

# The Bounty of 'Babylon'

Is modern day Europe, 'Babylon' of the last days?

## Key verses

- “And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn for her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men.” Rev.18:11-13 NKJV

## The biggest united market

In the verses above, “that great city”(1) (Rev.18:16), modern day Babylon(2) is described as trading in a long list of luxury goods. The chart on the next page is in the order that these goods are listed in Revelation (this list may be in a descending order of 1st century values for affluent people). The European Economic Community (Common Market) significantly had its birth in the 1957 “treaties of Rome”(3) and is really a modern day example of the **political and business powers that the Catholic church originally had** before the days of Napoleon. This **still Catholic dominated** EEC (now called the European Union, EU) already excels in the production of these luxury goods having worldwide market acceptance for most of them. The European Union(4) is the **benchmark** that other countries attempt to copy and compete with when it comes to quality goods.

## Membership rules

It is interesting to note that the rules regarding membership nations joining the EU are still the same as those laid down in the original 1957 treaties of Rome. Any nation can join the EU provided certain basic economic, judicial and political prerequisites are met.

## The Euro dollar climbs

The Euro dollar fell in value soon after its float in Jan.1999. Since currency introduction on 1st Jan. 2002 it has become much more valuable. The American dollar plunged to an all time low in late Feb.08 when the Euro surged to 1.5088 US dollars. This naturally has had the effect of making European exports more expensive, but in the long run this just helps establish the perceived “luxury” quality of European goods against the cheaper merchandise from America and Asia. Hence the Scripture emphasises the distress felt by those whose trading profits have been removed because of the latter day Babylon's destruction (Rev.18:15-19). This trading will be brought to a halt sometime following Jesus' return, “for in one hour she is made desolate” (Rev.18:19). The original Babylonian power was conquered in one night (Dan.5:30).

## European Union Members

2007 saw 27 member nations (now called ‘member states’) in the European Union.

They are: Belgium, France, Germany (5), Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Denmark, Ireland, U.K., Greece, Portugal, Spain, Austria, Finland, Sweden. In May 2004 the following ten countries joined: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

Bulgaria and Romania joined on 1st Jan. 2007.

Croatia and Turkey are currently negotiating membership.

**Union statistics:** The present EEC countries occupy an area around 4,000,000 km<sup>2</sup> with a population around 500 million, (over 280 million Catholics) making it the third largest in population next to China and India.

See handy chart on next page 

1. Cities in Revelation are symbolic of people en masse. The holy city = God's elect, while “that great city” of Babylon = a multitude of God's enemies.
2. The name “Babylon” means “confusion” or “confusion by mixing”. A good description of the mixed European peoples and mixed beliefs of Catholicism.
3. There were two main treaties of Rome signed in 1957. Apart from the economic treaty there was an atomic treaty known as “European Atomic Energy Community” or “Euratom”. This treaty was introduced to encourage conditions for developing a strong nuclear industry in Europe.
4. The European Union already has the largest economy in the world, slightly larger than the USA, according to the International Monetary Fund.
5. Some of the defense budgets of EU member nations are staggering. Germany spends 24 billion euros (equal to approx. 50 billion Aust. dollars) annually. That's over twelve times Australia's annual defense budget! “These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them...” Rev.17:14

# Comparison chart

Here is a handy chart which demonstrates how the goods listed in Rev.ch18:11-13 have their modern day equivalents and how certain countries in the EU have been world leaders in these goods for many years.

The Goods Listed	The Industry today	The Specialising Countries
<b>Gold and silver</b>	Banking, currency etc.	<b>Switzerland</b> <sup>(1)</sup> , <b>Germany</b> and the <b>Vatican</b> . Germany has the biggest EU budget of all the member states.
<b>Precious stones and pearls</b>	Jewellery and precious stones	Many EU member states have a longstanding preoccupation with precious stones and pearls (crown jewels).
<b>Fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet</b>	The fashion trade	<b>France</b> - Paris is regarded as the world fashion centre, particularly for women. <b>Italy</b> is regarded as the maker of the best quality menswear.
<b>Every kind of citron wood and ivory and most precious wood</b>	Luxury furniture	<b>Italy</b> - the best and most expensive.
<b>Bronze, iron and marble</b>	Luxury decor market	<b>Italy</b> has always been the best in this field with their statues and terrazzo (glistening stone).
<b>Cinnamon, incense, fragrant oil and frankincense</b>	Luxury perfume and cosmetics	<b>France</b> - French perfume has long been and still is highly regarded worldwide.
<b>Wine and oil, fine flour and wheat</b>	Pastry and fine food market	<b>Italy</b> – wine, oil, pasta (home of the pizza) <b>France</b> – wine (French champagne) <b>Spain</b> – wine, oil (Spanish olive oil) <b>Denmark</b> – pastry (Danish shortbread is highly regarded)
<b>Cattle and sheep</b>	Agriculture industry	<b>France</b> - French cheese is considered the best. Part of the economic Treaty of Rome was the “Common agriculture policy” (CAP) which gave protection to European farmers by way of subsidies, avoiding overseas competition and stockpiling excess.
<b>Horses and chariots</b> <sup>(2)</sup> “carriages”, NIV	Transport industry which now includes advances in aviation	<b>Europe</b> and particularly <b>Germany</b> has always had the lead in luxury cars, <b>Italy</b> being famous for their sports cars. Several EU countries are now taking a much larger share of the cheaper car market from Asia and America. The American car market has been in decline for many years, in some cases relying heavily on Government support. Europe is now producing the ‘Titanic’ of the aviation world, the A380 Airbus. Manufacturing is shared between the <b>UK, Germany, Spain</b> and <b>France</b> .
<b>Slaves and souls of men</b>	Big business religion	<b>Italy</b> . Catholicism is basically the world's biggest “business” (grinding the faces of the poor).

- Switzerland has a long-standing EU membership application but has still failed to officially join. Switzerland is completely surrounded by member states.
- The Greek word “rheda” here refers to a “four-wheeled carriage” or wagon for transport purposes being quite different to a two-wheeled war chariot.