

BABYLON IS FALLEN

1. Reason Why Important to Us Today

- We need to understand **what Babylon represents** so that, as the end times unfold, we will be able to resist **becoming compromised** by the Antichrist and the False Prophet
 - *And another angel followed, saying, “**Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.**”* (Revelation 14:8)
- We need to understand the **Biblical perspective of Babylon** in order to **understand current events**
 - **Babylon** was located where current day **Iraq** now exists (about 40 miles south of Baghdad) – this is **not a coincidence** that today’s news focuses so much on Iraq
 - Some theologians surmise that **Iraq** is also the location of the **Garden of Eden** as well as the land of **Ur of the Chaldeans** from which **Abraham** was called forth to “**father**” the “*chosen people*”
 - **Babylon** was the **first city** humanity built **after the flood**

2. The Recurring Theme of Babylon Throughout the Bible

- Babylon appears **throughout the Bible**, with 300 Scriptural references (**Babylon** was the **city**, while **Babylonia** was the **nation**)
- Babylon appears **in the Bible** from **Genesis to Revelation**, the **second-most** mentioned city in the Bible (**Jerusalem** is the **most** mentioned)
- Babylon represents **the worldly alternative** (i.e. the **seat of Satan**) to the **Kingdom of Heaven** as represented on earth **by Jerusalem** (the **seat of righteousness**)
- Babylon is **becoming reconstituted** for the great end-time **battle of Armageddon** pitting the **armies of the world** against the **army of God**
- Babylon is the **seat of the Antichrist** (the Beast) and the **symbol of humanity’s adultery in turning away** from God to other gods

3. The Roots of Babylon

- First mention of **Babylon** in **Genesis** in the account of **Nimrod** and the **tower of Babel** (the word “**Babel**” is the Hebrew rendering of the Akkadian word “**Babylon**” which means “**the gate of the god**”)
 - *Cush begot **Nimrod**; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. ⁹He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, “**Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.**” ¹⁰And the beginning of his kingdom was **Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.** ¹¹From that land he went to **Assyria** and built **Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah,** ¹²and **Resen** between **Nineveh and Calah** (that is the principal city). (Genesis 10:8-12)*
- Later, the “**Babylonians**” sought to **build a tower to reach Heaven** on their own **without God’s help**, thereby **setting themselves up as gods**
 - *Now the **whole earth had one language and one speech.** ²And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of **Shinar**, and they dwelt there. ³Then they said to one another, “**Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.**” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. ⁴And they said, “**Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.**” (Genesis 11:1-4)*
 - Note that, at this time, the “**whole earth had one language**” despite the spread of humans from **Noah** out across **many lands**

- Note too that the very same **sin of pride** that caused the **fall of man** in the **Garden of Eden** now began to take hold again in the descendants of **Nimrod** – *“let us make a name for ourselves”*
- The **Lord** saw that their plans were once again to *“be like God”* – i.e. independent of Him
 - *For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”* (Genesis 3:5)
- So the **Lord** *“confused”* their language to **cause divisions** so that they **could not act as one** (we are only supposed to be “one” with God – John 17:21)
 - *But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. ⁶And the LORD said, “**Indeed the people are one** and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now **nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.** ⁷Come, let Us go down and there **confuse their language**, that they may not understand one another’s speech.” ⁸So the LORD **scattered them abroad** from there over the face of all the earth, and **they ceased building the city.** ⁹Therefore its name is called **Babel**, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth. (Genesis 11:5-9)*

4. The History of Babylon

- The Assyrian **King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon** conquered Israel and Judea in 586 B.C. **taking captive the Jewish** people and imprisoning them in Babylonia for 70 years
 - *And in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month (which was the nineteenth year of King **Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon**), Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. ⁹He **burned the house of the LORD and the king’s house; all the houses of Jerusalem**, that is, all the houses of the great, he burned with fire. ¹⁰And all the army of the Chaldeans who were with the captain of the guard **broke down the walls of Jerusalem** all around. ¹¹Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard **carried away captive the rest of the people** who remained in the city and the defectors who had deserted to the king of Babylon, with the rest of the multitude. (2Kings 25:8-11)*
- It was in **Babylon** that King Nebuchadnezzar **threw Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego** into the **fiery furnace**
 - *Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were **cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.** ²²Therefore, because the king’s command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. ²³And these three men, **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego**, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. ²⁴Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.” ²⁵“Look!” he answered, “I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and **the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.**” (Daniel 3:21-25)*
- It was also in **Babylon** that King Nebuchadnezzar **threw Daniel into the Lion’s Den**
 - *So the king gave the command, and they brought **Daniel** and **cast him into the den of lions.** But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, “Your God, whom you serve continually, **He will deliver you.**” (Daniel 6:16)*
- It was **Daniel’s intercessory prayers in Babylon** that led to **Israel’s deliverance** from captivity
 - *In the first year of **Darius** the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans—²in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, **understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet**, that He would accomplish **seventy years** in the desolations of Jerusalem. (Daniel 9:1-2)*

- *O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, **let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people are a reproach to all those around us.** ¹⁷Now therefore, our God, hear the **prayer** of Your servant, and his **supplications**, and for the Lord's sake **cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary**, which is desolate. ¹⁸O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name; for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies. ¹⁹O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! **Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name.**" (Daniel 9:16-18)*
- *Now in the first year of **Cyrus** king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of **Jeremiah** might be **fulfilled**, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, ²³Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: "All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And **He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem** which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up!" (2Chronicles 36:22)*
- It was in **Babylon** that the **prophet Ezekiel** received the vision of the **dry bones coming to life** (Ezekiel 37) and of the **final battle** (Ezekiel 38) referred to in **Revelation** to be at **Armageddon** (i.e. the "hill of Megiddo")
 - *"And it will come to pass at the same time, when **Gog comes against the land of Israel**," says the Lord GOD, "that My fury will show in My face. ¹⁹For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath I have spoken: 'Surely in that day there shall be a **great earthquake in the land of Israel**, ²⁰so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and **all men who are on the face of the earth shall shake at My presence**. The mountains shall be thrown down, the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.' (Ezekiel 38:18-20)*
 - *And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, **Armageddon**. ¹⁷Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" ¹⁸And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a **great earthquake**, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. ¹⁹Now the great city was divided into three parts, and **the cities of the nations fell**. And great **Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath**. ²⁰Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. (Revelation 16:16-20)*
- **Prophecies** were made **against pre-Christ Babylon** by Isaiah and Jeremiah which were totally and completely **fulfilled**, which are also a **foreshadowing** of the **end-time destruction** of the **symbolic Babylon** of our age
 - *¹The burden **against Babylon** which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw... Wail, for the **day of the LORD is at hand!** It will come as **destruction from the Almighty**... And **Babylon**, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldeans' **pride**, will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. ²⁰It will **never be inhabited**, nor will it be settled from generation to generation; nor will the Arabian pitch tents there, nor will the shepherds make their sheepfolds there. ²¹But **wild beasts of the desert** will lie there. (Isaiah 13:1,6,19)*
 - This prophecy was fulfilled when the **Persians** conquered Babylonia, and Babylon was just an **uninhabited desert wasteland** until just recently
 - *For behold, I will raise and cause to come up **against Babylon** an **assembly of great nations** from the north country, and they shall array themselves against her; from there **she shall be captured**. Their **arrows** shall be like those of an expert warrior; none shall return in vain. ¹⁰And **Chaldea shall become plunder**. (Jeremiah 50:9-10)*

- Might this not be **speaking of** the recent **conquering of Iraq** by coalition troops? Might now the **arrows of the expert warriors** have been our “**smart bombs?**”
- In this light, perhaps **Jeremiah’s additional prophecies** about Babylon (Iraq) have also now just **recently come to pass**, such as the pulling down of statues of Saddam Hussein and the **killing of his sons**
 - *Therefore behold, the days are coming that I will **bring judgment on the carved images of Babylon**; Her whole land shall be **ashamed**, and all her **slain** shall fall in her midst. (Jeremiah 51:47)*

5. The Babylon of Today

- According to a New York Times article dated January 7, 2003, “**Saddam Hussein** believes he is **Nebuchadnezzar reincarnate** and that he is destined to rule over a **newly resurrected Babylonian Empire**... Saddam has spent billions **rebuilding the ancient city of Babylon**, preparing to **crown himself king** and rule over an **expanded Iraq**”
 - Saddam’s desire to **expand Iraq** was the motive behind his **invasion of Kuwait** in 1991
- Is Saddam’s dream of a **newly resurrected Babylonian Empire** now totally defeated?
 - Unfortunately not, because **resistance in Iraq** will continue with **foreign operatives** coming in from **Iran, Syria, Lebanon** and **Al Qaeda’s** worldwide base of operations
- Why haven’t we found the so-called **Weapons of Mass Destruction**?
 - Because they had already been **shipped into Syria and Lebanon** (which have just recently been fired at Israel by the Hezbollah from Lebanon)

6. The Babylon of Tomorrow

- Babylon was destroyed in the Old Testament, but the **spirit of Babylon** is very much **alive today** and will not be **totally and finally destroyed** until the **second coming of Jesus Christ**
 - *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, ²with whom the **kings of the earth committed fornication**, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.” (Revelation 17:1-2)*
- **Babylon** will become the **seat of the Antichrist** at the start of the **Great Tribulation** after a **larger-scale war** between **Islam** (Ishmael) and **Israel** (Isaac)
 - This is the problem that began with **Abraham’s disobedience** with the handmaiden **Hagar** which produced the “**father**” of **Islam (Ishmael)** preceding the father of Jacob (**Isaac**) who was the literal father of the **twelve tribes of Israel** (Genesis 16)
- This **larger-scale war** will lead to Daniel’s prophesied “**covenant with many**” that will mark the start of the Great Tribulation (see prior papers “The Beginning of Sorrows” and “The Day of the Lord”)
 - *Then he shall confirm a **covenant with many for one week**; but in the **middle of the week** he shall **bring an end to sacrifice and offering**. And on the wing of **abominations** shall be one who makes desolate, even until the **consummation**, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.” (Daniel 9:27)*
- The **Antichrist** will become the perceived “**Man of Peace**” who will bring peace to the Middle East and who will reign for **one week** (i.e. **7 years**)
 - But in the “**middle of the week**” he will commit the “**abomination of desolation**” spoken of by **Daniel** (11:31, 12:11) and by **Jesus Himself** (Matthew 24:15)
- This **abomination** occurs when the **Antichrist** declares himself to **be God** in **Israel’s partially rebuilt temple** in which the **rituals of “sacrifice and offering”** are resumed after almost 2000 years

- *Let no one deceive you by any means; for **that Day will not come** unless the falling away comes first, and the **man of sin is revealed**, the son of perdition, ⁴who opposes and **exalts himself** above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he **sits as God in the temple of God**, showing himself that he is God. (2Thessalonians 2:3-4)*
- In Revelation, **Babylon** is represented by the **woman who sits on the Beast** (i.e. the Antichrist)
 - ³*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. ⁴The 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**. ⁵And on her forehead a name was written: **MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH**. ⁶I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. (Revelation 17:3-5)*
- But we know the **end of Babylon** will come on that “**great and dreadful day of the Lord**” (Malachi 4:5)
 - ¹*After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. ²And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “**Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!** ³For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, **the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.**” (Revelation 18:1-3)*
- What does this mean to us today? Simply that we must be **very careful** not to fall into the **traps of peace, greed, reason, deception and fear** that will be employed to bring about that “**falling away**” spoken of by the Apostle Paul (2Thess. 2:3)
 - ⁴*And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “**Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues**. ⁵For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. ⁶Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. ⁷**In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, ‘I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.’** ⁸Therefore her plagues will come in **one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.** (Revelation 18:4-8)*
- That’s why Jesus and the Scriptures so often speak of “**enduring to the end**” and “**standing fast**” and “**holding fast**”
 - *These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; ¹⁷and they have no root in themselves, and so **endure only for a time**. Afterward, when **tribulation or persecution arises** for the word’s sake, **immediately they stumble**. (Mark 4:16-17)*
 - *If we **endure**, we shall also **reign** with Him. If we **deny** Him, He also will **deny** us. (2Timothy 2:12)*
 - ***Stand fast** therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and **do not be entangled again** with a yoke of bondage. (Galatians 5:1)*
 - ***Hold fast** what you have, that **no one may take your crown**. (Revelation 3:11)*