

INTRODUCTION

CENTRAL TEXT

Matthew 13:31-33 (KJV)

Matthew 13:31 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:

32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.



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At the End of the Church Age

Admittedly, we must confess that rarely do we (Christ followers) contemplate the broader ramifications of this bible certainty wherein we all are experiencing in some measure and degree that is presently unfolding as has been predicted in the Word o God.

Now assuredly, when we take a moment to think about pending events on the redemptive agenda that is set forth in Scripture, we are generally apt to focus on the judicial events that will ultimately mark the close of this Grace Dispensation; namely, the Great Tribulation period.

And rightly as we should; however, too commonly we are quick to overlook and conclude (that is, those who hold the pre-millennial view of matters) that the Church will be extracted (“raptured out”) from the world prior to the commencement of that traumatic period of divine judgment.

Nevertheless, we often fail to consider the sure fact that Scripture also foretells and describes the emerging and prevailing real-world life transactions that surface in this realm prior to the arrival of that appointed time.

Specifically, we often fail to incorporate that keynote truth points that the Lord Jesus cited regarding this present period of time He described as the Kingdom of Heaven.

Over the centuries, students of Scripture have also referred to it as “Christendom.”

Yet, despite what reference title we employ, the factor of importance that the Lord has repeatedly placed before our view in these important parables found in the Gospels is the ultimate

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state or final condition that will characterize the true spiritual state of the professing community of faith at the end of the age; and this also includes the “end of the Church Age.”

Primarily, what He conveys to us is the central point that the spiritual state that exists at the beginning of the period changes and becomes very distinct and expected at its closure.

And subsequently, the details involving these changes are set forth later in the general volumes of the inspired Epistles that He gives to the Church.

Jude 1:1 generally dramatically summarizes the essence of “how” the visible Church entity changes and transforms from the pure and commendable model apostolic state shown in Acts to become the blasphemous and reprehensible apostate, spiritual harlot described to us in **Revelation 17** and **18**.

Jude described: “**For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.**”

And herein details, as cited in **Matthew 13:33** the introduction of the corrupting seed of leaven into pure “meal” of the sphere of the redeemed.

EMBEDDED IN THE PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

In the parables of the Kingdom of Heaven the Lord Jesus provides us with clear insight regarding the course and character of this present Gospel Dispensation that commenced with the supernatural birth of the Church on the Day of Pentecost, and will develop and expand across the appointed centuries until its culmination at the grand event of His Second Coming.

Obviously, this time span includes the entire period of the Church Age of which at this present moment includes 21

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centuries of transpired Church History; and will yet continue to elapse until the divine plan of redemption for this present era has been completed.

Affirming the fact that there is a definitive end point of completion, the Lord Christ declared **Matthew 16:18**, “**And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**”

And notably embedded within this amazing proclamation – the Living Lord fully intimated that there would arise formidable elements of opposition that would attempt to thwart the aim of His divine purpose.

And clearly, from His enlightening interpretation of the major parables through the use of similitude and metaphorical examples, the origin source of the spiritual aggressors is made plainly evident; namely, the Evil One.

Again, despite that sure reality, He assured us of His complete success.

In **John 10:28** He affirmed: “**And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.**”

However, the Lord Jesus equally made it crystal clear that the final visible state of the Kingdom of Heaven that which commenced in its natural form (“**the least of all seeds**”) would become (mutate) something very different when it reached the permitted state of full development (“**the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree**”).

And although many have interpreted this illustration to mean that in the end “the Church Triumphs,” which is a true fact spiritually; however naturally, the graphic detail imagery actually suggest a very different conclusion.

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For example, in the case of the Mustard Seed (which is a bush and remains a bush in its natural state), the Lord cited that it **“becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.”**

And from the illustration we observe that the Mustard Seed growing into something that it should not; and too, the symbols of the “birds of the air” does not represent that which is favorable.

Hence, the graphical illustration fully conveys the manifestation of that which is ominous and dark, as an outcome.

Moreover, this imagery aligns with that which is detailed regarding the rise of the false religious system of Mystery Babylon the Great that is revealed and introduced on the world scene at the close of the Church Age.

Of course, we cannot be dogmatic about this view point; however, what we can be sure about is the fact that the Lord Jesus definitively cited regarding the spiritual condition of the Kingdom of Heaven at the close of age in **Matthew 13:29:30**, **“But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.**

“Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.”

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SOURCE TEXT

Luke 21:36; 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12; 2
Corinthians 5:10

Luke 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

2 Thessalonians 1:11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:

12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.



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Standing Worthy (Axios)

The present text provides us with a broader view of the formidable spiritual challenges that will surface in the life-sphere of the contemporary period of the “last days” of the Church Age.

Conversely, the general growing expectation of the popular modernist view in the professing community of faith regarding the future is that the social evils of the fallen world can be readily overcome through carnal, modern, technological means and methods of human design and invention; however, that flawed position fails to acknowledge three unalterable, powerful fundamental facts that (according to Scripture) that innately governs the course of global affairs in this temporary domain of time.

Primarily that view does not take into consideration that the prevailing, self-destructive power of sin (human depravity) is the origin source that essentially motivates all activity in this realm of ungodliness.

Secondarily, Scripture plainly declares that this domain is fully governed by the evil “god of this world,” whose motivation is defined as the Lord declared in **John 10:10a**, “**The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.**”

Directly referring to this established surety, **1 John 5:19**, “**And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.**”

Moreover, the graphic scene of **Revelation 12:12b** forewarned: “**Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea!**

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for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.”

And thirdly, the prophetic truth of the Word of God has already clearly foretold the direction of the future course of this world.

Namely, as Revelations proclaimed in **Revelation 11:15**, **“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.”**

And although Scripture has fully outlined a myriad of pending events that will ultimately transpire before that triumphant, ultimate divine goal is achieved, in the meantime the Lord had left is with specific directives for the duties and conduct of His redeemed servants.

His holy charge to His Church has been summarized in the brief injunction that he has issued across the Gospels, as seen in the commands of **Luke 12:36a**: **“Watch ye therefore, and pray always.”**

Hence, our primary goal and objective is to purposefully align our lives with His holy mandates.

FOCUS & DETERMINATION

Now from the perspective of surface observation the instructions in righteousness may appear to be readily attainable; however, from the broader context of showcased by the Lord in the surrounding passages that presumption would be clearly invalid.

The next crucial **phrase “that ye may be accounted worthy to escape”** clearly indicates an inescapable element of difficulty

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and challenge that will repeatedly surface in our lives as we seek to devoutly follow the path of obedience to His Word.

Addressing this important matter, the inspired admonition that was given to Timothy also instructs us in **2 Timothy 2:1**: **“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.”**

Then, subsequently we are told in **verse 3**, **“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”**

As such, In the present text (**v. 34**), the Lord use of the key word “escape” refers to the consistently resisting the powerful sway to conform and compromise that will be aggressively asserted by the fallen culture around us, as well as from the ever looming and imposing evil impressions of “the flesh” (the fallen nature within us).

Highlighting the nature of the potential dilemma that we will eventually have to confront and overcome at pivotal juncture in our faith walk, **James 4:4** reminds us: **“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.”**

Now clearly this biblical position of “holy separation” is not one that is widely embraced by the modern community of professing faith; but on the contrary, they advocate pursuing a relationship of mutual coexistence and general affinity.

Hence, by adapting that rival stance against the Word of God, those who choose to follow that path will certainly find themselves drawn in and “ensnared” by the same scenarios of trouble and deception cited by the Lord in **verse 35**.

Conversely, we can only experience the shielding grace blessings of Heaven’s protections, when we follow the

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instructions in righteousness that are provided for us in God's Word.

ACCOUNTED WORTHY (AXIOS)

The key phrase “**accounted worthy**” does not refer to that which is achieved by natural means; but rather it pertains to the supernatural providences and imparted spiritual endowments which enable us to overcome the daunting spiritual challenges that we will inevitably encounter along the path of our faith walk that escalate and intensify exponentially (“i.e., “perilous times”) at the end of the Church Age.

Now it is true with regard to our standing of justification before Holy God there are absolutely no actions that will ever merit for us the gift of eternal life (i.e., **Titus 3:5 – “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”**)

However, in the practical arena of the daily outworking of our faith commitment to the Lord, it is the degree of cooperation with the Spirit's sanctifying ministry in our lives (spiritual purging & thriving) that will enable us to attain this grand designation of commendation.

The word “axios” conveys the word picture of a balancing scale on which one side rests the Word of God, and on the other side is placed the measure of our loyal and faith to the Lord that is shown by the results indicator.

In other words, the bestowal of the designation of “worthy” is not something that just happens to us; but, unquestionably, it is the end result of intentional effort and actions.

In identifying this as a noble spiritual goal to be attained, Apostle Paul interceded on the behalf of the Thessalonian

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congregation (and us) in **2 Thessalonians 1:11-12**: “Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:

“That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus.”

Again, this same wonder petitions for reaching for the high goals of spiritual excellence is also made on behalf of the Colossians (and us) in **verse 1:10**: “That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

“Why is achieving this status so important?” will undoubtedly be a question that we will be compelled to entertain. And again, the answer is presented by the Lord Jesus in **verse 36c**, where he reminds us of the pending day of accountability that each of us will have to face.

Specifically, the Chief Judge phrased it thus: “**and to stand before the Son of man.**”

STAND BEFORE THE SON OF MAN

Unquestionably, one cannot attentively read through the pages of Holy Scripture and not encounter the truth text that forewarn us of the pending occasion when we will be compelled to face our Maker, the Supreme Sovereign.

In fact, in **John 5:22** the Lord plainly clarified: “**For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son.**”

Then, He declared in **John 12:47-48**, “**And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.**”

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“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”

Thus, the main point of emphasis is that eventually everyone will have to stand before the judicial presence of the Son of Man.

Alluding to this pending eventuality, **Acts 17: 31** reported regarding Him, **“Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”**

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST (BEMA)

Now clearly distinct from the pending prophetic various events of divine judgment that will be enacted upon the sphere of the ungodly, **2 Corinthians 5:10** reminds every Christ follower of our pending appoint to also **“stand before the Son of man.”**

As such, this is a vitally important matter that we dare not ignore or dismiss, since it can transpire at any moment as we stand here awaiting for the return of the Lord Jesus for His Church (Bride) that according to Scripture will happen at some point here at the end of the Church Age.

Particularly, the Word of God declared: **“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”**

However, in our case the reason does not pertain to the issue of our eternal destiny, but rather, in regard to the issue of the accountability of our earthly stewardship.

This key point of fact was one that Lord repeatedly stressed to His Disciples during His earthly sojourn.

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For example, in **Mark 13:35-36** the Lord sternly cautioned every generation of professing believers: **“Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:**

“Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.”

And in **1 John 2:28**, we are also solemnly warned: **“And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.”**

Hence, herein we are shown the sheer importance of seeking to pursuing a life (“faith walk”) of committed devotion to the Lord, as well as wholly and unreservedly engaging in biblical stewardship service that can be classified by our Lord as as “axios.”

However, if we foolishly and recklessly choose to deviate from the direction of His holy mandates, we also can rightly expect to experience a very different outcome, when we “stand before the Son of Man.”

Likewise, in this particular instance, the Lord explained to us in **Luke 19:22a, 24, 26**, : **“And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant.**

“And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds.”

“For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.”

Hence, we must never forget, as **1 Corinthians 4:2** declared: **“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”**

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And, as a major component of that objective is the dutiful pursuit of the commendation of “axios.”

Unquestionably, we should both recognize and wholly embrace the commendable spiritual aim as the Apostle Paul petitioned Heaven on the behalf of the Lord’s Church in **Ephesians 4:1: “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.”**

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SOURCE TEXT

Revelation 3:17-20 (KJV)

Revelation 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.



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Standing on the Wrong Size of the Door

It is questionably true that the gracious scene set before us in **verse 20a**, shows us the final opportunity of hope being offered to this confessed, Christless, self-sufficient religious congregation.

There we observe that the Lord purposely and descriptively highlighted for us His relative position and the nature of His relationship with the Laodicean church; namely He vividly detailed: **“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock.”**

Or, in other words, ironically, He (the Head of the Church) was standing outside the sphere of their fellowship. Or too, we may rightly conclude that “they were too busy “have church” without Him.

“An extreme exaggeration?” some will undoubtedly conclude. But actually, such a provocative simple characterization does not remotely begin to truly convey the true spiritually calamitous depiction of that vividly graphic divine portraiture.

Can we really see the enormously shocking message that sobering scene is projecting before the vision of our mind’s eye?

Moreover, when we truly think more deeply about the true characterization being shown to us here, the perilous nature of their situation becomes quite evident.

Recall, they had believed that their relationship with God was completely acceptable; and as the Savior revealingly cited, they

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said in **verse 17a**: “**Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.**”

But actually their scandalous situation simply mirrored and validated the woeful conditions cited in **2 Timothy 3:5** that prophetically signified the prevailing spiritual state that would be progressively dominate the life-sphere of the “last days.”

The inspired Apostle detailed thus: “**Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.**”

BE ZEALOUS

The central point of emphasis that was made by the Lord in His closing declaration to the Laodicean church was that they promptly alter both the faulty perspective of their hearts, and the sinful conduct of their lives.

He sternly demanded them urgently “repent;” and allow the Spirit of God to perform the necessary inner heart course correcting measure that would transform their souls and alter their eternal destiny.

Explicitly, the Lord commanded them to “**be zealous therefore and repent.**” Or, in other words promptly address the dire nature of their unacceptable and unredeemed status before Holy God their immediate attention.

In **verse 20b**, although collectively they had rejected Him; yet, He appealed to individual souls: “**if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.**”

The word “**knock**” suggests to us that there was an earnest effort being made by the Lord to yet deliver them from their shameful condition.

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Now, where commonly the present imagery has been used to characterize the Savior's appealing to the afar-off sinner, actually in the present context of these Epistles to the Seven Churches, we must more accurately conclude that this wooing appeal was being made to this false church; and also readily to every false religionist or mere professing Christian whose unregenerate life is yet completely devoid of Christ's assuring presence and the signature confirmation of the indwelling Spirit.

Again, such a provocative conclusion will undoubtedly be protested by many; nevertheless, God's Word remains unalterably and unapologetically true.

Thus, the Lord Jesus stressed that the only subsequent actions that would change their present condition to first "repent."

ACCEPT NOW

By biblical definition, repentance simply (but comprehensively) means to earnestly recognize the present state of the sinful wretchedness of their soul and their dire need for rescuing divine deliverance that is found in solely in the Gospel.

Obviously, these perquisite heart transforming conditions were never fulfilled in the lives of the Laodicean congregation.

And, although they had donned their own crafted garments of self-righteousness; yet they still had defiantly refused to honestly recognize their inner state of complete depravity and associate guilty standing before the holy law of God.

Moreover, they had blatantly rejected the sure truth cited in **Romans 3:23** that impartially affirms: "**For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.**"

Thus, by electing to reside in that completely unacceptable state; eventually their moment of woeful discovery would

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resemble the illustrated character identified in the Lord's instructional parable recorded in **Matthew 22:11-13**, where He vividly described the results of the pending event of scrutinizing soul inspection.

Comparatively, He described: **“So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.**

“And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:

“And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.

“Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Observing the kindred points of comparison, we note that although the guest was provided with appropriate attire to be made befittingly presentable at the grand event, he flatly rejected it and presumed that he would be deemed accepted.

Too, he fully expected to participate in all the festivities of honored event unhindered and unchallenged. Consequently, he was wrong on every count; in fact, suddenly he discovered that he was terribly wrong.

TRUE ETERNAL ASSETS

As He addressed the Laodicean assembly, the tone of the Lord's proclamation appears to suggest that there was still one final chance for them to avert the wrath of impending judgement that was poised to be launched against them.

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The first thing that was required was for them to hastily secure that which was of immensely greater value than the earthly wealth they had foolishly settled for.

Specifically, He insisted in **verse 18b**: “**buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich.**”

Recall, He had already highlighted the fact that they had elected to be content with the lesser value of perishable earthly treasure rather than seeking to discover and embrace eternal riches.

Unquestionably, they were stricken by the crippling nature human malady cited in **Proverbs 21:2** that declares: “**Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the hearts.**”

Too, here we observe the evident truth cited in Proverbs 16:2 the reveals: “**All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits.**”

Clearly, they were not able to rightly assess the true eternal value of matters; and in like manner neither are any of us who choose to follow in their footsteps.

The timelessly insightful and grand counsel of the Lord of Glory duly compels each of us to deeply ponder the greater eternal implications of the profound declaration of Mark 8:36 that challenges each of us: “**For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?**”

Think about it. Have we also foolishly merely settled for that which from Heaven’s perspective is deemed as “fool’s gold?”

Or have we through trust in the Gospel have secured the priceless eternal treasure of “gold tried in the fire?”

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Next, the Lord indicated to them that they needed clothing in the proper spiritual attire to be welcomed and accepted in the hallowed sphere of “the redeemed.”

He declared to them that in their present spiritual state they were deemed shamefully naked because they had foolishly opted to don mere fleshly garments that although deemed fashionably valuable in the of the peer culture.

Indeed, the thriving garment industry in Laodicea produced a wool garment that was envy of the Empire.

However, all kindred, human-crafted spiritual coverings are deemed as “**filthy rags**” (**Isa. 64:6**) in the sight of God and are completely unable to remedy the deplorably wicked condition of the innately sinful soul.

Thus, the Savior advised them to buy from Him, the only proper spiritual attire of redemption that can clothe them acceptably in the in the sight of God.

Specifically, representing the “**righteousness of God**,” He described it as “white raiment.”

And finally, He directed them to procure the caliber of “eye salve” that was capable of true healing the debilitating malady of spiritual visual obscurity.

Again, the Lord uses an example from a notable commodity that was popularly known and esteemed as greatly beneficial in their culture.

However, the greater quality of His divine offering was matchlessly incomparable. And, without it they would remain in their gross state of spiritual blindness and continue on the wrong path that was destined to lead them to a tragic eternal end of ceaseless torment.

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SOURCE TEXT

Revelation 17:1-6 (KJV)

Revelation 17:1 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.

6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

Standing in on the Other Side of the Church Age

Unquestionably, this distinctively graphic title that was given to this evil entity fully defines the evil character of this powerful opposing entity/system of spiritual darkness that has profoundly and detrimentally left its impact both on humanity and too; has staunchly opposed the grace work of divine redemption from the very beginning since the reestablishment of human civilization after the judgment of the Great Flood.

Moreover, we are shown in this condensed yet broadly comprehensive title one of the major sources of insidious wickedness that has wrecked, unimaginable havoc and bloodshed both in spheres of individual lives and among the global culture across the broad span of the centuries since its original emergence on the plains of Shinar (**Gen. 11:2**) in the city of Babel.

Notably, **Genesis 11:4** reported: “**And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.**”

Hence, this particular pivotal incident of wholesale insurrection and wickedness signified the post-flood, introduction and continuation of the aggressively defiant attitude of the depraved human heart toward the known will of Heaven.

Rightly, **Romans 1:21** accurately described: “**Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither**

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were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

As such the practical outflow of the conduct and behavior spawn by this soul disposition of ungodly rebellion has repeatedly produced successive generations whose corresponding actions have not only revolved this central core spiritual deficiency, but too, over the centuries it has again progressively declined downward, back toward the provocative sinful state of complete corruption that was pervasively manifested in the closing days of pre-flood human culture, where the inspired Word of Truth timelessly remarked in Genesis 6:5: **“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”**

However, on this side of the Flood the record of Scripture has distinctly showcased the clear fact that the renewed heart sentiment of the latter generations of fallen humanity’s rebellion toward God has both primarily and pronouncedly originated from and publicly re-surfaced under the deceptive, evil camouflage of soul-entrapping and life enslaving systems of satanic-inspired religion, and the self-contrived, soul corruptions irreligion equally (**Rom. 1:24**).

Yet, despite whatever interim ungodly category under which the unbeliever may presently reside, the expanded prophetic disclosure regarding the afore hidden “mystery” of this diabolical entity/system addresses as “Babylon the Great,” plainly affirms to us that it is the profanely defiled and spiritually toxic origin from which every unrighteous and ungodly, anti-Gospel alternative has emerged.

Specifically, the angelic messenger referred to this evil master-craft of Satan with the subtitle: **“THE MOTHER OF**

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HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” (v. 17:5b)

PRESENTLY HIDDEN, YET FULLY, DESTRUCTIVELY ACTIVE

Now to address the pressing question (“How is this particular revelation truth relevant to our present modern era?”) that will undoubtedly be raised by the skeptical crowds numbered among the vast and various sects and division of the professing community of faith in our present contemporary era; in the insightfully revealing text of **1 Timothy 4:1**, every generation of Christ followers are forewarned: **“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”**

Moreover, in **2 Timothy 3:13** we are particularly forewarned **“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.”**

Thus, the major keynote touch points being emphatically stressed to us are:

1) the sheer importance of being consciously aware of the active presence of this principal spiritual adversary of the Gospel; and,

2) the reality of the eternal peril and detrimental impact that is being inflicted upon those that are completely overwhelmed by the dominating and enslaving influence of this premier element spiritual darkness.

As such, to stand/defend against the formidable, beguiling challenge that will persistently surface from this spiritual foe, in **Colossians 2:4** we are commanded: **“And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.”**

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Then instructed in verses 6-8: “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

“Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”

That is, through His Word, our Living Savior sternly instructs us to beware of this imminent danger and properly spiritual equip ourselves to actively contend with its looming and enlarging authoritative presence that will become progressively and publicly evident during the closing days of the Church Age.

In similar fashion, He forewarned the Disciples in **Matthew 7:15**: **“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”**

And also in **Matthew 16:6b**: **“Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.”**

Likewise, in a broader and more escalating scope, in **Matthew 10:17**: **“But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues.”**

Thus, from this (His) perspective we are also made aware of the fact that (when so deemed by divine providence) our lives (Christ followers) will be intentionally and tangibly impacted (by the progressively encroaching of this entity of spiritual darkness that according to Scripture, whose life-enslaving authority and influence will eventually globally dominate this present life sphere.

WBS SESSION (3)

This keynote fact is plainly and graphically highlighted in **Revelation 17:2** that described: “**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.**”

Then, in **verse 15** the angelic messenger further explained: “**And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.**”