

THE FALL OF COMMERCIAL BABYLON IN THE END-TIME

INTRODUCTION:

When examining THE FALL OF COMMERCIAL BABYLON (Rev.18:) during the Tribulation Period, it is important to keep in mind that RELIGIOUS BABYLON and POLITICAL / COMMERCIAL BABYLON are connected. This connection is revealed when the FALSE PROPHET causes people to receive the mark of the Beast in order to conduct commerce (the liberty and ability to buy and sell).

And he (*False Prophet*) causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Rev.13:16,17

As well, any thorough study of end-time Babylon should also be prefaced with a study of historic Babel and Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonia. What the word of God says about the Babylon of antiquity may give insights into the Babylon of the future. Further, what does the book of the Revelation reveal that would give one a greater understanding, regarding the picture of end-time Babylon's political and commercial endeavors. This lecture will emphasize "commercial" Babylon rather than "religious" Babylon. Its ultimate focus will be on the FALL OF COMMERCIAL BABYLON.

HISTORICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

I. ANCIENT BABEL ca. 2500 B.C. (Genesis 10:8-12, 25 and 11:1-9)

A. Babel (בְּבֶלֶט) was the first of four chief cities of Nimrod's kingdom. (Gn.10:8-10)

1. Nimrod was a mighty (*powerful*) man in the earth (10:9)
2. Nimrod was a mighty hunter before the Lord (10:10)
3. Nimrod's cities: Babel, Erech, Accad, Calneh in the land of Shinar (10:10)
4. Nimrod was most likely a contemporary of Salah (born 37yrs after Flood)

B. Ninevah (נִיְנְוָה) a city 250 miles north of Babel built by Asshur (Gn.10:11)

1. Asshur went out of the land of Shinar (10:11)
2. Asshur was a builder of cities (10:11,12)
3. Asshur was Shem's second son (10:22)
4. Asshur was a nephew to Ham, contemporary of Cush (father of Nimrod) (Gn.11:1).

C. Land of Shinar (שִׁנְאָר Shin`ar) meaning: *the land between two rivers.* (Gn.11:1)

1. These rivers are understood to be: Euphrates and Tigris in today's Iraq.
2. The people journeyed from the east and dwelt in the land (11:2)

D. The People of Babel

1. They demonstrated a common language, the language that was in the whole earth (Gn.11:1)
2. They demonstrated the skill of making clay bricks (11:3)
3. They demonstrated the skill of firing hardening clay bricks (11:3)
4. They demonstrated the skill of making mortar (11:3)
5. They demonstrated a community spirit to build a city (11:4)
6. They demonstrated a common skill to build a tower (11:4) (ancient skyscraper)
7. They demonstrated a self-pride and a self-ambition (11:4) cf. Prv.16:18
8. They demonstrated a rebellious spirit toward the will of God (11:4) cf. Gen.9:1,7
9. They were under the watchful discerning eye of God (11:5)

E. God's Notation: (Gn.11:6)

1. God noted they were unified in purpose and language(11:6)
2. God noted they were ingenious and industrious (11:6)

F. God's Judgment: (Gn.11:7,8)

1. God judges them by confounding their language (11:7)
2. God scatters them throughout the earth (11:8)
 - The name of the place was called "Babel" (11:9)
 - Because God confounded the one language of all the earth (11:9)
 - Because God dispersed men from this place to all the earth (11:9)
 - The Date: (Gen:10:25)
 - After the Flood approximately 101 to 340 yrs cf. Gen.11:10-19

<p>Arphaxad son of Shem born 2 years after the Flood (11:10) Salah son of Arphaxad born 37 years after the Flood (11:12) Eber son of Salah born 67 years after the Flood (11:16) Peleg son of Eber born 101 years after the Flood (11:18) Peleg lived 239 years (11:18,19) Earth Divided = 101 to 340 yrs. After Flood (Gn.10:25)</p>

II. NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S BABYLONIA ca. 600 B.C. Daniel 1: & 2:

A. Advisors for the Court Daniel 1:3, 4

1. This Babylon took advantage of people - of the best classes of people (1:3).
2. This Babylon took advantage of people - of the best physical fit (1:4).
3. This Babylon took advantage of people - of the best in skillfulness (1:4).
 - In wisdom (חָכְמָה) skill in administration, prudence, ethics, religion
 - In knowledge (תְּעוּדָה) skill in the perception of facts
 - In science (מִדְעָה) skill in the thinking of knowledge
4. This Babylon took advantage of people - of the best demeanor (1:4).
5. This Babylon took advantage of people - of the best students (1:4).

Insight: They were shroud or cunning users of people.

B. Food for the Court Daniel 1:5, 16

1. The King's Meat (1:5) (פֶּתִיבָג) *food for kings, delicacies*
2. The King's Wine (1:5) (יַיִן) *wine (mocking wine: cf. Prv.20:1)*
3. Pulse (1:16) (עֲרֵב) *vegetables*

Insight: They kept the best food for the best - for the court's own use.

C. Advisors in the Court Daniel 2:1, 2, 12, 27, 28

1. The wise men of Babylon (2:12)
 - Magicians (2:2) (חֹזְנֵי טֹט) *diviner*
 - Astrologers (2:2) (אֲשָׁפֵט) *necromancer, conjurer, exorcist*
 - Sorcerers (2:2) (מְשִׁיבֵי רָע) *practice of witchcraft*
 - Soothsayers (2:27) (רְאֵי) *to cut, determiner*
2. The God in heaven (2:28)
 - Who reveals secrets (2:28)
 - Who revealed through the prophet Daniel (2:28)

Insight: Two kinds of counselors: those of science and the super-natural and the counselors of truth.

D. The Magnificence of Babylon Daniel 2:32

1. The magnificence of Babylon is characterized as a kingdom "of fine gold"

- (2:32). “fine gold” (בָּזָבִיב) *good or pure* (בְּהָרִי) *gold*
2. The magnificence of Bayblon is characterized as a “kingdom” (2:37).
“kingdom” (מְלָכּוּת) *of impressive splendor - royalty, kingship, kingly authority*
3. The magnificence of Babylon is characterized as a kingdom “of power”
(קִיּוּם) *strength* (2:37).
4. The magnificence of Babylon is characterized as a kingdom “of strength”
(קִיּוּם) *might* (2:37).
5. The magnificence of Babylon is characterized as a kingdom “of glory” (2:37).
“glory” (קִיּוּם) *honor, esteem*
6. The magnificence of Babylon is characterized as a kingdom “of despotism”
(2:38). “ruler over all” (כָּל־טָרְדַן) *to have power over all, domineer*

III. BELSHAZZER'S BABYLONIA ca. 640 B.C.

Daniel 5:1-4

- A. Babylon was exceedingly revelous (5:1)**
- B. Babylon was exceedingly immoral (5:2)**
- C. Babylon was exceedingly disrespectful of the Lord's vessels (5:3)**
- D. Babylon was exceedingly materialistic (5:4)**

1. They drank wine (5:4)
2. They praised and worshipped Gold (5:4)
“praise” (תְּהַלֵּל) *to laud, adulate, adore*
3. They praised and worshipped Silver (5:4)
4. They praised and worshipped Brass (5:4)
5. They praised and worshipped Iron (5:4)
6. They praised and worshipped Wood (5:4)
7. They praised and worshipped Stone (5:4)

IV. ISAIAH'S COMMENTS ABOUT BABYLON

- A. He called it the glory of kingdoms (Isa.13:19).**
- B. He called it the beauty of the Chaldee's excellency (Isa.13:19).**
- C. He called its overthrow as Sodom and Gomorrah (Isa.13:19).**
- D. He called it the “the golden city” (Isa.14:4).**
- E. He prophesied the destruction of Babylon's nobles and its Chaldean shipping: (Isa.43:14)**

V. JEREMIAH'S COMMENTS ABOUT BABYLON

- A. He reveals Babylon filled its treasuries with the treasures of conquered nations: (Jer.20:5).**
- B. He reveals Babylon carried away the nobles and the skilled laborers of**

- conquered nations: (Jer.24:1).
- C. He reveals Babylon's king was given complete victory over conquered nations: (Jer.27:6, 28:14).
- D. He revealed Babylon was a prosperous place where houses were built and gardens grew: (Jer.29:28).
- E. He revealed Babylon had a superior military and a conquering Army: (Jer.34:21, 36:29).

REVELATION 18: THE FALL OF COMMERCIAL BABYLON

I. THE ANNOUNCEMENT: Rev.18:1-3

A. Announcing came from *another* heavenly angel (18:1)

1. With great power / *authority* (1)
2. With great glory / *honor* (1)
3. With a great voice (2)

B. Announcing the fall of Babylon (18:2)

C. Announcing the habitation in Babylon (18:2)

1. Of devils / *evil spirits* (2)
2. Of foul / *unclean spirits* (2)
3. Of unclean and hateful / *scavenging flesh eating* birds (2)

D. Announcing the reason for this fall (18:3)

1. For the *passionate participation* of her fornication / *worship of idols* (3)
2. For the *corruption* of the kings of all nations (3)
3. For the *corruption* of the merchants of all nations (3)
4. For the *deceitfulness* of her riches and abundance of her delicacies / *luxuries* (3)

II. THE INVITATION TO "COME OUT": Rev.18:4

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues (*public calamity, heavy affliction*).

III. THE CHARACTER OF BABYLON'S JUDGMENTS:

Rev.18:5-8

A. Judged for Her sins and iniquities (18:5)

1. Which have reached unto heaven (5)
2. Which God has acknowledged (5)

B. Judged with severity relative to her greatness (18:6-7)

1. In proportion to the degree of her sins (6)
2. In double portion to her works (6)
3. In fullness to her filling (*the cup she has mixed*) (6)
4. In torment and sorrow to her honor and luxurious living and pride (7)

C. Judged in One day (8) ("After these things" - time of destruction 18:1)

1. By plagues (*heavy afflictions*) (8)
2. By death (*loss of life*) and mourning (*sorrow*) (8)
3. By famine (*hunger and destruction*) (8)
4. By fire, utterly burned (*consumed*) (8)
5. By the strength (*force*) of the Lord (8)

IV. THE LAMENTATION OF THE KINGS OF THE EARTH:

Rev.18:9-11

A. The Kings of the Earth Lament Over Her Burning (destruction) (18:9)

1. Which have committed fornication (*fig. practicing of idolatry*) (9)
2. Which have lived deliciously (*luxuriously*) (9)

B. The Kings of the Earth Lament Over Her Judgment (18:10,11)

1. Which is swift - takes place in one hour (10)
2. Which is complete - no man buyeth her merchandise any more (11,19)
3. Which is universal - of the earth (9,11)

V. THE LAMENTATIONS OF THE MERCHANTS OF THE EARTH: Rev.18:11-19

A. The Merchants of the Earth Lament Over the Loss of Her Commerce (18:11)

1. They shall weep (*bewail*) over her (11)
2. They shall mourn (*grieve*) over her (11)

3. They shall buy no more from her (11)

B. The Loss of Commerce (Her Merchandise) (18:12-14)

1. Gold - the monetary trade (12)
2. Silver
3. Precious stones - the luxury trade (12)
 - Agate - Ex 28:19, 39:12 (quartz: with lines of colors)
 - Amber - Ezek 1:4, 27; 8:2 (golden yellowish brown fossilized resin from pine trees)
 - Amethyst - Ex 28:19, 39:12, Rev 21:20 (quartz :violet purple)
 - Beryl - Ex 28:19, 39:12, Ezek 28:13, Rev 21:20 (a name for several gemstones: aqua-marine and green in color)
 - Carnelian (Sardius) - Ex 28:19, 39:10; Rev 4:3, 21:20 (translucent orangish red quartz)
 - Chalcedony - Rev 21:19 (semi-translucent: grayish quartz)
 - Chrysoptase - Rev 21:20 (translucent: bright grassy green)
 - Crystal - Job 28:17, Isa 54:12, Rev 4:6; 21:11; 22:1 (transparent: crystalline quartz, colorless)
 - Coral - Job 28:18, Ezek 27:16 (limestone formation found in the sea and used in ancient jewelry production)
 - Diamond - Ex 28:18, 39:11, Jer 17:1, Ezek 28:13 (pure elemental carbon: the most highly prized and hardest of all gemstones)
 - Emerald - Ex 28:20, 39:13, Ezek 28:13, Rev 4:3, 21:18 (valuable and highly prized grassy-green variety of beryl)
 - Garnet - A crystal structure varying in hardness and color from deep red to blue; blue being the rarest. (a brittle, hard, glassy, mineral silicate)
 - Jacinth (Hyacinth) - Rev 21:20 (form of sapphire: dark blue, taking its name from the grape hyacinth plant)
 - Jasper - Ex 28:20, 39:13, Job 28:18, Ezek 28:13, Rv.4:3, 21:11,18,19 (an opaque variety of chalcedony chalcedony (quartz), color: red, yellow, brn, grn)
 - Lapis Lazuli - Historical: Mesopotamia (dark blue stone consisting largely of lazurite and speckled with yellow pyrite)
 - Onyx - Gen 2:12, Ex 28:20, Job 28:16, Ezek 28:13 (Onyx is chalcedony that has even, banded layers of various color, but most typically black and white)
 - Pearl - Matt 13:46, Rev 21:21 (only gem that is formed

Peridot (Chrysolite)	within a living organism - the oyster) - Rev 21:19,20 (Peridot is the modern name for chrysolite which is a lovely, transparent, gem from the mineral olivine)
Ruby	- Ex 28:17, 39:10; Prov 8:11, 31:10, Job 28:18, Ezek 28:13 (Rubies are the red gem variety of the mineral corundum)
Sapphire	- Ex 24:10; 28:18; 39:11; Job 28:6,16; Song 5:14; Isa 54:11; Ezek 1:26; 10:1; 28:13, Rev 21:20 (the gem is a blue, translucent variety of corundum)
Sardonyx	- Rev 21:20 (a variety of chalcedony (fine-grained quartz) that has alternating bands of reddish-brown and white)
Topaz	- Ex 28:19, 39:12, Ezek 28:13, Job 28:19, Rev 21:20 (a mineral that is composed of aluminum, silicon, oxygen, and fluorine, found in many colors)
Turquoise	- Ex 28:18; 39:11; Ezek 28:13 (hydrous compound of phosphorus, aluminum and copper, is opaque, blue to blue-green in color with a dull, waxy luster)

4. Pearls - the luxury trade (12) -continued

5. Fine linen

6. Purple

7. Silk

8. Scarlet

9. Thyine wood - the basic materials trade (12)

10. Vessels of ivory

11. Vessels of precious wood

12. Vessels of brass

13. Iron

14. Marble

15. Cinnamon - the spice trade (13)

16. Odours

17. Ointments

18. Frankincense

19. Wine - the agricultural trade (13)

20. Oil

21. Fine flour

22. Wheat

23. Beasts

24. Sheep

25. Horses

- 26. Chariots - the transportation trade (13)
- 27. Slaves - the human life trade (13)
- 28. Souls of men
- 29. Fruits of the soul - the profits from trade (14)
- 30. Things of luxury and elegance - the ultra luxury trade (14)

C. The Remorse of the Merchants (18:15-17)

- 1. They stand a far off because of her torment (*torture, vexation*) (15)
- 2. They weep (*to wail aloud*) and they wail (*to grieve*) over her demise (15)

Their remorse is over the loss of her magnificent beauty or life-style (16)
fine linen (16)
purple (16)
scarlet (16)

Their remorse is over the loss of her economy (16)
gold (16)

Their remorse is over the loss of her luxury (16)
precious stones (16)
pearls (16)

Their remorse is over the loss of her great wealth (17)
great riches (*to lay waste*) (17)

Their remorse is over the loss of her international trade (17)

D. The Destruction of the City (18:18-19)

- 1. The destruction of her greatness (*size*) from burning (18)
- 2. The desolation of her valuable-ness (*costliness*) (19) i.e. magnificence

She is destroyed quickly, within one hour (19)

She is brought to desolation (*nothing*) 19)

VI. THE REJOICING OF HEAVEN:

Rev.18:20

20: Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

- A. Over the avenging of the designs or will of Heaven (20)**
- B. Over the avenging of the holy apostles (20)**
- C. Over the avenging of the prophets (20)**
- D. Over the avenging of those in heaven (20)**

VII. THE DESTRUCTION OF THE GREAT CITY BABYLON: Rev.18:21-24

A. The Destruction from Heaven - violent and final (18:21)

1. By a mighty angel with a stone like a great millstone (21)
2. By the casting of this great stone into the sea (21)
The great city Babylon will violently thrown down (21)
The great city Babylon will be no more (21)

B. The End of Musicians, Craftsmen and Millers (18:22)

1. Of music and gayety (22)
2. Of craftsman - no production or building with skilled labor (22)
3. Of production of food (22)

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C. The End of Babylon's Life Style (18:23)

1. Of its candlelight (*no night-life*) (23)
2. Of its weddings (*no joyous times*) (23)
3. Of its merchants (*no more commerce*) (23)
4. Of its sorceries (*no more deceptions*) (23)

D. The End of Babylon's Worldwide Persecution (24)

1. Of the prophets (24)
2. Of the saints (24)
3. Of all that was slain upon the earth (24)

Conclusion: Babylon, the center of economic magnificence's and worldwide commerce, will be held accountable and will be destroyed for its fornications and deceptions of the world prior to the time of the Lord's return.

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