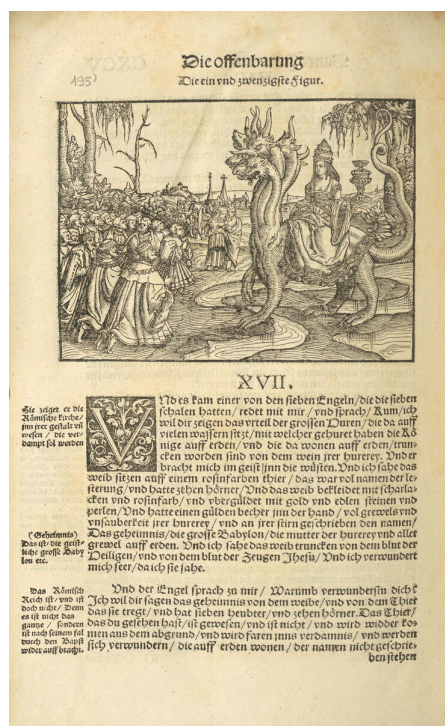


# The Pope as the Whore of Babylon (1534)

## Abstract

This image from the 1534 edition of the Luther Bible shows the whore of Babylon (from the *Book of Revelation*) wearing the papal tiara. The identification of the whore of Babylon with the Roman Catholic Church was quite common in Reformation writings, as evidenced, for example, by Luther's 1520 pamphlet *Babylonian Captivity of the Church*. This woodcut was based on one of Lucas Cranach the Elder's illustrations for Luther's German translation of the *New Testament* (1522), the so called "September Testament" printed in Wittenberg. The artist, only identified as "Master M.S.," was a member of Cranach's workshop.

## Source



Source: Master M.S., "The Whore of Babylon Wearing the Papal Tiara," woodcut, 1534. In *Biblia, das ist, die gantze Heilige Schrift Deudsch*. Mart. Luth. Wittenberg: Hans Lufft 1534. ÖNB, Sign. 4.A.16.Alt-Prunk. Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, <https://www.onb.ac.at/mehr/blogs/detail/luther-bibel-mit-prachtvollen-bildern-die-ausgabe-letzter-han-d-1545#image-5>

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