

Perspective

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December 18, 2025

When Will False Churches Be Judged?

Our policy in the ministry of Jesus Christ is to not publicly criticize other churches of this world. However, we do not refrain from teaching God's people the truth about the false churches which have deceived many billions of people. Our veteran members know, when Jesus established the Church of God in 31 AD, almost right away people unassociated with the church began to use the name of Jesus Christ: *"Now John answered Him, saying, 'Teacher; we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me. For he who is not against us is on our side.'"* (Mark 9:38-40). Jesus did not want the apostles to waste their time trying to police what others might do. But the time will come when God will bring judgement on the false religions of this world.

Evil men and seducers will wax worse

Even so, the rise of false ministers grew worse and worse. Jesus prophesied in Matthew 24:4-5: *"And Jesus answered and said unto them, take heed that no man deceives you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many."* The apostle Paul also issued a warning: *"evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived."* (II Timothy 3:13)

Satan's strategy is clear. After the founding of the true church, the Devil counterfeited it using Simon Magus, who offered money to buy an apostleship (Acts 8:18-23). Peter rebuked him, and told him his heart was not right before God, and that he had no part or lot with the apostles. Remember, lots were cast to choose Matthias, who replaced Judas as an apostle (Acts 1:26).

The rise of Simon the magician

After Peter's rebuke, Simon Magus began to form his own "Christian" church of which he could head. It was raised up to stamp out the Church of God which Jesus founded. He proposed to combine the Babylonian mystery religion doctrine with some of the teachings of Jesus Christ — especially to utilize the name of Jesus Christ, and founded one universal church. Baltic German Church historian, Carl Adolf Harnack, states that Simon Magus "proclaimed a doctrine in which the Jewish faith was strangely and grotesquely mixed with Babylonian myths, together with some Greek additions. The mysterious worship... in consequence of the widened horizon and the deepening religious feeling, finally the wild syncretism [that is, blending together of religious beliefs], whose aim was a universal religion. all contributed to gain adherents for Simon" (Vol. 1, p. 244). The prominent Greek philosopher, Plato, believed in the immortality of the soul, and wrote about it in his dialogues, particularly in "Phaedo" and "The Republic." He also believed the immortal soul pre-existed one's physical birth.

Though Plato did not say he believed in the Trinity, it was the philosophy of Platonic Schools which significantly influenced Christian theology regarding the Trinity. The teaching regarding the immortal soul was inculcated into the competing church Magus founded. This is what gradually became the Catholic Church which has been the greatest source of deceit in world history. Satan has been very successful. Today, if you only had two churches from which to choose, the true church and the false church—it would be easier to see which was true. Satan introduced even more confusion by multiplying the counterfeits. We believe not only is the Catholic Church a false church, but many her many daughters which left the Catholic Church during the time of the Protestant Reformation of 1517 (Revelation 17:5). They are like the Catholics and they are false churches. Though not true, they claim to be "Christians."

Most of the "Christian" churches are *counterfeits* of the true Church of which Jesus Christ is the Head. Most of the major doctrines of mainstream "Christianity" are in contradiction to the Bible. It is true that many "Christians" are sincere in what they believe and do, but they are spiritually blinded. Satan has so darkened their minds through deceit and they cannot see the truth of the gospel (II Corinthians 4:3-4; Revelation 12:9). Jesus, and later His apostles, consistently warned His disciples not to be deceived and not to listen to false

preachers and teachers who come representing themselves as the servants of Jesus Christ, but teaching false messages (Matthew 24:4-5, 11; II Corinthians 6:14-18; II John 9-11).

When the veil is taken away

God has opened the eyes of those who are called now into His church: *“Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech— unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart.”* (II Corinthians 3:12-15)

Jesus Christ Himself will return and draw back the curtain and expose the great harlot church and the other false churches of this world. When He returns, the ten kings of the beast power will amass armies to fight Jesus and He will utterly defeat them. This signifies the timing of when, finally, this world will know the truth and identity of all the false churches and religions of this world.

The coming judgement of the great false churches

Revelation 17:1-2 reveals there will come a day of reckoning for the great harlot and her daughters: *“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, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.’”*

God uses the metaphor of being drunk here. A drunk often will not admit they have lost control of reasoning, restraint, or proper moral discernment. This is why it says, *“the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”*

Ancient Israel played as a harlot by forsaking God and going into idolatry (Hosea 4:15). In the Bible a chaste woman depicts the true church, and a fallen woman symbolizes the false church.

Revelation 17:3-5 further says, *“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. 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. And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”*

Jesus will totally and absolutely defeat the beast power which attacks Him upon His return (Revelation 7:14; Daniel 7:25-27; Revelation 17).

In Revelation 17:5, it shows the great false church spawned daughters --- as she is called the mother of harlots. These are the great churches born out of the Protestant Reformation which yet exist. So, at Christ's second coming, He will remove the veil off the eyes of all people; then they will turn on the harlot churches when the blinders fall off: *“Then he said to me, ‘The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. 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. 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. And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.’”* (Revelation 17:15-18).

The only church on earth which has crowned and ruled over kings is headquartered in the Vatican in Rome, which reigned over the seven resurrections of the Holy Roman Empire. The last resurrection will be comprised of ten kings which haven't received their kingdom as yet (Revelation 17:12).

We must be wise as God's children and clearly recognize the false churches and religions of this world for what they are---Satan's deceptive work (Daniel 12:10). We certainly do not want to have any part with the great false church or her daughters—lest we also receive of her plagues! (Revelation 18:4).