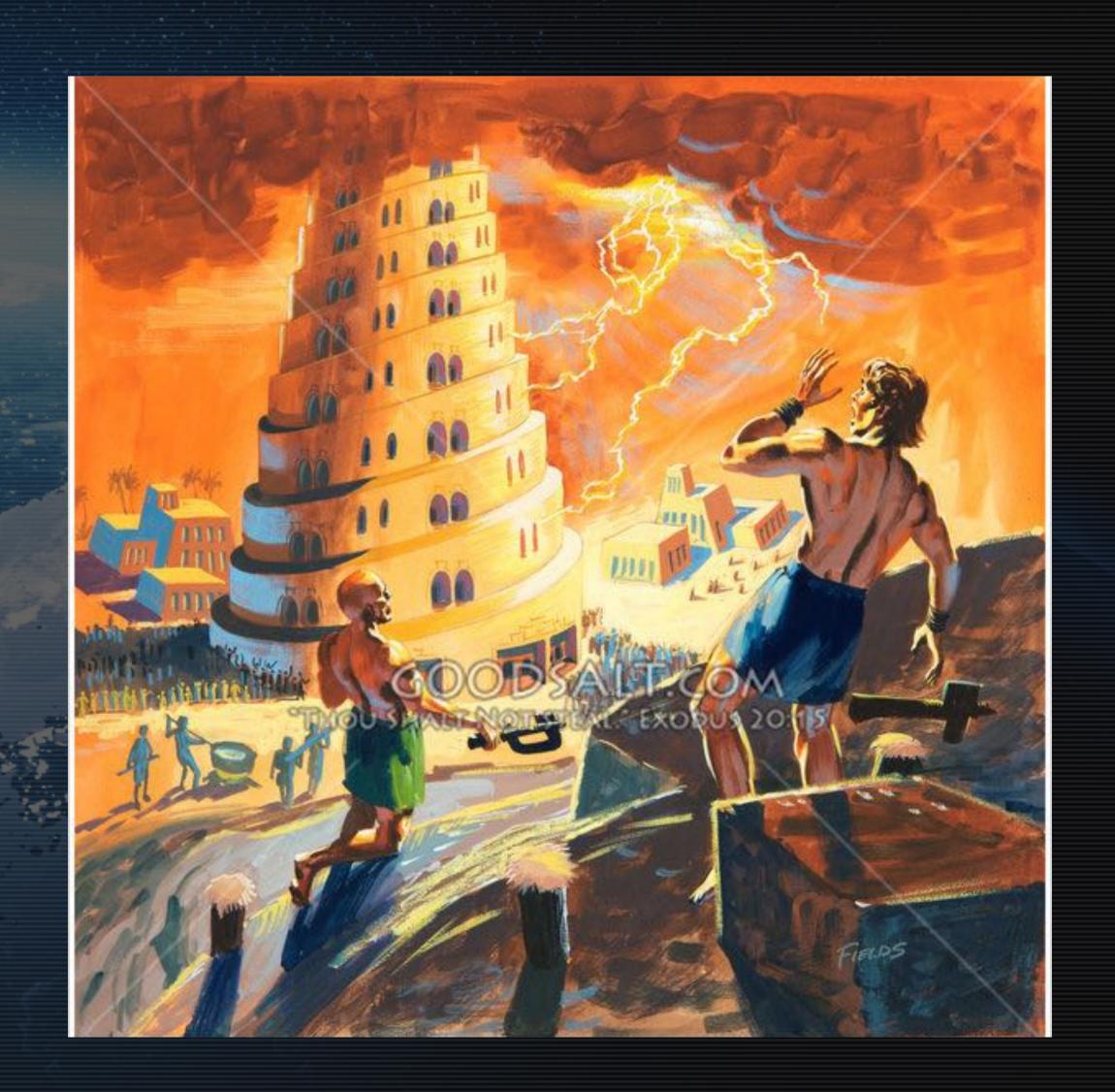
God said: "Fill the whole earth."

NO! We will build a city where we can all stay
HERE.



GOD'S RESPONSE

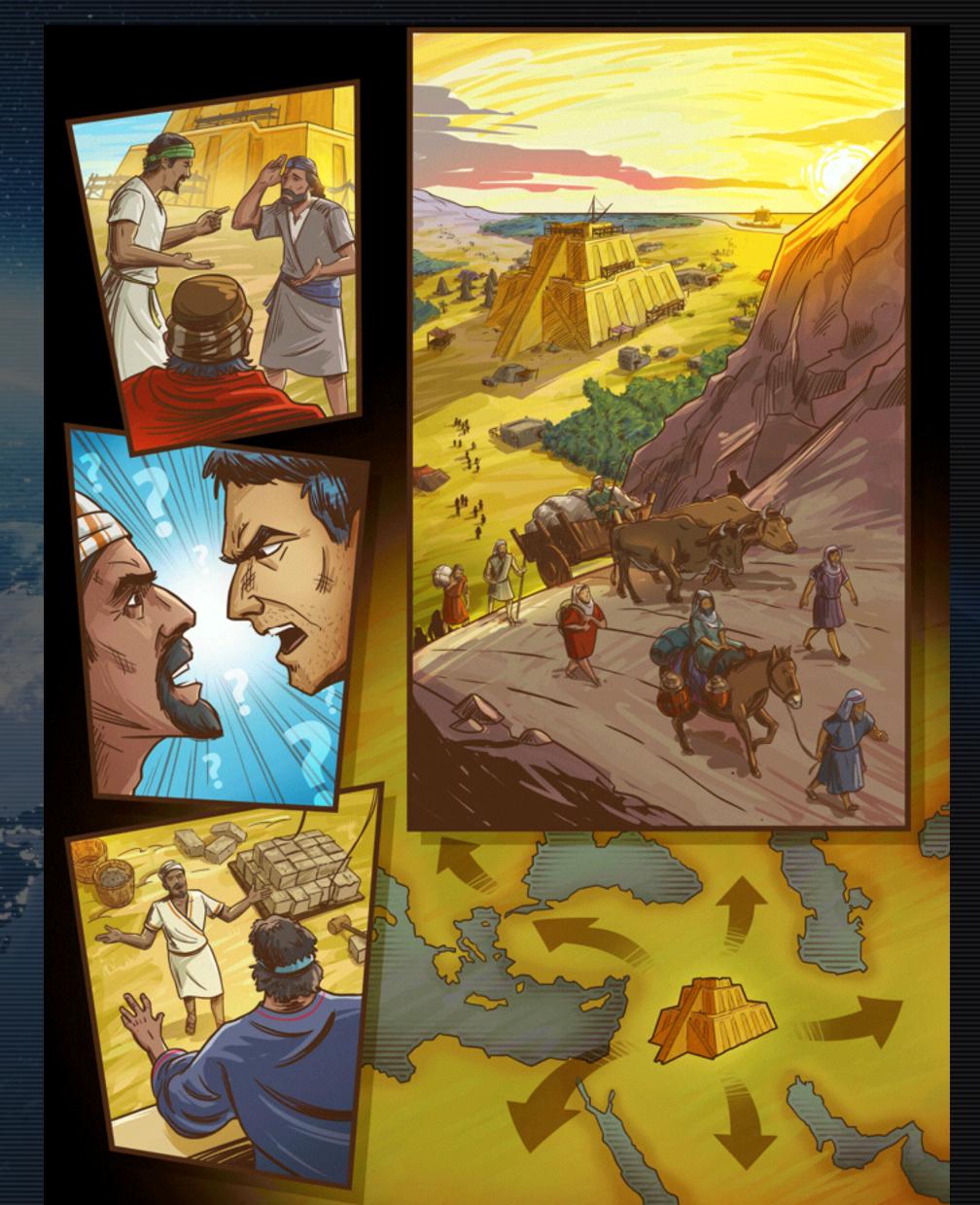
Confusion of the language



THE SCATTERING

Confusion of the languages

Result: people stopped building a city and scattered all over the earth (Gen 11:7,8)



THE SCATTERING

Those of each language grouped and scattered all over the earth (as God had commanded)



ANCIENT WORLD OF CHALDEANS





Later in the Bible Babel was expanded to Babylon. This refers to the country and city of Babylon with its false religion that opposed the true religion of the Bible

ANCIENT BABEL IN BABYLON



BABELEBABYLON

The name "Babylon" is derived from "Babel" and signifies

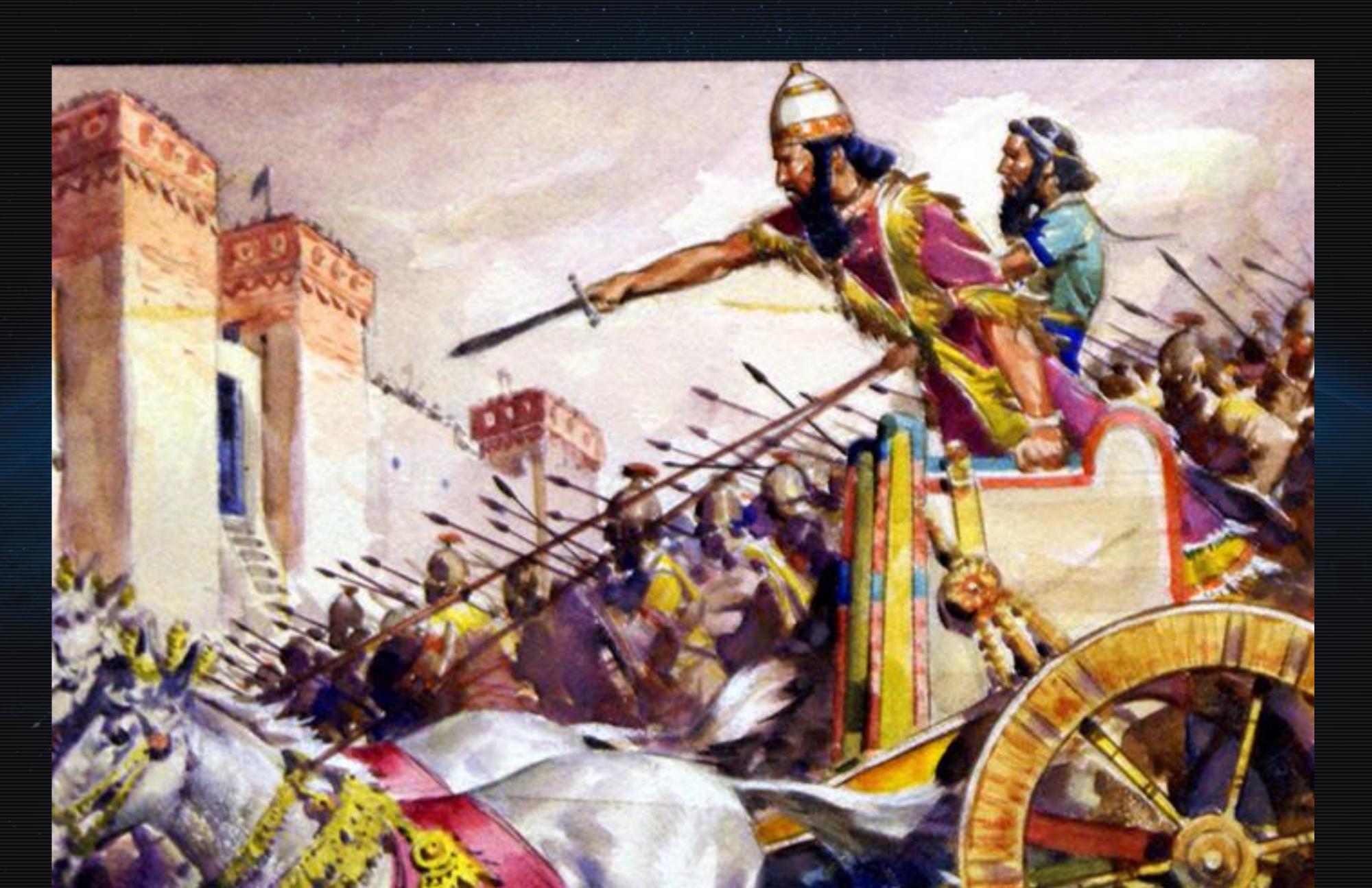
confusion

rebellion

defiance



BABYLON WARS AGAINST GOD'S PEOPLE



BABYLON CONQUERS GOD'S PEOPLE



BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY=70 YRS.



CAPTIVES COME THROUGH ISHTAR GATE



IS THIS NOT THE GREAT BABYLON?



DANIEL 4



SUPERIORITY

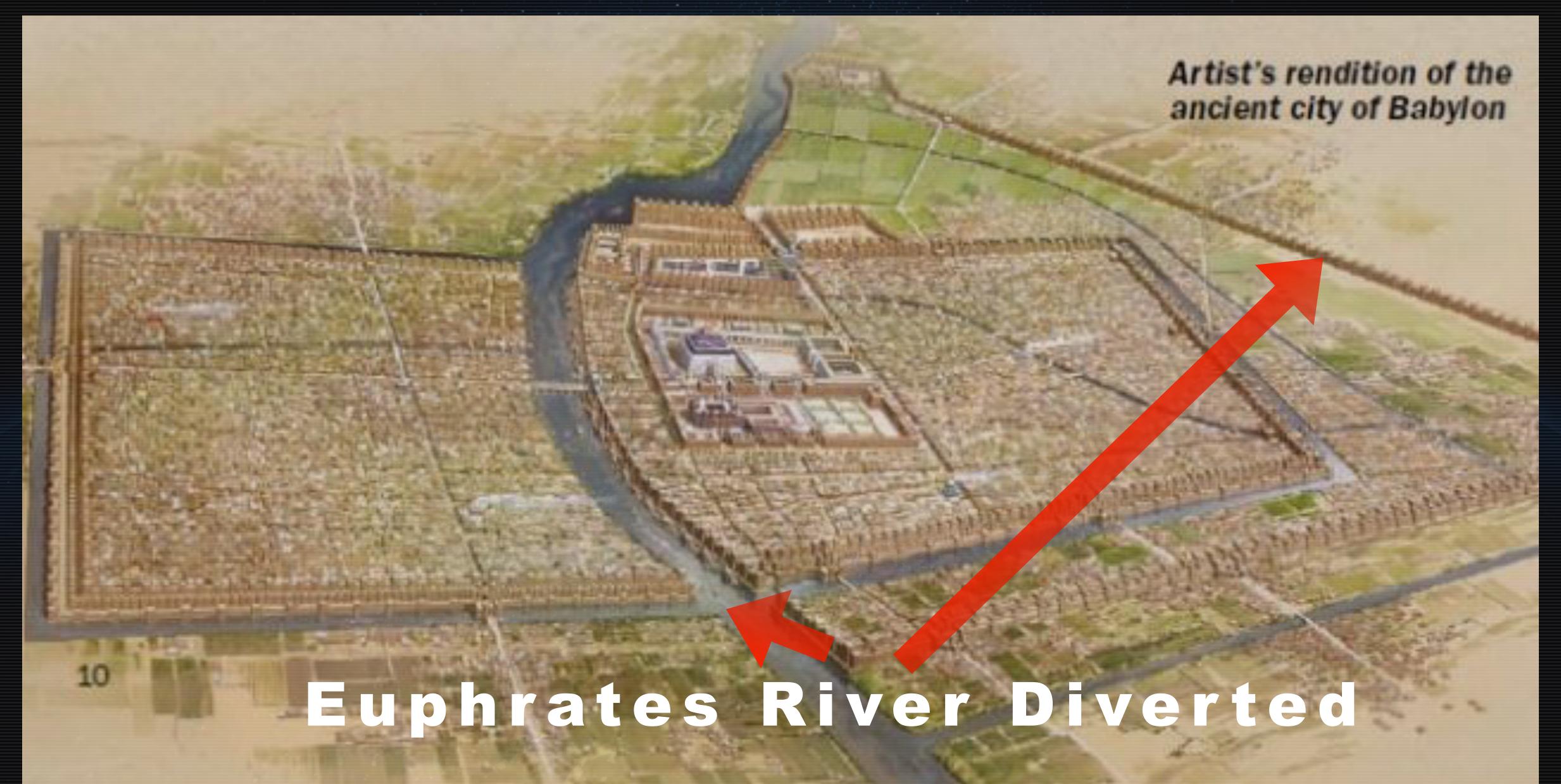
DANIEL 5



DANIEL 5

Belshazzar: Defiance against God Calls for golden temple cu Drinks wine of Babylon Bloodless hand announces fall of Babylon

DRYING UP OF EUPHRATES



DRYING UP OF EUPHRATES



FALLOF BABYLON



Cyrus Enters Through Dry River Bed





its false religion
opposed the true religion of the Bible.
Literal Babylon

persecuting power of God's people in the Old Testament.

became the

BABYLON OF THE NEW TESTAMENT







In New Testament Spiritual Babylon symbolizes many false religions that pervert the Bible



Revelation 17 Babylon is represented as a woman

WOMAN AS CHURCH Revelation 17 Revelation 12





WOMAN AS CHURCH Revelation 17 Revelation 12





WOMAN AS CHURCH Revelation 12

A pure woman is shown as the Lord's bride: The Lord said, "I am married unto you." Jeremiah 3:14



WOMAN AS CHURCH Revelation 17 An unfaithful ch



An unfaithful church is portrayed as a harlot. "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (Jam 4:4)

Bible Reveals Conflict Between Jesus Christ and Satan





BABYLON OF THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH



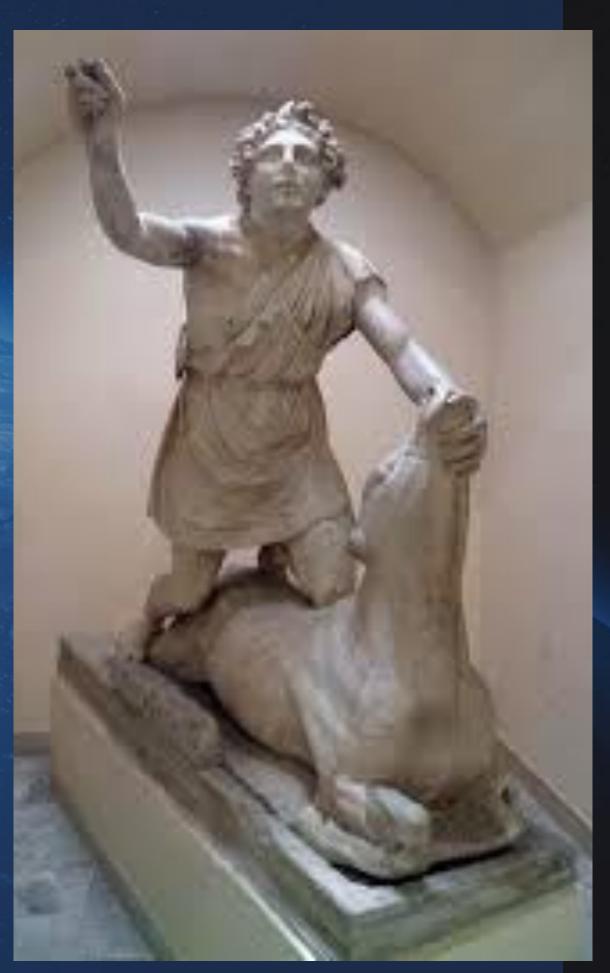
To make the acceptance of Christian faith easier by the pagans the church began to adopt slowly some of the practices of the pagan religions.

The apostle Paul declared that even in his day, "The mystery of iniquity doth already work." 2
Thessalonians 2:7. It continues till Christ's return.

During the lives of the apostles the church remained comparatively pure. One historian wrote,

Toward the latter end of the second century most of the churches assumed a new form; the first simplicity disappeared. As the old disciples retired to their graves, their children, along with new converts, slowly departed from the simple teachings and practices of the church. See Robert Robinson, Ecclesiastical Researches, p. 51.

As the Christian religion secured the favor and support of secular rulers, it was nominally accepted by multitudes; but while in appearance Christians, many "remained in substance pagans, especially worshiping in secret their ido Ecclesiastical Researches, page 278.



New doctrines were developed from a combination of pagen traditions and Bible teachings that began with Emperor Constantine the Great in the 4th century and continued throughout history.

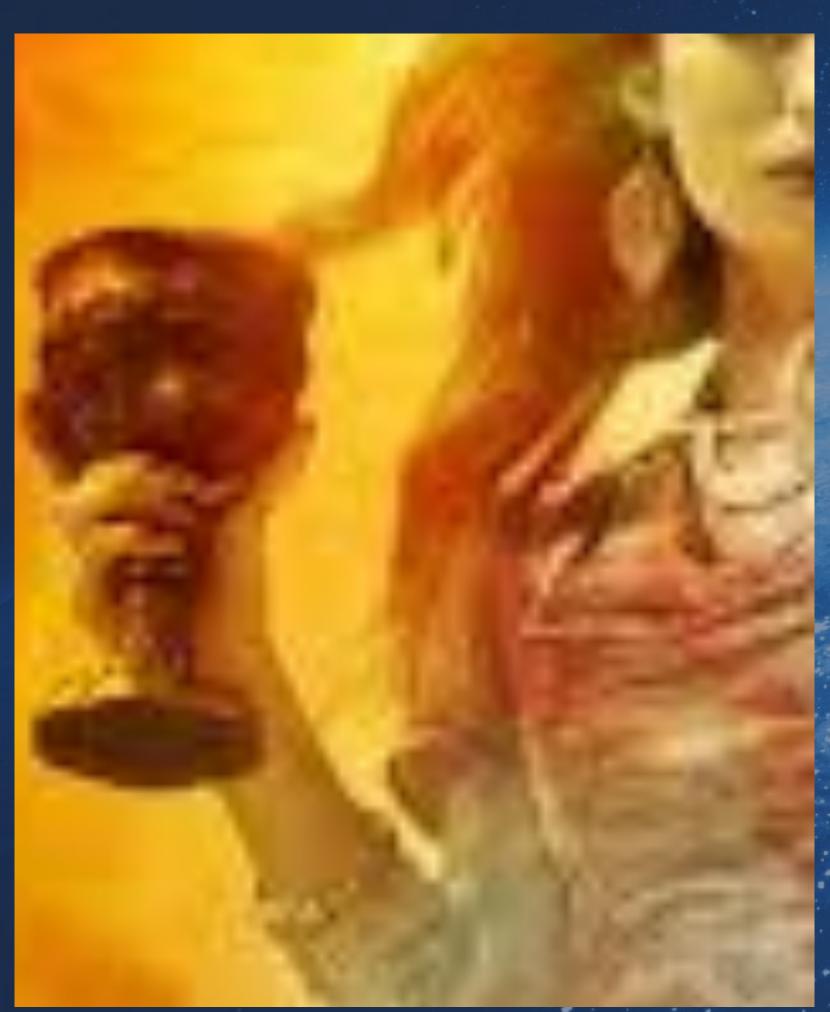


BABYLON BECOMES CHURCH UNITED WITH THE STATE

Many Christians compromised with the world. Babylon is charged with the sin of unlawful connection with "the kings of the earth" (Rev 17:2). It was by departure from the Lord, and alliance with the heathen, that the Jewish church became a harlot; and Rome, corrupting herself in like manner by seeking the support of worldly powers, receives a like condemnation.



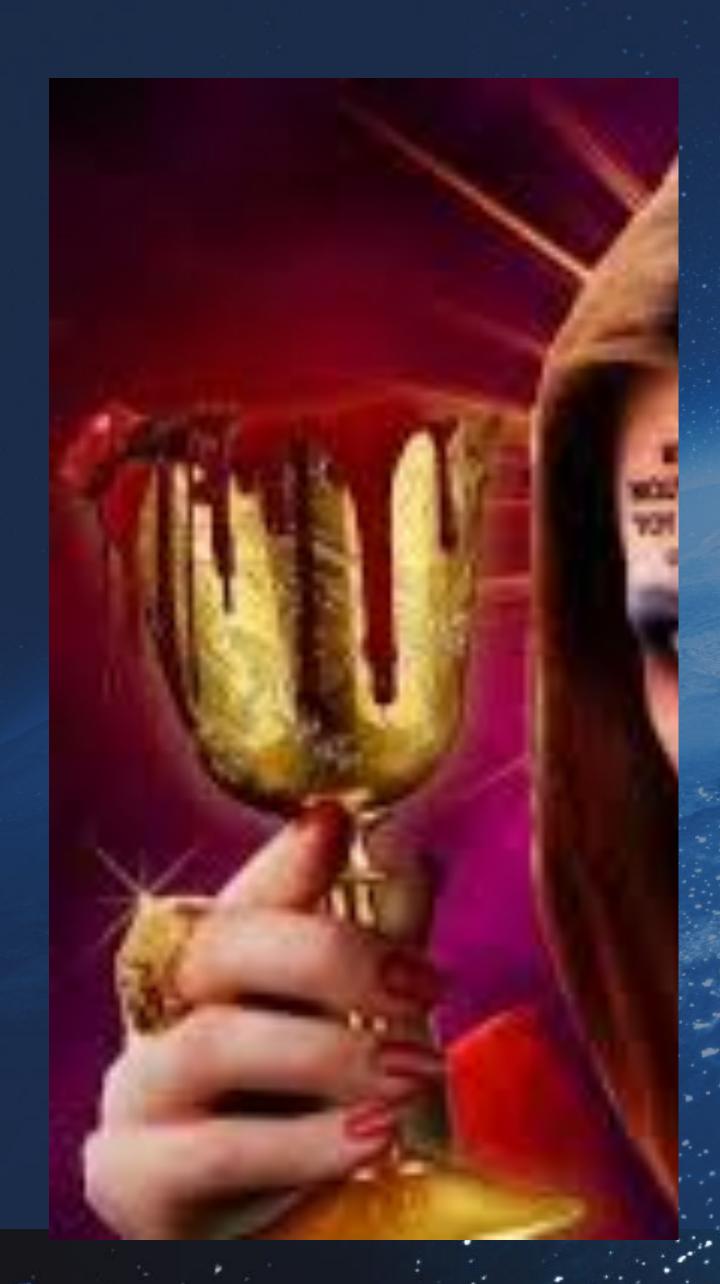
FALL OF BABYLON CAUSED BY WINE OF HER FORNICATION



The wine she presents to the world are the false teachings that she has developed as the result of her connection with the rulers of the earth.

Friendship with the world has corrupted her faith, and in turn she has a corrupting influence upon the world by teaching doctrines which are opposed to the plainest statements of the Bible.

EFFECT OF BABYLON'S WINE



Why is Babylon so successful?

The world is intoxicated with the wine of her false doctrines that teaches that people can be saved by their own works of performing certain rituals instead of through repentance and faith in the free grace and righteousness of Jesus Christ. Saved in their sin without true conversion. As a result many are so confused about eternal life that they do not know how to repent which is a basic requirement for salvation.

BABYLON PERSECUTES GOD'S PEOPLE AGAIN John the Revelator declares,



"I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus."

Babylon is further declared to be "that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth." (Revelation 17;4-6, 18).

BABYLON PERSECUTES GOD'S PEOPLE AGAIN



The authority that for so many centuries maintained cruel sway over the kingdoms of Christendom is Rome. No other power could be so identified as "drunken with the blood of the saints" as the Roman Catholic Church which has so brutally persecuted God's faithful people for more than 1000 years.

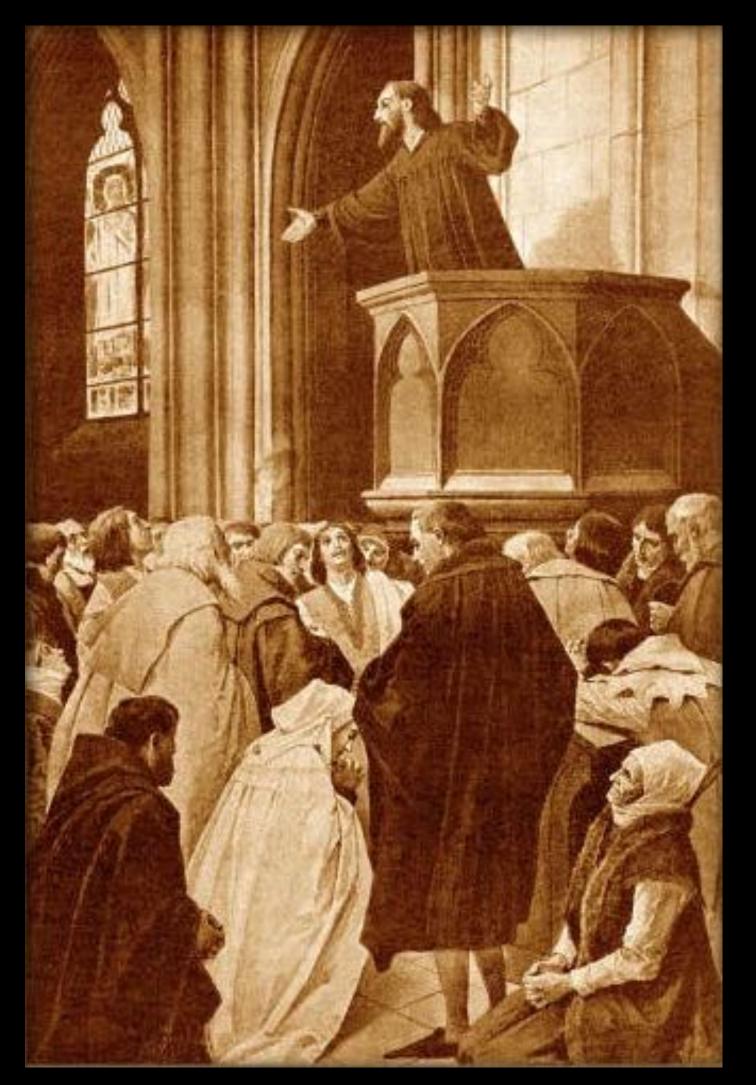
PROTESTANT REFORMATION RESTORES THE TRUTH OF THE BIBLE



Bloody persecution of Bible believing Christians led to a powerful protest that brought the Reformation. The Reformers protested that the Bible, not human traditions is the Word of God. Their clarion call was that the "Bible and the Bible Only" should be the standard for the Christian. It was the mission of the Reformation to present to the world the Word of God.

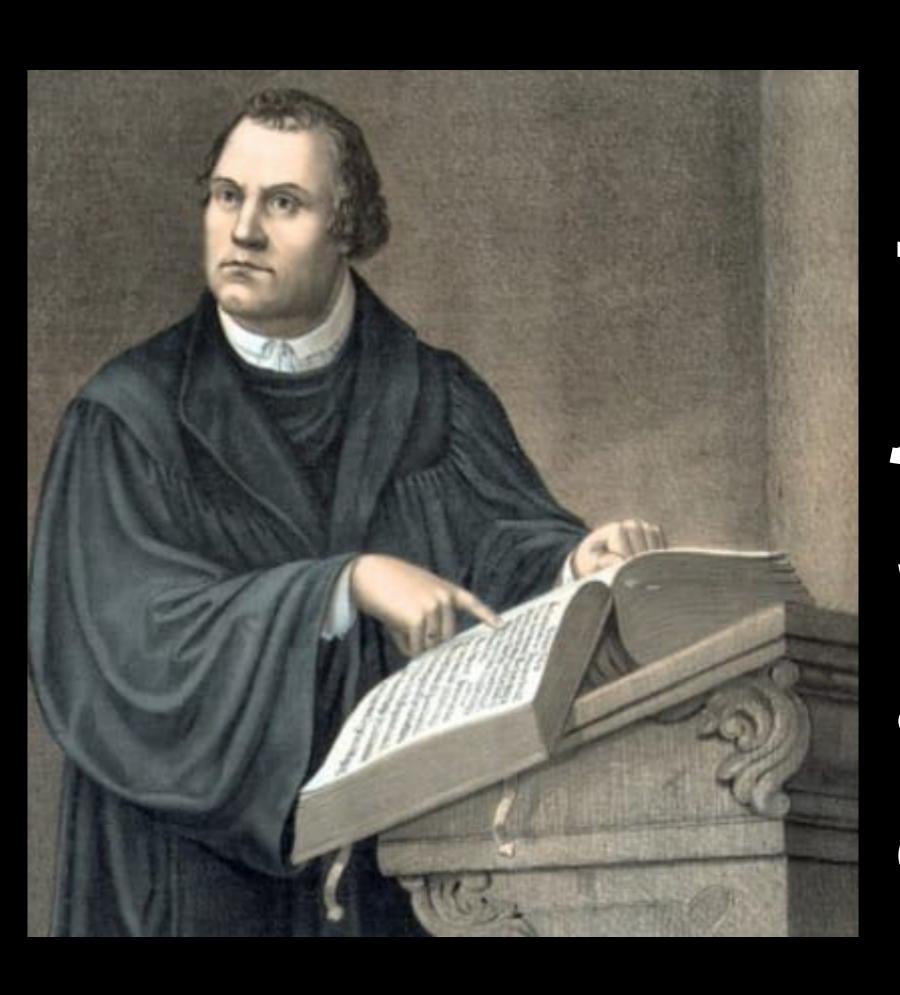


Mycliffe: The Papacy is the Antichrist, the Man of Sin, and the Little Horn of Dan 7. The Bible must be translated in the anguage of the people



John Hus and Jerome of Prague:

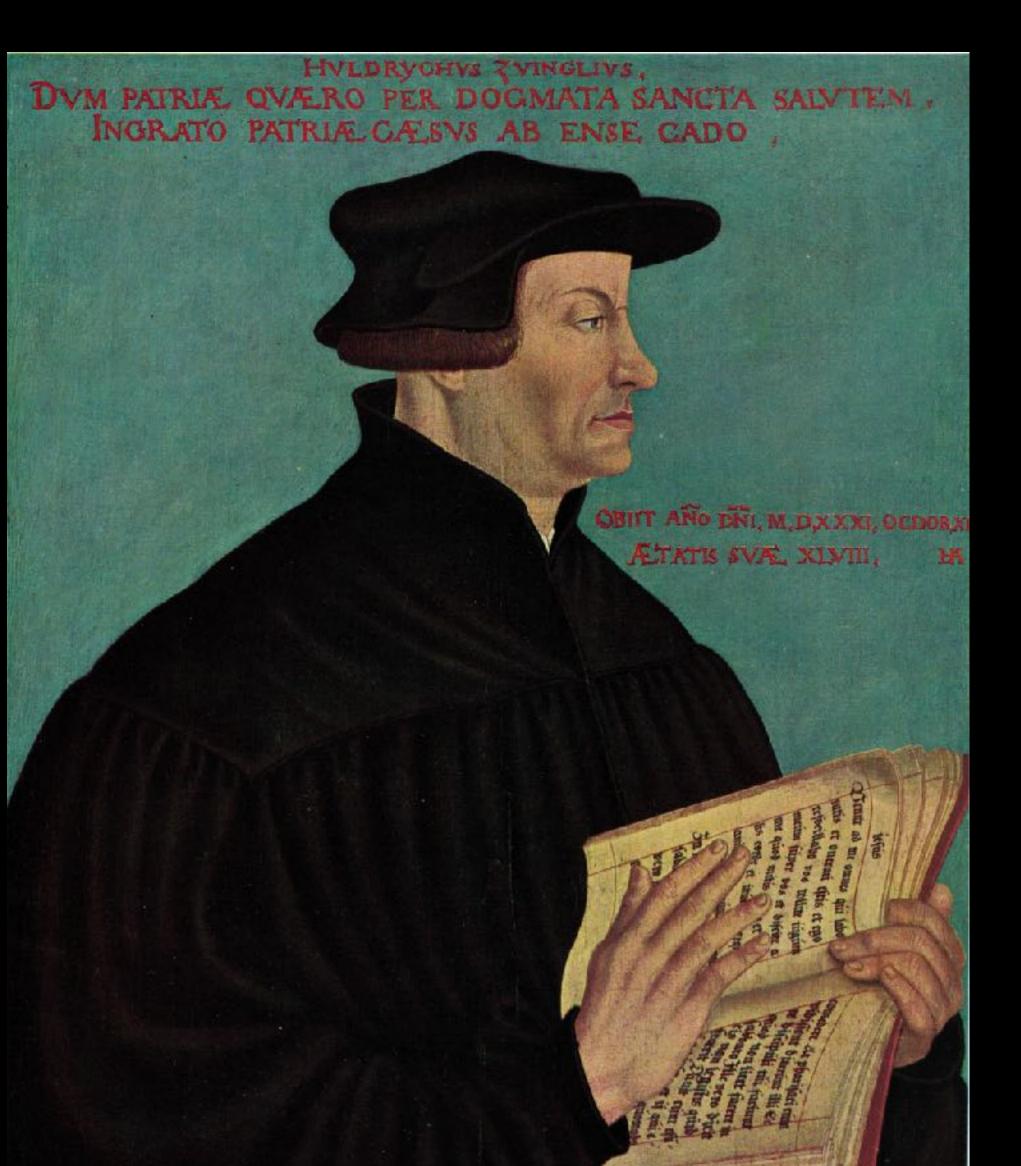
Papacy is the Antichrist and Great Harlot of Rev Preaching must be in the common language of the people



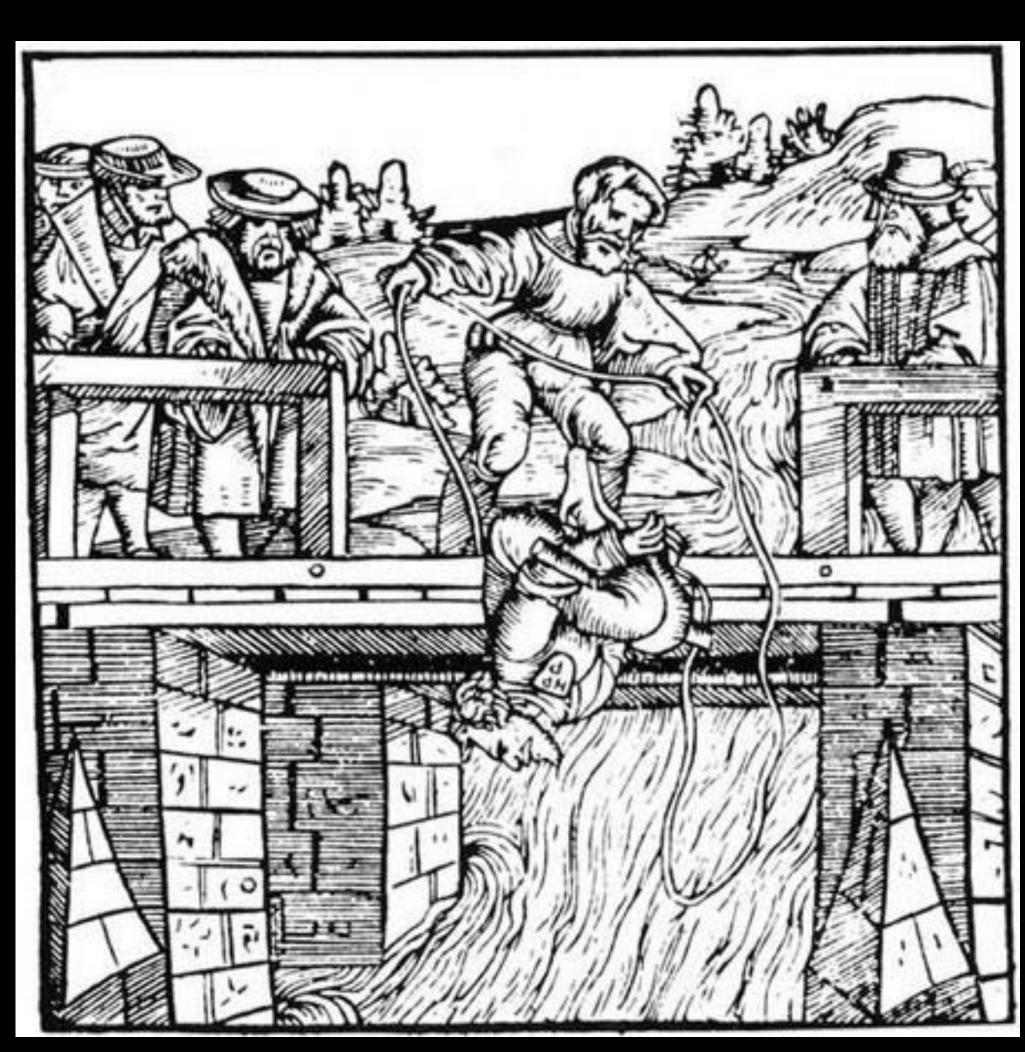
Martin Luther: The Bible and the Bible only is standard of judgment for the Christian. Salvation and justification are through faith in Christ only, not through works.



Martin Luther: As Babylon held Israel captive, now the papacy was holding Christians in bondage by Rome's theology. The Pope is "very Antichrist"



Ulrich Zwingli: He refers the Papacy as "antichristian." The Bible as the word of God is the only sufficient, infallible rule. It must be its own interpreter. Ask for the Holy Spirit and He will help you to under-stand the Scriptures. He refers to the Papacy as "antichristian."



Anabaptists: Willing against the rule of the church and state to stand with what the Bible literally said about baptism.

CONTRIBUTION OF THE



REFORMERS

John Calvin: He called the Pope the "man of sin" and referred to him as "Antichrist." Christians are to live to the Glory of God with Bible as standard

REACTION OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH TO THE REFORMATION



The Council of Trent in 1563— 1565 decreed that the tradition of the RC Church has equal authority as that of the Bible. It cursed the teachings of Protestants on the Bible, salvation, justification, sanctification and Christ's righteousness.

REACTION OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH TO THE REFORMATION



REACTIONS OF THE PROTESTANT CHURCHES TO THE RC CHURCH

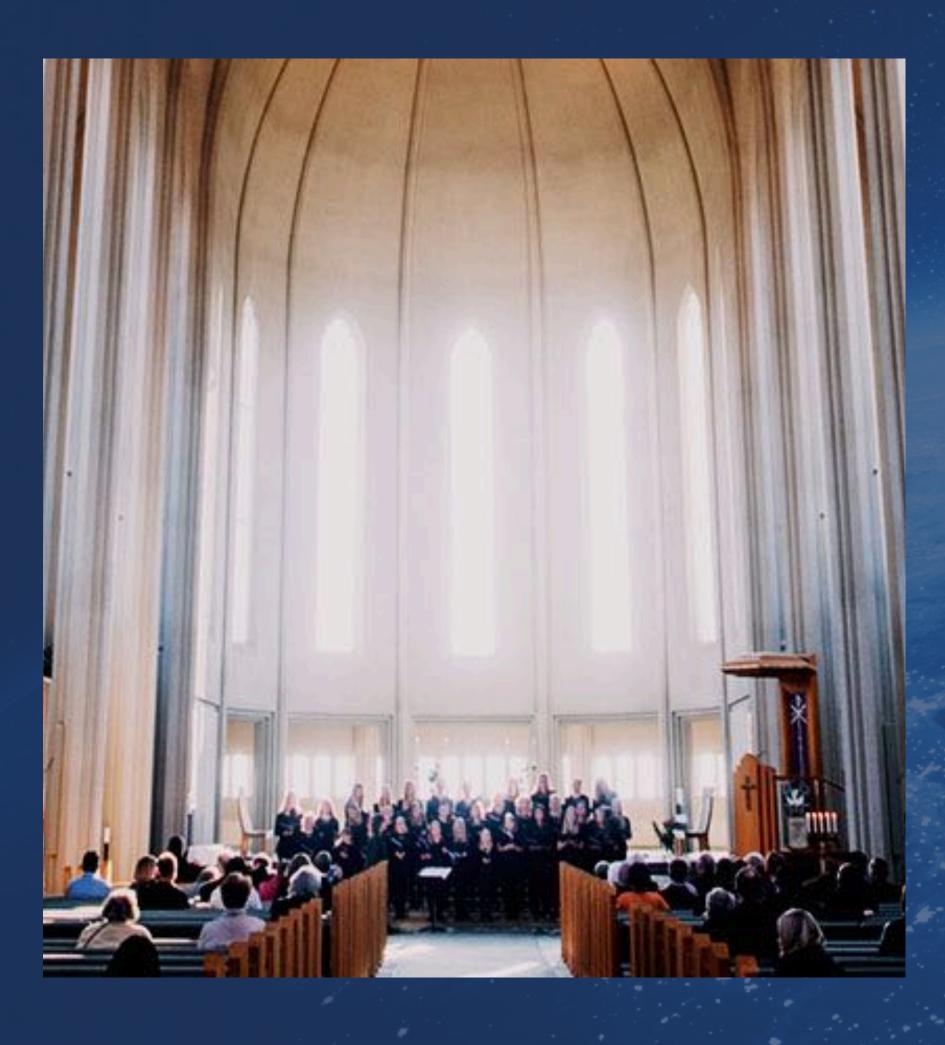


As a result of the rejection and cursing of the biblical teachings of the Reformers by the Council of Trent, Protestants considered that the RC Church, being Babylon, had fallen. Now Protestants were to call God's people out of Babylon.

BABYLON AND THE DECLINE OF THE CHURCH



DECLINE OF REFORMATION



In the succeeding centuries after the death of the Reformers there was a gradual decline of the Protestant faith. Instead of studying the Bible for further light the descendants of the Reformers focused on the creeds and doctrines of the 16th century Reformers. They did not progress.

DECLINE OF REFORMATION



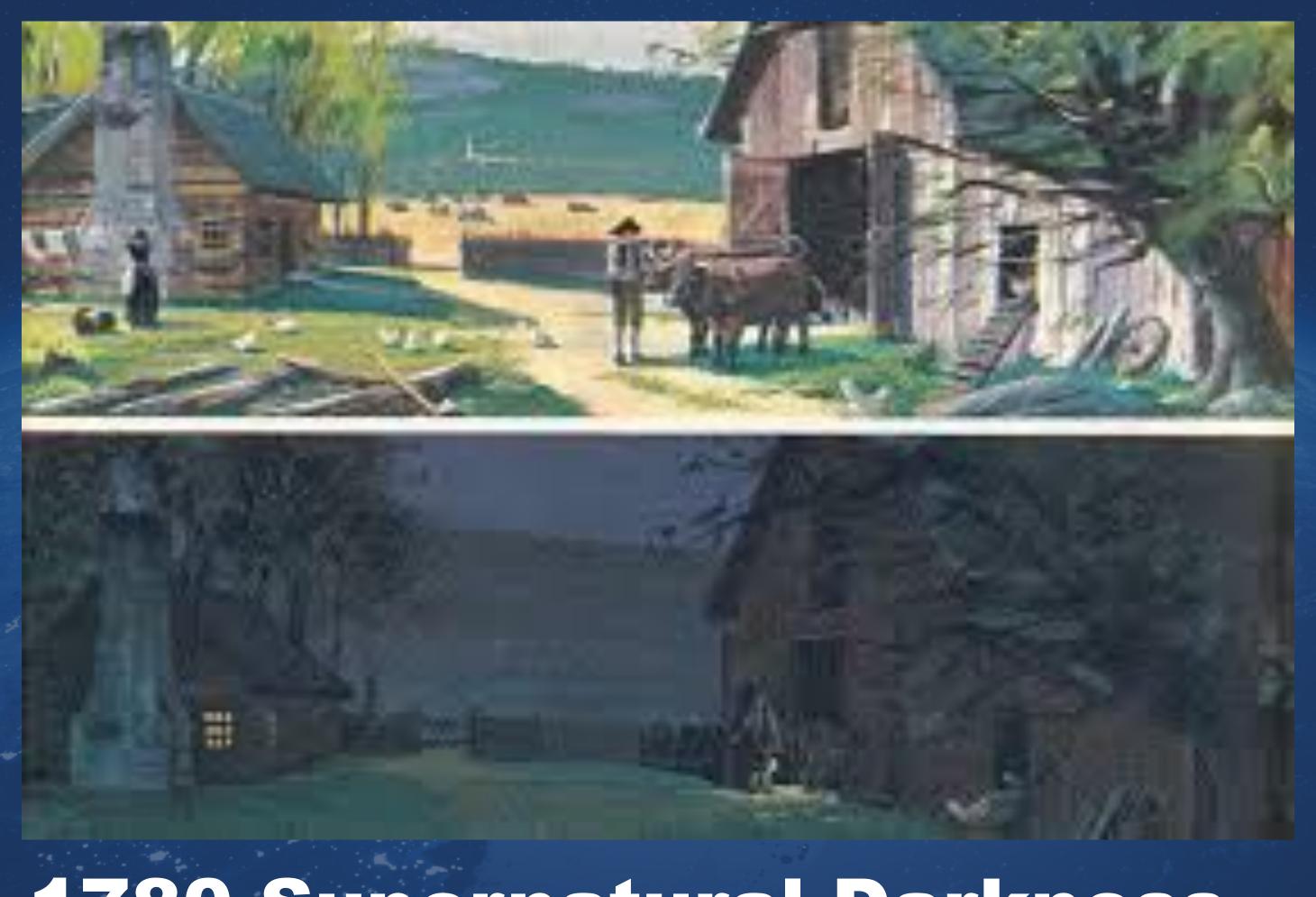
These descendants blindly followed the creeds of their fathers. They were not willing to accept any further truth and departed from the Reformers' opposition to a worldly lifestyle. Consequently worldliness came into the church, that carried with it its customs and practices. This spirit of worldliness entered the churches throughout the Christian world.

Christ's Attempt to Revive the Protestant Reformation

Prophetic signs show that Christ return is near. Notice the sequence in the opening of the sixth seal in Rev 6:12, 13 and Rev 11



1755 Earthquake of Lisbon



1780 Supernatural Darkness



The French Revolution (Rev 11) ended the papacy's secular power in 1798



1833 Falling of the Stars

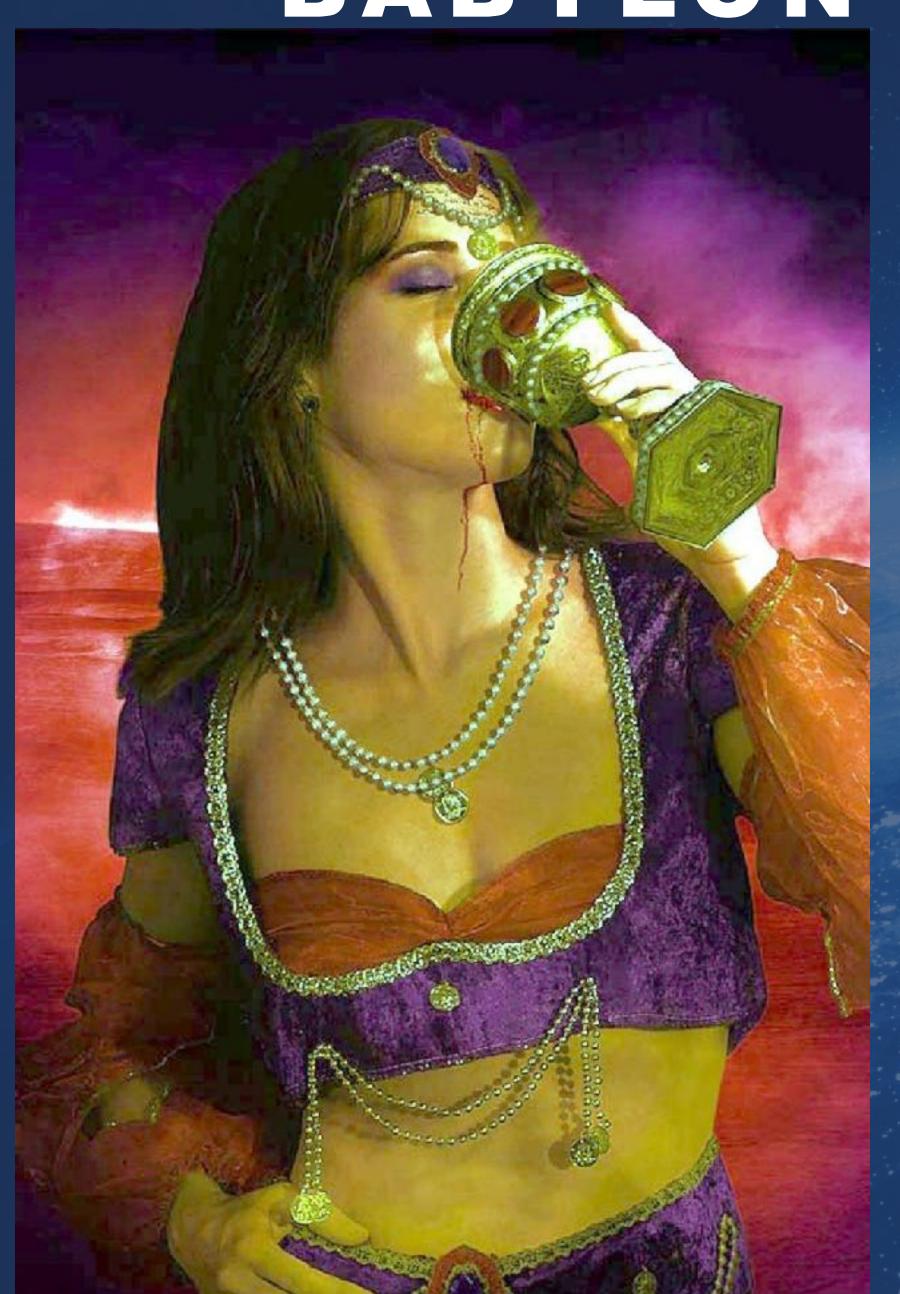


Result: A great revival of studying Bible prophecy

Rise of the Second Great Awaking and the Great Advent Movement in the early part of the 19th century brought further light on Christ soon return, His final heavenly sanctuary ministry in the time of the end, and the 3 angels' messages.

Again some accepted the light, others rejected it.

BABYLON AND HER DAUGHTERS



How does this decline of the Protestant churches relate to Babylon? Rev 17 gives the answer.

According to the Protestant Reformers, in Revelation Babylon symbolizes the RCC which is said to be "the mother of harlots" (Rev 17:5). The question remains who are her daughters? Her daughters must have inherited the practices of her mother.

BABYLON AND HER DAUGHTERS



This means Babylon's daughters symbolize churches that follow her doctrines and traditions, and sacrifice the truth and the approval of God, in order to form an unlawful alliance with the world.

BABYLON AND HER DAUGHTERS



Today, instead of living by the Bible and the Bible only, many Christians base their profession of faith upon the creeds and doctrines of their churches rather than on the Bible. Thus in appearance they follow in the footsteps of the RC Church.

NEED TO CONTINUE REFORMATION

The result of the decline of the spirit of true Protestantism was that the Reformation stagnated. In the beginning Protestants did much to restore the purity of the gospel, but the restoration of Bible truth that was corrupted was not complete. Although the Reformers did much to remove many errors of the RC Church, there were more errors to be eliminated. Unfortunately by keeping close to the insights of the pioneers of the Reformation, Chistians did not continue the cleansing and purification of their beliefs to restore their churches to the purity of the New Testament church of Christ and the apostles.

FALL OF BABYLON IS PROGRESSIVE



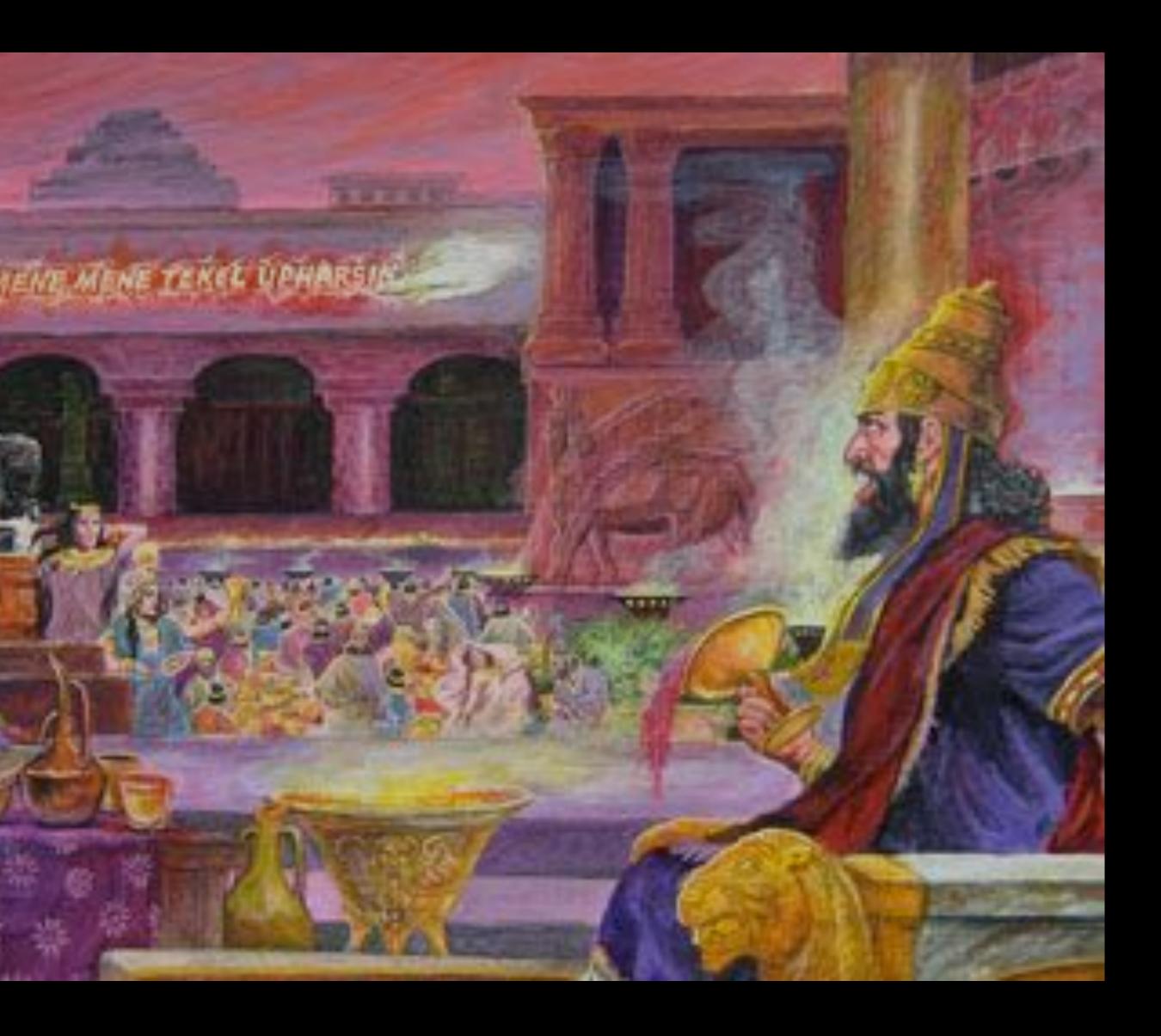
The message of Revelation 14, announcing the fall of Babylon must apply to churches that were once pure and have become corrupt. Since this message follows the hour of God's judgment warning of the first angel's message, it must refer to the time of the end. This means that Babylon's fall cannot be confined to the RC Church alone, for that church has been in a fallen condition since she rejected the restoration the light of the Bible during the Reformation.

FALL OF BABYLON IS PROGRESSIVE



Furthermore, in Revelation 18:4
the people of God are called upon
to come out of Babylon.
According to this Scripture, many
of God's people must still be in
Babylon.

THE FALL OF BABYLON



In the Old Testament we see the fall of the ancient city of Babylon. This event is a lessons for us to see why Babylon fell. It was because the people rebelled and neglected the light that God had given them.

THE FALL OF BABYLON

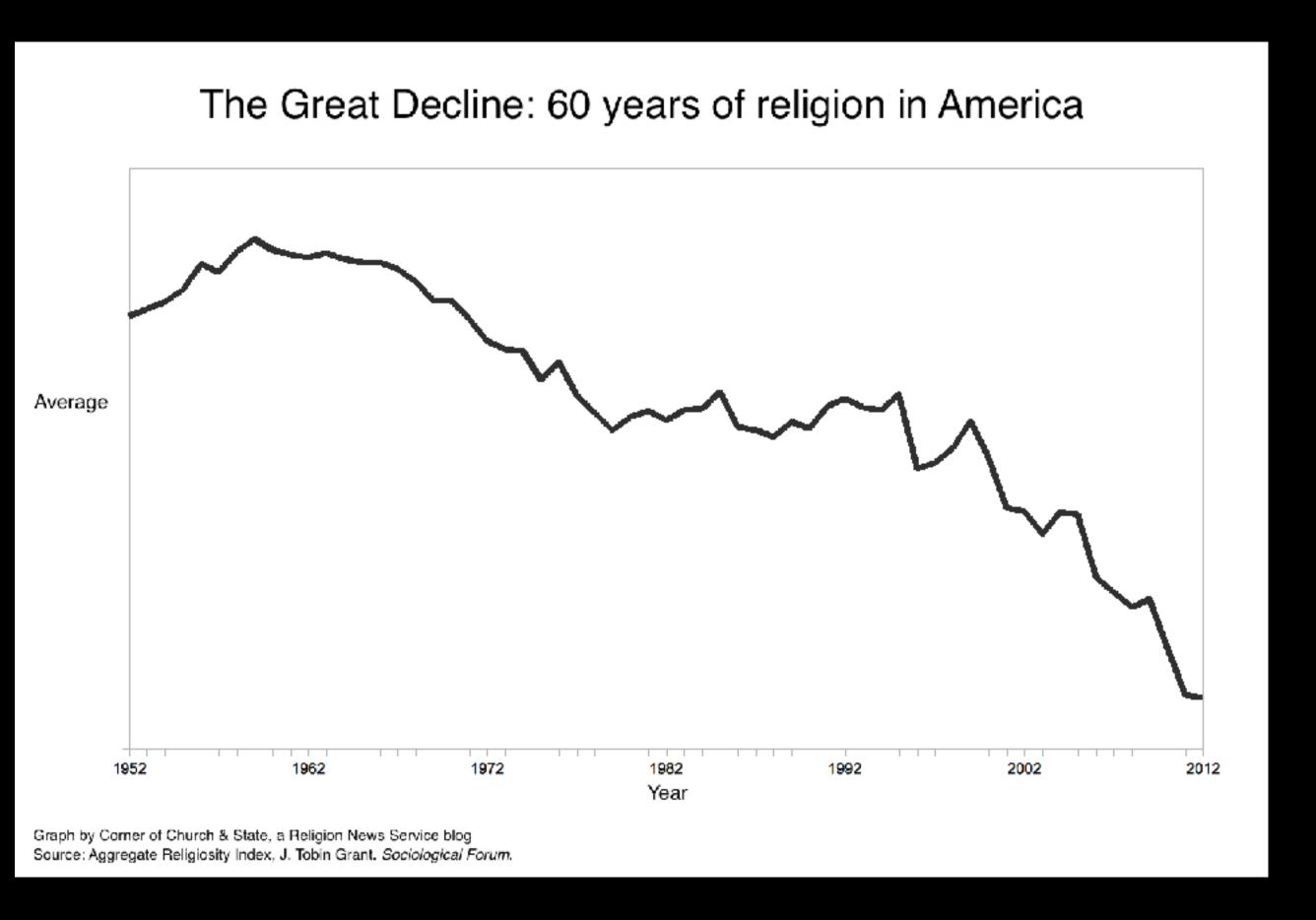


A similar experience leads to the fall of spiritual Babylon. The light from the Bible that reveals the truth for the Christian has been neglected. The result has been that spiritual darkness has come on Christianity. **The Protestant Reformation** was used by God to bring Christians back to the Bible as the Word of God.

THE FALLOF BABYLON



However, centuries later many have neglected to continue the spirit of the Reformation. Today we see that sad results of a stagnated Reformation in many churches that failed to live by the Bible and the Bible only.



In the 19th century, the churches experienced a further decline, in consequence of their refusal of the prophetic light; but that fall was not complete. During the last 60 years there has been a dramatic decline of religion.

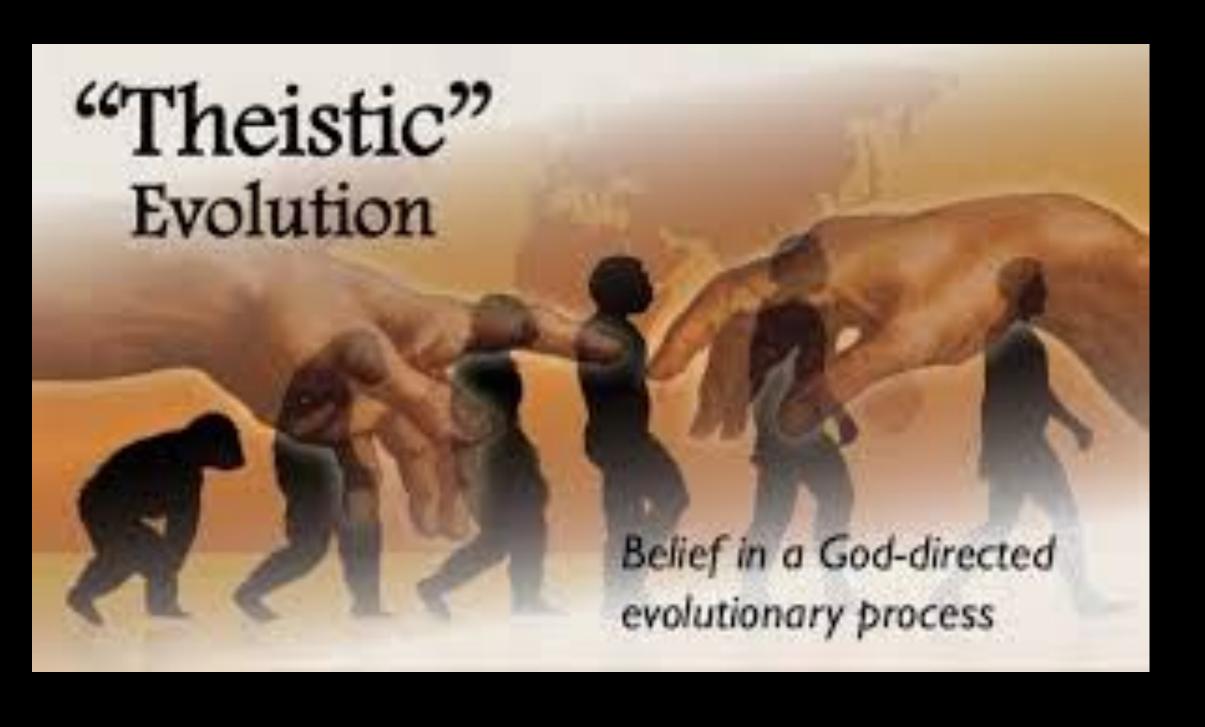
Since the 19th century higher criticism entered many churches that undermined faith and trust in the Bible.



VS



Evolutionary views entered into many churches and rejected creationism. As these churches have continued to reject the special truths for this time they have fallen lower and lower. Not yet, however, can it be said that "Babylon is fallen"



VS



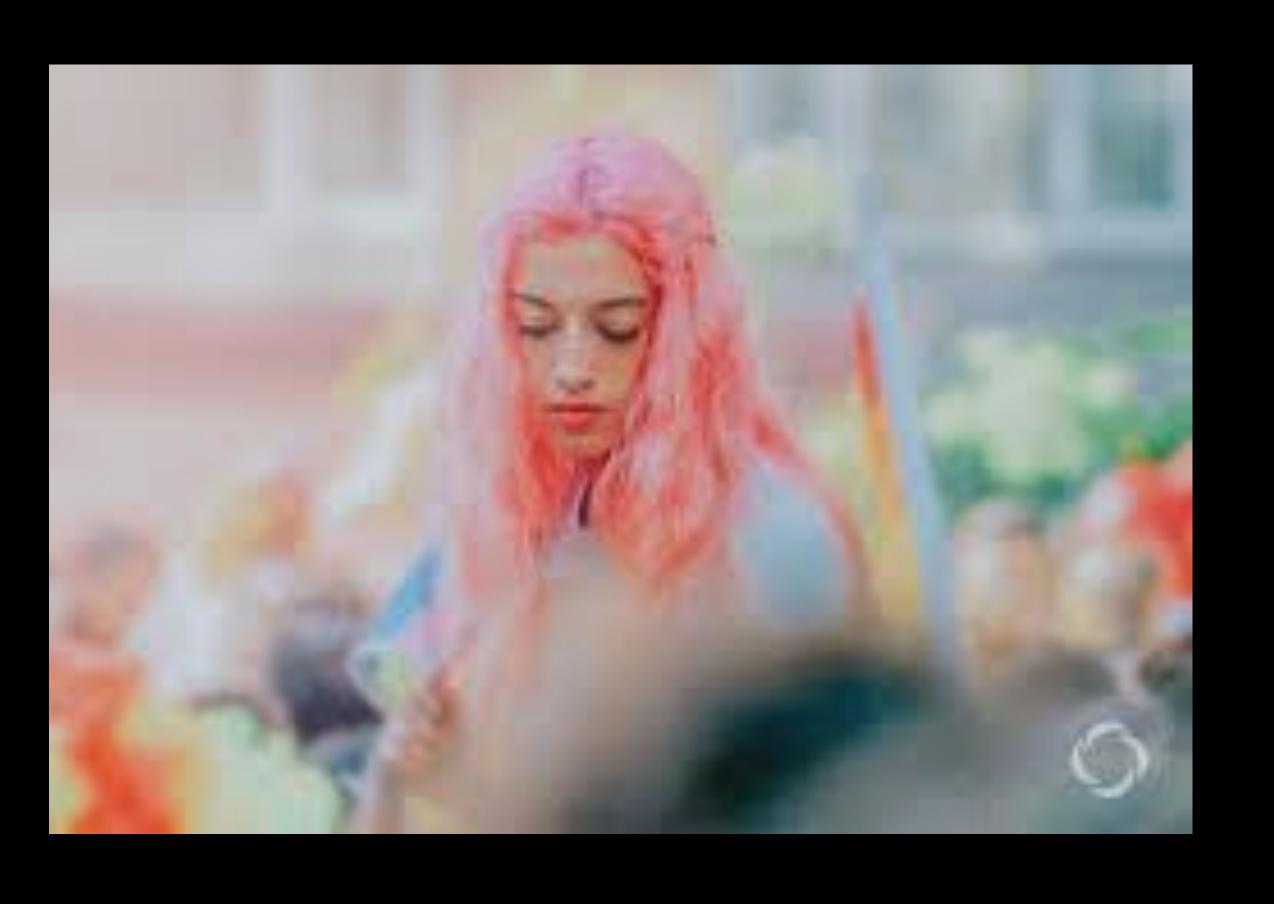


The spirit of world conforming and indifference to God's truths for our time exists and has been gaining ground in churches of the Protestant faith in all the countries of Christendom. These churches are included in the solemn and terrible denunciation of the second angel. But the work of apostasy has not yet reached its culmination.



Today we see that even homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality and transgenderism have become accepted in a growing number of churches. Even ministers practicing these lifestyles are accepted in spite of the condemnations by the Bible. We are approaching a time where the lifestyles of Sodom and Gomorra are accepted in a growing number of churches.

FINAL DECEPTION



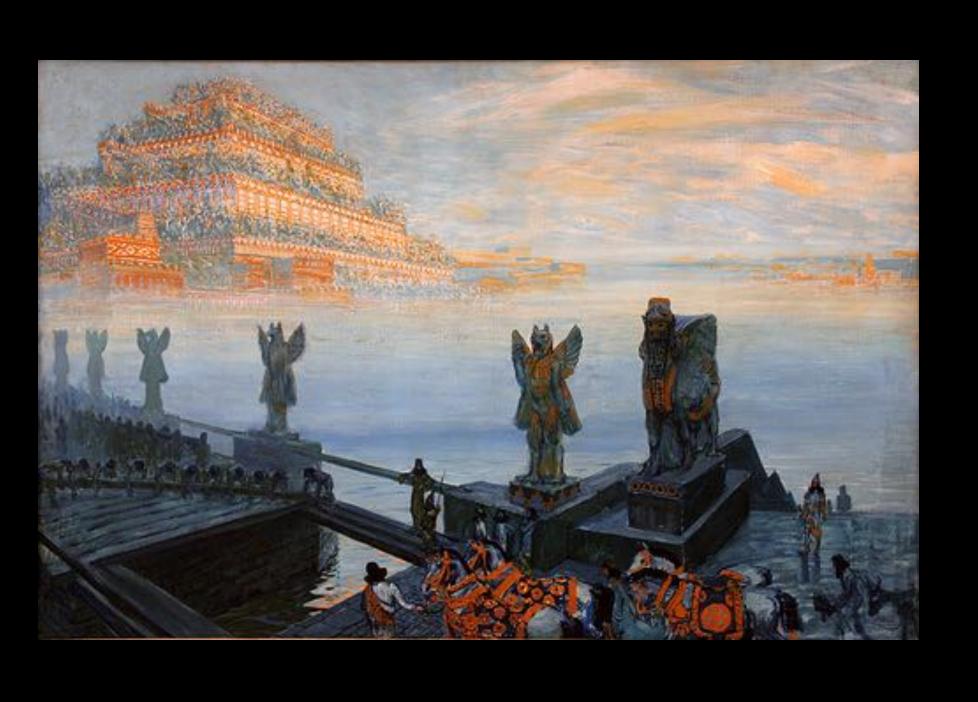
The Bible reveals that before the return of Christ, Satan will work "with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness;" and they that "received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved," will be left to receive "strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11

GOD'S LAST WARNING MESSAGE OF MERCY



Today in Rev 18:4 more and more Christians see the importance of God's final call to His people who are in Babylon to come out of her.

GOD'S LAST WARNING MESSAGE OF MERCY



This message is the last that will ever be given to the world; and it will accomplish its prophetic mission. Just before Christ return there will be only two groups of people. Those who accept Jesus' admonition to watch and pray and follow the prophetic light to prepare for His coming and those that "believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thessalonians 2:12).

GOD'S LAST WARNING MESSAGE OF MERCY



Let us receive Jesus prophetic light for the last days. They will rejoice in the light of truth that will shine upon all whose hearts are open to receive it, and will listen to the call: "Come out of her, My people" (Revelation 18:4).