

BABYLON, THE BEAST AND THE CHURCH- PART 1

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This begins a new series of sermons. I feel the information that will be disseminated here will shortly impact lives greatly.

We have just finished a series on the just living by faith, the lively hope of the resurrection and the kind of love that must be attained between God and man and man and man. I do not want you to mistake for a moment the importance of that series. I may not have been exciting or new, but it is fundamental and very very important. There is nothing more important to you and me than faith, hope and love. There is nothing more important to us than those three things.

The first of the three, faith, Christ questioned whether He would find any on earth when He returns. It is a commodity in short supply, in other words. He was speaking of the end time when He returns that faith would be a very scarce thing for Him to find. Where people actually live and walk by faith, not just parrot it, but also actually have it. Add to that, that of the three most important ingredients of Christianity, Christ expects almost a complete absence. The three greatest elements of Christianity He expect hardly to any of the first one named. Yet, unless we walk in faith it is impossible to please Him. We cannot walk by sight; it must be by faith in the Eternal God's ability to deliver us to guide us, to help us, to direct our lives as we follow in the steps of Jesus Christ. There is no way to over emphasize this point. That means, **ARE WE LISTENING**, which means we must be

willing to give up on anything in this earth that stands in the way of our walking as Christ walked. Any and every instruction of His word for we are to live by every word of God and bring every thought into the captivity of Christ. That is a tall order. That is a high standard, a standard that only one has lived up to and you and I fall very far short of that every day that we live and breathe on this earth, but that is our goal and purpose. We have to be heading in that direction. We must be willing to give up anything on this earth that stands in the way of that walk. Father, mother, brother, sister, mate, job profession, employment, our life style or anything that might make us feel uncomfortable in giving up. Most Americans do not want to give up anything they have. We are spoiled, absolutely sinfully rotten to the core. We live almost as if we were wrapped in a mattress and left in a bathtub. So nothing can hurt us, nothing can harm us. We were so shocked when "911" happened because that couldn't happen here. That shocks our comfort zone. Americans do not like their comfort zone shaken. You don't and I don't. We are a nation of people that want to live in comfort and plenty and prosperity and peace. We want no ripples or ripples on the water. We want to be AMERICA and don't anyone impinge upon that. Yet, we see a different picture in the Bible, don't we? Does not God say we are called to a life of sacrifice? That if we are in the Church we are not to walking the way we see our people walking. We are to present our bodies a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1). So, even

though this world and our nation in particular does not like to sacrifice whatsoever, we are called to do just that. This spoiled approach to life, not walking by faith, but the things we see around us, the things we enjoy and cherish can have a devastating affect upon the second of the key ingredients to Christianity and that is a lively hope.

A lively hope can only be based upon faith and obedience. Trust that God will see us through and never forsake us, nor leave us and we will have a lively hope that is based on obedience to all of His words. You can have a hope against hope as I explained in the series, but a lively hope comes from knowing that there is a very good chance you will be in the Kingdom of God based upon your performance, unmerited pardon that is augmented by obedience. "I will show you my faith by my works." Through those works my hope is increased. Many in the Church today have a false hope based on their own assessment of their Philadelphian stature in God's eyes and in their own eyes. That is a very dangerous posture to be in because human nature is very self-deceptive. The human heart is very deceitful. It is easy not only to look at our comfort zone physically, but our comfort zone spiritually and say, "I'm OK, I'm doing the basic things and I'm trying to be good Lord" or whatever justification we might find for ourselves so that we can have a spiritual comfort zone as well. Now, it is partially my job to shake you out of your spiritual comfort zone. I will not be liked for that for the most part, but that's OK. The problem with deceiving ourselves as to our true spiritual condition is that it can make hope abstract and detached when viewed in the light of scriptural and

spiritual reality. It is easy to deceive ourselves about what we really are. We are to have the fruit of God's Spirit and yet we defend a great deal of human nature, carnality and the works of the flesh, don't we? As seen our relationship to each other and to the world etc. So for hope to be a real, true and lively hope it must be based on the reality of scripture and our adherence to God's way of thinking and acting. Please realize there is in your mind a great opportunity for self-deception.

Finally, the greatest of these three, faith, hope and love is love. Now, though it is the most valuable and precious of the three most important characteristics of a Christian, it will be sadly lacking at the end. We have already heard testimony that there will be hardly any faith or would He find it when He comes to this earth. Now, let's go to Matthew 24. Let's see what condition He will find the Church in, because that is whom He is talking to here in Matthew 24. He is giving a lot of information here that matches up well with the Six Seals of Revelation and He talks about famine, pestilence and earthquakes etc in Verse 7. Verse 8,

"All these are the beginning of sorrows. (Just the beginning.)

9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: (That's you and me, that's the Church today.) and ye shall be hated of all nations (all peoples on earth) for my name's sake."

This has not yet been fulfilled, because the Church isn't even really known of all peoples and nations. But, at some time in the near future, in some way perhaps yet unknown to us, the wrath and the hate of the whole world is

going to turn on God's people. Isn't that what He is saying? What will be the result of that?

“And then shall many be offended,...” (Not just a few, but many.)

We believe that we are unable to be offended, I guess. It says not to be easily offended and yet it seems, as humans, we get offended pretty easily sometimes. We are pretty easily offended at one another. Sometimes that offense goes on for months and years and is never repented of, moved on past and forgotten. It stays right there.

“...and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.” (Matthew 24:10)

That is scary when you consider that in relationship to the Church of God at the end time. Many offended, betraying one another to the death and hating one another. Dare that be any of us?

“And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.”

They will tell them that this isn't so, I suppose. But, notice what happens:

“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” (Matthew 24:11-13)

Many in the Church will take offense, betray one another, hate one another and the love of many will wax cold, not a few, but many. It is a very scary thing when you think about it because He is talking about the people who are in the Church today. It may

have applied in principal to all people through the ages since the New Testament Church started. I would not deny that whatsoever. But, this Chapter is talking about the end of the age. It is talking about the final fulfillment of all this persecution and tribulation. It is talking very shortly after this about fleeing and about the return of Jesus Christ in this same Chapter. So, it is talking about you and me, it is talking about us. Be warned brethren!

Now, I am not going to preach another sermon about the series that I just finished. But, as we move from that series, let's not forget and let's carefully remember not to leave behind this most important of subjects, Faith, Hope and Love.

This upcoming series may be more exciting and titillating in some ways because this was very basic to Christianity that we just went through. But, before this series is finished it will challenge your levels of faith, hope and love. It will challenge beyond any challenge you have ever met before. However, at best it will only be a challenge of words. Words that can be swept aside for the time being if they challenges you comfort levels either physically or spiritually. The real challenge will be to follow through with God's instructions to us when the events, not merely the words, overtake us. Because some of the words you are going to hear in this upcoming series will turn events fairly shortly. It is a grim time. It is a time that they will deliver you up to be afflicted and kill you thinking they do God a service. I don't think it is a long way away. I will not define a long way because I do not

know the timing, but I feel it is fairly soon.

Prophecy is exciting to most people for there is an innate curiosity about the future in us. That is why science fiction and futuristic movies sell well. We would like to know what's coming up. We would like to know what form it will take. There is a curiosity there and it goes beyond most people's curiosity about history. You find history bugs, or nuts, here and there. History is very similar to prophecy. One is a story you try put together of the past based on words of men, things that have been written, things that are inscribed in broken pottery. It is a matter of trying to fit it all together and make a picture that is complete. History is a very very difficult thing to put together. There is one area of history that I know that is inviolable and that is the historical record of the Bible. That I don't worry about, that I can depend upon, but some of the thing about Hammarobi or somebody else might be questionable. I just picked a name out of the air. So, it can be exciting, but always bear in mind that unless the basic elements of Christianity not only live, but thrive in our lives all prophetic understanding and even all knowledge of all Bible topics is useless except for whatever intellectual vanity we might get out of it. Let's never forget what is important. As Paul states in I Corinthians 13, we can speak in tongues, different languages, understand all mysteries and there are some mysteries aren't there and we will look at some, and all knowledge and have faith to literally move mountains, if I do not have the love of God flowing through and out from me, I AM NOTHING. All those aforementioned things would exciting to have as gifts or abilities, but without the love we are

nothing. Nothing is not much, is it? Nothing of value or put another way, not worth preserving or saving. So, I caution us as we approach some prophetic things again that we will remember what is truly important. The prophecy is nothing is you do not live a truly Christian life because anyone who understood and I do not claim to by any means, every nuance, every bit of timing, every technical detail of what is about to happen in this world ahead of us, if you understood every bit of it and didn't have faith, hope and love you wouldn't be a part of the Kingdom of God. Having had knowledge of all those things that are going to happen wouldn't do you a whole lot of good would it? So, let's never forget what is truly important.

With that preface, let's move on.

This is my fiftieth year of association with the end time Church, now Churches of God. As a child I heard Herbert W. Armstrong on XEG and XELO proclaiming from Juarez, Chihuahua and other places in Mexico that America and the other white Anglo-Saxon relatives were Israel. I heard those nations would soon be punished by a terrible carrying into captivity. One third to die of famine and pestilence, one third to die of the sword, one third to be taken captive and a sword sent after those. Only roughly 10% would remain and even of those some would also be killed, quoting from Ezekiel 5. Now to me, as a small child this was fascinating information. Particularly, to a child living in America and he was proclaiming that "my country", "my people", my relatives, my friends would die. That was fascinating. My uncle, Cecil, would come over every Friday

evening and he would bring Newsweek, Time, U.S. News, Look, most of you have not even heard of the magazine called Look probably, and other news magazines and we would search diligently for any signs of these prophecies coming true. Friday night was wrap session, looking at all the prophetic things that, hopefully, we would be able to see. We read articles about drought anywhere in America. We looked for those. Wild dogs dog pack attacks in Alabama and Georgia. We looked for evidence of hurricanes, tremors in California, statistics on divorce, teenage pregnancy, and the German economy any news and there wasn't yet much on European unification. We looked for articles about the Nazis and especially Adolph Hitler sightings in Brazil and Argentina. We really did and on and on. Anything the Pope said or did for surely the Catholic Church was the Mother the Whores, Babylon the Great. We looked for a stamp in people's hands and foreheads that would prevent work and enforce Sunday keeping by that Beast from Revelation 13 that will number 666. We suspected Strauss of Germany, King Carlos of Spain, the Austrian nobility and even Prince Charles. We examined a lot of people and added up their names in Greek. We knew, didn't we, that a 10 nation dictatorship led by Germany will arise in Europe, ridden by the Catholic Church and that they would attack and destroy America and all the other nations we defined as Israelite and Jewish. Further, we had booklets entitled, "The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy", "1975 in Prophecy", "Revelation Unbaled At Last", at least I saw a letter that someone wrote in for that booklet, it was actually Unveiled, but whatever. We had one

called "Who Is the Beast?" and others. Now, I recite this information at this juncture for two primary purposes. First, to review what we have believed in historical context, secondly to show that I personally have been surrounded, submersed in, steeped in and poured full of these beliefs. Read that not beliefs, but inevitable facts from early childhood. These self evident and widely proclaimed *truths* were deeply embedded in me. There are few alive today who have a longer history of belief in the traditional worldview proclaimed by Herbert Armstrong, Garner Ted Armstrong and the Worldwide Church of God that do I. Longevity doesn't mean anything in terms of spiritual growth. But, what I am saying is that the traditional views we have held and I have held have been very very dear to my little heart, just as they have been very dear to your little hearts. So, if we see any variance from that, which can be shown by scripture, I understand that there will be some initial shock, not awe, and perhaps some negative feedback. But, I want you to know that you haven't believed anything from the past any harder than I have believed it. It is hard to teach an old dog new tricks.

You need to understand that as we begin this series it will challenge some of our most tightly held beliefs about prophecy. That is not to say that Herbert Armstrong was not on the right track. But, what he understood 50 and even 20 years ago is somewhat different from the picture developing in the world today. It is important that we take a close look as some biblical entities and their Bible definitions. Some definitions of Beasts, Churches and countries we took from Protestant commentators and assumed them to be correct. Herbert

Armstrong read the Protestant commentaries, got some of his information from those commentaries and preached it to us. How much trust can you place in Protestant commentators? That is a question. We did not, in every case, examine all the Bible evidence necessary to define those entities. There is where the rub comes. Indeed, Herbert Armstrong did not have today's world scene to compare to scripture to help him specifically define all the end time players. I will have to say, in retrospect, he had to have help from in interpreting the prophesies as well as he did from the perspective of 1940, 50 and 60. A lot has developed since then. A lot has developed which might change our view of some of those things somewhat. When you start talking 1940, 50 and 60 that is ancient history in the modern day movement of the Church. What you could see in 1940 or 50 is far removed from the movement of world culture and politics on the world scene we have in 2003.

In short, it is time to take a new look at America, at Europe, at the world, the beast, the whore, the true Church and what we see happening before our very eyes today. The overall form of prophecy I think Herbert Armstrong understood fairly well. But, the timing and the exact form of the end time players were not as obvious then, perhaps, as they are now and it is easier, I think, to see some of these things, but we must be careful to use the Bible to define the Bible and not Protestant commentators or ourselves for that matter. So, this series of sermons will challenge some of your and my long held beliefs.

Question: Who is Israel? I see no need to detail this subject as I feel Mr. Armstrong was correct in defining modern day Israel as the United States and British Commonwealth, Western Europe, Australia, South Africa and wherever else the pale races that descended from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had migrated. Abraham, as you will recall, descended from Shem. So, did some other pale faces, such as the Assyrians. The difference is that Israel descended through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, specifically Jacob as even Jacob's own brother Esau is not Israelite though descended from Abraham. It is only that line that went through Jacob that became Israel. So, Abraham and Isaac had other children, but God chose to go through Isaac's son Jacob, not Esau. So, the Israelite line comes only through Jacob. This is review and I know you know this. There may be some question as to the identity of some of the tribes of Israel in terms of their exact locations today. We published information in the 50's about that and I think it was essentially correct, but since then different ones have found there might be a pocket of this tribe here and a pocket of that tribe there and we may not have them completely designated correctly. For one instance, there has been considerable print to show the Ephraim is the United States and Manasseh is the United Kingdom. Just the reverse of what we have always believed. I don't know that, but I do know an argument can be made in either direction. Be that as it may, the two are combined to form Joseph and are inextricably linked together and have the same fate in prophecy. They are the leaders of Israel. Which is which might not make a lot of difference except in a few very specific prophecies then it might make a

difference. But, they were historically and today unquestionably the leaders of Israel and the blind lead the blind and all will fall in the ditch. That should be pretty clear. The identity of modern day Israel appears to me to be unquestionable. We have known that and it has been correct all along.

Let's move to another area. If you will be turning to Revelation 17:18.

“And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” (Revelation 17:1-5)

Now any good Protestant alive from 1500 AD to today will tell you unequivocally that is the Catholic Church. Is that so? I believed that for a lot of years. I just accepted it. This woman will be drunk with the blood of

the saints it says in the next and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus and he wondered about her. The rest of that Chapter and Chapter 18 go on to describe her and we will get to that later. But, I have a question to pose today. Who is this great whore Babylon today? I will preface these remarks by saying this is almost important to understand as who is Israel is in analyzing end time prophecy. Almost as important. This may be the most startling understanding we will examine in this series. In that sense, I guess it should be saved to the last, as it is dramatically different from what I have believed before, my cherished beliefs I spoke of. You save those things for the end, but in so doing that I would have a problem because this definition is absolutely imperative to understand end time prophecy. We need this definition given at the beginning. It is quite different from what I believed up until five or six years ago when I began to comprehend that is wasn't the Catholic Church at all, but maybe someone else it was referring to.

Trot out your objections and get them ready. I know there will be some somewhere. Although I used the Africans as guinea pigs and ran some of this information by them and they didn't have trouble with it. There were one or two exceptions and I think that I knocked down most of the objections in most cases. Because I can show in scripture a different definition than that which Martin Luther and the other Protestants in the Reformation came up with. To those Protestants the Catholic Church was the only bad thing on earth basically. The Pope was the Anti-Christ. But, you have to understand who this whore is if you are going to understand Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and

Revelation. They can't be understood without it.

Let's see if the Bible itself can define this mysterious woman for us. Remember it did say it is a mystery. Yet you can read commentaries written in 1600, 1700 or 1800, which say there is no mystery whatsoever. It is obviously the Catholic Church. It couldn't be anything else. What is a woman typical of in Bible language? What is she a symbol of? The first thing that comes to your mind is a church, right? Yes, probably so and you are correct. Let's combine a couple of scriptures here, as I want us to see that that is certainly a valid symbolism. Hebrews 12:22-23 in this Chapter He is saying we are not come to Mount Sinai and to Moses. I have gone over this ground many times, but I want to make a particular point here. We are not come to an Old Covenant; we are come to a New Covenant. We are come to new understanding. We are come a better way because those people failed in the Old Testament and God has given us an opportunity with better promises. So, we don't go to Sinai and Moses.

Verse 22:

“But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,...”

That is what we are approaching, not Sinai, but we are approaching the City of God, the heavenly Jerusalem.

“and to an innumerable company of angels,
23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn,...”

That is us.

“...which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.” (Hebrews 12:22-24)

We are come to the Church of the Firstborn, the City of the Living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem aren't we? Those things are all synonymous. They are all one and the same. He lumps them together here. He explains an awful lot of Biblical symbolism here. Now, I want to tie this thought with Revelation 21 because it mentions here that the Church of the First, the City of the Living God and the Heavenly Jerusalem are one and the same. Let's see that confirmed and add one element to that in Revelation 21. This is about the new heavens and the new earth

“And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” (Revelation 21:2)

So, to the element of the things that Paul describes John adds one other thing, a bride, a woman, if you will. Verse 9: The angel says to John and it says it in time of the seven last plagues. This is the time setting of the things that John is seeing from the angel in a vision.

“And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, (you have the timing here) and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew

thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.”
(Revelation 21:9)

What I am about to show you, putting this in as clear English as I can possibly think of is that, “what I am about to show you is the bride, the Lamb’s wife. This woman who represents the 144,000.

“10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain,…”

No change in the subject here. He says I am going to go show you something and then he picked him up and took him there to see it. Is that plain English?

“and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,” (Revelation 21:10)

So, this bride, this woman who is marrying Christ is going to be coming in glory at that time at the beginning of the seven last plagues or at that juncture in time.

We clearly see that the true Church is represented as a woman, a bride of Christ. We should be preparing the bride right now.

Let’s go to Galatians 4. This is ground we covered before, but I want to touch it at least briefly in laying the foundation for what is to come. Paul is speaking here of Hagar and Sarah. Verse 26:

“But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.”

We are the Jerusalem, which will come from above. We are the 144,000 if we qualify to be a part of the bride of

Christ. That Jerusalem is the mother of us all. So, the true Church here is pictured as a woman. II John 1, which we covered in the last series and then I gave a whole sermon on it because some people questioned it. So, I answered that objection. I won’t reproach that sermon, you have it on tape or available to you. If there is still a question anywhere go back and listen to that one because I went through a lot of scriptures.

“The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth;” (2 John 1)

This elect lady has the truth; her children are in the truth. Then He goes on to talk to the Church. So, the Church is described as an elect lady. The true Church is a woman here. Let’s see a little bit different example, Revelation 2. Here I want to pick up the message to Thyatira. In Verse 18 he talks about Thyatira a bit and then he says in Verse 20,

“Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.” (Revelation 2:20-22)

Here is a woman representing a religious system, Jezebel, a harlot and

she calls herself a prophetess. So, it is a religious woman, a religious message that she teaches. So, a woman here can be a fallen woman as well and connected with Church or religion.

We will go through Chapter 12 of Revelation later on, but just to pick up a moment here in Verse 14. Here is a woman given wings of a great eagle that she might fly into the wilderness into her place and I state here that this is speaking of the Church. You can take that for the moment and let it lie if you will because we will come back to it and I think I can prove that conclusively.

Next Question: Since we have already seen that a woman can be symbolized as a church or church symbolized a woman more correctly, can a woman be symbolized in any other way? How about as a city or as a nation? Be turning to Ezekiel 16, as you go there understand something, Ezekiel was written approximately 120-140 years after the Assyrians took Israel captive in 722 BC. You can read the prophecy of Ezekiel about a captivity that is going to occur in Israel. I have already quoted Ezekiel 5 where a third of us die of this, that and the other thing and only a small remnant is left. You can go through those first chapters of Ezekiel and see that it is an incredible prophecy against Israel and how Israel will be absolutely demolished, destroyed. There is no getting around that is there? The only problem is that this was written long after Israel had been taken captive.

Israel was strong before this captivity occurred and then she was demolished, scattered. The northern 10 tribes never even went back to the Holy Land or the Middle East. They scattered

through Eastern Europe and finally migrated into Western Europe, to Great Britain, across to America, Canada the United States and from there they traveled to Africa, Australia, New Zealand and various other places where Israel settled. We have to look at prophecy today not just from the light of the Middle East, but also from the light of where Israel is today. It is very important to understand that when you speak of Israel today you are not speaking of the Middle East because there are very few Israelites there. The preponderance of Jews for that matter doesn't live there either. There are more Jews in Miami and New York by far than there are in Israel. There are probably more in Russia than there are in Israel. There may even be more in Los Angeles, well maybe not there, but there are a lot there. So, expand your thinking a little bit to understand that the end time prophecies are played on a much bigger stage than that of the Middle East. You have to expand your thinking to include where Israel went, where the Jews went.

The Assyrians took Israel captive in 722 BC according to most historians. Ezekiel is a prophecy about Israel and it is a prophecy about a future captivity. Look at the history of Israel since then. What has happened? From that captivity and dispersal they scattered never to be seen again by historians. Yet, God had promised to Abraham that they would be as the sands of the sea didn't He? They have to be somewhere today and they have to number as the sands of the sea, virtually uncountable. Have you ever tried to count grains of sand on the beach? I have counted them on my knee maybe, but that is about it. There is a lot of sand there. There are a lot of Israelites somewhere. We have already

covered that and we know where they are. But, the point is once they disappeared they were called the 10 lost tribes. Only Judah appears here and there in history and on the scene today as accepted by most of the world. They have no idea where Israel is. Whatever “skinheads” or whatever it might be who think they are the white Homo sapiens race are ridiculed. We fit in that category. Not “skinheads” but with those who believe in British Israelism. That will be enough to create some persecution in itself when this thing comes down.

There has never another such fall of Israel since the Assyrians. No one has even known where Israel is. So, if there has there not been another incredible fall such as Ezekiel describes since the Assyrians did that in the 722 BC then it must yet be a future event. If Israel has not risen to great power and had a great fall then it has to yet in the future. That is the only conclusion I can come up with. So, Ezekiel was written for this end time.

Let’s examine Ezekiel 16 in particular.

“Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

2 Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations,” (Ezekiel 16:1-3)

Jerusalem was a type of the government of Israel, specifically Judah in that case. Samaria represented more the Northern Tribes because that was their capital when they were divided. The Northern Tribes went into captivity long before the Southern Tribes led by Judah. So, this is about Jerusalem or the

capital Judah, Levi and Benjamin. You might throw in there the thought that Jerusalem also represents the spiritual Jew of today. Because we shall see that the Book of Revelation and the Book of Daniel are essentially not written to physical Israel, they are written to the Church, very specifically so. I went through that in a sermon not too many months back showing from Revelation 1 that John addressed the Churches. That was a revelation Christ gave to the Churches, not to physical Israel. There is a reason for that. There is a reason physical Israel is hardly mentioned in the Book of Revelation or, believe it or not in Daniel. Because physical Israel has nothing to do basically with the prophecies at the end time other than being destroyed. We get it first. Didn’t we always understand that? The Germans wouldn’t make the same mistake again, would they? They would come after us first. That was our thinking. So, He says, “cause Jerusalem to know her abominations.” Let’s think of this in a dual sense as we go through here. It refers to physical Israel, but that it also has an application to spiritual Israel at the end. Remember many will be offended and betray one another and kill one another thinking they do God a service. That is not real Christian like. The Church also has gone after all kinds of idols as a harlot. We have seen it go back to paganism in our lives. So, both applications can fit here.

You could paraphrase it to say, “Cause the physical Jew and the spiritual Jew to know her abominations”.

Now here is the message. That is who it is directed to and here is the message:

“And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto Jerusalem; Thy birth and thy nativity is of the land of Canaan; thy father was an Amorite, and thy mother an Hittite.” (Ezekiel 16:3)

Now is that actually true? No. Their father was Jacob. God is saying to Israel, You look just like a gentile. Your mother and your father might as well have been Amorites and Hittites from the look of you. That is how He opens this.

“And as for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all.” (Ezekiel 16:4)

No one seemed to care about you because of the way that you are. Question: Is this written to a church only? No, it is written to the nation of Israel, Judah in particular and it will bring Israel into it later on. It includes all Israel, all the tribes before it is done. So, a woman here could represent more than just a church couldn't it? It could represent all Israel, which is a nation, a people. This was written as an end time prophecy, remember Israel had already gone into captivity when this was written. It is speaking of today.

“And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live.” (Ezekiel 16:6)

What He is describing is a baby that was born, but was left on its own. Not even having its navel cut because this baby was looked upon as not having much value. Israel today does not have

much value. We will see how little as we proceed. But said, In spite of yourself, please live. Live!

“ I have caused thee to multiply as the bud of the field, and thou hast increased and waxen great, and thou art come to excellent ornaments: thy breasts are fashioned, and thine hair is grown, whereas thou wast naked and bare.” (Ezekiel 16:7)

In other words, you have grown up into a woman. I don't think you could miss the analogy here, could you? It is pretty plain.

“Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: (In other words, she was naked and bare and ready to make love.) yea, I swore unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine.” (Ezekiel 16:8)

Didn't He do that with ancient Israel? He made a covenant with them, married them. So, the nation was looked upon, as a woman wasn't it. God married ancient Israel, not a church, a nation.

“Then washed I thee with water; yea, I thoroughly washed away thy blood from thee, and I anointed thee with oil.”

He gave them a special blessing, set them apart as a specific nation.

“I clothed thee also with brodered work, and shod thee with badgers' skin, and I girded thee about with fine linen, and I covered thee with silk.”

God dressed Israel finely.

“I decked thee also with ornaments, and I put bracelets upon thy hands, and a chain on thy neck.

12 And I put a jewel on thy forehead, and earrings in thine ears, and a beautiful crown upon thine head.

13 Thus wast thou decked with gold and silver; and thy raiment was of fine linen, and silk, and brodered work; thou didst eat fine flour, and honey, and oil: and thou wast exceeding beautiful, and thou didst prosper into a kingdom.” (Ezekiel 16:9-13)

Not a church, a kingdom. This was written after the kingdom of Israel was destroyed. So, it is talking about a yet future kingdom, a kingdom today. When God walked by Israel in the end time He saw a woman ready for love that had fine ornaments He had given, but she was polluted. He did the best He could to clean her up. He started a church in Israel, a New Testament church composed mostly of Israelites. He grafted in some gentiles, but it was essentially from Israel. You can see the parallel here, the Church is certainly involved and yet you cannot deny that physical Israel still exists even though they are not part of God’s effort at the end time. They still have to be dealt with here.

Why did American and Britain and Western Europe have the riches of the world? Is it because our forbearers in Europe were so wonderful and came to America and were so wonderful that God just couldn’t help Himself He just had to bless us with everything He could possible could give us? Is that the kind of people we are and have been? Are we a Christian nation? We call ourselves that. In reality we are not Christian at all. Never have been. We took the

name of Christ and incorporated a lot of pagan beliefs with it and called ourselves Christian. You and I came to understand that we had never been Christians at all. We were good little boys and girls going to Protestant churches and thought we were saved and going to heaven. Meal while, keeping every abominable thing you can name, sun worship, Christmas, Easter the whole nine yards. Why were we blessed? We were blessed because of Abraham. God told Abraham that He would bless his seed as the sands of the sea. He told him they would be wealth, blessed and prosper. God had to keep that promise, but that doesn’t mean we deserved it. It means that Abraham’s seed deserved it only because of Abraham, not because of our goodness, that we need to clearly understand. Verse 15:

“But thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown, and pouredst out thy fornications on every one that passed by; his it was.”

This woman, whom God had cleaned up, would give it to anybody that wanted it. If we can be clear, “anybody”. That is not an average “hooker”. That’s pretty flapping loose. Verse 16-17:

“And of thy garments thou didst take, and deckedst thy high places with divers colours, and playedst the harlot thereupon: the like things shall not come, neither shall it be so.

17 Thou hast also taken thy fair jewels of my gold and of my silver, which I had given thee, (Because of what Abraham had done. You took all this wealth and beauty) and madest to

thyself images of men, and didst commit whoredom with them,”

We have a “Washington Monument”, an image of man in Israel today. It is at an occult height of 555 feet; witchery, Satanism right on the front lawn of America’s capital. That is Israel today.

“You made images of men and did commit whoredom with them.”

Strange we would make the father of our country a symbol, a phallic symbol. An upright organ of man on our Capital lawn. There is the image we worship today. Verse 18:

“And tookest thy broidered garments, and coveredst them: and thou hast set mine oil and mine incense before them.”

All these wonderful gifts God gave us as a result of Abraham’s obedience, what have done with them? We have set them before others. We have looked upon them, in one sense cheaply.

“Moreover thou hast taken thy sons and thy daughters, whom thou hast borne unto me, and these hast thou sacrificed unto them to be devoured. Is this of thy whoredoms a small matter,

21 That thou hast slain my children, and delivered them to cause them to pass through the fire for them?

22 And in all thine abominations and thy whoredoms thou hast not remembered the days of thy youth, when thou wast naked and bare, and wast polluted in thy blood.

23 And it came to pass after all thy wickedness, (woe, woe unto thee!

saith the Lord GOD;)” (Ezekiel 16:20-23)

When God pronounces a “woe” it is not a small thing. It is a big deal. Remember the three “woes” of Revelation. It is not a small thing at all. He is pronouncing woe upon Israel here, upon Judah more specifically to this point. We have sacrificed our children to the Protestant gods of sun worship, the trinity, Christmas, Easter, sexual liberty, drugs, and alcohol. Our children for the most part are being devoured by our culture and its society. Verse 14:

“That thou hast also built unto thee an eminent place, and hast made thee an high place in every street.”

It is hard to go through American without seeing a church again with a phallic symbol sticking right up in front to show what we really worship. Ironic our movies would be right in concert with that, right? Not that sex is bad. God made that to wonderful and good. One of the greatest blessings He ever made for man and woman. Probably, the greatest in that sense. But, misused and abused it becomes a terrible curse. Verse 25:

“Thou hast built thy high place at every head of the way, and hast made thy beauty to be abhorred, and hast opened thy feet to every one that passed by, and multiplied thy whoredoms.”

Now is the average hooker I am asking you? I don’t think so. How does God view Israel today? A whore! Now this is in God’s own words. I am not reading a Protestant commentary to you. God looks upon Israel, the nation, as a harlot. Verse 26:

“Thou hast also committed fornication with the Egyptians thy neighbours, great of flesh; and hast increased thy whoredoms, to provoke me to anger.”

What is Egypt a symbol of? We don't have a whole lot to do with Egypt today other than foreign aid. But, Egypt in Bible symbolism represents sin of any and every kind particularly idolatry because they worshipped everything that crept, crawled or swam through the river. As well as the sun, flies, gnats and fleas. They worshipped “Mother Earth” “Gaea”. They were “bunny huggers”. Well I'll be. We're fornicating with the bunny huggers as a nation. Animals are more important than human beings in the view of a lot of people today. So, we fornicated with the Egyptians. Verse 27:

“Behold, therefore I have stretched out my hand over thee, and have diminished thine ordinary food, and delivered thee unto the will of them that hate thee, the daughters of the Philistines, (symbolic of her enemies) which are ashamed of thy lewd way.”

There are a lot of people today who are ashamed of Israel. We have led the world in the dissemination of pornography and homosexuality and various other aberrations and filthy sins. Not just America alone, because this stuff was raging in Denmark, Sweden and Norway back in the 50's and 60's before it really took hold in America. So, all Israel is involved, not just America, but I speak mostly to an American audience and most of the Church is American. So, forgive me some of you around the world who will hear this tape or read this transcription if

I lay it on American the most. I think America, as the leader of Israel, deserves the most. We are about to have our food diminished. Our food in one sense is already diminished. It isn't food any more. The volume is still there, but the food value is basically gone. That is why we are so sick and afflicted. We have been delivered into the will of those who hate us. There are a few food companies, about five, who control most of the things we eat that comes into our groceries stores. They hate us, obviously. There are many many people on this earth today, many politicians, who think that the earth's population should be reduced 90%. They are going about accomplishing that in many different ways. As I travel around the world now and then and read reports here and there, I find there are people who are ashamed of America. What we export in our films and our music are shameful. Now it is a strange paradox in a way that they all want to come here, they all want what we have, but at the same time they are ashamed of our ways. Many of them absolutely outright hate us. Part of it is because of the shame of our ways and partly it is simply jealousy that they don't have all that we have. Almost universally America is now pretty much hated. They are ashamed of us.

“Thou hast played the whore also with the Assyrians, because thou wast unsatiable; yea, thou hast played the harlot with them, and yet couldst not be satisfied.”

A harlot who just could not get enough.

“29 Thou hast moreover multiplied thy fornication in the land of

Canaan unto Chaldea; and yet thou wast not satisfied herewith.” (Ezekiel 16:28-29)

That is interesting, from Canaan to Chaldea, the nation of Chaldea, the capital city of which was Babylon. Our fornications have gone to Babylon. Babylon is not just a city, but it is a land, a nation, a people of the past. There is a connection here that Israel has made with the Assyrian and the Chaldean the Babylonian Empire.

That wasn't enough for us.

“How weak is thine heart, saith the Lord GOD, seeing thou doest all these things, the work of an imperious whorish woman;” (Ezekiel 16:30)

How weak we are, look at us today. Look at Israel today, how weak is our heart? We will accept any abomination from anywhere. We are accepting Buddhism, we are accepting the Islamic religion, and we are accepting all the eastern pagan satanic religions. I was reading an article in a news magazine just last night about how transcendental meditation from Buddhism is so rapidly covering our country and is accepted by Americans. We will do anything and try anything it appears. We do not have the heart, the resolve, the firmness the strength to obey God. We will do anything on earth, but we will not do anything from heaven it seems. We will not obey God. We will obey our lovers.

This is not just a whorish woman, but also an imperious one. We are becoming more and more imperialistic and fornicating with all nations.

“In that thou buildest thine eminent place in the head of every way, and makest thine high place in every street; and hast not been as an harlot, in that thou scornest hire;”

This is an exceptionally great harlot who doesn't even take money for it, but gives it away. Who are we talking about here?

“32 But as a wife that committeth adultery, which taketh strangers instead of her husband!

33 They give gifts to all whores: but thou givest thy gifts to all thy lovers, and hirest them, that they may come unto thee on every side for thy whoredom.” (Ezekiel 16:31-33)

Who has the greatest economic package of world aid in the world today? Do we have business, social, religious intercourse with the whole world? Yes, we do. How much concourse do we have God by comparison? This is not a Christian nation.

“And the contrary is in thee from other women in thy whoredoms, whereas none followeth thee to commit whoredoms: and in that thou givest a reward, and no reward is given unto thee, therefore thou art contrary.” (Ezekiel 16:34)

Do you know of any nation that gives us foreign aid? You can those on the finger of one finger. No, we give it all away.

“Wherefore, O harlot, hear the word of the LORD:” (Ezekiel 16:35)

What does God call end time Israel? Now, this is God's definition,

not Luther's or Calvin's or some Protestant commentaries. God calls end time Israel a harlot. Are you going to get a little bit of an inclination or a thought here?

“Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thy filthiness was poured out, and thy nakedness discovered through thy whoredoms with thy lovers, and with all the idols of thy abominations, and by the blood of thy children, which thou didst give unto them;

37 Behold, therefore I will gather all thy lovers, with whom thou hast taken pleasure, and all them that thou hast loved, with all them that thou hast hated; I will even gather them round about against thee, and will discover thy nakedness unto them, that they may see all thy nakedness.” (Ezekiel 16:36-37)

God says you want to show it, I'll show it all for you. It is not just one nation with nine satellite nations with it as we thought. We have played the harlot with the whole world and we are going to see a worldwide coalition come against us, it says so right here. Anyone we played the harlot with is going to come after us. Now, we will get to some definitions later on. I think it still includes some of our original thinking from years ago, but just a little clue here, it may be bigger than we ever thought, in the words of God, not Darryl Henson. God says, “I will gather all your lovers.”

“And I will judge thee, as women that break wedlock and shed blood are judged; and I will give thee blood in fury and jealousy.”

God is going to bring our blood out and pour it on the ground. (Ezekiel 5)

39 And I will also give thee into their hand, and they shall throw down thine eminent place, and shall break down thy high places: they shall strip thee also of thy clothes, and shall take thy fair jewels, and leave thee naked and bare.” (Ezekiel 16:38-39)

All our wealth, Israel, is going to be taken away from us. We are in our “zone” are we not? We are comfortable. We have things no one else has ever had. Wealth beyond compare in all that the world has ever known. Every bit of it is going to be taken away and we will be left absolutely naked and bare. This applies not only to physical Israel, but also to the Church. Read Revelation 3 sometime. There is something in there about some people called Laodecians, who think they have it all, but they are naked and bare. Of course, that isn't anybody that I am speaking to or in the Church of God, because they are all self proclaimed Philadelphians, aren't they? They have a great deal of pride and think they have everything they need spiritually. We have covered that ground before too. If think you are a Philadelphian, maybe you had better consider because the very idea that you have picked out the best and consider that you are it, might be an indication that you “ain't what you think you is”.

“They shall also bring up a company against thee, and they shall stone thee with stones, and thrust thee through with their swords.”

That is a coalition, a conspiracy, a group of nations.

“41 And they shall burn thine houses with fire, and execute judgments

upon thee in the sight of many women: (many nations) and I will cause thee to cease from playing the harlot, and thou also shalt give no hire any more.”

We will be to the place we couldn't if we wanted to.

“42 So will I make my fury toward thee to rest, and my jealousy shall depart from thee, and I will be quiet, and will be no more angry.” (Ezekiel 16:40-42)

That is where the good part starts.

“Because thou hast not remembered the days of thy youth, but hast fretted me in all these things; behold, therefore I also will recompense thy way upon thine head, saith the Lord GOD: and thou shalt not commit this lewdness above all thine abominations.”

God has been upset, frustrated and fretted to His soul.

“44 Behold, every one that useth proverbs shall use this proverb against thee, saying, As is the mother, so is her daughter.” (Ezekiel 16:43-44)

What Israel was to start with, the daughter she has produced will be the same. What God destroyed Israel for originally, He will destroy us for now.

“Thou art thy mother's daughter, that lotheth her husband and her children; and thou art the sister of thy sisters, which lothed their husbands and their children: your mother was an Hittite, and your father an Amorite.”

You are just like the other gentiles; you are just as bad as they are. In fact we will find that we are even worse.

“46 And thine elder sister is Samaria, she and her daughters that dwell at thy left hand: and thy younger sister, that dwelleth at thy right hand, is Sodom and her daughters.” (Ezekiel 16:45-46)

Here He brings not just the Jews or the three Southern Tribes, but all Israel into this, Samaria being the capital of the Northern Tribes. Samaria is the elder or greater sister. I think greater is the better translation, bigger sister, perhaps older, but bigger mainly, ten tribes as opposed to three, in other words. The younger sister is Sodom and her daughters. What is the epitome of sin in the Bible? Egypt, Sodom. He called us Egyptians earlier. He has called us gentiles in our actions all the way through. Now, he equates us to Sodom. What laws did they just strike down in this country? The laws against sodomy. Now, it is legal for men to live and have a relationship with men. You can't call it sex. It isn't long before they can marry. They can already marry each other now in Canada; a part of Israel and it will be here soon. God looks upon Israel not only as a whore in the end time, but the worst kind. Sodom.

“As I live, saith the Lord GOD, Sodom thy sister hath not done, she nor her daughters, as thou hast done, thou and thy daughters.

49 Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she

strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.” (Ezekiel 16:48-49)

Let’s look at some of the sins of Sodom. First listed is pride. Is there any country you can think of in the world today that would epitomize “pride”? How often do you see a bumper sticker since “911” that says, “Proud to be an American”? “Fly the flag, let’s be proud.” That was the first sin listed in Sodom. “Fullness of bread” in other words, we have everything we could possibly want it would seem. Every material thing almost that could be desired. We are a very materialistic society. We dote on all the wonderful things we have. There is sin involved in that, the sin of covetness, one of the 10 Commandments, and lust. We lust for and covet anything material it seems. Fullness of bread was a sin of Sodom. “And abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters”. We love our leisure time don’t we? I deserve to flake out on the couch and just watch TV and not have to use my mind or do anything at all for x number of hours because I am who I am. Neither did she strengthen the hand of the needy. Our street people are getting to be more and more because we are so selfishly self-indulged. We could really care less about our neighbor or anybody else as long as we have our job and our care and our house and our goodies. Not much like Sodom are we?

“And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.”

Are we an arrogant nation?

“51 Neither hath Samaria committed half of thy sins; but thou hast

multiplied thine abominations more than they, and hast justified thy sisters in all thine abominations which thou hast done.” (Ezekiel 16:50-51)

“When thy sisters, Sodom and her daughters, shall return to their former estate, and Samaria and her daughters shall return to their former estate, then thou and thy daughters shall return to your former estate.

56 For thy sister Sodom was not mentioned by thy mouth in the day of thy pride,” (Ezekiel 16:55-56)

We stand-alone. We sit a queen.

“Before thy wickedness was discovered, as at the time of thy reproach of the daughters of Syria, and all that are round about her, the daughters of the Philistines, which despise thee round about.” (Ezekiel 16:57)

Do we have a reproach of the Arabs today? Is the whole Islamic world hates we with a passion. It is a pretty fit description, isn’t it? All those nations who surrounded ancient Israel are typified by Philistines. Those peoples essentially are still there, the Arabic nations, the Islamic world, about a billion of them. They hate our guts, to put it mildly.

“Thou hast borne thy lewdness and thine abominations, saith the LORD.

59 For thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even deal with thee as thou hast done, which hast despised the oath in breaking the covenant.” (Ezekiel 16:58-59)

Israel has made a lot of covenants with a lot of people. Today, what do we do? We say we are not

attending your meeting, I'm not signing your accord, and I will do as I please.

Now, we will examine more of this next time. Let's see that we have established that God can look upon a nation, a whole people, Israel, as a harlot.

“Nevertheless I will remember my covenant with thee in the days of thy youth, and I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant.”

A New Covenant in other words.

“61 Then thou shalt remember thy ways, and be ashamed, when thou shalt receive thy sisters, thine elder and thy younger: and I will give them unto thee for daughters, but not by thy covenant.” (Ezekiel 16:60-61)

Not your terms, not your way, but My covenant, says God. He has not offered that covenant to all Israel yet; He has only offered it to the Church. He will offer it someday, in the Millennium and the Great White Throne Judgment to all Israel, but today the New Covenant has only been offered to you and me. So, we are brought into the picture here.

“And I will establish my covenant with thee; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD:

63 That thou mayest remember, and be confounded, and never open thy mouth any more because of thy shame, when I am pacified toward thee for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord GOD.” (Ezekiel 16:62-63)

This is a pretty severe witness against Israel and Judah. God looks upon our peoples, Israel today, descended from Jacob as the worst kind of harlot that has ever existed. We go back a long way in that, back to Israel historically and how she was destroyed for her concourse with the gentiles.