

"The Destruction of Babylon"

Part 1

Revelation 17-18

Introduction: Today we are coming back to our study in the book of Revelation. The last time we were together we were in chapter 16 and we were looking at the Vial/Bowl Judgments. The Bowls are the last in a series of 3 sets of judgments foretold in Revelation that will unfold during the Tribulation.

Now in the midst of these the three sets of Judgments we looked at how many will refuse to repent and place their faith in Jesus Christ. God will reach out to the people of the Tribulation in many ways. There will be the two witnesses of chapter 11, there will be the 144,000 Jewish missionary men who will carry the Gospel to the world, there will be the angel that flies over the earth and proclaims the Gospel, there will be another angel that foretells the fall of Babylon, there will be the death of over one half of the world's population and yet in all of this many people will refuse to turn to Jesus Christ.

Revelation 16:8-11, 21

⁸ *And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.*

⁹ *And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and **they repented not** to give him glory.*

¹⁰ *And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,*

¹¹ *And **blasphemed the God of heaven** because of their pains and their sores, **and repented not** of their deeds.*

²¹ *And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: **and men blasphemed God** because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.*

Now what we are about to step into today will help us to better understand why we see so many continuing to reject God in the Tribulation.

In chapters 17 and 18 of Revelation we are going to see the destruction of two Babylonians. In Revelation 17 we will see the destruction of RELIGIOUS Babylon and in Revelation 18 we will see the destruction of COMMERCIAL Babylon.

Notice Revelation 17:1

Babylon here is referred to as the GREAT WHORE and we will see why that is as we work our way through this chapter.

Notice Revelation 17:18

Here in this verse we see that this GREAT WHORE is a city that will exist during the Tribulation. With that said there is something else we need to know, Babylon will not only be a GREAT CITY during the Tribulation, but Babylon is also a RELIGIOUS SYSTEM that will exist and even exists today. An example of how this can be would be Wall Street. It is a place and it is an economic system in our day.

I. The History of Babylon

As we look at the history I want you to keep in mind that Babylon is a RELIGIOUS SYSTEM.

Genesis 9:1

And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

When the flood waters receded, and Noah and his family stepped off the ark there were only saved people in the world, 8 of them. They were commanded to multiply and replenish the earth. Now let me take you a little further ahead.

Genesis 10:8-10

⁸ *And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.*

⁹ *He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.*

¹⁰ *And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.*

Here we are introduced to a man named Nimrod and he was a mighty hunter before the Lord. He did not hunt deer or elk, he hunted men to join him in rebellion against God. His Kingdom was in the land of Shinar which was Babylonia.

Genesis 11:1-9

And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

² *And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.*

³ And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.

⁴ And they said, Go to, **let us build us a city and a tower**, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

⁵ And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

⁶ And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

⁷ Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

⁸ So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

⁹ Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

This tower was known as a ziggurat which was the center of the first false worship system after the flood and it was located in Babylon. These Ziggurats, as they were called, were gigantic towers many of them. And this was to be a gigantic one evidently. There usually was a large platform upon which the Ziggurats was built. The Ziggurats itself was kind of a stepped pyramid that went up to the sky and then when the top was reached a temple was built upon that and in the temple one of the false gods would be worshipped. This tower and the organization was all under the leadership of Nimrod and it was in rebellion against God.

Now when God scattered the people from the Tower of Babel they carried with them the false worship which was practiced at the tower and what we will see in Revelation 17 is the result of what happened at the Tower of Babel. Let me just give you some history to show you how this religious system has even impacted our world today.

Let me share with you the words of David Levy;

"When God scattered the people at Babel it did not mean the demise of the Babylonian religious system. History records that Nimrod's wife Semiramis became the head priestess of an idolatrous system of the secret religious rituals known as Babylonian

Mysteries. Babylon became the fountainhead of idolatry and the mother of every pagan system that spread across the world.

Semiramis supposedly gave birth to a son named Tammuz, who was miraculously conceived by a sunbeam. He was presented to the people as a savior, in fulfillment of the promise made to Eve concerning her seed in Genesis 3:15. Tradition says that Tammuz was killed by a wild boar, but after the people fasted for 40 days, he was resurrected from the dead on the feast of Ishtar. This legend of a mother-son cult became part of the Babylonian Mystery ritual and was quickly included in other idolatrous religious practices worldwide. The mother-son cult was headed by a priesthood that promoted salvation by means of sprinkling holy water, ceremonial cleansing, and purgatorial cleansing after death. Semiramis established an order of virgins dedicated to religious prostitution. She became known and worshipped as the "queen of heaven".

This false worship was accepted many years later by Israel.

Ezekiel 8:12-14

¹² Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, the LORD seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth.

¹³ He said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations that they do.

¹⁴ Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD's house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz.

Jeremiah 7:18

¹⁸ The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger.

In our day today, we see the false worship which came from Nimrod's Babylon in the Roman Catholic religion. The worship of Mary has evolved from the worship of the "queen of heaven".

That is a short view of the history of Babylon.

Now during the Tribulation, the religious system of Babylon will ramp back up and will become the ONE WORLD RELIGION of the Tribulation.

In our day today, this system still exists and not only in the Roman Catholic church but in any false religion. All the false worship systems have evolved from Nimrod's Babylon and many people have bought into the false worship systems.

I want to take the remaining time and show you the danger that exists within our world as Satan continues to use the false worship system of Babylon to lead many to hell.

II. The Void in Man's Life

Romans 1:18-20

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

¹⁹ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

God has revealed Himself to every person who has ever been born through creation, the conscience and the law written within the heart. He desires for man to act upon the Truth given to him and come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. But many have suppressed the Truth given to them and so they have collided with the wrath of God which takes them deeper and deeper into the spiritual darkness.

Romans 1:21-25

*²¹ Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and **their foolish heart was darkened.***

²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

²³ And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

*²⁴ Wherefore **God also gave them up** to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:*

²⁵ Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

They suppressed the Truth of God and when they sunk deeper into the darkness they fell into idolatry.

When someone suppresses the Truth of God Satan is pleased to step in and to sell them any false religion that they desire to lead them away from the Truth. People will accept what Satan has because man has within him a void that he longs to fill. God has created man to worship and so when man rejects God he will worship something, and it will be a false system that Satan has that has come from Babylon.

III. The Power of the System

Let me show you how successful Satan is in selling a false religion to people.

Matthew 7:13-14

¹³ *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and **many there be which go in thereat:***

¹⁴ *Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

The **BROAD WAY** is the way of religion. These people are on a path that is marked, "This way to heaven". The sad point that we need to see is that Jesus tells us there are **MANY** on the path to hell, so many have accepted the false religion offered by Satan.

There are many reasons why so many are on this broad path, but one reason is because of the power of the false worship system.

2 Corinthians 10:3-4

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of **strong holds**;))

These false religions are **STRONG HOLDS** which means **FORTRESSES**. Let me explain this so that you can understand it. When someone gets involved in a false worship/religion they enter into a **FORTRESS** that is often impossible for someone on the outside to penetrate. You can talk and reason all you want but many times it will never penetrate the **FORTRESS**.

2 Peter 2:1-2

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

² And **many** shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

Another way to see the FORTRESS of false religion is that those who get caught up in the system become trapped in the FORTRESS and they end up dying in the FORTRESS and they go to hell. As a FORTRESS it is very difficult to penetrate from the outside and it also entraps the poor soul who has accepted the false religion. Let me show you a picture of this.

These pictures are in the Tribulation when the power of the false system which be much stronger but the false system of today is still very powerful.

Revelation 6:15-17

¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

¹⁶ And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

¹⁷ For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Revelation 9:20-21

²⁰ And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

²¹ Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

Conclusion:

The spiritual darkness of this world is extremely strong and if you are not saved you are in great danger of falling into a SPIRITUAL FORTRESS that will blind you and entrap you. If you fall into one of these FORTRESSES, you may die there and go to hell.

1 Peter 5:8

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Religious Babylon exists today, and you are no match for it. It will be far stronger in the Tribulation, but it is still working today.