



# How Babylon Uses Entertainment and Consumerism to Control the Church | KIB 516

## Kingdom Intelligence Briefing

### Foundational Scripture:

#### **Revelation 17:1–18 (ESV)**

**1** Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, **2** with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk.” **3** And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. **4** The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. **5** And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: “Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth’s abominations.” **6** And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.

When I saw her, I marveled greatly. **7** But the angel said to me, “Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. **8** The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come. **9** This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; **10** they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. **11** As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction. **12** And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour,

together with the beast. **13** These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast. **14** They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”

**15** And the angel said to me, “The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. **16** And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire, **17** for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. **18** And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth.”

## 1. Babylon Controls by Capturing Desire, Not Just Behavior

Revelation 17 emphasizes *seduction* and *intoxication*:

“The dwellers on earth have become drunk with the wine of her sexual immorality.”

— Revelation 17:2 (ESV)

While the language is sexual, Scripture consistently uses **sexual immorality as a metaphor for covenant betrayal and desire misdirection**.

### Extrapolation:

- Babylon **re-trains what people love**
- Consumerism and entertainment are ideal tools because they:
  - Reward desire instantly
  - Require no repentance
  - Create emotional dependency

📌 **A distracted people are a governed people.**

## 2. Entertainment as a Form of Spiritual Intoxication

Drunkenness in Scripture is not just excess—it is **loss of discernment**.

Entertainment under Babylon:

- Keeps emotions constantly stimulated
- Prevents silence, reflection, repentance
- Replaces *awe of God* with *spectacle*

This mirrors ancient Rome:

- “Bread and circuses” kept the populace docile
- Spectacle replaced virtue
- Violence and excess were normalized through entertainment

📌 Babylon doesn’t just distract—it **numbs conscience**.

## 3. Consumerism Replaces Worship with Acquisition

While Revelation 17 shows the *spiritual* nature of Babylon, Revelation 18 shows her *economic soul*:

“The merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.”  
— Revelation 18:3 (ESV)

Consumerism functions as **ritualized desire**:

- Identity through what you own
- Meaning through what you consume
- Comfort through what you purchase

**Individual-Level Control:**

- People are trained to ask:
  - “What do I want?” instead of “What does God require?”
  - “What feels good?” instead of “What is true?”

📌 **Babylon doesn't outlaw worship—she replaces it.**

## 4. Entertainment Conditions Submission Without Resistance

One of the most chilling lines in Revelation 17:

“The woman...has dominion over the kings of the earth.”  
— Revelation 17:18 (ESV)

Yet she rules without armies.

Why? Because **people already belong to her system internally.**

Entertainment culture:

- Trains people to consume narratives uncritically
- Normalizes immorality through repetition
- Rewards emotional reaction over moral reasoning

📌 A people trained to binge are easy to lead.

## 5. Control Through Counterfeit Spiritual Authority

*“The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls...”*  
— Revelation 17:4 (ESV)

**What Babylon Does**

- She looks **royal, priestly, and sacred.**
- Purple and scarlet echo both **imperial power** and **religious ritual.**
- She appears legitimate—even *righteous*.

**Individual Application**

- Babylon influences believers through:
  - Charismatic leaders without accountability

- Spiritual language detached from biblical submission
- Teaching that **feels spiritual** but avoids repentance

📌 *Babylon thrives where appearance replaces obedience.*

## 6. Control Through Moral Confusion

*“Holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality.”*

— Revelation 17:4 (ESV)

### What Babylon Does

- The cup is **golden**—attractive.
- The contents are **abominations**—detestable.
- Evil is not presented as evil; it is **rebranded**.

### Individual Application

- Babylon reframes sin as:
  - “Personal truth”
  - “Healing”
  - “Progress”
  - “Compassion”
- This creates **internal dissonance** where conscience is slowly overridden.

📌 *Babylon doesn’t say “reject God”—she says “reinterpret Him.”*

## 7. Control Through Identity Rewriting

*“And on her forehead was written a name of mystery...”*

— Revelation 17:5 (ESV)

### What Babylon Does

- In Scripture, the **forehead** symbolizes *thought, allegiance, worldview*.

- Babylon offers a new identity system—one disconnected from God’s design.

### Individual Application

- People are trained to:
  - Define themselves by desire, trauma, tribe, or power
  - Detach identity from Creator and covenant
- This prepares the soul to later receive **the mark of allegiance** in Revelation 13.

📌 *Babylon captures the mind before she claims the body.*

## 8. Consumerism + Entertainment Delay Judgment Awareness

Revelation repeatedly warns that Babylon falls *suddenly*:

“For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste.”  
 — Revelation 18:17 (ESV)

Yet people are shocked. Why? Because constant entertainment:

- Eliminates eschatological urgency
- Makes judgment feel “unreal”
- Keeps people psychologically unprepared

📌 Babylon’s system whispers:

“*Eat, watch, buy—tomorrow is fine.*”

## 9. Why This Is So Effective on Believers

Consumerism and entertainment are **especially dangerous** for Christians because they:

- Feel morally neutral
- Are socially acceptable

- Rarely preached against
- Do not appear “demonic”

Yet they produce:

- Prayerlessness
- Scriptural illiteracy
- Emotional theology
- Resistance to discipline

📌 Babylon doesn't need to persecute distracted Christians. She just needs to **keep them busy**.

## 🔑 Proportion of Control (Biblical Extrapolation)

While Scripture doesn't give percentages, the pattern suggests:

| Mechanism           | Degree of Control |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Consumerism         | <b>Very High</b>  |
| Entertainment       | <b>Very High</b>  |
| Political power     | Medium            |
| Religious deception | High              |
| Violence            | Selective         |
| Economic pressure   | Increasing        |

📌 **Babylon rules most effectively when people believe they are “free.”**

## 🔥 Final Insight

Babylon's genius is this:

She trains people to love the chains because the chains are entertaining, comfortable, and personalized.

That is why her fall is catastrophic—**she collapses the identity system of the world**, not just an economy.