

# The Fall of Babylon the Great

## Revelation 17-18

**INTRODUCTION:** Conspiracy Theories have captivated the imagination of Americans since our founding as a Nation. There is an innate mistrust of power woven into our national consciousness that springs from our early dealings with King George and the British Empire. Once set to blaze the spark of conspiracy burns not only the original cause, but everything that surrounds the flame.

Seasons of Political unrest have always been like gasoline on the fire of conspiracy theories. Combined with the advent and normalization of social media, every day a new conspiracy seems to emerge.

Thus today -

- There is a major resurgence of the flat earth society.
- JFK, Michael Jackson and Elvis are being spotted regularly by believers.
- Aliens seems to visit every port and hamlet.
- And who knows which birds are real and which are secretly recording our conversations and daily activities.
  
- Someone asked me recently if I was one of those conspiracy theorists. Of course, I replied, “why, who are you working for?”
- I recommended they read the article that called for an end to all conspiracy theories surrounding the death of Jefferey Epstein, which was produced by the Clinton Foundation.

But the only thing worse than the 10,000 conspiracy theories that are floating around is ***the fact that one that is actually true.***

**CONTEXT:** Scripture tells of several conspiracies that are afoot in the last days. We’ve already read about the Political dealings of AntiChrist, then the Religious dealings of the one we call the False Prophet. Well, add to the list of conspirators - a city called Babylon.

Cities have, at times, shaped the world more than Nations. Most of the Kings and Kingdoms of the OT were more like the Mayors of large cities than they were rulers of Major Empires.

In the last days we are going to see a blurring of National borders followed quickly by the growing power of states and cities. Two will rise in significance - the city of **Jerusalem**, and the city of **Babylon**. You may think of Eschatology ultimately as the “Tale of Two Cities”.

Remember we left off last week in **Revelation 16** with the armies of the world gathered in Har Megiddo there in the Jezreel valley, prepared to invade **Jerusalem** and Mt. Zion where these 144,000 Prophets of God are gathered on the Temple Mount.

The flow of the text fades to black at that moment, we will pick up on that narrative in chapter 18. The Holy Spirit turns our attention in chapter 17 to another city. It will be as one of the greatest, most influential cities on the earth during the last days. This city will be conspiring secretly to infect the entire planet with its filth.

This city is known according to Revelation 5 as, “Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Prostitutes and Abominations of the Earth”.

One studying revelation must decide whether the language of sexual sin is used in reference to literal sexual sin, or its spiritual equivalent, which is unfaithfulness to the Creator via Idolatry.

The two seem to always go hand in hand. Humans cannot tolerate hypocrisy within themselves forever. So, they will either change their ways, or they will change their doctrine.

Solomon followed his lust into marriages with foreign women, then he adopted any number of their IDOLS to justify his transgressions.

You see the truth faith tells us that God gave one woman to one man in the beginning and that was to be the norm for mankind in perpetuity. But as man wrestled with the insatiable appetite of lust, he tweaked both his behavior and his theology.

But in this text, I don't believe Josh is referring to sexual sin in the spiritual sense the way other writers of scripture have done very clearly.

I believe John is speaking of literal sexual sin. Here is why, we see that the city of Babylon eventually is found at odds with AntiChrist and the false Prophet. They are described as the fountain head of idolatry. So if the language of adultery is metaphorical, Antichrist should love Babylon. He doesn't.

**I believe we are to view this City as the fountain head of perverse sexual influence on the Planet.**

- President Dwight Eisenhower coined the term, **“Military Industrial Complex”** to describe an intentional effort to keep the nations at odds in order to drive the sell of weapons. Well, I see in the text a, **“Pornographic Industrial Complex”** which is an intentional effort to the couples at odds in order to drive the sell of pornography and the sex industry.

If you would follow back the porn industry, the human trafficking industry, back to its fountain head you would end up in the **city of Babylon**.

**BABYLON'S FOUNDING** - The city of **Babel**, as it was originally called was founded around 4,200 years ago, about 100 years after the great flood.

### Genesis 10:8–10 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> Cush fathered Nimrod; he was the first on earth to be a mighty man. <sup>9</sup> He was a mighty hunter before the Lord. Therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the Lord." <sup>10</sup> The beginning of his kingdom was **Babel**, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of **Shinar**.

So Babel, or Babylon was the first city established in the land of **Shinar**. Shinar is also called in scripture Mesopotamia. The land of Mesopotamia/Shinar stretched along a geographic area known as the fertile crescent from the Persian Gulf, to the Mediterranean Sea. In modern maps from Kuwait to Syria.



### LOT AND FAMILY CAPTURED -

In Gen. 14 we see, **Genesis 14:1 (ESV)**

1 In the days of Amraphel king of **Shinar (Babylon)**, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim,

These kings form a coalition of cities to attack Sodom and Gomorrah. But the problem is, Abraham's nephew Lot and his family are citizens of Sodom. In the battle, Lot and his family are taken captive. Abraham forms an army with over 300 servants and attacks the **King of Babylon** and delivers Lot and his family.

Then you see one of the most enigmatic figures in the Old Testament emerge.

### Genesis 14:18 (ESV)

18 And Melchizedek **king of Salem** (That is Jeru-salem) brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) So there before the founding of the Aaronic Priesthood, we see another type of legitimate Priest of God. Melchizedek. Something interesting about Melchizedek, he was both PRIEST and KING. That was something unheard of in the OT. Remember Saul lost his throne for trying to do the work of the Priest. Beyond that, Abraham gave tithes of the spoils of war to Melchizedek. The writer to the Hebrews will pick up on this figure and show him to be a type of Christ.

But here in Gen. 14 is the first reference to Jerusalem in scripture.

**Throughout the bible you will see these two cities at odds with one another. Babylon and Jerusalem. The city of man and the city of God.**

## **This city of Babylon and the spirit of Babylon continues through history until Chapter 14 of Revelation.**

Last week the second angel prophesied to the Earth - **Revelation 14:8 (ESV)** <sup>8</sup> Another angel, a second, followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality.”

Remember in the Ancient languages there were not visual markups, so repetition is there for emphasis. That is to say Babylon will be ultimately, radically, destroyed. We see that destruction play out in chapter 17.

Babylon is mentioned over 300 times in scripture. It is alluded to 3 times in Christ’s genealogy and it is a very important city during the last days. Look with me at Revelation 17.

### **TEXT: Revelation 17-18 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, <sup>2</sup> with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk.”

#### **Things we Notice about the Harlot:**

## **1. The Harlot’s Alliances**

**We are told that the Harlot has a world wide influence.**

### **Revelation 17:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> And the angel said to me, “The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages.

Waters are typically metaphorical in prophetic literature. They have reference to the Gentile peoples of the Earth. The idea is that cities tend to flourish in places where water is plentiful, both for consumption and trade.

So this city has influence over many other cities around the world. Notice the realms in which that influence is leveled.

### **A. Political Leaders**

#### **Revelation 17:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk.”

Political leaders have benefited from this cities growth. Therefore, one would see this city as somewhat NEUTRAL in international conflicts. If the city took a side, it would

diminish relationships with potential customers. So you can expect this city called Babylon to stay out of the many wars that emerge in these last days.

She is a friend to all. She doesn't build great military defenses, there is no need.

Next, she is marked by the highest standard of luxury.

## B. Luxurious Lifestyle

### Revelation 18

<sup>3</sup> For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the **power of her luxurious living.**"

<sup>7</sup> As **she glorified herself and lived in luxury**, so give her a like measure of torment and mourning, since in her heart she says, 'I sit as a queen, I am no widow, and mourning I shall never see.'

Expect this city to be surrounded by the highest class of Yachts. Personal helicopters, jets, and the most exclusive automobile will fill this city.

The citizens will be dressed by the most chic designers. The children will have the privilege of the best in education.

An aristocratic social caste will develop within the city to identify key families.

So this center of sexual infidelity will not be a nasty, ugly environment. It will be the epitome of elegance and sophistication.

## C. International Trade

<sup>11</sup> And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, since no one buys their cargo anymore, <sup>12</sup> cargo of gold, silver, jewels, pearls, fine linen, purple cloth, silk, scarlet cloth, all kinds of scented wood, all kinds of articles of ivory, all kinds of articles of costly wood, bronze, iron and marble, <sup>13</sup> cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and slaves, that is, human souls. <sup>14</sup> "The fruit for which your soul longed has gone from you, and all your delicacies and your splendors are lost to you, never to be found again!"

So commerce is on the rage. People will invest heavily in this city. Banks will emerge to manage the accumulation of wealth. It will become the most significant port of trade on the planet. Every ship will pass through its waters.

<sup>17</sup> For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste." And all shipmasters and seafaring men, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea, stood far off <sup>18</sup> and cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning, "What city was like the great city?" <sup>19</sup> And they threw

dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, crying out, “Alas, alas, for the great city where all who had ships at sea grew rich by her wealth! For in a single hour she has been laid waste.

## D. Music and Entertainment

<sup>22</sup> and the sound of harpists and musicians, of flute players and trumpeters, will be heard in you no more, and a craftsman of any craft will be found in you no more, and the sound of the mill will be heard in you no more,

The great musical artists will all hope to perform in this city from the most sophisticated classical musician the the latest Pop Icon. But that will come to an end.

Then we see there will be an element of the Occult...

## E. Sorcery

<sup>23</sup> and the light of a lamp will shine in you no more, and the voice of bridegroom and bride will be heard in you no more, for your merchants were the great ones of the earth, and all nations were **deceived by your sorcery.**

As silly as it can seem to a modern audience, there is something appealing about ancient occult practices among the elite of world society.

We have read of Nancy Reagan dabbling in occult with a personal Astrologer guiding her influence over our president.

Rumors of secret societies abound in Hollywood, not to be entirely discounted.

SO THOSE ARE THE HARLOTS ALLIANCES...

## 2. The Harlot's Abominations

<sup>3</sup> And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of **blasphemous names**, and it had seven heads and ten horns. <sup>4</sup> The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality.

<sup>5</sup> And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: “Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations.”



The picture is verbally painted of the most devious and destructive of sexual sins presented in the most attractive trappings. This is not some seedy strip club. This is the sort of influence that any upstanding city would allow within its borders.

It will produce the normalization of sexual perversion.

Today we are witnessing the organized exhalation of sexual perversion riding the wave of Justice. Taking their place with the truly unjustly marginalized of our society.

**ILLUSTRATION:** I remember in the 90's when Dr. James Dobson warned that if we normalize gay marriage that at some point much more radical groups would leverage that decision to swing the door open for every kind of imaginable perversion. People laughed at Dr. Dobson, but today he seems like a Prophet who had no honor among his own people.

Today, we see grown men competing in female sports. Regularly, you hear little thoughts woven into the narrative that lifestyles of polyamory, pedophilia, open marriages, and the like.

Elizabeth Hode recently stunned the audience of a daytime British talkshow by marrying her Golden Retriever, Logan. The two walked down the aisle together hand in paw.

Why laugh? Once the definition of marriage is open to debate, where does it end?

And this isn't just some weirdo oversees, I've never seen so many people in the context of our own church who have family members confused about gender identity, sexual orientation, and the like.

The natural tendency of those of us raised in the south is to ignore such things. But friend, we can't continue to ignore them.

### 3. The Harlot's Accusations

#### Revelation 17:6

<sup>6</sup> And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her, I marveled greatly.

#### Revelation 18:24

<sup>24</sup> And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth."

While she doesn't engage in nation to nation warfare - she does wage war on the followers of Christ. Understand, anytime you are tempted to engage with pornography that they complex that produces such things would kill you if it could... and one day it will be able to. It will be responsible for the death of untold thousands of your brothers and sisters.

### 4. The Harlot's Annihilation

#### Revelation 18



<sup>1</sup> After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. <sup>2</sup> And he called out with a mighty voice, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.

<sup>8</sup> For this reason her plagues will come in a single day, death and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her.

<sup>10</sup> They will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say, “Alas! Alas! You great city, you mighty city, Babylon! For in a single hour your judgment has come.”

It will prove to be a poor investment to those who have stored their money there. As a matter of fact, most every endeavor on the planet will ultimately be a bad investment. Well, what should we do with our treasure? Lay it up in Heaven... the best investment you'll ever make.

### **OK - What city is this revived city of Babylon in Revelation?**

In my lifetime, in the last 30 years a city has arisen out of the desert in the middle east and it has amazingly become one of the most influential cities on Planet Earth.

- Like Babylon it is situated at the mouth of the Euphrates river.
- It is a port city and ranks as one of the top 10 busiest ports in the World.
- This city exports oil, natural gas, fish and produce, building materials and luxury goods. •It is the major hub of illicit drug shipping, money laundering, slave labor, and prostitution.

I want to propose that this might very well be the city of **Dubai**, in the **United Arab Emirates**. Dubai is the home of the Burj Khalifa (BURGe KALI FA) the world's tallest building. Remember the tower of Babel.

Keep in mind this HIGHLY influential city didn't even exist 30 years ago. I believe that it is the present manifestation of the spirit of Babylon. One day Anti-Christ and his 10 nation federation will turn against Dubai and will destroy it.



## **5. The Believer's Admonition**

### **Revelation 18**

<sup>4</sup> Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues; <sup>5</sup> for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. <sup>6</sup> Pay her back as she herself has



paid back others, and repay her double for her deeds; mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed.

Let me close with a warning to my fellow followers of Christ. According to this text, right in the middle of the final Babylon, Christians will be living.

No doubt if you look broadly at its influence around the world today, some of its participants will be Christians.

It is very likely that some of you are caught up in sexual sin. Like any drug, it plays for keeps. It seeks to own and enslave and destroy those who deal with it.

Ultimately, its design is to destroy you. Behind its influence is the demon inhabited city of Babylon.

If the pornographic influence of Babylon has got its tentacles into your home and life, begin today to rid yourself of it. Remember that fidelity to God, should result in fidelity to the wife of your youth.

Sex is not evil, it is a wonderful gift, but it can be leveraged for evil means. That is the definition of perversion.

Teach your kids and grandkids truth regarding Gender and Sexuality. If you are not willing to do so, there is a city who would gladly own that responsibility. Come out from her and be separate.