



Revelation 17-19

THE KING IS COMING!

Babylon is the first city built following the Flood. It's built by a man whose name means rebel. And in its very construction, its prideful character appears, a character that remains throughout the Bible. It's a city that shakes its fist at God and says, "We don't need you, we don't want you, and we're not going to do it the way you want. We'll do it without you." From this point on, Babylon has a character; it's a city of pride and rebellion that shakes its fist at God. ...It's the place that spawned all of the problems that we see in our lives today. They began at this city.

—Charles Dyer

Adam and Eve were created to rule over the earth as stewards under God's authority. Their fall into sin brought the earth under a curse and under the dominion of Satan. As "ruler of this world," Satan desires to bring humanity into prideful, rebellious, unified opposition against God. He wants to set up his own kingdom on earth. The city that represents this satanic rebellion is Babylon ("confusion").

At the end of the tribulation timeline (ch. 6-16) and before Christ returns to earth (ch. 19), Revelation pauses to give us a picture of the mystery of Babylon the Great (ch. 17-18).

THE "SPIRIT" OF BABYLON

The story of Babylon begins in Genesis 10-11. The first "kingdom" mentioned in the Bible is built by a man named Nimrod whose name means _____.

He is called a "mighty one on the earth" and a "mighty hunter in the face of the LORD" (10:8-9). He is the builder of both Babel (Babylon) and Ninevah (Assyria) (10:10-11).

From this beginning, we see Babylon as a city...

1. Built in _____ against God.
2. Focused on _____.
3. Unified by false _____.
4. Characterized by _____ (cf. Zech. 5:5-11).
5. Empowered by _____ (cf. Is. 14:3-4, 12-15).

Nimrod was a mighty hunter "facing" the Lord. ...He was a mighty hunter before the Lord in the sense of fighting against Him. You do not turn your back on your enemy. You face him, and he faces you. Nimrod was against God; he was facing the Lord in battle, in antagonism rather than in submission

—John W. Ritenbaugh

The Tower of Babel was religiously oriented and a prototype for the ziggurats. ...One such ziggurat in Babylon was a marvel of colored, glazed tiles, standing over 297 feet high. Its name, Etemenanki, means "the building of the foundation platform of heaven and earth." It was associated with the temple of Marduk, Esagila, "the building whose top is (in heaven)."

—John J. Davis

More than any other name, 'Babylon' typifies humankind's will to be its own savior.

—J. Alec Motyer

Rebellion is the inborn tendency to give in to the lies of autonomy, self-sufficiency, and self-focus. These are the lies of the Garden, the same lies Satan has whispered in generation after generation...

—Paul D. Tripp

THE “INCARNATION” OF BABYLON (Revelation 17-18)

Babylon was the empire that destroyed Jerusalem and the temple, ended Davidic rule, and took God’s people into captivity, a captivity from which they never fully emerged.

In the end times, the spirit of Babylon will manifest itself again in a future empire, dominated by a global ruler (“the beast”) and unified by a one world false religion (“the harlot”) that hates and destroys all those who submit to God and to Christ.

1. This global ruler will emerge as the leader of a revived Roman empire—rising in the spirit of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome (“seven heads”).
2. He will gain power through an alliance with ten other leaders or nations (“ten horns,” cf. Dan. 2:24-45; 7:7-8).
3. They will use a one-world false religion as a means to gain unity...but then destroy this religion to exalt the beast.
4. This final, brief world empire—characterized by pride, self-gratification, immorality, materialism, luxury, sorcery, and hatred for God’s people—will be destroyed in “one hour.”

THE CORONATION OF THE TRUE KING! (Revelation 19)

“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever!” (Revelation 11:15a)

- Judgment for the sins of Babylon has come!
- The marriage supper of the Lamb has come!
- The return of Jesus the Messiah has come!
 - Jesus is _____ (19:11).
 - Jesus is _____ (19:13).
 - Jesus is _____ of kings and _____ of lords (19:16).

Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!

There has not been a king from the line of David seated on David’s throne since the time of King Nebuchadnezzar. ...Babylon destroyed God’s kingdom on earth.
—Charles Dyer

Sexual infidelity appears in the Bible as a metaphor of turning away from the Lord to worship a false god (e.g., 2 Kgs 9:22; Ps. 73:27; Jer. 3:6; Ezek. 23:19-30).

—Buist M. Fanning

We must move as quickly as possible to a one-world government, one-world religion, under a one-world leader.

—Robert Muller (1923-2010)
Former Asst. Gen. Secretary of U.N.

The reference here is to kings, to mountains, of temporal dominion, to empires. ...Preceding Rome the world had but five great names...Greece, Persia, Babylon, Assyria, and Egypt; no more, and no less. And these all were imperial powers like Rome.

—Joseph A. Seiss

God will judge, not because God gives people what they deserve, but because some people refuse to receive what no one deserves, because they have resisted to the end the powerful lure of the open arms of the Crucified Messiah.
—Miroslav Volf

Ancient Jewish marriage customs included three aspects:

- 1) Betrothal: the bridegroom pays a purchase price and the marriage covenant is formed.
- 2) Separation: the groom prepares his home for his bride, and then comes, often at night, to bring his bride to their home.
- 3) Consummation: a seven-day marriage feast of celebration!