

Session 3

Going Free from Jezebel

Part 1

I. The Counterfeit and True Bride of Christ

- a) In the way of a reminder, this module approaches deliverance from the perspective of making ready a pure bride for Jesus, and therefore, focuses on deliverance from issues that hinder the true bride of Christ from arising in maturity, holiness, and becoming blameless without spot or wrinkle, and to be in full union with Jesus. Because of this focus, it is essential that we explore the need to go free from the spirit of Jezebel.
- b) You might be wondering why Jezebel is more important to address than other demonic spirits like anger, rage, fear, etc. The reason is that Jezebel has as its primary objective opposing and, in fact, stopping people from arising as Jesus' prepared bride and keeping believers from receiving their full eternal inheritance. Because of its importance, we devote two full sessions to going free from Jezebel. This session establishes a proper foundation for why deliverance from Jezebel and her subordinate spirits and the word force of darkness that guides her is so critical to being prepared as Christ's bride.
- c) In the next session, we will explore how Jezebel demonizes believers in ways that seduce them away from becoming Christ's bride and explains the urgent need to go free from Jezebel's snare.
- d) To begin our study of Jezebel, we will first look at the eternal home of the prepared bride, the new Jerusalem and the enemy's counterfeit, the great harlot.

1. The intended ultimate destination for God's people is the new Jerusalem.

- a) Revelation 21:2 reads, "And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband." From this brief description of the eternal age, we learn several vital truths. First, there will ultimately be an eternal city on the earth. Second, the Father and the Son will be the temple in it (Rev. 21:22) and their throne will be there (Rev. 22:3). Third, the city will be holy for as we learn a little later in the chapter "nothing unclean and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it" (Rev. 21:27). Fourth, "He who overcomes shall inherit these things" (Rev. 1:7). Finally, we learn that the holy city is both a city and a bride for Jesus (Rev. 21:2, 9).
- b) Throughout history, God's great cloud of witnesses have given their all to qualify to dwell in this city. To make sure we are clear on the idea of dwelling there, we hold the view that only the prepared bride who allows the Holy Spirit to do a deep work within them so that they take on the nature of Christ in fullness will be the eternal wife of the Lamb and dwell eternally in the new Jerusalem. Our view is that other believers will be eternally saved but dwell in lesser levels of glory.

- c) To illustrate the pursuit of the eternal city, Abraham was not looking for a piece of land in the middle east; instead, he was looking for a city whose architect and builder is God (Heb. 11:8-10). He was looking for a heavenly city (Heb. 11:14-16). Not only did Abraham devote his life to the pursuit of this heavenly city which is described in detail in Revelation 21 and 22, many, many others did likewise (Heb. 11:20-40).
 - d) The book of Hebrews summarizes the destination of this lifelong pursuit which characterized Abraham and the others among the unnumbered cloud of witnesses as follows, “But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect...” (Heb 12:22-23).
 - e) This same passage tells us that this city is a place and a people that consists of “the spirits of righteous men made perfect” (Heb. 12:23).
 - f) There is much more that we could say about the eternal city and the journey toward it; however, space does not permit. But for our purposes, we should note that the new Jerusalem is an eternal, heavenly city characterized as pure in every way and, in some mysterious manner, is also the bride of Christ housing people who are righteous having been made perfect (or mature).
 - g) The book of Revelation makes it clear that those who will ultimately dwell there as the bride of Christ are a people who have made themselves ready through a radical pursuit of righteousness (Rev. 19:7). Just like we stated in Session 1 as we referenced 2 Corinthians 5:1-4, to dwell in God’s full purpose there must be a radical pursuit of putting on one’s bridal garments which is the righteousness of Christ. Paul wrote “we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven”, “being burdened because we do not want to be unclothed” (2 Cor. 5:1-4).
 - h) Summarizing, God has prepared an unfathomably wonderful place for His bride to dwell eternally as His wife, partner and family, but it requires a life of radical pursuit of Christ to attain this high and lofty goal.
2. In contrast to God’s eternal plan, Satan is raising up a direct counterfeit to oppose people from realizing God’s eternal purpose for His creation.
- a) In contrast to the bridal city we just described, Revelation Chapters 17 and 18 speak of a scarlet woman who rides on a beast. The woman is referred to as Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth (Rev. 17:5).
 - b) Throughout the history of the church opinions have varied widely as to who or what this harlot is. She has been referred to as Rome, the Roman Catholic Church, New York City, modern apostate Jerusalem, literal Babylon, apostate ecumenism, the Illuminati, Islam, and Mecca/Saudi Arabia.¹ Even though the exact identity of the harlot is still a mystery to most including me, we can know several things about her.
 - c) First, she is a city. “And the woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth” (Rev. 17:18). Second, she is a religious movement opposed to

Christianity. Robert Thomas in his extensive two volume commentary on the book of Revelation writes,

It is indicative of her spiritual harlotry and representative of an ecclesiastical or religious facet that is a counterfeit of the real. In prophetic language, prostitution, fornication, or adultery is equivalent to idolatry or religious apostasy...she leads the world in pursuit of false religion whether it be paganism or perverted revealed religion.²

- d) Third, she is impure in every way. “The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality (Rev. 17:4, ESV).
- e) Fourth, she is the mother of all spiritual harlotry depicted as a prostitute and she desires to be a queen (Rev. 17:5; 18:7).
- f) In fact, she is a counterfeit of the true bride of Christ. She is an earthly city rather than a heavenly one. She is filled with impurity and abominations rather than purity and righteousness, and she wants to be the queen over the many waters [nations] that she sits upon. Of course, the bride of Christ is the true queen in her eternal role as the eternal wife of Jesus, the King of kings.
- g) Joel Richardson in his book, *Mystery Babylon*, writes this about the great harlot,

She is at once a queen, a prostitute, and a cold-blooded killer. High in the air, she proudly waves a gold cup. Though it gleams on the outside, it is filled with a horrific mixture of the shed blood of God’s holy martyrs and the sickening, “impurities of her prostitution” (17:4, HCSB). Not only has she drunk from this cup, but she has also enticed “the kings of the earth” and even entire nations to drink from it (17:2). The woman is full of arrogance, rebellion, and raw self-glorification. Like the proverbial ring of gold in a swine’s snout, though masquerading as a queen, she is in fact a vile and classless prostitute. ...she has seduced the kings of the earth to live “luxuriously with her (18:9, HCSB).³
- h) As the above quote so accurately conveys, she is a seducer and a killer of the people of God. As a seducer, she has made the people of the earth drunk with the wine of her immorality (Rev. 17:2) and, as a killer, she is drunk with the blood of the saints and the blood of the witnesses of Jesus (Rev. 17:6).
- i) The harlot along with her cohort the beast, have declared and are waging war with the Lamb and the saints of God (Rev. 17:14). In the end times, Satan will deceive the nations, persecute the church, and cause many Christians to fall away from the faith (Matt. 24:10; 2 Thess. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1). In fact, John saw the harlot “drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus” (Rev. 17:6). The harlot will kill many believers who resist her immorality.
- j) We know that in the end, God wins; however, we also know that there will be many casualties of her snare along the way before she is ultimately destroyed.
- k) Therefore, the church and individual believers who comprise the true church are in a battle with the great harlot, and God wants each of us individually to win. Not only to win in the end as a corporate entity called the church, but also to individually come out of her now.

The scriptures tell us, “Come out of her, my people, that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues” (Rev. 18:4).

- l) If you begin to think of the harlot as to how it will manifest in the earth in a natural perspective, your mind wonders to is it a new world order, Jerusalem, Babylon, Rome, or Saudi Arabia or similar ideas. Truly few if any know for sure. The exact identity of the great harlot is still a mystery to the vast majority of the church and it certainly is to me. But if we forget for a moment the natural manifestation of the harlot and look to the spirit realm, we can identify the demonic spirit behind the harlot because Revelation 18 gives us a clear clue to the spirit behind her identity. It is important that we identify this spirit because first and foremost it is the entity we must come out of.
- m) Therefore, it is crucial we understand what spirit is behind the harlot.

II. The Spirit Behind the Harlot

1. The demonic spirit behind the harlot and directing her actions is the queen of heaven.
 - a) We find the key to the spirit behind the harlot is Revelation 18:7. It reads, “...she says in her heart, ‘I sit as a queen and I am not a widow, and will never see mourning’”. This verse draws from Isaiah’s description recorded in Isaiah 47:5-9 of the Babylonian goddess that so strongly influenced that nation. The entire chapter of Isaiah 47 is a prophecy about the judgment of the Babylonian fertility goddess, Ishtar. In our Lifeschool class, *The Overcomers*, we write this about Isaiah 47,

Although not obvious at first, and many commentators have missed this extremely important point, Isaiah began the prophecy of Isaiah 47 like he did in 46:1-2, this time addressing a Babylonian goddess rather than the two Babylonian gods. Notice carefully that Isaiah is not talking to the Babylonian empire, as many presume, but to the “virgin daughter of Babylon” who is “tender and delicate. As we just saw in the background section, the virgin daughter of Babylon refers to Ishtar...

- b) The prophecy of Isaiah 47 focuses not only on the pagan goddess Ishtar but also on the demonic spirit behind her. The spirit behind goddess worship in Babylon and behind the end-time harlot Babylon as well is the territorial principality, or world ruler, who calls herself the queen of heaven.
- c) The queen of heaven was a constant nemesis to Israel throughout her history. In addition to Isaiah’s prophecy about her, Jeremiah spoke against this demonic entity and Israel’s entanglement with this demonic entity,

As for you, do not pray for this people, and do not lift up cry or prayer for them, and do not intercede with Me; for I do not hear you. Do you not see what they are doing in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods in order to spite Me” (Jer. 7:16-18).

Then all the men who were aware that their wives were burning sacrifices to other gods, along with all the women who were standing by, as a large assembly, including all the people who were living in Pathros in the land of Egypt, responded to Jeremiah, saying, "As for the message that you have spoken to us in the name of the Lord, we are not going to listen to you! But rather we will certainly carry out every word that has proceeded from our mouths, by burning sacrifices to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, just as we ourselves, our forefathers, our kings and our princes did in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; for then we had plenty of food and were well off and saw no misfortune. But since we stopped burning sacrifices to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have met our end by the sword and by famine." And said the women, "when we were burning sacrifices to the queen of heaven and were pouring out drink offerings to her, was it without our husbands that we made for her sacrificial cakes in her image and poured out drink offerings to her?" (Jer. 44:15-19).

2. We can trace the origins of the queen of heaven at least back to the tower of Babel.
 - a) The Tower of Babel as denoted in the book of Genesis was a structure called a *ziggurat*. As such, the tower was much more than an observation lookout. It was a temple complex, considered the literal homes of the gods where their statues were fed, bathed, and clothed daily as the priests and priestesses cared for them as one would a king or queen, and as such, was much more than an observation lookout. It was a structure that among other uses housed pagan religious ceremonies including goddess worship. Ishtar, the fertility goddess of love, war, and sex, was worshiped there.
 - b) As we noted previously, the worship of Ishtar was the worship of the demonic principality the queen of heaven. When God destroyed the tower of Babel, scattered the people, and confused their language, the descendants of those scattered throughout the earth took with them their pagan idols and false worship of which the queen of heaven remained the spirit behind them.
 - c) With the destruction of the Tower of Babel, goddess worship and worship of the queen of heaven was scattered all over the earth. There is a large body of historical evidence of goddess worship in the pagan religious practices of ancient peoples who interacted with the nation of Israel, and the worship of the queen of heaven did not end with the end of the Old Testament era. Paul battled this spirit too in Ephesus (Acts 19:34). No matter where goddess worship sprang up, the spirit behind this horrid idolatry was the demonic world force of darkness, the queen of heaven.
3. The manifestations of the queen of heaven through ancient goddess worship included virtually the same practices everywhere it appeared.
 - a) With the purpose of enhancing fertility of the worshipers including their families, crops, and livestock, goddess worship was focused on venerating the reproductive powers of the female.⁴ In all of these places with different names for their goddesses, the practices were similar. They included drunkenness, drug induced frenzies, heterosexual and homosexual perversion and fornication, witchcraft, demonically inspired control of men and women

which led them away from God and His purposes, emasculation of men, demonically inspired prophetic oracles, and even human sacrifice.

b) Let's look at a few examples.

Hetero and Homo Sexual Immorality and Perversion

a) Goddesses were normally worshiped with ritualistic sex to cause the gods to join together ensuring good harvests and fertility. Believing the sexual union of Baal and Asherah produced fertility, their worshipers engaged in immoral sex to cause the gods to join together, ensuring good harvests. This practice became the basis for religious prostitution (1 Kings 14:23-24). The priest or a male member of the community represented Baal. The priestess or a female member of the community represented Asherah.

b) It is said that in Corinth alone, there were more than 1,000 prostitutes in Aphrodite's temple.⁵ Augustine wrote that the Phoenicians offered a gift by prostituting their daughters to Venus before they united them to husbands.⁶

c) Jennifer LeClaire in her book, *Defeating Jezebel*, writes the following,

Babylonian girls were steeped in fertility cult rites and offered the most precious gifts they could devote: their virginity, chastity and modesty. Rather than bowing to the one true God, every knee bowed to the goddess, every hand was stretched out to her, every lip revered her name. The name was Ishtar, an alias for Semiramus and Jezebel.⁷

d) In this way, God's incredible gift of sexuality was perverted to the most obscene public prostitution. No wonder God's anger burned against his people and their leaders.⁸ But it was not only heterosexual prostitution practiced in the temples of the queen of heaven. Note this quote by Jonas Clark in his book, *Jezebel*,

There is a connection between homosexuality and Ashtoreth (the goddess that Jezebel worshiped). Ashtoreth was worshipped in temples by those who had both male and female prostitutes in their service, many who were also homosexual and lesbian prostitutes. In the sexual rites associated with the worship of Ashtoreth, homosexuality was common place.⁹

e) An illustration of the lesbian sexual perversion in ancient goddess worship is as follows,

A celebration honoring Dionysus and Demeter, during which women carried models of male and female genital organs, used obscene language, and encouraged each other to take lovers. On the tables were cakes made in the form of phalli and female organs, and the celebration, restricted to women, eventually developed into an all-night orgy where women shed all standards of decency.¹⁰

Drunkenness and Drug Use

a) Goddess worship often included not only licentious sexual promiscuity, but also hallucinating through drunkenness or drug use. For example, in the worship of the goddess Dionysus, participants danced seductively and drank intoxicating drinks—above all wine which they believed contained the spirit of Dionysus. As they began to hallucinate, they

perceived the world of nature as supremely beautiful and sweet. They felt possessed by the goddess and in a state of extreme ecstasy prophesied.¹¹

- b) There are numerous other examples of worshipers working themselves into a drunken or drug induced frenzy and then participating in the ritual prostitution and even taking extreme actions such as men castrating themselves for the purpose of honoring the goddess.

Witchcraft

- a) As we stated earlier, Isaiah 47 describes the spirit behind the great harlot. As you read through Isaiah 47, you will quickly see the predominant place witchcraft had in the worship of the queen of heaven. Phrases like “in spite of your many sorceries”, “in spite of the great power of your spells”, “evil will come upon you which you will not know how to charm away”, “stand fast now in your spells and in your many sorceries”, and “let now the astrologers, those who prophesy by the stars, those who predict by the new moons” are sprinkled through the chapter. Therefore, as you can see the spirit behind the harlot is also the same spirit behind all witchcraft. As our spiritual mentor on the queen of heaven frequently said, the queen is the “mother goddess of witchcraft”.
- b) Witchcraft was practiced in ancient days as a significant part of goddess worship so as to foretell the future and attempt to control it for their advantage through this practice. Jonas Clark wrote, “Ashoreth is a goddess of fortune telling, who is married to Baal a prophetic voice of divination. So the result of this union is controlling manipulative prophetic divination.”¹²
- c) We see other examples of witchcraft as part of the worship of the queen of heaven. In Egypt, the worship of Osiris honored her as one in possession of powerful magic being the mother of god who could bestow immortality. Often, goddess priests would sleep in the pagan temple at night in order to receive a dream from the goddess.¹³

Control

- a) Fertility goddesses were almost universally goddesses of love, war, and sex. As such, they controlled their adherents through those traits. For example, as mentioned previously young virgins were *required* to give themselves to someone other than their husband before they could marry and to do this as an act of worship of the goddess. In this way, sex was used to control worshipers. They were required to do certain acts in order to be approved by the group.
- b) Goddesses were also goddesses of war. Because of this character trait, they were strong and powerful in war. We see this in the great harlot as she is drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus (Rev. 17:6). As a warrior, they were at times referred to as goddesses of strife, discord, contention, and rivalry. Read the following quote about the goddess Eris,

ERIS was the goddess or personified spirit (*daimona*) of strife, discord, contention and rivalry. She was often portrayed, more specifically, as the *daimona* of the strife of war, haunting the battlefield and delighting in human bloodshed. Because of Eris'

disagreeable nature she was the only goddess not to be invited to the wedding of Peleus and Thetis. When she turned up anyway and was refused admittance, she raged and threw a golden apple amongst the goddesses inscribed "To the fairest." Three laid claim to it--Hera, Aphrodite and Athena--and in their rivalry brought about the events leading up to the Trojan War. Eris was closely identified with the war-goddess Enyo.¹⁴

- c) These two traits of ancient goddesses illustrate how this demonic spirit controls others through persecution, murder, sex, anger, rage, and discord.

Emasculation of Men

- a) Virtually everywhere it was practiced, goddess worship gave expression to the feminine aspect of the divine image. In other words, goddess worship elevated the feminine with the result being the emasculation of men.¹⁵
- b) For example, the priests of Cybele were Eunuchs. The young men who wanted to avail themselves to the service of the goddess would castrate themselves at the height of a worship service in honor of the goddess and then dress with women's clothing.¹⁶ In another example, the male priests of Caelestis were not eunuchs but they attempted to be effeminate having womanish voices, rubbed their skin smooth, wore female clothing, flaunted their impure bodies, and boasted of their depravity.¹⁷
- c) Another story illustrates the way this spirit emasculates men. In the worship of the goddess Dionysus. Someone by the name of Stratonice tells of a young man name Combabus who before he left the temple of Dionysus castrated himself and left his genitals in a box with the king so that later he could not be accused of seducing the queen.¹⁸ The temple in which Combabus castrated himself became the origin of the practice of castration in the temple. It became a common practice in that day for men to castrate themselves, put on women's clothing, and perform the work usually done by women.¹⁹
- d) The practice of castration was seen primarily as an attempt by men to conform to the goddess as closely—in other words, to become as much as possible like a woman--so as to serve the goddess more perfectly.

Prophetic Oracles

- a) Prophetic oracles given by the goddess to the people were also common place in goddess worship. Stephen Benko records this illustration of prophetic oracles made by an ancient goddess. Supposedly, Hannibal wanted to carry off a golden column from the temple of Juno at Lacinium but the goddess appeared to him in a vision and warned him through prophetic direction not to do it.²⁰
- b) The following is another example of a prophetic oracle in a goddess worship celebration,

The biennial orgia were ecstatic rites held over mountaintops in the darkness of night, flickering torches providing the only light. The worshipers, dressed in long robes made of animal skins, let their hair flow freely in the wind. ..Flutes, drums, and cymbals filled the air with music which caused the excited participants to break out in uncontrollable and incoherent cries of joy. They danced and drank intoxicating drinks, above all, wine,

which they believed contained the spirit of Dionysus. Eventually as they began to hallucinate, ...such inspired people in a state of extreme ecstasy, prophesied.²¹

- c) Again quoting Benko, he writes about the goddess Caelestis,

The temple of Caelestis was a place of oracles. We are told that when he was proconsul in Africa, the emperor Pertinax suppressed many rebellions by the aid of prophetic verses which were issued from the temple of Caelesits. A similar statement is made in the story of Macrianus (260-261 A.D.): The priestess of Caelestis at Carthage was wont, when inspired by the goddess, to predict the truth. To some extent the popularity of Caelestis may be attributed to her fame as a source of oracles.²²

- d) One day while our friends from Australia, Noel and Di Mann, were visiting we traveled to Conyers, Georgia to visit the site of the apparitions of Mary. We will say more about Mary as a continuation of the worship of the queen of heaven later; but, we learned a lot about the prophetic oracle of the queen of heaven through this visit. Note the following from the New Georgia Encyclopedia,

From October 13, 1990 through October 13, 1998, Conyers housewife Nancy Fowler claimed that the Virgin Mary appeared to her and relayed messages to all citizens of the United States. The messages ranged from admonitions to pray to warnings of war. The Virgin's supposed visits to Conyers, a suburban community about thirty miles east of Atlanta, makes Conyers one of the longest-lived Marian apparition sites in the nation. In the early 1990s the roads to Conyers were clogged with pilgrims yearning to hear Mary's message. They came from every direction, but most were from heavily Hispanic southern Florida. They headed toward a large field adjacent to Fowler's home. Once there, they prayed on Mary's Holy Hill, filled bottles with water from the Blessed Well, or visited the small bookstore on the property. At midday the pilgrims moved toward Fowler's farmhouse. Inside, Fowler waited for a message from the Virgin Mary in the Apparition Room...The pilgrims prayed in their native tongues, including English, Spanish, Russian, and Chinese. When Mary's message was broadcast over loudspeakers, the pilgrims raised their rosaries, icons, and petitions heavenward, hoping the items would be blessed by the presence of the Virgin Mary. Some claimed miracles at this site—rosaries turning to gold, the sun spinning and changing colors, and the scent of rose petals filling the air.²³

III. Ways the Queen of Heaven Manifests Today

- a) Although some forms of goddess worship do still happen in certain places where witchcraft is practiced, pagan goddess worship is not practiced today on a wide scale basis like it was in ancient times. Even so, the queen of heaven still manifests today in very significant ways.
- b) In this final section of this session we mention briefly eight arenas where the queen of heaven manifests today with many of the same traits as occurred in ancient times.
1. The activities of the queen of heaven permeate western culture in today's society.
 - a) Most likely, as you were reading through the notes you thought that this is just like today. Of course, the circumstances are different. You don't find a temple to Ishtar on every

corner; however, those things practiced in the goddess temples of old still permeate our society.

- b) Alcohol and drug use are rampant in western culture. Sexual immorality so engrosses our society that it is rare for a couple to wait until marriage to have sex. Almost every young person is sexually active by their late teens and the same is true for many who call themselves Christian.
- c) Homosexuality, lesbianism, and even transgenderism also permeate the culture. Homosexuality is now even being taught to our kindergartners and elementary students. Movies are exalting homosexuality and even children's films and businesses focused on entertaining children are venerating homosexual behavior.
- d) Abortion has been the law of the land for many years and as such is the human sacrifice to the idols of today. For the convenience of men and women babies routinely offered before the queen of heaven.
- e) Just like goddess worship venerated the powers of the female, women's rights issues have fueled the feminist movement. In many places, women are in a rage over abortion rights and other similar issues.
- f) Witchcraft is practiced in many places other than in satanic covens. Many draw their fortune from horoscopes, tarot cards and other seemingly innocent practices. Sex is used as a means of control.
- g) All in all, the traits of the worship of the queen of heaven are just as prevalent in today's we

2. The queen of heaven has infiltrated many marriages in today's culture.

- a) As we noted earlier in the session, the queen of heaven manifested as goddesses of love, sex, and war. The love that characterized and still characterizes ancient goddesses was not the *agape* type of love we associate with Christianity; rather, it is more accurately labeled as lust or sexual love. Goddesses were the goddesses of lust, sex, and war.
- b) Today's marriages are infiltrated with sexual lust. If the numbers are accurate, many men are deeply involved in pornography. They are being enticed by lust and attempting to impose unreal expectations on their wives. These pressure couples to sexual practices beyond the boundaries God desires, and men and women both are tempted with and many succumb to extramarital affairs.
- c) The queen of heaven drives the sexual relationship of many married couples much more than the Holy Spirit producing many more couples motivated by lust than agape love for each other.
- d) Goddesses were also goddesses of war. As such, many marriages are bombarded with discord, anger, rage, arguments, criticism, and judgment. Many times in marriages, both husbands and wives draw upon the warring nature of the queen to control or dominate their mate. These issues separate husbands and wives rather than drawing them to closer union with each other.

3. The queen also separates many families from one another.
 - a) In addition to the queen's effect on marriages, this evil spirit also plays havoc in families. The queen will cause the actions of both husbands and wives to escalate to levels that many times lead to divorce. Whether it is the controlling spirit of the queen or the sexual lust of her ways, this entity puts great pressures on families often separating them either in divorce or in distant relationships.
 - b) Many times, the children are affected. A controlling mother will almost always cause her children to leave the home as soon as possible. The same is true with a domineering father.
4. The queen also influences and leads many parts of the global church astray.
 - a) Any church that promotes or ignores the various traits we discussed previously is being influenced and led astray by the queen. Many parts of the church are now promoting homosexuality and homosexual marriage as an accepted practice in their church or denomination.
 - b) Churches are also accepting or at least ignoring rampant pre-marital sex in their congregations and turning their heads as worship leaders who are known to be involved in sexual immorality continue to lead worship. Pastors are being snared with pornography and those having affairs are given a slight slap on the wrist, called to a brief sabbatical, and then allowed to continue to minister.
 - c) The Catholic Church and some others venerated Mary much beyond where Mary the mother of Jesus should be elevated. In fact, the Catholic church with its Mariology is actually worshipping at the altar of the queen of heaven as much as it is the Lord Jesus. We will say more about this in our session on entry points.
5. The queen also is the basis for virtually all false religions and the occult.
 - a) It would take quite a lot of space to trace false religions back to their demonic roots; however, Islam, Hinduism and all occult practices find their source in the queen. She is the mother goddess of witchcraft and she is also the mother of most false religions.
6. The queen also manifests by opposing the leadership of the local church.
 - a) Most likely we have all heard story after story about how the spirit of Jezebel opposes true shepherds of the Lord. Through flattery, criticism, deceit, and lies this spirit uses the church's congregants to oppose the pastor, his wife and the leadership of the church.
 - b) Basically those controlled by this spirit want the job of the pastor. They think they can do it better than the pastors and they use whatever means available to resist the pastor for the purpose of taking over. Just like it was said of Jezebel, she does this to lead the bondservants astray.
7. The queen and her activities are now becoming the law of the land in America.
 - a) As with any of these eight arenas in which the queen manifests, we could create an entire session on the specifics. But know this. The activities of the queen are now becoming the law of the land in America.

- b) Just like in the times of Jezebel and Ahab, Jezebel made her religion the law and at the same time outlawed the worship of Yahweh. What a parallel to what is now happening in America.
 - c) Homosexual marriage is now the law of the land setting up a foundation to persecute the church for its stand upon the word of God. Abortion is also the law of the land and has been for many years.
8. The queen is not only gaining deep inroads into the USA government, it is also strongly influencing the governments globally.
- a) Virtually all governments of western nations hold the same position as America on moral and cultural issues. How and when it will come, but the queen is most definitely setting the stage for the coming of the antichrist and his anti-God agenda.
 - b) The queen and her horrid practices are penetrating into the global culture and preparing the world for the coming new world order.
 - c) In light of this and all of the other ways the queen is manifesting in the culture today, it is imperative that God's people come out of her that we do not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues.

¹ Ibid, pp. 3-11.

² Robert L. Thomas, *Revelation 8-22, An Exegetical Commentary* (Moody Press, Chicago, 1995), p. 282.

³ Joel Richardson, *Mystery Babylon* (WND Books, Washington, DC, 2017), p. xi.

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¹⁸ Benko, p. 55.

¹⁹ Benko, p. 55.

²⁰ Benko, p. 29.

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