

The School of Prophecy Part 4

Lesson 3: The Spirit of Babylon

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Old Testament history tells us about an ancient walled city between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers that served as the capital of the Babylonia Empire.

The Babylonian Empire destroyed Jerusalem in 587 B.C. and carried the captives away into Babylon. Biblical writers often portrayed this ancient capital city as a model of paganism and idolatry.

The Book of Revelation portrays Babylon as the system of the world that is in rebellion against God. Babylon is a word-picture for a society which persecuted God's people, but which God will bring down judgement.

Revelation 18:2-3 AMP - *2 And he shouted with a mighty voice, She is fallen! Mighty Babylon is fallen! She has become a resort and dwelling place for demons, a dungeon haunted by every loathsome spirit, an abode for every filthy and detestable bird. 3 For all nations have drunk the wine of her passionate unchastity, and the rulers and leaders of the earth have joined with her in committing fornication (idolatry), and the businessmen of the earth have become rich with the wealth of her excessive luxury and wantonness.*

I. The Darkness of Babylon

A. The Tower of Babel

Genesis 11:4 NKJV - *And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."*

1. The Tower of Babel was a pyramid-like structure made of brick and was connected to pagan religions. History tells us it was a ziggurat structure with converging stairways that led up to the temple on the top. It was truly a "stairway to Heaven."
2. The Tower of Babel was an act of defiance and rebellion against the authority of God. The building of the tower was a humanistic attempt to thwart God's plan for mankind to replenish and populate the earth.
3. The Tower of Babel was an act of self-glorification. The builders were intending to establish their own culture, community, and religion, in complete independence from God.

Psalms 127:1 NKJV - *Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.*

B. Nimrod - A Type of Antichrist

Genesis 10:8-10 NKJV - **8** *Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord."* **10** *And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.*

1. Nimrod was the great-grandson of Noah through the line of Cush. He was a mighty leader who led an open rebellion against God.
2. According to the historian Josephus, Nimrod said, "he would be revenged on God, if He should have a mind to drown the world again." (Antiquities of the Jews)
3. Nimrod foreshadowed the Antichrist because his intent was to rule the world. Nimrod was seeking a position of power and authority independently of God.

Revelation 13:7-8 NKJV - **7** *It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. 8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

II. The Last Days Spirit of Babylon

Revelation 17:1-3 AMP - *One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls then came and spoke to me, saying, Come with me! I will show you the doom (sentence, judgment) of the great harlot (idolatress) who is seated on many waters, 2 [She] with whom the rulers of the earth have joined in prostitution (idolatry) and with the wine of whose immorality (idolatry) the inhabitants of the earth have become intoxicated. 3 And [the angel] bore me away [rapt] in the Spirit into a desert (wilderness), and I saw a woman seated on a scarlet beast that was all covered with blasphemous titles (names), and he had seven heads and ten horns.*

A. Satan's Organized World System

1. Babylon is the devil's network of evil spiritual powers that will seek to control men's minds in order to establish a false religious mind-set.

Revelation 17:13 NKJV - *These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.*

2. The Babylonian spirit is at work in the educational institutions, in the economic systems, in the political realm, and also in false religious organizations.
3. The Great Harlot refers to the worldwide, ecumenical apostate religion of the Last Days. Prostitution and adultery is used figuratively here to illustrate idolatry and unfaithfulness to God.

4. The Babylonian spirit is a culture and a belief system that will be intensified in the Last Days. It is a spirit with an attitude of hatred and arrogance.

2 Peter 2:18 NKJV - *For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error.*

5. The spirit of Babylon is active in every generation. Kings and kingdoms are symbolized by mountains that rise and fall. The last king and kingdom of the Last Days to arise in power will be the Antichrist.

Revelation 17:9 NKJV - *Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.*

Daniel 7:24-25 NKJV - *24 The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom and another shall rise after them; he shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings. 25 He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.*

6. The Babylonian spirit rules over entire nations. It rejects the Word of God and is against believers in Christ.

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

7. The Babylonian spirit will inject a level of evil into the cultures of the world that has never been seen before. This system of wicked beliefs and philosophies will produce bondage in the hearts of people to ungodly lifestyles.

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

8. The Babylonian system will be judged by God and completely destroyed.

Revelation 18:20 NKJV - *"Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!"*

9. Nothing in this world is eternal. We are encouraged to keep our eyes on what is unseen.

2 Corinthians 4:18 NKJV - *We do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*