

Satan's Church
Revelation 16:17-17:18

“Because false religion is so much a part of this fallen world, it is no surprise that it will play a major role in the end times. During the Tribulation, all the world’s diverse false religions will be reunited into one great world religion. That ultimate expression of false religion will be an essential element of Antichrist’s final world empire, in holding together his military, economic, and political structure. Only religion can unite the world in the most compelling way. Politics, economics, even military force are unable to overcome the worlds’ cultural diversity. Only religion, with its appeal to the supernatural, can transcend the physical, geographical, historical, economic, and cultural barriers to world unity. Chapter 17 reveals the spiritual nature of Antichrist’s kingdom; chapter 18 follows with its material aspects. God will destroy both aspects of Antichrist’s kingdom.”
MacArthur

- I. Satan’s area of control is the air, he is known as the prince of the power of the air. He is not king of the air, or king of anything for that matter, for there is only one King—Jesus Christ. The seventh bowl judgment will rain down on Satan’s domain to destroy the religious and economic system he sets up to deceive and control mankind into following his evil ways. It is a powerful unified system that can only be destroyed by God Himself. The type of wrath God unleashes to rid the world of *the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers over this present darkness (Eph. 6:12)* will literally obliterate everything man has come to worship and depend on.

Rev. 16:17-21

Isa. 24:19

Zech. 4:4

Ex. 9:4

Matt. 4:8-9 *8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”*

John 12:31 *31 Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.*

Eph. 2:1-3 *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*

- II. Man has been rebelling against God's authority over His creation since the fall in the form of one manmade religion after another of whatever idol appeals to them most. Anything but the worship of God will do. *For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened (Rom. 1:21).* Satan gladly offers the demonic driven idols of sex (**porneia**), materialism, self, witchcraft (**pharamkeia**), religiosity, etc. to keep man's desire for worship satisfied. During the tribulation, he will unify them into one religion that will lead to the worship of him alone as their god and savior. It started in Babylon with the tower of Babel and will continue until the day God puts a violent end to it.

Rev. 17:1-6

Rev. 14:8

Gen. 10:8-10

Ezek. 8:14

Jer. 44:17-19

Gen. 11:3-4

Rom. 1:18

Rev. 13:8

Jer. 51:7

Rev. 13:1

As a religious system, Babylon came into being long before Christianity, but in Satanic imitation it anticipated the coming true Messiah. According to religious history and legend, the Babylonian religion was founded by the wife of Nimrod (a great-grandson of Noah), named Semiramis. She was a high priestess of idol worship, and she gave birth to a son who she claimed was conceived miraculously. The son, named Tammuz, was considered a savior. Many ancient artifacts remain with the familiar motif of the mother Semiramis holding the savior-infant Tammuz, which predate Christianity. It was also said that Tammuz was killed by a wild beast and then miraculously brought back to life. Baal was the local, Canaanite name for the Babylonian Tammuz. (Guzik)

- III. The false religion that Satan creates will draw those whose names are not written in the book of life to bow down and worship a religious system that God's calls a prostitute who propagates abominations. Their devotion will be to the prostitute because of what she offers. Satan will use her as a ploy to draw the world into worshipping him alone. For that to happen, he will *ruin and leave her naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire* so that the people have no choice but to give him their undivided devotion as they submit to his power and authority. *For the Lord of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back? (Isa. 14:27)*

Rev. 17:7-18

Rev. 13:2b-3