

Revelation 17-18 – 13 June 2019

Purging of the Purchased Possession:

~~The Root & Offspring of Rebellion is Babylon~~

Introduction –

Focus on what the images mean versus what the image is!

2 key O.T. passages are Isa 13, 14, 47 and Jer 50-51

Mystery Babylon

This isn't something unknown or cloudy.

This is like a password being revealed.

Chapter 17 – The worldwide spiritual influence of Babylon.

Chapter 18 – The commercial/political city of Babylon.

Today, we'll see 4 characteristics of the world's false religious system.

Title is The Root & Offspring of Rebellion is Babylon

#1 - The world's false religious system is known as spiritual Babylon.

1. Spiritual Babylon began in Genesis 10 with Nimrod.
 - a. Gen 10:9-10
 - i. A mighty hunter “before the Lord” – means against the Lord.
 - ii. “And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel” – same exact word as Babylon.
 - b. Josephus, Antiquities of Jews Book 1, chap 4.2– Persuaded mankind not to ascribe their happiness to God, but to make them rely upon his own power.
 - c. Also, his rebellion talked of in the Targum of Jonathan and the Jerusalem Targum.
 - d. Seems to be good indication that Nimrod and the last Nimrod (A-C) are Assyrian. (Isa 10, Mic 5:5-6)

2. Babylon was known as the beginning of all things spiritual against God (idolatry, adultery, witchcraft, sorcery) (Isa 47)
 - a. All forms of occultic practice have their origins in the original Babylon.
3. Spiritual legends grew out of Babylon
 - a. Wikipedia today says, “The earliest mention of the city of Babylon can be found in a [clay tablet](#) from the reign of [Sargon of Akkad](#) (2334–2279 BC), dating back to the 23rd century BC. Babylon was merely a religious and cultural center.
 - b. Tammuz, son of Nimrod and Semiramis
 - i. Associated w/ sun god, worshipped at winter solstice for death and resurrection.
 1. Death - Yule log (Chaldean word for infant)
 2. Resurrection – trimmed tree the next morning.
 - c. Easter and Astarte grew out of Babylon.

- i. Ever wonder how eggs and bunny go together?
- 4. As Babylon is conquered; it's spiritual system is transplanted all over the world to Pergamos (Rev 2:13) and finally to Rome.
- 5. As Rome is Christianized officially; these pagan customs are incorporated.
 - a. Many of these customs surround Christmas and Easter/Passover/Halloween.

#2 - The world's false religious system is epitomized by this Rev 17 woman.

1. Two Women of Revelation
 - a. The root of the spiritual children of light are epitomized as Israel the woman in Rev 12.
 - b. The root of the spiritual children of darkness are epitomized as Babylon the woman in Rev 17.
2. Just as Israel the Woman of Rev 12 represents 'the doorway to deliverance', Babylon the Woman of Rev 17 represents 'the pathway to perdition'.
3. Read Chapter 17:1-6,15
 - a. Vs 1
 - i. **Whore** - adultery, unfaithfulness – Leaving the true God to pursuit other gods.
 - ii. **She sits upon many waters** – vs 15 says that this is her influence over many nations.
 - iii. Isa 47
 1. Key chapter on Babylon

2. Isa 47:5 – “Thou shalt no more be called the lady of nations.”
4. Vs 2 – **Kings and nations have committed fornication** – this false religious system has lead others away from God.
5. Vs 4 – **Her fornications** – Going after all goals and pursuits and gods apart from pursuing the true God.
6. Vs 5
 - a. Her name is Babylon
 - b. Mother of Harlots
 - i. Mother or source of MANY harlot systems!
7. Vs 6 – No institution has shed more innocent Christian blood than Rome, specifically Papal Rome.

#3 - The world's false religious system has ruled with every world-ruling power thru time. Chapter 17:7-18

1. Read Vs 7-8
 - a. Beast = A-C and his world-ruling government.
 - i. Epitomizing the best of man and his govts down thru time.
 - b. The Beast “was, and is not and yet is”.
 - i. A/C's death and apparent resurrection?
 - ii. A/C's coming from Rome?
 - iii. A/C's coming from Assyria?
 - iv. A/C's coming from Babylon?
2. Read Vs 9-11 – The Seven Heads
 - a. Satan pictured with 7 heads in Rev 12:3
 - b. A-C pictured with 7 heads in Rev 13:1
 - c. Vs 9 - What are the 7 heads as mountains?
 - i. Some say – 7 hilled-city of Rome
 1. This is too narrow b/c of vs 10

- ii. What does a mountain represent? **(Govts)**
 - 1. Isa 2:2 – Mount of Lord to be set up.
 - 2. Dan 2 – Mountain of Lord wipes out all world-ruling empires. (Also Micah 4)
- d. Vs 10 – Govts thru time
 - i. 5 are fallen – Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persians, Greeks
 - ii. 1 is – Roman Empire
 - iii. 1 yet to come – Rev. Roman for short time.
- e. Vs 11
 - i. He's the 8th – A-C is the “little horn” of Dan 7:8
 - 1. Comes up when 3 of 10 Revived Roman Empire kings are subdued.
 - ii. He's of the 7
 - 1. Isa 10 & Mic 5 – speaks of the Assyrian to come.
 - 2. This is the only of the 7 not around.
- 3. Read Vs 12-13 – The 10 kings of Revived Roman Empire

- a. 10 toes of the statue of Dan 2
- b. 10 horns of the terrible beast of Dan 7
- 4. Read Vs 14 – This is the world kingdom of the very last days.
- 5. Read Vs 15-17
 - a. Before three of the 10 sub-kings are put down, this final govt gets rid of it's spiritual system.
 - i. The spiritual system has always been worship of all things pagan (animals, gods, heavenly bodies, etc)
 - b. This system is ousted for what?
 - i. Daniel 11:37-38
 - ii. Atheism?
- 6. Read Vs 18
 - a. What city is ruling over the earth? (present tense) Rome
 - i. Spiritual Babylon is ruling from Rome in these days.
 - ii. Possible move to come! (Rome to Babylon)

#4 - The world's false religious system will be destroyed in its HHQ city. (Chapter 18)

1. Read Vs 1-2 – Is fallen, is fallen
 - a. Joseph explain b/c of dream w/ Pharaoh
 - b. It's certain and coming soon.
2. Read Vs 3
 - a. This religious system of chapter 17 link to the same subject here in chapter 18.
 - b. Can't separate the religious pursuits of men from their commercial pursuits! (“delicacies”)
 - i. The things that are most important to you...
 1. Are your gods.
 2. You talk a great deal about.
 - ii. Have you ever heard the expression, “Put your money where your mouth is”?
 1. Our money is spent on our mission!
 2. The whole of our worth is spent on the whole of our worship!
 3. Our ‘goods’ are spent on our ‘gods’!

3. Read Vs 4-5 – God is constantly seeking to help and guide His own people.
4. Read Vs 6-7
 - a. Directly boasting against Israel the woman of Rev 12 presented as widowed and divorced.
 - b. Read Isa 47:8-9
 - c. Remember, she's not just pagan but blasphemous against the true God.
5. Read Vs 8 – Amen
6. Read Vs 9-10
 - a. Babylon certainly is a world-wide spiritual influence/religious system, but it's also a specific place.
 - b. **The kings of the earth** will see the smoke of this city from the burning of it.
 - c. There will be 3 groups that get nervous and are “standing afar off”. Here it's the kings.
7. Read Vs 11-17a
 - a. Now **the merchants** stand afar off mourning.

- b. Just so we know that this is a real city and we don't allegorize this, 29 items are listed.
 - i. This is a real city.
- 8. Read Vs 17b-19
 - a. Why kings, merchants and ship captains?
 - i. Decision-makers, white & blue collar
- 9. Read Vs 20-24
 - a. Vs 20 – only command in Revelation for the good guys to rejoice.
 - b. Vs 23 – another linkage of spiritual Babylon with its commercial production.
- 10. Fall of Babylon (Cyrus) vs. the destruction of Babylon (not yet happened)
 - a. Cyrus
 - i. Dan 5 – prophesied the gentle takeover.
 - ii. Herodotus – Cyrus captured Babylon **w/o a battle** by diverting the Euphrates River.
 - iii. Josephus Book XI Chapter 1.2 – Isa 44-45 was given to Cyrus prompting him to allow the Jews to go home.

- iv. Cylinder of Cyrus in British museum
London – brags that he conquered Babylon without a battle.
- b. Babylon eroded over the centuries but is never destroyed. Prophecies say...
 - i. Destruction occur during Day of the Lord.
 - ii. It's never to be inhabited again.
 - iii. Building Materials never reused.
 - iv. Like Sodom and Gomorrah.
 - v. Israel will be in their own land at time of its destruction.
 - vi. How is spiritual Babylon in Rome move to the city of Babylon? (Zec 5:5-11)
 - 1. Ephah – woman inside called “wickedness”.
 - 2. Sealed in with a talent of lead.
 - 3. Carried by 2 women w/ wings of a stork (unclean bird).
 - 4. Carried to build a house in Shinar.
 - 5. Which is her own place.

Conclusion –

Today we've seen 4 characteristics of the world's false religious system.

- 1. It is known as spiritual Babylon.**
 - a. From beginning w/ Nimrod til end of time.
 - b. Babylon's pagan influence has pervaded.
- 2. It is epitomized by this Rev 17 woman.**
 - a. She's the source of all religious systems.
 - b. Mother of Harlots – of all idolaters.
- 3. It has ruled with every world-ruling power thru time.**
 - a. Satan's 7 heads or kingdoms have all been dominated by this spiritual system.
 - b. From Egypt down thru the Rev Roman Empire.
- 4. It will be destroyed in its HHQ city.**
 - a. Our goods are spent on our gods. Linked
 - b. Babylon the city will yet be destroyed.