



Mt. Pleasant Bible Institute

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Study to shew thyself approved unto God" (2 Tim 2:15)

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Bible Prophecy

Mystery, Babylon The Great

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II. Description Of Babylon The Great

1. Arguments Regarding Her Identity

- A clear distinction among the major theories regarding the identity of Babylon the Great is that some are two-Babylon theories while others are one-Babylon theories
- As the name entails, **two-Babylon** theories maintain that there are two separate cities called “Babylon the Great” in Revelation
 - Revelation 17 describes a city that is the ecclesiastical/political Babylon
 - Revelation 18 describes another city that is the commercial/political Babylon
- Correspondingly, **one-Babylon** theories maintain that there is a single city called “Babylon the Great” in Revelation but it is described from different perspectives
 - Revelation 17 describes the ecclesiastical/political aspect of the city
 - Revelation 18 describes the commercial/political aspect of the same city

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- The widely popular *Scofield Reference Bible* provides an example of the two-Babylon theory in it's footnote of Revelation 18:2

“Babylon, ‘confusion,’ is repeatedly used by the prophets in a symbolic sense (see Isa. 13:1, note). Two ‘Babylons’ are to be distinguished in the Revelation: ecclesiastical Babylon, which is apostate Christendom, headed up under the Papacy; and political Babylon, which is the Beast’s confederated empire, the last form of Gentile world-dominion. Ecclesiastical Babylon is ‘the great whore’ (Rev 17:1) and is destroyed by political Babylon (Rev 17:15-18) that the beast may be the alone object of worship (2 The 2:3-4; Rev 13:15). The power of political Babylon is destroyed by the return of the Lord in glory (See ‘Armageddon,’ Rev 16:14; 19:17). The notion of a literal Babylon to be rebuilt on the site of ancient Babylon is in conflict with Isa 13:19-22. But the language of Rev 18:10; Rev 18:16; Rev 18:18 seems beyond question to identify ‘Babylon,’ the ‘city’ of luxury and traffic, with ‘Babylon’ the ecclesiastical centre, namely, Rome. The very kings who hate ecclesiastical Babylon deplore the destruction of commercial Babylon.”

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- Examples of past and present theories regarding the identity of Babylon the Great in Revelation 17 and 18 are given below

#	The Babylon of Revelation 17	The Babylon of Revelation 18
1	The world system (religion)	The world system (commerce)
2	Jerusalem (apostate Judaism)	Jerusalem (Zionism)
3	Islam (Mecca or Babylon)	Islamic caliphate (Mecca or Babylon)
4	United States Of America (Washington, DC)	United States Of America (New York City)
5	World Council Of Churches	United Nations (New York City or Babylon)
6	One world religion combining all faiths (Rome or Babylon)	Revived Roman empire (Rome, New York City, or Babylon)
7	One world new age religion (Rome or Babylon)	Babylon (the literal city rebuilt in Iraq on the Euphrates river)
8	Pagan Rome	Pagan Rome
9	Papal Rome (Roman Catholic Church)	Papal Rome (Rome)
10	Communism	European Union (Brussels, London, or Rome)

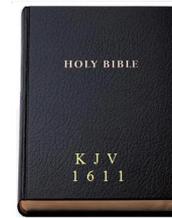
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- Both one and two-Babylon theories view Babylon the Great as both a **SYSTEM** and a **CITY/NATION** that is religious, political, and commercial in scope
- What follows is a summary of the seven most popular theories today regarding the identity of Babylon the Great and arguments supporting each theory

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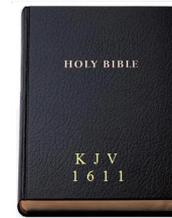


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- 1) Babylon the Great is **the world system**



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- In Isaiah 13, the burden is against BABYLON but it is THE WORLD that is punished

Isa 13:1,11

1 The burden of **Babylon**, which Isaiah the son of Amoz did see.

11 And I will punish **the world** for *their* evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

- The Lord commands his people to come out of BABYLON just like he commands Christians to come out from among UNBELIEVERS and the children of Israel came out from EGYPT, a type of THE WORLD

Rev 18:4

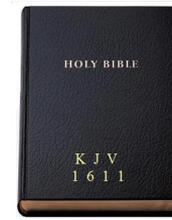
And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out of her, my people**, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

2 Cor 6:14,17

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with **unbelievers**: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

17 Wherefore **come out from among them**, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,

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Num 33:38

And Aaron the priest went up into mount Hor at the commandment of the LORD, and died there, in the fortieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the first *day* of the fifth month.

- Babylon the Great is destroyed as part of the Second Coming of Christ and the Second Coming marks the end of the WORLD

Rev 16:19

And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

Matt 24:3

And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what *shall be* the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

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- When humanity scattered throughout the earth following the confusion of tongues at Babel they established their own societies and cultures based on what they knew from Babel
- The “world” of Babel is the foundation upon which all cultures and societies have been built

Gen 11:8-9

8 So **the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth**: and they left off to build the city.

9 Therefore is the name of it called **Babel**; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

Rev 17:5

And upon her forehead *was* a name written, MYSTERY, **BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER** OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

- Babylon the Great is guilty of committing FORNICATION, and Christians are commanded not to LOVE the world (1 John 2:15) and warned against committing spiritual ADULTERY by befriending THE WORLD

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Jam 4:4

Ye **adulterers and adulteresses**, know ye not that the **friendship of the world** is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

- Satan (Lucifer) is the king of BABYLON yet he is the prince and god of THIS WORLD

Isa 14:4,12

4 That thou shalt take up this proverb against **the king of Babylon**, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!

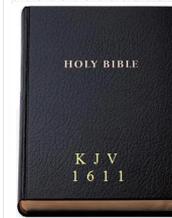
12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O **Lucifer**, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

John 12:31

Now is the judgment of this world: now shall **the prince of this world** be cast out.

2 Cor 4:4

In whom **the god of this world** hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.



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