

# **Babylon**

## **A Place or A Political/Religious System**

There are many ideas of what Babylon is and/or where it is located. Some insist that Babylon is a place. Others insist that it is not a place but a political/religious system. It would seem that most that have joined the debate grab on to a particular text or series of text to prove their point. My God is a powerful and all knowing God. Why can't Babylon be both a place and a political/religious system. It is a fact that things are commonly named after their creators. If Babylon is a political/religious system, wouldn't it be possible that God would name it after the nation that planned financed and implemented the system?

For an answer, one must search the scriptures. Bible study requires searching the scriptures and building one text upon another. No text in an Island; every text and every textual interpretation must be in harmony with the rest of scripture. Jesus said: "by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established." (Matthew 18:16; see also 2 Corinthians 13:1) This equally applies to God's word; by two or three verses shall a doctrine be established.

Therefore, if one truly want to know who, what or where Babylon is, they must first lay down their preconceived ideas and seek what God has to say. They must then seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit for "no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation." (2 Peter 1:20) Then they must carefully seek all the identifying Biblical references concerning Babylon. Finally, they must trust God's word on the issue.

God judges people and nations. God judges people and nations for evil actions and evil beliefs (those things that are contrary to his law) but he doesn't take away their free will. God has two forms of judgment. There is judgment designed to bring repentance and there is judgment that brings destruction and death in the form of punishment. An example of the latter is God's judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah.

God has given the people of the world free will. If God judged evil political and religious systems rather than the people who implemented and followed this evil, he would be taking away free will.

Below we will see that the Bible clearly describes Babylon as a place; it is a City. This is a City that represents a nation. It is a nation that rules over the kings of the earth; a rich nation. Its imports are so large that the merchants around the entire world are made rich. This is a Christian nation that has departed from God and now leads the nations into rebellion against God.

This nation has an element of control over a world wide political religious system. This nation is responsible for the death of God's people. God sends plagues on the nation and burns it in an hour. After God's judgment there is silence.

## **Babylon – A City**

Revelation 17 describes Mystery Babylon, a woman (whore) riding a beast. It clearly identifies Babylon as a city. “And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.” (Revelation 17:18; see also Rev 18:21)

## **Babylon is Rich**

The people of Babylon are described as having an abundance of delicacies. They are rich according to world standards. They are a great importing nation. They are the richest nation on earth. The other countries of the world sell their merchandise and commodities to Babylon. The merchants selling these goods are made rich. (Rev 18:3, 7, 9, 12, 13 & 14)

## **Babylon Has Fallen**

A city is often used to identify a nation or empire in scripture. Revelation 18 describes a Christian nation that has fallen away from God. “And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.” (Revelation 18:2)

Fallen comes from the Greek word “*piptō*”. Strong's says that the meaning of this can be literal or figurative. Therefore, in a figurative sense it could mean a fall in a spiritual sense. Strong's says that an alternate translation is fail. Babylon has failed; this is similar to a spiritual fall.

Further, Babylon “is become the habitation of devils”. This indicates a change of condition. Babylon was once a Christian nation and now it has departed from God and “become the habitation of devils”.

In Matthew 21:43 Jesus declared that the kingdom of God would be taken from Israel and given to a nation that would bring forth the fruit which Israel failed to bring forth. There is only one nation that was founded by Christians following the guidance of the Holy Spirit. And there is only one nation founded as a Christian nation; this is the United States of America.

## **Babylon Leads the Nations into Fornication**

Babylon commits fornication and leads the Kings of the earth into fornication. “For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her...”. (Rev 18:3 see also Rev 17:2) Fornication can be spiritual or sexual in nature. In either case it is a sin. Sin is a verb; it is action committed by people.

The Kings of the earth are also subject to Babylon' wrath. This is also an action. A political or religious system can not inflict wrath in of it it self. The act of wrath must be carried out by people.

## **Babylon Is In Control**

As a young boy I learned that someone can control something much larger and powerful than themselves. Our family had horses and at age eight I was an accomplished rider. I was able to ride and control a horse more than ten times my size.

Not all horses are the same. My horse was very spirited. Few adults would attempt to ride her. I had to learn to rule my horse. She needed to be reminded frequently of who was in control. This required me to issue swift punishment when my horse got out of line. Any failure on my part to maintain control had the potential of leading to injury or even death.

What no one knew was that I was afraid. I knew my horse was infinitely more powerful and I feared the consequences of losing control.

Bible prophecy frequently uses the image of a powerful beast to represent an empire. Revelation 13 and 17 use a seven headed beast with ten horns to represent a world wide political religious system (New World Order). Babylon is represented by a woman and she is riding the beast (Rev 3 & 7). This shows that Babylon is in control of the beast.

Babylon is a nation in control of the beast. The ten horns on the beast represent 10 kings which are yet to come who “receive power as kings one hour with the beast.” (Rev 17:12)

## **Babylon Kills God's People**

In Babylon's attempts to maintain control of the beast, she kills the people of God. (Rev 17:6 & Rev 18:24)

## **God Sends Plagues on Babylon**

At the conclusion of World War II there were war crimes trials. The Nazi political system was terribly wicked. But the system wasn't put on trial, people were. Military men on trial for war crimes claimed they were only following orders and had no choice. This was not an acceptable defense because people always have a choice. These men suffered the punishment of their wicked actions.

Likewise, God judges people and nations. He does not judge political systems, these are the creations of men. Revelation 18:4-8 states: “...Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine...”. (See also Rev 17:1)

## **Babylon Burned by Fire**

God's judgment of Babylon is by fire. “Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.” (Rev 18:8) “And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.” (Rev 17:16)

This is a literal judgment of a nation. It is not a judgment of the world political religious system. The ten kings shall conspire against Babylon and bring a swift destruction by fire. (Rev 17:16) The judgment comes in one hour (Rev 18:10). This is most likely nuclear because the judgment is so swift.

Witnesses shall watch her burn. The merchants bringing their ships loaded with merchandise shall witness the destruction of Babylon. They shall weep and wail because Babylon can no longer buy their goods. (Rev 18:15-19)

## **Silence and Darkness in Babylon**

After Babylon's destruction, her musicians are silenced. Her lights are out. Her factories are gone. And her craftsmen are dead. (Rev 18:22-23)

As has been seen, the Bible clearly identifies Babylon as a nation. This nation is largely responsible for implementing an evil occult political religious system that covers the entire world (A New World Order and One World Religious System with 10 geographic divisions). The world wide political religious system is implemented by Babylon and Babylon exercises an element of control. This political religious system could be called the Babylonian System. But Babylon is a place (a nation) and not the political religious system itself.