INTRODUCTION:
Chapters 17 and 18 fit in well between chapters 16 and 19. In chapter 16 we have the 5th plague falling upon the city of Babylon. She is comprised of an unholy trio – Catholicism, apostate Christianity (Protestantism) and the world (paganism), which the Bible calls Babylon. Chapter 19 is the coming of Jesus in the clouds.

Chapters 17 and 18 describe Babylon in great detail so we are not in the dark about who it is talking about. So, a bird’s eye view reveals it as per the diagram:

The chapter begins with the resume of the evil woman (a church called Jezebel) – who she is and of her past activities (v3-6); The description goes into detail of where she is located and what position she holds as a world power (v9-11). Verses 12-14 describe the structure of this apostate woman and her support system. Finally, we have a view of what her fate is.

In vision, John sees this woman “…sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. The name written on her forehead was a mystery: Babylon the Great, the Mother of Prostitutes and of the Abominations of the Earth” (Rev 17:3-5).

So who is this scarlet woman? We will find out as we study. For now, just be aware that she is not Hilary Clinton, Michelle Obama or the statue of Liberty as some Americans think. The Bible will explain itself as we will see. Suffice to say that this chapter must be studied by anyone who wants to know truth. It is imperative that we identify this woman (church) because we will be able to make sense of rest of the chapter of Revelation.

Let us approach the throne of our loving God and our Lord Jesus Christ, with a humble and grateful heart, for His goodness to us.

Symbols:

| Seed of the woman = The remnant | Dragon = Satan, the devil |
| SOP = EGW = Spirit of Prophecy | Woman = The Roman Catholic Church |
| 10 horns = all nations or governments | Testimony of Jesus = Spirit of Prophecy |
| BC = SDA Bible Commentary, Ellen White Comments. | 7 heads = the location of the Church of Rome |

Bible references are from the KJV and NKJV Bibles.

Q1. Who is showing John this vision and what does he show him?

“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.’”

Note: John is taken in vision once again, by one of the angels of the 7 plagues. He shows John all about the details about the whore of this chapter 17. John sees “the harlot that sits on many waters”. Wow! That must have been shocking to the humble apostle.

A whore is a prostitute: she joins herself with a number of men and becomes one flesh with them; In this case the whore became one flesh with the kings of the earth. This is what is called fornication, and when applied to a church it is spiritual fornication. In other words, she is compromised in doctrine and practice. In this series of studies of the 7 churches and the 7 seals we identified this woman as the Roman Catholic Church of the dark Ages. She continued on where Pagan Rome left off. She is also called “the abomination of desolation in the holy place” (Matt 24:15).
Q2. What does this chapter reveal about the demise of this woman - Babylon?

"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."

Note: This woman is what the Bible calls the “antichrist”, being a religious power (1 John 1:7; 2:18,22, 4:3). The Bible reveals many descriptions of this power in the sense of a woman who is portraying dictatorial characteristics, joining herself to kings (eg: Ahab and Jezebel, Herod and Herodias, Nimrod and Simeramis) and has a perverse ideology and authority. All this is given her by the dragon. Daniel 7:24+ describes her as being blasphemous and persecuting the saints. In our current passages the is described as:

She was sitting on a scarlet beast, full of names of blasphemy. The scarlet beast is a conglomeration of a number of governments that have given the woman their allegiance. As a result, she was able to make decisions for them, in terms of convincing them to enact religious laws. The fact that the beast is scarlet (red) is because these kings fought for the woman, taking the lives of innocent people on her behalf.

A good example is Clovis I, king of France when he became Catholic (and France became the same). It was the beginning of the sixth century (about 508AD). When this took place, there was a strange mix of political and religious interests that rendered the Papacy to be beastlike. Just as the “little horn” starts small and later becomes powerful, so the Papacy started here small and became more powerful by 538. From then, Clovis fought the battles of the Papacy and was made “the first son of the church”. Similar campaigns took place with the crusades. So the beast is the kings of the earth and the church had sway over them – making her “ride the beast”.

In the seventeenth of Revelation is foretold the destruction of all the churches who corrupt themselves by idolatrous devotion to the service of the papacy, those who have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

“Thus is represented the papal power, which with all deceivableness of unrighteousness, by outside attraction and gorgeous display, deceives all nations; promising them, as did Satan our first parents, all good to those who receive its mark, and all harm to those who oppose its fallacies. The power which has the deepest inward corruption will make the greatest display, and will clothe itself with the most elaborate signs of power. The Bible plainly declares that this covers a corrupt and deceiving wickedness. “Upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon the Great, The Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth.”

The beast had 7 heads and 10 horns. This beast had 7 heads and 10 horns. These refer to the 7 mountains that surround the Vatican, and the 10 horns represent the totality “10” or “all” of the kingdoms of the world at that time. Daniel 7 also describes the Roman beast with the same characteristics in verses 7-8,20,24.

The woman wore purple and red. The colour purple is that worn by kings in ancient times. So she took on the prerogative of the King of the universe. The fact that she also had scarlet (red) is representative of the blood she spilled in her early Papacy. Today the Catholic Church continues to wear these two colours, as they are seen on her bishops and others (see pics below).

She wore gold, precious stones and pearls. These jewels are characteristic of the riches acquired by her lies and manipulations of the common people and of royalty. She is described in a similar way in Daniel 11:37-38, adding that he will not even desire marriage, accounting for the celibacy the church espouses, and the temples and cathedrals he/she uses:

“[he] shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all. 38 But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses [cathedrals and temples]; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things.”

She held a golden cup. This is a symbol as she is a symbol. It represents the blood of the martyrs during the 1260 year persecution of the saints. God uses this metaphor to indicate to us that this woman is completely anti-Christian. Without question, her cup overflows with unscriptural doctrines and practices. Many of them are easily identifiable because they have been absorbed by other subsequent religious bodies. The cup that our Lord Jesus Christ drank from was that of His humiliation. She drinks of her illicit victory. (see Endnotes).

Her forehead gave her away, showing “Mystery Babylon...” This woman was marked for the destroying angels. She displayed the usurping desire of the prerogatives of God and His place in the universe. She hates Jesus Christ because the dragon hates Him. Satan has always been jealous of the Son of God and wants Him dead. Look at Jesus and the disciples in the storm, Look at His third temptation in the desert.

This church is full of mystery because she wants it to be so. Everything she does is in the dark; she does not change, but only remains quiet for a time; When she has sufficient power she attacks.
**Note:** She sounds like someone you don’t want to mess around with. However, she was going to be judged by God, and the angel made this known to John. Rather than taking each of the above points and explaining them, we will do a bird’s eye view of each in a way that flows easily.

Q3. **How do the actions of the woman compare with the “Little Horn” of Daniel 7?**

**Note:** If we were to compare the actions of this horn in Daniel with the woman of Revelation 17, we find a number of similarities, just written differently. For example, when the woman makes was with the saints, they are warring against Jesus. When the kings make war with the Lamb, they are warring against the saints on earth. Here is a comparison table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daniel 7:11</th>
<th>Revelation 17:6,14</th>
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<td>“I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking;...”(v21) “I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.”</td>
<td>“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.” “These [kings] 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.”</td>
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**Note:** We can even bring in Daniel 11:44-45 where the king of the north makes war against God’s people, referred to as “many”. However, he will come to his end (as per Rev 18 and the 6th plague). “But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many. 45 And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.”

Q4. **What is the mystery of the beast that was and is not, and yet is?**

**Note:** The angel then makes know to John in greater detail, who the mystery woman is and what she will end up doing. For this, he informs John (you and I) that we need God’s wisdom to work out what this means.

**Q. What does it mean that the beast came out of the bottomless pit? What is the beast that was, and is not, and yet is?**

**Note:** We have asked the same question on past studies and found that often it was at the TOE, 1798. Is this true this time?

“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. 4 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.”

**“The beast that you saw was, and is not.”** Adventists recognize that the beast that was – that persecuted God’s saints over the 1260 years “was, and is not” because it was given a deadly wound in 1798. Therefore, John is standing at the Time of the End. The beast “yet is” refers to the fact that the deadly wound did not destroy the woman, it only quieted her down. The Roman Catholic Church is still there.

This woman would go to find another beast and carry on her work. In other words, the “yet is” is referring to today, after the deadly wound. The wound only took away what was hers; It has nothing to do with personalities, but the organization. We read in Revelation 13:

“And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed.”
Q5. Why did the whole world marvel at this beast?  
"And those who dwell on the earth will marvel," When the world sees that the church has her power once again, they will follow her edicts. In fact, it will be the Protestants of the USA that will lead the way (EGW). All other nations will then follow – probably because other economic and military obligations with the USA, as well as their statutory agreements through the United Nations. Catholicism will be the controlling power, but expressed through apostate Protestantism, because they share values.

Note: Chapter 12 of Revelation informs us,  
"...And all the world marvelled and followed the beast. 4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, 'Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?' “

Note: We can see that men don’t really learn their lesson. How often does God have to warn of disaster if people stray from Him and go into idolatry and apostasy? Here is the classic example of all this, as the whole world worships the creature than the Creator God. In fact, they worshiped the dragon and the beast. Satan is looking for worship, but he will never make the grade. So he will persecute the seed of the woman of Revelation 12.

The homage that the churches (the Pope) today is a wonder. They more. In fact, there are videos leaders of many Protestant as a long lost “father”. In fact, the world’s presidents and This is not even Christianity. are paying to Catholicism the don’t believe in protesting any on this with the Pope and the denominations. They welcome him then Pope John Paul II died, many prime ministers were at his service. What our God must think!

Q6. What is the significance of the king that “is not yet come?  
“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.”

Note: We learnt that the 7 heads re the mountains around the Vatican. The Bible uses the symbology of 7’s and then calls for wisdom to work it out. It’s another example of a “Zipped up folder” that needs a special key to unlock it – “Unzip it”. The key is to know the world empires – to study Daniel 2, 7 and 8. We find that the symbols there empl the symbols here. For example, there is a series of world empires or kings: 1. Babylon, 2. Medo-Persia, 3. Greece, 4. Rome, then 5. Papal Rome. This brings us to 1798. These unlock this passagein Revelation 17. We also read that these five have fallen; They are in the past.

➢ We also read that one is – the 6th king – the United States.
➢ Verse 10 tells us that “the other has not yet come”, This being the 7th king, we call the United Nations, headed by the USA at the Sunday Laws.
➢ Then the language changes and this time, “the beast that was...is himself the eighth”. This is the unholy trio – Catholicism, Apostate Protestantism and Paganism (the world). These will rule during the Great time of Trouble at the Close of Probation (Dan 12:1-2). God’s people will be persecuted to the n° degree, but God will be there to protect them. They will not be hurt. Here is a timeline:
Q7. How many nations will be involved in the final persecution?

**Note:** The texts below tell us that the specific activities of these “ten kings” regarding their allegiance to the beast. The deception will be vast, but very short and too late for anyone to be saved. All persons have been determined to be either for or against God. Human probation has closed as God’s patience towards sin has come to an end. There is a limit to God’s endurance of sin. He will NOT tolerate it beyond a certain point. He see this as in the case of the Flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, Jerusalem in 70AD and also with the rise and fall of empires throughout the past 6,000 years. Notice that the verses below tell us that “those who are with Him are called chosen and faithful.” This is you and me, for “we follow the Lamb wherever He goes.” (Rev 14:4).

In the next section we read how these kings will react when they snap out of their deception. What does the narrative say?

“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.”

1. **“There are ten kings.”** – All the nations of the world will follow the edicts of the ecclesiastical powers. As a world wide activity they will join in with the whore to execute her purposes. For the saints, this will be the Time of Jacob’s Trouble, when he wrestled with God and prevailed – they will wrestle in prayer and supplication for God’s protection and will be covered.

We first come across the “ten kings” in Daniel 7:24, in the historical dispensation of when Rome broke up into ten nations. Three of those nations were destroyed by Papal Rome, and the point here is that the power of evil doesn’t care about friends and allies. Only that she achieves her goals – to destroy God’s people, so that God may not achieve His goal of producing saints fit enough for heaven:

“These have one mind.” There will be a universal bond of union, one great harmony, a confederacy of Satan’s forces. “And shall give their power and strength unto the beast.” Thus is manifested the same arbitrary, oppressive power against religious liberty, freedom to worship God according to the dictates of conscience, as was manifested by the papacy, when in the past it persecuted those who dared to refuse to conform with the religious rites and ceremonies of Romanism.”

2. **“they will receive authority.”** Secular governments will be given powers and authority to act on the whore’s behalf. These ten horns play their part in the end time, when they give their strength and power to the beast, the Papacy. In doing this they place upon themselves the brand of antichrist and so could be represented as the dragon. While the ten horns initially were the ten kingdoms of Western Europe, Scripture indicates that the predictions of the end-time have a global application.

3. **“Their reign will be for one hour.”** All share the same purpose – they blame God’s saints for what is happening around them. Their reign is one prophetic hour. One literal day is one prophetic year.

One literal hour or a 24th of the a literal day is 1/24 of 365 prophetic days = 15.2 prophetic days.

We call it two weeks.

Therefore, these kings reign with the beast 2 literal weeks, for an unprecedented campaign against God’s saints at the end of time.

4. **“They will make war with the Lamb.”** in persecuting His people. Jesus said that “If you do it to the least of these My brethren, you do it to Me”. So this was is against the alord, and He will protect what is His. We are mindful of Psalm 91 and Isa 43:1-3.
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<th><strong>5. “The Lamb will overcome them.”</strong> The Lamb will send the 6th plague to hit the beast, and finally destroy it by the 7th plague. We know that the Lord will overcome the antichrist at that time. Our job today is to do what we can to hasten that day and to remain faithful.</th>
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<td><strong>Note:</strong> Watchfulness is essential. Blessed is he who watches. Jesus’ special instruction to the saints who are awaiting the Second Advent was to repeatedly charge them to watch. Twelve times the word is used in this setting, indicating the danger of being lulled into a state of false security.27 “Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.” “Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.”</td>
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<td><strong>Q8. What are the intentions of the nations in the work of evil?</strong> ‘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. 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.”’</td>
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<td><strong>Note:</strong> In this last part of the chapter 17 we learn the intentions of the nations toward the deceptions of the whore who reigns over them. Their rule is not indefinite for God has determined its limits (v17), as He does with the waters of the sea. What is the end result of this power, woman, city, whore, etc? “the waters and seas.” The Bible explains itself and one example is that water and sea represent people, nations, multitudes, nations and tongues. Although the whore was sitting on the “many waters”, those water were to be “dried up”. When those waters, of people and nations, turn away from their support, there is truly a drying up of the waters which held the Woman in her position. “these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked.” Under the 6th plague, where the support system for the beast is withdrawn (See the previous study). The whole of Revelation 18 actually is dedicated to describing how this whore-church-state system is demised. The earthly kingdoms, apparently, would recognize that they had been duped by the Babylon system and would withdraw their support. The prophetic language leads us to believe that at the very end they violently turn against the woman and ”make her desolate ... and burn her with fire.” “until the words of God are fulfilled.” “As Christ was glorified on the day of Pentecost, so will He again be glorified in the closing work of the gospel, when He shall prepare a people to stand the final test, in the closing conflict of the great controversy” God’s people will live according to the Word of God, not straying this way or that. Their course is set and they have the truth settled in their minds – spiritually and intellectually; ie, they understand it and keep it. They cannot be shaken: “Amid the confusing cries, “Lo, here is Christ! Lo, there is Christ!” will be borne a special testimony, a special message of truth appropriate for this time, which message is to be received, believed, and acted upon. It is the truth, not fanciful ideas, that is efficacious. The eternal truth of the Word will stand forth free from all seductive errors and spiritualistic interpretations, free from all fancifully drawn, alluring pictures. Falsehoods will be urged upon the attention of God’s people, but the truth is to stand clothed in its beautiful, pure garments.”</td>
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Reference to Q2.

“She had a golden cup”

“In the cup can be found sprinkling in place of baptism. Here is a custom never practiced or endorsed by our Lord. When Jesus spoke of baptism, He used a special word that has only one possible definition. It cannot connote sprinkling or a partial effusion of water. It literally means to dip under and totally immerse.

Also included in the cup would be the teaching of Sunday-keeping instead of Sabbath observance. Nowhere in the Bible has God’s great hand-written law of Ten Commandments been abrogated or changed. Jesus kept the seventh-day Sabbath, “as his custom was,” and knew absolutely nothing about the observance of the first day of the week. Luke 4:16. The pagan “day of the sun” was adopted long after the days of the apostles in order to placate the massive influx of Mithraic sun worshippers and their professedly “converted” pagan emperor Constantine.

A major element in the golden cup would undoubtedly be the Graeco-pagan concept that man’s naturally immortal soul flies away at death to either eternal punishment or reward. The truth is that the Bible nowhere speaks of undying souls. Jesus called death a sleep. According to His doctrine, there is an unconscious, dreamless sleep of death in the grave from which all will be awakened in the day of judgment to receive everlasting life or eternal death. "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5:28, 29.

Jesus also contradicted another popular fallacy held in the golden cup of abominations. The doctrine of eternal torment in an endless fiery hell has been responsible for turning multitudes away from the gracious provisions of a loving Saviour. Again, the words of Jesus are clear and unambiguous: “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” Matthew 10:28.

This text establishes beyond question and on the highest authority that the soul is subject to death. Only the righteous receive the gift of eternal life. "The wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezekiel 18:4. "All that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, ... And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet." Malachi 4:1, 3.

The consistent testimony of Scripture points to a final execution of judgment upon the wicked in the lake of fire. It will be an eternal death from which there can be no survival or resurrection. Since the soul is not immortal by nature, all the wicked will suffer the fate so vividly described by Jesus, ‘destroy both soul and body in hell.’”

https://www.amazingfacts.org/media-library/book/e/72/t/the-scarlet-woman
## My Journey

Name: __________________________               Date: _____________________

### Personal application:

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<td>I understand who the woman of Revelation 18 is, and what she represents.</td>
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<td>I can see how the Great Controversy will Panum out in the victory for God's people.</td>
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<td>I want to be a victorious Christian, waiting for my Lord to return.</td>
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<td>I am Determined to learn more from His Word and to be faithful.</td>
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<td>I want to give my heart to Christ that He may teach me the Everlasting Gospel in the last days.</td>
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This study has been helpful to me in the following way:   1=POOR, 2=HELPFUL, 3=GOOD, 4=EXCELLENT

### Other considerations:

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<tr>
<td>I would like to get to know God better. I would like Bible studies in private.</td>
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<td>I would like to get to know God better. I would like Bible studies in a group environment.</td>
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<td>I would like someone to visit me at my home.</td>
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<td>I would like to become a member of this church group.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I would like to be baptized into Jesus and join the body of believers in your group.</td>
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We would love to baptize you into the fellowship of the this church.

I would like to be **baptized** into Jesus Christ, by (Preferred date) ________________________________

Other preferred date/place/minister:

### Personal details:

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<tr>
<th>Name: __________________________</th>
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Advancing Light Ministries  
Author: Jim Tyrokomos