***The Judgment of Babylon

RV209-02***

We are studying Revelation 17:1-18. Our subject is "Ecclesiastical Babylon." This is number three. A study of Babylon and what it represents in the Word of God is extremely important. We have now come toward the closing part of the book of the Revelation, and God the Holy Spirit has inserted these two chapters (17 and 18), in order to clarify God's attitude and God's intentions and purposes for the city of Babylon, and what it represents religiously and politically.

Following the seventh bowl judgment, which takes place near the very end of the seven-year tribulation period (probably, literally within the last few weeks), John is now transported by God the Holy Spirit in his vision to an earlier period in the tribulation era. In fact, it is to a period before the midpoint of the tribulation, during the first three-and-a-half years. And Revelation 17 gives us background information about what the city of Babylon has produced in the form of a religious system which God calls a spiritual harlot. Revelation 18 gives us the background of what Babylon has produced in the form of a humanistic, godless, political economic system that has taken hold of all the nations of the world. That system is expressed in its ultimate form of socialism.

**The Harlot Babylon**

God hates, with a purple passion, these two products of ancient Babylon, which will come to their zenith during the tribulation years. The information to John in Revelation 17 and 18 gives further clarification as to why God is so angry at Babylon, and why His destruction of this city and the systems it has produced will be so violent and so complete. John is led in his vision by one of the seven angels to a vantage point where he can view the great harlot – ecclesiastical Babylon. This harlot woman refers to her spiritual infidelity to God, and to her devotion to idol gods, which is what the religious system of Nimrod was that was begun in Babylon.

**She Sits on Many Waters**

We are told that this harlot sits on many waters, which can be viewed on the one hand as the Euphrates River with its connected canals, or, as the Bible also indicates, it refers to mankind in the form of the nations of the world which Satan dominates. This religious woman is going to dominate the religious life of all the nations of the world in the early part of the tribulation era. The spiritual harlotry of the religions of the world originated in this city of Babylon on the Euphrates.

Babylon, we pointed out, was founded by Nimrod after the Noahic flood. It was founded as a place for people to rally who wanted to rebel against God. The rallying point was the Tower of Babel, which was designed to reach up into the sky to form a platform where they could worship the heavenly bodies as gods. Babylon's astro-idolatry is today still promoted even in scientific circles. The idea that the luminaries out there (the sun, the moon, the stars, and the planets) are gods is not some crazy idea that some primitive people had. These are ideas which the scientific community has accepted today because it has no place else to go once it has rejected the God of the Bible.

You have all heard of Carl Sagan, the famous astronomer and humanist. He has an inordinate amount of arrogance, and a great contempt for the God of the Bible. He hates with a vengeance the idea of a creative God instead of an evolutionary system. I was amazed to read where Sagan had said, exemplifying today's scientific paganism, "If we must worship a power greater than ourselves, does it not make sense to revere the sun and the stars?" Did he say that? Yeah, he said that. I mean this is somebody living today. This is somebody whose pontifical face you see on TV, and when he opens his mouth, everybody is awed by his scientific astuteness. Did you see what he said? He said the same thing that Nimrod said. I'm telling you that we're drawing closer and closer to showing you how what is religiously believed today is a system that Nimrod began, and why God hates it, because that system substituted idols for the real God, and made man his own deity. Sagan says, "If we must worship a power greater than ourselves (while a humanist believes there is no power greater than man himself), does it not make sense to revere the sun and the stars?" He's telling us, "Let's worship the sun. Let's worship the stars." Here is the religion of Babel dignified by a current high priest of cosmos worship.

God, as you know, stopped the Tower of Babel project by mixing up the one language into many languages. This forced the people at that time to separate on the earth, but when they did, they took with them the harlot religion that had been devised by Nimrod in Babylon. The political leaders of nations over the centuries have drunk deeply of the wine of Babylonian harlotry. Unsaved mankind, while religious, has made itself drunk on the wine of Babylon's spiritual fornication of following the false religion of Nimrod. Babylon on the Euphrates has influenced all nations in spiritual fornication.

**The Spread of the Babylonian Religion**

The question does rise: How could Babylon do that? How was it possible for Babylon to influence all the nations of the world with this same consistent, occult idolatry – the whole religious system that is at the core of all systems today? How could Babylon cause all nations, even down to modern times, to become drunk on her immoral idolatrous religion? By John's day, Babylon, as an empire, was gone, as were Medo-Persia and Greece which had followed. Even in John's day, there were great nations in the Far East and in the Americas which had never heard of Babylon, but they were drunk on Babylon's religion. How could that be? The Babylon of Nebuchadnezzar's day was not the original Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar, in fact, tried to rebuild the original Babylon; to rebuild its ancient temples; and, to restore the old practices of worship. It was not the Babylon of Nebuchadnezzar that made the nations drunk with spiritual fornication. Nebuchadnezzar himself received the original old religion and transmitted it to Medo-Persia; to Greece; and, to Rome.

Also the spirits of fornication has been found among nations with no contact with Babylon, such as the Chinese; the Hindus; and, the Incas. They all had the same basic beliefs and basic rituals. When the Roman Catholic Jesuit priests came for the first time to some of these nations of the Far East, they were amazed to find that they were worshiping a mother cradling a child in her hands. This was a mother goddess with an infant god in her hands. To them, that was Mary and Jesus. They were astounded to see that here were exactly the same things in these far Eastern cultures. How did they have this kind of a worship system? Because they all got it from one place – ancient Babylon. This was the same place the Roman Catholic Church received it.

Well, Nebuchadnezzar himself did some restoration of the worship. He restored the worship of Marduk (sometimes spelled Merodach). He established the worship of Marduk as the chief God of Babylon. This name, Marduk, interestingly enough, we believe, is a derivative of the name of Nimrod. That ties us back again to the Tower of Babel. The source of this worldwide influence of spiritual harlotry was the original Babel of Nimrod and his satanic religion. When the confusion of languages took place, people were scattered, but they took their religion with them, and that's the explanation why, in all nations of the world, this spiritual harlotry was to be found. Each national culture developed its own peculiar expressions of the religion. They had different names for the gods and goddesses that they worshiped, but they all shared a common belief in the ultimate deity of man, and in the doctrines of humanism. All expressions of these religions are based on pantheism; that is, the physical universe is divine.

**Mother Earth**

Have you heard of Mother Earth – the Gaia principle? Mother Earth is the heart of the environmental movement. The environmental movement is not about ozone holes. That only exists in the heads of those who believe there is an ozone hole. It is not about earth warming, of which we have ample evidence that that has not happened in the last 100 years, and even more accurate records in recent times. It has nothing to do with preserving the environment from destruction so that we have a planet to live on. The environmental movement has to do with worshiping at the altars at the center of Nimrod. That's what it's all about. It's Mother Earth being the source of worship – the center once more of this religious system. All expressions are based on pantheism. Everything is God. The chair you sit on is God because it is made of something material. All material things are God. Therefore, there is this universal power in everything.

Furthermore, these systems all reject the idea of a living personal Creator God who can make rules that we have to obey. All of these systems are based on polytheism; that is, many gods. This includes the concept that all life forms are divine. If you are a Hindu, and a serious Hindu about your religion, you would walk circumspectly down the sidewalk, lest you should step on some cockroach that happens to slither across your way, and you kill someone who used to be your uncle, or somebody else's uncle. The concept is that everything that has life in it is deity. Furthermore, all of these religions hold to an evolutionary cycle of life and of evolutionary progression. This tells you what Dr. Carl Sagan is all about as an evolutionist. This is where he comes in. He has his religion (Nimrod's religion), and the life forms proceed upwards for reincarnation. If you behave yourself this time, then you come back in a second life form where you are better.

**The Zodiac**

The signs of the Zodiac were believed to control the events in people's lives, personally and nationally here on earth. Beings who evolve into the highest levels were called gurus (teachers). They would actually be worshiped, and usually in the form of an idol representing them.

So, it was that Nimrod's evolutionary, polytheistic, pantheistic, spiritualistic, astrological system was the wine that had made all nations drunk spiritually. Spiritual fornication through Nimrod's religion is expressed in our day in various forms and various systems.

What has been the result of this? The result is declared by the apostle Paul in Romans 1:25, where it says, "They exchanged the truth of God (revealed biblical truth) for a lie." This was the specific lie produced by Nimrod: "And they worshiped and served the creatures rather than the Creator who is blessed forever. Amen." They worshiped people. They worshiped animals. They worshiped bugs. As the result of absorbing Nimrod's religion, they went to worshiping all life forms.

So, it's all around us today. Nimrod's effort is not over, and the religious systems have no power today. Only those who are deeply into the occult have satanic power. So, here are people growing up. They raise their children in these systems, and they wonder why their children go to the dogs. They themselves wonder why their lives get shredded and torn apart. It is because they're in systems that are based upon Nimrod's religion.

God Himself has given up the followers of the religious system of Nimrod. He has given them up to all the consequences of living in the "Cosmos Diabolicus." In Romans 1:24, we read. "Therefore, God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored among themselves. God has washed his hands of those who follow Nimrod's religion, and Nimrods religion is based upon sex worship. God has thrown out those who follow this system, and said, "Go ahead. Follow your course. The kiss of death abides upon you."

Romans 1:26: "For this reason, God gave them over to degrading passions. For their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural (lesbianism)."

Verse 28: "And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind to do those things which are not proper. And as the women burned in lust for one another, so (verse 27 tells us that) the men in homosexuality did the same." And God said, "I'm handing you over to the consequences of your action;" that is, following Nimrod's religion. Nimrod's religion was prostitution at the temple. Nimrod's religion was worshiping the gods through these illicit sexual acts.

Well, the end result of this kind of religion is quite obviously moral vileness, violence, spiritual insanity, and death. The ultimate expression of this kind of religion was in fact what you found before the flood. That's the way people were really living then, and it was a jungle.

But the core feature of Nimrod's religion, I remind you again, was the practice of illicit sex, and the concept that man is a god. The harlot Babylon has dominated the gentile nations which she has seduced with her false religion. Historically, when Israel was lured away from God, it was when she began indulging herself in Babylonian religion which surrounded her, and it so appealed to the old sin nature. This was because the Jews did not kill these people. Because the Jews did not wipe these people out of existence when they invaded the land, they were there to tempt them.

John sees Babylon as the religious harlot seducing the nations into spiritual fornication. And the religion of Babylon is going to be so attractive and so impressive in the tribulation that it is going to unite all the religions of the world.

**Daniel**

Let's move into Daniel's time in order to get a little better perspective on this religion. By the time we get to the Nebuchadnezzar and the prophet Daniel in the seventh century B.C., Nimrod's religion is at a point of great refinement. Daniel was an official in the government of Babylon. He was associated with men who were steeped in the religion of Nimrod, which by then was quite sophisticated. In Daniel 2:2, King Nebuchadnezzar asks for some supernatural information about a troubling dream which he has had. Daniel 2:2: "Then the king gave orders to call in the magicians, the conjurers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans (the highest level of religious leaders) to tell the king his dreams. So, they came in and stood before the king."

Here in Daniel 2:2, we have the situation where the king has a dream. He refuses to tell his dream to the religious leaders. That's what these people are – the magicians, the conjurers, the sorcerers, the Chaldeans. He refuses to tell them the dream, but he wants them to tell him his dream and what it means. These men are extremely skilled in all the occult arts. They are skilled in black magic. They are skilled in necromancy (speaking with the dead). They are skilled in using demons for their purposes. They are skilled in seances and communicating with demon spirits. They are skilled in causing materialization. They are skilled in the powers of witchcraft. They are skilled in astrology and sorcery. They can do magical things. So, these are powerful people in Babylonian society. They are fully in touch with the occult realm of Satan. They claimed that they knew how to predict the future. Ancient kings would make a move without consulting this class of informed leaders who were informed in the religion of Nimrod to know how they should act. The wise men, however, could not tell Nebuchadnezzar his dream, let alone to give it an interpretation.

Well, God revealed the dream to Daniel, along with its interpretation, to the great humiliation of the religion of Nimrod and its practitioners. This was such a great humiliation that these associates in the government (the religious element) now intensified their hatred toward the Jew Daniel, and therefore proceeded to plot his death in the den of lions. The vile religion of Babylon was in full force against the truth of the living God.

However, when it came to producing, Daniel's experience showed that there was a true religion (a true God in heaven) as the communicator of what was real. But what Nimrod's religion had was a total bust.

**Semiramis**

The religion of Nimrod was actually one which was associated with a woman that he married named Semiramis. We're happy that we have historical records that have been preserved that tell us about this. Nimrod married Semiramis. They were both extremely wicked people, and they both had one thing in common – they hated God.

Semiramis is reputed to have designed the Babylonian religion for Nimrod. That makes sense. And she actually acted as the high priestess. What she did was create secret doctrines (secret rituals). These were revealed only when you were initiated into the religion of Babylon. The worship of these gods that Semiramis arranged was to be done via sexual acts with the temple prostitutes, which were a nun-like caste. Semiramis is said to have survived Nimrod by 42 years. After Nimrod's death, Semiramis gave birth to an illegitimate son. She claimed that he was a miracle conception, and that Nimrod was reborn through this son.

**Tammuz**

She gave this boy a name. The name she gave him was Tammuz, and you'll find this in the Bible. She called this child Tammuz, and he was presented as the one who would fulfill the promise of a Savior which God gave Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:15. The counterfeit system is all tying together. Satan produced a counterfeit to the real truth of God. What developed out of this was the worship of a mother and child which were portrayed as in the form of small clay statues of a mother sitting there holding the child in her arms. These were to be found in the homes of the followers of Nimrod's religion. This was the core worship – the worship of Semiramis and her son Tammuz.

**Roman Catholicism**

When Roman Catholicism absorbed Babylonian religion under the Emperor Constantine, this system of the worship of a mother goddess and child was brought in, because it was crucial to Babylon's religion, and it became Mary and Jesus. It is not just a small thing when you see a picture of the Madonna and child. At Christmas time, the post office puts out postage stamps with great artistic portrayals of the Madonna and child. While those are attractive, and while those may indeed represent the true virgin and the baby Jesus, please remember that behind that picture is the vileness of the goddess worship of Semiramis and Tammuz. Please realize that you're looking at an expression of Babylonian religion.

Many of the rituals that Semiramis and Nimrod put together for Babylon's religion were later incorporated by the Roman Emperor Constantine into Christianity. Why do Catholics walk into church and dip into that bowl, and spray themselves with holy water? Because that's what they did in Babylon's religions. Why do they perform the Mass called "the bloodless sacrifice" so that you can eat your god's body and drink your god’s blood? Why do Roman Catholics do that? They call it the Lord's Supper. They call it the Mass. They do that because that's what the Babylon religion did to get your sins forgiven. Why do Catholics confess their sins to a priest to receive forgiveness? That's what they did in Babylon. That's where the thing came from. Why do they sprinkle children, and call it baptism, and say, "This brings you into the family of God so that you will go to heaven?" Because that was the first initial act to be introduced into Babylon's religion. It's all around us. It hasn't been gone. The problem is that most people don't understand where these things came from.

Semiramis assumed a title which has come down through the centuries of "queen of heaven." In the ancient world, she was referred to and worshiped as the queen of heaven. She was the queen of heaven because she was the mother of Tammuz the Savior God, and she had access to this God where others did not. This is exactly what you're taught in Roman Catholicism today. If you want to get to Jesus Christ, and if you want to deal with the problem of your sin, go to Mary. Mary will get you to the angry Christ. These practices and beliefs of Babylonian religion have found their way into all the nations of the world. That is what God means when He refers to this as a harlot system of spiritual adultery.

It was reported that Tammuz was killed by a wild boar. He was dead for three days and three nights, and then he was suddenly and miraculously resurrected. That resurrection event itself was celebrated in Babylon as the Feast of Ishtar. Does that sound like some other resurrection event, like the feast of the resurrection of Christ? That's why you have the Ishtar gate in Babylon, which you can go and see today. Saddam Hussein has rebuilt it on a smaller scale, but it represents this commemoration of the resurrection of the god Tammuz. The Ishtar gate is celebrated among Christians by the events of Easter. It's a corruption. Easter came from Ishtar. It came from that celebration.

**Pontifex Maximus**

The fullest expression of Babylonianism today was gradually developed over the centuries from 500 to 1,500 A.D., as it was absorbed into Roman Catholicism. One of the things that the emperors of Babylonian religion had was that they had the position that was known as the Pontifex Maximus. Actually, it means "the chief bridge builder." But these Latin words mean that he is the high priest. He is the leader of the Babylonian religion. He is the representative of the whole system.

Today, the Roman Catholic Pope has assumed this, and all over the grounds at the Vatican, as you walk around, on the pavement and the grand marble, the letters "PM," which stand for Pontifex Maximus. This identifies the Pope with Babylon's religion. The Pope does not represent biblical Christianity. He represents Nimrod. And he represents everything that Nimrod stood for in that vile religion. Once Christianity was joined with Babylonianism, and the Pope assumed the role of Pontifex Maximus after the Roman Empire fell, modern Babylonianism was well on its way.

**The Ecumenical Movement**

Today, this Babylon Religion is being expressed in the attempt to unify all religious systems. There is no demand in the Bible for Christians to be united with one another except by recognizing the unity that the Holy Spirit creates by putting us in Christ. But the unity of the ecumenical movement is at the expense of doctrinal principles. In the unity movement, there is no demand for personal salvation by the grace of God, and trusting in Jesus Christ. If so, how could you bring in the Hindus? How could you bring in the Muslims? The unity movement wants to bring the religions of the world together just as Nimrod did at Babel.

The greatest efforts of the ecumenical movement is directed to social causes rather than to meeting spiritual needs. A new social order is substituted for a new spiritual association in Christ. Babylonian religion, in the form of modern liberalism and organization unity, is, of course, laying the groundwork for what the antichrist is going to do.

So, the unity of John 17:21-22 (the unity in Christ) is the only one that Christians are called to pursue. Some people are upset that we fundamentalists are not fond of joining the ecumenical movement, and finding ourselves relating to other religious systems, but that is because we have good grounds for it. We do that on a local level. We don't think that we at Berean Church should be associated with other churches in the community who are in fact the promoters of Babylon's religion. This is resented.

I get the communications: "The pastors are going to meet and have a little breakfast here." And it's a motley crew that gathers around that table, and most of them are Babylon's representatives. Should I be sitting there? Should Berean Church be represented there? But because you take a position that the Word of God is true, and you stand for it, then you become an offense to the unity movement.

So, the apostate church and the city of Babylon are viewed as one, and therefore they're called the spiritual harlot. The domination of Babylon religion will be tolerated by the antichrist for the first part of the tribulation. During the first part of the tribulation (the first three-and-a-half years), this is the religion that's going to dominate. When the antichrist comes to his position of ruler of all the world, at mid-tribulation, he himself is going to destroy the religion of Babylon rejected, and he is going to set up his own religion with the false prophet.

When the descendants of Abraham came to the Promised Land of Canaan, it was permeated with this religion, and the effects upon the Jewish people has come down to this day. The Jews don't follow the true God, but boy, they do follow the religion of Babylon. They follow the things of Nimrod. The Jews in Jeremiah's, as a matter of fact, were very happy to worship Semiramis as the queen of heaven. We've noticed in Jeremiah 44 where this is recorded for us. It's hard to believe that the Jews could have fallen for Babylon's religion. Jeremiah 44:16-19: "For the message that you have spoken to us in the name of the Lord, we're not going to listen to you." This is Jews speaking to God's spokesmen Jeremiah: "What you say, Jeremiah, as God's message, we're not going to listen to you:" "But rather we will certainly carry out every word that has proceeded from our mouths by burning sacrifices to the queen of heaven." Now you know who the queen of heaven is, don't you? It's Semiramis: "And pouring out libations to her, and along with her, to her son Tammuz, just as we ourselves, our forefathers, our kings, and our princes, then in the cities of Judah, in the streets of Jerusalem. For then we had plenty of food, and were well-off, and saw no misfortune."

So, please observe this principle. The devil can bless you financially. Don't make the mistake that as a Christian, if you're financially well off, it's the Lord that is blessing you. You may be so rotten at the core, and calling yourself a Christian, that the devil just likes to prosper you because you are an agent that he can manipulate and work for his cause. Here, these people were saying, "We have plenty of food. Things are good for us when we worship the mother and the child. And we don't care what you say, Jeremiah. Babylon's religion works just fine for us."

Verse 18: "But since we stopped burning sacrifices to the queen of heaven (because they were listening to Jeremiah), and pouring out libations to her, we have lacked everything, and we have met our end by the sword and by famine." The reason they were getting sword and famine was God's judgment because they are worshiping this woman in the first place.

Verse 19: "And said the woman, 'When we were burning sacrifices to the queen of heaven, and were pouring out libations to her, was it without our husbands that we made for her sacrificial cakes in her image, and poured out libations to her?'" These women were saying, "Why do you talk to us? Talk to our husbands. Our husbands say that it's just fine for you to worship the queen of heaven."

The confrontation that was between Elijah and Jezebel was between the religion of Nimrod and the religion of true God. Tammuz was called Baal in Ahab's day. That's the one that was being referred to. And he was worshiped actually as the sun-god. In the book of Ezekiel, we have this terrible picture of the worship of Tammuz as the sun-god. This is the very thing that Dr. Sagan is suggesting. Ezekiel 8:14-16: "Then he brought me to the entrance of the gate of the Lord's house (Ezekiel is brought to the temple), which is toward the north, and behold, the women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz. And He said to me, 'Do you see this, son of man? Yet, you will see greater abominations than these.' Then He brought me into the inner court of the Lord's house, and behold, at the entrance to the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar were about 25 men with their backs to the temple of the Lord and their faces toward the east (toward the sun). And they were prostrating themselves eastward toward the sun."

Here, the very leaders of Israel and the priests are in the temple in Jerusalem, and who are they worshiping? The sun-god. Babylon's religion had taken over.

Well, it became so bad that ultimately God said to His prophet Jeremiah, "I don't want you to pray for Israel and the spiritual harlotry. This is a sobering doctrinal principle which we should not forget. You can push and have your own way resisting the truth of God until a certain point where God washes His hands of you. God will wash his hands.

In Jeremiah 17:16-19, God says to Jeremiah, "As for you, do not pray for this people (don't pray for the Jews). Do not lift up a cry or prayer for them, and do not intercede with me, for I do not hear you. I don't care if you're going to pray for them, Jeremiah, this people have gone into Nimrod's Babylon religion. They have insulted Me. They have humiliated Me. They have walked it across Me. They have treated Me like dirt. They have thumbed their noses at me, and I've had it. I'm telling you – don't pray for them. I will not forgive them what they have done."

"Do you not see what they are doing in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough to make cakes for the queen of heaven." Do you see how many times we've run into "the queen of heaven?" You didn't think that was in the Bible. Isn't that amazing? This is Semiramis: "And they pour out libations to other gods in order to spite Me."

It wasn't enough that they were worshiping the mother and child. They poured out these drink offerings (as they were called) to other gods. Why? "To spite Me." They did this to show God that they didn't have to listen to Him. That's a very dangerous game to play – to start acting in a way to spite God, and to show Him that you're not going to be pushed under His thumb.

Verse 19: "'Do they spite Me,' declares the Lord? 'Is it not themselves they spite to their own shame?'" God says, "Well, let me tell you a little bit of stupidity here. You may think that you're doing something to spite Me, but what you've done is something to spite yourself. You've cut off your own nose. You've shot yourself in the foot, because you will pay a terrible price for having taken Babylon's religion."

The final form of the Babylonian religion in the tribulation will be an amalgamation of the occult and of all the religions of mankind that have been put together.

Let's look at one more thing. The city of Babylon so fascinates us today, from which all of this sprang. We're telling you that Revelation 17 says that God is going to destroy that city on the bank of the Euphrates as the expression of His anger at it for what it has produced. I have tried to delineate to you a little bit of historical background of this religious system that has been produced.

Sometimes people say, "But hasn't Babylon been destroyed? Hasn't Babylon suffered destruction in the past? Why are we to think that this is something in the future?" In Jeremiah 50:35-38, God to begin with, pronounces the fact that he is going to destroy Babylon. Let's put that up first. God says, "I'm going to destroy this city for what it has done."

Jeremiah 50:35: "'A sword against the Chaldeans (the Babylonians),' declares the Lord, 'and against the inhabitants of Babylon; against her officials and her wise men.'" The sword of God's judgment is to be used against government officials: "Against wise men, against priests, and against warriors. The sword against the oracle priests, as they will become fools." Isn't that interesting? Here the priests are the ones that become fools. Do you know any religious leaders who are fools? "A sword against her mighty men, and they will be scattered, down to the warriors. A sword against their horses, against their chariots, and against all the foreigners who are in the midst of her. And they will become women. A sword against her treasures, and they will be plundered. There'll be a sword to be used against her military forces, and against the foreigners doing business with her. A sword of God's judgment will be against Babylon's very treasures and her food supply." God says, "The other gods of Babylon's Nimrods religion will be useless when I decide to move against the city."

**Sodom and Gomorrah**

Furthermore, notice this in Jeremiah 50: God says, "And I'll tell you the way I'm going to move against the city." Jeremiah 50:39: "'Therefore, the desert creatures will live there along with the jackals. The ostriches will also live in it, and it will never again be inhabited (Babylon is never going to be inhabited again) or dwelt in from generation to generation, as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah with its neighbors,' declares the Lord. 'No man will live there, nor will any son of Man reside in it.'"

Do you see what this is saying? Babylon is going to be destroyed, and only animals will live there. People will not live there. That is not true today. Babylon has not been destroyed in a way that people do not live there. People are living there. Some people say, "Aha, we've found a mistake in the Bible. We found a prediction that did come to pass." Babylon is not just overrun by wild animals.

Let me add one more Scripture to this. Isaiah 13:19-22 is talking about God's future destruction of Babylon: "And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans' pride, will be as when God over Sodom and Gomorrah." Have you noticed that both Jeremiah and Isaiah say that the destruction of Babylon is going to be like the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah? It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation, nor will the Arab pitch his tent there, nor will shepherds make their flocks lie down there. But desert creatures will lie down there, and their houses will be full of owls. Ostriches will also live there. And shaggy goats will frolic there."

So, the destruction of Babylon is going to be so total that it is compared to Sodom and Gomorrah. What was the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah like? Well, it was a bright, sunny day. Everything was going on as usual. There was a little fracas the night before with Lot, who made a big scene over some of the playboys who were visiting Lot's home, and Lot refused to let them come in and practice homosexual acts with these guests. And the two angels were dragging these four people out of town as fast as they could – Lot; his wife; and, the two daughters. And they're not too crazy about leaving. The angels are saying, "Get out. Get out. Get out."

In Genesis 19:24-25, here's what happened. Everybody was getting up the next morning. The sun is bright. The cities of the plain and the cities down in the valley are beginning to move. A great metropolis here is coming to life: "Then the Lord reigned on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven." Suddenly, there is a searing bolt of fire from heaven which, like a laser, disintegrates what it has hit. Maybe it hit the temple of the Babylonians. A second searing bolt comes, and it probably hit the government center. That would be the appropriate thing to hit next. Then in rapid succession, bolts of fire come flying out of heaven, along with searing heat of large brimstones flying downwards from the heavens, burning.

Furthermore, verse 25 says, "And he overthrew those cities, and all the valleys, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and of what grew on the ground." The cities around Sodom and Gomorrah also were destroyed. Well, now the valley and the heavens are churning with violent turbulence, and the sky is filled with these fiery brimstones. Billows of smoke are filling the air. Within probably a half hour, it was all over. And when it was over, there was nothing left but burning embers. God had made His statement against homosexuality, and it was complete. Nothing was left. To this day, we have not been able to find where Sodom and Gomorrah existed. To this day, the archaeologists have not been able to find a trace of Sodom and Gomorrah. It's as if the earth had opened in a huge earthquake. And the Scriptures use this comparison as to what's going to happen to Babylon, and the whole city is going to drop in, and the whole earth is going to close over it. And everything is going to be smooth on top. Everything is gone.

This is significant that the destruction of Babylon that God is talking about is going to be total obliteration as it was with Sodom and Gomorrah. That has never happened. That has never happened in the history of the world to the city of Babylon. For that reason, we say that what is on the Euphrates has a great future, and that the word "Babylon" is not a code word for Rome or something else. But that's where the commercial center of the world is moving. That's where possibly the religious life may be connected with Rome. But the religious life is going to be back there in Babylon as well. This is what awaits Babylon.

We close with Jeremiah 51:63-64: "And as soon as you finish reading this scroll (God tells Jeremiah), that you shall tie a stone to it, and throw it into the middle of the Euphrates River, and say, 'Just so shall Babylon sink down and not rise again because of the calamity that I'm going to bring upon her? And they will become exhausted. Thus far, the words of Jeremiah.'" What's it what's the picture? The picture is that when Babylon is destroyed, it's going to be as if you had thrown the stone into a river and it's out of sight. It's gone. You won't see it again. There's nothing left.

This, of course, is exactly what is compatible with Revelation 18:21, where it says, "And the strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and threw it into the sea, saying, 'Thus will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer.'"

Jeremiah 51:8 indicates also that the future destruction of Babylon will be sudden – just as sudden as was the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, when all the homosexuals and lesbians in town woke up to another big day of fun and games, and of confident thumbing of their nose at God. And it was such a very happy future that they had. And suddenly, God pushed the button, and the holocaust came down upon them.

So, the city of Babylon that sits on the Euphrates River is what is in mind when God speaks here in Revelation 17:18. He is talking about that geographic location. John has been invited to see this judgment upon this harlot system. Because Babylon was the source of this religious system, she will be destroyed. This is the system which has made the kings of the earth drunk on acts of immorality because the religious system of Babylon was the one that they all drink from as the Tower of Babel religion was spread, and they've all been guilty of making themselves God, and of turning their backs on the true God.

We should have a very great sense of awe and of concern when we hear people in our government; in the entertainment industry; and, in our educational systems who treat the Bible and who treat God as some kind of a clown. They treat the Bible as some kind of an enormous fairy tale. There's a God up in heaven who is standing by and waiting. And I'm telling you, the clock is ticking, and the snowball is picking up such speed, that it is astounding how large it has become. I hope that I've given you enough background that you can just fill in the details yourself now as you watch around you, and you say, "Now, there's Babylonianism. There is the concept. Meryl Streep has just opened her mouth. Madonna has just opened her mouth. They both spewed out a little Babylonianism. There it is." It's all around us, and it's powerful, and it's now sophisticated. It's not primitive dancing around a jungle fire. It is very sophisticated. It includes professional people; the Carl Sagans; and, the highest echelons.

Do you think God is going to take this? He's a God who is of great lovingkindness; great patience; and, great endurance. But Babylon has a special place of hatred for the righteousness of God. When he finally judges it, it will be complete. The thing to remember is that those who follow this system are going to be as completely judged as well.

Dr. John E. Danish, 1993

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