

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Revelation 18:1-24 | Session 21 | Babylon the Great is Fallen

In the book of Revelation, there are seven pairs of visions given to John. The first pair of visions pertains to events that are taking place in Heaven, and the second part of the pair concerns events taking place on Earth.

- The First Vision, in Heaven (4:1-5:14).
- The First Vision, on Earth (6:1-7:8)
- The Second Vision, in Heaven (7:9-8:6).
- The Second Vision, on Earth (8:7-11:14).
- The Third Vision, in Heaven (11:15-18).
- The Third Vision, on Earth (11:19).
- The Fourth Vision, in Heaven (12:1-12)
- The Fourth Vision, on Earth (12:13-13:18)
- The Fifth Vision, in Heaven (14:1-5)
- The Fifth Vision, on Earth (14:6-20)
- The Sixth Vision, in Heaven (15:1-8)
- The Sixth Vision, on Earth (16:1-18:24)

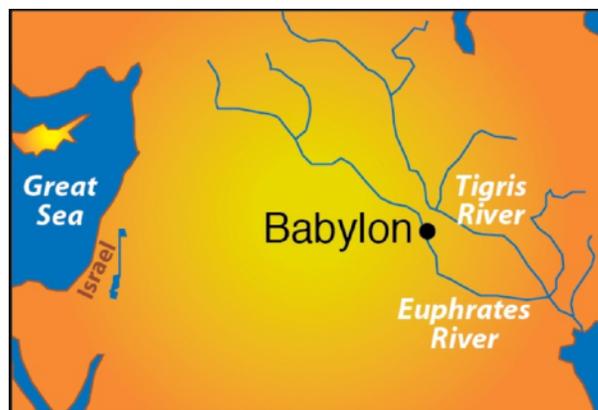
THE SIXTH VISION ON EARTH (16:1-18:24)

Babylon the Great is Fallen

During the Tribulation, the (literal) city of Babylon will be the headquarters for debauchery, fornication, and Satanic influence.

This future great, rebuilt city, is called a *mystery* and the *mother of harlots and abominations of the earth* (Revelation 17:5).

Future Babylon will be in present-day Iraq. Its ancient ruins lie in an area the Bible calls the land of Shinar (Genesis 10:8-10; Daniel 1:1-2; Zechariah 5:11), between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.



Babylon is known best as the place where mankind, through Satanic influence, worshipped themselves instead of God. It was the first (yet failed) attempt at a One World Government. Satan has been scheming to make his global government a reality ever since. We can read the account of the tower of Babel in Genesis 11:1-4.

The name Babel comes from *bab*=gate and *el*=god. *The gate of god*. Those building the tower were seeking to create a gateway unto God Himself. God responded quickly to their rebellion in Genesis 11:5-9.

Since then, God has decreed that individual nations and national boundaries be the order for humanity, rather than a global one-world government. (See **Deuteronomy 32:7,8**; Isaiah 2:4; 66:18; **Acts 17:26**; **Revelation 12:5**; 20:3; **21:24,26**). Borders are God's ideal and they are Biblical.

Mankind is experiencing today as never before, through Satan's influence, a concerted push toward global governance. And why is that? Satan's goal has always been to subvert God's divine order of nations so that he (Satan) might have complete and unlimited control.

This one world power play will be in full force during the Seven-Year Tribulation as the city of Babylon and the Satanic religious system of harlots and abominations will be resurrected.

You might recall the similarities between Genesis and the book of Revelation we compared at the beginning of our Revelation study¹. It should not be a surprise to us, then, that Satan will raise his ugly head in the last days.

We should consider Babylon in our passage today to be a literal city for a couple of reasons.

1. Babylon is mentioned over 300 times in Scripture, and each time, it refers to the literal city of Babylon.
2. Suppose we were to interpret Babylon in Revelation as some alternative, like the United States, Rome, Jerusalem, or symbolic of a religious system. Should that occur, we would face significant challenges with Old Testament prophecies that position the future empire of Antichrist and Satan in the land of Shinar or Mesopotamia, where Babylon has always existed.

The Old Testament portrays future Babylon as the world's political capital and economic force. Zechariah 5:5-11 states it shall be established in *Shinar, where the tower of Babel was located*. Regarding this passage, Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum writes:

"The ephah was a standard measure of weight and became the symbol of economy. This symbol of economy, in this case, is corrupted, as seen with the addition of lead, giving a false measure. Furthermore, it was to be placed in the land of Shinar, which is the same as Babylonia. Hence, the future center of the world economy will be in the rebuilt city of Babylon. Throughout the second half of the Tribulation, Babylon will be both the center of the world economy and the world political center."

Chapter 18 indeed depicts, in maritime language, the merchants who *were made rich* (vs. 17). While there is no harbor in Babylon today, Dan Hayden, in his book *Iraq: In the Crosshairs of Destiny...* writes:

A commercial port and harbor for ships could become a reality for Babylon in a relatively short period. With modern dredging equipment, a deep channel waterway could be opened from the Persian Gulf all the way to Babylon. With its location on the Euphrates River, ships and sailors could indeed have access

¹ See notes for session 1.

to this future queen of modern cities. The Antichrist ruler, with his political and economic power and global influence, could easily make that happen. So, as you can see, a harbor in Babylon is not at all out of the question.

In 1817, construction began on the famous Erie Canal waterway in the Eastern United States, linking the Hudson River with the Great Lakes. Its length is about 375 miles and took about eight years to complete. That was over two hundred years ago, and a lot of manpower was needed to fell trees and dig.

The Suez Canal stretches 120 miles and took ten years to build between 1859 and 1869.

And of course, there are many more canals that have been built throughout history.

A canal that could handle shipping and span the same distance as the Erie Canal from the Persian Gulf to Babylon could be built much more efficiently with modern equipment.

AN ANGEL ILLUMINATES THE EARTH WITH ITS GLORY

Verse 1 —

This vision John sees is still on earth as he **sees another angel come down from heaven**. This angel is set apart from others because he has **great power; the earth was lightened (illuminated) with his glory**. Some have said this must be Jesus Christ. We shouldn't read more into the verse than what we see. Remember, things that are similar are not always the same. In chapter 19, John will record the return of Jesus Christ with descriptions like *Faithful and True, The Word of God, King of kings, and Lord of lords*. Here we have a powerful angel, not Jesus Christ.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF BABYLON'S FALL

Verse 2 —

Babylon is fallen, is fallen. The repetition of the word shows the severity of this fallen city. Humans will no longer inhabit the city. It will be a stronghold of demons, imprisoned spirits, and scavenger birds. **And the hold of every foul spirit**. The word **foul** is used in the sense of unclean; a word Jews would understand (Revelation is about Israel). Jeremiah prophesied (50:39), "Therefore the wild beasts of the desert with the wild beast of the islands shall dwell there, and the owls shall dwell therein: And it shall be no more inhabited forever; Neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation." That prophecy is about to unfold.

THE REASON FOR BABYLON'S FALL

Verse 3 —

This is the city described in chapter 17, where we saw the symbolic *Woman, the mother of all harlots*, as the sign of the *city of Babylon* (17:5,18). In the future, this city will become a world center for **fornication** and greed.

When will this city be rebuilt? It would make common sense that it would have to be before the Seven-year tribulation. It seems impossible for a world city to be rebuilt, occupied, and become the world center of abominations within seven years. Jesus said, *"With men, this is impossible, but with God, all things are*

*possible.*² It is likely to happen after the Rapture of the body of Christ (Philippians 3:14; 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17). After the Rapture, there is no limit to the time that will elapse before the actual seven-year period begins. The Tribulation begins not with the Rapture of the body of Christ, but with the signing of the covenant between the Antichrist and, either Israel or Israel's enemies (Daniel 9:27).

GOD'S PEOPLE WARNED TO LEAVE BABYLON

Verse 4 —

This angel speaks in the name of God, calling His **people to come out of her**. These are God's people who will then be on the earth. The body of Christ (the Church) will have been *caught up* some years before (as noted above). That there will be a remnant of Jews in Babylon is prophesied in Jeremiah 50, where he prophesies, *"In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going weeping: they shall go, and seek the LORD their God"* (vs. 4). Why are they in Babylon? Jeremiah continues, *"My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray; they have turned them away on the mountains."* (Jeremiah 2:20: 3:6,23). **Be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.** The remnant of Israel, God's people, will receive a fair warning from the angel to get out of the city.

BABYLON'S SINS HAVE REACHED HEAVEN

Verse 5 —

The **sins of Babylon have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.** This is called Hebraism as if to say *God has never forgotten the iniquities of this city.*

VENGEANCE FROM GOD IS BABYLON'S COMING REWARD

Verses 6,7 —

According to her works, God's call is for vengeance, not a grace passage! **In the cup which she hath filled** refers to 17:4, *a golden cup...full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication.* She gloats; **I sit as queen...I shall see no sorrow.** Babylon is going to drink another cup because of her *self-glorification and pride*, the cup of God's wrath!

IN ONE MOMENT IN ONE DAY BABYLON WILL SUFFER

Verse 8 —

This prophecy concerns the sudden and complete judgment of Babylon. That the city will be **utterly burned** was mentioned in 17:16, and now it is confirmed. Isaiah predicts her destruction *"shall come to thee in a moment in one day..."* (Isaiah 47:9). How is this possible? **For strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.**

THE LAMENT FOR BABYLON

Verses 9-19 —

What is the great sin of Babylon? It is not commerce, although that transpires, but her sin is *whoredom, in the end, idolatry.*

What Babylon gives to the **kings of the earth...and the merchants of the earth** is a religion, and the clue of this religion is seen in verse 7, where Babylon **sits a queen.** What does this mean? Is this a false worship of

² This quote from Jesus was regarding salvation, but it is also a general truth.

Women? Is this *Womanolatry* in its most perverted sense: The Mother of all harlots and abominations of the earth? There is even now a sudden flood of false worship of women—consider the trans movement that has been embraced by governments and corporations worldwide. Notice the attention today is toward trans-women (biological men), *not as much trans-men*. It is all pure speculation, but Satan is the great deceiver, and he perverts everything natural.

The city will be destroyed in one hour (vs. 17).

THE QUESTION OF HOW LONG IS ANSWERED

Verse 20 —

In chapter 6:10,11, when the fifth seal is opened (which I place as the beginning of the Tribulation), those Jews who had been slain for the word of God ask, “*How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?*”

The waiting is over, and that avenging has now come.

THE WORLD HAS BEEN DUPED

Verses 21-23 —

How will Babylon dupe all the world's nations to join in with her perversions? Through **sorceries** and her corrupt religion and idolatry. We noted before (Rev. 9:21) that the word **sorceries** is the Greek word *pharmakeia*. Can we see the formation of this deception flowing into our nation and world today?

A violent end to Babylon is prophesied **like a great millstone and cast into the sea, thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.**

It will have to be rebuilt and restored for this to happen. To emphasize that this is a future event, the violent destruction as described here has never happened to Babylon.

WHY BABYLON?

Verse 24—

Why is God’s attention so laser-focused on that city? Verse 24 reveals the answer. **And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.**

Jeremiah (51:49) wrote:

*“As Babylon hath caused the slain **of Israel** to fall, So at Babylon shall fall the slain of all the earth.”*

The **prophets, and saints** (and apostles) are “of Israel.” God will *bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse her*. When God’s judgment ultimately occurs, it will be *speedy, mighty, and sudden*. Just as depicted in Revelation 17 and 18.

In our next session, we will see the coming of the King of kings and the Final Judgment!