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**BABYLON
THE GREAT
VERSES
MYSTERY
BABYLON**

*House of Praise
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ET-REV-116-Babylon

(CONTINUED FROM INSIDE)

Shinar” (Gen. 11:2), a virtual desert, with no mountains nearby.

Who, then, is this “drunken woman,” “Mystery Babylon,” pictured in Revelation 17, which drank the blood of the martyrs of Jesus and continues to commit spiritual fornication **with** the political power structure of the world?

Some say Rome is the only city in the world that appears to meet the criteria the Bible uses in describing “Mystery Babylon”. The Roman Empire was the originator of democracy and a symbol of economic prosperity. They say that no other city on earth is recognized simultaneously as a religious **and** political entity. However, some Bible scholars believe that a rebuilt (literal) Babylon under Antichrist may be suggested in Revelation 18.

This great end-time city is located however within the Common Market nations and thereby proves that the **political and religious** powers exist together simultaneously. Since the world church forms at the time when 10 western nations unite — and both the European Economic Community and the World Council of Churches began unity proceedings in 1948 (in Geneva Switzerland, also city of World Bank and city of treaties between nations) — **CHRIST’S COMING MUST BE NEAR!**

We need not belabor the point regarding the world’s current global financial system, where economics ignores sovereign borders. Nor do we need much imagination to see that a **one-world religion** is already in the formative stages. Under the Babylonian King, Nebuchadnezzar, the empire was commanded to worship a false god or suffer the consequences (Dan. 3). This persecution of those unwilling to bow before a false deity is viewed by many to be **typical** of the final persecution led by Antichrist during the Tribulation against Israel and Christian converts.

Only “Mystery Babylon” will finalize the work of the Tower of Babel builders and King Nebuchadnezzar, a global system under the philosophy of political democracy, free enterprise, unified financial systems, and, ultimately, a one-world religious faith. **You may ask, “Why?”** Because the father of lies (Satan) must imitate that which is promised to take place when Jesus comes (Phil. 2:10-11).

BABYLON—
THE GREAT AND THE MYSTERY

Literal (political) Babylon

Genesis 10:10 names Nimrod, the son of Cush, as the FOUNDER of Babel, “in the land of Shinar”, which later became known as the city of Babylon, in what is **now** modern-day IRAQ. **Nimrod’s name means** “rebellious,” “revolt,” “indignation,” even “disgraceful,” displaying the rebellious heart of man without God.

In Genesis 11, the people of Babylon, who had the concept of **self-redemption**, built a city and a tower to accomplish unity, fame, and prosperity. They cried out, “let us build ourselves a city, and a tower to **accomplish unity**, fame, and prosperity. They cried out, “let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens” (Gen. 11:4). Neither Nimrod nor any other strong personality is mentioned in Genesis 11. THE PEOPLE were in charge, as is evident from the repeated use of the word “**us**” in verse 4.

Uniformity apparently was the key to the city’s initial success. Even the building material, “brick for stone” and “asphalt ... for mortar,” expresses the unifying of Babel. Stones come in different sizes and forms; therefore, they must have been difficult to work with. Such “mortar” made separation almost impossible.

The Lord’s reaction to the tower-builders is found in Genesis 11:6-7. “So the Lord scattered them” (v. 8). From that point on, nothing is recorded in the Bible about Babylon UNTIL the end of the ten-tribe

kingdom of ISRAEL, when Babylon assumes prominence with the ascension of King Nebuchadnezzar. This king’s ruler-ship marks the beginning of Gentile world dominion (time of the Gentiles) and the golden age of BABYLONIA.

The prophet Daniel summarizes the significance of Babylon and her role in the Gentile world dominion. A classic example of this in Daniel is Nebuchadnezzar’s image. World history, **the present, and the future**, are revealed in this image in Daniel 2:32-33. The Scripture explains, “You, O King, are a **king of kings ... you are this head of gold**” (vv. 37-38). The golden head signifies Nebuchadnezzar’s superiority over **any other** Gentile empire.

The end of the city is predicted in Jeremiah 51:37. “Babylon shall become a heap, a dwelling place for jackals, an astonishment and a hissing, without an inhabitant.” Isaiah also predicted the complete demise of the once beautiful Babylon. “Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldeans’ pride ... WILL NEVER BE INHABITED. . . HER TIME IS NEAR TO COME, AND HER DAYS WILL NOT BE PROLONGED” (ISA. 13:19-22).

The city of Babylon had no promise of perpetual existence. Cyrus the Persian crossed the Tigris River in 547 B.C. and conquered the kingdom of Lydia. He then turned his armies southward, conquering the outlying cities of Babylonia on his way to the capital. The city of BABYLON FELL in one night to Cyrus in 539 B.C., and ceased to be a world power from that time. Persian governors ruled the city for the next sixty years, including Xerxes, (the Ahasuerus of Esther 1:1), who represented his father Darius the Great, in the city. When Xerxes himself became ruler of Persia, the inhabitants of Babylon rebelled against the Persian government.

Xerxes responded in 482 B.C. by destroying the fortifications of the city. Over time, the city of Babylon became an uninhabited mound of ruins, just as the prophets had predicted. Hence, **the literal (political) city of Babylon (Rev. 18), which no longer exists, is not to be confused with “Mystery Babylon” (religious) in Revelation 17. However, some expositors believe Babylon will be rebuilt under the Antichrist and then finally destroyed at the end of the Tribulation.**

Figurative (Religious) Babylon

The word, “**Babylon**” may mean “confusion” **or** “the gate of God.” God confused the language; thus, the definition of “confusion” is fitting. The **other** meaning of Babylon, “gate of God,” suggests self-redemption. Even after the city no longer existed, the Bible speaks about Babylon in Revelation 17 as **an entity that propels the Antichrist to power**. Will ancient Babylon be rebuilt and become the center of the world’s economy, finances, and religion? The Bible mentions, “**Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and of the Abominations of the Earth**” (Rev. 17:5). **This verse does not refer to “Babylon” literally, but rather figuratively.** This Babylon is a different identity than the one mentioned in Jeremiah 27:6.

While a literal (political) Babylon no longer exists, **the spirit of Babylon, characterized by rebellion and confusion, continues.** Babylon is a **SYMBOL** of rebellion against God, whose position in that regard passed down from the head (Nebuchadnezzar) to **Me-**

dia-Persia, then to **Greece**, and finally to **Rome**. The spirit of Babylonian rebellion and licentiousness continues today and will climax in the great confrontation between light and darkness at the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Therefore, many assume that **ancient** Babylon will play no significant role in the development of end-time events. **It is not the** “Mystery Babylon” (religious) of Revelation 17.

The Babylon of Revelation 17 is pictured as a **woman** “drunk with the blood of saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus” (v. 6). The literal ancient city of Babylon would not be responsible for the death of the Christian martyrs mentioned in Revelation 17:6.

Another reason the literal (political) city of Babylon (Rev. 18) **is not** the Babylon mentioned in Revelation 17, is that the “seven heads” of the beast in Revelation are described as “seven mountains” (v. 9), most likely describing the terrain of this region. The literal (political) city of Babylon was established on the “plain of



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