



Endtime Image

Babylon is Fallen, is Fallen

And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

Revelation 14:8

BY IRVIN BAXTER JR.

The prophecy about Babylon's destruction

There it is—as crystal clear as it can be. The Revelation 14:8 prophecy plainly predicts the future fall of Babylon. Listen to it: “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”

Knowing that this prophecy about the

coming fall of Babylon exists, and knowing that the United States and Great Britain are attacking Iraq—the nation that contains ancient Babylon, we simply must ask ourselves if the prophesied fall of Babylon is at hand.

There are prophetic prognosticators in abundance ready to quickly and loudly proclaim that the time for the fulfillment of the ancient prophecy has arrived. But let's see what the scriptures actually say.

When will the prophesied fall of Babylon happen?

Revelation 16:16 announces the beginning of the Battle of Armageddon: “And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.”

The next three verses record the fall of Babylon the Great. “And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air...and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the

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cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.”

This passage clearly teaches us that the destruction of Babylon will take place at the time of the Battle of Armageddon.

Since we know that the Battle of Armageddon occurs at the end of the Great Tribulation, after the reign of the Antichrist and after the mark of the beast, it is obvious that the pending war with Iraq will not be the prophesied destruction of Babylon.

Another prophecy of Babylon's destruction

The entire ministry of the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah was devoted to prophesying the destruction of Jerusalem and the carrying away of Israel into Babylonian captivity. He also prophesied the return of Israel to Jerusalem after 70 years and foretold the ultimate destruction of Babylon.

The prophecy against Babylon is found in Jeremiah 50:1-23.

“The word that the LORD spake against Babylon and against the land of the Chaldeans by Jeremiah the prophet. Declare ye among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard; publish, and conceal not: say, Babylon is taken...For out of the north there cometh up a nation against her, which shall make her land desolate, and none shall dwell therein...Because of the wrath of the LORD it shall not be inhabited, but it shall be

wholly desolate: every one that goeth by Babylon shall be astonished, and hiss at all her plagues.”

Verses 17 and 18 establish for certain when this destruction of Babylon was to occur:

“Israel is a scattered sheep; the lions have driven him away: first the king of Assyria hath devoured him; and last this Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath broken his bones. Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will punish the king of Babylon and his land, as I have punished the king of Assyria.”

The above scriptures teach us that this particular prophesied destruction of Babylon would occur during the era of the Babylonian empire of Nebuchadnezzar.

Furthermore, verses 39-40 declared that Babylon would never again be inhabited. “Therefore the wild beasts of the desert with the wild beasts of the islands shall dwell there, and the owls shall dwell therein: and it shall be no more inhabited for ever...”

Two destructions of Babylon foretold

The prophecy of Jeremiah clearly stated that Babylon would be destroyed, never to be inhabited again. Yet the book of Revelation prophesies the destruction of Babylon at the time of Armageddon. How do we reconcile what appears to be a biblical contradiction?

Literal Babylon vs. Mystery Babylon

The physical city of Babylon was originally built by Nimrod after the flood. It was located on the Euphrates River, about 55 miles south of where Baghdad, Iraq stands today. The name Babylon came from the Tower of Babel that was constructed there.

Babylon became a large city of global prominence around 1728 B.C. during the reign of Hammurabi. The glory years of Babylon were achieved under Nebuchadnezzar II (604-562 B.C.). The city declined during the reign of Belshazzar, and came to ruin when Xerxes, the Persian king, destroyed it in 478 B.C.

Thus Jeremiah's prophesied destruction of Babylon was accomplished, and, just as the prophecy said, it has never been inhabited to this day. Saddam Hussein launched a project to rebuild Babylon in the late 1980's, but the effort was halted by Gulf War I and has yet to be resumed.

But if Babylon is never to be rebuilt, why are two entire chapters of the book of Revelation devoted to the destruction of Babylon? And why is the destruction of Babylon clearly described as occurring at the time of Armageddon?

The Babylon described in Revelation is called “Mystery Babylon.” The prophecy of Mystery Babylon is found in Revelation 17:3-5.

“So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast, full of

	Clue #1 Revelation 17:1, 18	Clue #2 Revelation 17:1, 15	Clue #3 Revelation 17:3, 9	Clue #4 Revelation 17:4
The Prophecy	I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters	I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters	I saw a woman sit upon a...beast...having seven heads and ten horns	The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour
The Interpretation	And the woman...is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth	The waters...are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues	The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth	Cardinals wear Red and the Bishops wear Purple
The Vatican	Vatican City is located inside the city of Rome	The Vatican's reach spans all nations and languages	Rome is known as The City of Seven Hills	The Vatican's two governing bodies are Cardinals and Bishops
	The Woman	The Waters	The Seven Heads	The Clothing

names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

Who is Mystery Babylon?—4 clues

A mystery is something secret or hidden—a thing that some understand while others do not. In Revelation 17, there are several clues given to the identity of Mystery Babylon. We will discuss four of them here.

Clue #1—Mystery Babylon is a city

Notice in the above prophecy that a woman is used to symbolize Mystery Babylon. Verse 18 of the chapter tells us that the woman is a city. "And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth."

Clue #2—Mystery Babylon presides over a vast international system

In verse 1, we are told that the woman sits on many waters. Verse 15 explains the meaning of the waters. "And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues."

Not only is this woman a city, but the city is apparently the headquarters over a vast international system.

Clue #3—The city sits on 7 hills

In verse 3, we are told that the woman rides on a beast with 7 heads. Verse 9 reveals the meaning of the 7 heads. "And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth."

Remember, we've already learned that the woman is a city. This passage tells us that the city sits on seven mountains. There is a city on earth that is known as "The City of Seven Hills." It's the city of Rome.

But is Rome the headquarters for an international power that rules over "peo-

Whetstone

by John L. Bryant

1. Who said "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise?"
A. Adam B. Abraham C. Jesus D. Stephen
2. How many pieces of silver were given to Judas to betray Jesus?
A. 20 B. 10 C. 40 D. 30
3. Naaman was healed of leprosy by dipping _____ times in the river.
A. 7 B. 2 C. 5 D. 1
4. Because of gross immorality, these cities were destroyed by God.
A. Heshbon-Elealeh B. Sodom-Gomorrah C. Libnah-Rissah
D. Bashan-Sihon
5. What woman was first to see Jesus after His resurrection?
A. Mary Magdalene B. Phebe C. Martha D. Mary, His mother
6. To Paul, this king said, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."
A. Herod B. Agrippa C. Jehu D. Tidal
7. "Let God be true, but every man a _____."
A. Teacher B. Prophet C. Believer D. Liar
8. One of these men is not a prophet.
A. Daniel B. Ezekiel C. Ishmael D. Habakkuk
9. _____ is the name of the son, born to a virgin.
A. Ichabod B. Immanuel C. Israel D. Isaiah
10. Divine providence provided bread & flesh, brought by ravens, to this prophet.
A. Ahab B. Elijah C. Omri D. Elisha
11. The history of creation, the universe and man is found in this book.
A. Genesis B. Ezra C. Nehemiah D. Chronicles
12. This disciple was entrusted with the care of Jesus' mother.
A. Peter B. James C. John D. Thomas
13. The apostle John was banished to the isle of _____.
A. Crete B. Patmos C. Melita D. Claudia
14. The seventh trumpet heralds the world-wide victory of whom?
A. Antichrist B. Satan C. False Prophet D. Jesus
15. These men were the interpreters of the law.
A. Scribes B. Tax collectors C. Publicans D. Levites
16. This heavenly messenger interprets Daniel's vision.
A. Michael B. Gabriel C. Lucifer D. none of them
17. Who is the father of the first king of Israel, Saul?
A. Solomon B. David C. Kish D. Zeruah
18. God sent _____ to the potter's house to learn a lesson.
A. Jethro B. Jeremiah C. Amos D. Malachi
19. This weapon of war, the sword, is figurative of God's _____.
A. Might B. Strength C. Pre-existence D. Word
20. David danced with all his might when this item was brought to Zion.
A. The ark of God B. The spoils of war C. The golden calf
D. Goliath's head

Answers on page 15

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ples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues?"

The Vatican claims to rule over one billion Roman Catholics worldwide. Remember, this prophecy was written long before the Catholic Church existed and long before Rome became her headquarters.

Clue #4—She is clothed in purple and red

Revelation 17:4 "And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication."

There are two ruling bodies in the Roman Catholic Church: The College of Cardinals and the College of Bishops and Archbishops. These two bodies are somewhat like the Senate and the House of Representatives here in the U.S.

An article appeared in *The Criterion*, a Roman Catholic publication, July 1, 1988. The article was entitled, "More than You Want to Know About Cardinals." It stated, "Cardinals wear red, while non-Cardinal Bishops and Archbishops wear purple."

So let's review. Mystery Babylon is a city that sits on seven hills. Rome is known worldwide as "The City of Seven

Hills."

Mystery Babylon is to "sit" on peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues." Rome is headquarters for the Roman Catholic Church, claiming one billion members worldwide.

Mystery Babylon is described as being clothed in purple and red. The official colors of the two ruling bodies of the Roman Church are purple and red.

One other factor should be understood. In Revelation 17, God chose to use a woman—a whore—to symbolize the Roman Catholic Church. Why?

It's really very simple. In scripture, God always used a woman to symbolize a church. He used a virgin to represent His true church (II Corinthians 11:2), and He used a harlot to represent a false church—as he did in Revelation 17-19.

There can be only one conclusion: The Vatican is the Mystery Babylon of Revelation. And it is this false religious system that has deceived the people of the world that will be destroyed at the time of Armageddon.

What then is the pending war with Iraq?

If the destruction of physical Babylon is past and the destruction of spiritual Babylon is future, what role will the imminent war with Iraq play in Bible prophecy?

Revelation 9:13-16 prophesies a war that will kill one-third of mankind—two billion people. It states that this war will begin in the area of the Euphrates River. Most of the Euphrates River is in Iraq—the nation with which the U.S. is currently at war.

If this war with Iraq is indeed the one prophesied in Revelation 9:13-16, the face of the world will be changed forever. The cry for peace and security will give birth to a system of global law that will throw the planet into one-world government. The horrible carnage of two billion dead and the aftermath of nuclear war will create the perfect scenario for the ascent of the Antichrist into power.

This unprecedented disaster will also accelerate the implementation of the "Road Map for Peace" by the International Community, "The Quartet," upon Israel and the Palestinians (see article on page 22). It appears that the anticipated Middle East agreement will be the confirmation of the covenant, which triggers the final seven years to Armageddon.

The coming war with Iraq will not be the end of the world. It will not be Armageddon. And it will not be the prophesied destruction of Mystery Babylon.

But it could very possibly be the worst war the world has ever known! □

Iraq? America? Rome?

Mystery Babylon — Who Is It???

You'll find the answer to this important question in
Irvin Baxter Jr.'s video, "Babylon the Great—Who Is It?"

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