

Babylon as the Eschatological Kingdom

A look at the Messianic texts that point to Messiah

Opening Prayer & Introduction

Begin by praying for understanding and open hearts. Briefly review the sermon's main objective: connecting historical Babylon from Isaiah to spiritual Babylon in Revelation to better understand end-times prophecy.

Ice Breaker: Before this sermon, what came to mind when you heard the word "Babylon" in Scripture?

Key Takeaways

- Prophecy is God's fingerprint on Scripture—no other religious text contains accurate, specific, fulfilled prophecy
- Satan's methods are consistent: pride, rebellion, false worship, persecution of God's people
- Christians should avoid occult practices (horoscopes, tarot cards, palm reading, Ouija boards, etc.) These things have their roots demons and are not harmless entertainment

Key Definitions

- Eschatological/Eschatology: The study of last days or end times
- Historical Babylon: The literal kingdom that conquered Judah ~600 BC
- Spiritual Babylon: The symbolic kingdom of Antichrist described in Revelation
- Rapture (Harpazo): The "catching up" or "snatching away" of believers before the tribulation

Discussion Questions

1. Review the six key characteristics of Historical Babylon mentioned in the sermon. Which one stands out most to you and why?
 - a. Power over the world (satanically empowered)
 - b. Pride and arrogance in wickedness
 - c. Self-glorification ("the glory of kingdoms")
 - d. Cruel oppression, especially toward God's people
 - e. Mimicked Satan's rebellion (the "I AM" statements)
 - f. Obsession with the occult and demonic practices
2. The sermon mentioned Marduk, the dragon god of Babylon. How does this historical detail help us understand Revelation's imagery of the dragon (Satan) empowering the Antichrist's kingdom?

3. Babylon claimed to be the "I am, and there is no one else besides me." Discuss the danger of taking this divine image. Where do you see this same attitude in modern culture—individuals, nations, or institutions claiming supreme authority without accountability to God?
4. Pastor Joel discussed the doctrine of the rapture as the hope and encouragement of the church. What comfort does 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 and 5:9-10 provide? How should understanding the rapture affect how we live today?
5. The pastor clarified that the mark of the beast is a willful declaration of worship to Antichrist. Why do you think Christians sometimes get anxious about accidentally taking the mark? How does understanding its true nature bring peace

Practical Applications

- Examine your life for any occult influences (entertainment, "harmless" practices, etc.)
- Ask: "Where am I tempted to say 'I am' without acknowledging God's authority?"
- Confess any areas of pride or self-sufficiency to the Lord
- Identify one way modern culture mirrors Babylon's characteristics
- Discuss with your group how to be "in the world but not of it" in that area

Closing Prayer

Spend some time in prayer and reflection about the similarities between Babylon, and modern day temptations to look to our own strength and power instead of God. Let these insights motivate you to pray for our own nation.