OF SUNS AND SCARLET

The great controversy theme is summarized in Revelation using the symbolism of two women, one clothed with the sun (Rev. 12) and one dressed in scarlet (Rev. 17).

The striking symbol of the woman clothed with the sun, the dazzling glory of Christ, is found in Revelation 12. She is faithful to Jesus. She is not defiled by the corruption of false doctrines. Throughout the Bible a pure woman symbolizes the bride of Jesus, or the true church. In Jeremiah 6:2 the prophet says, “I have likened the daughter of Zion to a lovely and delicate woman.” The prophet uses the expression “daughter of Zion,” meaning a faithful woman, to describe God’s people (see also Eph. 5:25–32 and Hos. 2:20).

In contrast, the Bible likens apostasy to harlotry or adultery (James 4:4). Speaking of Israel’s rebellion and unfaithfulness, Ezekiel laments, “You are an adulterous wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband” (Ezek. 16:32).

In this week’s lesson we will study these two women of Revelation and probe deeper into the conflict between truth and error.
Write out Revelation 17:14–18 from the translation of your choice. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map it.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/ phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

What role do those who proclaim the three angels’ messages have in being used by God to call “my people,” His people, out of Babylon?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/3am09-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How can we protect ourselves from the subtle influences of Babylon, such as the tendency, easy as it is, to depend on ourselves and not wholly on God?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/3am09-4
What relationship do the following verses have with Babylon?

Matthew 16:18  
Jeremiah 50:33–38  
Psalm 115:4–8  
Jeremiah 51:17, 47  
Exodus 20:4–6

What other verses come to mind in connection with Revelation 17?

Review your memorized verse from Revelation 17.
Where do you see Jesus in Revelation 17?

What are some ways the church has been a protective gift from Jesus to you against Babylon?

How do you see Jesus differently in the light of this week’s lesson?

What is He saying to you personally through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer Response:

Where do you see Jesus in Revelation 17?
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study, what decisions need to be made in your personal spiritual life?

What are some decisions that may impact your social life?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/3am09-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

Why must we be careful not to judge people as individuals, as opposed to the Babylonian system itself?

What relationship does the Tower of Babel have with modern spiritual Babylon? What are some similarities between the two?

How do you harmonize the two contrasting ideas that Jesus has given authority to His church, but it is dangerous to place our religious experience in the hands of any spiritual leader?

How do we know that idolatry, one of the sins of Babylon, isn’t just bowing down to statues?

In what ways have you fallen into idolatry?

What warnings about the last days have gone silent in your own ears? Why?