

## Upcoming Schedule

*Date	Title
Fri., Mar. 6	In Search of the Church
Sab. am, Mar. 7	Movement of Destiny (I I am in Church Sanctuary)
Sat. pm, Mar. 7	God's Message, Our Mission

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." ~ Acts 2:42

### MARCH - MAY

**Tu Fishers of Men 101:** Learn how to effectively share your faith with others. Tuesdays, 7pm in the Youth Chapel (starting March 17).

**W House of Prayer:** Songs, testimonies, and how-to's of Bible study and prayer. Wednesdays, 7pm in the Youth Chapel (starting March 18).

**Fr In Pursuit of God:** Open the Sabbath with deep study and great fellowship. Fridays, 7pm in the Youth Chapel (starting March 20).

**Sa Grounded:** a Sabbath School class focused on growing a deeply rooted relationship with Jesus. Sabbaths, 9:40am in Bellaman Hall, songs begin in sanctuary at 9:15am (starting March 14).

### SPECIAL EVENTS

- ☐ **Discover <sup>WOT</sup> Prophecy**, March 11-13
- ☐ **International Sabbath**, March 14
- ☐ **Discipleship Seminar**, April 3-4
- ☐ **Overcoming Seminar**, April 17-25



Why are There So Many Denominations?

# 12

### Jesus and His Church...es?

- ☐ Matthew 16:13-18—Jesus makes it very clear that He would build \_\_\_\_\_ church upon the immovable foundation of Himself, the chief cornerstone (cf. Matt. 21:42-44; 1 Cor. 3:11; 10:4; 1 Pet. 2:4-7).
- ☐ Ephesians 5:22-27—Paul paints the picture of Jesus loving and caring for His \_\_\_\_\_ church just as a husband gives himself to one wife.

The Bible is clear: there is "one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Eph. 4:5). We have seen that Jesus established a single church, yet there are thousands of separate denominations within Christianity. What has happened? As we shall see, the book of Revelation gives us the answer.

- ☐ Rev. 12:1—There are \_\_\_\_\_ women depicted in the book of Revelation. The first is a pure woman who represents God's \_\_\_\_\_ church. (cf. Jer. 6:2; 2 Cor. 11:2) *More on this tomorrow.*
- ☐ Rev. 17:1-5—Here, an adulterous woman is described as a harlot having numerous \_\_\_\_\_ who are also adulterous. In this way, John sees in vision the presence of an unfaithful church named \_\_\_\_\_ who has spawned the existence of other unfaithful churches.

### Babylonian Background

- ☐ Genesis 11:1-9—Babylon originated from the Tower of \_\_\_\_\_, which was:
  - ▶ a \_\_\_\_\_ system
  - ▶ based on \_\_\_\_\_ of God and His promises
  - ▶ a system that led to \_\_\_\_\_
  - ▶ eventually going to \_\_\_\_\_

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- ☐ Daniel 4:30—Babylon was also a great \_\_\_\_\_ and empire that was:
  - a \_\_\_\_\_ power (cf. Dan. 4:22)
  - extremely \_\_\_\_\_
  - known to command the entire world to \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Dan. 3:4-6)
  - eventually going to \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Jer. 51:6-9)
- ☐ Summary: Babylon was a system of **c**ontempt, **c**onfusion, **c**oercion, **c**aptivity, **c**ollapse.

### **Who is this Woman?**

- ☐ Revelation 17:1-5—Identify the characteristics of this false church below.
  - “harlot”: \_\_\_\_\_ to the “vows” or covenant law of God
  - “sits on many waters”: rises out of a \_\_\_\_\_ area
  - sitting on a beast: relies upon \_\_\_\_\_ authority
  - names of blasphemy: claims the power and prerogatives of \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Mark 2:7; John 10:33)
  - drunk with blood: is a \_\_\_\_\_ church
  - precious stones and pearls: is a \_\_\_\_\_ church
  - purple, scarlet, and gold: poses as Christ’s \_\_\_\_\_ ministry but is missing the blue which represents the \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Ex. 28:5-6, 13-15; Num. 15:37)
  - cup of abominations and fornications: intoxicates the world with \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Prov. 12:22) that mar the character of God and with unfaithfulness to God’s covenant \_\_\_\_\_ that destroys our relationship with Him
- ☐ Note the striking prophetic parallels: The above description combines in an unmistakable way the dual nature of the Antichrist (*Presentation #4*): violent opposition against Jesus (little horn of Dan. 7) and subtle substitution for Jesus (sea beast of Rev. 13). Therefore, to identify end-time Babylon is to identify the Antichrist power foretold in Daniel 7 that would resurge at the end of time as foretold in Revelation 13.
- ☐ In view of these characteristics, this is undoubtedly the \_\_\_\_\_.

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- ☐ Revelation 17:5—If she is the mother of \_\_\_\_\_, her daughters are those churches that still maintain \_\_\_\_\_ Babyloniansim and themselves are unfaithful to the covenant \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

### **The Restoration of Faith**

- ☐ Jude 3—In the face of the abuses of the Roman Church-State, God raised up \_\_\_\_\_ to contend for the faith, known as Protestant reformers.
- ☐ Proverbs 4:18—The journey of God’s people is depicted as a gradual, \_\_\_\_\_ process of coming to see more and more of the light of God’s truth.
- ☐ Why are there so many denominations? These reformers broke away from the mother church in \_\_\_\_\_ degrees. The followers of these individual reformers were content to simply \_\_\_\_\_ the teachings of their forefathers, but truth would keep marching on.

### **God’s Final Appeal**

- ☐ Revelation 18:2, 4—God’s final appeal is not that Babylon would be converted, but that all of His people in Babylon would \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ John 4:23-24—God is looking for those who worship Him in spirit and in truth.
- ☐ 2 Corinthians 6:17-18—God promises to \_\_\_\_\_ us when we answer His end-time call to come \_\_\_\_\_ and be separate.
- ☐ Revelation 14:4—God invites us to respond to the truth of His Word by following the Lamb wherever He leads.

Friday Night’s Topic:  
***In Search of the Church***