

THAT GREAT CITY

An awesome religious and political power, which for centuries has ruled over entire nations and vast multitudes of people, is today the most powerful organisation on the face of the earth.

And what is truly amazing is that the Bible reveals its *identity*, although it was written *long before* this institution came into existence!

IMPOSSIBLE? READ ON...

In the book of Revelation, chapter 17, this great institution is described. There is ONLY ONE institution that perfectly fits the prophetic description, in every detail. While there is much more, the following is sufficient to positively identify it:

(1) It is a *religious* system, a false “church”. Revelation 17:1 says, “I will shew unto thee the judgment of the *great whore*”. In the Bible, the *true* Church of Jesus Christ, which is made up of all those who have received Christ by faith, is called the “bride” or “wife” of Christ (Revelation 19:7; 21:9). Thus, this “whore” refers to something that PRETENDS to be the true Church, but which is in reality an impure counterfeit – not a church at all.

(2) This “church” is a *worldwide* religion. Revelation 17:1 says, “the great whore that sitteth upon many waters”; and v.15 says, “The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” Entire nations, and hundreds of millions of people, are under the control of this religion.

(3) It is identified with the city of *Rome*. Revelation 17:18 says, “And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.” At the time this was written, the city of Rome ruled the world. Today, it is *still* the “great city” of the world. And to remove all doubt, v.9 declares that the “woman” sits on “seven mountains”; and Rome has always been called the “seven-hilled city”, the city built on seven hills.

There is ONLY ONE worldwide religious institution, with its headquarters in Rome, that calls itself the “true Church” of Jesus Christ; and there has never been another. It is the *Roman Catholic institution*. It has over a billion members, found throughout the world; entire nations are Roman Catholic; and it “sits” heavily on these nations, influencing every aspect of the lives of the people. It calls itself the “ONE TRUE Church”. And the Vatican in Rome is its headquarters.

But that is not all!

(4) The *colours* of this system are given. Revelation 17:4 says, “And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour”. These two colours, purple and scarlet, have always been the predominant colours of the Roman Catholic institution.

(5) The immense *wealth* of the system is alluded to. Revelation 17:4 says, “And the woman was... decked with gold and precious stones and pearls”. The Roman Catholic institution is the wealthiest organisation on the face of the earth.¹ In Revelation 18:3 it says that “the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.” Her wealth has been accumulated over centuries, and continues to increase.

(6) The religious system that is called Roman Catholicism is not based upon the Bible, but originated in ancient, pagan Babylon, centuries before Christ. Revelation 17:5 says, “And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT”. Although it claims to be Christian, the truth is that its doctrines are those of the religion of ancient Babylon, but made to appear “Christian”. The

veneration of Mary, baptismal regeneration, the mass, purgatory, prayers for the dead, and much more – these things are not found in the Bible, but come from ancient paganism.² There is no biblical foundation for Rome's false doctrines. There is therefore no possibility that Roman Catholicism is Christian!

(7) The Roman Catholic institution has exercised control over kings and governments of the earth for centuries. Revelation 17:2 says of the whore, "With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication"; and Revelation 17:18 says the great city "reigneth over the kings of the earth". History records that kings and governments have come under her power, obeyed her popes unconditionally, and given their strength to her. And today they are *still* doing so. World rulers recognise that the Vatican is the greatest power on earth. They know that the pope of Rome controls more people than any other man on earth. The Vatican is involved in secret negotiations and political operations with the world superpowers, as well as many other nations – the purpose of which is to place the entire world under its control.³

(8) This system has murdered millions of Christians through the centuries.⁴ Revelation 17:6 says, "And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus". And not only Christians have suffered at her hands, but countless Jews and others as well (Revelation 18:24). The pages of history are filled with her crimes.

Revelation 1:1,2 declares that this is the Revelation of Jesus Christ, which He showed to John the apostle. It was written in the *first century AD*; but historically, the Roman Catholic institution took shape under Constantine the emperor in the *fourth century*! (it was not founded on Peter!⁵). This astounding prophecy, given to John centuries before the Roman Catholic institution came into existence, has been perfectly fulfilled. It was given by the One who, the Bible says, "came into the world to save sinners" (1 Timothy 1:15).

According to Bible prophecy, we are approaching the time of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth. He will destroy the Great Whore. The Bible says, "Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her" (Revelation 18:8). Revelation 19:3 says, "And her smoke rose up for ever and ever." The reason for her destruction is given in Revelation 18:5: "For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities."

The Bible declares, "There is *none* righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10); "For ALL have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). We are told in God's Word, the Bible, that "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23), eternity in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:15; 21:8). Man cannot save himself from sin, by doing good works, etc. His heart is "desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9).

Jesus Christ is GOD manifest in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16; John 1:1). He lived a sinless, perfect life, in order to become the perfect sacrifice for sin (1 Peter 2:22; 2 Corinthians 5:21). He died a terrible death on the cross, putting away sin by the sacrifice of Himself (Hebrews 9:26); for on the cross He was "once offered to bear the sins of many" (Hebrews 9:28). This is why He is called "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). On the cross, His blood was "shed for many for the remission [forgiveness] of sins" (Matthew 26:28). For God has decreed that "without shedding of blood [there] is no remission" (Hebrews 9:22). The blood of Jesus Christ alone can wash away our sins (Revelation 1:5; 1 John 1:7).

On the third day He rose from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:4), and later ascended to heaven, "alive for evermore" (Revelation 1:18).

God, in His great love, gave His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16). The *ONLY* way to be saved from sin and eternal damnation is by FAITH in Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24); and, "He that believeth on him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is *condemned already*, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18). The only way to have eternal life is to believe in Jesus Christ, *repenting* of your sins (Matthew

4:17). “If we confess our sins [to the Lord], he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). “REPENT ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out” (Acts 3:19).

Salvation is a free gift (Romans 6:23). It cannot be earned. “For by grace [God’s grace] are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the *gift* of God: *not of works*, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8,9). Good works cannot save you. Being baptized cannot save you (baptism is to *follow* conversion; it does not save – e.g. Acts 18:8). Church membership will not save you. Only CHRIST can.

If you are a Roman Catholic, repent of your sins, turn from this false religion, and in obedience to the Lord, “*Come out of her*” (Revelation 18:4); “For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities” (Revelation 18:5).

But it is not only Roman Catholics who are lost! ALL have sinned (Romans 3:23). ALL are on their way to hell. The only hope for any man, woman, boy or girl, is Jesus Christ. Jesus said that “except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3). Whoever you are, this message is addressed to you.

Jesus said: “I AM the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).

Shaun Willcock

If you have repented of your sins and believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, or if you would like to know more about Him, His Gospel, and the true Christian life, please contact us.

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ENDNOTES:

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1. Fully documented in *The Vatican Billions*, by Avro Manhattan. Chick Publications, Chino, California, USA, 1983.
 2. Fully documented in *The Two Babylons*, by Alexander Hislop. Loizeaux Brothers, Neptune, New Jersey, USA, 1959.
 3. *The Vatican Moscow Washington Alliance*, by Avro Manhattan. Chick Publications, Chino, California, USA, 1982.
 4. *Foxe’s Book of Martyrs*, by John Foxe, as well as other historical works.
 5. *Pope Peter?* by Shaun Willcock. Bible Based Ministries (tract). www.biblebasedministries.co.uk.