

Babylon Has Fallen!

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It has been assumed by many Christians that when the term "Babylon" is used in scripture, it refers to worldly governments and/or false religions because of its association with sinful behavior.

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me (John), saying, 'Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters (symbol of nations; cf. Rev. 17:15),² with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk (spiritually speaking) with the wine of her fornication' (Rev. 17:1-2; Ed. notes in parentheses; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

The woman (Babylon; cf. Rev. 17:5) was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of her fornication.⁵ And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.⁶ And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement (Rev. 17:4-6; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Even though there are many false religions and oppressive governments on the earth, the term "Babylon" only refers to these in a distant, secondary manner. First and foremost, Babylon represents the spirit realm of Satan and the fallen angels that are with him.

And the woman (Babylon) whom you (John) saw (in vision) is that great city which reigns over the

kings of the earth (Rev. 17:18; Ed. notes in parentheses).

In this great city sin dwells, in many forms, and it is pictured using the following symbolic language.

And he (an angel) cried with a loud voice, saying, 'Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a habitation of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird' (Rev. 18:2; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Babylon is a city in the spirit realm that Satan built, and he is proud of his accomplishment (see study: Pride). Satan's pride can be compared to a physical king, who ruled over the ancient Babylonian empire.

At the end of twelve months he (King Nebuchadnezzar) was walking about the royal palace of Babylon.³⁰ The king spoke, saying, 'Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?' (Dan. 4:29-30; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Just as Almighty God humbled King Nebuchadnezzar, so He will eventually humble Satan by bringing his kingdom down.

While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: 'King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you!³² And they shall drive you from men, and (from) your dwelling place with the beasts of the field (other spirit-beings; cf. Gen. 3:1; see study: Every Beast of the Field). They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses' (Dan. 4:31-32; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Satan's removal, from the evil kingdom he built, is mentioned in the following prophecy.

Then I (John) saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he (the angel) cast him (Satan) into the bottomless pit (place of restraint for a spirit-being), and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while (Rev. 20:1-3; Ed. notes in parentheses).

When Satan is released from his place of restraint, and after Christ has ruled this planet for a thousand years, he will still not be humble enough to repent of his sin, and obey Almighty God. As a consequence, he will be lowered even further.

They (Satan and the fallen angels) went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints (which is in the spirit realm) and the beloved city (New Jerusalem; cf. Rev. 21:2). And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them (Rev. 20:9; Ed. notes in parentheses).

And the God of peace (i.e. Prince of peace; Jesus Christ; cf. Isa. 9:6b) will crush Satan under your feet shortly ... (Rom. 16:20a; Ed. note in parenthesis).

You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day (in the future) that I do this, says the Lord of hosts (Mal. 4:3; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Technically speaking, spiritual Babylon will fall quickly, but also progressively until every evil is

completely removed from God's spiritual family, as the last chapter of the Bible confirms.

But outside (of God's kingdom) are dogs (SGD 2965; metaphor for a sodomite) and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie (cf. Jn. 8:44) (Rev. 22:15; Ed. notes in parentheses).

The judgment of Babylon, and its fall, involves activities in the spirit realm because this is where Satan and the fallen angels reside. To teach that the book of Revelation is dealing mainly with activities that are going to occur in the physical realm is inaccurate and misleading (see study: Two Earths). To reinforce this, it is no coincidence that God compares the king of Babylon to Satan in the book of Isaiah.

...take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say: 'How the oppressor has ceased, the golden (insolent) city ceased! ⁵ The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked, the scepter of the rulers (of this present evil age; cf. Eph. 6:11-12); ⁶ He who struck the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he who ruled the nations in anger (Satan; cf. Isa. 14:16-17), is persecuted and no one hinders. ⁷ The whole earth is at rest and quiet; they break forth into singing (once Satan is finally judged). ⁸ Indeed the cypress trees rejoice over you, and the cedars of Lebanon (symbols representing other spirit-beings; see study: What Tree Did Eve Eat From?), saying, 'Since you were cut down, No woodsman has come up against us.' ⁹ "Hell (the grave) from beneath is excited about you, to meet you at your coming (proof that Satan will eventually die like a man due to his sins); it stirs up the dead for you, all the chief ones of the earth; it has raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations. ¹⁰ They all shall speak and say to you (at the second resurrection from the dead; see study: The Last Great Day): 'Have you

also become as weak as we (a mere mortal)? Have you become like us? ¹¹ Your pomp is brought down to Sheol (the grave), and the sound of your stringed instruments; the maggot is spread under you, and worms cover you (symbolism associated with Satan's death).¹² "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer (lightbearer; now changed to Satan, the Devil, and Adversary), son of the morning (Morning Star)! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations (through lies and deceit; cf. Rev. 12:9)! ¹³ For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars (symbol of angels) of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation in the farthest sides of the north (reference to Almighty God's throne); ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'¹⁵ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit. ¹⁶ "Those who see you will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: 'Is this the man (when he receives his wages for sin and becomes flesh and blood; cf. Rom. 6:23) who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, ¹⁷ Who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities, who did not open the house of his prisoners?' ¹⁸ "All the kings of the nations, all of them, sleep in glory, everyone in his own house; ¹⁹ But you are cast out of your grave like an abominable branch, like the garment of those who are slain, thrust through with a sword, who go down to the stones of the pit, like a corpse trodden underfoot (cf. Mal. 4:3; Rom. 16:20). ²⁰ You will not be joined with them in burial, because you have destroyed your land and slain your people (by teaching them that sinning is acceptable, even though God says it leads to death; cf. Eze. 18:4, 20). The brood of evildoers shall never be named (Isa. 14:4b-20; Ed. notes in parentheses).

So Babylon is synonymous with the spiritual city that Satan has built through his lies and deceit.

It will be brought down when Christ returns to take rulership of this planet away from Satan. In the meantime, everyone is under the influence of Babylon's values, to one degree or another (cf. Rev. 12:9), which is the reason God admonishes his servants to be vigilant and remain as unspotted from this present evil age as possible (Gal. 1:4).

And I (John) heard another voice from heaven saying, 'Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues' (Rev. 18:4; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Be sober (self-controlled), be vigilant (watchful); because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (spiritually speaking). ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith (trusting in God and His word), knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world (1Pet. 5:8-9; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from this world (Jas. 1:27; emphasis added).

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