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Babylon

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Babylon.

Topics.

- The great city of Babylon and its general characteristics.
 - Rome and its likeness to Babylon and their influence upon the world.
 - Mystery Babylon and a woman clothed in the sun.
 - Fallen, fallen is Babylon.
 - Babylon and the world system of money and the Federal Reserve.
 - Christ's return.
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A PERSONAL NOTE

Though I have always loved reading and studying the Scriptures and have now walked with Christ and in God's grace for around fifty years the following studies should not be taken to be dogmatic, inflexible or the final word on the matter since I am fully aware that my mind is limited by mortality and that greater understanding of God's revelation is continually becoming clearer before our eyes as we move closer to the time of Christ's glorious return in glory.

THE NAME OF BABYLON

The name of Babylon comes from the Hebrew word (*bavel*) which is probably derived from the Akkadian (*babilu*) meaning, Gate of God. The name referred not only to the city itself, but also the to the country. Babylon is not the oldest city in the region of Babylonia, but it soon became the most important in size and influence. It was situated in central Mesopotamia on the Euphrates River some fifty miles south of modern Bagdad, capital of Iraq.

The city was within easy reach of the Persian Gulf and situated on an important caravan-trade route and in contact with the most important cultural centers of the ancient near East

THE GREAT CITY OF BABYLON

The name Babylon originates from the tower of Babel which signifies confusion, however, in Revelation chapter eighteen the great city of Babylon does not refer to the famous ancient Chaldean city of Babylon on the Euphrates River or a literal city named Babylon anywhere else or even a single city of great power and wealth, but is to be taken as a symbol of all the great and famous cities of the world and our entire global world. It embraces the external breadth, width and depth of the whole world and its internal structure with all:

- It's magnificent cities, governments wealth, power authority and its global stock market, banking system, commerce and trade.
- It's luxuries grandeur, prosperity and its lies and deceptions and corruptions of war, murder and violence of all kinds.
- It's merchants' that sail the oceans and the vast profit their cargo brings to countries worldwide.

- The great profits multinationals gain by oppressing workers and underpaying them (especially in third world countries) for selfish gain.
- It's powerful mafia cartels, corrupt organisations and criminals that destroy the lives of millions amongst all nations by selling them hallucinating and life destroying drugs for indulgent profit.

Added to all these Babylon embraces:

- All religious denominations, organisations who corrupt the word of God and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ including the Pope, the Vatican, its Cardinals, Bishops, priests and clergy and all others who are hostile toward God, the Lord Jesus Christ and those who belong to him.

Following is a list of the general characteristics of the ancient city of Babylon:

- It was proud, haughty, oppressive and full of idols and pagan gods.
- It was extremely hostile toward God's people; invaded the Holy Land; reduced Jerusalem and the temple of God to ruin and took the people of Israel into captivity for seventy-years.
- It destroyed the independence of surrounding nations, subjecting them to its rule and authority.
- It was abundantly wealthy and one of the seven wonders of the world.

For these reasons, it became an emblem of all that is secular, worldly, prideful, oppressive and contrary to the character of God and the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Gospel.

In the book of Revelation Rome is likened to Babylon for the following reasons:

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- Babylon was magnificent, strong, proud, powerful as was Rome
- Babylon was the first great city and, Rome followed, and on the throne of both were emperors that controlled a great part of the world.
- What Babylon was to Israel of the Old Testament, Rome was to Israel and to the church of God during the New Testament.
- When the ancient Babylonian empire was overthrown God's people Israel were set free from its authority and bondage, likewise, when pagan Rome was overthrown by emperor Constantine the people of God were set free from its oppression and cruel persecutions.
- Babylon was full of fornication idolatry, religious superstition, worship of angels, and images, adherents to human traditions and ceremonies of outward pomp, as was Rome.
- Both Babylon and Rome were fierce in bloody zeal, to defend their gods, especially Papal Rome who aggressively killed faithful Christians who did not bow down to her authority and man-made erroneous doctrines.
- Both Babylon and Rome were known to be great idolatresses of the earth, and enemy of the people of God during the era of their great glory over the earth.
- Babylon like Rome was the seat of a worldly empire, and head of the pagan world.
- Babylon was characterized by many of the same attributes as Rome, being arrogant, proud and oppressive.
- Babylon like Rome was distinguished for its conquests, and for the fact that it made all other nations subject to its control.

- Babylon like Rome was a desolating power, both Rome and Babylon destroyed Jerusalem the capital of the Holy Land and destroyed God's Temple and reduced the country to a province.
- Babylon of old, like Rome of old was the most formidable power with which the church had to contend.
- Both Babylon and Rome perfectly represented the magnitude of the final world power since Babylon in its glory was the largest city of the world as was Rome at its peak.

It is for these reasons the titles, Rome and Babylon are interchangeable both empires perfectly represent the magnitude of the final world power since Babylon in its glory was the largest city of the world as was Rome at its peak. It could rightly be said that the Rome in focus is not ancient pagan Rome, but the prolongation of its power in the rise and form of the Papal Roman Church and that Babylon symbolises the final secular global world power and its great wealth.

However, both these two empires (the religious and the secular) are so closely linked that they are often symbolised in the book of Revelation as one beast (Rev. 17:1-6), standing in direct opposition to God's people, as the great prostitute woman full of abominations and the ten-horned beast are also at times referred to as one power standing in opposition to those who proclaim Christ. When this ten-horned beast power and the woman riding it falls, the last enemy of the church will be destroyed, and the final triumph of the church will be quick and complete.

- The court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. ²⁷And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey them.' (Dan. 7:26-27).

Both Babylon and Rome had the following influence upon the world:

- Both gave all nations to drink of deadly wine signifying corrupt religious teachings and practises and sin.
- Both caused the inhabitants of the world to partake of their fornication signifying moral corruption of every kind.
- Both influenced those on earth to embrace false and superstitious religions and undermined the teachings and principles of Christ.
- Both were aggressively hostile toward God's people and the faithful of Christ.

MYSTERY BABYLON

Revelation chapter eighteen speaks of ten powerful rulers symbolized by ten horns that though being a separate entity to the great prostitute woman full of abominations, they are united to with her to form one beast empire influenced by the great dragon, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:1-15). The great prostitute woman full of abominations is said to be a city that corrupted the earth:

- The woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth. Revelation 17:18
- His judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality and has avenged on her the blood of his servants. (Rev. 19:2).

And of the great city Babylon we read:

- A mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more (Revelation 18:21).

Though the woman and Babylon are two separate entities, they work together as one, clearly shown by the fact the woman is pictured riding the ten-horned beast. (Rev. 17:1-6). These verses show that the woman (symbolising a global religious empire) and ten-horned empire (symbolising a global secular empire) are individual and separate entities. However, the ten-horned empire is said to be carrying the woman, meaning supporting her, this, is why the woman is spoken of as, "Mystery Babylon," together these two global empires embrace, both religious and ecclesiastical and commercial and civil aspects, the two together forming one global beast empire. The central religious power of Rome is the Vatican, its Popes' bishops, cardinals and priests, while the central power of Babylon is worldly riches, commerce and trade, which means they can be both embraced in the title: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." (Rev. 17:5), with one being religiously great (though corrupt and false) and the other being great in a secular and worldly manner and as such are often signified symbolically as one great city. Just as Israel (as a whole) in the Old Testament, became a harlot, much of global Christendom in the latter days will be embraced in the title, "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations," (Rev. 17:5). The following verses tell us that the prostitute woman sits upon many waters and that all nations have drunk of the wine of her fornication:

- The great prostitute is seated on many waters. (Rev. 17:1).
- All nations and kings of the earth have committed immorality with her. (Revelation 18:3).
- The merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living. (Revelation 18:3).
- The great prostitute corrupted the earth with her immorality. (Revelation 19:2).

We are also told that this woman sits on seven mountains (Rev.17:9) and we know that Rome is built upon seven hills, however if we take Rome and Papal Rome (i.e., the Pope and Vatican and all it embraces) as being the only seat of Babylon, much of what the book of Revelation contains would be lost to us, since these verses show us that the great prostitute is seated on multitudes throughout the earth (signified by many waters) and all nations, kings and merchants of the earth have their part with the great prostitute who corrupted the earth. This means that the title, "the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations," is not limited to the Roman Catholic Church only as many suppose, but embraces all denominations and religious organizations that twist and distort the Gospel; that confess Christ but are hypocrites and who teach salvation by works, meaning, by adhering to holy days and ceremonial rites and keeping religious customs and traditions, rather than by trusting in Christ's righteousness and God's grace.

A WOMAN CLOTHED IN THE SUN

Revelation chapter twelve speaks of a woman clothed with the sun (symbolising the church), which was called to let her light shine upon all the earth and penetrate to the uttermost parts of darkness, but in her attempts to externally Christianise the world, the world instead gradually seduced her so that during the latter days her universality or catholicity will not be that of the New Jerusalem the Mother of all the faithful spoken of in the following verses:

- I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (Rev. 21:2).
- The Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. (Gal. 4:26).

But, the Mother of Babylon, the world-wide prostitute city (Rev. 17:18), because of her worldliness. In the same way that God's city Jerusalem was symbolically called Sodom and Egypt, (Rev. 11:1-19), the prostitute woman is called mystery Babylon, because Babylon was full of worldliness and idolatry and brought about the ruin of Jerusalem and her inhabitants. Likewise, though the great prostitute woman will have an outward appearance of Christianity, it will, like the religious leaders of God's holy City Jerusalem did, bring upon itself and all who she embraces judgment, condemnation and destruction.

NOTE: it should be mentioned here, though the final Pope and the Vatican with its Cardinals, Bishops, priests and clergy will be the head of this prostitute woman it does not mean that every believer under its umbrella will be judged and condemned. None of us can judge the eternal salvation of an individual, since none of us can see the true motives of the heart, however we can discern the collective spirit of an organisation (secular or religious). It could be likened to the expression, "All the world is full of sin," this is a true statement, but it does not mean that every inhabitant dwelling on earth is an evil person.

Though the true church of believers is hidden and dispersed in and amongst the visible outward church, the division that separates the prostitute woman from the true invisible spiritual church are not denominational nor external but can only be spiritually discerned. At this present time God may have a people even in Babylon, but a warning is given to all that expect mercy from God, that they should separate themselves from this final latter-day beast empire signified by the following name of mystery written on the woman's forehead:

- Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations. (Rev. 17:5).
- I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues; ⁵for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. (Rev. 18:4-5).

FALLEN, FALLEN IS BABYLON

In the book of revelation chapter eighteen we read, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!" (Rev. 14:8), this statement is repeated in (Rev. 18:2). Joseph tells us that the doubling of a thing means that a thing is fixed by God, and God will bring it about. (Gen. 41:32). The statement, "fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!" Is also stated as if it had already happened, yet it is still future. In biblical prophet language, it is common for prophets to speak of future events in the present tense as though they have already past because they are speaking God's word which is certain to come to pass, because He cannot lie (Titus 1:2) and being the eternal Alpha and Omega knows the beginning and the end, so whatever his true prophets speak is guaranteed to come to pass.

The expression, "fallen is Babylon," embraces the entire world system; its abominations, corruptions and deceptions; its global governments; its commerce and trade; its oppressive banking system of credit and interest; its luxuries and wealth; its idols and every image of its gods. The fact that the ancient city of Babylon was destroyed according to the prophetic word of the prophets, is a sure sign that the latter-day Babylon (i.e., our entire world system) will also be utterly-destroyed as predicted in the book of Revelation.

THE ANCIENT BABYLONIAN MONEY SYSTEM

The Babylonians were money-lenders not only out of dedicated policy, but with fervour, zest, and relish. The following proverb of the Babylonians expresses this outlook very clearly.

- The giving of a loan is like making love; the returning of a loan is like having a son born.

They were a breed of happy, proud, heartless and ruthless moneylenders. Their whole world of business moved in terms of credit and financing, and their whole concept of social control and of imperialism rested on usury. It is not surprising that "Babylon the great," is the type in Revelation of the One-World Order which is seducing all nations. In a biblical economy loans are not the basis of normal operation as with Babylon, but of abnormal circumstances, and as such they have their place, but they operate in terms of absolute understanding as well as clear, definite and obvious restrictions. Following are the two kinds of loans in the Bible that were recognized:

1. To the believer without usury, but with security.
2. To the unbeliever, with usury and security.

In both instances the security is something real, it is a tangible asset, in goods or in money that is transferred and involves only the two parties involved to the contract. Modern banking however, is radically different. Banks "create" money by an official authorization and by one party simply recording a loan and a deposit on their books. The consequence of defaulting on this type of loan is not like the personal and limited action of a biblical loan, but inflation it results in the decreasing of the prior relationship of the money value to the value of the total goods and services and results in a decreasing of all money value. Loans such as this means an element of robbery has occurred because such a system reduces the value of all other money previously in existence. Modern central banking (i.e. the Federal Reserve System) is modern applications of the old Babylonian principles and is equally seductive in helping to bring about the lure of the, "Dream life and the Dream Empire."

THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Prior to the introduction of central banking, the ability to create money by an official authorization was relatively limited, and it depended in large measure on the confidence of the individuals in the local bank. Today, the instrument of control has passed to the Federal Reserve System, its directors and stockholders, the Treasury Department, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and other agencies who are engaged in manipulating the money supply. Biblical law is hostile to a money system that is based on credit, because it creates an abnormal and oppressive lifestyle of debt for a country or individual who lives by it. The Babylonian system of economics today is anti-biblical and as such will incur the wrath of God whose advance judgment recorded in Scripture proclaims:

- The merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of Babylon's luxurious living (Revelation 18:3).
- Babylon the great is fallen is fallen (Rev. 18:2).
- The merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, since no one buys their cargo anymore, (Revelation 18:11).

When this crisis does come it will be as the flood came in the days of Noah, when they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage and were totally unaware of it until the flood came and swept them all away. (Matt. 24:37-39). And as the people of Sodom and Gomorrah were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, totally unaware that fire and sulphur was about to rain down. (Luke 17:28-29). This global financial collapse will lead to worldwide chaos and violence and very likely to war or some other major crisis that will bring about its total ruin.

- The kings of the earth will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say, “Alas! Alas! You great city, you mighty city, Babylon! For in a single hour your judgment has come.” (Rev. 18:10).
- A mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more.” (Rev. 18:21).

Throughout the Bible Babylon is seen symbolically as a type of the world with its pride; oppressive financial system of interest; its excessive materialistic wealth; its system of paying pitiful wages to the poor to increase the profits of the rich; its wars; immorality; violence and lack of caring for the poor and needy. It's deceptions; sexual immorality; indulgent luxurious living and its merchants that grow enormously rich through global trade on land and sea. This vast global system will collapse and nations, kings, businessmen, governments and even some churches and religious organisations who have used the system of the world to obtain excessive riches will weep when it collapses and is laid waste.

CHRISTS RETURN

In this book of Revelation and in the book of Daniel, Rome, pagan and Rome Papal, is often regarded as one power, standing in direct opposition to God's people, likewise, in the book of Daniel and the book of Revelation Babylon is also pictured as standing in opposition to God's people. When the prostitute woman full of abominations and Babylon and all that they symbolise is destroyed, the final triumph of the faithful church will quickly follow.

- The court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. ²⁷And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey them.' (Dan. 7:26-27).

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In the same way that Babylon was destroyed, and the Jews returned and restored to Jerusalem by the order Cyrus (the LORD'S anointed Shepherd) (Isaiah 44:28) (Isaiah 45:1), so our anointed Shepherd will bring the true and faithful church into the heavenly city that Abraham was looking forward to, the city whose designer and builder is God the New Jerusalem. (Heb. 11:9-10).

For further information click or tap [Overview of Topics in Revelation](#) and select the following titles.

- Babylon.
- Ten-Horned Beast and the Man of Sin.
- The Great Prostitute Woman and Mystery Babylon.

FOOTNOTE

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
