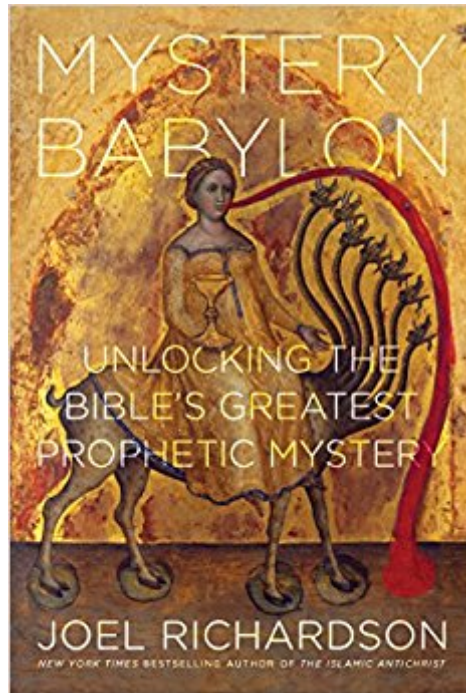




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Mystery Babylon: Unlocking The Bible's Greatest Prophetic Mystery



Synopsis

New York Times bestselling author Joel Richardson carefully explores what is arguably the greatest prophetic mystery in all of the Bible. *Mystery Babylon* is an in-depth look at the prophecy of Revelation 17 and 18. Richardson dissects the longest prophecy in the New Testament - the final chapters of the Bible - in order to make sense of these deeply elusive and profoundly controversial passages. At once a queen, a prostitute, and a cold-blooded killer, this great harlot waves a golden cup filled with blood. Adorned in purple and scarlet and gold and precious stones, she seduces the kings of the earth with luxury. Most commonly known, perhaps, is that she rides a beast with seven heads and ten horns. Her title is *Mystery, Babylon the Great*, the mother of all harlots and of the abominations of the earth. From the early days of Christianity, believers have struggled to understand the mystery of the great harlot. Scholars and students alike have arrived at many different conclusions. In his characteristically easy-to-understand style, Richardson works through the history of Christian interpretation of *Mystery Babylon*, weighing the strengths and weaknesses of each view, making a powerful case for a solution to this prophecy that will rock the prophecy world.

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Customer Reviews

Once again, Joel Richardson has shaken the foundations of the prophecy world and just about everything we thought we knew about *Mystery Babylon*. This highly original and thought-provoking book just may provide the solution to this age-old mystery that we have been searching out for millennia. --Tom Horn, best-selling author, CEO, SkyWatch TV
Once again, best selling author Joel Richardson connects the geo-political and prophetic dots and presents a compelling,

straightforward, and redemptive case for one of the Bible's most enigmatic prophecies. If you want to understand the times like the Sons of Issachar, I heartily recommend Joel's latest excellent work!

--Marvin J. Rosenthal, Executive Director, Zion's Hope

Joel Richardson has provided us with an important and very systematic work, laying out the possibilities of who or what is the identity of "Mystery Babylon." This book will definitely make you rethink your previously held positions. --Pastor Mark Biltz

Joel Richardson is the author of several books including the New York Times bestselling *Islamic Antichrist The Shocking Truth About the Real Nature of the Beast*. He also wrote *Mideast Beast* and is the director of the WND Films documentary *End Times Eyewitness*. He is an internationally recognized expert on biblical prophecy, the Middle East, and Islam and is a human rights activist and a commentator for WND.

I have been following (not stalking.. LOL) Joel Richardson for a couple of years now. I have watched most his Underground episodes. I read his tweets (some I agree with, some I don't) and I have bought several of his books and DVDs. I often visit Joel's trumpet to see "what's up". I have referred a friend to Frontier Alliance International when he was considering working in remote parts of the world. I really appreciate Joel's heart and passion for the lost world, for the Jewish people, for his country, and for the muslim world. He truly shows a love for each group and a zealous love for His savior. He is humble and thoughtful when he teaches. As anyone can tell, he is a devoted follower of Christ and someone who studies the Word of God. I have learned so much through him. In saying all of that, I still listen and read, praying that God's spirit would give me discernment and wisdom to understand Truth. I do not wish to be a follower of Joel Richardson. He is merely man. I want to follow God and allow His Spirit to lead me in truth. From my humble and limited point of view, I suspect that Joel is "right on the money" with his views of "Mystery Babylon" and the "Islamic Anti-Christ". It's difficult for most of us (those who work abroad among the "Last Frontier") to express on any type of media. The church needs to wake up and listen! The church needs to take it's head out of the sand and get into Revelation and consider current events. The church needs to read something besides CNN and MSM. The church needs to pray and ask for wisdom as we approach this crucial time in history. The church needs to be actively engaged in the lost world and not in a bubble. The church needs to put aside the idolatry (harlotry) that it's been guilty of. The church needs to be awake. May we all be found with our lamps burning bright!

A great read and an excellent follow up on Joel's early books on this subject, although you don't have to have read them prior to understand the content of this book. I found this book easy to read, relevant and up to date. Joel makes a compelling case and uses scripture to support his discussion. A highly recommended read for anyone with an interest in biblical end times prophecy or who is just trying to make sense of the current state of affairs with regards to the Middle East.

I don't think there is anyone with an interest in Bible prophecy that hasn't at one time or another been challenged by the Apostle John's prophetic description of the Harlot and the Beast found in Revelation 17 & 18. Bestselling author Joel Richardson jumps into this discussion with both feet in his latest book *Mystery Babylon: Unlocking the Bible's Greatest Prophetic Mystery*. No matter what perspective you hold regarding Revelation 17 & 18, I can tell you this book is a great resource of information regarding the subject. Right up front I say that there was aspects of this book that I thought were great and others that I did not. I'll get to both in a moment but first I want to say something about the title of the book which I believe needs a bit of further qualification. I think it is important to make a distinction here concerning the Bible's greatest prophetic mystery. Mystery Babylon is not the Bible's greatest prophetic mystery. Revelation 19:10 tells us that the "spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus." Jesus (Yeshua) comes from the Hebrew name of God (YHWH) and Yasha (Saves) or in other words the spirit of prophecy is the testimony of YHWH's salvation. The apostle Paul in his letter to the Romans makes clear that gospel message of Yeshua (YHWH's Salvation) is in fact the greatest prophetic mystery of the Bible. "Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets," - Romans 16:25-26 The subject of Mystery Babylon is indeed important but we need to make sure that the true prophetic mystery of the Bible is not lost in the details. In fact if you do read this book to the end you'll find Mr. Richardson's afterword does bring the focus of the book back to the spirit of prophecy and YHWH's Salvation. * * *

Now to the review: To start with, I liked the format of this book. It divided into three well written parts: PART I: The Bible's Greatest Prophetic Mystery PART II: Weighing the Options PART III: The Final Babylon Part I looks at the characteristics of Mystery Babylon the mother of

harlots. For both the novice and the seasoned prophecy student, you will find the 11 chapters in this part of the book helpful in identifying many aspects of the Harlot's characteristics. Part II of the book takes a historical survey of past, present, and potentially future entities which based upon the criteria developed in part one of the book might or might not qualify as the Harlot. Part III took the evidence developed by the author in Part I & II and then uses it to make the case for Mecca in Saudi Arabia as the Mystery Babylon the great, the mother of harlots who rules over the kings of the earth. Overall I would say that Mr. Richardson makes a well written case for his view of end times eschatology concerning Mystery Babylon. Having said that, in the spirit of respectful criticism, there were several aspects of this subject which I felt the author did not adequately explain or in some cases just did not meet reasonable burden of Biblical proof.

* * *The first aspect I would like to look at is an incredibly important point that Mr. Richardson makes regarding the meaning of "the mother of all harlots". In fact much of the premise of this book hangs upon the subject. I will quote and abridged excerpt from the Kindle edition of Mr. Richardson's book:

"The title 'the mother of all harlots', however, has nothing to do with actual or metaphorical motherhood. No, the phrase 'the mother of all harlots' is a figure of speech that means 'major harlot' or 'best harlot' (Kindle Loc. 1033) This is a rather important statement that Mr. Richardson makes here that he does not provide any Biblical evidence for. There is an incredibly big difference between seeing the Harlot of Revelation as the 'mother of Harlots' or just the 'major harlot' or 'best harlot' in the Bible. Mr. Richardson goes on to explain how Saddam Hussein's famous declaration that if the US invaded Iraq it would result in the 'mother of all battles' as his primary example of how the term should be understood in the Bible. Regrettably there is not one instance in the Bible where the term mother (meter) is used in this way. In fact mother (meter) is used 85 times in the New Testament and in all but two instances the term refers specifically to a human mother. Interestingly, in the two instances where the term is not used to refer specifically to a mother it does so metaphorically referring to two different cities as mothers. One instance is in Revelation 17:5 as referenced in this book referring to the city of Mystery Babylon, 'the mother of Harlots', the other is found in Galatians 4:26 and refers to heavenly Jerusalem the mother of all believers. Frankly, the usage of mother (meter) in the

New Testament presents Mr. Richardson with a serious challenge to his interpretation. . There is no reasonable interpretive method which allows Mr. Richardson to change the exclusive meaning of the term meter as he does so in this book. By Mr. Richardson's own admission the Bible must define its own context. Revelation, when it refers to Mystery Babylon the mother of harlots, for good or bad must be understood within the context of a mother as the progenitor or source. This raises the important question of how Mecca in particular or Saudi Arabia in general could be considered the "mother of harlots. This is a question Mr. Richardson will have to deal with in order for his interpretation to be considered seriously. This leads into my second criticism. In this book Mr. Richardson, by changing the meaning of mother in Revelation 17:5, obscures the ability for his reader to identify the one idolatrous religious system which has given rise to all others. In other words there is in fact Mother of Harlots in the Bible and this religion began with a lie. Genesis 3:1 tells the story: "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." - Genesis 3:4-5 Here in Genesis we have the first promise of humanism or as it is called by some "enlightenment". This is the origin of the very first works religion. Mankind was promised that if they eat of the tree (their own effort), they would become as gods. In other words the serpent promised mankind that they could become gods by their own efforts outside the purview of YHWH's constraints. The Bible tells us history is playing out according to YHWH's eternal plan. The serpent told Adam and Eve that they were the master of their own destiny. The Bible tells us that we are a fallen creation in need of unmerited favor of YHWH through the redemptive blood of Yeshua. Since Eden mankind has instead tried to find their own path to salvation. In Nimrod's Babylon we find this spirit of idolatry in the form of a people convinced they could reach heaven by works of their own hands. There in Genesis 11:4 the theme is "let us build a city and tower, let us make us a name. Later in Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon we find humanism in the pride of Nebuchadnezzar. Nebuchadnezzar believed his power and glory came from his own accomplishments. After Nebuchadnezzar's abasement he had this to say: "Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase." Daniel 4:37 It doesn't matter where you look in Biblical history, idolatry is the worship of the creation (man, animals, stars, planets, our own

accomplishments etc.) instead of the Creator. Today, in our modern world Satan's original lie has been repackaged. We now dress the idea in scientific terms such as evolution or singularity, but it is still the same age old lie Satan told Adam and Eve. The religion of Mystery Babylon is the worship of man as god, i.e. secular humanism. The daughters of this harlot are all the religious doctrines of mankind from Eden to the present day which tell us we can earn our own salvation. Or in the words of some of today's most popular secular humanists; Christianity, Judaism and Islam are just different paths that lead to the same destination. In chapter 20 of this book Mr. Richardson makes the following claim regarding the harlot religion of Islam. "BESIDES CHRISTIANITY, Islam is the only other major world religion with a significant evangelistic thrust. (Kindle Locations 3287-3288) By seeing Islam as the "mother of Harlots Mr. Richardson overlooks the most significant "evangelistic thrust the world has ever known. Secular humanism is the "scientific religion that is taught in nearly every classroom, high school, and college in the western world. Even more telling is that this religion is even preached from many of today's churches, synagogues, and temples. In the world today the evangelistic outreach of secular humanists reaches far more hearts and minds than either Islam or Christianity. In 2 Thessalonians the apostle Paul describes the religion of the Anti-Christ. As you can see in this quote, Satan's original Edenic lie comes full circle in a man who claims to be God. "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." - 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

* In closing, while I believe Mr. Richardson makes a good case that Islam has a role to play in Bible prophecy, his view that Mecca and Saudi Arabia are the infamous Mystery Babylon the Mother of Harlots depends upon a novel interpretation of the term mother. Further this interpretation has the unintended consequence of obscuring the real danger of the ancient lie told to mankind so long ago. "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." - Ephesians 6:11-12

Having read Joel Richardson's books "The Mideast Beast" and "When a Jew Rules the World" I

knew this would be a must-read. This book really is one book regarding the "Mystery, Babylon" of Revelation that can be argued puts all the pieces of the description of the prophesy together. And, they all fit. I do fear for Joel Richardson though and he should be included in the prayers of those who follow his ministry. Why? He pulls no punches and names names in this book. Names of very powerful and very dangerous people. However, nothing he writes in this book could be even considered untrue. Everything that he writes in this book is right out there for anyone with eyes to see and does a little checking and piece together as accurate. I think we can see the Mystery or the Babylon of Revelation unfold in this book. Joel has done his homework and it has taken him years to put it all together. I would recommend his YouTube channel Joel Richardson's "The Underground." There, he keeps you up-to-date.

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