

# THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;  
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,  
I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God*

**IN CHRIST JESUS.**

(Philippians 3.13-14 NASB)

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## **HE HAS JUDGED THE GREAT HARLOT**

As Paul would say, it is a trustworthy statement that the whole world or *kosmos* lies in wickedness or evil (1 John 5.19) and that this evil is embodied in what Scripture calls a mystery, that is, a mystery, Babylon, the great city. I have written on this matter previously and it is not my intent to go over the same ground. In this issue, I offer a simple chart, which is on the next page, that compares the true nature of the mystery Babylon to the true nature of New Jerusalem.

We are living in a day when the multitudes of the world are groaning under the weight of a system that is about to collapse as God brings His *gehenna* judgment upon it. The sins of the harlot Babylon have been piling up as high as heaven, and it is only a matter of time before this weight of sin will be judged and brought to naught in one hour. Mystery Babylon is a *man*-centered, death-riddled system that is so heavy that it is crushing mankind and has brought all into bondage to its immorality, its greed, and its uncleanness. It is a whitewashed tomb that, to many, looks good, even glamorous, on the outside, but inside it is filled with dead men's bones and all uncleanness.

Mystery Babylon is likened to **Sodom**, which signifies **immorality**. It is likened to **Egypt**, which signifies **bondage under a world system**. It is likened to **the earthly Jerusalem**, which signifies the **killing or murder of all who have died on earth** from the time of the first murder (Abel) to our present day. At the heart of mystery Babylon is love of self and love of money, which leads to all sorts of evil. Babylon represents all the rebellion of fallen man who seeks to set himself up above God, to even become his own god.

But there is good news; a day is coming when this world will be set free from this wicked bondage and Babylon the great city will be laid waste. The lamenting will go out: **'Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.... for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste'** (Revelation 18.10, 17 NASB). Then, a great shout of victory will come forth from a great multitude in heaven, saying:

**"Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and HE HAS AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS BOND-SERVANTS ON HER."** And a second time they said, **"Hallelujah! HER SMOKE RISES UP FOREVER AND EVER."** And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, **"Amen. Hallelujah!"** And a voice came from the throne, saying, **"Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great."** Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, **"Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."** (Revelation 19.1-7 NASB)

When Babylon is judged, the bride of the Lamb appears, clothed in righteousness, in the image of the love of her life, the Lamb of God, our Lord Jesus Christ. Do you realize who the bride is? She is New Jerusalem, the dwelling of God *in* spirit, conformed to the image of Christ. All who conquer in this life are destined not only to enter New Jerusalem but *to be* New Jerusalem. Meditate on this glorious

thought. New Jerusalem is a people, also described as a city; the city that has been in the heart of God since the beginning, and the city that Abraham went looking for but never found on earth, not even the Jerusalem that his forefather Shem built. Why did Abraham not find God's city in the city of Shem? Because God's city is not of this earth and not of the character of this earth! She is heavenly and of the character of the Son of God.

Consider the contrast between fallen man's city and God's city.

**MYSTERY BABYLON**

Of man  
 Old  
 Mystery  
 Earthly  
 Death  
 Curse  
 Immoral, unclean  
 In Bondage  
 Organized System  
 Everything unclean dwells  
 Harlot, whore  
 Clothed, covered to hide ugliness  
 Habitation of demons, unclean spirits, every  
 unclean, hateful bird  
 Fruit = destruction  
 Sits on peoples, multitudes,  
 nations, tongues  
 Kings of earth committed  
 immorality with her  
 Commerce of greed, love of money  
 Drunk w/ the blood of saints, blood of  
 witnesses of Jesus  
 Weeping and lamenting  
 Found no longer  
 Light of a lamp shines no longer  
 Voice of bridegroom and bride  
 heard no longer  
 Dust

**NEW JERUSALEM**

Of God  
 New  
 Reality  
 Heavenly, Celestial  
 Life  
 No curse  
 Moral, Holy  
 In Freedom  
 Living Body  
 Righteousness dwells  
 Bride, Wife  
 Adorned, added beauty,  
 splendor, honor  
 Habitation of God  
 Fruit = healing  
 Calls out tribes, tongues,  
 peoples, nations  
 Kings bring their glory into her  
 Commerce of life and love, love of God  
 Purchased with the blood of the Lamb  
 No more tears, no crying, no pain  
 Eternal, forever  
 God will illumine, light shines forever  
 Spirit and Bride say, "Come!"  
 Bridegroom says,  
 I am coming quickly!"  
 Glory!!!

Which will you choose? Choose life, love, and glory!

It is time to conquer through the life of our beloved Lord Jesus who loves us.

May your testimony be that you overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loves you (Romans 8.37)!  
 Give praise to our God!