

Babylon is Fallen

Who or what is this Babylon in Revelation 17 and 18? For many years many teachers and commentators have suggested that this is a reference to the Church of Rome. One must think about this for a long time and make note of the many references in Scripture to Babylon. The Hebrew word (English spelling) *Baw-bel* is a root part of Babylon and Strong's gives it meaning as *confusion*. This is the word that was given to the human building project of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11. Nimrod a descendent of Noah's son Ham built the city of Babel. The reason for the tower of Babel can be found in chapter 10. The people wanted to exalt themselves but God confused their language so that the project they personally determined to do of their own will ended because they could not communicate with each other. Babylon is the name given to the city built by Ham's descendants and means *fortress*. So in just the meaning of the name Babylon we see the probable meaning for the city of Babylon in Revelation 18, is a *confused fortress*.

In Isaiah 14 we see Satan's fall from the presence of the Lord. In this chapter Satan is seen as King of Babylon. There is no redemption for angels, their activity will be terminated in the future, Revelation 20:10. It can be noted that Satan's effort will be resumed for a short period after the millennium in which there will be a short return of his most effective deceptive spiritual tactic among humans by Satan. Satan has entertained his most passionate egotistical desire through the ages, that of self glorification. This same egotistical desire exists among unregenerate mankind.

But who is referred to in Revelation 17 and 18 under the *coded* name Babylon. There is significant coded language in the book of Revelation. Mysteries abound. Not many of these mysteries have been cracked. However *Babylon* has plenty of reference in Scripture to help find the meaning of Babylon in these two chapters. In our world today there are developing characteristics that fit the coded descriptions.

To begin with when the Babylon of Revelation 18 falls, it will be a worldwide event that will cause extensive earthly loss, sorrow and change.

The Scripture warns the people of God about three enemies. There is some spiritual coding in the references to these enemies. Not all people on earth are able to understand the significance of these enemies nor do they care about knowledge of them. You can discover that the Revealer of secrets can give understanding however. Daniel in his writings shares the Spirit's information regarding the fact that His God in whom he trusted is a revealer of secrets or coded messages, Dan. 2:29 and 47. Daniel opened the mystifying information of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, meant by God to be a coded message of the future course of this world's order. The King got the message and acknowledged it as true and praised the God of heaven. The book is most interesting and graphic. The book of Daniel is no fairy tale but a part of divine inspiration, true and good to study and find prophetic truth.

The reader should stop here and review 2 Corinthians chapter two. In this chapter you find the process for breaking the secret code of heaven embedded in God's Word. In this portion you will see who cannot understand and to some extent as to why they are seemingly blind to understand, check out verse 14. You will find out who has the keys of understanding God's truth.

Three enemies mentioned in the Word of God are worth taking note of. We will deal with one of the enemies that God will destroy. This enemy is the evil world or society that exists around us.

The first enemy usually mentioned for the true believer, who is transferred into the Son's Kingdom and sealed with the Holy Spirit, is "the world, See Eph. 1:13 and 14." This word world is not a reference to the earth and physical things necessarily. It is a reference throughout Scripture to earthly society which is evil, a system that is made up of, pleasures, rebels, government of the world, merchants and bankers and many religions. These in association with other evil beings, entertainment systems, legal systems and so forth promote evil in the world on various levels. If God is left out the corruption begins or continues. The world is that which clouds God's rule among men with evil. Society without God has existed through the centuries under satanic deception and he desires to take as many as he can with him; he is bound for destruction. His wanton desire and

passion was exposed by Jesus Christ in John 8:44. This verse has some important information about Satan worth reading and understanding. Here are some notable verses in the Bible to give insight and understanding about the world or society around us, Psalm 17:13-15; Isa. 13:6-16; Mt. 13:19; I Jn. 5:17; 2 Jn. 7; I Jn. 5:4.

The ancients were wicked people and God destroyed many of them because they were so. God gave responsibility to Israel to annihilate the Canaanites and Amorites. Of these two were many wicked nations committing detestable things in the sight of the Almighty God. In Genesis 10 we see Sodom and Gomorrah, two wicked cities given to the same sins of our era. Here we see that they descended from Ham a son of Noah. These cities were destroyed about 2000 BC. Two thousand years later another city was destroyed, Pompeii in Italy notorious for its moral degradation. We live today about 2000 years from the destruction of Pompeii and our world lays in wickedness no different from them, I Jn. 5:19. That verse was written about the time Pompeii was destroyed. The evidence of their and our pagan, immoral and evil societies, corrupted and wasted are ready for the dump for sure. You don't have to look far. Lot who lived in Sodom is said to have a vexed soul over the sins of Sodom. His kids were spiritual basket cases living in the moral filth of those cities. They didn't even have TV and Hollywood wasn't a factor yet. They just had the likes of Bourbon Street in New Orleans. This is the world in raw and disgusting form. And the verdict is in; the doom is sure, you can read it in Romans 1:18.

Yet our God is merciful. You can read about it in Micah 7:18. God is the same yesterday, today and forever, this has been declared by the Spirit in the book of Hebrews. God declares of Himself that He fails not, Deut. 31:8 and Lam. 3:22. It's a view of God in the Old Testament in spite of a people prone to failure. Then they did not have the abiding *parakletos* or Helper (Holy Spirit) as God's people do today. But we still value God's mercy or we too would be consumed, Psalm 2:12. Which do you value more the world and its plunder or the Son and His everlasting Kingdom? You can find the answer in what you seek or desire and that which commands your time. We must remember that God is a jealous God and that for our good. The law of God is for our good. Good is for our advantage but

the influence and magnetism of the world is invasive and destructive. The world as a society of evil is as doomed as Sodom and Gomorrah. We better not capitulate to it. We do better hating it than associating with it.

Even as Pilgrim and Faithful entered the city of Vanity Fair they felt the heat. They remained separated and avoided the vice there. There is danger in friendship with the world. If we are cozy with the world we are prone to spiritual canker sores. Unfaithfulness to God is spiritual adultery. Israel can advise us about this and it is recorded in the Holy Writ for our admonition or warning and for our good. You may not need your soul delivered from Hell but you as one of God's own can suffer loss at the *Bema*. That is not prudent. We as God's people might as well collect the goodies now and have something to lie at His glorious feet then. If you have no shame now messing with the condemned you will have shame then standing before Him. What will it be?

If we want something permanent out of life and have it for good along the way we must view I Jn. 2:17 in its vivid concept. In simple English the world (can we say Babylon) is doomed as declared by the Lord. Our holy God is merciful now but can hardly tolerate the evil that abounds. We see a lot of signs regarding the end of our age. Besides the rebellion and self interest that plagues society we see the New World Order being promoted strongly in our day. God has a plan and part of the plan is the destruction of what opposes the Almighty and promotes the corruption that abounds. The destruction of the world looms on the horizon. I believe that this climaxing *grand finale* for Babylon is the fulfillment of Revelation 18 in coded language. All religion outside of Christ and its seeming human righteousness is really a part of the world system. Other facets of the world are its society, its industry, its finances, its entertainment, its politics, its moral degradation, its evolutionistic education and so on. No recognition of God or desire for His presence in the affairs of mankind... is part of the world.

“Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls: for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste! And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea, stood at a distance, and

were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like that great city?... Thus will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer.” If you get the drift of this writing you will enjoy reading Revelation 17 and 18.

The destruction of evil society must take place for the glorious entrance of God’s Kingdom on earth. The most vivid chapter in the Bible about the Son’s future reign on earth is probably Isa. 11. You will read about the righteous King and the changed earth and nations of the world during the 1000 year reign of Christ.

Amillennialism in Christianity today takes a view of Scripture that does not account for the future millennium and reign of Christ. To them things will continue on indefinitely without God’s intervention according to their belief. I believe that this teaching will be a major factor for the apostasy in the last days of the church age.

The late William MacDonald has written about 2 Timothy 3, a subject of coming apostasy, these words:

“The apostle now gives Timothy a description of conditions that will exist in the world prior to the Lord's coming. It has often been pointed out that the list of sins that follows is very similar to the description of the ungodly heathen in Romans 1. The remarkable thing is that the very conditions that exist among the heathen in their savagery and uncivilized state will characterize professing believers **in the last days**. How solemn this is!”

What will we then do with Jesus who is called Christ? Today our world is confused about everything, right thinking, evaluating morality, judgment between good, evil and discernment about what to do internationally, religion and what is best. This confusion is giving mixed results in our world and confusion abounds. Today the world has built its fortress so to speak and even now is making effort to control the environment, Eccl. 1:4 and Gen. 8:22. It has made significant progress in removing the presence of God in society. It is operating on the strength of its ungodly uninformed intellect. And we have a state of confusion. Only the Lord has a formula for a good fortress. The ungodly elite in every sector of society are contributing along with Satan to this fortress of confusion. We had all better find a soap box and shout God’s way to those who will hear.

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