



## LESSON #7 – MYSTERY: BABYLON THE GREAT

**Genesis 11:1-9:** The Babel builders --a system centered on man that glorifies man. Man tries to save himself and reach heaven through his own efforts and that persecutes all those who worship the true God and obey Him.

In spite of all the languages, end time Babylon will unite all nations, tongues and peoples in rebellion against God. Study here some aspects of **Revelation 17**, how the kings, the harlot, the waters, the merchants are all on the same page but the same will happen with end time Babylon as with the tower of Babel, all will come crashing down.

### Introduction and Review

First angel's message goes to every **nation, kindred, tongue and people**, the same ones upon which **Babylon sits**. The purpose is to call God's **faithful people out** of Babylon.

The **first angel** calls upon us to:

- **Fear God:** A deep respect that leads us to obey His commandments
- **Give glory to God:** Reflect His beautiful character in our lives and care for our bodies and minds
- The **judgment** takes place in **heaven before** the second coming and we are **now in it**
- The dead **remain in their graves** while they are **judged** by what is in the **books** and they are **rewarded** when Jesus comes, thus they are **now not in heaven or in hell**.
- We must worship the Creator by keeping His **holy Sabbath**.

**Revelation 14:8:** *"And another angel followed, saying: "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."*

Next three sermons

What is Babylon?

What is Babylon's Wine?"?

What is Babylon's Fornication?

## The Neo-Babylonian Empire

- **Revelation 13:2** draws on **Daniel 7**
- **Revelation 13:11-18** draws on **Daniel 3**. Include here the story of **Daniel 3** where we have a **religious decree** by the **political power**, the imposition of **false worship**, the breaking of **God's commandments** and the **persecution** of those who do not go along
- **Revelation 16** draws on the fall of Babylon (**Daniel 5**)

## God's Marriage to Israel

God **proposes marriage** and calls upon them **to be different**, special **unique** and **obedient**.

*Exodus 19:4-6: 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. <sup>5</sup> Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. <sup>6</sup> And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.'*

Israel said **"I do"**

*Exodus 19:7, 8: "So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the Lord commanded him. <sup>8</sup> Then all the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do." So Moses brought back the words of the people to the Lord."*

The **motivation clause**: I **loved** you and **redeemed** you and have **married** you

*Exodus 20:1, 2: "And God spoke all these words, saying: <sup>2</sup> "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."*

The **law of faithfulness** to the **marriage vow**

*Exodus 20:3-7: "You shall have no other gods before Me" <sup>4</sup> "You shall not make for yourself a carved image — any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; <sup>5</sup> you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup> but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. <sup>7</sup> "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. <sup>8</sup> "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your man servant, nor your maid servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all*

that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. <sup>12</sup> "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you. <sup>13</sup> "You shall not murder. <sup>14</sup> "You shall not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup> "You shall not steal. <sup>16</sup> "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. <sup>17</sup> "You shall not covet your maid servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

## **Contracted marriage**

**Jeremiah 31:31, 32:** "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—<sup>32</sup> not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord."

**Ezekiel 16:8:** "When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord God."

## **Israel Plays the Harlot**

**Ezekiel 16:2:** "Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations."

## **Glory belonged to God, not to her**

**Ezekiel 16:14:** "Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendor which I had bestowed on you," says the Lord God."

She became a harlot and fornicated for her own glory

**Ezekiel 16:15:** "But you trusted in your own beauty, played the harlot because of your fame, and poured out your harlotry on everyone passing by who would have it."

## **Idolatry gold and silver**

**Ezekiel 16:17:** "You have also taken your beautiful jewelry from My gold and My silver, which I had given you, and made for yourself male images and played the harlot with them."

## **Jewels of gold and silver**

**Ezekiel 23:40:** "Furthermore you sent for men to come from afar, to whom a messenger was sent; and there they came. And you washed yourself for them, painted your eyes, and adorned yourself with ornaments."

## **Harlot with Assyrians and the nations**

**Ezekiel 16:26:** “You also committed harlotry with the Egyptians, your very fleshly neighbors, and increased your acts of harlotry to provoke Me to anger.”

**Ezekiel 16:28:** “You also played the harlot with the Assyrians, because you were insatiable; indeed you played the harlot with them and still were not satisfied.”

Fornication with **Canaan** and **Chaldea**

**Ezekiel 16:29:** “Moreover you multiplied your acts of harlotry as far as the land of the trader, Chaldea; and even then you were not satisfied.”

An **adulterous wife** who is **unfaithful to her husband**

**Ezekiel 16:32:** “You are an adulterous wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband.”

Defiled the sanctuary and the Sabbath

**Ezekiel 23:38, 39:** “Moreover they have done this to Me: They have defiled My sanctuary on the same day and profaned My Sabbaths.<sup>39</sup> For after they had slain their children for their idols, on the same day they came into My sanctuary to profane it; and indeed thus they have done in the midst of My house.”

Shed **innocent blood**

**Ezekiel 16:45:** “But righteous men will judge them after the manner of adulteresses, and after the manner of women who shed blood, because they are adulteresses, and blood is on their hands.”

Had **daughters**

**Ezekiel 16:48:** “As I live,” says the Lord God, “neither your sister Sodom nor her daughters have done as you and your daughters have done.”

Will drink the cup of God’s wrath

**Ezekiel 23:32-34:** “Thus says the Lord God: ‘You shall drink of your sister’s cup, the deep and wide one; you shall be laughed to scorn and held in derision; it contains much.<sup>33</sup> You will be filled with the cup of your sister Samaria.<sup>34</sup> You shall drink and drain it, you shall break its shards, and tear at your own breasts; for I have spoken,’ says the Lord God.”

## **Kings will hate her**

**Ezekiel 16:39:** “I will also give you into their hand, and they shall throw down your shrines and break down your high places. They shall also strip you of your clothes, take your beautiful jewelry, and leave you naked and bare.”

## **Destruction from the four corners**

**Ezekiel 7:1-4:** “Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, <sup>2</sup> “And you, son of man, thus says the Lord God to the land of Israel: ‘An end! The end has come upon the four corners of the land. <sup>3</sup> Now the end has come upon you, and I will send My anger against you; I will judge you according to your ways, and I will repay you for all your abominations. <sup>4</sup> My eye will not spare you, nor will I have pity; but I will repay your ways, and your abominations will be in your midst; then you shall know that I am the Lord!’”

**Ezekiel 8:15-18:** “Then He said to me, “Have you seen this, O son of man? Turn again, you will see greater abominations than these.” <sup>16</sup> So He brought me into the inner court of the Lord's house; and there, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the Lord and their faces toward the east, and they were worshipping the sun toward the east. <sup>17</sup> And He said to me, “Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it a trivial thing to the house of Judah to commit the abominations which they commit here? For they have filled the land with violence; then they have returned to provoke Me to anger. Indeed they put the branch to their nose. <sup>18</sup> Therefore I also will act in fury. My eye will not spare nor will I have pity; and though they cry in My ears with a loud voice, I will not hear them.”

## **Sealing before the destruction, two groups**

**Ezekiel 9:1-6:** “Then He called out in my hearing with a loud voice, saying, “Let those who have charge over the city draw near, each with a deadly weapon in his hand.” <sup>2</sup> And suddenly six men came from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with his battle-ax in his hand. One man among them was clothed with linen and had a writer's inkhorn at his side. They went in and stood beside the bronze altar. <sup>3</sup> Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub, where it had been, to the threshold of the temple. And He called to the man clothed with linen, who had the writer's inkhorn at his side; <sup>4</sup> and the Lord said to him, “Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it.” <sup>5</sup> To the others He said in my hearing, “Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity.” <sup>6</sup> Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary.” So they began with the elders who were before the temple.”

**2 Chronicles 36:15-17:** “And the Lord God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place.<sup>16</sup> But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, till there was no remedy.<sup>17</sup> Therefore He brought against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, on the aged or the weak; He gave them all into his hand.”

## Jesus married his church

I’m **not going to identify** Babylon but you will know who it is **by the characteristics**

**Ephesians 5:25-27 (NIV):** “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,<sup>26</sup> that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,<sup>27</sup> that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”

**II Corinthians 11:2:** “For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”

## The Church Apostatizes

**II Thessalonians 2:3, 4:** “Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,<sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”

A harlot represents a **fallen church** which is the **main protagonist** of the story

**Revelation 17:1:** “Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters.”

## The harlot’s name is Babylon

**Revelation 17:5:** “And on her forehead a name was written: “MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”

She **sits** upon the waters which means that she **rules over them**

**Revelation 17:1:** “Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters.”



Her dominion or control is **global or worldwide**

**Revelation 17:15:** *"Then he said to me: 'The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are **peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.**'"*

She **fornicates with the kings** of the earth. A **church involved with the political powers** of the world

**Revelation 17:2:** *"... with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."*

She is the **mother** so she must have **daughters** which also must be Babylon because they are **children of her mother**

**Revelation 17:5:** *"And on her forehead a name was written: 'MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE **ABOMINATIONS** OF THE EARTH.'"*

She **gives wine** to all **nations**

**Revelation 17:2:** *"... with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the **wine of her fornication.**"*

She is **rich** and her **colors** are **purple and scarlet**, not **blue** and she is full of her **abominations**

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

She has a history of **slaying the faithful people** of God

**Revelation 17:6:** *"I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement."*

Babylon has **three parts**. **Satan** has operated through other threesomes: **Elijah** and **John the Baptist**

**Revelation 16:19:** *"Now the great city was divided into **three parts**, and the cities of the nations fell. And **great Babylon** was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath."*

**Revelation 16:13-14:** *"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the **dragon**, out of the mouth of the **beast**, and out of the mouth of the **false prophet.**"<sup>14</sup> For they are*

*spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.*

The same as the harlot, the daughters and the kings

The kings of the earth will come to hate her

**Revelation 17:16:** *“And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.”*

**Revelation 18:1-5:** *“After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.<sup>2</sup> And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying: “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!”<sup>3</sup> For [because] all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.”<sup>4</sup> And I heard another voice from heaven saying: “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.”<sup>5</sup> For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.”*

God has a remnant who were faithful while the harlot did her work

**Revelation 12:1:** *“Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.”*