

Prophetical Babylon

(Isa 13:1-22; 21:1-10; 47-48; Jer 50-51; Rev 17-18)

26. Babylon To Be Silenced. Jeremiah 51:54-58

54 The sound of an outcry from Babylon, and of great destruction from the land of the Chaldeans!

55 For the LORD is going to destroy Babylon, and He will make her loud noise vanish from her. And their waves will roar like many waters; the tumult of their voices sounds forth.

56 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 (**GeMULAH = 3x; 2 Sam 19:36; Isa 59:18**), He will fully repay (**Piel IPF SHALAM = settle accounts**).

57 "And I shall make her (**Babylon**) princes and her wise men drunk (**Hiph PF + wc SHAKAR = to intoxicate**), her governors, her prefects, and her mighty men, that they may sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake up," declares the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts.

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 (**not GOY, but 'AM meaning "peoples"**) become exhausted only for (**because of**) fire."

Summary:

- 1. Intoxication can come from things other than liquids. Rev 18:3**
- 2. The people will not wake up from this drunk, showing the power of the intoxicants.**
- 3. Everyone will eventually "wake up," but some will stand in front of the Great White Throne. Rev 20:11-15**
- 4. The "smoke of her burning" appears to pollute the atmosphere of the world. Rev 18:8-9**

27. Words Passed To Zedekiah. 51:59-64

59 (**Narrative begins**) The message (**DABHAR = word**) which Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah, the grandson of Mahseiah, when he (**Seraiah**) went with Zedekiah the king of Judah to Babylon in the fourth year of his reign (**593 B.C.**). (Now Seraiah was quartermaster (**SAR = prince**)).

60 So Jeremiah wrote in a single scroll all the calamity which would come upon Babylon, that is, all these words which have been written concerning Babylon.

61 Then Jeremiah said to Seraiah, "As soon as you come to Babylon, then see that
 you read all these words aloud,
 62 and say, 'You, O LORD, have promised concerning this place to cut it off, so that
 there will be nothing dwelling in it, whether man or beast, but it will be a perpetual
 desolation.'
 63 "And it will come about as soon as you finish reading this scroll, you will tie a
 stone to it and throw it into the middle of the Euphrates,
 64 and say, 'Just so shall Babylon sink down and not rise again, because of the
 calamity that I am going to bring upon her; and they will become exhausted.'"
 Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.

Summary:

1. Here is a picture of passing on the prophetic word.
2. The importance of reading/listening and then remembering is spelled out here.
3. The written words are to be proclaimed with authority.
4. Historical Babylon is over, but Assyria, of all people, will own her geography. Cf Isa 35

Revelation 17 Followers of the Beast

Section D—The Things Which Will Be 4:1–22:5

13. Religious and Economic Babylon 17:1-18

a. Following the Beast 17:1-13

John's Invitation. 17:1

And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls (**ch 16**) came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here (**adverb DEURW = 9x; a strong exhortation; cf 21:9**), I shall show you (**Fut Act Ind DEIKNUMI = 33x; 8x in Revelation; to vividly display**) the judgment (**KRIMA = a resultant judgment**) of the great harlot (**PORN8 = 12x; from verb meaning to sell, a prostitute; 5x in Revelation; 17:1,5,15,16; 19:2**) who sits on many waters,

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

The Harlot's Activities. 17:2

with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality (**Aor Act Ind PORNEUW = to fornicate; 8x; 5x in Revelation; 2:14,20; 17:2; 18:3,9; political and religious fornication**), and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk (**Aor Pas Ind METHUSKW = intoxicated; cf. 1 Thes 5:7**) with the wine of her immorality (**PORNEIA = 25x; 7x in Revelation**)."

C.T./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 tempts with lust for personal gain.
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 the harlots' offers, 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 for what she has to offer.
7. She then peddles her influence to kings.
8. The wine refers to her doctrines.
9. Fornication begins in the mental attitude and is warned against multiple times in the Scriptures. 1 Cor 6:18; 7:2; 2 Cor 12:21; Gal 5:19; Col 3:5; 1 Thes 4:3; Rev 2:21; 9:21; 14:8

A Woman. 17:3

And he (the angel) carried me away in the Spirit (cf. 1:10) into a (spiritual) wilderness; and I saw a woman (no definite article; not the same woman as in Chapter 12, which was Israel) sitting on 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) beast (Neut Sing Acc TH8RION = beast), full of blasphemous names (Nom Pl Neut Pres Act Ptc GEMW = heavily laden, full), having seven heads and ten horns (i.e. on the 7th head).

C.T./L.T. = And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting upon a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names having seven heads and ten horns.

Summary:

1. This "Beast" is the Dictator of the Revived Roman Empire. Cf. Rev 11:7; 13:1,2,3,4; 17:7-8
2. The "scarlet" indicates his kingship.
3. The "woman" is historical Rome's worldview that began at the Tower of Babel. Cf. Gen 11:1-9; 1 Pet 5:13; Rev 17:9
4. The Beast does not hate the woman (the worldview) but the harlot (cf. 17:16) who is a tangible offspring of the woman (cf. 17:5).
5. Worldviews begat followers and wrong worldviews begat enemies within those worldviews.
6. The "heads" refer to kingdoms and kings who were anti-Israel and anti-Elohim. Cf. 17:12
7. The "horns" are power bases or nations of the seventh head. Cf. 17:12
8. The "woman" has both a religious and political side.

9. The Beast, a self-proclaimed god, will carry on the religious and political sides of the Roman Empire.
10. The "blasphemous names" are her claims to deity and messiahship.

Her Clothing. 17:4

And the woman (**Babylonian worldview**) was clothed (**Perf Mid Ptc PERIBALLW = was clothing herself**) in purple (**PURPHORON = 5x; John 19:2,5**) and scarlet (**KOKKINOS = Matt 27:28**), and adorned (**kept being gilded**) with gold 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 it is used 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 of her immorality (**PORNEIA = fornication**),

C.T./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. The two harlots she spawned in this context have done the same.
3. It has done so by misrepresenting God's plan, just as the Pharisees did. Luke 16:15; Matt 23:10-39
4. Before God this is "unclean."
 - A. It is purely ritual without any reality of soul that appreciates The God.
 - B. It is morally corrupt and gains fame, fortune, power and pleasure while sacrificing godly principles.
5. Her "cup" contains doctrines that lead to spiritual fornication.
6. Many of the roots of Roman Catholicism can be traced back to the Tower of Babel.
7. This however does not mean that all Catholics are unbelievers, but that the organizational structure is in place to unify the false church of the Tribulation since the true one was taken at the Rapture.
8. Members of the Catholic Church who have trusted Jesus Christ alone for their salvation will be taken at the Rapture.

The Historical Roots. 17:5

and upon her (**the woman's**) forehead (**METWPON = 8x; all in Revelation; where the Seal of God was placed on the 144,000; and where the Mark of the Beast could be placed**) a name was written, a 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**)

C.T./L.T. = And upon her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF THE HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

Summary:

- 1. "Mystery" describes the title but is not a part of the title.**
- 2. Since it is labeled a "mystery" analytical thought is required.**
- 3. It is called "Babylon" due to the confusion within it that has been spread to others.**
- 4. It is called "Great" because of the extent of its influence and long history.**
- 5. The fact that Historical Babylon during the period of the captivity of Israel (586-516 B.C.) was one of the seven "heads" (i.e. the 3rd) rules out the possibility of it being the "woman." It can't be both the "head" and the "woman."**
- 6. Therefore, the "woman" is the viewpoint of the Tower of Babel that was passed through the Seven Heads.**
- 7. The "harlots" refer to those who have followed the viewpoint and attacked Israel as a result.**
- 8. This includes Religious and Economic Babylon of the end-times.**
- 9. Nimrod was the first post-flood human to promote this viewpoint.
Cf. Gen 10:8-9**
- 10. Nimrod was the head of ancient Shinar (Sumer) and was known as Etana in their records.**
- 11. His wife Semiramus became the head of a cult that deified Nimrod after his death.**
- 12. According to legend:**
 - A. She gave birth to a son named Tammuz. Mentioned in Ezekiel 8:14**
 - B. Tammuz was to be a savior.**
 - C. Idols were made picturing the baby in his mother's arms.**
 - D. These idols exist in all civilizations.**
 - E. A priesthood oversaw the rites of the mother-son cult.**
 - F. Tammuz also became the husband of his mother Semiramus.**
- 13. From ancient Sumer, the cult spread to many nations:**
 - 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.**
- 14. Israel fell under discipline for following the "Queen of Heaven" which was patterned after this cult. Jer 44:17-18,25; 7:18**
- 15. The original cult spawned other systems of religious harlotry.**
- 16. A summary of the symbols:**
 - A. Woman = viewpoint of the Tower of Babel**
 - B. Harlots = kingdoms accepting that viewpoint**

- C. Great Harlot = focal points of the Babylonian viewpoint in the last generation
 - D. Beast = Dictator of the Revived Roman Empire
17. A power play will pit harlot against harlot. (Satan's Kingdom is divided)

The Reason for Judgment. 17:6

And I saw the woman drunk (**drinking wine from**) with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. And when I saw her (**having seen**), I wondered greatly.

C.T./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 the Babylonian viewpoint has persecuted the saints.
2. Specifically, that worldview will play a role in the motivation that murders both Church Age and Tribulational saints.
3. This woman's "doctrine" dictates this massacre.
4. The viewpoint persists through the Revived Roman Empire even after the particular organizational structures of these two harlots is destroyed. Cf. 16:6
5. They are killing Believers in the name of "Christianity."
6. After all, they claim to be the "real" church. After the Rapture, they will be quite angry that they have been "left behind." Cf. John 16:2-4
7. John's amazement is at least twofold:
 - A. How this false Christianity could exist.
 - B. The extent and magnitude of the viewpoint.

The Angel's Response. 17:7

And the angel said to me, "Why do you wonder (**Aor Act Ind THAUMADZW**)? I shall tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.

C.T./L.T. = And the angel said to me, "Why do you wonder? I shall tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and ten horns."

Summary:

1. The angel informs John that these symbols can be identified.
2. The Beast carries the Woman, which denotes the human agents that are used in spreading this false doctrine.
3. For a period of time, the Dictator caters to the two harlots.