

RELIGIOUS BABYLON

- this has been a very restless week for many, and it looks like the country remains fairly evenly divided
- in spite of still not knowing how the Presidential race will be decided, we are confident that Jesus is still in control
- our hope and confidence are in the Lord, and he will work this out according to his plan
- that's another good reason to study the Book of Revelation and to be blessed (1.3)
- the divine outline (1.19)
- we have navigated through what will be the most devastating and destructive periods of human history – the wrath of God, the Great Tribulation
- all that remains now is the coming of the King
 - Aren't you ready!

1-5 – MYSTERY BABYLON

- this section has some descriptions of people, places, events, and institutions
- we have come to the end of the seven-year Great Tribulation, and are some details of the fall of Babylon
- we have already seen Babylon earlier in the trumpet and bowl judgments—
 - 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.”
 - 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.
- it should be noted that Babylon is mentioned more than any other city in the Bible except Jerusalem
- the Bible is a Tale of Two Cities
- the actual city had its beginning in the days of Nimrod, who built the city and the Tower of Babel in worship of astrology
- Babylon has almost from the beginning been associated with a false religious system that replaces God
- David Guzik = As a religious system, Babylon came into being long before Christianity, but in Satanic imitation it anticipated the coming true Messiah. According to religious history and legend, the Babylonian religion was founded by the wife of Nimrod (a great-grandson of Noah), named Semiramis. She was a high priestess of idol worship, and she gave birth to a son who she claimed was conceived miraculously. The son, named Tammuz, was considered a savior. Many

ancient artifacts remain with the familiar motif of the mother Semiramis holding the savior-in-fant Tammuz, which predate Christianity. It was also said that Tammuz was killed by a wild beast and then miraculously brought back to life. Baal was the local, Canaanite name for the Babylonian Tammuz.

- here Babylon is described as a harlot that sits on many waters
- the harlot (prostitute, whore, depending on the translation) is a metaphor to describe people and institutions who are not faithful to God - people abandoning the true God
- many waters = the peoples and nations
- worldliness, secularism, fornication (immorality)
- world leaders have joined with the great harlot in their rebellion against God
- we have already met the beast in Revelation 13
- who is this woman = the false religious system headquartered in Rome
- seven heads and ten horns = According to Daniel chapters 2 and 7, this will be a revival of the old Roman Empire
- notice the wealth and materialism of the false religious system
 - Thomas Aquinas = Entering the presence of Innocent II., before whom a large sum of money was spread out, the Pope observed, “You see, the Church is no longer in that age in which she said, ‘Silver and gold have I none.’”—“True, holy father,” replied Aquinas; “neither can she any longer say to the lame, ‘Rise up and walk.’”

6- THE BLOOD OF THE SAINTS

- through the centuries countless millions have been killed because of their faith in God
- unfortunately, much have that has come in the name of religion
- the massive amount of blood shed leaves John in total astonishment

7-8 – THE BEAST

- the angel begins to explain the mystery
- the description of the beast is similar to what we found back in chapter 13

9-11 – THE WOMAN

- seven heads are seven mountains = Rome is known as the city built on 7 hills
- the seat of the Antichrist will be a revival of the old Roman Empire
- seven kings or world leaders
- five have fallen = Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persian, Greek
- One is = the Roman empire
- the one to come = something from the old Roman empire
- the eighth = described as a person, not a kingdom = this is the Antichrist

12-14 – TEN HORNS

- the ten horns of the beast signify the ten nations of the revived Roman Empire

- they will unite with the Antichrist, and will make war with the Lamb at the battle of Armageddon

15-17 – THE CONTROL OF THE BEAST

- the false religious system will encompass the entire world

- once in power, the Antichrist will turn on the religious system he has ridden to power

18 – THE WOMAN DEFINED

- This woman in the picture is not only a religion that promotes spiritual abominations, but it is also a city – Rome.

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