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Dear Brother,

I just received your June Newsletter, and believe the Lord wants me to respond.

I was so shocked, grieved, and disappointed last fall when I read your three books, The Babylon Connection?, Christmas Reconsidered, and Easter, is it Pagan? I want you to know that this is not a hate letter as you indicate you have received from some, but written in the love of Jesus whom you trust in, and one whom we know loves us and therefore chastens us.

Dear brother, I believe with all my heart and from revelation, that you have compromised the truth, been deceived, and are in serious error, and that is one reason why your finances have dwindled, as that is always one way the Lord begins to deal with those in ministry who are living by faith. It is a sign.

After much prayer about you, I did not feel before led to write to you, but now that the spirit that has taken hold of you is further trying to even stop the publication of Hislop's classic and most excellent book, I believe the Lord has spoken to me to write to you.

I could write volumes, but believe the Lord would have me point out some very simple things which can show you that you have been deceived and are under another spirit.

First, do you think that anyone that has been born of God and filled with His Spirit could write a book, publish it successfully for

over 30 years, and not have the Holy Spirit that lives within long before then reveal to the author that the book is in serious error? I do not believe this, Ralph, and I don't believe very many others would either. Not any with any real knowledge of the Spirit of Truth.

Secondly, I read all three of your new books, checked out every reference which you gave in The Babylon Connection? to The Two Babylons, and believe you are not only wrong in your analysis, but are guilty of the very things you accuse Hislop of doing, only more so! I could go into great detail in your books, but let me give an illustration of this from your recent newsletter. You write:

"*But* saying that the worship of the Virgin Mary started with the worship of Nimrod's wife, Semiramis, is simply not true. Semiramis was no virgin -- she was known for her gross *immorality*."

Ralph, you are implying that because Semiramis was not known for her purity, that it is wrong to imply that the worship of Mary the virgin could be connected, and therefore Hislop is so obviously wrong in his analysis. Hislop wrote very plainly that Semiramis was immoral. On pages 5, 69, and 229 he makes it clear. He says she had a "depraved and polluted mind" (pg.5); that "the licentious and dissolute life of Semiramis gave her many children" (pg. 69); and that "the wife of Vulcan was noted for her infidelities and licentiousness; the wife of Nimrod was the very same" (pg. 229). So throughout his book, from the beginning, in the middle, and to the end, Hislop reveals the immoral character of Semiramis. What Hislop is comparing and revealing is that the worship of this mother, the mother of the Mother-child cults that were known throughout the Old and New Testament times, was taken into Christendom, and that wicked spirit is what is behind the worship of Mary, who he also believes was a virgin until after the birth of our Lord Jesus. Ralph, this is a sample of the wrong spirit that you are now in! And a sample of your false reasonings and conclusions. A sample of your false accusations against Alexander Hislop, who wrote such a marvelous work that even you quoted from it extensively for over 30 years! I have dozens and dozens of examples of errors marked in your new book, some of which are even worse.

Next, I want to show you another of your errors, which anyone who can read can observe very easily. In your book, The Babylon Connection? (pp. 50-51), you refute that Rome is the city spoken of

in the book of Revelation, and which Hislop so accurately refers to. You state that it is because the Vatican Hill is not one of the original seven hills of Rome, and that secondly, the hills of Rome are not mountains as the scripture gives us. Ralph, you are wrong and I do not believe honest at all on this point. And it shows what spirit you are under! First, when John wrote Revelation, he stated concerning the beast upon which the woman is riding that **"The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth"** (Rev. 17: 9); and that **"the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth"** (17: 18). Anyone who has done any study and reading on this subject knows this is Rome. Only Rome! You did enough original research to know this! You know that Rome was well known for being "The City of Seven Hills" The "Urbs Septicollis" as it was referred to in Latin!

In fact, let me quote portions from some of my writing on this subject:

The next reference to Babylon the great is Revelation 16:19 where we find that she is a city that is judged when the other cities of the world are judged. Then we have chapter seventeen where we are told symbolically that Babylon the great is a great whore (harlot, prostitute) that sits on many waters, and fornicates all over the world with kings and the inhabitants of the earth, and also sits on a beast of seven heads (Rev. 17:1-3). Then it is explained to us the meaning of all this symbolism. From the literal meaning of the Greek words used, Babylon is actually an idolatrous city of seven mountains or hills, and reigns (literally has kingship) over the kings of the earth at the time this was written in approximately A.D. 95; which city has dominion over nations, multitudes of them, and over races or ethnic groups, and the peoples who speak different languages (thus a description of world-wide power and influence) (Rev. 17:2, 9, 15, 18). Rome had been, was then, and would continue for several hundred more years to be the city from which a world empire ruled over the earth. This was the kingdom revealed through Daniel over 600 years earlier. No other ruling city in the history of the world is known as the city of seven hills as Rome, known far and wide as the *Urbs Septicollis*, "the city of the seven hills." Only Rome was **"the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth"** (Rev. 17:18 NAS).

As we have seen that this Babylon of Revelation is Rome, let me give a few objections to this truth and the explanation as to why they are incorrect. Some say that Babylon is not a city because in Revelation 17:10 the seven heads are given meaning as seven kings. However, a careful examination of the text in both the English and Greek will give us the truth that John is saying that the seven heads of the beast have a double meaning; one is to the city of seven hills (v. 9), "**and**" the other is to the fact that there are seven kings (v. 10), both interpretations to the vision of a woman sitting upon a beast of seven heads (v. 3). Again, the woman is the city that sits on seven hills (vv. 9, 18), and this city is seen riding the beast that has seven kings, one of which is the final beast. Kings that are beasts are men who rule like brute beasts without the heart of God; they rule out of the unregenerate nature of man while being possessed with demonic spirits. This final ruler will be given power and great authority and his throne from the old dragon himself, Satan (Rev. 12:9; 13:2-4); and another beast, the "**False Prophet**," will cause all upon the earth to worship "**the first beast**" which we commonly call the Antichrist (Rev. 13:11-12; 19:19-20). The Antichrist, or "**the Beast**," is the final embodiment of all that is of Satan; and he is the one whom Satan forces all to worship instead of God's true Christ, the Lord Jesus! (Rev. 13:4; 16:13; 20:2, 10).

Now let us look more clearly at the city of Rome, or Roma as it is in Latin. Amazingly, it was founded on a site where originally on the Capitoline hill a temple of the Babylonian Messiah had been erected in what was then called Saturnia, "the city of Saturn," another name for Nimrod, therefore, "The City of Nimrod." Rome's beginning is a mixture of truth and error which is as we have seen a chief characteristic of "Babylon." Romulus, Rome's founder and first king in 753 B.C. and the one from whom we get the name, was according to tradition the twin son of Mars and was preserved when outcast by his cruel relatives through the kind attention of a wolf and a shepherd's wife. Romulus killed his brother Remus over a dispute regarding the founding borders of Rome. So we can see that the historical and mythological origins of Rome are exactly what we would expect as we see the history of this world famous city revealed throughout the centuries until now. Satan of course is the wolf and the church is the true shepherd's wife, and we shall see

this continual attempt to mix and accommodate truth with error, Christianity with paganism, true religion and false, throughout the long history of Rome. First, idolatrous Babylonian worship, then leaders who have murdered one another to gain dominance from its very inception, is the foundation of Rome. The roots of selfish ambition, pride, rebellion and unbelief concerning the true and living God, have been with violence and demonic inspiration from the beginning.

Rome's location is in central Italy on the western coast, just 17 miles up the Tiber River which empties into the Tyrrhenian Sea, an arm of the Mediterranean Sea. Built originally on marshy ground, again it is a mixture of land and water. At first the settlement included only the Palatine hill, but as the years went on other hills were added; and legend tell us that a later ruler, Servius Tullius, enclosed seven hills within a wall on the east side of the Tiber River during his reign of 578-534 B.C. Later, there is evidence that a wall which is still partially in existence was built around the seven hills in 378 B.C., and this wall is named the Servian Wall in honor of Servius Tullius. The historic Seven Hills are the Palatine, Capitoline, Quirinal, Caelian, Aventine, Esquiline, and the Viminal Hills. Hence Rome has been called in Latin the "Urbs Septicollis," "the city of the seven hills." Many centuries later, after the time of Christ and the writing of the New Testament, more hills (such as the Vatican Hill on the west side of the Tiber) were enclosed within another larger wall by the Emperor Aurelian in A.D. 270, which wall also still partially stands today and is called the Aurelian Wall. Now, modern Rome today includes not only the historic *Septemontium*, the "Seven Hills" of ancient Rome, and the additional hills within the Aurelian Wall, but also a much larger area in order to accommodate the present population.

Interestingly, when Romulus started the settlement on the ruins of Saturnia, he induced fugitives, criminals, and foreigners to live there, and so Rome was started as an "asylum for outlaws." Consequently respectable people shunned the inhabitants of Rome, who then obtained their wives by strategy. They put on a show which attracted a neighboring group of people called Sabines, and then captured for themselves wives from among them by force. Later a compromise was worked out with the Sabines who then became joint occupants of the city. In 714 B.C. Romulus suddenly disappeared and was reported to have been taken up to heaven. The city then gave him divine honors under the name of Quirinus, built a temple in his honor, and ranked him among the twelve great deities; a priest, called Flamen Quirinalis (Breather of Quirinus, a

priest who bestows the spirit by breathing upon), was then appointed to offer him sacrifices. And thus we have the origins of the world famous city of Rome, worshipping man in flaming idolatry, building temples in vainglorious exaltation of its leaders -- Rome, corrupt with Babylonish traditions and spirits from the beginning, destined to be as ancient Babylon, "a synonym for political power and territorial expansion" (original Unger's Bible Dictionary).

Another error being taught today in order to try and disprove Rome from being the Babylon of Revelation, and therefore all that this involves, is that Rome is situated on more than seven mountains; and that actually they are not mountains at all, as the scripture records, but simply hills. First, we have amply shown how the historic Seven Hills of Rome were originally enclosed within a wall that surrounded the city for over 500 years, and that wall was the wall of the city during the writing of the book of The Revelation. Secondly, the Greek word used in scripture is the word, *ορη*, *ore*, a plural form of the noun *ορος*, *oros*, and means "a rising" and can refer to either a hill or a mountain as can be clearly seen by its use in the scriptures. For instance, "The Sermon on the Mount" was given on an *oros* (Mt. 5:1), and anyone who has been there by the Sea of Galilee can tell you that the traditional spot is a gradual sloping hill, and that all the area around there is similar. When Jesus said, "A city that is set on a **hill** cannot be hid" the same word is used, *oros* (Mt. 5:14 KJV)! Also, the "Mount of Olives" which most people have seen in pictures if not in fact is not a high mountain, but a large hill overlooking the Kidron valley and across to the Eastern Wall of Jerusalem. I've personally walked from the Wailing Wall down through the valley, past the Garden of Gethsemane, and up the hill to the summit in a few minutes, and the same word is used in scripture, *oros* (Mt. 21:1; 24:3; 26:30)!

We have also seen how no other city in history is known as the "City of Seven Hills" as Rome has been for over 2500 years. One can look at encyclopedias, reference books (both religious and secular), bible handbooks, and this truth is readily found. And let me give one concluding remark from the official English Bible of the Roman Catholic Church since A.D. 1609, the Douay Version's reference to The Apocalypse (The Revelation), Chapter 17, Verse 5: "A *mystery*. That is, a secret; because what follows of the name and title of the great harlot is to be taken in a mystical sense.-- Ibid. [Ibidem: *Latin*, meaning "in the same book, chapter, page, etc."] *Babylon*. Either the city of the devil in general; or, if this place be to be understood of any particular city, *pagan Rome*, which then and for three

hundred years persecuted the church; and was the principal seat of empire and idolatry."

Now, concerning calling cities by other names, and revealing mysteries, as John does in Revelation 17:5, 9, 18, he had just referred to Jerusalem in a spiritual, or as some call it a mystical sense. He wrote concerning the two witnesses which will be killed during the reign of the Antichrist, **"And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which mystically [πνευματικος, pneumatikos, spiritually] is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified"** (Rev. 11:8 NAS).

"and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls" (v. 4; extremely wealthy), and committing acts of **"fornication"** (vv. 2, 4; 18:3; idolatry), and who sits **"on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names"** (v. 3; a wicked governmental power against God and His kingdom), and on **"seven mountains"** (v. 9; the historical, world-wide reputation of Rome), who kills **"the witnesses of Jesus [v. 6; true Christians],"** and is called **"Mystery, Babylon"** (v. 5; a mystery, a hidden secret, v. 7, interpreted spiritually as a city which in worship holds on to the demons and doctrines of the Mystery Cults of ancient Babylon which had been destroyed), and he concludes by writing, **"And the woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns [Gk.: εχουσα βασιλειαν, exousa basileian, has kingship, royal dominion; present active tense when this was written] over the kings of the earth"** (v. 18), identifying this woman as the ruling city of the world at that time, John therefore positively identifies this city as none other than **ROME!** And this city which was the seat of the idolatrous Roman Empire which persecuted Christians was not only at that time Pagan Rome, but later its Babylonian spirits and doctrines invaded the church here and continued the idolatrous empire which has ever since been called Papal Rome!

And only the spiritually blind, such as the uneducated, the willfully ignorant, or those hanging onto the same spirits and doctrines will not understand this! The amazing thing is that even some who once saw the truth and even taught it are now denying the truth! But the scripture is true and being fulfilled, **"The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the**

light that is in you is [or, has become] darkness, how great is the darkness!" (Mt. 6:22-23 NAS)

Ralph, this speaks of you! You have allowed another spirit to take a hold of you, and to refute the truth which you held to and GOD SUPPORTED FOR 30 YEARS!

Certainly, there are those who see the truth in your original book, Babylon, Mystery Religion, and yet are not in the right spirit, and so have hate and anger against innocent people whom God loves and is trying to reach with the true gospel of Love and Forgiveness, but that doesn't negate the truth of God! The Pharisees distorted God's Word, and professed to love God's Word, and yet killed the Incarnate Word! It has always been, and will be until Jesus comes or changes them. You have many stories I am sure through 30 years of teaching which could really help the church, but the course you are now taking is not the way! It is against the truth, and hurting the cause of Christ, by covering up a system, a Mother of Harlots with many daughters and granddaughters, who all need to be exposed for what they are and the true church to be revealed!

And also, Ralph, you are now trying to discredit a book and author which God has blessed throughout many years, and used to enlighten many as to the truth of many different aspects of Babylonian Religion, and you will not succeed!

I charge you before God to repent, or God will chasten you most severely. How?, I do not know, but He will, that I know! And He already is to some degree, if you realized what has been happening to you and your spirit and understanding.

Don't ask for money, ask for mercy and grace to help in this extremely important time of need!

Ralph, I love you for what you wrote of the truth before, but only can shake my head and pray for you now! But it is not too late to recover yourself from the snare of the devil himself, for you have been taken captive by him to do his will now, and not that of our heavenly Father!

Please, brother, repent, and do your first works. Your true works of love and truth! We're praying for you, and your wife.

Since you sent a copy of your book to the publisher of Hislop's book, I must send them this letter as well! You will be dishonored by many if you do not recover yourself. May God grant you the gift of repentance is my prayer!

Written in the love of Jesus, asking for His mercy and grace to be extended to you and your family. Amen!!

John P. Rothacker