

## **The Rise and Fall of Mystery Babylon Revelation 17-18**

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. 5 And on her forehead a name was written:

MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT,  
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE  
ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH

6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.- PRAY

A certain private school in Washington was recently faced with a unique problem. A number of 12-year-old girls were beginning to use lipstick and would put it on in the bathroom. That was fine, but after they put on their lipstick they would press their lips to the mirror leaving dozens of little lip prints.

Every night, the maintenance man would have to remove the lip prints and the next day, the girls would put them back.

Finally the principal decided that something had to be done. She called all the girls to the bathroom and met them there with the maintenance man. She explained that all these lip prints were causing a major problem for the custodian who had to clean the mirrors every night.

To demonstrate how difficult it had been to clean the mirrors, she asked the maintenance man to demonstrate to the girls how much effort was required.

He took out a long-handled squeegee, dipped it in the toilet, and cleaned the mirror with it.- Since then, there have been no lip prints on the mirror.

When we get the straight scoop on how things happen it has a way of altering our lives.

A)The Book of Revelation - gives us the straight scoop on what is going to happen in this world one day - It too is Shocking!!!

### **B)Revelation 17-18 is another one of those Parenthetical sections of the book of Revelation**

C)It might have been easier for us to go right from Chapter 16 - the end of the bowl judgments to Chapter 19 - 2<sup>nd</sup> coming

D)But Jesus finds it crucial to notify us of another important judgment that will come down during this timeline.

Back in Chapter 13 we were given some detail into the system of GOVT that the Antichrist will set up in the last days.

A)Chapter 17 gives us some further insights into this powerful expression of human wealth, authority, and influence - in the last days

B)This System of GOVT referred to here as Mystery Babylon -

1)Also given insight into its destruction

C)Regarding this harlot riding the beast referred to as "Mystery Babylon,"

D)most pre-millennial scholars agree that Mystery Babylon represents a twofold system of world dominance

1)that will be put in place during the final seven-year tribulation period:

E)There is a spiritual or religious system that dominates the globe that is intrinsically tied to a commercial economic system

These systems ride on the power and political system of the beast (antichrist)

A)Until the antichrist and his coalition of 10 nations force the system of Babylon to bow to its authority.

B)At which point The antichrist makes himself the center of all humanity's worship

1)and the center of the world's economic system of buying and selling with His mark.

C)So I think the best way to look at this is that Mystery Babylon isn't necessarily talking about a place -

1)Or a particular city - today the city of Babylon is modern day Iraq

D)This is referring to a System - that has its Origins in Ancient Babylon

### **Babylon Historically**

A)In Genesis 10 we read of what took place only four generations after the flood.

B) A mighty leader named Nimrod established a kingdom in the region of Babylon (Modern day Iraq)

1)with one language amongst a united human race.

C)Nimrod and his followers determined to build a tower that would reach into the heavens

1)to demonstrate the power of united mankind

D)The effort was a move defiance toward the God of Heaven and His authority.

[Gen 11:4 NKJV] 4 And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

Nimrod's name actually means – We shall rebel.

A)Nimrod's message to humanity was that mankind doesn't need God; man can be his own God.

B)Mankind can overcome God through their knowledge, strength, and ingenuity.

C)It's interesting because the Bible tells us that the tower they created was insulated with pitch.

1)Noah put the same material over the ark to make it water proof.

D)They also built the tower high into the heavens, perhaps as a statement that no matter how high God made the waters next time,

1)they could ascend even higher.

E)Nimrod was confident that no flood from God would be able to destroy His work.

Many of you know the story: God saw their work and how quickly they would willingly expel God from their thinking,

A)So He confused their language and consequently scattered the people throughout the world.

B)The region of this split became known as the region of Babel, which later became the empire of Babylon.

C)Babel and Babylon come from the same Hebrew root word that means "confusion by mixing."

### **The Ancient city of Babylon is mentioned 287 times in Scripture and it reached the zenith of its power under King Nebuchadnezzar.**

A)King Nebuchadnezzar was a brilliant guy, and here's one of the things that made him so brilliant. His Plan of indoctrination

B)When he would go into an ancient city, instead of just destroying the city and enslaving everybody,

1)He gave his commanders these instructions:

C)Go into the city and arrest and take the best looking and the brightest people

1)and bring them safely back to my capitol city, Babylon.

And so Nebuchadnezzar had the habit of importing the prettiest people in the world

A)And the smartest people in the world into his capitol city.

B)Then he would put them in a 3 year training program

1)Where he would slowly strip away all of their culture and replace it with Babylonian culture.

C)We see this played out in the book of Daniel - these subjects would live in the kings palace eat the kings food

For three years they would live like kings –Living LARGE

A)But understand - Their schooling was not so much to inform them in the customs.. culture of Babylon –

B)It was meant TO FORM THEM!

C)It was a slow subtle INDOCTRINATION into the Babylonian mindset

The whole process was meant to wear down their resistance. - Weaken their resolve.

A)To slowly strip away their attachment to their homeland, their heritage,

B)Their religion and their God!

C)They would take away their names and replace them with Babylonian names after the Babylonian gods

Remember Daniel - Shadrach... Abednego

- ❖ Daniel = God is Judge – changed – Belteshazzar = Baal protects
  
- ❖ Hananiah = God is gracious changed to Shadrach – illumined by the sun god
  
- ❖ Mishael = Who is like the Lord -becomes Meshach – Who is like Shach - the goddess of love/ sex
  
- ❖ Azariah = The Lord is our help changed to Abed-Nego (meaning *Servant of Nego*).- god of wisdom

We are living in a Babylonian Culture that has been seeking to indoctrinate us for yrs

A)Change our mindset – weaken our resolve get us to forget our identity – who we are in Christ!

B)Our cultures indoctrination has changed from a slow subtle indoctrination

1)To a rapid in your face - indoctrination

C)Accept it or be canceled – be ostracized !

1)The Lines are being drawn my friends

D)During the Tribulation - it will be Babylon on Steroids

**Mystery Babylon is described as a Woman**

**A)#1 She has great influence - V.1 it says that she sits on many waters**

B)V.15 tells us what that means: <sup>15</sup> Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

C)This System of belief - will have influence over many people and many nations

Carl Marx declared that Religion is the opium of the people!

A)Note I said Religion and not Christianity - Vast Difference

B)Religion is all about what I can do for God - Christianity is about what God has done for me.

C)Religion is about human effort - Christianity is a gift

D)Religion appeals to our flesh - earn our way.

1)Christianity appeals to our hearts - God made a way for us that we couldn't make.

Religion is the opium of the people it is a self-diluting narcotic

A)In the last days - this narcotic is going to spread to the masses

B)But we are already seeing traces of it now - Modern self-help movement - Great emphasis on improving self

C)It has crept into the church - ideas like - Your best life now!

The Rise of influencers - who get paid a lot of money - if they have lots of followers

A)Pitch products - this makes me happy or look this way and if you get this too you can be like me - Making millions

B)This is all a part of the Babylonian system - we don't need God - we can make our own way.

Mystery Babylon is described as a Woman

#1 – She has great influence

**#2 – She has ties with world leaders V.2 2** with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”

This world religion not only has far reaching popularity and influence, it is also tied in with many who are world leaders at this time - note v 18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.”

A)There was a time in church History where this was not uncommon

B) There are stories like those of King Charles of France who the Pope made wait outside in the snow for hours, waiting to talk with him

C) The pope could do this to world leaders because he had the power of excommunication from the church.

D) It seems this system will have a similar power!  
V.3 Her power comes from the beast - 3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

E) We will come back to that description in a minute

Mystery Babylon is described as a Woman

#1 – She has great influence

#2 – She has ties with world leaders

**#3 – She is successful at her trade V.4 - 4** The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls,

She is not dressed in rags or Walmart blue light specials

A) She has on beautiful purple and scarlet – the colors of royalty

B) She is adorned with gold – gold speaks of wealth, she is doing well with influence and with the pocketbook, with the money

1) Highly successful

C) But underneath all of that Beauty wealth and influence is a dark side.

V.4b - having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.

Mystery Babylon is described as a Woman

#1 – She has great influence

#2 – She has ties with world leaders

#3 – She is successful at her trade

**#4 – She is the mother of harlots- V.5 5** And on her forehead a name was written:

MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT,  
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE  
ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH

This final world religious system is not some new thing

A) But the mother of them all and we need to understand this if we are going to understand Ch. 17

B) This idea of Mystery Babylon religion is not something new Satan comes up with

➤ it is the culmination of all his lies throughout the generations

C) Ancient Babylon became a symbol of human spiritual confusion by the mixing of truth and error, leading to spiritual adultery.

D) These are some of the religions that have been birthed out of the Babylonian mindset

1) Confucianism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Shamanism, Taoism, Mysticism, Astronomy, witchcraft, spiritism, Seekism

E) And all the world's vast concepts of many gods.

Mystery Babylon is described as a Woman

#1 – She has great influence

#2 – She has ties with world leaders

#3 – She is successful at her trade

#4 – She is the mother of harlots

**#5 - She is vicious toward those who oppose her**

v6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.

And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.-

A) This would be a reference toward those who come to faith in Christ during the tribulation and refuse to buy into her system

B) Again we are seeing this today - Truth is being twisted - God and his word are being pushed out of popular thought

C) If you don't buy into the mindset of the system - you will be cancelled - Ostracized - some countries - prison - Homosexuality a sin

1) In the USA - lose your Job

Samantha Ponder - a Christian - host of 'Sunday NFL Countdown- which was coming off his best rating year yet.

A) She was fired last week by ESPN over her remarks about fairness in women's sports

B)Ponder was among a small group of sports reporters who have publicly called for fairness in women's sports

1)amid the ongoing debate over transgender inclusion.

"Call me whatever names you want, but it doesn't change the fact that it is inherently unfair for biological males to compete in female sports,"

C)The Execs at ESPN didn't like that and she was showed the door.

D)During the Tribulation - this type of animosity toward people who don't go along with the system and ideology will go to new levels

Now notice John's reaction to what he is seeing V.6b - And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

A)John is blown away by this woman - and the system that she represents

7 But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.

### **B)Mystery Babylon is Destroyed V.8-18**

8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

9 "Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. 10 There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. 11 The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.

12 "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.

13 These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. 14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."

**Notice this woman, this harlot is seen not by herself, but riding the beast**

**A)who is the beast?- Antichrist**

B)Remember - the Antichrist doesn't just refer to the man but the Kingdom that he represents

C)The Make up of his kingdom

9 "Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. 10 There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. 11 The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.

You remember from an earlier studies chapter 13

A)The seven heads that describe this beast, many scholars believe are the seven kingdoms,

B)The seven world powers that have ruled the earth since the creation of Israel

#1 – Egypt

#2 – Assyria

#3 – Babylon

#4 – Persia

#5 – Greece – those five had passed as John wrote, v

10 Five have fallen, one is

#6 – Rome – the one that is (while John was writing)

C)and the other has not yet come. #7

1)Many Scholars believe that this 7<sup>th</sup> Kingdom will be a re-emergence of the old Roman empire

But it will include the Characteristics of these other empires

A)Strong and powerful as Egypt, Assyria and Babylon - it will be cunning and ferocious like Persia

B)It will move with a swiftness like Greece in it's conquering

1))And it will rule with an iron fist like Rome!

C)But notice his reign isn't long - And when he comes, he must continue a short time.

Now it seems there is something that happens to the beast that brings him his power and popularity in this 7<sup>th</sup> Kingdom. 11 The beast that was, and is not,

is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.

A)From this it seems that this political system forms first - and he is just one of the leaders in it

B)But then something happens to him - the language - The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth,

C)Recall in our study of Chapter 13 - we read this:  
<sup>3</sup> And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.

It seems that this person the beast is going to be wounded -maybe an assassination attempt

A)People think he is dead - but he somehow miraculously comes back to life again

B)SATAN is a master at Counterfeiting - he is going to produce a counterfeit - Resurrection

C)And the world is going to be mesmerized by this - they will marvel and follow the Antichrist -

D)This is how he comes into power - becomes the ruler of the world

So this woman, this harlot, this false religious system is riding the beast, (the antichrist, and the kingdom he rules)

A)The Antichrist will use the woman - this religious system to gain popularity,

B)In reality - they use each other - the woman, the system will ride the Antichrist into prominence on the world scene-

C)What happens next is interesting: - 12 "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. 13 These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

When this final beast reigns as an extension of the six previous empires that came before,

A)He will reign with ten other kings/kingdoms willingly subjected to him. - These are the ten horns.

B)In fact, Daniel tells us that the ten horns exist, and the antichrist comes up like an 11<sup>th</sup> horn to subdue them

1)and bring the empire under his control.

C)I believe that the ten main world powers will be clearly established prior to the coming and rise of the antichrist.

Could this be some form of the European Union?  
Maybe

A)It's interesting that the 2 cent EU coin bears the emblem of a woman riding a beast.

B)To them, it is the ancient Greek goddess Europa Riding Zeus, but, interestingly, it is the same imagery John described 2000 years ago.

C)Also, interesting that EU Parliament building, bears a resemblance to artist renderings of the tower of Babel.

D)The EU parliament building is called "the unfinished tower"

1)and on posters made of the building by the institution featured the slogan "Europe: Many tongues, one voice".

E)The EU and the World Economic Forum might not be the 7th empire, but it indeed operates in the spirit of Babylon!

Notice those in alignment with the Antichrist share his disdain for Jesus

14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful." - another passage pointing toward Armageddon

What it says next is very interesting

15 Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. 16 And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

After the rulers and the Antichrist use the woman and her system to get into power - they will discard her.

A) No more use for her - the Antichrist is going to be advocating for the world to worship him.

B) In which they will be indirectly worshipping - Satan the dragon which is what he has always wanted

C) But notice V.17 For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. 18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.”

Where is God in all of this?

A) He is right there - he is orchestrating all of this - he put it in their hearts to execute his purpose

B) Even the powers of evil serve the purposes of God - that is the point of the 17<sup>th</sup> verse -

1) That is one of the points of the book of Revelation

C) The powers of evil are being used to carry out the purposes of God - His wrath on a rebellious world

### **Chuck Swindoll finished his study of Chapter 17 with these 3 insights**

#### **A) Three important truths**

##### **#1 The truth about religious activity**

A) Religious activity feels full and alive, but it is empty and dead! -

##### **#2 The truth about Satan's strategy**

A) It appears impressive and affective but it is evil and deceptive

B) Satan is good at masquerading - Angel of light - bring people down to the pits with him

##### **#3 The Truth about God's Sovereignty**

A) God may seem absent and uninvolved, but he is present and engaged

B) He has never left - never lifted his hand off the control knob -

C) He has been working all things to fulfill his ultimate purpose in the world.

D) So we have seen the Rise and Fall of Mystery Babylon in Ch.17 -

E) Let's quickly look at Man's reaction to her fall in Ch.18

#### **The Judgment is Declared - Revelation 18:1-8**

After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. 2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! 3 For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."

4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. 5 For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. 6 Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. 7 In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.' 8 Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.

Now whether this is referring to the actual city of Babylon - modern day Iraq - that somehow becomes the headquarters of this system

A) Scholars are divided - but it is interesting that in Jeremiah 51 it talks about Babylon being destroyed in a moment

B) Never to be inhabited again - and we have not seen that happen yet.

C) Other scholars think this is a reference to Rome - that being the center of the Antichrist GOVT

But wherever it is located, God pronounces judgment of this world system of Babylon

A) Notice the Judgment is swift - it happens in an hour told in V. 10

For in one hour your judgment has come.'

B)V.17 -17 For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.'

C)Again in V.19 For in one hour she is made desolate.'

But it is also Severe: V.6-8 again

6 Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. 7 In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.'

8 Therefore her plagues will come in one day— death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.

Give her what she has given out - She has treated God's people with hostility

A)Give her a double portion of the Wrath of God!

B)So we see the Destruction is declared

C)2<sup>nd</sup> Notice the Despair of the world!

9 "The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, 10 standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'

11 "And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: 12 merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; 13 and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men.

14 The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all. 15 The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, 16 and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and

precious stones and pearls! 17 For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.' Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance 18 and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like this great city?'

This is amazing to me!

A)The people of the world - are not mourning for the loss of life - their mourning because they can't enjoy her wealth and pleasures anymore

B)It would be like North county fair gets hit on Black Friday - Terrorist attack the place and it is leveled - massive deaths

1)1,000's upon 1,000's die

C)And people are out in the parking lot crying - not because people have died but because they can't shop at Macy's anymore

D)They can't eat at their favorite restaurant

That is what these people are doing - just shows the level to which mankind will have descended at this point.

A)The ultimate display of what is in it for me mentality - that shows no regard for other human beings

B)It will become a Dog eat Dog world to the extreme

C)So that is the Despair of the world -

Finish with the Delight of Heaven

20 "Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!" 21 Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore.

22 The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. 23 The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. 24 And in her was found the blood of



prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.”

Heaven is not rejoicing in the loss of human life - but that this system that had been deceiving the nations - was destroyed.

A)No more deception - no more persecution against God’s people - we are almost at the end

B)Now Satan and the Antichrist and the false prophet are not present at this destruction - but their time is coming - Ch.19

C)Close tonight by drawing your attention back to V.4

4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. 5 For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

God knows you are living in this world, He knows you are surrounded by it but understand His heart is never that you would become of it

**A)So God says to His people – “Come out”- Come out from among them and be separate says the Lord.**

B)Lest you become part of the world and “share in her sins”

For the Apostle John said...

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” – I John 2:15-17

C)Our world promotes sin

1)And the more you are in it, the more you will struggle with it

D)But Sin reaps consequences- Reap what we sow - sow to the flesh - reap corruption

And knowing this God wants us to check our hearts

A)We are living in this system that is seeking to weaken our resolve through temptation - Live in this TENSION

**B)Compromise does not lessen the tension - that is what we think - no it only weakens the resolve - 1)Compromise once - easier to compromise the next time**

C)When Daniel and his friends were carted off to Babylon as teenagers - 15-18 years old

D)Experiencing this indoctrination - they made a decision not to defile themselves

What does that look like Practically? - Here is the picture

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.

My life is not my own I belong to you - living Sacrifice daily.

<sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:1-2

Get in the word - let the word get into you! - A)Read it study it - meditate on it

B)Mind if renewed

One more verse: 2 Timothy 2:22

<sup>22</sup> Flee also youthful lusts; How many of you have heard that before -

A)Why does he call it - youthful lust?

B)Paul is was referring to strong uncontrolled desires that are characteristic of the young

1)And immature - but can continue throughout our whole lives without the help of the Holy Spirit

C)Desires for Sexual pleasure, desires for money, desires to cut corners to get ahead

1)Desire for attention and recognition.

D)Paul’s exhortation is Flee from those things - The word Flee in the Greek is FUGO -

1)Love that - FOOL GO - get out of there.

We know that exhortation - Flee youthful lust

A)And we probably also know the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of that verse but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace

B) In order to flee from the youthful lust - you need to run towards something - not running in circles

1) End right back at those struggles and lust

C) So you flee lust by Pursuing - running hard after something to catch it -

1) Flee by Running hard toward something else - righteousness, faith, love, peace/ We know that

But here is the part of the verse we often forget or ignore but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

A) We are not doing this alone - we are doing this with other men - who are fleeing - and pursuing

B) Gym Partner - What gets you to the gym - not knowing you need to be there - Partner is waiting

1) Fellowship and accountability - we are not in this alone !!!!!