

# Clearing the Confusion



**Defeating Babylonianism**

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## **Babylonianism:**

This study will seek to define the who, what, when, where, why, and how as relates to the topic of Babylon found throughout Scripture from Genesis 11 to Revelation 18. It will then make application to the present world situation.

Babylonianism refers to a specific philosophical system that is believed and acted upon within a societal structure. Its elements will be defined. Babylonianism is often such a part of the culture that it is not recognizable unless compared to other systems.

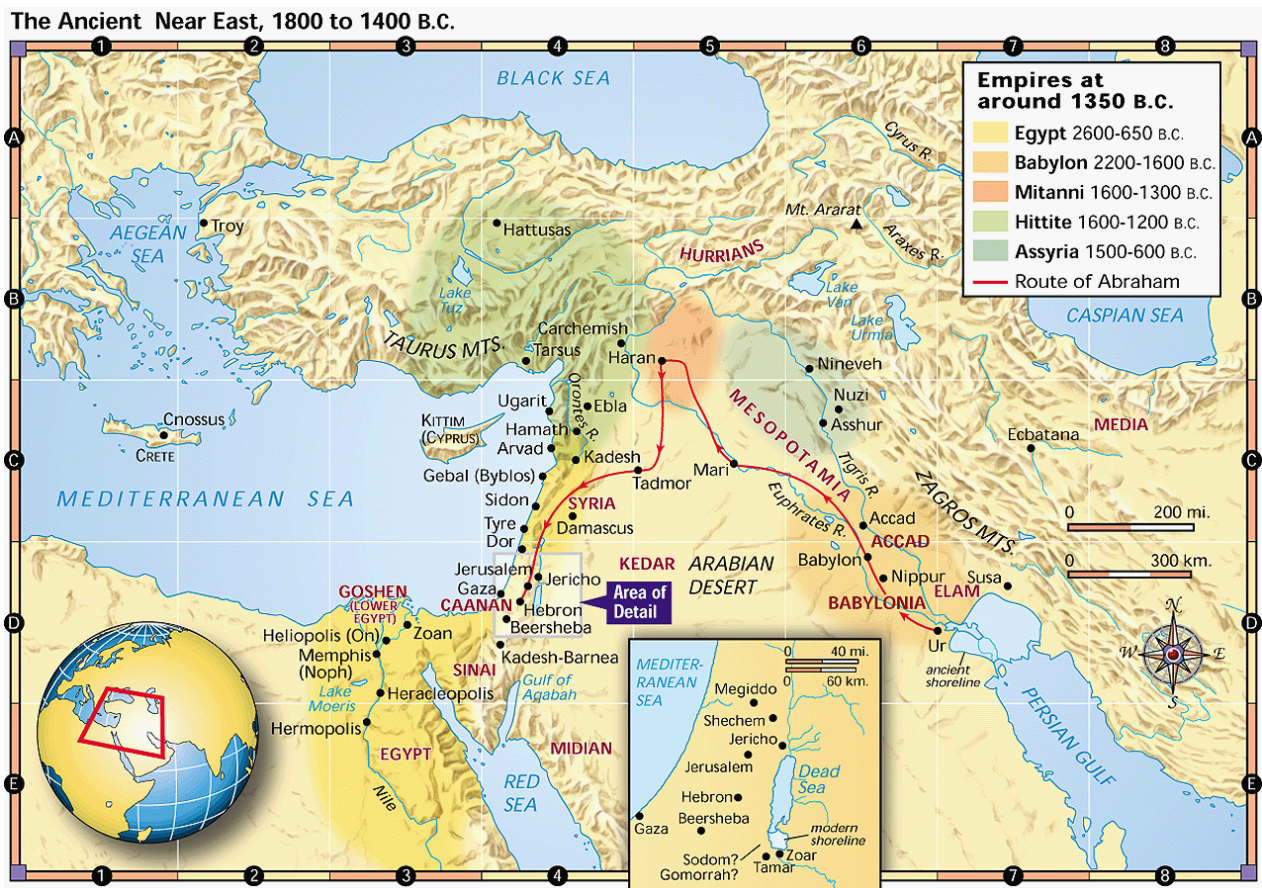
This study will cover the following:

- 1. The Tower of Babel**
- 2. Historical Babylon**
- 3. Historical Babylon today.**
- 4. Religious Babylon: how to identify.**
- 5. Prophetical Babylon: how to identify.**
- 6. Summary of the Differences in Babylons.**
- 7. Applications: so what?**



## 1. The Tower of Babel. Gen 11:1-9

Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. 2 And it came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. 3 And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. 4 And they said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name; lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." 5 And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. 6 And the Lord said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them. 7 Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." 8 So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. 9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth. NASB





### Gen 11:1 = The Setting.

Now the whole earth used the same language (**SAPHAH = 1<sup>st</sup> of 175x; means lips, speech, edge; compare to LASHON which means “tongue” both are important to forming words. This word is used more of a boundary indicating that speech has boundaries**) and the same words (**DABHAR = in plural; words have to have meaning or they are useless; same vocabulary**).

**L.T. = Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words.**

#### **Summary:**

1. **Adam was created with a complete vocabulary. 2:19,20**
2. **Adam’s vocabulary established the language of the Antediluvians that many scholars believe was some form of ancient Sanskrit.**

Wikipedia: Sanskrit was the classical language of India and today is considered the primary bridge between Hebrew and other Semitic languages, and the Greek and Latin of Western civilization. Jones further included the Gothic, Celtic and Persian (Farsi) languages in what is now known as the Indo-European family of languages.<sup>[2]</sup> But the similarities are not confined to this family. G. Ch. Aalders stated that the ancient languages of Assyria and Egypt had much in common with those of the Maya and Inca peoples of the Americas. Harold Stigers observed in 1976 that language scholars were rapidly concluding that all languages had a common root. Even secular scholars must now admit as much, whether they accept the story of the Tower of Babel or not.<sup>[2]</sup> Furthermore, the sons of Noah each had a large number of sons: four, five, and seven, for a total of sixteen families in a generation that began directly after the Flood. One hundred six years allows time for five generations, and if each family produced eight more families, the population could reach at least 65,000 in a hundred years, more than enough to attempt to build a single city and even a ziggurat.

### Gen 11:2 = The Migration from the Ark.

And it came about as they journeyed east (**Qal Inf NAsA’ = 1<sup>st</sup> of 146x; to lift up as one does tent pegs, thus marked the beginning of a journey**), that they found a plain (**BIQ’A’ = 1<sup>st</sup> of 20x; a plain or valley**) in the land of Shinar (**SHIN’AR = 8x; Gen 10:10; 14:1,9; Joshn 7:21 where translated “Babylonish”; Isa 11:11; Dan 1:2; Zech 5:11; its location is not really challenged by anyone; the Tigris-Euphrates river valley; ancient Sumer**) and settled there (**Qal IPF YASHABH = to dwell with the idea of permanence; it was the supposed end of their nomadic existence**).

**L.T. = And it came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.**

#### **Summary:**

1. **The land of Shinar is Babylon. Dan 1:2**  
The Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and he brought the vessels into the treasury of his god.
2. **The initial migration from the Flood was from Ararat, southeast into Sumer (present day Iraq), located between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.**
3. **The area has been referred to as “The Fertile Crescent” and even liberal scholars view this area as the “cradle of civilization.”**
4. **The traveler’s decision was to end their nomadic existence.**
5. **This is where Nimrod became their leader. Cf 10:10**

### Gen 11:3 = The Building Project.

And they said to one another (**Lit: each man said to his associate; this was a community vision and project**), "Come (**Qal IMP YAHABH = 33x; only in Qal Imp. An urgent request that can mean “come on” or “give” as when Jacob asked Laban for Rachel after serving him for seven years**), let us make

bricks (**Qal IPF LABHAN = 1<sup>st</sup> of 8x; word that basically means to make white; Isa 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; when referring to making brick it recognizes the white clay of the area that was available)** and burn them thoroughly (**Qal IPF as Jussive SARAPH = 1<sup>st</sup> of 117x; to burn).**" And they used brick for stone, and they used tar (**CHEMAR = bitumen, that which boils up from the subterranean fountains like oil or hot pitch. It still does in the vicinity of Babylon, asphalt)** for mortar.

**L.T. = And each man said to his associate, "Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar.**

#### **Summary:**

##### **1. There is urgency in their decision.**

(The word means fear, receiving payment for debt owed, most often a fear-led decision)

Since there are 70 nations mentioned in Genesis 10 as resulting from the "division" at Babel, it is reasonable to infer that there were 70 families at Babel, representing probably the generation of Noah's grandsons and great-grandsons. Seventy families containing 800 or 1,000 individuals altogether seem to fit the situation described at Babel very adequately. The approximate date of its building is given by James Ussher, who in *The Annals of the World* cites Manetho's Book of Sothis, as translated by Georgius Syncellus, as stating that the Babel Incident took place five years following the birth year of Peleg.<sup>[1]</sup>

##### **2. They are moving from tents to buildings, seeking to make permanent structures.** (Looks like they are going to make their stand.)

##### **3. They are going to bake bricks rather than sun-dry them, which will make them strong and when covered with tar, waterproof.**

##### **4. Using baked bricks instead of sundried ones indicates intelligence beyond the so called, "stone age."** (Some of the chronological data used by evolutionists to "extend" the ages includes dating layers of "mud brick buildings" at 1500 years each. Some of them actually believe it.)

##### **5. Using baked bricks instead of stone illustrates man's tribute to his own ingenuity and his efforts to save himself.** (nowhere does it say it is good to have your "feet on the bricks" but it does say to have them on "The Rock.")

#### **Gen 11:4 = Self-Protection.**

And they said, "Come (**urgency word again**), let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower (**MIGDOL = 1<sup>st</sup> of 50x; used to refer to a guard tower for military purposes as well as to watch over sheep**) whose top will reach into heaven (**lit: and its head in the heavens**), and let us make for ourselves (**Qal IPF 'ASAH = to manufacture out of something**) a name (**SHEM = not a quest for significance because they were the only people on the earth, so it must be referring to "a name" like "The Name"**); lest (**PHEN = conjunction; it is used to denote something prohibited which we fear and wish removed**) we be scattered abroad (**Qal IPF PHUTZ = 2<sup>nd</sup> cf 10:18**) over the face of the whole earth."

**L.T. = And they said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower and its head in the heavens, and let us make for ourselves a name; lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."**

#### **Summary:**

##### **1. This verse reveals the collective thought of the group which allows for small groups of individuals to not subscribe to the viewpoint.**

##### **2. Many towers were built throughout the ancient world, called ziggurats.**

**A. They were supposed to get them closer to their god.**

**B. They were built in stages and had the zodiac painted on their ceilings.**

**C. The Temple of Marduk is the most famous and was probably the original. It was about 300'x300'x300'.**

**D. The Temple of Marduk is also known as Esagila meaning "the temple that raises its head."**

##### **3. The evidence indicates that the "mob" must have decided they needed a place to escape the next flood.**

4. They were in outright rebellion against the command to “fill the earth,” seeking to not be scattered. Gen 9:1
5. They were enslaved by a fear of another flood and the arrogance of thinking they could save themselves.
6. They were seeking to make a god for themselves (a name).
7. The effort to build a tower to deliver oneself represents the effort humans expend to try to save themselves.
8. The spiritually mature individuals lost their influence to the more youthful, charismatic types. (Noah, Shem, Arpachshad, Shelah, Eber were still alive, but lost their influence to Nimrod. They were the old fogeys, hanging on to an old God and their old ways. The Zodiac was getting a new interpretation. This could have been led by the Kainan that is omitted here but included in the LXX. Same signs, new meaning. Sounds like the beginnings of Postmodernism.)
9. The sin is found in the attitude, not the action.  
(It is not a sin to build a city. God does it.)
10. The foundation is laid for the first United Nations.

#### Gen 11:5 = The Lord's Observation.

And the Lord (Yahweh) came down (Qal IPF YARADH = 1<sup>st</sup> of 379x; to come down, descend; indicates a Theophany, probably much like the visitor to Abraham en route to Sodom and Gomorrah) to see the city and the tower which the sons of men (the man) had built.

L.T. = And Yahweh came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of the man had built.

#### Summary:

1. This is a result of our fallen nature in Adam.
2. They completed the Tower but not the city. V8
3. They had violated His Sovereign Will and were about to witness His Overruling Will.
4. Since they had “their head in the heavens,” a heavenly visitor chose to visit them. (He already knew what was going on)
5. The Lord has granted mankind the freedom to pursue a course of action contrary to His Will.

#### Gen 11:6 = The Approaching Problem.

And the Lord said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And ('ATAH – adv. And now) this is what they began to do ('ASAH = manufacture; said of the NAME, not the city as it was to be BANAH; seeking to manufacture their own deliverance), and now nothing which they purpose to do (Qal IPF ZAMAM = 1<sup>st</sup> of 13x; to lie in wait, plot, indicates a conspiracy where one has brought false charges or is a false witness) will be impossible (LO + Niph IPF BATZAR = 1<sup>st</sup> of 37x; to cut off in the sense of gathering grapes; or to fence in or wall off; off limits; not “impossible” as that is an indicator of power, the word is an indicator of freedom) for them.

L.T. = And Yahweh said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And now this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they conspire to do will be off limits for them.

#### Summary:

1. The Lord's observations are recorded for all history.
2. His permissive will has declared that nothing they conspire to do will be off limits for them. (“ethnic cleansing,” cloning, space travel, weapons)
3. Just because we have the freedom to do something doesn't mean it is always a good idea. (Nor does it necessarily mean it is a bad idea. Automobiles, airplanes. We have the freedom to sin but it is not a good idea. We have the freedom to jump off a cliff, but...?)



4. **This is a statement of divine operating policy, meaning that mankind is given permission to take technology, human good and evil to new levels.** (Part of the Angelic Conflict. Technology seen in “burnt bricks.”)

#### **Gen 11:7 = The Solution.**

Come (Qal Imp 2ms YAHABH = 3<sup>rd</sup> use; urgency; addresses one person), let Us go down (Qal IPF 1cp YARADH = let US, grammatical evidence of the Trinity) and there confuse (Qal IPF BALAL = 1<sup>st</sup> of 43x; means to mix or mingle together by the addition of ingredients) their language (SAPHAH = lip cf 11:1), that they may not understand one another's speech."

L.T. = Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."

#### **Summary:**

1. **The Overruling Will of the Godhead decided to delete the existing language from their memory centers and install new ones.**  
(Kind of like removing one Rosetta Stone program and installing another.)
2. **God uses His Overruling Will not just to influence but also to protect.**
3. **He is displaying grace to the rebellious and at the same time keeping His word about not bringing another Flood.**
4. **God is not the author of confusion (1 Cor 14:33), so the “confusion” of the universal language is a judgment on their confusion of soul.**
5. **The individual languages were not confused as people could communicate with people of their own family.**

#### **Gen 11:8 = The Judgment**

So the Lord scattered (Hiph IPF PHUTZ = to disperse, scatter, Hiph is causative, a secondary cause) them (the “them” is the entire population of the world, located at one place) abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they (the bulk of the population) stopped (Qal IPF + w.c. CHADHAL = to forsake, leave, cease) building the city.

L.T. = So Yahweh scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city.

#### **Summary:**

1. **The Lord struck the arrogance with a physical problem.**  
(One of the key ways He gets peoples' attention. Earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, droughts, economic disaster.)
2. **Their different languages would cause them to congregate into groups where they could communicate.**
3. **God, who does things “honorably and according to an organized structure” (1 Cor 14:40), chose to connect the language and the genetics of families together.**
4. **The very thing they had feared (dispersion) had come upon them. V4**
5. **The city building was no longer a “worldwide” effort, but was left to be finished by Nimrod and his family. Cf 10:10**

#### **Gen 11:9 = The Name of the City.**

Therefore (‘AL KEM = concerning thus) its name was called Babel (BABEL = 262x; means confusion; Babylon is a major topic of the OT; in the NT it is referred to 12x; 5x referring to historical Babylon; 1 Pet 5:13 referring to Rome; 6x in Revelation referring to a prophetic entity), because there (SHAM = there, used to refer to a specific place, not an allegory) the Lord confused (Qal PF BALAL = 43x; confused, mixed; most of the usages involve mixing fine flour with oil for a meat offering; used in

**Hos 7:8 of Ephraim intermixing among the people)** the language (**lip**) of the whole earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.

**L.T.= Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.**

**Summary:**

1. **The Hebrew name for the city, meaning “confusion,” reveals its apostasy.**
2. **Babel means “gate of God” in Sumerian and also “place of the seat of life.”**
3. **The dominant feature of this city was the Ziggurat like the one named Etemenanki, which means “House of the foundation of Heaven and Earth.”**

(There are various arguments over the time in which this was built. Some say it was built in the sixth century BC and was the basis for the biblical story. Needless to say that is the liberal interpretation. The history is interesting to read because there is not a lot of agreement. Such notables as Sennacherib, Nebuchednezzar, Herodotus and Alexander the Great have had contact with it. The last reference was from Antiochus I who ordered its destruction.)

4. **Their main gods were Marduk and Nabu.**
5. **Later the city contained 180 shrines for Ishtar and more than 1800 niches, pedestals or sacred places for other deities.**
6. **Six Elements of Babylonianism.**
  - A. **Human intellect turns against the God.** (baked brick)
  - B. **Human wisdom devises a way to save itself.** (tar and tower is fitting for the Lord used tar to seal the Ark and the Ark “walked” on the water, i.e. rose above it.)
  - C. **Rebellion against the God establishes a new object of worship.**  
(make a name, redefine The Name; replace The Name)
  - D. **Fear is used to promote Collectivism.** (Come)
  - E. **Collectivism is seen as salvation.** (not be scattered)
  - F. **It is actually mass confusion.** (when redefinition of words become commonplace, the result is confusion)
7. **God sees this as evil, frustrates it and will one day judge it.**  
(He gives it freedom to function, but that doesn’t mean He makes it easy. This is all related to the Angelic Conflict)
8. **The Gifts of Languages and Interpretation were given to reach the dispersed of Israel who were then to reach the entire earth.**
9. **The Gospel is for people of every tribe and nation and people and language.**

2. **Historical Babylon:**
- A. The Tigris and Euphrates rivers have existed since the Garden of Eden. Gen 2:14
  - B. The Tigris is only mentioned by name in the Bible one more time, during the time of Daniel. Dan 10:4
  - C. The Euphrates is mentioned by name 30 times in Scripture, beginning in Gen 2:14.
    - 1). It is about 1780 miles long.
    - 2). It greatest width is about 400 yards.
    - 3). Babylon sets on both sides of the river.
    - 4). It runs from the Armenian highlands to the Persian Gulf and is fed in part by melting snow.
  - D. The area is known as Mesopotamia, meaning “the land between two rivers.”
  - E. It is the northern boundary of the land promised to Abraham. Gen 15:18

## Tigris and Euphrates





**F. Nimrod became the first ruler of Babel, along with the cities of Erech, Accad, Calneh, and Assur. Gen 10:9-12 (Nimrod was the grandson of Ham.)**

- 1). The First Dynasty of Kish begins with the phrase, "After the Flood had swept over the earth and when kingship was lowered again from heaven, kingship was first in Kish." The first king mentioned in the list is GA.UR. There is a possibility that this could refer to the Biblical Gomer (of the first generation after the Flood) based on the transfer from the cuneiform into Hebrew. There is also the possibility that in the transliterations of the next eleven kings could be found other names of the first and second generations after the Flood, but this demands further study. No other information on the first twelve kings exists. The thirteenth king of Kish I listed is the first Sumerian king on which we have any information. There are two statements in the king list which give us some very valuable information. The king in question is Etana. It is said that he consolidated all the countries and he ascended to heaven. S.N. Kramer calls him the first "empire builder."<sup>1</sup> The first "empire builder" we find in scripture is Nimrod (Gen 10:10). He consolidated the countries and ascended toward heaven via the Tower of Babel.
- 2). Ancient myths say that Nimrod married his mother Semiramus (not to be confused with an Assyrian queen of the 700-800 B.C. era). He claimed godhood but died but she perpetuated his claim. She became pregnant, claiming to have "slept with no man," and claimed the child was Nimrod reincarnated. Out of these actions came the "mother-son" cult that was a counterfeit of the "promised seed of the woman."



- 3). According to tradition (cited in Hislop's "The Two Babylons") Shem gathered 72 co-conspirators to help him and made their way to the palace where Nimrod lived. They killed him and cut him into pieces for each of the conspirators to take to their tribes. It was a warning from Shem to change or else.
  - 4). Human sacrifice is believed to have begun during this time and was a marker of Babylon up to the time of Christ.
- G. After the Flood the area became known as the Land of Shinar. Historians know it as Sumer.**



- H. The Sumerians controlled this area until the time of the "Old Babylonian Empire" (1570-1265 B.C. revised chronology). The most noted leader of the Old Babylonian Empire was Hammurabi who came a short time after Moses who lived from 1525-1405 B.C.**
- 1). Conventional chronology begins ancient Sumer with the 1<sup>st</sup> Dynasty of Kish around 3,000 B.C., about the time of the conventional dating of Egypt.
  - 2). Like Egypt there exist many events that tie dynasties together in a contemporaneous manner rather than consecutively.
  - 3). Adjustments to account for connections permit the Sumerian history to fit easily into the Biblical chronology.
- I. The Old Babylonian Empire was eventually replaced by the Assyrians until their defeat by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon at Nineveh in 605 B.C.**
- 1). Estimates put the population over 200,000.
  - 2). It was one of the wealthiest cities in the world.
- J. Babylon was defeated by the Persians under Cyrus in 539 B.C. This is one of the most well-documented events in ancient history. Dan 5**
- 1). Cyrus tunneled under the walls into the city. The city was captured, not destroyed.
  - 2). It was not destroyed by fire, nor with burning arrows.
  - 3). The destruction described in Isaiah 13; 47; Jeremiah 50-51 has not been fulfilled.
  - 4). Babylon has had inhabitants for most of its history. The prophecies describe a Babylon that once destroyed will not be inhabited again, except by animals.

- K. The Persians, after years of fighting, were defeated by the Greeks under Alexander.
- L. The Greeks were eventually consumed by the Romans.
- M. The Persians took back the area as a city-state and held control until 650 A.D. when they were defeated by the Muslims. During this time it was described as a city in ruins.
- N. The British began exploration in the 1800's and sought to bring Mesopotamian relics to London. It was excavated by Julius Oppert from 1852-1854. Over 40 crates of artifacts were lost in the Tigris when the raft overturned.
- O. Germans began excavation and worked from 1899-1917. They found the Temple of Marduk and the city wall, along with pieces of the Ishtar Gate and tablets. The Germans fled at the invasion of British troops in 1917 and many artifacts disappeared.
- P. On February 14, 1978 the Iraqi government under Saddam Hussein began the "Archaeological Restoration of Babylon Project" reconstructing things like the Southern Palace of Nebuchadnezzar.
- Q. In 1987 a Babylon International Festival was held and annually thereafter until 2002.
- R. The project has been abandoned.



### 3. Historical Babylon today.



- A. Historical Babylon was on both sides of the Euphrates. It was not surrounded by many waters.
- B. It had no mother nation, but was the mother of many nations.
- C. It came to ruin through a lack of maintenance, not by military destruction.
- D. It is highly improbable that it will ever be rebuilt to become the world's leading economic power.





#### 4. Religious Babylon (Rev 17:1-18)

- A. Section I-Introduction. 1:1-8
- B. Section II-The Things John Saw. 1:9-20
- C. Section III-The Things Which Are. 2:1-3:22
- D. Section IV-The Things Which Will Be. 4:1-22:5
  - 1. The Scene in Heaven. 4:1-5:14
  - 2. The Seal Judgments. 6:1-17
  - 3. A Parenthesis. 7:1-8
  - 4. The Seven Trumpet Judgments. 8:1-9:21
  - 5. The Unrevealed Judgments. 10:1-11
  - 6. The Two Witnesses. 11:1-13
  - 7. The Second Woe. 11:14
  - 8. The Seventh Trumpet. 11:15-18
  - 9. Heaven Opened. 11:19
  - 10. The Angelic Conflict. 12:1-14:20
  - 11. Heaven Prepares for Last Seven Judgments. 15:1-8
  - 12. The Vial (Bowl) Judgments. 16:1-21
  - 13. Religious and Economic Babylon. 17:1-18
    - a) Following the Beast. 17:1-13
    - b) Victory for the Lamb. 17:14-18

#### Revelation 17:1-13 Following the Beast

##### Rev 17:1 = John's Invitation to Observe.

And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls (one from Chapter 16) came and spoke with me saying, "Come on (adverb DEURW = an exhortation where one really wants the other to join in), I shall show (Fut Act Ind DEIKNUMI = to vividly display, show) you the judgment (KRIMA) of the great prostitute (PORN8 = from verb meaning to sell, a prostitute) (the one) who sits on many waters,

17:1 L.T. = And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke to with me saying, "Come on, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute, the one who sits on many waters,

##### Rev 17:2 = The Harlot's Activities

With whom the kings of the earth fornicated (Aor Act Ind PORNEUW = to fornicate) and those who dwell on the earth (Pres Act Ptc KATOIKEW = 45x; dwell based on a standard; G8S = 250x; general term for earth) were made drunk (Aor Pas Ind METHUSKW = intoxicated; cf 1 Thes 5:7 referring to acceptance of false doctrine) with the wine of her fornication.

17:2 L.T. = With whom the kings of the earth fornicated and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

##### Summary:

- 1. A harlot is one who offers to satisfy illegitimate lust.
- 2. More than one harlot is in view as verse five talks about the "Mother of the harlots."
- 3. "Babylon the Great" is made up of two different end-time entities which comprise the "Great Harlot." Cf 14:8; 18:2
- 4. The kings of the earth have accepted their offers to sin, which indicates an ongoing action before destruction.
- 5. "Sitting on many waters" indicates influence over nations.

6. This woman makes the inhabitants of the nations drunk with lust and then peddles her influence to kings.
7. The wine refers to her doctrines. (cf Parable of the Wineskins)

### **17:3 = A Woman on a Beast.**

**And he** (the angel) **carried me away in the Spirit** (cf 1:10 referring to the agent of the vision) **into a** (spiritual) **wilderness; and I saw a** (no definite article indicating this is not the same one as in Ch. 12) **woman sitting upon a scarlet** (KOKKINOS = 6x; used of the berries of the ilex coccifera, but the color comes from an insect that attaches itself to the coccifera oak; used in Matt 27:28 of the robe put on Jesus Christ by the soldiers; this beast claims to be messiah as does the woman cf 17:4) **beast** (Neut Singular THERION = 46x; only 7x outside of Revelation), **full** (Nominative Plural Neuter Pres Act Ptc GEMW = 11x; used to describe the Pharisees being full of extortion, dead men's bones and wickedness; other uses are in Revelation; heavily laden, full, satiated; Neuter refers to the Beast having the names and not the woman) **of blasphemous names having seven heads and ten horns** (i.e. on the 7th head).

**17:3 L.T. = And he carried me away in the Spirit. And I saw a woman sitting upon a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.**

#### **Summary:**

1. The "Beast" is the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire, the beast from the sea. Rev 13:1-2

And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names.

2. The scarlet on the beast indicates his claim to royalty.
3. The woman refers to the viewpoint of historical Rome that began at the Tower of Babel. Cf Rev 17:18; 1 Pet 5:13; Rev 17:9

"And the woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth." 1 Pet 5:13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son, Mark. Rev 17:9

"Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits,

4. The Beast does not hate the woman but the harlot (cf V16) who is an offspring of the woman (cf V5).
5. The heads refer to kingdoms and kings who were anti-Israel. Cf 17:12
6. The horns are nations of the seventh head. Cf 17:12
7. The woman has a religious and political side.
8. The Beast "carries" the religious and political sides of the Roman Empire.
9. The "blasphemous names" are her claims to deity.

### **17:4 = The Woman's Clothing.**

**And the woman** (HE GUN8 = the woman mentioned) **kept being clothed** (Perf Mid Ptc PERIBALLW = 23x; 12x in Revelation; to cast about; this denotes a massive accumulation of wardrobe) **in purple and scarlet, and kept being gilded with gold** (Perf Pas Ptc KRUSSOW = 2x; cf 18:16) **and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations** (BDELUGMA = 6x; Matt 24:15 & Mark 13:14 of the "Abomination of Desolation"; Luke 16:15 of the desire for the praise of men; 17:5; 21:27 for the accumulation of things in the name of religion by using a façade) **and of the unclean things** (AKATHARSIA = unclean) **of her fornication.**

**17:4 L.T. = And the woman kept being clothed in purple and scarlet, and kept being gilded with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her fornication.**

#### **Summary:**

1. The religious part of this system has accumulated massive wealth and will keep doing so in the Tribulation.

**2. It has done so by misrepresenting God's plan, just as the Pharisees did. Luke 16:14-15**

Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things, and they were scoffing at Him. 15 And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God. **Matt 23:13-36**

**3. Before God this is "unclean."**

**4. It is ritualistic without any reality.**

**5. It is morally corrupt.**

**6. Her cup has doctrines which lead to spiritual fornication.**

(In 1825 Pope Leo XII had a medallion made which had his own image on one side and on the other a woman holding a cross in her left hand, and a cup in her right hand with the Latin phrase, "Sedet Super Universum" which means "The whole world is her seat." Many of the roots of Roman Catholicism can be traced back to the Tower of Babel. This however does not mean that all Catholics are unbelievers, but that the organizational structure is in place to unify the false church (the true one being taken at the Rapture).

**7. Those in the Catholic Church who have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ will be taken at the Rapture.**

**Rev 17:5 = The Historical Roots**

**And upon her forehead (METWPON = 8x; all in Revelation; where the seal of God is placed on the foreheads of the 144K and where the option exists to take the "Mark of the Beast") a name was written, MYSTERY, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF THE HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."** (letter sizes denote size of letters in the Greek text)

**17:5 = And upon her forehead a name was written, MYSTERY, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF THE HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."**

**Summary:**

- 1. "Mystery" describes the title and is not a part of it.**
- 2. It is called "Babylon" due to the confusion it has and generates.**
- 3. It is called "great" due to the extent of its influence and long history.**
- 4. The fact that Historical Babylon was one of the seven "heads" (i.e. the 3rd) almost rules out the possibility of it being the "woman."**
- 5. Therefore, the "woman" is the viewpoint of the Tower of Babel that was passed down through the Seven Heads.**
- 6. The "harlots" are those who have followed the viewpoint.**
- 7. This includes Religious and Economic Babylon of the end-times.**
- 8. Nimrod was the first post-flood human to promote this viewpoint which was passed to the world via the dispersion from Babel. Cf Gen 10:8-9**
  - A. Egypt. Isis and Osiris**
  - B. Assyria. Ashtaroth and Baal**
  - C. Babylon. Ishtar and Bel**
  - D. Persia. Anahita and Mithra**
  - E. Greece. Artemis (Latin: Diana) and Bacchus-Zeus**
  - F. India. Isi and Iswara**
  - G. China. Shing Moo (Holy Mother) and many others.**
- 9. Israel fell under discipline for following the so-called, "Queen of Heaven." Jer 44:17-18,25; 7:18**
- 10. The original cult spawned other harlot systems.**
- 11. A summary of the symbols:**
  - A. Woman = viewpoint of the Tower of Babel.**
  - B. Harlots = kingdoms accepting that viewpoint.**
  - C. Great Harlot = the focal points of viewpoint in last generation.**
  - D. Beast = Dictator of Revived Roman Empire**
- 12. A power play will pit harlot against harlot.**

### Rev 17:6 = The Reason for Judgment

**17:6 L.T. = And I saw the woman drinking wine from the blood of the saints and from the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. And having seen her, I wondered a great wondering.**

#### **Summary:**

1. **Throughout history Babylonian viewpoint has motivated different people groups to persecute the saints.**
2. **Specifically, it is one of the ideologies behind the killing of the Church Age and Tribulational saints.**
3. **This woman's "doctrine" dictates this massacre. (kill the infidel mentality)**
4. **The doctrine is that there are many gods and that following only one is dangerous and destructive to the world. (nature is no longer a god, elevate people to positions of worship and power.)**
5. **The viewpoint persists even after the organizational structure is destroyed. Rev 16:4-7 (Rev 17-18 show the relationship of religion and economics to the Trib)**

And the third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters; and they became blood. 5 And I heard the angel of the waters saying, "Righteous art Thou, who art and who wast, O Holy One, because Thou didst judge these things; 6 for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and Thou hast given them blood to drink. They deserve it." 7 And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Thy judgments.

6. **Believers are not just being killed by polytheistic groups but by those who claim to represent the one true God. John 16:1-2**

"These things I have spoken to you, that you may be kept from stumbling. 2 "They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God.

(After all, RCC claims to be the "real" church. After the Rapture, they will be quite angry as they have been left behind) cf John 16:2-4

7. **John's amazement is at least twofold: (wondered a great wondering)**
  - A. **How this false Christianity could exist.**
  - B. **The extent and magnitude of the viewpoint.**

### Rev 17:7 = The Angel's Response

**And the angel said to me, "Why do you wonder? I myself will tell you the mystery (MUSTERION = information known only to the initiates) of the woman and of the beast that carries her (Pres Act Ptc BASTADZW = 27x; is carrying; causative verb), which has the seven heads and ten horns."**

**17:7 L.T. = And the angel said to me, "Why do you wonder? I myself will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that is carrying her, which has the seven heads and ten horns."**

#### **Summary:**

1. **The angel informs John that he will tell him the meaning of these symbols.**
2. **The Beast carries the Woman, which represents the human agents that spread this false doctrine, centralized in one person in the Tribulation.**
  - A. **Woman = viewpoint of the Tower of Babel.**
  - B. **Harlots = kingdoms accepting that viewpoint.**
  - C. **Great Harlot = the focal points of the viewpoint in last generation.**
  - D. **Beast = Dictator of Revived Roman Empire**
3. **Six Elements of Babylonianism.**
  - A. **Human intellect turns against the God. (baked brick)**
  - B. **Human wisdom devises a way to save itself. (tar and tower is fitting for the Lord used tar to seal the Ark and the Ark "walked" on the water, i.e. rose above it.)**
  - C. **Rebellion against the God establishes a new object of worship. (make a name, redefine The Name; replace The Name)**



- D. **Fear is used to promote Collectivism.** (Come)
- E. **Collectivism is seen as salvation.** (not be scattered)
- F. **Confusion is used to deceive.** (when redefinition of words become commonplace to promote a certain narrative)

### **Rev 17:8 = The Beast's Identity.**

**The beast that you saw** (The beast of Chapter 13 looks at both an individual and a kingdom; the same options are here. We must determine which one fits and where) **was** (IPF Act Ind EIMI = existence in the past) **and is not** (OUK + Pres Act Ind EIMI = strong negative) **and is going to** (Pres Act Ind MELLW = about to...) **come up** (Pres Act Inf ANABAINW = ascend upward) **out of** (EK = from being inside to going outside) **the abyss** (ABUSSOS = 9x; the beast is in the Abyss at the time of writing; note that creatures and not kingdoms inhabit the abyss; this is not Rome as that was in existence when John wrote this; The Abyss is the place of fallen angels Luke 8:31, Rev 9:1,2; Satan is its head Rev 9:11; The Abyss is where the Antichrist comes from Rev 11:7; where the Dragon will spend the Millennium Rev 20:1,3) **and is going to go** (Pres Act Ind HUPAGW = go under the authority of) **to destruction** (APOLEIA = 18x; ruination; what Judas was called, the "son of APWLEIA"; only other use in Rev is 17:11). **And those who dwell on the earth will be caused to wonder** (Fut Act Ind THAUMADZW = pure prophecy for that particular time), **whose name has not been written in the (Lamb's) book of life apart from the disorderly foundation** (KATABOL8 = that which is cast down compared to THEMELIOS which means to be placed and hence orderly) **of the cosmos, when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will be present** (here is Fut Mid Ind PAREIMI = pointing clearly to a time future).

**17:8 L.T. = The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is going to come up out of the abyss, and is going to go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth will be caused to wonder, whose name has not been written in the book of life apart from the disorderly foundation of the cosmos, when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will be present.**

### **Summary:**

1. **The Beast in view is a man, not an angel, a kingdom, or Satan.**
2. **The Revived Roman Empire would not fit this description because of the word "was." Neither can it be Rome or it would read "is and will be."**
3. **The Beast will come out of the Abyss and be given life again. Rev 13:11-15**  
And I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke as a dragon. 12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. 13 And he performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life. 15 And there was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast might even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.
4. **Satan is not yet in the abyss so he is not the Beast. Cf Rev 9:1-2**  
And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the **bottomless pit** was given to him. 2 And he opened the **bottomless pit**; and smoke went up out of the pit (**PHREAR = 7x; Luke 14:5; John 4:11,12 of a water well, a hole in the ground; other 4x in Rev 9:1,2**), like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit.
5. **This beast from the pit will kill the two witnesses of Christ. Rev 11:7**  
And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the **abyss** will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them.
6. **Satan is not the Beast, but will empower him. Rev 13:1-2**  
And he stood on the sand of the seashore. And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names. 2 And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.

**7. This Beast will end up back in the Abyss, also known as the “Lake of Fire,” with Satan.  
Rev 19:19-21; 20:1-3,10**

And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, assembled to make war against Him who sat upon the horse, and against His army. 20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the **lake of fire** which burns with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat upon the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh. **Rev 20:1-3**

And I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key of the **abyss** and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, 3 and threw him into the **abyss**, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time. **Rev 20:10** And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they **(includes the Beast)** will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

**8. Unbelieving humanity will be resurrected at the Great White Throne judgment and cast into the Lake of Fire. Rev 20:11-15**

And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. 14 And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

**9. The passage clearly says:**

- A. The Beast existed before 96 A.D.**
- B. He was not around in 96 A.D.**
- C. He will literally be present later.**
- D. He will return to the abyss.**

**10. The Abyss is the place where the Beast emerges and to which he returns.**

**11. The amazement stems from that fact that he is a man from the past.**

**12. Therefore, no one born after 96 A.D. is the Beast of the Sea, who is the Anti-Christ and Dictator of the Revived Roman Empire.**

**Rev 17:9 = Wisdom**

**"Here is the mind which has** (Pres Act Ptc ECHW) **wisdom** (SOPHIA = ability to sort out facts). **The seven heads are** (Pres Act Ind EIMI) **seven mountains** (a neuter indicating symbols for kingdoms cf 8:8) **which the woman sits** (Pres Act Ind KATH8MI = is sitting) **upon them,**

**Rev 17:10 = Continued**

**(a) and they** (the heads in plural therefore a twofold analogy) **are seven kings** (masculine); **(b) the five** (heads, mountains, kings) **have fallen, the one is** (Rome), **and the other** (ALLOS = of the same kind) **has not yet come; (c) and when he may come he is obligated to remain himself** (masculine) **a little while.** (specific grammar used indicates this is a man and not a kingdom; mountains are neuter; kings are masculine. Masculine verbs go with masculine, feminine and neuter unless they are specifically identified as they are here by the masculine AUTOS = himself)

**17:9-10 L.T. = Here is the mind which is having wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains which the woman is sitting upon them, (a) and they are seven kings; (b) the five have fallen, the one is, and the other has not yet come; and when he may come he is obligated to remain himself a little while.**

### Rev 17:11 = More Description

**And the beast** (with 7 heads which are both kingdoms and kings) **which was** (IPF Act Ind EIMI) **and is not is himself also an eighth** (king; that will establish the Kingdom of the Antichrist), **and is out of** (EK) **the seven** (kings), **and he is going to go to destruction** (APWLEIA = we just saw the verses that showed that it is not annihilation).

**17:11 L.T. = And the beast which was and is not is himself also an eighth, and is out of the seven (kings), and he is going to go to destruction.**

#### **Summary:**

1. A double analogy is in view in that the seven heads refer to both kingdoms and kings. 17:9
2. Verse 10b qualifies the kingdoms.
3. Verse 10c and 11 qualify the king of the 7th kingdom.
4. By 96 A.D., Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia and Greece had fallen.
5. Rome was in existence with a revival of it still to come.
6. Note that Rome had to fall before it could be revived, hence no Rapture until Rome fell.
7. The Beast is the king of the Seventh Kingdom.
8. And is the 8th king remaining of a ten nation confederacy, after he defeats three of them. Dan 7:7-8, 24
9. He is a particular king of one of the seven kingdoms.
10. He has to be one of the first five.
11. He is the "little horn" of Daniel 7:8.
12. Notes on the Antichrist:
  - A. He is not from the U.S.A.
  - B. He is not from Rome.
  - C. He comes from the abyss.
  - D. He is not a product of the last generation of the Church Age.

### Rev 17:12 = The Identity of the Ten Horns

**And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, who have not yet received a kingdom** (all the ten horns are attached to the seventh head because the 6th head, Rome, is in existence at the time of writing), **but they** (the ten kings) **are going to receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour.**

**17:12 L.T. = And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, who have not yet received a kingdom, but they are going to receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour.**

### Rev 17:13 = The Purpose

**These** (10 kings) **are going to have one purpose** (GNOM8 = 8x; unified opinion) **and they are going to give their power and authority to the beast.**

**17:13 L.T. = These are going to have one purpose and they are going to give their power and authority to the beast.**

#### **Summary:**

1. The ten kings were not alive in 96 A.D.
2. They will rule at the same time and not in succession.
3. This is also prophesied by Daniel. Dan 7:7-8

"After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed, and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. 8 "While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the

first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth uttering great boasts.

4. **No other attempt to revive Rome has involved ten kingdoms.**
5. **The kings will align with the Antichrist during the first part of the seven year Tribulation.**
6. **The Antichrist's religion will have the political and military power that it needs.**

#### **Revelation 17:14-18 Victory for the Lamb**

##### **Rev 17:14 = The Victor**

**These (kings) will wage war** (Fut Act Ind POLEMEW = 7x; all in Revelation except Jas 4:2; a campaign) **against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome** (Fut Act Ind NIKAW = 28x; 17x in Rev; 6x in 1 John; to win a victory; ) **them** (the beast and kings), **because He is Lord of Lords and King of Kings, and with Him** (the theme is picked up again in 19:7) **are the called** (KL8TOS), **even chosen** (EKLEKTOS), **even faithful** (PISTOS).

**17:14 L.T. = These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and with Him are the called, even chosen, even faithful.**

##### **Summary:**

1. **The unified purpose of the kings is an assault on The Lamb, Jesus Christ.**
2. **"Lord of lords" is used first here to denote the power of The Lamb.**
3. **"King of kings" is used to denote the sovereignty of The Lamb.**
4. **In 19:16, the titles are reversed to denote His established earthly kingdom done via His Omnipotence.**
5. **The last phrase gives the qualifications for reigning with Him:**  
**Called = recipient of the gospel.**  
**Chosen = Believer in the gospel.**  
**Faithful = consistent in the Christian life.**
6. **More details are found in Chapter 19.**

##### **Rev 17:15 = More Identification**

**And he (the angel) said to me (John), "The waters which you saw where the prostitute sits, people and multitudes they are, and (KAI used to make a distinction here between the first two and the last two) nations and tongues (GLWSSA)."**

**17:15 L.T. = And he said to me, "The waters which you saw where the prostitute sits, people and multitudes they are, and nations and languages."**

##### **Summary:**

1. **This takes us back to verse one, "The Great Prostitute who sits on many waters."**
2. **The Greek construction demonstrates that there are two harlots, one rules peoples and multitudes, the other rules nations and languages.**
3. **"Peoples" refer to assemblies of the common people.**
4. **"Multitudes" refer to large numbers in the assemblies.**
5. **The first harlot is Religious Babylon who has spread the viewpoint into all the earth.**
6. **"Nations" are political spheres of authority and "languages" show the extent of that authority.**
7. **The second "harlot" is Economic Babylon that has economic influence over the kings of the earth.**
8. **The "Mother of Harlots," the "wicked woman" of verse five is carried by two other women, i.e. "harlots" of the end-time. Zech 5**

Then I lifted up my eyes again and looked, and behold, there was a flying scroll. 2 And he said to me, "What do you see?" And I answered, "I see a flying scroll; its length is twenty cubits and its width ten cubits." 3 Then he said to me, "This is the curse that is going forth over the face of the whole land; surely everyone who steals will be purged away according to the writing on one side (**economic issues**), and everyone who swears (**religious issues**) will be purged away according to the writing on the other side. 4 "I will make it (**the curse as contained on the scroll**) go forth," declares the Lord of hosts, "and it will enter the house of the thief and the house of the one who swears falsely by My name; and it will spend the night within that house and consume it with its timber and stones." 5 Then the angel who was speaking with me went out, and said to me, "Lift up now your eyes, and see what this is, going forth." 6 And I said, "What is it?" And he said, "This is the ephah going forth (**an ephah was a standard of measure; there were warnings not to use two different standards**)." Again he said, "This is their appearance in all the land 7 (and behold, a lead cover was lifted up); and this is a woman sitting inside the ephah." 8 Then he said, "This is Wickedness!" And he threw her down into the middle of the ephah and cast the lead weight on its opening. 9 Then I lifted up my eyes and looked, and there two women were coming out with the wind in their wings; and they had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heavens. 10 And I said to the angel who was speaking with me, "Where are they taking the ephah?" 11 Then he said to me, "To build a temple for her in the land of Shinar; and when it is prepared, she will be set there on her own pedestal."

9. **One harlot uses religion to influence politics and the other uses politics to influence religion.**

10. **The typology:**

- A. **Woman = viewpoint of the Tower of Babel.**
- B. **Harlots = religious and economic kingdoms accepting that viewpoint.**
- C. **Great Harlot = the focal points of the viewpoint in the last generation.**
- D. **Beast = Dictator of Revived Roman Empire**

#### **Rev 17:16 = Destruction**

**And the ten horns which you saw** (10 kings on the 7th head), **and the beast, these** (all 11 of them) **will hate** (Fut Act Ind MISEW = a pure prophetic statement) **the harlot, and having been desolated** (Perf Pas Ptc ER8MOW = 5x; Matt 12:25 & Luke 11:17 of kingdoms divided against themselves coming to destruction; other uses here and in 18:17,19; to make into a wilderness), **they will make** (Fut Act Ind POIEW = will make) **her indeed naked, and they will devour her flesh and will totally burn her with fire** (Fut Act Ind KATAKAIW = 13x; totally burn cf 2 Pet 3:10 where the elements are melted).

**17:16 L.T. = And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot, and they will make her a wilderness and naked, and her flesh they shall devour, and totally burn her with fire.**

#### **Summary:**

1. **The Revived Roman Empire will destroy the harlot of Religious Babylon. Cf Rev 2:22 (Thyatira)**

'Behold, I will cast her upon a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds

- 2. **Religious Babylon did not unite with the Beast.**
- 3. **These kings will plunder the wealth of the false church.**
- 4. **They will kill all of its inhabitants.**
- 5. **The rest will probably be "nuked." Cf 2 Pet 3:10 (use of KATAKAIW)**
- 6. **The "woman" is not destroyed, but some of her offspring are.**
- 7. **Another harlot exists. Cf 18:1,3**

#### **Rev 17:17 = God's Control of History**

**For** (GAR = explains the reason for the destruction) **the God has granted** (Aor Act Ind DIDWMI = to give, permit) **in their hearts to execute His purpose** (GNOM8 = 9x; opinion; cf 17:13), **namely to execute one**

**purpose** (ruin Religious Babylon), **and to give their kingdom to the beast until the words of the God shall be completed** (Fut Pas Ind TELEW = brought to an end, completion).

**17:17 L.T. = For the God has granted in their hearts to execute His purpose**

**Summary:**

1. **God permitted this evil viewpoint to flourish.**
2. **Evil is often permitted in order to discipline another evil.**
3. **"One world government" proponents will kill each other for control of it.**

**Rev 17:18 = The Identify of the Woman**

**And the woman** (of verses 3-6,9) **whom you saw is the great city** (same construction in 18:10,16,18,19), **the one having a kingdom over the kings of the earth** (cf 11:8; 16:19 not Jerusalem as she does not have a kingdom over the kings of the earth).

**17:18 L.T. = And the woman whom you saw is the great city, the one having a kingdom over the kings of the earth.**

**Summary:**

1. **The "woman" is the viewpoint of the Tower of Babel.**
2. **She is localized in a well-known and influential city.**
3. **Her roots were in ancient Babel where languages were confused.**
4. **This "great city" of the end-time again overtly manifests the political thought of Babel.**
5. **The end-time "Economic Babylon" is said to be an offspring of Babel.**

**Jer 50:41-42**

41 "Behold, a people is coming from the north, And a great nation and many kings Will be aroused from the remote parts of the earth. 42 "They seize their bow and javelin; They are cruel and have no mercy. Their voice roars like the sea, And they ride on horses, Marshalled like a man for the battle Against you, O daughter of Babylon.

6. **The city is destroyed and not the woman.**



## Chapter 17 Summary:

1. **This chapter recognizes the Babylonian viewpoint that has flowed throughout history and a time when all the events converge.**
2. **Thought is required to sort the data. Cf 17:9**  
Here is the mind which has wisdom.
3. **The "Scarlet Beast" refers to both kings and kingdoms.**
4. **The "Scarlet Beast" has 7 heads which refer to both 7 kingdoms (17:9) and 7 kings (17:10).**
5. **The 7th Kingdom has 10 kings ruling at the same time (17:16).**
6. **He will destroy 3 of the kings and establish an 8<sup>th</sup> kingdom (17:11).**  
(The 10 for the Revived Roman Empire (RRE), which is the 7<sup>th</sup> kingdom. This man from the past takes over the RRE, conquers 3 of the 10 and establishes his own empire)
7. **The "Woman" is the "Babylonian attitude" manifested in Rome (17:18).**
7. **This "attitude" spawned two harlots/Babylons of the end-time who are going to be judged.**
8. **The destruction of Religious Babylon will take place before the destruction of 3 of the 10 kings, with this possibly being the first of the three to fall.**
9. **The typology:**
  - A. **Woman = viewpoint of the Tower of Babel.**
  - B. **Harlots = religious and economic kingdoms accepting that viewpoint.**
  - C. **Great Harlot = the focal points of the viewpoint in the last generation.**
  - D. **Beast = Dictator of Revived Roman Empire**
10. **Religious Babylon will be centered in Rome, the place of "seven hills," and the center of the Roman Catholic Church. Rev 17:9**

Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits,

11. **Religious Babylon is called the Great Harlot because it has a history of seducing the nations with religion. Rev 17:1-2 cf. Rev 2:23-27 (Pergamum) and Rev 2:18-29 (Thyatira)**

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters (**the word "waters" is used in Rev 13 of Gentile nations and identified in 17:15**), <sup>2</sup>with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality."

12. **Religious Babylon is very wealthy. Rev 17:4**

The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality,

13. **It has initiated and maintained the Babylonian worldview established at the Tower of Babel. Rev 17:5**

and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

- A. **Human intellect turns against the God.** (baked brick)
- B. **Human wisdom devises a way to save itself.** (tar and tower is fitting for the Lord used tar to seal the Ark and the Ark "walked" on the water, i.e. rose above it.)
- C. **Rebellion against the God establishes a new object of worship.**  
(make a name, redefine The Name; replace The Name)
- D. **Fear is used to promote Collectivism.** (Come)
- E. **Collectivism is seen as salvation.** (not be scattered)
- F. **Confusion is used to deceive.** (when redefinition of words become commonplace to promote a certain narrative)

14. **The Beast from the Sea becomes the Dictator of this Revived Roman Empire. Rev 17:8-12**

The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come. <sup>9</sup>"Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, <sup>10</sup>(a) and they are seven kings; (b) five have fallen, (c) one is, (d) the other has not yet come; (e) and when he comes, he must remain a little while. <sup>11</sup>"The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction. <sup>12</sup>"The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour (7 years—Rev 3:10).

- A. There is a double analogy because the 7 heads refer to both 7 Kingdoms and 7 Kings. 17:9-10**

"Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, <sup>10</sup>(a) and they are seven kings; (b) five have fallen, (c) one is, (d) the other has not yet come; (e) and when he comes, he must remain a little while.

- B. "Five have fallen," (10b) refers primarily to the kingdoms, but also considers specific kings within those kingdoms.**  
**C. The phrase, "one is," refers to the kingdom and king (Domitian) at the time of the writing of the book of Revelation in 96 A.D.**  
**D. The phrase, "one is yet to come," refers to the king of the 7<sup>th</sup> Kingdom.**  
**E. By 96 A.D., Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia and Greece had fallen, with Rome in existence and with a revival of it still to come.**  
**F. The Beast is the king of the Seventh Kingdom.**  
**G. He is the 8th king (verse 11) remaining of a ten nation confederacy, after he defeats three of them. Dan 7:7-8**

"After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed, and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. <sup>8</sup>"While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth uttering great boasts. **Dan 7:23-24** "Thus he said: 'The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms, and it will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it. <sup>24</sup>'As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings.

- H. He is a particular king of one of the seven kingdoms who will lead a Revived Roman Empire, based on the double analogy.**  
**I. He has to be one of the first five and thus not of Rome.**  
In view are seven specific kings of the seven kingdoms. The one that "is" when John writes (Domitian) cannot be the one that "was." Thus he is one of the first five.  
**J. He meets the qualifications of the "little horn." Dan 7:8**  
While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts.

- 15. To become the Dictator he will conquer the existing establishment, which is the unbelieving part of the Roman Catholic church. Rev 17:14-18 (Probably one of the three nations he conquers and controls.)**

"These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful." <sup>15</sup>And he said to me, "The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. <sup>16</sup>"And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire. <sup>17</sup>"For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled. <sup>18</sup>"The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth."

## 5. Economic Babylon (Isa 13:1-22; 21:1-10; 47:1-15; Jer 50; 51; Rev 18)

- A. Section I-Introduction. 1:1-8
- B. Section II-The Things John Saw. 1:9-20
- C. Section III-The Things Which Are. 2:1-3:22
- D. Section IV-The Things Which Will Be. 4:1-22:5
  - 1. The Scene in Heaven. 4:1-5:14
  - 2. The Seal Judgments. 6:1-17
  - 3. A Parenthesis. 7:1-8
  - 4. The Seven Trumpet Judgments. 8:1-9:21
  - 5. The Unrevealed Judgments. 10:1-11
  - 6. The Two Witnesses. 11:1-13
  - 7. The Second Woe. 11:14
  - 8. The Seventh Trumpet. 11:15-18
  - 9. Heaven Opened. 11:19
  - 10. The Angelic Conflict. 12:1-14:20
  - 11. Heaven Prepares for Last Seven Judgments. 15:1-8
  - 12. The Vial (Bowl) Judgments. 16:1-21
  - 13. Religious and Economic Babylon. 17:1-18:20
    - a. Following the Beast. 17:1-13
    - b. Victory for the Lamb. 17:14-18
    - c. The Intoxicant of Wealth. 18:1-3
    - d. The Description of the Entity. 18:4-20

### Rev 18:1 = The Heavenly Messenger

**After these things** (META TAUTA = The events of Chapter 17 which include the destruction of Religious Babylon), **I saw another angel** (ALLOS = of the same kind as 17:1; one who empties a "Bowl Judgment" of Revelation 16) **coming down out of the heaven** (the phrase "after these things" and the existence of another angel clearly points out that these are different entities), **having great authority** (EXOUSIA), **and the earth was illuminated** (Aor Pas Ind PHWTIDZW = be caused to light up; draws attention to the earth; he does with physical light what Economic Babylon had done with economic darkness) **with his** (the angel's) **glory**.

**18:1 L.T. = After these things, I saw another angel coming down out of heaven, having great authority**

#### **Summary:**

1. **John sees another angel of the type who pours out the bowls.**
2. **This is probably the angel of Revelation 14:8.**

And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality."

3. **He is a high ranking angel with a special commission to light up the earth with this announcement.**

### Rev 18:2 = The Announcement

**And he cried out** (Aor Act Ind KRADZW = one time) **with a mighty** (ISCHUROS = physically strong, loud) **voice saying, "Fallen, Fallen** (Aor Act Ind PIPTW = repeated; the first is for Religious Babylon. The same phrase is found in Isa 21:9 with NAPHAL in the Qal PF; the second is a Dramatic Aorist that draws attention to a second event, not yet done, that is as certain to be done as the first) **is Babylon the Great** (different from 17:5 in that not all capital letters are used here)! **And she has become** (Aor Act Ind GINOMAI = something she was not; Aorist indicates a point of time is involved and the Indicative indicates an historical fact) **a dwelling place** (KATOIK8T8RIOV = 2x; Eph 2:22 of the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit in Believers) **of demons and a haunt** (PHULAK8 = 47x; used in Rev 2:10 of the saints being thrown into

prison; this is from a verb that means "to guard," with the basic meaning of being caged or in prison; it looks at a saturated atmosphere and thus a "haunt" where things don't normally escape) **of every category of unclean spirit, and a haunt of every category of unclean and despicable carrion bird** (ORNEON = 3x; cf 19:17,21 = those that eat the dead things).

**18:2 L.T. = And he cried out with a mighty voice saying, "Fallen, Fallen is Babylon the Great. And she has become a dwelling place of demons and a haunt of every category of unclean spirit, and a haunt of every category of unclean and despicable carrion bird.**

**Summary:**

1. **This announcement immediately follows the destruction of Religious Babylon. Cf 18:1**
2. **Economic Babylon has become a bastion of evil, guided by demons.**
3. **The term "demons" refers to the presence of some high-ranking angelic officers of Satan.**
4. **The "unclean spirits" are lesser angels of Satan.**
5. **The demons will flock to the idols of the land. Cf Isa 21:9**

"Now behold, here comes a troop of riders, horsemen in pairs." And one answered and said, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon; And all the images of her gods are shattered on the ground." (NOTE: When Isaiah wrote Babylon only existed as an insignificant city, Assyria was in power.)

6. **The carrion birds refer to beings that wait for people to die so that they may prey on them. Cf Deut 14:12-18**
7. **The description of Economic Babylon as a "haunt" reveals the saturation level of these beings.**

**Rev 18:3 = The "Why" of Verse Two**

**"For all the nations have drunk** (Perf Act Ind PINW = existing and lasting results; this looks at the fact that a permanent change has taken place. It is a drunk that won't wear off) **of the wine of the passion** (THUMOS = anger) **of her immorality** (fornication), **and the kings of the earth have fornicated with her** (clearly immoral business dealings; thank you Harvard Business School), **and the merchants** (EMPOROS = a person on a journey; an international merchant) **of the earth have become rich by the wealth** (DUNAMIS = power) **of her sensuality** (STR8NOS = 1x; the basic meaning is to run a riot; old English is "waxed wanton;" means to run amuck in luxury; the hapax means that it is unprecedented).

**18:3 L.T. = "For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the anger of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have fornicated with her, and the international merchants of the earth have become rich by the power of her arrogant luxury."**

**Summary:**

1. **All the nations are under the influence of this entity.**
2. **This nation offered favors to others that they freely accepted, and were so intoxicating that they had no resolve to refuse them.**
3. **Three groups are mentioned:**
  - A. **Nations which look at the common people within a certain political boundary.**
  - B. **Kings which look at the rulers of those nations.**
  - C. **International Merchants who covertly affect many major decisions.**
4. **Economic Babylon's anger is brought about by her greed and quest for power. (Unfulfilled expectations usually result in anger. Never enough. Jas 5)**
5. **Economic Babylon is never satisfied and never gains total control.**
6. **In part The Bowl Judgments are poured out for complicity with this entity, which is probably why those angels are used to deliver the message.**

**Revelation 18:4-20  
The Description of the Entity**

**Rev 18:4 = The Divine Announcement**

**And I (John) heard another voice from the heaven** (singular instead of the normal plural), **saying, "Come out** (2 Plural Aor Act Imp EXERCHOMAI = i.e. now) **of her** (Economic Babylon) **My people, that you may not fellowship with** (Aor Act Subj SUGKOINWNEW = 3x; Php 4:14; Eph 5:11 where it is used in an admonition to have no fellowship with the unfruitful deeds of darkness) **her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues** (PL8G8 = 22x; plagues that can include scourging as happened to Paul and the disciples; Acts 16:23,33; 2 Cor 6:5; 11:23; most noticeable though is that the plagues begin to be discussed in Rev 9 as Tribulational judgments; note Rev 13:3,12,14 of that which killed the Beast from the Sea who died and came back to life; used to describe the bowl judgments in Rev 15-16).

**18:4 L.T. = And I heard another voice from the heaven, saying, "Come out of her My people, that you may not fellowship with her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues.**

**Summary:**

1. **Jesus Christ authored this announcement because Believers are "His" people.**
2. **How much time they will have to depart is not stated but it is directed specifically at Tribulational believers and would probably include some of the 144,000.**
3. **They are commanded to separate from the "security" and affluence of this entity in order to separate from her sins and discipline.**
4. **Notice that, as a rule, grace precedes judgment.**
5. **This command is found in the Old Testament passages concerning Prophetical Babylon. Jer 50:4,5,8,28; 51:6,9,44b-46,50**
6. **Death is the discipline for violation of this command.**
7. **The number will probably be small that actually exit.**

**Rev 18:5 = The Reason for the Command**

**For her sins have been cemented together** (Aor Pas Ind KOLLAW = 12x; to join fast, cleave, glue, cement as used in the Tower of Babel) **as high as the heaven, and the God has remembered her crimes** (ADIK8MA = 3x; the overt act of unrighteousness).

**18:5 L.T. = For her sins have been cemented together as high as the heaven,**

**Summary:**

1. **The "joining of sins" as high as heaven alludes to the Tower of Babel. Gen 11:3-5**

And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. 4 And they said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name; lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." 5 And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.

2. **This is similar to the pre-Flood days of Noah. Matt 24:37-42**

"For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. 38 "For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so shall the coming of the Son of Man be. 40 "Then there shall be two men in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. 41 "Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. 42 "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.

3. **The pattern of destruction for this level of evil is found in Sodom and Gomorrah. Gen 18:20; Jer 50:40; Isa 13:19-20**

And the Lord said, "The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave. **Jer 50:40** "As when God overthrew Sodom And Gomorrah with its neighbors," declares the Lord, "No man will live there, Nor will any son of man reside in it. **Isa 13:19-20** 19 And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. 20 It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation; Nor will the Arab pitch his tent there,

Nor will shepherds make their flocks lie down there.

**4. Massive unrepentant sin demands temporal judgment. Jer 51:8-9**

Suddenly Babylon has fallen and been broken; Wail over her! Bring balm for her pain; Perhaps she may be healed. 9 We applied healing to Babylon, but she was not healed; Forsake her and let us each go to his own country, For her judgment has reached to heaven, And towers up to the very skies.

**5. God's judgment is not "asleep." 2 Pet 2:1-4**

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. 2 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; 3 and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

**Rev 18:6 = The Judgment on Her Thievery**

**You all** (the agents of judgment which will be identified later) **render** (2 Plural Aor Act Imp APODIDWMI = to give from, render) **to her as indeed she has rendered, and you all pay back double the doubles according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, you all mix a double for her.**

**18:6 L.T. = You all render to her as indeed she has rendered, and you all pay back double the doubles according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, you all mix a double for her.**

**Summary:**

**1. This judgment is for her thievery as documented by the Mosaic Law.**

**Exo 22:1-9**

If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and slaughters it or sells it, he shall pay five oxen for the ox and four sheep for the sheep. 2 If the thief is caught while breaking in, and is struck so that he dies, there will be no bloodguiltiness on his account. 3 But if the sun has risen on him, there will be bloodguiltiness on his account. He shall surely make restitution; if he owns nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft. 4 If what he stole is actually found alive in his possession, whether an ox or a donkey or a sheep, he shall pay double. 5 If a man lets a field or vineyard be grazed bare and lets his animal loose so that it grazes in another man's field, he shall make restitution from the best of his own field and the best of his own vineyard. 6 "If a fire breaks out and spreads to thorn bushes, so that stacked grain or the standing grain or the field itself is consumed, he who started the fire shall surely make restitution. 7 "If a man gives his neighbor money or goods to keep for him, and it is stolen from the man's house, if the thief is caught, he shall pay double. 8 If the thief is not caught, then the owner of the house shall appear before the judges, to determine whether he laid his hands on his neighbor's property. 9 For every breach of trust, whether it is for ox, for donkey, for sheep, for clothing, or for any lost thing about which one says, 'This is it,' the case of both parties shall come before the judges; he whom the judges condemn shall pay double to his neighbor.

**2. An equal amount of legitimately gained wealth is lost.**

**3. Based on the extent of judgment the illegitimately gained wealth of the nation will meet or exceed 50% of the national income.**

**4. The greed of the last days is prophesied clearly. Jas 5:1-9**

Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. 2 Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure! 4 Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. 5 You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and put to death the righteous man; he does not resist you. 7 Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. 8 You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

**5. Divine permission has been given to earthly agents to execute this judgment.**

6. **This nation has used her prosperity for evil and has rendered evil for loyalty to her.** (I suspect that the most notable infraction involves disloyalty toward Israel. Cf Gen 12:1-3)
7. **To whom much is entrusted, much is required. Luke 12:48**

### Rev 18:7 = The Judgment on Arrogance and Idolatry

**"To the degrees that she glorified herself and lived in arrogant luxury** (Aor Act Ind STR8NIAW = verb form of noun in V3; used 2x; cf 18:9), **to the same degree you all give her torment** (BASANISMOS = 6x; all in Revelation; in 9:5 (2x) it referred to the sting of the scorpions; in 14:8 it refers to the torment on the worshipers of the Beast; they have no rest day or night; emphasis on physical pain) **and sorrow** (mental); **for she says in her heart, 'I am sitting as a queen and I am not a widow, and I may never see sorrow.'**

**18:7 L.T. = "To the degrees that she glorified herself and lived in arrogant luxury, to the same degree you all give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I am sitting as a queen and I am not a widow, and I may never see sorrow.'**

#### **Summary:**

1. **This judgment is on the arrogance and idolatry of this entity.**
2. **This entity becomes a materialistic pantheist, worshipping the created rather than the Creator.**
3. **The judgment is both physical and mental. Cf Isa 13:7-8**  
Therefore all hands will fall limp, And every man's heart will melt. 8 And they will be terrified, Pains and anguish will take hold of them; They will writhe like a woman in labor, They will look at one another in astonishment, Their faces aflame.
4. **The farther this entity descends into evil, the more arrogant she becomes. Isa 47:7-9; Jer 50:31-32**

**Isa 47:7-9** "Yet you said, 'I shall be a queen forever.' These things you did not consider, Nor remember the outcome of them. 8 "Now, then, hear this, you sensual one, Who dwells securely, Who says in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one besides me. I shall not sit as a widow, Nor shall I know loss of children.' 9 "But these two things shall come on you suddenly in one day: Loss of children and widowhood. They shall come on you in full measure, In spite of your many sorceries, In spite of the great power of your spells. **Jer 50:31-32** "Behold, I am against you, O arrogant one," Declares the Lord God of hosts, "For your day has come, The time when I shall punish you. 32 "And the arrogant one will stumble and fall, With no one to raise him up; And I shall set fire to his cities, And it will devour all his environs."

5. **The arrogance comes in part from vast human knowledge. Isa 47:9-10**  
"And you felt secure in your wickedness and said, 'No one sees me,' Your wisdom and your knowledge, they have deluded you; For you have said in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one besides me.' 11 "But evil will come on you, Which you will not know how to charm away; And disaster will fall on you, For which you cannot atone, And destruction about which you do not know, Will come on you suddenly.
6. **The national conscience rejects the idea of destruction, thinking herself eternal.** (the use of the word "queen" refers us to the "king" who is Jesus, with the Church as the Bride, the "queen" of heaven. This is tantamount to a judgment on the belief in "replacement theology.")
7. **The entity has been deluded by misevaluation of their history and their "Messiah Complex."**
8. **The New Age Movement promotes glorification of self, actually to the point of eventual godhood.**
9. **There is an unprecedented mix of immorality with bad theology.**

### Rev 18:8 = The Type of Judgment and End of Announcements

**For this reason in one day** (notice that this sets the context to a 24 hour day) **her plagues will arrive** (Fut Act Ind H8KW = be present; pure prophecy), **death and sorrow and famine, and she will be utterly burned down with fire** (Fut Pas Ind KATAKAUW = 13x; prophetic promise; used of the burning up of physical things; part of the judgment on Religious Babylon cf 17:16 and also of the destruction of the elements in 2 Pet 3:10), **for the Lord God, the One having judged her is strong.**



**18:8 L.T. = For this reason in one day her plagues will arrive, death and sorrow and famine, and she will be utterly burned down with fire, for the Lord God, the One having judged her is strong.**

**Summary:**

1. **Arrogance is the primary basis for the speed and totality of the destruction.**
2. **Jesus Christ made the decision that permits this judgment although He is not the agent of the destruction.**  
**Jer 51:11,12,24,36,40,44,52,55**
3. **The King of the North will be the agent. Isa 13:3,17-20; Jer 50:9,41; 51:1-2**
4. **All human inhabitants will die. Jer 50:13,21,26,29,39,40**
5. **All will experience sorrow before they die. Jer 50:43**  
"The king of Babylon has heard the report about them, And his hands hang limp; Distress has gripped him, Agony like a woman in childbirth.
6. **The total burning indicates it will be as devastating as a nuclear bomb.**  
**Isa 13:8,18; 47:14; Jer 50:32; 51:25,32 cf Rev 18:10,15,17**

**Rev 18:9 = The Reaction of the World Leaders**

**And the kings of the earth, the ones having fornicated, even having lived in arrogant luxury with her, will wail and beat themselves over her when they may see (BLEPW = get a glimpse of) the smoke of her burning.**

**18:9 L.T. = And the kings of the earth, the ones having fornicated, even having lived in arrogant luxury with her, will wail and beat themselves over her when they may see the smoke of her burning.**

**Summary:**

1. **The loss of this prostitute brings almost universal mourning.**
2. **The destruction can be seen from all over the earth, which required a technology beyond that of the first century.**

**Rev 18:10 = Nuclear Destruction?**

**Standing** (Perf Act Ptc HIST8MI = to take a permanent stance) **at a long distance** (MAKROTHEN = 14x; always indicates not close by) **because of the fear of her torment** (BASINISMOS), **saying, "Woe, Woe, the great city, Babylon, the mighty city!"** **For in one hour** (context set in verse 8 with a literal day in view, thus this is a literal hour) **your judgment has come.**

**18:10 L.T. = Standing at a long distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, "Woe, Woe, the great city, Babylon, the mighty city!"**

**Summary:**

1. **Prophetical Babylon becomes unapproachable by man.**  
**Isa 13:20; Jer 50:3,39,40; 51:26,37,43**
2. **This occurs much earlier in the Tribulation because great earthquakes, 100 pound hailstones, torture by demons and the nova of the sun would be much more pressing problems than the loss of luxury.**
3. **The two "Woes" are probably for the economic loss and the military protection that this entity offered.**
4. **When God says "Woe" the judgment is prepared and imminent.**
5. **A literal hour demands weapons that were not in existence in the ancient world.**
6. **The Sequence of events:**
  - A. **The First Angel. 14:6**
  - B. **The Seal Judgments. Chapter 6**
  - C. **The Second Angel. 14:7-8; 18:1**

- D. Religious Babylon Destroyed. Chapter 17
- E. Economic Babylon Destroyed. Chapter 18
- F. The Third Angel. 14:9
- G. The Antichrist Conquers Three Nations. Dan 7:7-8

#### Rev 18:11 = The Reaction of the Merchants

And the international merchants of the earth are wailing and anguishing over her, because no one buys their cargo any more.

18:11 L.T. = And the international merchants of the earth are wailing and anguishing over her, because no one buys their cargo any more.

#### Summary:

1. This Babylon is the undisputed and unparalleled cornerstone of the world's economy.
2. The loss of this Babylon will collapse the world's economy.
3. To date, there has only been one nation in the history of the world that could impact the world's economy to such an extent.

#### Rev 18:12 = Some Imports

Cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls (precious gemstones), and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet (fine fabrics) and every sandarac tree (fine woods) and every article of ivory (valuable commodity) and every article made from very costly wood, and bronze and iron and marble (finest building materials).

#### Rev 18:13 = More Imports

And cinnamon and ointment and incense and perfume and frankincense (finest fragrances and spices) and wine and olive oil and fine flour and grain and cattle and sheep (finest agricultural products) and cargoes of horses and four-wheeled wagons (RHED8 = 1x; a chariot whose chief use was transportation as compared to an ARMA meaning a war chariot) and bodies and souls of men (cheap labor and would include slaves in one form or another).

18:12-13 L.T. = Cargoes of gold and silver and previous stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet fabrics and every sandarac tree and every article of ivory and every article made from very costly wood, and bronze and iron and marble, 13 and cinnamon and ointment and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and grain and cattle and sheep and cargoes of horses and four-wheeled wagons and bodies and souls of men.

#### Summary:

1. This entity is the major importer of the world's finest items.
2. Men "sell their souls" to partake of this wealth.
3. All these valuable things will become nearly worthless.

#### Rev 18:14 = Exports

And your ripest fruit and the lust of the soul has gone from you and all unique luxurious objects of idolatry and bedazzling things (LAMPROS = shining things; things which catch the eye); it is destroyed (3 Singular, Aor Act Ind APOLLUMI = destroy in the sense of ruining; notice this singular used to describe many things. It is a subtle but effective way to point to total loss at one time) from you and they will positively never (OUKETI OU M8) find them again (how many ways can "total destruction" be said?).

**18:14 L.T. = And your ripest fruit and the lust of the soul has gone from you and all unique luxurious objects of idolatry and bedazzling things; it is destroyed from you and they will positively never find them again.**

**Summary:**

- 1. This entity expires expecting even greater things.**
- 2. The souls of the inhabitants of this nation are focused completely on the material things of life.**
- 3. They offer unique luxuries and acquire the superlatives of past luxuries.**
- 4. One must never trust wealth because it is transitory. 1 Tim 6:9-10,17-19; Jas 4:14-15**

**Rev 18:15 = The Merchants' Response**

**The international merchants of these things who became rich from her still stand at a long distance because of the fear of her torment, wailing and anguishing,**

**18:15 L.T. = The international merchants of these things who became rich from her still stand at a long distance because of the fear of her torment, wailing and anguishing.**

**Rev 18:16 = Their "Wail"**

**Saying, "Woe, Woe (the loss of imports and exports), the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and having been gilded (Perf Pas Ptc CHRUSW = 2x; gilded with gold; cf 17:4) with gold and precious stones and pearls;**

**18:16 L.T. = Saying, "Woe, Woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and having been gilded with gold and precious stones and pearls;**

**Rev 18:17 = Their Amazement**

**For in one (the numeral does appear which is further indication of a literal hour) hour such great wealth has been desolated (Aor Pas Ind 'ER8MOW = 5x; to destroy; what happens to divided kingdoms Matt 12:25 & Luke 11:17; what happens to Religious Babylon {Rev 17:16} and to Prophetical Babylon {Rev 18:17,19})!" And every shipmaster and everyone who is upon a place of sailing and sailor, and as many as are working the sea (THALASSW = 91x; used of the sea of Galilee; the Red Sea; one thing this word does not mean is "river"!), stood at a long distance, (someone who is on the Euphrates could not be "at a long distance" away from the burning)**

**18:17 = For in one hour such great wealth has been desolated!" And every shipmaster and everyone who is upon a place of sailing and sailor, and as many as are working the sea, stood at a long distance,**

**Summary:**

- 1. This Babylon is on a sea and not a river as was Historical Babylon.**
- 2. If one were sailing on the Euphrates River they would not be far away from Historical Babylon.**

**Rev 18:18 = Their Statement**

**And were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What city is similar to the great city?'"**

**18:18 L.T. = And were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What city is similar to the great city?'"**

### Rev 18:19 = The Workers' Response

**And they** (shipmasters, passengers, sailors) **threw dust on their heads** (an ancient custom denoting intense grief; the sailors did the same thing over the loss of ancient Tyre; cf Eze 27:29-30) **and kept crying out, wailing and anguishing, saying, "Woe, Woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour** (again the numeral "1" occurs with HORA for hour) **she has been desolated."**

**18:19 L.T. = And they threw dust on their heads and kept crying out, wailing and anguishing, saying, "Woe, Woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been desolated."**

#### **Summary:**

1. The double "woes" are used by kings, merchants and workers.
2. The kings wail over the loss of economics and military protection.
3. The merchants wail over the loss of imports and exports.
4. The workers wail over the loss of potential wealth and certain unemployment.
5. Wealth, prominence and intellect will not deliver a nation or an individual from God's judgment.
6. Amazement stems from the totality and speed of the devastation.
7. These verses also document a specific geography that could have only been reached by ship in the ancient world. Jer 51:13

O you who dwell by many waters, Abundant in treasures, Your end has come, The measure of your end.

8. The "Great City" refers to the financial capitol of the nation in view, probably New York City.
9. A rebuilt Historical Babylon could never fulfill this physical description.
10. The world will realize that the greatest economic power in history is gone.

### Rev 18:20 = The Heavenly Command

**Keep rejoicing** (Pres Pas Imp EUPHRAINW = 14x; In Luke 15 the word is used 4x of rejoicing over the return of the Prodigal Son; In Rev 11:10 it is used to describe the rejoicing over the death of the two witnesses; who gets the last laugh?) **over her, O Heaven** (singular), **namely the Holy Ones** (HO HAGIOS = includes angels) **and the apostles** (highest ranking church age officers) **and the prophets** (highest rank of Age of Israel) **because the God has judged the judgment for you against them.**

**18:20 L.T. = Keep rejoicing over her, O Heaven, namely, the Holy Ones and the apostles and the prophets because the God has judged the judgment for you against them.**

#### **Summary:**

1. Heaven will celebrate the fall of this evil nation.
2. All Believers, angels, apostles and prophets will join in.
3. The rejoicing is because of prophetic fulfillment. Jer 51:48  
"Then heaven and earth and all that is in them, Will shout for joy over Babylon, For the destroyers will come to her from the north," Declares the Lord.
4. A major reason for her fall is failure to protect Israel. Jer 51:49  
Indeed Babylon is to fall for the slain of Israel, As also for Babylon the slain of all the earth have fallen.
5. The judgment belongs to Jesus Christ. John 5:22
6. The greatest example of the economic viewpoint of the Tower of Babel will be gone.
7. This viewpoint has persecuted Believers throughout history.
8. Therefore the judgment is rendered for all Believers.

**Revelation 18:21-24  
The Destruction.**

### **18:21 = An Illustration**

**And one (physically) strong angel lifted up a shaped stone (LITHOS = a shaped or cut stone; like a tombstone, building stone, tablets of the Law) like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "In this manner will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down by an impulsive assault (ORM8MA = 1x; a result of a headlong rush), and may never be found again.**

**18:21 L.T. = And one strong angel lifted up a shaped stone, like a great millstone, and threw it into the sea, saying, "In this manner will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down by an impulsive assault, and may never be found again.**

#### **Summary:**

1. This angel dramatizes this fall.
2. Based on what he picks up, the world will know exactly what this prophecy is referring to.
3. The large millstone represents great commerce.
4. It specifically includes agriculture. Cf Jer 50:16
5. "Casting it into the sea" denotes the totality of judgment.
6. Sinking to the bottom indicates it has no future.
7. The "impulsive assault" denotes that the enemy from the North will make a relatively quick decision to attack.
8. Like the angel's action, the destruction will be without warning to those who do not know God's word.
9. The "millstone" may be the Statue of Liberty.
10. The Inscription: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, the tempest-tossed, to me: I lift my lamp beside the golden door."  
The Description: A stone pedestal upon which stands a woman made from hammered copper wearing robes. Her right hand holds a torch, her left hand a tablet with the date of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. On her head is a crown (a queen?). Around her feet lie broken chains. She is 305 feet tall and weighs 450,000 pounds.

### **18:22 = Specific Categories Judged**

**And the sound of harpists and minstrels and flute-players and trumpeters may never be heard in you again (repeated 2x); and every artisan of every craft may never be found in you again; and the sound of a millstone may never be heard in you again.**

**18:22 L.T. = And the sound of the harpists and minstrels and flute-players and trumpeters may never be heard in you again; and every artisan of every craft may never be found in you again; and the sound of a millstone may never be heard in you again.**

#### **Summary:**

1. Musicians, artisans and factory workers will disappear.
2. The evil of those industries evidently contributed to the fall.
3. All occupations are not inherently evil but all can become so.

### **18:23 = Other Categories**

**And the light of a lamp may never shine in you again; and the voice of the bridegroom and bride may never be heard in you again; because your international merchants were the greatest men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your drug abuse (PHARMAKEIA = often translated "sorcery" but the sorcerers were the dispensers of drugs).**

**18:23 L.T. = And the light of a lamp may never shine in you again; and the voice of the bridegroom and bride may never be heard in you again; because your international merchants were the great men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your drug abuse.**

**Summary:**

- 1. Even legitimate activities will cease.**
- 2. The main reason is the uncontrolled fornication by the international merchants.**
- 3. The love of money played a major role in people losing their ability to reason.**
- 4. The pursuit of pleasure and money will cease in this idolatrous nation mainly because of evil foreign policy.**
- 5. The love of money was clearly a drug but this would include the wrongful use of pharmaceuticals.**

**18:24 = The Fruits of Deceit**

**And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth.**

**18:24 L.T. = And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth.**

**Summary:**

- 1. Economic Babylon is responsible for Christians who have been murdered since Israel returned to the land. Jer 51:49**

Indeed Babylon is to fall for the slain of Israel, As also for Babylon the slain of all the earth have fallen.

- 2. She could have stopped it but didn't.**
- 3. "Prophets" refer to communicators because they are:**
  - A. Proclaimers of a divine message.**
  - B. Interpreters of the oracles of God.**
  - C. Givers of new revelation.**
- 4. Saints refer to Believers.**
- 5. "All who have been slain" refers to unbelievers who died because of her.**





## 6. Summary of Differences in the Babylons.

### A. Economic Babylon must be distinguished from Religious Babylon.

#### 1. It is different as to designation. Rev 17:5

and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." Cf. Rev 18:2 And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird.

#### 2. It is different as to destroyers. Rev 17:15-18 cf. Jer 50:9; 50:41; 51:48 (Religious Babylon is destroyed by the Revived Roman Empire located in the west, Economic Babylon by King of the North.)

<sup>15</sup>And he said to me, "The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. <sup>16</sup>"And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire. <sup>17</sup>"For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God should be fulfilled. <sup>18</sup>"And the woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth." Jer 50:9 "For behold, I am going to arouse and bring up against Babylon A horde of great nations from the land of the north,

#### 3. It is different as to direct statement. Rev 18:1

(After these things..., referring to the events of Chapter 17)

#### 4. The indication is that there are two entities that will experience a "fall," one attesting to the religion of Babylon, the other of economics. Rev 14:8

And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality."

### B. The fall of Historical Babylon did not fulfill the prophecies of major passages, so in view is an entity that is future from Isaiah, Jeremiah and the Apostle John. These passages refer to Economic Babylon.

#### 1. Historical Babylon was not devastated when conquered, but was left intact and therefore, inhabited since its fall. Dan 5-6 Especially Dan 5:30

The same night Belshazzar the Chaldean King was slain. Officials were slain but the city was not destroyed nor the citizens of the city. This is one of the most well-documented events in history, being recorded in both Jewish and Persian documents.

#### 2. Economic Babylon is to be completely devastated and left without inhabitant. Jer 51:29

So the land quakes and writhes, For the purposes of the Lord against Babylon stand, To make the land of Babylon A desolation without inhabitants.

#### 3. Economic Babylon will not be visited or even passed through after its fall.

Jer 50:3,39; 51:43

Jer 50:3 For a nation has come up against her out of the north; it will make her land an object of horror, and there will be no inhabitant in it. 50:39 Therefore the desert creatures will live there along with the jackals; The ostriches also will live in it, and it will never again be inhabited or dwelt in from generation to generation. As when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah with its neighbors, declares the Lord, No man will live there, Nor will any son of man reside in it. 51:43 "Her cities have become an object of horror, A parched land and a desert, A land in which no man lives, And through which no son of man passes.

#### 4. Jewish exiles were not permitted to leave before the destruction of Historical Babylon by the Persians. Ezra 1

#### 5. Jews will be encouraged to leave before the destruction of Economic Babylon. Jer 50:8,28; 51:6,9,45; Rev 18:4

Jer 50:8 Wander away from the midst of Babylon, and go forth from the land of the Chaldeans; Be also like male goats at the head of the flock. 50:28 There is a sound of fugitives and refugees from the land of Babylon 51:6 Flee from the midst of Babylon and each of you save his life. Do not be destroyed in her punishment. Jer 51:9 We applied healing to Babylon, but she was not healed; Forsake her and let us each go to his own country, For her judgment has reached to

heaven And towers up to the very skies. **Jer 51:45** "Come forth from her midst, My people, And each of you save yourselves From the fierce anger of the Lord; **Rev 18:4** I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues;

**6. Historical Babylon's enemies were the Persians, led by Cyrus who came from the east. Isa 45:1**

Thus says the Lord to Cyrus His anointed, Whom I have taken by the right hand, To subdue nations before him, And to loose the loins of kings; To open doors before him so that gates will not be shut:

**7. Economic Babylon's enemies come from the north. Jer 50:9,41; 51:48**

**Jer 50:9** "For behold, I am going to arouse and bring up against Babylon, A horde of great nations from the land of the north, And they will draw up their battle lines against her; From there she will be taken captive. Their arrows will be like an expert warrior who does not return empty-handed. **Jer 50:41** "Behold, a people is coming from the north, And a great nation and many kings will be aroused from the remote parts of the earth. **Jer 51:48** "Then heaven and earth and all that is in them will shout for joy over Babylon, For the destroyers will come to her from the north," Declares the Lord.

**C. Economic Babylon will not be rebuilt on the original site of Historical Babylon.**

This is not required for "sound literal hermeneutics" as claimed by some. Rather what is required is a literal reading of the description of this Economic Babylon. Babylon means "confusion," and is actually referred to as "Sheshak" in Jer 51:41, which is a code name for Babylon made by exchanging alphabet letters in a certain pattern. The first Hebrew letter of the alphabet is replaced with the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet; the second letter equals the next to last letter and so forth.

**1. Historical Babylon was by the Euphrates River in a desert.**

**2. Economic Babylon is by a sea and will become a desert. Isa 21:1; Jer 51:43; Rev 18:16-19**

**Isa 21:1** The oracle concerning the wilderness of the sea **Jer 51:43** Her cities have become an object of horror, a parched land and a desert. A land in which no man lives, and through which no son of man passes. **Rev 18:16-19** saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls; <sup>17</sup>for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!' And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea, stood at a distance, <sup>18</sup>and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What city is like the great city?' <sup>19</sup>'And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste!'

**3. Israel will get all the land from the River of Egypt to the west bank of the Euphrates (Gen 15:18), so the land of the Abrahamic Covenant adjoins Historical Babylon in the Millennium, actually encompassing the city on the Jerusalem side of the river. This lets survivors of the destruction "approach" the "unapproachable" and actually live on a portion of the real estate.**

Economic Babylon is completely depopulated. God's people are told to leave and the destroyed piece of real estate is unapproachable, never to be inhabited again. The Babylon/Assyria region will be populated when the Lord returns and gathers His people from there.

**4. The prophecies do not deal solely with the city of Babylon but also with the area around Babylon known as Chaldea. Isa 13:19; Jer 50:1**

(Some might say that it is only the city and not the region.) **Isa 13:19** And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms (not just a city but the capitol of a kingdom), the glory of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. **Jer 50:1** The word which the Lord spoke concerning Babylon, the land of the Chaldeans, through Jeremiah the prophet:

**5. The King's of the East will pass through Historical Babylon, including Chaldea, on their way to the final battle of Armageddon. This is after the pouring out of the 6<sup>th</sup> Bowl Judgment near the end of the Tribulation, so people are passing through a land that is**

**not supposed to be passable. Rev 9:12-16 (The Euphrates is mentioned 2x in Revelation)**

The first woe is past; behold, two woes are still coming after these things. <sup>13</sup>And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, <sup>14</sup>one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river **Euphrates**." <sup>15</sup>And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they might kill a third of mankind. <sup>16</sup>And the number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. **Rev 16:12** And the sixth angel poured out his bowl upon the great river, the **Euphrates**; and its water was dried up, that the way might be prepared for the kings from the east.

6. **The remnant of believing Jews will be regathered to Israel from the Babylonian area at the Second Advent, so people will be living in a land that is not supposed to be inhabited. Isa 11:11-12**

Then it will happen on that day that the Lord will again recover the second time with His hand, The remnant of His people, who will remain, From **Assyria**, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, **Shinar**, Hamath, And from the islands of the sea. <sup>12</sup>And He will lift up a standard for the nations And assemble the banished ones of Israel, And will gather the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth. (This happens at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent) **Zech 10:9-10** "When I scatter them among the peoples, They will remember Me in far countries, And they with their children will live and come back. <sup>10</sup>"I will bring them back from the land of Egypt, And gather them from Assyria; And I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon, Until no room can be found for them.

7. **Assyria, the land of Babylon, will thrive in the Millennium. Isa 19:23-25**

In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrians will come into Egypt and the Egyptians into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians. <sup>24</sup>In that day Israel will be the third party with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, <sup>25</sup>whom the Lord of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance."

8. **Again, this prophecy does not refer to the rebuilding of Historical Babylon.**

**D. Characteristics of Economic Babylon:**

1. **Economic Babylon is described as the "last of the nations," referring to being the last in history to be totally annihilated. Jer 50:12**

Behold, she will be the least (the word here is 'ACHARITH = this word is primarily temporal in nature, not corporeal, hence "last") of the nations, A wilderness, a parched land and a desert. Cf. **Num 24:20** And he looked at Amalek and took up his discourse and said, "Amalek was the first of the nations, But his end shall be destruction."

2. **Economic Babylon is said to have a mother nation, who exists contemporaneously with her. Jer 50:12**

Your mother will be greatly ashamed, she who gave you birth will be humiliated. (Historical Babylon did not have a mother. If it did it would be Sumer who was defeated by Babylon not begotten by it.)

3. **Economic Babylon is populated by people from every nation on earth. Jer 51:9,44**

**Jer 51:9** We applied healing to Babylon, but she was not healed; Forsake her and let us each go to his own country. **51:44** and the nations will no longer stream to him.

4. **Economic Babylon is the dominant financial power entering the Tribulation. Rev 18:18-19**

And were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What city is like the great city?' <sup>19</sup>And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste!

5. **Economic Babylon is located in the midst of the seas. Isa 21:1; Jer 51:13**

**Isa 21:1** The oracle concerning the wilderness of the sea. **Jer 51:13** O you who dwell by many waters, Abundant in treasures, Your end has come, the measure of your end.

6. **It has a northern enemy. Jer 50:9-10,41**

"For behold, I am going to arouse and bring up against Babylon A horde of great nations from the land of the north, And they will draw up their battle lines against her; From there she will be taken captive. Their arrows will be like an expert warrior Who does not return empty-handed. <sup>10</sup>"Chaldea will become plunder; All who plunder her will have enough," declares the Lord. **Jer 50:41** "Behold, a people is coming from the north, And a great nation and many kings Will be aroused from the remote parts of the earth.

**E. Various interpretations of Economic Babylon that cannot be true.**

**1. The world.**

Cf Rev 18:4 says, "Come out of her My people," but how can they choose to exit the "world" in the Tribulation? Rev 18:9 refers to kings but kings remain after her destruction.

**2. The same as Religious Babylon.**

Cf Rev 18:1 begins with "after these things" that include the destruction of Religious Babylon.

**3. The world political system.**

This requires allegorizing the passages. Rev 18:9 tells us that the Kings of the earth are still in existence, which clearly indicates that the political systems still exist.

**4. The world economic system.**

cf Rev 18:11 indicates that the merchants of the earth are still ready to sell their cargoes. This does not say that the loss of Economic Babylon won't have major economic impact.

**5. Revelation 18 also indicates an entity that is not part of the economic system of the Revived Roman Empire. Rev 13:16-17**

And he causes all (Pres POIEW = to do, make; is making all; i.e. in the process of, not that the "all" is ever accomplished), the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, <sup>17</sup>and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name.

**F. The Destruction of Economic Babylon**

**1. How it is destroyed**

**a. It is defeated by arrows that smash rather than pierce. (No country has ever been overthrown with simply arrows.) Isa 13:18; Jer 50:9,14,42; 51:3,11; Isa 13:8**

**Isa 13:18** And their bows will dash in pieces the young men (Piel IPF RATASH) **Jer 50:9** their arrows will be like an expert warrior who does not return empty handed. **50:14** Draw up your battle lines against Babylon on every side, all you who bend the bow; Shoot at her, do not be sparing with your arrows **50:29** Summon many against Babylon, all those who bend the bow; encamp against her on every side, let there be no escape. Repay her according to her work; according to all that she has done, so do to her; For she has become arrogant against the Lord, against the Holy One of Israel. **50:42; 51:3** "Let not him who bends his bow bend it, Nor let him rise up in his scale-armor; So do not spare her young men; Devote all her army to destruction. **51:11** Sharpen the arrows fill the quivers! The Lord has aroused the pint of the kings of the Medes **Isa 13:8** and they will look to one another in astonishment, their faces aflame.

**b. The arrows carry fire. Isa 47:14; Jer 50:32; 51:25b,30,32b,39; Rev 18:8-9,18**

**Isa 47:14** Behold, they have become like stubble, fire burns them; they cannot deliver themselves from the power of the flame **Jer 50:32** and I shall set fire to his cities, and it will devour all his environs. **51:25b** and I will make you like a burnt out mountain **51:30, 32b** and they have burned the marshes with fire (no marshes in Historical Babylon) **51:39; Rev 18:8-9** For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong. <sup>9</sup>And the kings of the earth, who committed fornication and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning. **Rev 18:18** and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What city is like the great city?'

**c. The land becomes a desert without inhabitant. Jer 51:43**

"Her cities have become an object of horror, A parched land and a desert, A land in which no man lives, And through which no son of man passes.

**d. The land is left unapproachable by man. Rev 18:10**

Standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment.

- e. **The fall will occur in one hour of one day. Rev 18:8a,17a,19**  
In one day her plagues will come, **17a** for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste! **19** "And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste!'"
2. **Conclusion: Economic Babylon will suddenly become an unapproachable desert, which describes the aftermath of a nuclear type attack.**
- G. **The fall of Economic Babylon is compared to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Isa 13:17-20; Jer 50:38-40; Gen 19:23-25**  
**Isa 13:17-20** Behold, I am going to stir up the Medes against them, Who will not value silver or take pleasure in gold, <sup>18</sup>And their bows will mow down the young men, They will not even have compassion on the fruit of the womb, Nor will their eye pity children. <sup>19</sup>And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. <sup>20</sup>It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation; Nor will the Arab pitch his tent there, Nor will shepherds make their flocks lie down there. **Jer 50:38-40** "A drought on her waters, and they will be dried up! For it is a land of idols, And they are mad over fearsome idols. <sup>39</sup>"Therefore the desert creatures will live there along with the jackals; The ostriches also will live in it, And it will never again be inhabited Or dwelt in from generation to generation. <sup>40</sup>"As when God overthrew Sodom And Gomorrah with its neighbors," declares the Lord, "No man will live there, Nor will any son of man reside in it. **Gen 19:23-25** The sun had risen over the earth when Lot came to Zoar. <sup>24</sup>Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven, <sup>25</sup>and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.
1. **It is unexpected and sudden.**
2. **Believers were delivered before the destruction. Luke 17:28-29**  
"It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; <sup>29</sup>but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.
3. **It was destroyed by fire and fallout.**
4. **All human life ceased.**
5. **Unbelief and sinfulness of all kinds ceased in that area.**
6. **It was sanctioned by the Lord.**
- H. **Various reactions to the fall of Economic Babylon.**
  1. **Mental and physical agony was produced in the prophet Isaiah from the vision he saw. Isa 21:3-4**  
For this reason my loins are full of anguish; pains have seized me like the pains of a woman in labor. I am so bewildered I cannot hear, so terrified I cannot see. <sup>4</sup>My mind reels, horror overwhelms me; The twilight I longed for has been turned for me into trembling.
  2. **Her citizens will be amazed and terrified. Isa 13:7**  
Therefore all hands will fall limp, and every man's heart will melt. And they will be terrified, pains and anguish will take hold of them; they will writhe like a woman in labor, they will look at one another in astonishment, their faces aflame.
  3. **The King of Babylon will not respond aggressively to the attack, but will be timid, either through lack of ability or fear or both. Jer 50:43**  
The king of Babylon has heard the report about them, and his hands hang limp; Distress has gripped him, agony like a woman in childbirth.
  4. **Financially connected world leaders will mourn. Rev 18:9**  
"And the kings of the earth, who committed acts of immorality and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning,
  5. **Foreign businessmen will bemoan her fall. Rev 18:11-13**  
"And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargoes any more; <sup>12</sup>cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every kind of citron wood and every article of ivory and every article made from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble, <sup>13</sup>and cinnamon and spice and

incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and cargoes of horses and chariots and slaves and human lives.

**6. Her enemies will be jubilant. Isa 13:3**

I have commanded My consecrated ones, I have even called My mighty warriors, My proudly exulting ones, To execute My anger.

**7. Believers are commanded to rejoice. Jer 51:48**

Then heaven and earth and all that is in them will shout for joy over Babylon, For the destroyers will come to her from the north.

**I. Economic Babylon will fall despite:**

**1. Her claim to the contrary. Isa 47:8**

Now then, hear this, you sensual one, who dwells securely, who says in your heart, I am, and there is no one besides me. I shall not sit as a widow, nor shall I know loss of children. But these two things shall come on you suddenly in one day: loss of children and widowhood.

**2. Her "charm." Isa 47:9b-13**

They shall come on you in full measure in spite of your many sorceries, in spite of the great power of your spells. <sup>10</sup>And you felt secure in your wickedness and said, No one sees me, Your wisdom and your knowledge have deluded you; for you have said in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one besides me.' <sup>11</sup>But evil will come on you which you will not know how to charm away; and disaster will fall on you for which you cannot, atone and destruction about which you do not know will come on you suddenly. <sup>12</sup>Stand fast now in your spells and in your many sorceries with which you have labored from your youth; perhaps you will be able to profit, perhaps you may cause trembling. <sup>13</sup>You are wearied with your many counsels, let now the astrologers, those who prophesy by the stars, those who predict by the new moons, stand up and save you from what will come upon you. (Diplomacy or sorcery won't work)

**3. Her advanced technology, Jer 51:53**

Though Babylon should ascend to the heavens, and though she should fortify her lofty stronghold, From Me destroyers will come to her, declares the Lord.

**4. Her past military successes. Jer 50:23**

How the hammer of the whole earth has been cut off and broken!

**J. Specific groups judged and destroyed:**

**1. Young men. Isa 13:18; Jer 50:27,30; 51:3**

**Isa 13:18** And their bows will mow down the young men, They will not even have compassion on the fruit of the womb, Nor will their eye pity children. **Jer 50:27** Put all her young bulls to the sword; Let them go down to the slaughter! Woe be upon them, for their day has come, The time of their punishment. **Jer 50:30** "Therefore her young men will fall in her streets, And all her men of war will be silenced in that day," declares the Lord. **Jer 51:3** "Let not him who bends his bow bend it, Nor let him rise up in his scale-armor; So do not spare her young men; Devote all her army to destruction.

**2. Babies and children. Isa 13:18**

And their bows will mow down the young men, They will not even have compassion on the fruit of the womb, Nor will their eye pity children. (Innocent people die in an evil nation.)

**3. Diplomatic corps. Isa 47:13-14**

"You are wearied with your many counsels; Let now the astrologers, Those who prophesy by the stars, Those who predict by the new moons, Stand up and save you from what will come upon you. <sup>14</sup>"Behold, they have become like stubble, Fire burns them; They cannot deliver themselves from the power of the flame; There will be no coal to warm by, Nor a fire to sit before!

**4. Agriculture. Jer 50:16; 51:23**

"Cut off the sower from Babylon, And the one who wields the sickle at the time of harvest; From before the sword of the oppressor They will each turn back to his own people, And they will each flee to his own land. **Jer 51:23** And with you I shatter the shepherd and his flock, And with you I shatter the farmer and his team, And with you I shatter governors and prefects.

**5. Arrogant people. Isa 47:8**

"Now, then, hear this, you sensual one, Who dwells securely, Who says in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one besides me. I shall not sit as a widow, Nor shall I know loss of children.'

6. **Bureaucrats and academia. Jer 50:35**  
A sword against the Chaldeans, declares the Lord, and against the inhabitants of Babylon, and against her wise men and officials.
7. **The clergy. Jer 50:36**  
A sword against the oracle priests, and they will become fools
8. **The military. Jer 50:36b**  
A sword against her mighty men, and they will be dismayed!
9. **Transportation. Jer 50:37a**  
A sword against all her horses and against her chariots.
10. **Foreign visitors. Jer 50:37b**  
A sword against their horses and chariots and against all the mixed multitude who are in the midst of her.
11. **Wealth. Jer 50:37d**  
A sword against her treasures, and they will be plundered.
12. **Old men, youth, women. Jer 51:22**  
And with you I shatter the chariot and its rider, and with you I shatter man and woman, and with you I shatter old man and youth, and with you I shatter your young man and virgin.
13. **Politicians. Jer 51:37**  
And I will make her princes and wise men drunk.
14. **The president. Jer 50:43**  
"The king of Babylon has heard the report about them, And his hands hang limp; Distress has gripped him, Agony like a woman in childbirth.
15. **Businessmen. Rev 18:14**  
And the fruit you long for has gone from you, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and men will no longer find them.
16. **Commerce. Rev 18:22**  
And the sound of a mill will not be heard in you any longer. **Jer 51:36** I shall dry up her sea and make her fountain dry.
17. **Marriage. Rev 18:23**  
And the light of a lamp will not shine in you any longer; and the voice of the bridegroom and bride will not be heard in you any longer.
18. **Entertainers. Rev 18:22**  
And the sound of harpists and musicians and flute-players and trumpeters will not be heard in you any longer
19. **Laborers. Rev 18:22**  
And no craftsman of any craft will be found in you any longer.
20. **The environment. Jer 50:38**  
"A drought on her waters, and they will be dried up! For it is a land of idols, And they are mad over fearsome idols. **Jer 51:14** The Lord of hosts has sworn by Himself: "Surely I will fill you with a population like locusts, And they will cry out with shouts of victory over you."
21. **Military armaments. Jer 51:56,58**  
For the destroyer is coming against her, against Babylon, And her mighty men will be captured, Their bows are shattered; For the Lord is a God of recompense, He will fully repay. **Jer 51:58** Thus says the Lord of hosts, "The broad wall of Babylon will be completely razed, And her high gates will be set on fire; So the peoples will toil for nothing, And the nations become exhausted only for fire."
22. **Idolatry. Jer 51:17-18**  
All mankind is stupid, devoid of knowledge; every goldsmith is put to shame by his graven images, for his molten images are deceitful, and there is no breath in them. They are worthless, a work of mockery; In the time of their punishment they will perish.

#### **K. Reasons for the overthrow of Economic Babylon.**

1. **Infectious economic greed. Rev 18:3,23**  
For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become



- rich by the wealth of her sensuality. **18:23** for your merchants were the great men of the earth, because all nations were deceived by your sorcery.
2. **Blind Arrogance. Isa 47:7-8; Jer 50:29; Rev 18:7**  
**Isa 47:7-8** Yet you said, I shall be a queen forever. These things you did not consider, nor remember the outcome of them. <sup>8</sup>Now, then, hear this, you sensual one, who dwells securely, who says in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one besides me, I shall not sit as a widow, nor shall I know loss of children. **Jer 50:29** Repay her according to her work; according to all that she has done, so do to her; For she has become arrogant against the Lord. **Rev 18:7** To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her "I sit as a queen and I am not a widow, and will never see mourning."
  3. **Anti-Israel. Jer 50:11; 51:34-40,49**  
Because you are glad, because you are jubilant, O you who pillage My heritage, Because you skip about like a threshing heifer and neigh like stallions **51:34-40, esp. 49** Indeed, Babylon is to fall for the slain of Israel, As also for Babylon the slain of all the earth have fallen.
  4. **Idolatry and Demonism. Jer 50:38; Isa 21:9; Rev 18:2; Jer 51:47**  
For it is a land of idols; **Isa 21:9** And one answered and said, "Fallen, fallen, is Babylon; and all the images of her gods are shattered on the ground. **Rev 18:2** And she has become dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and despicable bird. **Jer 51:47**
  5. **Failure to fight for God's people. Rev 18:24**  
And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth.
- L. The Destruction will not occur until the third year of the Tribulation. Jer 51:46**  
Now lest your heart grow faint, and you be afraid at the report that will be heard in the land-For the report will come in one year, and after that another report in another year.
- M. Economic Babylon develops a Messiah Complex that is similar to the fall of Satan. Isa 14:1-23**
1. **The people as a whole made decisions similar to Satan's. Isa 14:12-14**  
"How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! <sup>13</sup>"But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. <sup>14</sup>I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'
  2. **The destruction of Economic Babylon previews the destruction of Satan at the end of the Tribulation and his cohorts. Isa 14:22; Rev 16:19**  
"And I will rise up against them," declares the Lord of hosts, "and will cut off from Babylon name and survivors, offspring and posterity," declares the Lord. **cf. Rev 16:19** And Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.
- N. Economic Babylon will lose her position as a "Golden Cup in the hand of the Lord." Jer 51:7**  
This indicates that she was especially blessed, for no other nation in history, including Israel, has received that designation.
- O. Economic Babylon will refuse the healing that was applied to her. Jer 51:9**  
We applied healing to Babylon, but she was not be healed. **Cf. Rev 3:18** I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich....
1. **She continued to live in idolatry. Jer 51:47**  
Therefore behold, days are coming When I shall punish the idols of Babylon; And her whole land will be put to shame, And all her slain will fall in her midst.
  2. **She distorted the Truth in every way, indicating that she calls evil-good, and good-evil. Jer 51:41**  
How SHESHAK has been captured. (SHESHAK takes the Hebrew BABEL and uses the letters counting from the end of the alphabet toward the beginning. Thus it is a picture of reversing good and evil.)
- P. Economic Babylon was given more than any other nation in history. "To whom much has been given, much is required," so their judgment was complete and eternal. Luke 12:48**

And from everyone who has been given much shall much be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

- Q. Economic Babylon ("Confusion") is best identified as the United States under the complete influence of evil after the Rapture of the Church.**

## **7. Applications: so what? Be a light in a crooked generation. Php 2:14-16a**

Do all things without grumbling or disputing; 15 that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life.

### **The Secret Battle for Ideas about God Jeff Myers, Summit Ministries**

#### **Step 1: Identify the core belief:**

<b>Secularism:</b>	<b>Life is about Control.</b>
<b>Marxism:</b>	<b>Life is about Capital.</b>
<b>Postmodernism:</b>	<b>Life is about Context.</b>
<b>New Spirituality:</b>	<b>Life is about Consciousness.</b>
<b>Islam:</b>	<b>Life is about Conquering.</b>

#### **Step 2: Isolate the core argument:**

<b>Secularism:</b>	<b>Spiritual issues are a creation of the human imagination.</b>
<b>Marxism:</b>	<b>Some rich people are greedy therefore confiscation of wealth is justified.</b>
<b>Postmodernism:</b>	<b>Often religious people lie, so no religious message should be believed.</b>
<b>New Spirituality:</b>	<b>Forces are at work beyond what we can see, therefore God must be a force rather than a person.</b>
<b>Islam:</b>	<b>People naturally rebel against God (Allah), therefore they should be forced to submit.</b>

**Step 3: Inform with the Truth. Use different methods to provide truthful data.**

**Step 4: Invest time and resources. Live the truth seeking those who will listen.**