



# Mt. Pleasant Bible Institute

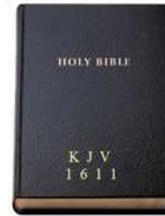
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*Study to shew thyself approved unto God" (2 Tim 2:15)*

*Dr. Joseph Speciale, Instructor*

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

**Lee Swor, Pastor**



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## Mystery, Babylon The Great

- BABYLON was an emerging or dominant Gentile power throughout Jeremiah's ministry
- The Lord revealed to Jeremiah that BABYLON would be his instrument of judgment against Judah and against all the nations round about, and that the period of judgment would last 70 years (25:11) cf. (29:10; Isa 23:15,17)
- The Lord also revealed to Jeremiah that at the end of the 70 years, Babylon would be the last nation judged (25:12)

### Jer 25:8-12

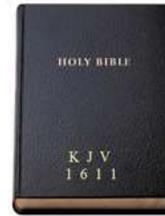
8 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Because ye have not heard my words,

9 Behold, **I will send** and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and **Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon**, my servant, and will bring them **against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof**, and **against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them** an astonishment, and an hissing, and **perpetual desolations**.

10 Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle.

11 And **this whole land shall be a desolation**, and an astonishment; and **these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years**.

12 And it shall come to pass, **when seventy years are accomplished**, that **I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation**, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, **and will make it perpetual desolations**.



## Mystery, Babylon The Great

- Jerusalem and Judah are the first to drink of the cup of the Lord's wrath in Jeremiah 25 (25:18) cf. (1 Pet 4:17) followed by the nations (25:19-26)
- The details regarding the judgment against 10 of these nations is given in (Jer 46-51)
- Babylon is the last to drink of the cup of the Lord's wrath (25:26) cf. (50:12) because it is judged after the 70 years
- Babylon is also the last nation prophesied against in (Jer 50-51)

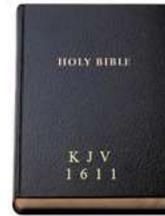
### Nations That Drink The Cup Of God's Wrath (Jer 25)

- |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|
| 1) Jerusalem and Judah (25:18)        |
| 2) Egypt (25:19)                      |
| 3) Uz (25:20)                         |
| 4) The Philistines (25:20)            |
| 5) Edom (25:21)                       |
| 6) Moab (25:21)                       |
| 7) Ammon (25:21)                      |
| 8) Tyre and Sidon (25:22)             |
| 9) All the kings of Arabia (25:23-25) |
| 10) Elam and the Medes (25:25)        |
| 11) Sheshach (25:26)                  |

### Nations That Jeremiah Prophesies Against (Jer 46-51)

- |                               |
|-------------------------------|
| 1) Egypt (46:2-28)            |
| 2) The Philistines (47:1-7)   |
| 3) Tyre and Sidon (47:4)      |
| 4) Moab (48:1-47)             |
| 5) Ammon (49:1-6)             |
| 6) Edom (49:7-22)             |
| 7) Damascus (49:23-27)        |
| 8) Kedar and Hazor (49:28-33) |
| 9) Elam (49:34-39)            |
| 10) Babylon (50:1-51:64)      |

# Mystery, Babylon The Great

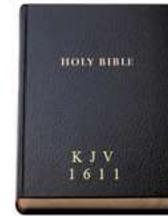


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## KEY WORDS APPEARING IN JEREMIAH 50-51

- 1) BABYLON= 55x (5= # of DEATH x 11= # of CONFUSION) (50:1-2,8-9,13-14,16-18,23-24,28-29,34-35,42-43,45-46; 51:1-2,6-9,11-12,24,29-31,33-35,37,41-42,44,47-49,53-56,58-61,64)
- 2) CHALDEA(NS)= 10x (# of the GENTILES) (50:1,8,10,25,35,45; 51:4,24,35,54)
- 3) DESTRUCTION (in all forms)= 12x (50:11,21-22,26; 51:1,3,8,11,25,54-55)
- 4) DESOLATION (in all forms)= 8x (50:3,13,23,45; 51:26,29,43,62)
- 5) BROKEN= 7x (50:2,17,23; 51:30,56,58)
- 6) CONFOUNDED= 6x (50:2,12; 51:17,47,51)
- 7) SPOILED (in all forms)= 6x (50:10; 51:48,53,55-56)

# Mystery, Babylon The Great



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## Jer 50:1-8

1 The word that the LORD spake against **Babylon** and against the land of **the Chaldeans** by Jeremiah the prophet.

2 Declare ye among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard; publish, and conceal not: say, **Babylon is taken**, Bel is confounded, Merodach is broken in pieces; her idols are confounded, her images are broken in pieces.

3 For **out of the north there cometh up a nation against her**, which shall **make her land desolate**, and **none shall dwell therein: they shall remove, they shall depart, both man and beast**.

4 **In those days**, and in that time, saith the LORD, **the children of Israel shall come**, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the LORD their God.

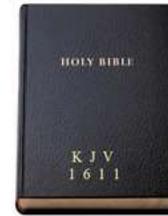
5 **They shall ask the way to Zion** with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the LORD in a perpetual covenant *that* shall not be forgotten.

6 My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away *on* the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their restingplace.

7 All that found them have devoured them: and their adversaries said, We offend not, because they have sinned against the LORD, the habitation of justice, even the LORD, the hope of their fathers.

8 **Remove out of the midst of Babylon**, and **go forth out of the land of the Chaldeans**, and be as the he goats before the flocks.

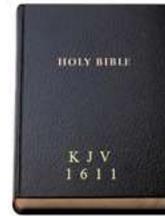
# Mystery, Babylon The Great



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## Babylon...the Chaldeans.

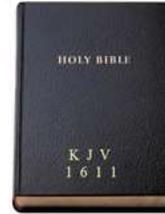
- Interpreting BABYLON in Jeremiah 50-51 may be more complicated than Isaiah 47
- The only BABYLON mentioned in Isaiah 47 is the DAUGHTER of Babylon (47:1), and the only CHALDEANS mentioned is the DAUGHTER of the Chaldeans (47:1,5), so the MOTHER, Babylon the Great (Rev 17-18) is not mentioned
- The near fulfillment of the DAUGHTER of Babylon is the NEO-BABYLONIAN EMPIRE and the far (prophetic) fulfillment is a powerful, proud, pleasure-indulgent, careless, and perverted nation of the last days, which could be the USA
- BABYLON appears 55x in Jeremiah 50-51 but the phrase DAUGHTER OF BABYLON only appears 2x (50:42; 51:33) and is implied 1x (50:12)
- CHALDEA(NS) appears 10x but the phrase DAUGHTER OF THE CHALDEANS does not appear at all
- The primary interpretation of BABYLON in Jeremiah 50-51 is the NEO-BABYLONIAN EMPIRE because it is called both BABYLON and the DAUGHTER OF BABYLON



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## Mystery, Babylon The Great

- This is also supported by the fact that specific names relevant to this interpretation appear in both chapters: (1) NEBUCHADREZZAR appears 2x (50:17; 51:34); (2) MEDES appears 2x (51:11,28); (3) MERATHAIM and PEKOD appear 1x (50:21); and (4) ARARAT, MINNI, and ASHCENAZ appear 1x (51:27)
- There are multiple possible outcomes to interpreting the BABYLON of Jeremiah 50-51
  - The prophecy has a single fulfillment in the NEO-BABYLONIAN empire
  - The prophecy has a near fulfillment in the Neo-Babylonian empire and a far fulfillment in the MOTHER, Babylon the Great (i.e.- Rome)
  - The prophecy has a near fulfillment in the Neo-Babylonian empire and a far fulfillment in the DAUGHTER of Babylon (i.e.- the USA)
  - The prophecy has a near fulfillment in the Neo-Babylonian empire and far fulfillment in the current nation of BABYLON (i.e.- Iraq)
- Which outcome is correct may not be known until the actual fulfillment of the events, but the best we can do for now is interpret the passages that not yet clear in light of the passages that are clear



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## Mystery, Babylon The Great

### Babylon is taken.

- TAKEN= “to gain possession of a thing in almost any manner, either by receiving it when offered, or by exertion to obtain it; to receive; to seize; to captivate; to catch”
- The near fulfillment of this prophecy is when Babylon was taken by the Medes and Persians

### **Dan 5:30-31**

**30** In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.

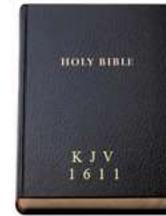
**31** And Darius the Median took the kingdom, *being* about threescore and two years old.

- The far fulfillment of this prophecy is when Babylon the Great is taken by the Lord and his armies

### **Rev 11:15**

And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

# Mystery, Babylon The Great



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## Out of the north there cometh a nation against her.

- The nation out of the north is the MEDES (51:11,28), who were part of an assembly of great nations from the north country (v.9), which included the kingdoms of Ararat, Minni, and Ashchenaz (51:27)
- The dual army of the Medes and Persians that came against Babylon (Isa 13:17) are a type of the Lord's dual army of saints and angels that come with him from heaven (i.e.- NORTH) against Babylon the Great at the Second Coming

### Isa 13:3

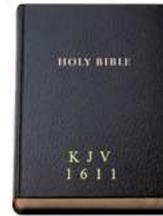
I have commanded **my sanctified ones**, I have also called **my mighty ones** for mine anger, *even* them that rejoice in my highness.

### Joel 3:11

Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause **thy mighty ones** to come down, O LORD.

### Rev 19:14

And **the armies which were in heaven** followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.



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## Mystery, Babylon The Great

### Make her land desolate.

- The first appearance of DESOLATE in Jeremiah 50-51; appears 8x in its various forms (50:3,13,23,45; 51:26,29,43,62)
- The near fulfillment is the Babylon of the Neo-Babylonian empire although it would take centuries to fulfill
- The context indicates the far fulfillment is Babylon the Great (i.e.- the world)

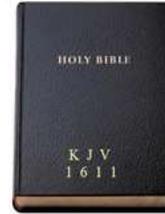
### Isa 24:1,6

1 Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof.

6 Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein **are desolate**: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.

### Joel 2:3

A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: **the land is** as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them **a desolate wilderness**; yea, and nothing shall escape them.



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## Mystery, Babylon The Great

### None shall dwell therein.

- This defines the extent of the desolation of Babylon and shows that it is absolute
- Similar expressions are used throughout Jeremiah 50-51 highlighting the certainty of the desolation

### **Jer 50:13,39-40**

**13** Because of the wrath of the LORD it shall not be inhabited, but it shall be wholly desolate: every one that goeth by Babylon shall be astonished, and hiss at all her plagues.

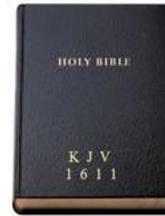
**39** Therefore the wild beasts of the desert with the wild beasts of the islands shall dwell *there*, and the owls shall dwell therein: and it shall be no more inhabited for ever; neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation.

**40** As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour *cities* thereof, saith the LORD; so shall no man abide there, neither shall any son of man dwell therein.

### **Jer 51:29,37**

**29** And the land shall tremble and sorrow: for every purpose of the LORD shall be performed against Babylon, to make the land of Babylon a desolation without an inhabitant.

**37** And Babylon shall become heaps, a dwellingplace for dragons, an astonishment, and an hissing, without an inhabitant.



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## Mystery, Babylon The Great

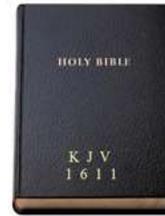
- While it took centuries to fulfill, the site of ancient Babylon today is covered by the sands of the Iraqi desert
- Former Iraqi dictator, Saddam Hussein had ambitions to rebuild Babylon in the 1980s but the Gulf War of 1990 and the Iraq War of 2003 obliterated that dream
- As for the far fulfillment, it is the CITY of Babylon the Great (i.e.- Rome) that will be made desolate and without an inhabitant

### Rev 18:19

And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, **that great city**, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for **in one hour is she made desolate**.

### **They shall remove, they shall depart, both man and beast.**

- This clarifies that NONE dwelling in Babylon includes both man and beast
- This does not contradict v.39 but complements it because the BEASTS of v.39 that dwell in Babylon are not physical but spiritual- they are DEVILS



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## Mystery, Babylon The Great

### Jer 50:39

Therefore the wild beasts of the desert with the wild beasts of the islands shall dwell there, and the owls shall dwell therein: and it shall be no more inhabited for ever; neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation.

### Isa 13:19-22

19 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

20 It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there.

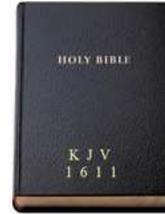
21 But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and owls shall dwell there, and satyrs shall dance there.

22 And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in *their* pleasant palaces: and her time *is* near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged.

- The far fulfillment is in the CITY of Babylon the Great which, being desolate of any man and beast, will become the habitation of DEVILS

### Rev 18:2

And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.



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## Mystery, Babylon The Great

- The part of the prophecy that states men and beasts REMOVE and DEPART (v.3) from Babylon may only apply to ancient Babylon because its DESOLATION took centuries and was the result of both DESTRUCTION and DESERTION
- In contrast, the desolation of Babylon the Great takes place in ONE HOUR in ONE DAY and is solely the result of fiery destruction

### Rev 18:8,19

**8** Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong *is* the Lord God who judgeth her.

**19** And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.

- This could not apply to the prophetic daughter of Babylon either because her desolation takes place SUDDENLY, in A MOMENT in ONE DAY