

EPISODE 3

# RED THREAD

## Babylon's Blood

### THE SCARLET WOMAN

*From individual compromise to systematic corruption.  
Are you drinking from Babylon's golden cup?*

ESAU

Compromise

BABYLON

Corruption

JESUS CHRIST

Covenant

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# PERSONAL REFLECTION

*Are You Drinking from Babylon's Cup?*

## BEFORE WE BEGIN

After Episode 2 (Esau), what did you learn about individual compromise?

Do you think you've been part of any corrupt religious systems? Be honest:

- ☐ Yes, I've been caught up in institutional Christianity that's more about power than the gospel
- ☐ Maybe - I'm not sure what counts as "Babylon"
- ☐ No, I'm in a healthy church focused on Jesus Christ and His Word
- ☐ I don't go to church at all

What questions do you have about Babylon and institutional corruption?

Rate yourself (1-10): How much do I trust religious institutions vs. Jesus Christ alone?

1 = Total institutional dependence | 5 = Balanced | 10 = Jesus Christ alone

My rating: \_\_\_\_\_

### EXPECTATION FOR THIS STUDY:

This episode will challenge you to examine whether you're trusting in religious systems, institutional power, or Jesus Christ alone. Be prepared for the Holy Spirit to convict you about Babylon's influence in your life.

## REVELATION 17:1-6 — THE SCARLET WOMAN

### Revelation 17:1-6

*"Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters... The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality... And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus."*

Read Revelation 17:1-6 carefully. What stands out to you most about this woman?

### Breaking Down the Imagery

Fill in what each symbol represents:

The Woman: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Hint: Not a literal woman, but a system or institution)*

Purple and Scarlet: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Hint: Colors of royalty, wealth, and religious authority)*

Golden Cup: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Hint: Attractive container, but filled with what?)*

Drunk with Blood: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Hint: What does this say about how Babylon treats true believers?)*

### KEY DIFFERENCE:

Esau = **INDIVIDUAL** compromise (one person trading eternal for temporal)

Babylon = **SYSTEMATIC** corruption (institutional power structure persecuting truth)

How is Babylon's corruption more dangerous than Esau's compromise?

## TOWER OF BABEL — BABYLON'S ORIGINS

### Genesis 11:4

*"Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth."*

What was Babel's goal according to Genesis 11:4?

### Babylon's Core Motivations

1. **BUILD A TOWER** — Reach heaven by our own effort, not God's grace
2. **MAKE A NAME** — Seek our own glory, not God's glory
3. **STAY UNIFIED** — Maintain institutional power, resist God's command to scatter

How do you see these same motivations in modern religious institutions?

- ☐ **Build a tower:** Works-based religion, earning salvation through performance
- ☐ **Make a name:** Celebrity pastors, mega-churches focused on branding
- ☐ **Stay unified:** Institutional control, "you must stay in our system to be saved"

Have you ever been taught that you need a specific church/denomination to be truly saved?

## Daniel Refused Babylon's Cup

### Daniel 1:8

*"But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself."*

What can we learn from Daniel's refusal to drink Babylon's offerings?

## THE 3 Ps — BABYLON'S INSTITUTIONAL PURSUIT

Babylon is the systematic, institutional pursuit of the 3 Ps: **POWER**, **POSITION**, **PROVISION**

### POWER

Control, authority, dominance

### POSITION

Status, titles, hierarchy

### PROVISION

Wealth, resources, buildings

Babylon builds systems that promise salvation through institutional participation rather than Christ alone.

Where do you see the 3 Ps operating in religious institutions?

### POWER

What religious authorities claim power over your salvation or spiritual life?

### POSITION

What hierarchies or titles have you seen valued more than humble service?

### PROVISION

Have you seen churches/ministries more focused on buildings and budgets than the gospel?

### REFLECTION QUESTION:

Am I participating in any Babylonian systems that pursue the 3 Ps instead of Jesus Christ?

## REVELATION 18:4 — "COME OUT OF HER, MY PEOPLE"

### Revelation 18:4

*"Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, 'Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues.'"*

God commands His people to "come out of Babylon." What does this mean practically?

What are the consequences of staying in Babylon? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Taking part in her sins (participating in institutional corruption)
- ☐ Sharing in her plagues (experiencing God's judgment on corrupt systems)
- ☐ Trusting systems instead of Christ alone
- ☐ Being spiritually drunk on Babylon's false teachings

Areas where I need to "come out of Babylon":

- ☐ Dependence on institutional approval for my salvation
- ☐ Loyalty to denominational tradition over Scripture
- ☐ Participation in systems that persecute true believers
- ☐ Following celebrity pastors instead of Jesus Christ
- ☐ Supporting ministries more focused on empire-building than gospel
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What specific action do I need to take to "come out" of Babylon?

## THE TRINITY — REJECTED BY BABYLON

Babylon rejects the Trinity's work and substitutes institutional authority

**THE FATHER:** Babylon says "Submit to our authority, not God's"

**THE SON:** Babylon says "Trust our system, not Christ's finished work"

**THE SPIRIT:** Babylon says "Follow our traditions, not the Spirit's leading"

How does Babylon replace the Trinity with institutional power?

### THE FATHER

Where have I been taught to trust human authority over God's Word?

### THE SON

Where have I been taught that I need something PLUS Jesus for salvation?

### THE SPIRIT

Where have I been taught to follow tradition over the Spirit's illumination of Scripture?

### ACTS 4:12

*"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

## YOUR DAMASCUS ROAD MOMENT

*The Spirit is summoning you out of Babylon*

**What "scales" need to fall from YOUR eyes about Babylon?**

What have I been blind to?

- ☐ I've been trusting institutions more than Jesus Christ
- ☐ I've been participating in corrupt systems
- ☐ I've been drinking from Babylon's golden cup
- ☐ I've been valuing tradition over Scripture
- ☐ I've been afraid to leave Babylon
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Spirit is SUMMONING me to see:**

**COME OUT OF HER, MY PEOPLE**

*This is your Damascus Road moment.*

**My Damascus Road response:**

What Babylonian system am I committing to LEAVE starting TODAY?



## DAILY QUESTIONS - WEEK 3 PRACTICE

Answer these **FOUR** questions every day this week:

**DAY 1 - Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Am I drinking from Babylon's cup today? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What institutions am I trusting instead of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where do I need to "come out of Babylon"? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Am I trusting Jesus Christ alone for salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

**DAY 2 - Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Am I drinking from Babylon's cup today? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What institutions am I trusting instead of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where do I need to "come out of Babylon"? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Am I trusting Jesus Christ alone for salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

**DAY 3 - Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Am I drinking from Babylon's cup today? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What institutions am I trusting instead of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where do I need to "come out of Babylon"? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Am I trusting Jesus Christ alone for salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

**DAY 4 - Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Am I drinking from Babylon's cup today? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What institutions am I trusting instead of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where do I need to "come out of Babylon"? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Am I trusting Jesus Christ alone for salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

**DAY 5 - Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Am I drinking from Babylon's cup today? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What institutions am I trusting instead of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where do I need to "come out of Babylon"? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Am I trusting Jesus Christ alone for salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

## MY DAMASCUS ROAD COMMITMENT

### TODAY I COME OUT OF BABYLON

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### I ACKNOWLEDGE:

- ☐ I've been drinking from Babylon's golden cup
- ☐ I've been trusting institutions more than Jesus Christ
- ☐ I've been participating in corrupt religious systems
- ☐ The Spirit is calling me to come out

#### I COMMIT TO:

- ☐ Come out of Babylon's systems
- ☐ Trust Jesus Christ alone for salvation
- ☐ Follow Scripture over institutional tradition
- ☐ Answer the four daily questions this week
- ☐ Refuse to participate in systems that persecute truth
- ☐ Be led by the Spirit, not human authority

#### MY SPECIFIC COMMITMENT:

Accountability partner: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**"Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins"**

- Revelation 18:4

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