

Babylon the Great, the Romish Church

Babylon is not the Papacy, but the Romish Church, of which the Pope is ecclesiastical head. The Pope has a twofold personality, represented by the Tiara and the Mitre. He claims to be Vicar of Christ and King of kings, ruler of the world—this is represented by the Tiara. He also claims to be head of the Christian Church, and in that capacity wears the Mitre.

Three marks of identification of Babylon as the Romish Church are given—two of them are world-wide extension, and slaughter of Christ's saints. The first of these is present and visible throughout the world to-day; the second is past, recorded in history, and it cannot be obliterated.

I. Widespread extension among the people of the world. "She sitteth upon many waters," and "waters are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." She is "the mother of the harlots...of the earth," that is, of the Roman Catholic churches in other lands, which owe their origin to her. Rome's boasted "Catholicity" is thus one of the marks of her identification (see the Atlas Hierarchicus).

With all this extension goes corruption of God's truth, the propagation of unscriptural teaching. The important matter is to test by God's Word the doctrines taught and enforced, and it soon appears what kind of "wine" is offered in her cup to the souls of men to drink. Hers is a teaching that leads souls astray.

(The Prophetic Outlook To-Day: Where Are We Now In Prophecy - Essays on Second Advent Subjects - by E. P. Cachemaille, London: Morgan & Scott, Ltd., MCMXVIII, ebook, 16-17)