



Mt. Pleasant Bible Institute

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

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Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church

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Bible Prophecy

Mystery, Babylon The Great (Pt.1)

Mystery, Babylon The Great



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2 Chr 36:15-19

15 And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place:

16 But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till *there was* no remedy.

17 Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave *them* all into his hand.

18 And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all *these* he brought to Babylon.

19 And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.

Deu 28:48-50

48 Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all *things*: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.

49 The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;

50 A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young:

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Hab 1:6-8

6 For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwellingplaces *that are* not theirs.

7 They *are* terrible and dreadful: their judgment and their dignity shall proceed of themselves.

8 Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle *that* hasteth to eat.

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- The great whore of Revelation 17-18 is called BABYLON (the Great) and THE MOTHER of harlots and abominations for a reason
- Babel (Babylon) was the origin of the godless world SYSTEM- it marked the beginning of human society without God; an institutionalized and centralized government, religion, commerce, labor, education, etc. with Satan as its PRINCE (John 16:11) and GOD (2 Cor 4:4)
- As a result of the confusion of tongues, the people scattered from Babel and formed separate civilizations, cultures, and societies; however, they were all based on the Babylonian system, making Babylon the mother of every human civilization, culture, and society
- Babel (Babylon) was also the first CITY/STATE following the Flood; in fact, it was the largest city in the world between 1770 BC- 1670 BC and again between 612 BC- 320 BC
- After Babylon was conquered by the Medes and Persians it went through a period of gradual but persistent decline until it ceased to exist
- There has not been a viable city of Babylon for centuries, just an Iraqi province called BABIL

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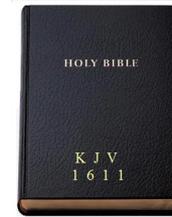
- The Babylon in Revelation 17-18 is a clearly a city/state as well as a system
- It is a city/state that existed in John's day and there is no indication or implication that there would be any period of time between that day and the Second Coming of Christ that it would not exist
- If this is true, then the ancient city of Babylon could not be the Babylon of Revelation 17-18, even if it were rebuilt to any extent
- The Babylon in Revelation 17-18 may have originated as the ancient city of Babylon but it changed residence and identity (like some serial killers) sometime after the fall of Babylon to the Medes and Persians (see the previous lesson in this series regarding Joshua 2 and the Babylonish garment for more information)
- Her new location and identity are a mystery that is revealed in Revelation 17

Rev 17:7,18

7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? **I will tell thee the mystery of the woman**, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

18 And **the woman** which thou sawest **is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth**.

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- While a specific name is not given in Revelation 17:18, the interpretation was clear to John and should be clear to us
- The GREAT city reigning over the kings of the earth at the time was ROME
- While numerous examples can be given showing the connection between Babylon and Rome, the most pertinent to 2 Kings 24-25; 2 Chronicles 36; and Jeremiah 52 is that Babylon besieged Jerusalem and destroyed the FIRST temple and Rome besieged Jerusalem and destroyed the SECOND temple (Dan 9:26)
- In fact, the Babylonians (under Nebuzaradan) and the Romans (under Titus) destroyed the temple **ON THE SAME DAY** (i.e.- the 10th day of the 5th month)- the former in 587 BC and the latter in 70 AD
- Jews commemorate both events with an annual day of fasting and mourning called, *Tisha B'Av* (i.e.- the 9th of Av), an observance which actually began during the Babylonian captivity

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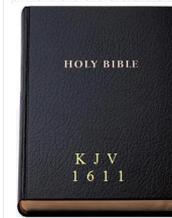
Zec 7:3-5

3 *And* to speak unto the priests which *were* in the house of the LORD of hosts, and to the prophets, saying, Should I weep in **the fifth month**, separating myself, as I have done these so many years?

4 Then came the word of the LORD of hosts unto me, saying,

5 Speak unto all the people of the land, and to the priests, saying, **When ye fasted and mourned in the fifth** and seventh **month, even those seventy years**, did ye at all fast unto me, *even* to me?

- Nebuchadnezzar took the vessels and treasures of the first temple and placed them in a temple (a treasure house) at Babylon
- The Romans also carried away the vessels and treasures of the second temple in 70AD and brought them back to Rome
- They remain in Rome to this day in the possession of the Vatican
- This equates Rome with Babylon, and the Vatican with a Babylonian temple (and treasure house)
- Those who doubt the credibility of the latter connection need to consider the answers to the following questions: Is the Vatican a RELIGIOUS place? Is the Vatican a RICH place?



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