

The Middle East In Prophecy
Wednesday February 4, 2015
Part Seven

The Collapse of Babylon

1 Throughout the Bible, “Babylon” has been a place of significance. In history, Babylon
2 began as a city on the Euphrates River (current Iraq) to become a major city-state and
3 later the capital of one of the greatest empires in history, The Babylonian Empire.
4

5 The city of Babylon was located on the eastern side of the Fertile Crescent, about 50
6 miles or so south of present-day Baghdad. From its inception, its influence on the world
7 has been profound.
8

The Founding of Babylon

9
10
11 In Genesis 10, we have the tracing of nations vis-a-vis Noah’s three sons following the
12 great flood. In the geneology of Ham, “Cush was the father of Nimrod, who grew to be
13 a mighty warrior on the earth” (Genesis 10:8). Nimrod founded a kingdom that included
14 a place called “Babylon” in Shinar - Genesis 10:10 **And the beginning of his kingdom**
15 **was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.**
16

17 In Genesis 11 we are informed about “The Tower of Babel.” In Hebrew, “Babylon” is
18 the same word. Scripture makes it clear that Babylon was a city dedicated to rebellion
19 against God. 1 Peter 5:13 **The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you,**
20 **saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son.** (Can you even imagine there was a
21 Pentecostal body of believers in Babylon 2,000 years ago?)
22

23 **Rev. 17:1-6 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and**
24 **talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of**
25 **the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: [2] With whom the kings of the**
26 **earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made**
27 **drunk with the wine of her fornication. [3] So he carried me away in the spirit into**
28 **the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of**
29 **blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. [4] And the woman was arrayed in**
30 **purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls,**
31 **having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her**
32 **fornication: [5] And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY,**
33 **BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS**
34 **OF THE EARTH. [6] And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints,**

1 **and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with**
2 **great admiration** attention

3
4 When Noah and his family evacuated the Ark, what was God's command to them?
5 Genesis 9:1 **And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful,**
6 **and multiply, and replenish the earth.** Instead, those people decided to stay in one
7 place and build a magnificent settlement that would keep them together. **DEFYING**
8 **GOD. REBELLION AGAINST GOD!**

9 10 Babylon In The Old Testament Continued

11
12 In Abraham's lifetime, Babylon became an independent city-state ruled by the Amorites.
13 (This was a civilization that had a kingdom occupying much of Mesopotamia (the Fertile
14 Crescent where today we find Iraq and Iran) and Syria. The first Babylonian dynasty
15 included Hammurabi, its sixth king, known for his code of laws. He expanded his
16 kingdom to include a wide area around what we know today as Baghdad.

17
18 It was the fourth dynasty of Babylon that interests me the most: It was the time of
19 Nebuchadnezzar who launched three successful military attacks against Jerusalem from
20 around 699-587 B.C. In those attacks he took the sacred vessels from Solomon's
21 Temple, much of the wealth of Jerusalem, and many thousands of captives, including
22 Daniel and Ezekiel. In his last attack against Jerusalem, the city was destroyed.

23
24 The Fall of Jerusalem in 587 B.C.: Israel's last king before the Babylonian invasion was
25 Zedekiah, an arrogant, pompous leader who rebuked the prophet Jeremiah and his
26 warnings for the people to repent from their idolatry. Furious at the impudence of the
27 Israeli king, Nebuchadnezzar led his army around the fertile crescent to the very gates of
28 Jerusalem, only this time not to just subdue and steal things. This time he meant to
29 eradicate the Jews from their "beloved Eretz Israel." He slowly starved the people of
30 Jerusalem into submission. The sufferings of the besieged, prolonged for 18 months,
31 were brutal. The people perished so rapidly that it was impossible for the survivors to
32 bury them properly. Corpses decayed in streets and in cellars, pestilence engendered by
33 the poison stench of the city and by the lack of sanitary measures, added further horrors to
34 the siege. The city was set on fire. Jeremiah, the faithful old prophet, went outside the
35 walls on the north side, within a grotto under a hill we know today as Calvary, and there
36 penned his pathetic lament: *Lament. 1:1-5*

37 *How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people how is she become as a widow*
38 *she that was great among the nations, and princess among the provinces, how is she*
39 *become tributary [2] She weepeth sore in the night, and her tears are on her cheeks:*
40 *among all her lovers she hath none to comfort her: all her friends have dealt*

1 *treacherously with her, they are become her enemies. [3] Judah is gone into captivity*
2 *because of affliction, and because of great servitude: she dwelleth among the heathen,*
3 *she findeth no rest: all her persecutors overtook her between the straits. [4] The ways of*
4 *Zion do mourn, because none come to the solemn feasts: all her gates are desolate: her*
5 *priests sigh, her virgins are afflicted, and she is in bitterness. [5] Her adversaries are*
6 *the chief, her enemies prosper; for the Lord hath afflicted her for the multitude of her*
7 *transgressions: her children are gone into captivity before the enemy.*

8
9 Daniel and Ezekiel

10
11 Babylon then became the setting for the ministry of the prophets Ezekiel and Daniel, as
12 already mentioned, both deportees from Judah (Israel). Daniel became a leader and
13 royal advisor to the Babylonian and Persian Empires.

14
15 Babylon is mentioned from Genesis to Revelation, as it rises from its rebellious
16 beginnings to become a symbol of the Antichrist's evil world system. God promised to
17 punish Babylon: Jeremiah 25:12 **And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are**
18 **accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the Lord,**
19 **for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual**
20 **desolations.**

21
22 Today we are seeing the "revival" of Babylon primarily through the Islamic efforts.
23 From it will **a false religious system** and **a shaky global economy** that will prevail
24 through most of the tribulation period. But both will collapse, in one case in a day's
25 time. This provide the thrust of our study tonight, based upon Revelation chapters 17
26 and 18.

27
28
29 **Note in that last paragraph "Babylon" is divided into two areas - one religious and**
one economic. The religious one will fall first and is known as "the Harlot of
Babylon" or the False Religion.

30
31
32 Rev. 17:1-18 New American Standard printed here - Video is from the Watchword
33 Bible)

34 **And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls** (there will be three sets of
35 **divine judgments from God on this earth and its inhabitants during the Tribulation: Seal**
36 **Judgments - Revelation 6 and 7, Trumpet judgments - 8 and 9 - and Bowl (or vials)**
37 **judgments - Revelation 16) came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I shall show**
38 **you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, [2] with whom the**

1 kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth
2 were made drunk with the wine of her immorality." [3] And he carried me away in
3 the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of
4 blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. [4] And the woman was
5 clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls,
6 having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her
7 immorality, [5] and upon her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "BABYLON
8 THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS
9 OF THE EARTH." [6] And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and
10 with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. And when I saw her, I wondered greatly. [7]
11 And the angel said to me, "Why do you wonder? I shall tell you the mystery of the
12 woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten
13 horns. [8] "The beast that you saw was and is not, and is about to come up out of the
14 abyss and to go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth will wonder, whose
15 name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when
16 they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come. [9] "Here is the mind which
17 has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, [10]
18 and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and
19 when he comes, he must remain a little while. [11] "And the beast which was and is
20 not, is himself also an eighth, and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction. [12]
21 "And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, who have not yet received a
22 kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. [13]
23 "These have one purpose and they give their power and authority to the beast. [14]
24 "These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because
25 He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called
26 and chosen and faithful." [15] And he said to me, "The waters which you saw where
27 the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. [16] "And the
28 ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her
29 desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire. [17] "For
30 God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose,
31 and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God should be fulfilled.
32 [18] "And the woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of
33 the earth."

- 34
- 35 • There is coming a global or unified religious system that will spiritually enslave
36 hundreds of millions of people.
- 37
- 38 • It is my own personal opinion that while much of it is Islamic in origin, in fact it
39 will encompass all false religions - including BACKSLIDDEN, COLD
40 APOSTATE CHRISTIANITY. This will be people who profess to serve God

1 while actually serving Satan and his false prophet. They will know so little of the
2 Bible that they will not even know the difference.

- 3 • This false religious system will reject the basic tenets of historic Christianity, such
4 as the virgin birth of Christ, the blood atonement on Calvary, Jesus' death on the
5 cross, His resurrection, and His promised return.
6
- 7 • This religious system will be highly political, tying in with both the money crowd
8 and the political crowd. This is in no way an indictment of born-again believers
9 who enter politics; God bless them. This is an indictment of those who like
10 Roman Emperor Constantine, who in the fourth century arbitrarily bestowed the
11 name of Christian on all Roman citizens, whether they had been born again or not.
12 To this day that's why many people who have been in church most or all of their
13 lives or who are "Americans" feel they are "automatically saved." That is a fatal
14 assumption.
15
- 16 • The leaders of this system will vigorously persecute those tribulation saints who
17 have come to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior.
18
- 19 • The system will be a melting pot for many different ideas about religion - a vivid
20 picture of what America is becoming. Legal immigrants should find a warm
21 reception in this country, but should not try changing America's Christian heritage.
22
- 23 • At the end of the Tribulation period, the Antichrist himself will destroy this
24 religious system because it has become too much of a threat to his authority.
25
- 26 • In chapter 17:4 we read of "a golden cup, full of abominations and filthiness."
27 The system will appear beautiful to human eyes, but inside it is deadly.
28
- 29 • Who are the seven kings with whom the harlot church is carrying on? One could
30 well call upon history to declare they were represented by ancient Egypt, Babylon,
31 Medo-Persia, Greece and the Roman Empire. The king that "has not yet come"
32 will be the global, but very temporary, kingdom of Antichrist.
33
- 34 • Verse 16: Sometime during the Tribulation, Antichrist will grow weary of his
35 prostitute girlfriend, the harlot church, and will turn on her in fury. Now
36 Antichrist declares, "Away with this religion...from now on, you will worship
37 me!" That reminds me of the demands of Hitler in Germany in the 30's.
38 Everyone swore allegiance - not to Germany - but to Hitler himself. And you
39 should remember how "well that turned out" Hitler blew his brains out ten years
40 later.

1 This has been BABYLON THE RELIGION. Now let's turn to chapter 18 to discuss
2 BABYLON THE POLITICAL SYSTEM.

3
4 Rev. 18:1-24 (Living)

5 After all this I saw another angel come down from heaven with great authority,
6 and the earth grew bright with his splendor.

7 [2] He gave a mighty shout, "Babylon the Great is fallen, is fallen; she has become
8 a den of demons, a haunt of devils and every kind of evil spirit. [3] For all the
9 nations have drunk the fatal wine of her intense immorality. The rulers of earth
10 have enjoyed themselves with her, and businessmen throughout the world have
11 grown rich from all her luxurious living."

12 [4] Then I heard another voice calling from heaven, "Come away from her, my
13 people; do not take part in her sins, or you will be punished with her. [5] For her
14 sins are piled as high as heaven, and God is ready to judge her for her crimes. [6] Do
15 to her as she has done to you, and more--give double penalty for all her evil deeds.
16 She brewed many a cup of woe for others--give twice as much to her. [7] She has
17 lived in luxury and pleasure--match it now with torments and with sorrows. She
18 boasts, 'I am queen upon my throne. I am no helpless widow. I will not experience
19 sorrow.' [8] Therefore the sorrows of death and mourning and famine shall overtake
20 her in a single day, and she shall be utterly consumed by fire; for mighty is the Lord
21 who judges her."

22 [9] And the world leaders who took part in her immoral acts and enjoyed her
23 favors will mourn for her as they see the smoke rising from her charred remains.
24 [10] They will stand far off, trembling with fear and crying out, "Alas, Babylon, that
25 mighty city! In one moment her judgment fell."

26 [11] The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn for her, for there is no one
27 left to buy their goods. [12] She was their biggest customer for gold and silver,
28 precious stones, pearls, finest linens, purple silks, and scarlet; and every kind of
29 perfumed wood, and ivory goods, and most expensive wooden carvings, and brass,
30 and iron, and marble; [13] and spices, and perfumes, and incense, ointment, and
31 frankincense, wine, olive oil, and fine flour; wheat, cattle, sheep, horses, chariots,
32 and slaves--and even the souls of men.

33 [14] "All the fancy things you loved so much are gone," they cry. "The dainty
34 luxuries and splendor that you prized so much will never be yours again. They are
35 gone forever."

36 [15] And so the merchants who have become wealthy by selling her these things
37 shall stand at a distance, fearing danger to themselves, weeping and crying, [16]
38 "Alas, that great city, so beautiful--like a woman clothed in finest purple and scarlet
39 linens, decked out with gold and precious stones and pearls! [17] In one moment, all
40 the wealth of the city is gone!"

1 **And all the shipowners and captains of the merchant ships and crews will stand a**
2 **long way off, [18] crying as they watch the smoke ascend, and saying, "Where in all**
3 **the world is there another city such as this?" [19] And they will throw dust on their**
4 **heads in their sorrow and say, "Alas, alas, for that great city! She made us all rich**
5 **from her great wealth. And now in a single hour all is gone. . . . "**

6 **[20] But you, O heaven, rejoice over her fate; and you, O children of God and the**
7 **prophets and the apostles! For at last God has given judgment against her for you.**

8 **[21] Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder shaped like a millstone and threw it**
9 **into the ocean and shouted, "Babylon, that great city, shall be thrown away as I**
10 **have thrown away this stone, and she shall disappear forever. [22] Never again will**
11 **the sound of music be there--no more pianos, saxophones, and trumpets. No**
12 **industry of any kind will ever again exist there, and there will be no more milling of**
13 **the grain. [23] Dark, dark will be her nights; not even a lamp in a window will ever**
14 **be seen again. No more joyous wedding bells and happy voices of the bridegrooms**
15 **and the brides. Her businessmen were known around the world, and she deceived all**
16 **nations with her sorceries. [24] And she was responsible for the blood of all the**
17 **martyred prophets and the saints."**

- 18
19 • In this chapter, Babylon is shown as a commercial and political entity. I believe it
20 represents the whole ungodly world system now basically under the brutal control
21 of Antichrist. Prophecy teacher and writer Tim LaHaye holds a different opinion:
22 "I am inclined to believe that the weight of Bible prophecy requires the literal
23 rebuilding of Babylon." (Revelation Unveiled - page 279 - Zondervan) I certainly respect
24 his opinion and he may well be right. Now....time is running out at the end of the
25 Tribulation and God is going to end it in the most dramatic of fashion.
26
- 27 • Note carefully how God deals with end-time commercial and political Babylon:
28 Rev. 18:19 **And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and**
29 **wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that**
30 **had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made**
31 **desolate.**
- 32
33 • Verse 9 informs us that earth's kings (political leaders) will lament for her
34 destruction: *"All those whose main concern is money, luxury and the*
35 *gratification that money makes possible will weep and mourn at her calamity.*
36 *God clearly indicates here His hatred for businesses and governments founded*
37 *upon greed and oppressive power. He stands against individuals who seek*
38 *riches, status and pleasure instead of the humble values of Jesus Christ. Those*
39 *who live in selfish luxury and pleasure will be brought down by the wrath of God."*

40 LIFE IN THE SPIRIT STUDY BIBLE / FOOTNOTES / PAGES 2082-3

1 DIVINE RELIEF FOR TRIBULATION SAINTS BEFORE THE DESTRUCTION

2
3 One of my contentions with those who hold a mid-tribulation or post-tribulation position,
4 that is, the Rapture occurs half-way through or at the end of the tribulation, is that such a
5 position is contrary to a normal or hermeneutic application of scripture. The principle
6 here is CONSISTENCY. Throughout the Bible, God has always got His people out of
7 harm's way prior to HIS DIVINE JUDGMENT upon them. Bear in mind clearly here
8 that I do not refer to man's inhumanity to man, vis-a-vis wars or holocausts, etc., but to
9 the actual God-spawned judgment on earth.

10
11 We see that certainly in angels escorting Lot and his wife out of Sodom BEFORE the
12 fiery inferno engulfed it. We see it with God's telling Noah to build an ark BEFORE the
13 deluge began. And we see it here in Revelation 18. God is about to dramatically end
14 the entire Babylonian culture in one hour...but note His words to the tribulation saints:
15 Rev. 18:4-5

16 **And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that**
17 **ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. [5] For her**
18 **sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.**

19
20 Some of my friends who hold a mid-trib/post-trib view say, "Betzer the only reason you
hold the pre-trib view is that you want to escape!" YOU GOT THAT RIGHT! I have
no desire to be here when God vents His anger on this earth.

21
22 How will God destroy this Babylonian culture? I am not sure because it appears to be a
23 global catastrophe. Nuclear? Possible: Rev. 18:15-19 (The Message) **The**
24 **traders who made millions off her kept their distance for fear of getting burned,**
25 **and cried and carried on all the more:**

26 **[16] 'Doom, doom, the great city doomed!**

27 **Dressed in the latest fashions,**
28 **adorned with the finest jewels,**

29 **[17] in one hour such wealth wiped out!**

30 **"All the ship captains and travelers by sea, sailors and toilers of the sea, stood off**
31 **at a distance [18] and cried their lament when they saw**

32 **the smoke from her burning:**

33 **'Oh, what a city! There was never a city like her!' [19] They threw dust on their**
34 **heads and cried as if the world had come to an end:**

35 **'Doom, doom, the great city doomed!**

36 **All who owned ships or did business by sea**
37 **Got rich on her getting and spending.**

1 **And now it's over—wiped out in one hour!'**

2
3 This is the scene that will greet Jesus and all His returning saints at the Second Coming of
4 Christ.

5
6 Rev. 19:11-21 KJV

7 **And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him**
8 **was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.**
9 **[12] His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had**
10 **a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. [13] And he was clothed with a**
11 **vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. [14] And the**
12 **armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen,**
13 **white and clean. [15] And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he**
14 **should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth**
15 **the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. [16] And he hath on his**
16 **vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF**
17 **LORDS.**

18 **[17] And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying**
19 **to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together**
20 **unto the supper of the great God; [18] That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the**
21 **flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them**
22 **that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.**
23 **[19] And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered**
24 **together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. [20]**
25 **And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles**
26 **before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast,**
27 **and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire**
28 **burning with brimstone. [21] And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that**
29 **sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were**
30 **filled with their flesh.**

31
32 Rev 18:21: “.....Babylon shall be thrown down and shall be found no more at all.” Why?
33 Because Jesus has returned (the second coming) with all the raptured and redeemed saints
34 of God. King Jesus will then institute His thousand year reign on earth – the Millennium
35 will have begun.

36
37 Next week: The collapse of Damascus, Syria
38
39
40