

# PART I: BABYLON IN BIBLE DAYS

B.C. 4000 to A.D. 100

## **ONE: INTRODUCTION**

Three things will help you in the reading of this book:

- (1) What Isaiah calls a "garment of praise" (Isaiah 61:3), to combat the inevitable "spirit of heaviness" that comes when dealing with the things of Satan.
- (2) An open Bible, to check for yourself that the account I give is a true one.
- (3) A heart hungry for God and open only to Truth.

There is a trail of scarlet that wends its way through the pages of God's Word, and history.

There is, for example, the scarlet cord that Rahab was asked to hang from her window, so she could be saved by Joshua at his return. (Joshua 2:17-18)

A scarlet thread was to be interwoven throughout the garments of Israel's priests. (Exodus 39:1)

Red is the color of wine, as in the new wine promised by Jesus. (Matthew 9:17)

And above all there is the stream of blood that flows from our greater Joshua, our great High Priest, the One called Jesus.

Prostitution, the royal priesthood, the blood. Scarlet threads somehow woven into the fabric of the plans of God.

And the father of lies, the source of all of which this book speaks, has his own set of scarlet threads, strikingly similar to that of the Lord God. From the dawn of history to this present age can be traced the story of a bloodthirsty, regal prostitute, in whose hand is a cup of abominable wine with which she drugs the nations. She is symbolized in Scripture by that same hue.

Blood, whoredom, wine, kings and priests are at the heart of the story I tell, the story of Babylon. Babylon in its ancient days, and the Babylon of today. Even glimpses of the Babylon still to come. **For as you read these words, the spirits of demons hover over this planet, calling it to bring forth the new world for which they work so diligently.** This action itself, as is typical of them, counterfeits the beginning of all things, when the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. But I digress...

In addition to the pagan religions of antiquity, Rome, and the institution centered there, features largely in this narrative. No intention is made to offend, or to single out one religious organization as being all that the Enemy is doing on planet earth. Protestantism must be dealt with also, and later in the story you will find such dealings. But history is history, and true believers are being called out of all that is not created by the Father. **There is nothing but danger ahead in institutions of men that claim to be institutions of God.**

My own involvements in modern-day Babylon were many, and years ago. I will, later, explain them in detail. They were not the reason for my writing now.

That reason is that, in the early summer of 1992, I was reading again the 17th and 18th chapters of Revelation, and came under a deep impression that it was time to study the "Babylon" mentioned by John. For the following weeks, I could do little else. I

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prayed, received counsel, devoured dozens of books, searched the Scriptures, and began to write.

In my studies I found several threads intertwining through the events of mankind, traceable in every generation:

- Babylonian-style religion intermingled with the current political structure.
- Syncretism, the close mixture of true and false.
- Desire for world dominion.
- Anti-Jewish and anti-Christian prejudice.
- A constant calling out of God's people.

Threads running through Scripture and through my own history brought everything into even sharper focus. And all those threads seemed to me to be tied in one knot from whence they emanate:

### ***MYSTERY BABYLON, the mother of ALL abominations...***

(Revelation 17:5)

Reading one book will not be enough for those who are called to research this issue. For such people I have collected a short library of resource materials and a list of contacts. (To be found at the end of Part Five.) For, the things of which I speak are not hidden, except to the one who does not look.

As you read through the book or the bibliography, you will become keenly aware that I have not always quoted Christian sources. In some cases I have used the quotes of men who deny the Lord I love. Others are devout churchmen of various denominations, with many of whom you and I both would differ on a host of issues. Others are solid fundamentalists, who might disagree with each other. Still others are Roman Catholic.

But all, the atheist to the fundamentalist, have agreed that **there is a spiritual-political force in the world today that is destructive and needs to be exposed, so that God's people can come out of her.** All, of course, except members of that force.

Please note that I say "exposed" and not "brought down." Students of Scripture especially will readily recognize that "Babylon," though scheduled for ultimate failure, will be a strong power until that time. The thrust of this book is not to attack, but to call out from that structure those few who will hear and be saved, and to confirm to those who already have come out, that their departure was wise.

In speaking of non-Christian witnesses, it is sad to note that, had they known the real Christ of the real Church, they might not have stayed non-Christian. It is in that spirit that I bring them to the stand to testify.

Be all of the above as it may, it is time for us to begin our walk together. Walk with me on a journey that will begin when the planet was young, and will end in days perhaps not unlike our own. It is a walk which will cause us both to shudder, for the pathway will be strewn with corpses and blood. Our eyes and ears will be filled with violence, and the lust for unbridled power of man at his worst.

As we walk, it will become clear that we are uncovering a portion of the "mystery of iniquity" spoken of by Paul the apostle, and the plot of him who has waged war against our God and God's people from the beginning. We will see *him*.

But we will also see *her*, the one named "Babylon, mother of harlots..." (Revelation 17:5-6). **And when we see her, we will marvel, as did John, with great amazement.**

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### **TWO: THE FALL OF SATAN AND HIS PLAN FOR MAN**

Our story must begin before the planet we inhabit was set in place by our Heavenly Father. There seems to have been a conflict in the heavenlies between the Almighty and one of His created angels, Lucifer. The latter evidently wanted more authority than he was being given, and challenged God Almighty. God's response was to throw Lucifer and one-third of the angelic hosts who followed this *satan* or "enemy," out of His presence. (Ezekiel 28)

From subsequent study of Scripture, such as Genesis 3:1, where Satan is seen in the Garden of Eden and the Book of Job, ( Chapters 1 & 2)where he seems to have access to God's Throne -as a visitor- coupled to Ephesians 6:12, where the headquarters of demon activity is "heavenly places," we conclude that Satan and his hosts have been assigned for this present time to the earth's atmosphere. Thus is he called the "prince of the power of the air." (Ephesians 2:2).

We learn in Revelation 12:12 that he is to be limited, at a later date, to earth alone, and will wreak as much havoc as he can in the short time allowed. A further step down for this falling angel will be ultimate destruction in the lake of fire described in Revelation 20:10. *Then* will the Devil be in Hell. He certainly is not now.

We must try to speak loudly only where the Bible speaks. Very softly I suggest a motive, perhaps *the* motive for all of Satan's activity is revenge.

Imagine having been the "anointed cherub," certainly the most beautiful and the wisest of all the created beings...unceremoniously dumped off the mountain of glory and splendor. Rebellion and revenge, all self-justified, fills his heart and he has always believed that he has a right, a just cause, for all that he does to the sons of Adam. He truly believes that all the kingdoms of earth should be his personal domain.

But even having gained all of earth's wealth, being a spirit entity he can never be thus satisfied. He uses these *things* to reach his long-term goal: replacement of the Lord God as ruler of all. If he can, by enticement, or force, or confusion, gain control of the *hearts* of men, he will feel justified in opposing God on God's own terms: love and free will. Men, he thinks, will eventually *choose* Lucifer, and, yes, even *love* him.

Perhaps he feels that by already having a large percentage of *heavenly* beings on his side, and then winning the voluntary allegiance of the majority of earthlings, his power will be so great as to eclipse, eventually, the Almighty's . Perhaps He thinks God will just "give up" after awhile, having been rejected so soundly.

He certainly knows how to deceive. My 11-year-old asked, during a family devotion time, "How can Satan read this book [we were studying Revelation] and still believe it is possible for him to win?" I told her that the devil is a liar. A deceiver who in fact has deceived himself!

And his work of deceiving man goes on unabated, untiringly. He wears many garbs, many faces. He can be seen as a lamb, or a dragon, or anything in between. He continues, refusing defeats that are handed to him by erstwhile Christians. But defeat will be his.

**I here inject the plea for my readers to be sure they are not caught up in this defeat by being deceived by the religions Satan has created.**

### **c. 4000 B.C.**

Need I remind readers of the beginning of human history, the challenge of Satan to our first parents, and their agreement to his dominion? (Genesis 3:1-5) In this story we see the elements of all future enslavements by the enemy:

- his opposition to and questioning of the very words of God.(v.1)

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- his desire for earth people to rely on themselves to cover their shame (fig leaves) v. God's provision of a blood sacrifice to do that (animal skins).(3:7,21)

- his appeal to things visible and touchable, v. God's appeal to intimate spiritual relationship with the Creator.(3:6)

Previews of Babylon, the confusion of the ages. God speaks, Satan questions.

Next we see the introduction of worship.(Genesis 4) Scriptures previously quoted indicate that Satan was closely involved in Heaven's worship, and perhaps we can deduce that he since has become a master of creating things that are "close" to the real thing, since he knows what the "real thing" is.

So what was *wrong* with what Cain brought with which to worship God? We can talk about an improper attitude, a lack of sacrifice in the gift given. But it would seem from further reading of the ways of God that the thing which draws the line between the true and the false in this area is the *blood*; that is, God's eternal purposes in Christ, His desire for selfless creations who will give all, His need for our entire being. I believe all of this is taught in the short passage mentioned.

But Cain...he did it *his* way, and played into the hand of him whose plan was gradually unfolding. Using Cain, Satan has eliminated the first righteous "seed of woman," perhaps believing that God was speaking of Abel in Genesis 3:15. We learn here that Satan simply doesn't know it all!

### **THREE: BEGINNINGS OF BABYLON**

c. 2500 B.C. (the flood)

The story continues with more and more sin being introduced into the world. It looks as though Satan is going to win an early victory, when God decides to start over. The flood washes all away except eight righteous people. (Genesis 6-8)

But immediately the enemy begins his work on certain members of the family. Ham's disrespect for his father is recorded, and the descendants of Ham become a focal point in the enemy's plan.

Gaps in this Scriptural narrative are filled in by records of various civilizations of this time. I certainly do not want to suggest that secular sources are "inspired" in the Biblical sense. But God is not without witness in the secular world. Though the record is at times perverted and corrupt, the patterns of history eventually give testimony to the truths of the Word of God.

The Biblical record next mentions Ham's son Cush, then the son of Cush, Nimrod. (Genesis 10:6-12)

The name and person of Nimrod has given rise to much speculation and a certain amount of controversy. Before we launch into non-Biblical sources, let us lay the foundation God has already given us about this man in Genesis 10.

- 1) v. 8. He began to be a mighty man on the earth.
- 2) v. 9. He was a hunter.
- 3) v. 9. He is said to be "before the Lord."
- 4) v. 10. He is somehow instrumental in the building of Babel (the tower, later the city)
- 5) v. 10 . He also builds Erech, Accad, Calneh, in "Shinar", and Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, and Resen in Assyria.
- 6) From Micah 5:6 we glean that Assyria becomes known as the "land of

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Nimrod."

Thus saith the Lord. What saith the facts of history? And from these facts what legends have arisen? The answer to these questions may well be a major key to the understanding of the mystery called Babylon.

The name Nimrod is sometimes spelled *Nemrod*, and there is today a major city by the Euphrates called *Nimrud*, traceable to the Biblical city of Calah, mentioned above.

Encyclopedia readings will inform you that this Nimrod resembles the world-renowned Gilgamesh, similarly a Babylonian hero noted as a mighty hunter. Now this Gilgamesh was "priest-king" of "Uruk," or as in the Bible, "Erech", which we know to have been built by Nimrod.

Starr, in A History of the Ancient World, adds this interesting piece of information:

"One artistic symbol drawn from [the *Gilgamesh Epic*], that of Gilgamesh strangling a lion, was handed down age after age until it appeared in medieval cathedrals in Western Europe."

Perhaps you see faintly where our tale leads us. Let us return to the main trail of evidence.

Rabbinical traditions say that Nimrod ordered the building of a tower as an act of defiance against God. They agree with fellow Hebrew Josephus, the famed first-century historian, who states in his Antiquities of the Jews (Book I, chapter 4, vs. 1-2), that God had intended the post-flood people of earth to send colonies abroad "for the thorough peopling of the earth." (Genesis 9:1 agrees!) They disobeyed, and the tower of Babel scattering was the outcome of their disobedience.

But *why* did they disobey? Josephus:

"Now it was Nimrod who excited them to such an affront and contempt of God...he persuaded them not to ascribe [strength] to God, as if it was through his means they were happy, but to believe that it was their own courage which procured that happiness. He also gradually changed the government into tyranny, - seeing no other way of turning men from the fear of God, but to bring them into a constant dependence upon his [Nimrod's] power. He also said ...he would avenge himself on God for destroying their forefathers!

Forerunners of humanism, "up with people" mentality, and as you will see, *a whole lot more...*

Nimrod has been in some places equated with Marduk, the great Babylonian god who is the central figure in pagan mythology for thousands of years. Thus Nimrod could be placed Biblically wherever the term *Merodach* appears. (As in Isaiah 39:1, Jeremiah 50:2)

The names "niMROD" and "MeRODach" could indeed be from the same root.

He also sounds a lot like Greece's Orion and Rome's Romulus, mighty hunter-warriors about whom fantastic tales are spun. He is in fact a mythological Everyman, one who seems to be the very source of all of Babylon's lies, the man behind the myths.

So, this man is said by God to have been the founder of the Babylonian *and* Assyrian kingdoms. Do you not marvel how the inspired writer passes over this fact as though it were nothing? Men make a big deal of their kingdoms; God is not impressed.

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What does grip God's heart is that His creation is once more straying from Him, trying to find a visible security, especially security from future floods, but also **a way to get to Heaven without relationship to the Lord of Heaven**. This way of doing spiritual business is the essence of Satanic worship.

It is important to identify here the land of which Babylon was a part, the "land between the rivers." Ancient history books begin the description of this *Mesopotamia* with an account of Sumeria, probably the first civilization known to man. Most of Sumeria's history lies before the flood. By the time of Abraham, (2000 B.C.) it is said that the Sumerian nation vanished.

Mesopotamia then becomes host to the "Semite." The history books usually omit that the *Semite* is the descendant of *Sem* or *Shem*, that son of Noah who will carry on the blood line that leads to the true "Seed of woman." Semitic presence in the middle of the third millennia B.C. corroborates the Biblical story of Noahic sources for all earth's present peoples.

### **c. 2450 B.C.**

With Nimrod and company come the actual beginnings of Babylonia/Assyria in this same Mesopotamian region. Through him and his followers come an early perversion to the truths Noah and his sons, probably especially Shem, propounded as they came from the ark. Their transmission of a personal knowledge of the one true God quickly begins to deteriorate as it is passed on and then blatantly corrupted by God's angry enemy. Nimrod, the mighty one "before the Lord" (as in Genesis 10:9, where the same Hebrew preposition has been changed to "against" in speaking of God's relationship to Sodom's citizens) works overtime in disseminating his false religion of works.

Nimrod's first city, Babylon, has a name which is itself a study in *confusion*. The Scriptures rightly tell us that the original tower of that city, perhaps patterned after, or the pattern for, the Mesopotamian *ziggurat*, was called in Hebrew "confusion" or *Babel*. The word from which this one is derived is *bawlal*, which Strong's Concordance defines as "mixing".

So this is God's view of what is happening. He confuses men who have added their own ideas to God's .

But, checking this location in the scholarship of men, one will find that the "original" name for the town is actually *kadingira* (in Sumerian) or *bab-ili* (Semitic). Now, *Bab-ili* means "the gate of the gods."

So, man explains the phenomenon of Babylon in terms of gods of his own choosing. God continues to say, "You're confused." Jesus later will say that the "gates of hell" will not prevail against His church (Matthew 16:18). In Babylon, the so-called gate of the gods is actually earth's gate to hell and death, but it will not prevail against those who are truly Christ's.

As Babylonian thought progresses, the idea evolves that man is created to relieve the gods from the tedium of work. Thus "works" are constantly needed to make man pleasing to the gods. Then, in this changing culture, human representatives become needed to speak to the "rest" of humanity. These chosen ones become priest-kings, actually living in the temple erected to the false god.

From this start comes an elaborate priestly administration. There are priests for incantations, priests for ordinary offerings to the gods, exorcist priests, singers, priests

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for anointings, omen-interpreters, actors, female temple prostitutes, other priestesses. (from The Greatness That Was Babylon, Saggs, p.346)

The gods and goddesses behind all this administration are likewise a slow evolution. The deities recognized become the "standard-bearers" for ancient mythology, albeit under a myriad of names, for 3000 years! And over and over, these "persons" are nothing more than reflections of the *creation* rather than the *Creator*. (See Romans 1:20-23)

Before formally meeting these false ones, keep in mind that in Babylonian thought, gods are not lifted up as an example to be followed. They are merely a personification of forces, an answer to the inevitable questions of man. These "gods" are in fact quite *human* at times. Though they are to be feared and obeyed without question, they are unquestionably frail. So, true morality, to the Babylonian mind -then and now- becomes a matter of obedience to an overlord rather than doing the right thing for the right reason.

Though at times the rules and regulations in Babylon have seemed to be narrow and intense, a closer investigation reveals that "anything goes" in Satan's kingdom. **The one essential is submission to the top man, that is, outward conformity. The condition of the heart in Babylon is considered a personal thing, not vital.**

How different the domain of God! In that realm, the heart is won first, and the person so won becomes a voluntary subject of the Lord, willing to be used in any capacity.

But in Babylon confusion reigns. Doctrines of a million demons are all accepted and somehow absorbed. As long as one is inside the walls, saying "yes" to the top man, there is no end to the confusing possibilities of belief.

### **FOUR: ENTER THE PATRIARCHS**

We are not totally aware of what Satan knew and didn't know. But if God revealed to Adam that the "seed of a woman" will bruise the "head of the serpent" (Genesis 3:14-15), is there any doubt that Satan has a grasp of the horrible possibilities of his future?

Rather than despair, though, he decides to use these eventualities for his own purposes. Anticipating the things God will do, he creates a similar system of things to deceive those who will only seek God with half a heart, or not at all. **As a prostitute, "Babylon" offers a measure of satisfaction, for an affordable price.**

Looking very much like the One with Whom he had spent ages watching up close, he begins to reveal a series of "mysteries" to the not-so-bright earthlings. He is still "revealing" such nonsense in our day, to a none-the-brighter populace.

Knowing there is to come a "seed," and guessing, or perhaps also knowing, that the Divine will be involved, he creates, several times over, replicas, previews, of this event.

You will remember that he has already "missed it" by killing Abel. It is quite possible he really has *no idea* as to the "Seed's" true identity. So he spreads through these mysteries the *confusion* he is experiencing.

Around these "mysteries" grow others, and yet others, different in every land, yet always recognizable as Babylon. Also recognizable, by the discerning, as having been deliberately forged by an expert counterfeiter.

For example, Nimrod, according to Hislop in his brilliant research called Two Babylons, is attached to one Semiramis. Ovid, a Roman poet, contemporary with Jesus, says that Semiramis was the first queen of Babylon, and surrounded the city with a wall of bricks. (Vol. ii, *Metam.*, lib. iv, Fab. Pyramus and Thisbe)

Nimrod is a mighty man of the earth, a "political figure." His wife is both beautiful

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and powerful. What better people to be raised to the level of *gods*? (Genesis 10)

And when they have a son! The "seed of woman" is now on the earth, implies Satan. Is he outright lying here, or does he really not know?

Whether deceived or deceiving or both, Satan begins here the outright perversion of the make-up of the Heavenly family. Since on earth we often think of "distant" father, looming mother, and little son, it is implied throughout Babylonian history, into our own day, that God the Father is unapproachable, that there is essentially a God "the Mother", and that she is the way to the Son-God.

The truth of course is that the only female that participates in heavenly things is the wife of The Lord God, identified as the people *Israel* by the prophets, and the Bride of Christ, known as *the Church*. The Son looms so far over the Mother in the Biblical story as to be not worthy of mention. (This we *will* document later, however.) And the way to God the Father has been made accessible by God the Son, Christ Jesus. It is of *utmost* importance that all who would understand the difference between Satanic and God-given revelation recognize these critical distinctions.

Knowing how people worship their memories more than realities, Satan arranges for an early death for Nimrod. Then he begins to spread, through his channels, the word that Tammuz, their son, is actually *Nimrod* reincarnated!

One of Satan's messengers is Semiramis herself, who further announces that her deceased partner (now offspring) is the god of the sun.

**Lies, big enough, told often enough, can finally be passed off as truths.** Hitler didn't think that one up.

In time, Semiramis also dies, and is accepted as a goddess. Later, the story circulates about how her son rescued his mother from the infernal powers in hell, and carried her with him in triumph to heaven. With this story we see the clever weaving of Satan's own threads into the story. Not only is he going to copy the True; he also adds the false, the absolute fantasy, to cloud even further the thinking of would-be servants of God.

### c. 2000 B.C.

For hundreds of years, Babylon and old Babylonia continue to grow. Political and spiritual powers rise together, inseparable, **as Babylonian politics and religion will ever be**, seemingly unnoticed and unhindered by a holy God who has already destroyed a world for seemingly much less offense.

The major Biblical event of these early Babylonian (Chaldean) days is the call and promise of God to a man living in the midst of all this idolatry: Abram, later Abraham. (Genesis 12)

Through God's own way of communicating, He convinces Abraham's family to travel west, to present day Israel. **Here is the first indication that God's people must be *called out of Babylon*.**

Then, much is made of a son to be born (Isaac), then another (Jacob, who is sent back to "Babylon", then *called out* again, Genesis 28-32), then a family (Israel). We meet Joseph (Genesis 37-50), who is forced into the Egyptian version of Babylon's mysteries, but who ultimately is aware that he must *come out* with the Israelites (Genesis 50:25). And even during his involvement with paganism, notice the provision he makes for God's people to be separate *within Egypt* (Genesis 47:6).

Then there is Moses, whose exodus is the classic example of God's people being *separated* from this present evil world (Exodus 1-20).

Slow, prodding work this, for such an all-powerful God, while the world marches on

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to destruction under the guidance of Satan and the prostitute.

Is this all you will do, God? Can you not stop this madness more quickly? Don't you see what's happening? God's reply, of course, is that He knows perfectly well what He is doing, how long it will take, who will be used, and that His ways are simply not ours.

### ***FIVE: THE SYSTEM DEVELOPS***

The father, the son, the mother-wife are the beginning of Satan's duplications of God's plans. As indicated above, early on he introduces also the idea that, since the "father" is so awesome and unapproachable, the mother and her baby ought to be the prominent features of worship. From this concept flow more of the system of mysteries:

- the deification of the child
- various magic tricks
- total control by a group of men called "priests" who alone will be initiated into the *fullness* of the mysteries
- a time of confessing of faults, where the ordinary people will tell their wrongs to the priests. Thus will be created total manipulation by one group over another
- the blood of a divinity needed for atonement
- eventually, an overshadowing of the son by the mother
- sensual perversions in worship
- long processions of worshipers bowing down to statues
- clothing and crowning of statues
- the worship of "relics": pieces of hair, bones, or personal belongings of the "gods"
- a string of beads used to recite prayers
- special feast days tied in with the gods
  - for example, the "birth of the *sun*" each year is around the end of December. Both the *sun* and the *son* (Tammuz) are honored the same day!
  - and of course, a special "lady day" to honor Semiramis
- and*, to announce the birth of the coming *son*, an annunciation festival on March 25 (which just happens to be nine months before December 25!)
- mother-and-child statue worship
- crying statues
- weird "happenings" of various "holy ones"
- the presence of obelisks, temples, towers

We will cover some of these items in detail later. They can be further researched in Hislop (see above) and in Woodrow's Babylon, Mystery Religion.

Now, Bible students will recognize portions of this list as some of the very essentials of the Christian faith! But in the same -Satanic- list is introduced a series of beliefs and practices that have their origins in none other than the mind of the beautiful (but fallen) angel.

Are you listening? Thousands of years before the institution in Rome that would be made in Babylon's image, and far from the Divine record given us in Holy Scriptures, thus far from the mind of Almighty God, **there existed many of the items on this Babylonian agenda, the grand mixture of the ages!**

Perhaps even now the Spirit of God is striving in your heart, telling you to **consider**

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**well your attachment to what you have valued in the area of "religion."** But we must continue.

As to the gods' names(borrowed from Hays' In the Beginnings and others): In early Babylonian culture ,Anu is the god of the sky, Enlil god of the earth, and Enki god of the waters (also known as Ea.) These three, of equal rank, are joined by a second triad: The sun (Utu or Shamash), the moon (Nanna or Sin), and the planet Venus (Inanna or Ishtar, whence our holiday "Easter.")

Now this Ishtar, who becomes the goddess of love and fertility, descends to the underworld and returns each year, coinciding with the yearly renewal of agricultural life. Dumuzi, later called Tammuz, her husband/son, stays in the underworld, a substitute for her.

Slowly one named Marduk, who as we pointed out, is probably the Biblical Nimrod, deified, replaces the earth god Enlil ; his worship is centered at Eridu, believed then to be the starting place of humanity.

By 2000 B.C. Abraham's contemporary Hammurabi, great ruler of ancient Babylonia, makes Marduk his chief god, based on the handed-down tradition that he (Marduk) has overcome the forces of evil.

### ***SIX: TO ASSYRIA***

c. 900 B.C.

Through the original Babylon's years, men of God come and go, kingdoms rise and fall. But Babylonian worship covers the old world. Satan's Kingdom is firmly entrenched on the planet. And it is recognizable in any generation , not only by the items listed above, but by the following clear markings: (borrowed from Saggs, op.cit.)

- 1) Polytheism. 4000 gods are known by name! Ritualistic prayers are formulated to address many of them. (As prayers to "saints" in our day)
- 2) Animism/Pantheism. The deification of nature, the worship through inanimate objects (statues etc.)
- 3) Superstition. The invoking of certain formulas, amulets, names, to cast out demons. Even the suggestion that there are "good" demons, "good" witches, astrology, omens, etc.
- 4) Immorality /Amorality. The whims of the gods, not unchanging standards of righteousness, are the norm.
- 5) Slow methodic initiation to the mysteries. (As in catechism today).

The Bible difference is obvious to true believers: We serve, worship, and pray to *one God*, through His Son , Jesus Christ. No images are raised to Him. His unequal but real enemy is Lucifer, who has no power in our lives not granted to him. The unchanging words of Scripture guide us in every generation. And we can go from darkness to light in a moment's time by the process of regeneration.

Satan tries to do damage to the patient work of God unfolding during this time, fearing any sign that his temporal-spiritual power might be threatened. Esau's challenge to Jacob(Genesis 27), the mixing of the blood line leading to Messiah with a Moabite and a prostitute(Joshua 2:1, Matthew 1:5,Ruth 1-4)...none of these things stop the true Seed that God intends to bring into the world.

The flood of prophecies that surround King David incite some of Satan's most obvious efforts, as he tries to nail David to a wall through King Saul's spear. But God's workings, still relatively small by our thinking, go on. David is in fact promised an

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Ancestor Who will sit on his throne, and rule *all*. (I Samuel 18, 19; II Samuel 7:1-17)

Satan is still undaunted.

Babylonia's first phase comes to a low ebb around 900 B.C., and the ever-present Assyria, led by Shalmaneser, overcomes the city of Babylon in 858.

Now, though we follow a chronological one-after-the-other domination of the world by various powers, there is great overlapping both geographically and in time. Babylonia and Assyria cover much of the same territory, and their ancestries, as we have seen, both point to Nimrod (Genesis 10).

Not only that. Persia, Greece, and even Rome, who will in turn take the baton of paganism, can trace *their* histories well into this Babylonian/Assyrian epoch. With trade and travel, war, and other connections of ancient peoples, there is no mystery about why all of them come up with the same religious patterns.

Though the city of Babylon is removed from power around 900 B.C., Babylonian worship continues to control the known world. In Nineveh, the new capital, for example, the Sumerian Inanna is worshipped as *Ishtar*. She, according to Saggs, op. cit., p. 334,

"was worshipped in most periods and places, from at least protoliterate times in Erech [built by Nimrod] down to the century before the Christian era in Babylon."

Saggs quotes a Sumerian religious text which says,

"Ishtar is the lady of lands...she fixes destiny...the gods assemble before her...my lady pronounces the judgment of the land in their presence..."

He continues:

"As with Our Lady in the Catholic Church [he here rushes to explain that no suggestion is made that the parallel extends further. I hope to show later that it does indeed] Ishtar existed under many local manifestations, felt by worshippers to be in some way distinct, so that one finds Ishtar of Nineveh, Ishtar of Arbela, etc...She was highly honored outside her homeland amongst the Hurrians and the Hittites...sent as far afield as Egypt, for the benefit of the Pharaoh."

Saggs further indicates that she was both goddess of war and of sexual love, that is, the beginning and ending of life. She also revealed herself to man as the Morning Star and the Evening Star (the planet Venus).

In the light of the "manifestations" of the "queen of heaven" in our day, we must pause to consider seriously whether the ancient religionists just "made all this up" or whether there is indeed a demon spirit who continues to deceive. As the evidence against Babylon piles up, the answer to this question should become clearer.

While we speak of Ishtar, we must consider deeper this prominent feature of Babylonian ways. Today we call it the "cult of the virgin," and seem to feel it is an end-time phenomenon. Not so, says E.O. James in The Ancient Gods, p.77ff:

"although the hierarchy of higher gods who reigned in heavenly splendors in the celestial realms and sent down rain to nourish the earth...were

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conceived...as 'glorified non-natural men,' it was...the life-producing mother who was the dominant figure in ancient Near Eastern religion...(when) the function of the male...became more apparent and vital,...the mother-goddess then was assigned a spouse to play his role as the begetter...From India to the Mediterranean...she reigned supreme, often appearing as the unmarried goddess...When the birth cult was brought into relation with the season cycle and its vegetation ritual...the Earth-goddess was conceived as the generative power in nature as a whole...she assumed the form of a many-sided goddess, both mother and bride..."

Saggs gives us one of many prayers to "our lady" :

"O heroic one, Ishtar; the immaculate one of the goddesses, torch of heaven and earth, radiance of the continents, the goddess 'Lady of Heaven'...O Ishtar, you are (the supreme god) you rule the heavens...how good it is to pray to you, how blessed to be heard by you!...have pity on me, O Ishtar..."

**I think I've heard something like that before.And you?**

Marduk is now *Asshur*, as in the name *Assyria*. Marduk/Asshur is known as "the Lord" or "Bel", as in Isaiah 46:1. And his son is *Nabu*, mentioned also by Isaiah as *Nebo*.

Woodrow, op. cit., p. 21, mentions that it is perhaps in Nineveh that we first find the *rosary*, the ancient string of prayer beads used to this day by Babylonian religions around the world. On a sculpture of that ancient town, one can see 2 winged females each holding a rosary.

It is not surprising then to see such devices used by Mohammedans, Buddhists, Phoenicians, Brahmans, Vishnu worshippers, etc. And in the light of Babylonian emphasis on the virgin, it is likewise not a shock to hear that Catholic rosaries are constructed around a 10-to-1 ratio of prayer to Mary over against prayers to the Father God.

So, the Assyrian culture assimilates the new religion. Or does the old religion assimilate the new culture? Yes, in both cases. He that is joined to a harlot is one with her, says God and common knowledge. This joining of religion with culture ( today we call it "church and state" ) will be another defining thread of Babylon.

In years to come, "all things to all men" will be the slogan,syncretism the philosophy. Not as the later apostle to the Gentiles will live it, a humbling of his nature to bring persons to God, but an actual chameleon-like blending designed to hide one's true character and thus avoid detection and rejection.**A mind-set of "helping God" by making religion digestable, fashionable, popular.**

Here we must exit Nineveh, capital of Assyria, Satan's new seat. Nineveh becomes the "Babylon" of earth, and merits the same condemnation from God as Babylon receives. You will find a piece of those feelings in Nahum 3:1-7. Satan must move again, though he is never really far from Babel.

**SEVEN: BACK TO BABYLON.**

721 B.C.

The stunning defeat of Assyria's might by a mightier God is chronicled for us in Scripture(II Kings 18:9-19:37), but her victory *over* Israel is recorded also. The history

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of the ten tribes who gave in to Satan's worship is ended. (II Kings 18:9-12)

We can say that God ordered this "solution" to the "Jewish problem." Or we can say that Assyria was anti-Semitic. But in any case, this lust for Jewish blood will continue as a signal of false religion in the world. Christian blood will be added to the menu at a later date.

Let's stop a moment and listen to two of God's messengers in this time period, named Isaiah (early 700's B.C.) and Jeremiah (early 600's B.C.). God gives them some insights about Babylon's future that will be critical to our understanding of the subject. Turn to Isaiah 13...

As you can see, the context of this chapter on Babylon's demise is *the judgment of the last days*, still future even today! And Isaiah says that Babylon will *never be inhabited again following its final judgment!*

Now I must refer you to a work by Charles Dyer called The Rise of Babylon, in which he documents that, though Babylon, the ancient city, that is, fell onto hard times, *it never totally vanished, it never fulfilled Isaiah's words perfectly.* He tells the details, also, of the *current rise of the city of Babylon!*

Now examine Isaiah 14 with me...

Did you know that not all of the proverbs were written by Solomon? Here is one given by the Holy Spirit to the prophet Isaiah, regarding the "king of Babylon," in verses 4 through 27. If you read very closely, you will see that the terms "King of Babylon," "Lucifer," and "The Assyrian," seem to refer to the *same person.*

The king of Babylon is called the "ruler of the nations," he is condemned to hell. In the same breath Lucifer is said to be fallen from heaven after weakening the nations and exalting himself to Divinity! Apostles John and Paul would call him the antichrist! But then the two are seen as one, Satan and the king of Babylon being "the man who made the earth tremble."

Babylon's doom is foretold again, and then the term "Assyrian" is introduced, seeming to refer to the same person, the one who has "oppressed the whole earth." He too is condemned.

(For a further examination of this concept see Goodman's Assyrian Connection)

Then there is Isaiah 21...

What a fascinating prophecy is in this short chapter. One cannot help but see Revelation 17 and 18 in these words. In verse one, we are taken to a *wilderness* (Revelation 17:3) by the sea (Revelation 17:1), and in verse 9 we are informed that Babylon is fallen, is fallen.

Have you ever wondered why "is fallen" is repeated? Are there two destructions of "Babylon" coming?

Isaiah 47 tells of a *sudden* judgment "in one day," which Babylon has not yet received. And 48:20 warns those not involved in God's wrath to *flee*, as in Revelation 18:4.

Next, Jeremiah. Chapters 50-52 are given over to specific judgments of Babylon. Some may argue that portions of these prophecies are fulfilled. But there is no question that *other portions are not.*

Note 50:4,5. The context again seems to be the end times! 50:13 claims total and permanent desolation. This has not happened. 50:40 compares her judgment to that of Sodom and Gomorrah (think of it, *sudden, permanent*). Try to find Sodom and Gomorrah today! 50:41 says her judgment is to come about by many kings raised up from the ends

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of the earth!

51:7 is a vital verse for us, and I have alluded to it already. Babylon is here called a cup (as in Revelation 17:4) in the Lord's hand, being poured out to contaminate *the entire earth*, to make it senselessly drunk and *worthy* of the judgment that will come.

51:8 speaks again of a *sudden* falling of Babylon. 51:13 says Babylon is by many waters (as does the Holy Spirit in Revelation 17:1,5). 51:25 calls Babylon a "mountain" (kingdom) that destroys the earth, but that is doomed to such failure that not one stone will be used to build other cities. In fact, the fallen rocks of old Babylon *have been used extensively* in other building projects. God cannot lie. This prophecy has not been fulfilled!

51:64 says plainly that Babylon will sink and not rise. Not only is old Babylon coming back to life in this very day (more later on this), but God repeats *this very promise* in Revelation 18:21.

**This mystery called Babylon may be more than you have ever realized.**

### 586 B.C.

Babylonia, soon to be revived as "neo-Babylonia," is likewise decidedly against the descendants of Abraham, and captures what Assyria leaves (Judah). (II Kings 24-25)

The reader of Scripture is faced regularly with what *seems* to be this contradiction of Divine v. human workings. Pharaoh is putty in the hands of God, then hardened by Him, then punished for doing the very thing God wants Him to do. So with Babylonian and Assyrian rulers and their descendants to this present day. Though one may be "used of God" to fulfil some destiny God has put in his hands, let him know that to touch Israel -or the church - is *still* to touch the apple of God's eye (Zechariah 2:8) ; to be against Israel is to invite certain destruction upon oneself and one's nation. (Genesis 12:3)

**May our hearts never be hardened enough to come against that which God loves.**

The switch from Babylonia to Assyria to Babylonia again is all taken in stride by the harlot religion, who is equally satisfied to ride one or the other to power. Harlots cannot complain if the bills are being paid. And in Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon, next headquarters for the "mysteries," there is plenty of money and the resultant power that Satan needs to broadcast his political and religious views.

Babylon's surroundings are considered to be among the greatest wonders the world has ever known. Built not far from the original site of Eden, Satan uses this city to counterfeit God's might with a tower, and God's Throne Room with the great Temple of Marduk, a.k.a. Bel.

Nebuchadnezzar himself: one of the greatest rulers of all history, abounding in genius, and a man saturated with the mysteries, to the point of even being open to the voice of Daniel's God.

An insight into the religiosity of the age is given to us by the author of A History of the Ancient World:

"the assertion of a contemporary tablet is that 'there are altogether 53 temples of the great gods, 55 shrines for celestial divinities, 180 altars to the goddess Ishtar, 180 to the gods Nergal and Addad, and 12 other altars to various deities.' "

After Nebuchadnezzar, Nabonidus disagrees with the Marduk priesthood and builds

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a temple to the moon god, Sin. In 450 B.C., the Greek writer Herodotus visits Babylon , after its Persian take-over. He makes reference to Bel, the Babylonian Zeus, and that the Royal Palace had been built in antiquity by Semiramis.

The temple of Marduk which he witnesses is described as having *12 gates, the principal one being at the eastern wall*. Notice how closely Satan parallels information found in Ezekiel 41 ff and Revelation 21, both of which describe God's *true temple*.

But in spite of it all, Satan's plan goes into ruins as Babylon sinks farther and farther into the abyss of history, falling to Persia, to Greece, and worst of all, to time.

Let me trace the final days of Babylon before we go back and pick up the chronological thread.(Following the research of James MacQueen in his Babylon)

Alexander the Great has plans to rebuild Babylon, and to equate himself with its greatness, even as modern men have tried to re-create the Roman greatness.

Syrian kings rule the city by 300 B.C. Wrecked by wars, Babylon must be rebuilt 40 miles to the north by Seleucus. In 275, Antiochus I, successor and son of Seleucus, continues building Marduk's temple on the original site. Interestingly enough, he chooses to refer to himself as the "King of Babylon."

Though the city is desolate except for the temple, the loyal priests of Marduk continue their devotion, while other later rulers likewise retain the title.

Timarchus of Miletus(B.C. 164), Antiochus VII(B.C. 130), Hyspaursines(B.C. 127), and Himerus(122), whose Parthian countrymen once more destroy the city, all are "King of Babylon."

Quoting Dyer, op.cit., pp.126-127:

"...large sections of Babylon were no longer inhabited. Babylon still existed, but the city was only a shell of its former glory. Josephus provides an interesting piece of information about Babylon in the century before Christ. In 40 B.C., the Parthians extended their empire west to Syria and joined forces with elements in Judah who were trying to remove from power Hyrcanus, the pro-Roman Jewish high priest. Hyrcanus was captured, mutilated, and deported to Parthia. Josephus records that the king of Parthia later treated Hyrcanus kindly and 'set him free from his bonds, and gave him a habitation at Babylon, where there were Jews in great numbers.'"

Yes, there was a Babylon even in the Christian era, and a Marduk Temple. Finally, by the second century, the city is in ruins. Again, Dyer, p. 128:

"...when Trajan visited Babylon in A.D. 116 he saw nothing but 'mounds and stones and ruins.' But Pausanius wrote that the temple of Bel (Marduk) and the walls were still standing, though most of the city was abandoned...One traveler who visited Babylon during the Middle Ages was a Jew known as Benjamin of Tudela. He journeyed through the region in the twelfth century and then wrote an account of his travels. Benjamin made two important observations: first, he reported that ten thousand Jews lived in the village of Al Hillah six miles from Babylon; second, he noted that the Jews had an active 'Synagogue of Daniel' in Babylon one mile from the ruins of Nebuchadnezzar's temple, probably the temple of Marduk."

As old Babylon retreats, awaiting its judgment, a modern counterpart rises and

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plants itself on seven hills in Italy. For 2000 years men of discernment will see Babylon only in her. But I ask such readers to step back to the days of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Zechariah, there to see the whole picture which the Bible unfolds. We will continue this discussion when dealing with John's prophecies.

Have you noticed through all of this that Satan cares not one whit that people believe in "God," as long as those people are not so *narrow* as to say that He is the *only* God, or that this God has a Son named Jesus, and that *only* through the blood of this Son can be found salvation. But "believe in God"? Go for it! **Satan hates atheism as much as Christians do!** He desires the praises of earth's people *himself*, and wants to be the god of this world. If the world becomes atheistic, it won't believe in Satan.

**That puts the fall of communism in a different light. As thankful as we might be for it, the new stress on freedom of religion gives Satan an open door too.**

### ***EIGHT: DANIEL AND BABYLON*** **600 B.C.**

In captivity, the Jews continue to manifest a presence. Daniel in particular is a thorn in the side of Babylon, and Satan takes special measures to rid the earth of him, all of which are unsuccessful.

(For those who have not done so, a quick reading of Daniel's 12 chapters would be in order now.)

An analysis of some of the prophecies of Daniel is critical to our understanding of what is to come; what, indeed, is still future in the 1990's.

In chapter two, Daniel is asked to interpret a vision given to Mystery-minded Nebuchadnezzar. The emperor has seen a huge statue in the form of a human being, with body parts of various substances.

The head is of gold. The interpretation given is that Nebuchadnezzar is that head, and we can add that the entire Babylonian kingdom is included.

As the glance of the eye passes downward on the body, so the glance of history will pass Nebuchadnezzar and focus on another era, called in the statue the arms and chest. This is to be a 2-part kingdom, which we, looking back, easily identify as the great Medo-Persian Empire.

The body comes back together. Headship of the next kingdom is singular. Greece fills this space in the story of man.

Then comes the fourth kingdom, attached to a fifth, ushering in a sixth.

The fourth realm parallels the human body in that it is the longest portion of history, and in that it divides into two parts. Then it divides into ten portions. And in the days of these ten (kings), the Kingdom of *God* is established.

I wish that at this moment I had a way to come off the printed page and shake my reader, in case there is even the slightest inattention. Please hear what the Holy Spirit is saying through Daniel:

Following the reign of Greece will come the reign of another Kingdom, a stronger one, eventually dividing into two parts. Without question this is Rome, later the eastern and western Empires.

Much has been made of the "ten kings" of these latter days. Bible scholars abound who will tell you that these ten kings are the antichrist government, ruling the world, most would say, from Rome. Now the idea is even being presented that the ten kings correspond to ten world divisions. It is reported that before the flood, the world was

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indeed divided in this manner, and that Satan is waiting to reconstruct that one-world configuration. Even so, Rome is a likely candidate for world headquarters, many will agree.

Others are now saying, with some insight I believe, that ancient Rome had an eastern and western division (leg) and that therefore we should see a resurgence of both parts, not just Europe.

Regardless, the beginning of the "legs" of Daniel's statue, and the end -the ten toes - are largely assumed to have something to do with Rome. But there is an eerie silence about the area on the statue from roughly the knee to the foot.

On all human bodies that I have seen, the legs are connected and fleshed out all the way down. There is no stopping and starting to my leg, no interruption. My leg reaches the floor! And there was no "gap" between Babylon and Assyria, or between Greece and Rome. The only Biblical "gaps" are those in God's dealings with Israel. (Explained elsewhere)

So, the final kingdom seen by Daniel is uninterrupted, and reaches the floor of human history. **It begins at the end of the Grecian period and continues until the final world government is about to bring God's judgment on the planet.**

But you say, how can this be if there is no "world government" ruling from Rome now?

It is one of the purposes of this book to suggest that such a government *does indeed exist*, and has never stopped existing, in the city of Rome. **I contend, with Daniel, that from Nebuchadnezzar until the present time only FOUR (4) kingdoms rule:**

- (1) Babylonia
- (2) Medo-Persia
- (3) Greece
- (4) Rome

Think about it. In the years before Christ, one Kingdom after another ruled the planet. Since Christ and Rome, though there have been many attempts (Napoleon, Hitler, Communism, to name three), none have been successful. The harlot keeps trying to mount a beast, but either she slips off, or the beast falls down. A pitiful sight, actually, as she seems bound to this lame horse called Rome. But soon, we believe, her wounded animal will be healed, and on him she shall ride to great power, if only for a short time. While we wait for that horrid sight to appear, **it is still important to remember that, though Rome, like old Babylon, declined and even fell, she never died.**

I am far ahead of myself. Let's go back to about 600 B.C., during the days of Nebuchadnezzar, and continue listening to the words of Daniel.

In Daniel's 7th chapter, the prophet has his own dream, a confirmation of the King's vision, but in a different form. In this dream there are four *animals* instead of four body sections. As in the statue, the animals correspond to the coming kingdoms.

The fourth kingdom is described again in the harshest of terms. And now, instead of ten *toes* we see ten *horns*, a description that exactly corresponds to a creature in the Book of Revelation, seen by the Apostle John 700 years later!

It is during the reign of the final ten kings (horns), an outgrowth of Rome in the last days, that a "little horn" is noted. Notice that this horn is in the midst of the other horns. Its profile is given here and in chapters 8 and 11.

In the chapter 8 vision, Daniel sees a ram, identified as Medo-Persia, then a male goat, Greece. The breaking up of this Grecian (Alexandrian) Kingdom into four parts is

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predicted in verse 8.

It is here that the prophet gives us a simple way to identify the origin of the final world ruler. He says that out of one of the four horns, or divisions, of Alexander's kingdom, comes a little horn - there he is again - confirmed in following verses to be none other than antichrist.

Grabbing a history book with accompanying map, we see that the prophet has narrowed antichrist's origin down to four locations:

- (1) the Grecian peninsula
- (2) Egypt (which then included Palestine)
- (3) Asia Minor (Turkey)
- (4) the general vicinity of Iran/Iraq

Daniel does not point us to Russia, China, Western Europe, the United States. Somewhere close to the Middle East lives, probably even now, the coming man of sin.

All of this meshes with our present study in that this world ruler will eventually have it in his heart to destroy "Babylon." Thus, though Babylon has always ridden the back of the political leaders of the world, she is still separately identifiable and will suffer a separate judgment, just before the time of the end. (Revelation 17-18)

When we get a little farther in the history of the world, we will discuss appropriate sections of John's Revelation.

A final word about Daniel. He reminds us that there can indeed be people of God in the midst of Babylonian peoples and ways. We must be extremely careful never to include all those "inside Babylon" under the curse of God. **After all, if God's people aren't in there, to whom is He calling when He says, "Come out of her, my people." ?**

### **539 B.C.**

Babylon has fallen again, this time to Medo-Persia.

Before we discuss two great civilizations that imbibe Babylon's wine, let's visit contemporary prophet Zechariah (530's B.C.) for an astonishing look at a future Babylon:

Zechariah 5: 5-11 relates the vision of a measuring container covered by a lead disc. A woman sitting on the inside is described as *wickedness*. (As a woman is portrayed in Revelation 17:3-5). Two other women carry this evil to *Babylonia* where a house is to be built for it, at the proper time!

So the Holy Spirit is speaking the same message to Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Zechariah, and John! There *is* a Babylon in the earth, there *has been* for a long time, *there will be almost until the end*. But God has not forgotten His promise to judge her *swiftly and permanently*.

### ***NINE: TO MEDO-PERSIA and GREECE***

Some of the Babylonian system changes, some of it stays the same, in the kingdom of Medo-Persia. One thing that certainly continues is a hatred of Jews. The Bible's book of Esther tells the story of an early Nazi named Haman who thinks he has the answer, the *final solution*...

God protects his people, and takes care of Haman, too.

We shall not stay here long, but long enough to point out familiar features of Babylonianism. First there is the ever-present syncretism.

Not wanting to offend, only to rule in peace, the Persian King visits Egypt, succeeds

## BABYLON IN BIBLE DAYS/21

the Pharaoh, and becomes a god on earth, just like all the *Pharaohs* do.

But in Babylon, the Persian King (Cyrus) declares himself to be Marduk's choice. He claims that Marduk has searched everywhere for a *righteous ruler*, and finally found such in himself, Cyrus.

Though successor Darius becomes a Zoroastrian, ruling by the grace of his *Ahura Mazda*, and believes his god is the *only way*, the people under him continue to be divided, and polytheism flourishes.

As we shall point out later, there is some historical evidence that the historic Chaldean religion that traces back to Nimrod is now asked to leave the area altogether and winds up in Pergamum.

The god Mithra, a later Roman favorite, seems to have his beginning in the Persian period.

Where you find polytheism, syncretism, anti-Semitism, you are at or near Satan's throne. **And when one who can be traced back to Babel is in charge, well, it's time to flee.**

### c. 330 B.C.

Rising side by side with Persia is Greece. Her entrance to the unfolding drama brings more of the same themes.

Greece, like the others, enforces no creed in its religion, supports a multitude of gods and -especially-goddesses.

To the Minoans, principal players in early Greek civilization, the earth is a woman, says Rose in his Religion in Greece and Rome. Vegetation is her offspring, and earth-mother is married to sky-father, Zeus.

In the excavations of the earliest civilization of Greece, one will find frequent mother/child representations, but few such artifacts of a father figure. Father, truly Babylonian, is remote and unapproachable. Access through a female is the quickest way to the blessings of heaven.

Zeus, further, is a year-god who is born, dies, and is "born again" on a regular cycle (reminding one of the current ecclesiastical calendars!) Thus he is the *child* of the earth-mother! She thus becomes the "mother of god."

Hera (meaning *lady*) is the first such goddess in Greece, followed by Artemis (Roman Diana), Athena, and Aphrodite. They all seem to share characteristics with the original, Semiramis.

Apollo, son of Zeus, another hunter-shepherd-protector personage later becomes the personification of the Sun. (All of this patterned after Nimrod.)

Of course, every sun must have a moon, and soon Artemis/Diana fills that role (previously filled by Semiramis/Ishtar).

If this is all beginning to sound familiar, I'm proving my point. The point is that Satan continues to create a system of worship to which can be added or subtracted various elements, to blend with whatever culture demands. What he knows God will do, and has already done, is his general theme, but his own innovations are obvious too, when comparing God's written revelation to Satan's religious traditions.

**Thus Satanic religion - hear well - in every culture and age is forever a mixture of what is perfectly true and what is absolutely demonic.** Hislop's summary is excellent:

"the idolatry of the whole earth is one...the great gods of every country...are called by Babylonian names...all the paganisms of the human race are only a wicked and deliberate, but yet most instructive corruption of the primeval

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gospel first preached in Eden, and through Noah afterwards conveyed to all mankind...a system first concocted in Babylon, and thence conveyed to the ends of the earth, modified, and diluted in different ages and countries..."(p. 224)

and:

"All who have paid the least attention to the literature of Greece, Phoenicia, or Rome, are aware of the place which the 'Mysteries' occupied in these countries...in all essential respects these mysteries in the different countries were the same." (p. 12)

Of course, the Babylonian religion is not limited to the "great" world powers. Other lesser lights imbibe what the mother of harlots births. But our concern in this study is to follow the "headquarters" of Satan, the very seat of his authority politically and spiritually. And our travels now take us naturally to the "Eternal City" itself.

### ***TEN: PAGAN ROME***

We have danced through nearly 4000 years of history in a startlingly short time. Most moderns agree that the things I have portrayed so far are a true picture of the events that took place, the philosophies that prevailed, the religion that dominated. No need to overwork something so obvious. As the subject of Rome is now introduced, I trust we will be able to be as honest with the facts. For Rome brings us eventually into our own day...

There was a Roman civilization from the 1600's B.C., not far from the time of Abraham. Old Babylon dominated its history from its inception until Babylon's demise. But before the seeming abandonment of the old, Satan arranges for its temporary replacement, a new Babylon that will, like its predecessor, suck in all the varied forms of deception propagated for nearly 3000 years by the great Liar himself, and claim them as her own. Thus the new backdrop for all civilization settles in on the seven hills by the Tiber. None other has risen since.

From the beginning of Rome, the races there are deeply and inextricably mixed. Even in its peopling, a preview of mixtures.

By the end of the seventh century B.C., Romans are maintaining contact with Assyrians, Greeks, and many others. And long before Romulus, on Capitoline Hill, Virgil's Aeneas speaks of the ruins of Saturnia and Janicules, settlements given over to the Chaldean worship. Later this form of worship is forbidden, but Etruscans, committed to it, settle and establish themselves and their gods, their "college of pontiffs," etc.

I follow Hislop (op. cit., 239 ff) in these comments. He states that the Chaldean religionists are expelled by the Medo-Persians, and sail to Pergamum, a kingdom in Asia Minor (now Turkey). The religion they bring is quite acceptable to the residents of this land. Phrygians who live there have long worshipped Cybele, and the nearby Mysians are said to have been descended from none other than Nimrod. Livy and Herodotus state that the Etrurians (Etruscans), Roman settlers, come from Lydia, yet another province of the Kingdom of Pergamum. Hislop documents these facts.

So whether Satan's Kingdom goes directly from Persia to Greece to Rome, or whether it makes a short stop in Asia Minor (Thus Jesus' comment to the church at Pergamos in Revelation 2:13 about "Satan's Throne"), the end result is the same: the "Mysteries" are passed down to what will be the center of the world until the end times.

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Roman mythology is thus fed from the beginning with a huge variety of possibilities. The most well-known of the early Roman myths, perhaps is that of the Nimrod-Orion-Apollo figure known as *Romulus*, who gives his name to the city. Like the one he descends from, he is a city founder, a warrior, a protector. Also like him, he is deified at his death. According to Rose (op. cit.) and many others, the story goes that Mars, his god father, comes to earth looking for his boy. His boy, Romulus, then disappears with him into the heavens.

Later, Virgil will conclude that Romulus (like Nimrod) stands at the head of the gods of the Roman state.

Kronos is also a major factor in Roman mythology. Hislop mentions that Kronos is King of the Cyclops, who were "masters of tower building." (pp 31-32) Kronos is also known as the "horned one." This acclaim he inherits from an Assyrian story, in which a god attacks a bull, sets the horn of the bull on his own head as a trophy, thus symbolizing how powerful he is. Here Kronos not only identifies with Nimrod et. al., but with those Scriptural creatures who are said to be horned. (Especially in the prophecies of Daniel.)

The Romans adopt much of Greek thought, but also add old, half-savage practices which come down from peasant ancestors. As the peoples before them, they conclude that all objects have spirit (pantheism, animism) and that there is a power beyond the natural, called by them "numen." By performing the proper rites, men can have "numen," too.

Enter "works" theology yet again!

A long list of gods which have specific powers (numens) is kept by the Romans, to refer to as needs arise. You will find such lists available to the modern "church", a list of "saints" for every occasion.

Festivals abound in old Rome, as that for Vesta, goddess of the home fire. Her personal flame in Rome is tended by virgins, chosen when little girls, of patrician (noble) origins, to serve for thirty years, unmarried. This of course paves the way for the enforced virginity in the system today.

Other gods: The Greek Zeus, god of the sky, has now become Juppiter. Two female partners include Juno, his wife (you will perhaps remember her as Hera), and Minerva his daughter (called Athena in Greece).

Now, this Juno is also "Mater Regina" (mother and queen), and, yes, she is associated with the moon. Her name originates as D'lune, *the dove*. She is the same one who, according to Hislop (p.78), is worshipped by the Babylonians under the form of a dove. You can perhaps understand the (blasphemous) suggestion of early "Christians" that perhaps Mary is equivalent to the Holy Ghost. (More on this later.)

Saturnus, another Nimrod-type, gives his name to the early settlement, and later to the winter feast beginning around the third week of December, *Saturnalia*. The climax of the feast was the 25th, on or near the winter solstice, the "birthday" of the gods. The entire season was one of jollity, called "the best of all days," a time when happy men exchanged gifts with one another. Later all this was blended with New Year's festivals, and in the North, with a season called "Yule."

Aphrodite in Rome becomes Venus, and is recognized by those in authority as the ancestress of the house which gave Rome its earliest emperors. From Augustus on, she is quite important.

Apollo transfers over to Rome without bothering to change his name, and becomes, as mentioned before, recognized as the sun god. The corresponding moon is now Diana.

Bible readers remember "Diana of the Ephesians" (Acts 19:34), but perhaps do not know that both she and Cybele, another famous Roman goddess, are represented in art works with a crown representing a tower, bringing us back once more in our thinking to

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the original builder of such a tower, one Semiaramis, and her famous husband Nimrod.

We must not leave out Janus, the "opener and shutter", the god of all gods, known as the "door of heaven" who has the "power of turning the hinges" (cardinis). And the hinges, the "cardinals" are turned quite often by this great one.

Then there is Bacchus, whose priests take the circular "tonsure" (haircut), later copied by Roman churchmen, but all along forbidden by Scripture (Leviticus 21:5).

The confusion does not end here. Incorporated into this mixture by the time of Christ is the Greek form of Egyptian worship involving Isis and Horus (famous mother/son combo), the worship of *Mithra*, sun god whose birth date is fixed at December 25, and who is adored as a young god by shepherds, *and much more...*

These later additions are oriental religions, and added these points to the Babylonian system already in place:

- 1) god is basically friendly to man
- 2) god suffers
- 3) god dies and rises again
- 4) initiation is a long process
- 5) personal salvation and happiness after death
- 6) astral connections, especially with sun

Incorporated into "New Babylon" is another elaborate system of priests. One class in particular needs to be mentioned, namely, the *pontifices*, or "bridge-builders." The term sounds harmless enough at first, but at least one scholar suggests that the reason priests were necessary in the bridge-building process was to appease the gods of the river, over whom people dared to walk (on the newly-constructed bridge.)

Sometimes building a bridge is not pleasing to the one true God either. Later *pontiffs*, even those in our day, construct pathways to creeds that invite demon spirits into the "church." The college of pontiffs becomes the head of the Roman clergy, the chief one being the Pontifex Maximus, a title claimed by Emperor *and* Pope in years to come.

We cannot deny that the title is rightfully theirs, described as above.

Hislop notes that one whose name/title sounds like *Peter* in the original Chaldee occupies at one time the highest place in the Pagan priesthood of Rome. He, and Bryant, in his Mythology, explain that the term means "interpreter". His job is to explain mysteries to the initiated.

Yet another similarity to present-day Babylon is the system of "brothers" who handle various ceremonies, to make sure sacrifices are done properly.

It should be pointed out that the original Roman religion, left to itself, was not an *exalted* thing. In early Rome, priests were merely advisors. It seems, however, that the Etruscans, and through them the Chaldeans, the original Babylonians, leave quite an impact. Due to their influence the magistrates, all of whom have priestly functions, now must have a particular dress and insignia. The temple must have a particular style and orientation. Cult-statues and specific methods of divination are now proscribed in worship. In later Rome, the Emperor himself is worshipped, at first voluntarily, then, as is the normal progression of things, by law.

Even so, the Roman state tries to persecute no one's belief unless it is a secret society deemed dangerous to the people. Early Christians are somehow described in this way.

## ***BABYLON IN BIBLE DAYS/25***

These practices and beliefs, their outworkings in one religious system after another, are far from coincidental. The plan has been at work now for thousands of years. Century upon century the world has been accustomed to seeing the "mysteries" unfold before them. Little by little, the world religion belonging to Satan and his host of followers is set in place.

### ***ELEVEN: THE TRUE SEED OF WOMAN APPEARS***

#### **4 "B.C."?**

The central event of history is the surprise move of the Father of sending His dearly beloved Son into this pagan setting. Born in a stable, His first bed a feeding trough, He begins a revolution that still baffles citizens of Babylon. (Luke 1-3)

His birth is not officially dated. We still say it is "around" 2000 years ago. That's close enough.

Not so for Babylon, for whom dates and places and outward forms are *most* important. When the Babylonian system is later "baptized" and admitted into the church, it is decided that a feast honoring God's Son would be very nice next to the feast honoring the son of Semiramis (Saturn). A special "mass" will be said, and the "Christ-mass" is born. In subsequent years pagan rituals such as gift-giving and tree-decorating are added, until today the holiday, as everything originating from Babylon, is clothed in utter confusion. But let no one speak against it...

The Catholic Encyclopedia freely admits,

"Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Church. Irenaeus and Tertullian omit it from their list of feasts."

As we indicated earlier, the December 25 date is purely of pagan origin. Again the Catholic Encyclopedia:

" The well-known solar feast of Natalis Invicti [birth of the Unconquered Sun] celebrated on 25 December, has a strong claim on the responsibility for our December date."

The growth and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth are faithfully recorded by witnesses that I cannot top. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, from their various vantage points, and under the leadership of the promised Holy Spirit, tell the story. His teaching we will discuss later. His death and resurrection, witnessed by hundreds, are the most established facts of history.

Here I only wish us to see the simple fact of the man Jesus, and what His presence in the world at this time means to Satan. Could it be that with the fierceness of Rome, and the powerfully deceptive Roman-Babylonian Mysteries, Satan thinks he finally has things wrapped up? What a challenge to his plan!

Satan's immediate response is to get Jesus off the scene. Herod's slaughter of the innocent children of Bethlehem, while Jesus is safe in pagan Egypt (from which God calls His Son, and all of us, Hosea 11:1). Temptation. Death on a Roman cross. (Matthew 2, 4, 27)

Satan's pitiful "victory", Calvary, foretold since the Garden, is now the cause of our rejoicing, and will be eventually the reason for his everlasting downfall and destruction.

How much Satan understands of all of this, and of that which he understands, how

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much he believes, is not revealed to us. One thing is sure: he continues to work as though there is no judgment, no fear of God, absolutely nothing to worry about.

### ***TWELVE: BABYLON REVERSED***

#### **A.D. 30?**

To the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Through this mighty baptism, the church of the Lord Jesus Christ is established in Jerusalem, and the foundational teachings of the apostles are spoken, then written for our benefit. (Acts 2)

A word about that early church. It is not Roman. It is Jewish. There are no priests. There are shepherds (plural) known as pastors, elders, or bishops. There is no mass. There are assemblies of believers. There is no Pope. Christ is the head of His church. So, could a Roman priest saying a mass under the proscribed authority of a Roman Pope be suddenly brought back in time to the church of Jerusalem, what strange feelings he would arouse. What strange feelings he yet arouses among those who personally know their God, and God's Word.

While Satan's masterpiece, his grand delusion and confusion is parading in every known country, the *real thing* is awakening. Soon this fire will spread and capture hearts.

Persecution ensues, and for 300 years the church is in great pain, but persistently also in great growth until it, too, has permeated much of the known world.

Satan, not content merely to force his falseness on the world outside the church, begins the sowing of lies within. Even in the fabled first century, heresy begins. A quick reading of the New Testament, especially the epistles, reveals the beginnings of the deadly cancer. In fact, much of the New Testament was *written* to combat error.

But then, as now, there is a pure church that keeps its eyes open, focused on Jesus. Hell, whether an offensive force or a defense against the church's advance, will *not* prevail against God's elect. The victory is certain, but amazingly so in the light of what we now know of the tactics that have been used against us.

### ***THIRTEEN: THE GOSPELS***

Let's pause here in the first century A.D. to consider some of the relevant foundational teachings handed down by the leaders of that day, called apostles, *ones sent* into their world to call out a people for God. I suggest that the mission of that early church is our mission today. As Christians it is our job to permeate our society with the Life we have to offer. And it is our job to *call out* a people for God.

May this book call out to those still enslaved in Satan's domain.

One of the apostles of Jesus, Matthew, has an important revelation in the seventh chapter of his book: (verse 15)

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits."

Jesus knew that his day was not the end of the prophets. Many more would come, mostly false. He tells us here how to judge what they say.

Matthew's account of Jesus' "seed and weed" story (13:24-30) lets us know that the church and something looking very much like it are to grow together, side by side. We

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should be challenged here to pray for discernment.

Another important word from the Holy Spirit through Matthew is the famous interaction between Jesus and Peter found in the sixteenth chapter.

A Greek scholar I am not. But I will not have trouble explaining the difference between two Greek words: *petros* means "a stone"; *petra*, "a massive rock." Both words are used in this verse. Jesus says to Peter, "You are *petros*, and on this *petra* I will build my church."

Yes, Greek words have various endings. I remember being tormented in Bible college, having to learn them. I have long forgotten them all, but my dust-covered text reminds me that *petros* and *petra* are NOT two forms of the same word. They are two different words!

So what was Jesus saying, following Peter's declaration of Jesus' Messiahship, Jesus' Sonship, and Jesus' divinity? Simply this:

"Peter, you are a little stone, and on the Rock from which you were hewn, those very facts that just came out of your mouth, I will build my church."

Here is what Jesus did NOT say, either by the Greek text or in any plausible English rendering:

"You are Peter, and on YOU I will build my church."

Granted, the Greek is close. But it is in these *close* calls that Satan specializes, and through them he deceives the nations. Had Satan said to the world, "Worship Satan, the enemy of God and all that is called God," he might not have had many takers. His reliance is on deceit.

Peter well knew what Jesus was saying. No trace of "lording it over" God's people in this man, and he forbids it in his followers. (see 1 Peter 5:3)

Bible students will remember Peter's response to a worshiping Cornelius, suddenly the subject of visions and other strange events in his life. Peter says firmly to him:

"Stand up! I am also a man!" (Acts 10:26)

The so-called "successors of Peter" will allow the worship to continue, yea, and to be greatly embellished, proving of course that they are not *Peter's* successors at all. (The truth of course is that *no physical successors were ever promised!*)

Continuing with Matthew, in chapter 23, Jesus requests that His followers call no man "father", well knowing that the fourth commandment of Moses calls upon God's people to honor our fathers. We recognize that Jesus here is speaking of spiritual fatherhood.

But in Babylon's system, all priests are "father", and the priest of all priests is called "Pope", or "Papa", or...Father. To conclude the blasphemy, the term "Holy" is usually appended. The phrase that Jesus used exclusively of His Father in Heaven is thus given to a man. (John 17:11)

It should be noted that even Jesus never referred to Himself as "Father", though He is coequal with Him. (Isaiah 9:6)

Moving on to Luke, a close associate of the apostle Paul, we read in the early portions of his Gospel, and of Matthew's, the simple account of a young Jewish girl named Mary. You will find traces of her story also in John 2, John 19, Acts 1, and Matthew 14. Here are the seven pictures thus portrayed of her:

- 1) at the birth of Jesus. She is impregnated by the Holy Ghost while yet a virgin. She is submissive to God, and thus an example for us all. She exalts, though, in her "Saviour", which she needs as much as anyone, for "all have

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sinned and come short of the glory of God," says Paul in Romans 3:23.

2) when Jesus is 12. A somewhat frustrated, definitely not all-knowing young mother, to whom Jesus submitted, though His Father's business was top priority.

3) at the wedding of Cana. An untimely request which Jesus was gracious enough to honor shows again a nature in need of fine tuning, like our own. Here are spoken the words last recorded of Mary: "**Whatever He says to you, do it.**"

4) on the outside of the crowd. Wanting an audience with her Son, she is, for all time, put on an equality with *all believers*.

5) at Jesus' death. She is told that John will care for her now, and she for him. No hidden message here.

6) at the resurrection. Definitely "upstaged" in the narrative of the Gospel writers by *another Mary*, the one who received His great forgiveness and loved Him so dearly, the Magdalene.

7) at Pentecost. One of many filled with the Holy Ghost.

One picture the Bible does not paint of Mary is a woman clothed with the sun and surrounded by a crown of stars. A careful reading of Revelation 12 reveals that *this* woman is none other than *Israel*, as seen by Joseph (Genesis 37:9).

My friends, this is the Bible's picture of Mary! All else you may have heard comes from the traditions of man, as found especially in the heart of Babylonian worship!

We will talk more of this at later times in this story.

In chapter 8 of Luke, as we continue our trek through the New Testament, we see one of the saddest accounts ever recorded. Here Jesus is requested to leave an area because some exorcized demons have ruined the means of gain of a group of pig farmers. The striking thing to one who has seen Jesus represented as a power-monger through the centuries, is that He simply walks away! No attempt to force His will on the unwilling and unwanted.

This same spirit of meekness is recorded in chapter 9, where He must rebuke His zealous disciples, fresh from the mount of transfiguration and imbued with visions of power. They desire to use their new-found authority to crush opposition to Jesus. Jesus says to them, "The Son of man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them."

In "Babylon" it is not like this, as later sections of this book will painfully portray.

What Jesus taught, He lived. What He lived, He desires His followers to live. We see Him in John, chapter 13, literally taking upon Himself the form of a servant, washing the feet of His followers. Thus He sets the pattern for all future leaders in the church. (Yes, the phrase must be "in the church," not "of the church." **There is one leader of the church.**)

### ***FOURTEEN: THE ACTS and the EPISTLES***

Luke also gives to us the book known as "Acts," the actions of the apostles and early Christians. Paul emerges in that book as a leader equal to Peter in authority, yet with a totally different ministry.

A quick aside: With Paul we have a definite record of a visit to and stay in Rome. (Acts 28) For Peter we have tradition, some of it not too reliable, *and* I Peter 5:13, where Peter greets his readers from "Babylon." If indeed Babylon is Rome, as the early Christians knew, we must concede that Peter was there at one time. We must not concede

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the traditions of men regarding his stay there, however.

If however Babylon is *Babylon*, a place, as mentioned above, then inhabited by many Jews, it would not be a thing unimaginable that Peter, apostle to the Jews, was writing from there!

We do know that Peter's main ministry was to the Jews, after he used his other "key" to open the door of the Gospel to the Gentiles. After that, the apostle to the Gentiles is unquestionably Paul. It is only natural that Paul end his life in the Gentile capital.

Before the end of his life, Paul sends us some insights helpful in a study of Babylon:

II Corinthians 6:14-18: "Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? ...You are the temple of the living God...therefore come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord...I will be a Father to you."

While this passage may have a broad application, it is amazingly the same word given to John, years later, when speaking specifically of coming out of *Babylon*. And both Paul and John are echoing Isaiah. (Isaiah 48:20 and 52:11)

In chapter 3 of I Corinthians, Paul confirms that the only foundation for the church is Jesus Christ. We *all* become workers on the building, or little stones added to the building. But the *foundation* is already laid.

Galatians is a classic treatise on the subject of grace and freedom in Christ. Though it was written specifically to combat Judaizing tendencies, it is a warning that the purity of the Gospel can soon be lost in the wake of false teaching:

"I marvel that you are so soon removed from him that called you...there are some who trouble you...if any man preach any other gospel, let him be accursed...O foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you?...You observe days, months, times, and years...I am afraid for you, that I have bestowed upon you labor in vain."

Away then with the myth of a 300-year period of church purity. The church very early had tares sown in its midst. Not always was there a Paul or a Peter to combat the growth of these weeds. Slowly but very surely the Pentecostal power and light was suffocated, and replaced by the teachings of men. Spiritual gifts did not wane because God decided to replace them with a spiritual Book, but because men were not seeking God with their whole hearts. The same is true today...

**But God always has a remnant. To them the call continues,  
*Come out, come out, be separate!***

In Ephesians, Paul tells us (chapter 5) of the varied forms of ministry in the church. The apostles who gave us the Scriptures are included in that ministry. Their word is as binding today as it was then. Let no modern "apostle" come against the apostolic foundations already laid.

In II Thessalonians 2:3 is the prediction of the "great apostasy." In 2:7, the statement that the "mystery of iniquity" was *already* working in the church! This was not long after Pentecost. And not long after the flood-time revelations directly from Heaven, the Chaldean priests began their rituals. How soon we forget!

In Timothy are further warnings about later years. The Spirit is so specific and

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urgent about these things, perhaps because the time for their beginning was near to *Paul's* time, not the *very* last days. The Spirit says in I Timothy 4:1-5:

"...some will depart from the faith...forbidding to marry...commanding to abstain from foods..." etc.

And some in these days will have a "form of godliness," but deny the power of godliness. (II Timothy 3:5)

These warnings should bring 20th-century images to our minds.

### **FIFTEEN: JOHN**

The last of the New Testament writers, in order of appearance in the Bible, and in actual time, is John, the "beloved." A young man when he shared those precious years with Christ, he outlives all the others and is still writing near his death. (A.D. 90?) To him is given the final glimpse of things to come, a revelation strong enough to receive from God a warning that to it nothing is to be added and from it nothing is to be subtracted.

First, an important word from John's Gospel. That book is filled with images and allegory. Jesus is herein called the "Word," "Bread," "Light," a "Door," a "Shepherd," "Resurrection," "Life," a "Vine." Keep that in mind.

John, who by the Spirit remembers such things, tells us the story of Jesus and the disciples as they discuss the eating of the very flesh and blood of Jesus. Jesus says He will give His "flesh" for the life of the world. This He indeed does when He dies on the Cross.

Now, Jesus knows that the Jews are literally eating the flesh of a literal lamb every literal Passover. He is not here substituting lamb-eating in the flesh for human-eating in the flesh. But He is saying that His sacrifice will now substitute for all the physical sacrifices they have made. And He is replacing physical eating with spiritual eating.

He tells the assembled people to labor for the food that endures. He says that *coming* to Him and *believing* on Him will fill the appetite. The coming and the believing, thus, *are* the eating and the drinking of which He speaks. Later He adds that the *flesh* profits *nothing*, but the Spirit profits *everything*. (all from John 6)

The Babylonian cult picks up on this "hard saying" of Jesus and makes it even harder. To this day millions remain bound by the idea that they *must* take the literal body and blood of Jesus, and that the only way to receive such is at the hands of a Roman priest!

Back to Pagan Rome, A.D. 90:

It is the Rome of the Caesars that is playing the part of the harlot, Mystery Babylon, in John's day. But John, by the grace of God, is given the final disposition of that harlot in the book that brings all written revelation to a climactic finish.

One view of the end-time world structure is found in chapter 13, where a creature with 7 heads, 10 horns, and characteristics of all of Daniel's animals (Daniel 7) is followed by a creature that is a combination lamb and dragon. The two creatures are seen working in harmony, helping each other exist.

It would seem that the final world ruler is being assisted by a world religious leader, and that their domains are coexistent. Such has it ever been with Babylon. She speaks for "God" as a "lamb" in innocence and gentleness, but uses the power of men when needed. (The *secular* arm, she calls it.)

Not so with God's true Kingdom, which uses the power of *God* to speak to men.

## BABYLON IN BIBLE DAYS/31

The final unveiling of Babylon in Scripture is a forthright statement of name, location, position, destination...a rather clear-cut brief that is hard for the seeing to miss.

I must confess immediately to my own blindness for so many years, caused by the improper arrangement of priorities. I stand amazed now that I could not see these things for so long, though I stood so close to the facts. But, it is of great deceit which I write. I offer myself as a witness to the cunning subtle ways of Babylon.

The reformers knew about these things. Great men of God since then have identified this Mistress of the Night. The silence of our day is baffling.

Later we will study the life and writings of men like Luther, Calvin, Knox, Zwingli, Huss, Wyclif, and others from the 1300's on, regarding the Roman question. The tracing of this teaching will make it plain that only in our day (perhaps since Vatican II) has the heat been taken off Babylon.

Much is being made in these days of the occult, of secret organizations, conspiracies, etc., and perhaps rightly so. But what of the headquarters? What of the city on 7 hills? Did we really misread the Book? Or are we misreading the present situation?

And there is now another factor to be considered. Saddam Hussein has been, since the late 70's, rebuilding the ancient city of Babylon. Using some of the original bricks from the ruins, workers have restored several temples, an amphitheater, and the Marduk Gate. The Tower of Babel is also in the plans, and all is scheduled for a 1994 completion. (World Press Review, Feb. 1990; N.Y. Times Magazine, Nov. 26, 1989; New Yorker, October 19, 1987)

What should the Bible believer make of all this? God said through Isaiah (13:20-22) and Jeremiah (50:39, 40) that Babylon would be desolate forever. No one would ever live there again. And, portions of the prophecies seem to be fulfilled.

I believe that we have here one of those "mixed" words, common to the prophets whose mouths were filled with words from an all-knowing God who is not always bound to our chronology. Both in Daniel and the Psalms, for examples, God speaks of two things at the same time in predicting both Christ and anti-Christ. Some of Psalm 22 could refer to David, while much refers to Christ. Daniel 11 refers to several known historical figures, then jumps into unknown territory talking about a "willful king." The gaps of Isaiah 9:6-7, coupled with Daniel 9:26-27 are further evidence that the prophets were most limited in their understanding. For the great age in which we now live, the age of grace during which God in His longsuffering calls a Gentile people to Himself, was simply not seen by these men of God. No, in fact, it took special revelations to Peter, Paul, Cornelius, and others, for that message to take hold.

Now, God told us by the Prophet Daniel, and He cannot contradict Himself, that the fourth "beast" -Rome- will be the *final* world empire, except for the 10-nation confederation run later by antichrist. We live in the days of the fourth beast now, and it seems that its final form (ten horns ) is near. So, what of Babylon in this same time frame? From all the prophecies of Scripture regarding this city, I am forced into these conclusions:

- 1) God has some unfinished business with physical Babylon.
- 2) Babylon's latest manifestation in Rome, is also slated for destruction, at the hands of the antichrist.

Let's look more closely at what John saw in the first century. Let's , in fact, compare very closely the message of Revelation 17 with that of 18: First the similarities...

- 1.) In 17 and 19(which is a celebration of what goes on in 18), she is called

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the whore. So in whatever form she assumes through the years, she is unfaithful to the Lord, in contrast to His pure chaste bride.

2.) She is clothed in purple and scarlet. Babylon is forever very rich and very powerful.

3.) Fire seals her doom.

4.) She is a "great city."

If we come to the conclusion that Revelation 17 and 18 describe two different places, the above similarities are not insurmountable difficulties. But if we decide they are two descriptions of the same place, we must contend with the following problems:

1) Chapter 17 is introduced by one of the angels of the previous bowl judgments. 18, by an angel of great authority, akin to the one seen by Ezekiel (43:1-2).

2) 17's angel conducts John on a tour to the "wilderness", reminding us of the symbolism of Zechariah. It pictures a present reality in spiritual language. In 18, there is no symbolic language. It foretells a future reality in actual description.

3) 17's Babylon exists before the ten kings are set up, and is destroyed by them. 18's Babylon is mourned by the merchants of earth, presumably the 10 kings also.

4) In 17, the blood of saints and martyrs of Jesus (New Testament realities) is making the whore drunk. In 18, the blood of prophets, saints, and all slain on earth is uncovered (Old and New Testament times).

5) Judgment on the great harlot in 17, opposed to judgment of the *great city* in 18.

Chapter 17 seems to be a personalized vision for John, complete with commentary and explanation. 18 returns to presentation of fact with no extras.

What are some of those explanations of chapter 17?

1) She is sitting on seven mountains that correspond to the seven heads of the beasts, and seven kingdoms. First, let's get straight the word "oros" in Greek. It is translated "mountain" or hill in the New Testament, because its basic meaning is a "rising or rearing." Size is not a factor in the word. So the seven hills of Rome are perfectly described by the word John uses. Nevertheless it is not without significance that there are seven world-kingdoms (referred to as mountains in Scripture) upon which Babylon has sat: Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Medo-Persia, Greece, Pagan-Papal Rome, the 10-horn kingdom of the end times. There can be no question that the Holy Spirit here signifies for John's understanding, and consequently for ours, that it is the city of Rome which is being described.

2) The ten horns have received no power at the time of this prophecy. Nor have they yet. But the fourth beast, Rome, still exists. A revived Babylon only recently has been a possibility.

3) "The woman whom you saw is that great city *which reigns over the kings of the earth.*" This is spoken in explanation to John. John understood perfectly what the angel was saying! In his day only one city so ruled. How painfully John knew what the angel meant!

Babylon is always a study in confusion. I confess this is no exception. But there can be no doubt of the fact that the woman on seven hills is Rome; the facts also support a tie-in of chapter 18 with the Old Testament prophets, whose words will not be allowed to drop to the ground unfulfilled. Oh yes, when all is said and done, Babylon *is fallen, is*

*fallen.*

In Hislop's book (p. 6), you will find a picture of a medal made by Pope Leo XII. His own image is on one side. On the other is that of a woman with a cup. In Latin are the words (translated) "The whole world is her seat." **Oh my God, how long until your people see the truth of Babylon!**

So, is it your conclusion, as it is mine, that there are two cities referred to in Scripture as "Babylon"? One, the last-day representative of spiritual Babylon, seated in Rome, destroyed by her neighbors under antichrist's influence, and the other a restored Babylon resurrected by antichrist to serve as a statement of his power to surrounding nations, and to challenge the "other" Babylon? Is this in fact an eastern answer to western power?

Thus, the antichrist, called the "8th" king, as a resurrector of ancient Babylonia or Assyria, becomes one of the "7" kings.(I refer to the mystery mentioned in Revelation 17.)

He is also Daniel's "11th" horn *among the "10"*. Ancient Rome and ancient Mesopotamia seemingly resurrect at the same time, clash, and are both destroyed by fire. But the fire reserved for the old city is probably of a nuclear variety, to render it permanent.

But the destruction of "Babylon" does not destroy the plan of the Enemy. He is simply finished with religion that does not center on his person, the great Lucifer. At this point he will incarnate antichrist, move his headquarters to Jerusalem, sit in the temple (the *Jewish* temple) of God, and call himself *God Almighty*. About then it will be closing time for earth's history as we know it.

The workings of the antichrist and the final events of man's stay here are all interesting, meant to be understood by God's people. But they are not within the parameters of this present work. My focus must remain "Mystery Babylon."

As we continue on this walk through history, I want to build on the foundation which has been laid by God in His word, a testimony which the apostles and prophets were faithful to record and hand to us so that we could without hesitation identify what is and what is not of God. Those who are now grounded solidly in this Word, much of which I have tried to share in these pages, will be able to comprehend a little of the heart of God, His grief and pain, His hurt and disappointment, as they will see so many of His ways trampled by those wearing His name.

As Mark Antony's Shakespearian character says,  
***"If you have tears, prepare to shed them now."***