



# Mt. Pleasant Bible Institute

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

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A ministry of the  
***Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church***

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# Bible Prophecy

*Mystery, Babylon The Great*  
*(Pt.2)*

# Mystery, Babylon The Great



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## 1 Pet 5:13

**The church** that is at **Babylon**, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son.

- PETER was associated with, and may have been the elder (bishop; pastor) (v.1) of the CHURCH at BABYLON
- There are two main views on the identity of this Babylon
  1. BABYLON= the ancient city on the banks of the Euphrates river
  2. BABYLON= Rome (based on Revelation 17:18)
- The Roman Catholic Church leads the way among those who believe this Babylon is Rome
- How ironic that ROME would confess with its own mouth that it is BABYLON

The *Catholic Encyclopedia* states the following under the section entitled *Apostolic Succession*: “That Babylon stands for Rome, as usual amongst pious Jews, and not for the real Babylon, then without Christians, is admitted by common consent (cf. F.J.A. Hort, ‘Judaistic Christianity’, London, 1895, 155)”

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The *Catholic Encyclopedia* states the following under the section entitled *St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles*: “St. Peter’s First Epistle was written almost undoubtedly from Rome, since the salutation at the end reads: ‘The church that is in Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you: and so doth my son Mark’ (5:13). Babylon must here be identified with the Roman capital; since Babylon on the Euphrates, which lay in ruins, or New Babylon (Seleucia) on the Tigris, or the Egyptian Babylon near Memphis, or Jerusalem cannot be meant, the reference must be to Rome, the only city which is called Babylon elsewhere in ancient Christian literature (Revelation 17:5; 18:10; ‘Oracula Sibyl’, V, verses 143 and 159, ed. Geffcken, Leipzig, 1902, 111)”

In answer to the question, Was Peter In Rome? *Catholic Answers* responds: “There is, in the greeting at the end of the first epistle: ‘The Church here in Babylon, united with you by God’s election, sends you her greeting, and so does my son, Mark’ (1 Pet. 5:13, Knox). Babylon is a code-word for Rome. It is used that way multiple times in works like the *Sibylline Oracles* (5:159f), the *Apocalypse of Baruch* (2:1), and *4 Esdras* (3:1). Eusebius Pamphilius, in *The Chronicle*, composed about A.D. 303, noted that ‘It is said that Peter’s first epistle, in which he makes mention of Mark, was composed at Rome itself; and that he himself indicates this, referring to the city figuratively as Babylon.’”

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- The Roman Catholic Church has a clear vested interest to interpret this Babylon as Rome because they need scriptural support for their doctrine regarding the supremacy of the papacy (i.e.- the bishop of Rome)
- The Roman Catholic Church interprets Matthew 16:18-19 to teach that Peter is the “rock” upon whom the church is built and that Jesus empowered him with all temporal authority
- They believe this temporal authority is passed on to Peter’s successors following death
- They believe that Peter was the first bishop of ROME (i.e.- pope), so the succession of temporal power is in the PAPACY
- If Peter was not in Rome, much less the first bishop of Rome, then their entire doctrine regarding the papacy comes crashing down
- The original *Living Bible*, which was a paraphrase rather than a literal translation, changed the text of 1 Peter 5:13 to read ROME instead of BABYLON:

“The church here in Rome- she is your sister in the Lord- sends you her greetings: so does my son Mark.”

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## Why The “Babylon” Of 1 Peter 5:13 is BABYLON And Not Rome

- 1) The mystery that BABYLON is a symbolic name for ROME was not revealed until Revelation 17, at least 35 years after 1 Peter was written
- 2) 1 Peter was written the same approximate time as Romans (60 AD), so if Peter was the first bishop of Rome he must have been in Rome at the time Romans was written, yet Paul is the one who wrote Romans and he did not mention Peter one time in any of the salutations
- 3) If 1 Peter had been written by any one else except Peter virtually no one would think the Babylon of 1 Peter 5:13 was Rome- the only reason the debate exists is because of the ramifications to Catholic doctrine regarding the papacy
- 4) Peter was committed with **“the gospel of the circumcision”** (Gal 2:7) (i.e.- his primary gospel ministry was to the JEWS) and, in spite of the fact the ancient city of Babylon lied in virtual ruin, it was still home to a relatively large Jewish population according to Josephus

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“But when Hyrcanus was brought into Parthia the king Phraates treated him after a very gentle manner, as having already learned of what an illustrious family he was; on which account he set him free from his bonds, and gave him a habitation at **Babylon**, **where there were Jews in great numbers.**” **Antiquities Of The Jews 15.2.2**

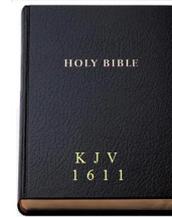
“So king Herod immediately took the high priesthood away from Ananelus, who, as we said before, was not of this country, but one of those **Jews** that had been carried captive beyond Euphrates; for there were not a few ten thousands of this people that had been carried captives, and **dwelt about Babylonia**, whence Ananelus came.” **Antiquities Of The Jews 15.3.1**

5) 1 Peter was written to converted JEWS and Jewish proselytes who were DISPERSED to some of the same regions represented by the same people at Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost when Peter preached, and MESOPOTAMIA (Babylon) is among them

**1 Pet 2:12**

**Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles:** that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by *your* good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

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## 1 Pet 1:1

**Peter**, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

## Acts 2:8-11

8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,

10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

## Region in Acts 2:9

Cappadocia

=

Pontus

=

Asia

=

**Mesopotamia**

=

## Region in 1 Peter 1:1; 5:13

Cappadocia

Pontus

Asia

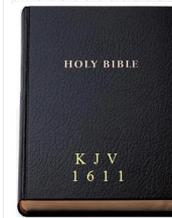
**Babylon**

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- The Roman Catholic Church is not associated with the CHURCH at BABYLON led by PETER (1 Pet 5:13) but it is the CHURCH at BABYLON THE GREAT led by the successor to the Catholic version of PETER



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