### THE STORY...

**King Herod's** wife, Herodias, hated John the Baptist. The desert-dwelling prophet had dared to call her an adulteress for leaving her husband Philip to marry his evil but wealthier brother. Now the wicked queen determined to use her influence over Herod to get even with John. First, she persuaded him to have John imprisoned. Then she asked to have John executed, but Herod refused. He knew that John was a true prophet and feared political backlash from the people. Finally, Herodias developed a fool-proof scheme. She threw a party for Herod’s birthday and invited all his friends and the nobles from his realm, then arranged for her beautiful daughter Salome to dance in a seductive, captivating style. The pompous oath: “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half my kingdom.” Herodias hoped that after Herod had a few glasses of wine, he would behead John. That very day the mighty prophet John was beheaded alone in prison.

Herodias feared political backlash from the people. In the book of Revelation, the term “Babylon” refers to papal Rome. The Roman Catholic Church freely admits that during the Middle Ages, she persecuted the saints and ruled over the faithful with iron fists.

### THE STUDY

#### Fill in the blanks after reading each Bible text.

1. What other mother and daughter team persecuted God’s people in the Old Testament?
   - **1 Kings 16:32** killed the prophets of the Lord.
   - **2 Kings 11:11** saw that her son was dead, the army and destroyed all the royal heirs.

   **NOTE:** In the Old Testament, Jezabel and her daughter Athaliah were known for violently controlling the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel and Judah, and for forcing pagan worship on God’s people.

2. What is the second angel’s message in Revelation 14?
   - **Revelation 14:8** And another angel followed, saying, “... is ____________ ____________, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”

   **NOTE:** Revelation 14 contains an urgent three-point message that must reach the entire world before Jesus’ second coming. In this lesson we will look at the second point of that message. God’s indictment of Babylon is given because she has made all nations drunk with her intoxicating wine. This lesson will address some very straight, and perhaps disturbing, messages to both Catholic and Protestant believers. Remember that the second angel’s message is from Jesus, the One we all love. Open your heart to His truth, for His only aim is to save and to bless you.

3. How does God symbolize Babylon in Revelation 17?
   - **Revelation 17:18** And the ______________ whom you saw is that ______________ has share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.”

   **NOTE:** In Bible prophecy, a woman symbolizes a church. A pure woman represents God’s true church as described in Revelation 12. An unfaithful woman represents a church that has departed from the Scriptures. We can be certain who this fallen woman is, because Revelation 17:18 says she was ruling when the **church-state coalition, with the church (the fallen woman) riding and controlling the state (the beast). Revelation 13 also portrays two beasts involved in forcing others to worship. The first beast is the same power as the “mother of harlots” described in Revelation 17. This lesson will soon reveal the identity of the second beast.

4. What other evidence from Revelation 17 proves that Babylon refers to papal Rome?
   - **A.** She is guilty of blasphemy (v. 3).
   - **B.** She is dressed in purple and scarlet (v. 4).
   - **C.** She is called the Mother (v. 5).
   - **D.** She has harlot daughters who also are fallen (v. 5).
   - **E.** She persecuted and murdered the saints (v. 6).
   - **F.** She sits upon “seven mountains” (v. 9).
   - **G.** She ruled over “the kings of the earth” (v. 18).

   **NOTE:** Papal Rome fits every description. Its headquarters is in Rome—the city of seven hills. Scarlet is the color of cardinals’ robes, and the pope often wears the royal color of purple at important functions. The Roman Catholic Church freely admits that during the Middle Ages, she persecuted the saints and ruled over the kings of the earth. (For evidence that the papacy is guilty of blasphemy, review Lesson 19.) God’s symbolism fits perfectly—a fallen mother church whose fallen daughters protested and thus began to be called Protestants. Notice this quote from Father James A. O’Brien: “That observance [of Sunday instead of Saturday] remains as a reminder of the Mother Church from which the non-Catholic sects broke away.”

5. How do the beasts of Revelation 13 and 17 compare?
   - **Revelation 13:1** Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven ______________ and ten ______________, … and on his heads ______________.
   - **Revelation 17:3** And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of ______________, having seven ______________ and ten ______________.

   **NOTE:** The beast of Revelation 13:1-10 and the beast of Revelation 17 are obviously the same. Both symbolize this Roman power. Revelation 17 points out the church-state coalition, with the church (the fallen woman) riding and controlling the state (the beast). Revelation 13 also portrays two beasts involved in forcing others to worship. The first beast is the same power as the “mother of harlots” described in Revelation 17. This lesson will soon reveal the identity of the second beast.

6. What is the meaning and origin of the word “Babylon”?
   - Genesis **11:4**, 6, 7, 9 Let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens. … And the LORD said, … Let Us go down and there ______________ their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech. … Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD ______________ the language of all the earth.

   **NOTE:** The term “Babel” and “Babylon” both mean “confusion.” The name originated at the Tower of Babel, built by defiant pagans after the Flood. They hoped to build it so high that no future floodwaters could cover it. But the Lord confused their languages, which created such chaos that the project was abandoned. Babylon later arose to be an idolatrous world kingdom that persecuted God’s people. In the book of Revelation, the term “Babylon” signifies a counterfeit religious kingdom that is an enemy of God’s spiritual Israel.

7. How does God describe Babylon in urging His people to leave?
   - **Revelation 18:2, 4** And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is ______________, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit. … of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.”

   **NOTE:** God says that Babylon has fallen and has become the home of devils and evil spirits. He warns that his sins are so offensive that Babylon must be destroyed. God’s people must come out quickly, or else be destroyed with Babylon’s plagues.
8. Jesus repeatedly indicts Babylon for making the world drunk with her wine. What is this wine?

Revelation 17:1-4 Having in her hand a golden cup full of

NOTE: Her wine cup is full of intoxicating lies (Proverbs 12:22), or false teachings that make people spiritually drunk. Here is a partial list of her beguiling lies:
- A. The Ten Commandments are not binding (see Lesson 6).
- B. Sunday sacredness (see Lesson 20).
- C. Secret rapture (see Lesson 1).
- D. Immortality of the soul (see Lesson 9).
- E. An eternal torment in hell (see Lesson 13).
- F. Confusing your sins to a priest (see Lesson 19).
- G. Counterfeit baptisms (see Lesson 12).
- H. A confusion of tongues (see Lesson 21).

The sad truth is that once Babylon's messages are accepted, a person becomes spiritually drunk and virtually unable to understand what the Bible really says, because these false doctrines dull a person's ability to comprehend the truth.

9. What power will support the beast in the end time?

Revelation 13:11, 12 Then I saw coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

NOTE: Speaking as a dragon means that the United States, under the influence of Satan, will reverse its original Protestant principles of the separation of church and state. It will pass religious laws forcing people to worship contrary to conscience or else be punished with economic sanctions (vv. 16, 17) and finally death (v. 15).

11. What three powers will unite against God's people in the end time?

Revelation 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the ____________, out of the mouth of the ____________, and out of the mouth of the ____________.

NOTE: The dragon is Satan (Revelation 12:9), working through pagan religions. The beast of Revelation 13:10-15 is the papacy. The false prophet in Revelation 16 is apostate Protestantism in America, which is the same power as the beast of Revelation 13:11-17 that has two horns like a lamb but will later speak as a dragon. This is the power that does "great signs" and "deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast." Revelation 13:13, 14 (Compare with the description of the false prophet given in Revelation 19:20.)

12. Will these diverse organizations ever effectively unite?

Revelation 16:14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the ____________, of the earth and of the ____________, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

NOTE: Yes, God says they will unite. Notice that they are united in their work of spreading deception and building a confederacy against God's people. "The battle of that great day of God Almighty" is the same event as the dragon making war with the woman's offspring (Revelation 12:17).

13. What effective methods will this end-time coalition utilize?

Revelation 13:13, 14 He performs great ____________, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he even makes ____________ those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do.

NOTE: This end-time coalition will work mighty miracles by the spirits of devils, and almost the entire world will be convinced (Revelation 13:3 and 5). Revealed 18:23 says, "By your sorcery all the nations were deceived." Revelation 19:20.

14. What will prevent God's end-time people from being deceived?

Isaiah 8:20 To the and to the If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

NOTE: God's people will need to test everything by the Bible. They will not be deceived, because they will test the miracles and teachings to determine whether they come from spirits of devils or from the Lord.