

The Role of Babylon in Bible Prophecy

Pre-Trib. Study Group

December 2020, Prophecy Conference



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Seven Areas

- I. Tower of Babel (Gen. 1–11)
- II. Prophecies of Isaiah (13–14) & Jeremiah (50–51)
- III. Prophecy of Zechariah (Zech. 5:5-11)
- IV. Kings of the East (Rev. 9:14; 16:12)
- V. End-Time Harlot (Rev. 17–18)
- VI. Inadequate Theories
- VII. Current Events



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Genesis 11:1-4

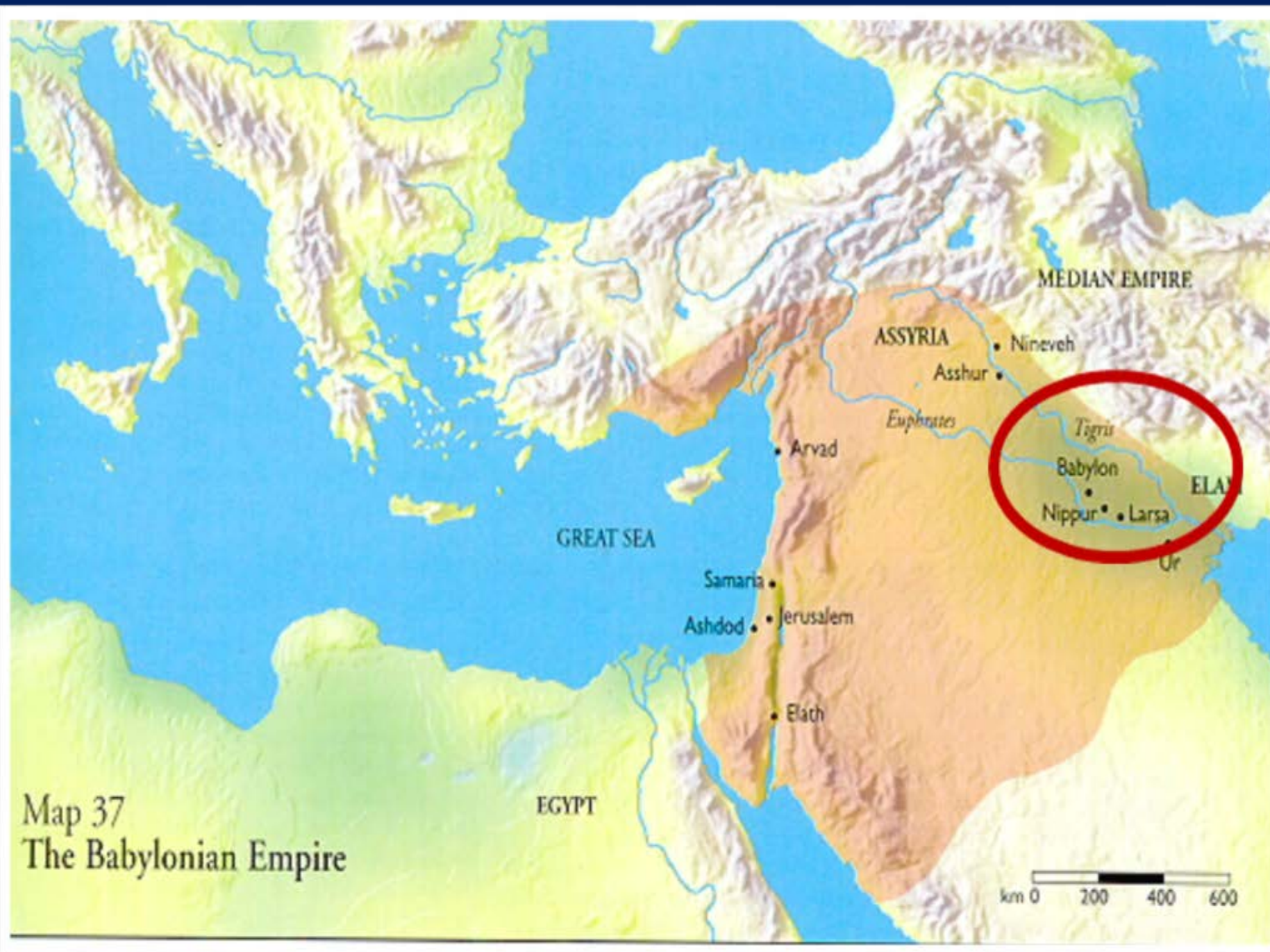
¹ Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. ² It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³ They said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. ⁴ They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."



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Daniel 1:1-2

“¹ In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.² The Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and he brought the vessels into the treasury of his god.”





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Spread of the Mother-Child Cult

	Mother	Child
Assyria	Ishtar	Tammuz
Phoenicia	Astarte	Baal
Egypt	Isis	Osirus/Horus
Greece	Aphrodite	Eros
Rome	Venus	Cupid
Asia	Cybele	Desius
India	Isi	Aswara
Roman Catholicism	Mary	Jesus
Israel	Queen of Heaven (Jer. 7:18; 44:17)	Tammuz (Ezek. 8:14-15)
Alexander Hislop, <i>Two Babylons</i>		

Larkin, *The Book of Revelation*, 151.

“The river Euphrates, on which the city of Babylon was built,
was one of the four branches into which the river that flowed
through the Garden of Eden was divided, and Satan doubtless
chose the site of Babylon as his headquarters from which to sally
forth to tempt Adam and Eve. It was doubtless here that the
Antediluvian apostasy had its source that ended in the flood. To
this centre the ‘forces of Evil’ gravitated after the Flood, and
‘Babel’ was the result. This was the origin of the nations, but
the nations were not scattered abroad over the earth until
Satan had implanted in them the ‘Virus’ of a doctrine that has
been the source of every false religion the world has ever
known.”

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Isaiah 13-14

- Day of the Lord (13:6-9)
- Cosmic disturbances (13:10-13)
- Global judgment (13:11-12)
- Sodom and Gomorrah (13:19)
- Complete and final desolation (13:20-22)
- Universal peace and rest (14:5-8)
- Israel's regeneration (14:1-4)

Henry Morris, *Revelation Record*, 348.

Isaiah 13/Matthew 24 Connection

- Isaiah 13:10; Matthew 24:29

- Isaiah 13:12; Matthew 24:21-22



Isaiah 13:12

“I will make mortal man scarcer than pure gold
and mankind than the gold of Ophir.”



Matthew 24:21-22

“²¹ For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. ²² Unless those days had been cut short, **no life would have been saved**; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.”



ARAB TENT HOME at Babylon 1899-1908

“It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation; **Nor will the Arab pitch his tent there**” (Isaiah 13:20)



Isaiah's Oracles Against the Nations (Isa 13–23)

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Babylon (13:1-14:23) | 7. Egypt (19-20) |
| 2. Assyria (14:24-27) | 8. Babylon (21:1-10) |
| 3. Philistia (14:28-32) | 9. Edom (21:11-12) |
| 4. Moab (15-16) | 10. Arabia (21:13-17) |
| 5. Damascus and Samaria (17) | 11. Jerusalem (22) |
| 6. Ethiopia (18) | 12. Tyre (23) |



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| 6. Ethiopia (18) | 12. Tyre (23) |



Jeremiah 50-51

- Sudden destruction (51:8)
- Complete destruction (50:3, 13, 26, 39-40; 51:29, 43, 62)
- No reuse of building materials (51:26)
- Believers flee (50:8; 51:6, 45)
- Israel's regeneration (50:2, 4-5, 20; 51:50)

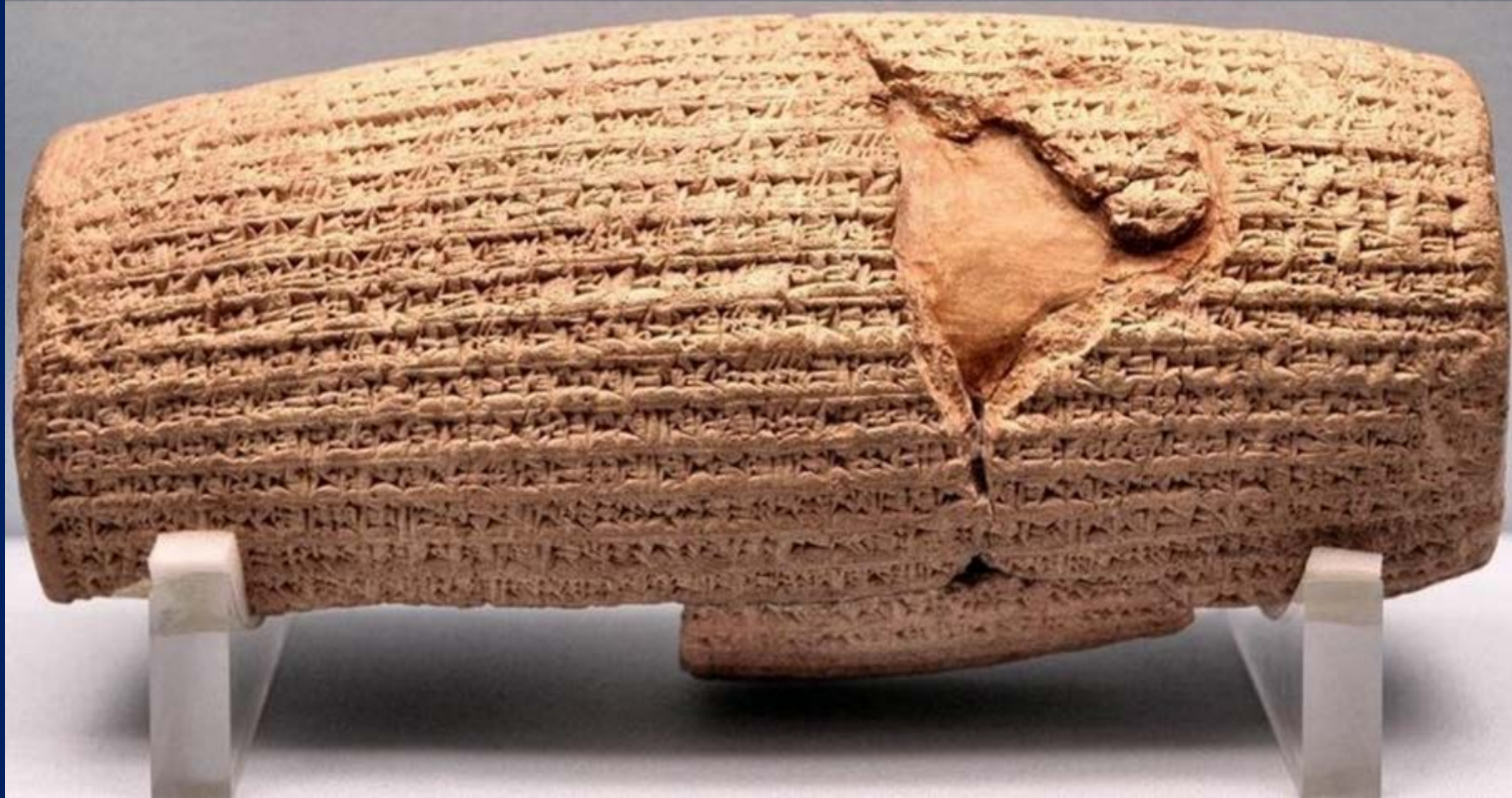
Dyer, "The Identity of Babylon in Revelation 17–18 (Part 2)," 443-49.

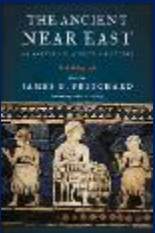


Herodotus, *Histories*, 1:191 (450 B.C.)

“...he (Cyrus) conducted the river by a channel into the lake...and so he made the former course of the river passable by the sinking of the stream. When this had been done, the Persians who had been posted for this very purpose entered by the bed of the river Euphrates into Babylon, the stream having sunk so far that it reached about to the middle of a man’s thigh...those Babylonians who dwelt in the middle did not know that they had been captured...”

Cyrus Cylinder

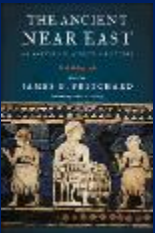




James Pritchard

The Ancient Near East Texts Relating to the Old Testament, 315-16.

Without any battle... sparing Babylon... any calamity....I am Cyrus...king of Babylon....When I entered Babylon...under jubilation and rejoicing...troops walked around Babylon...in peace, I did not allow anybody to terrorize (any place) of the [country of Sumer] and Akkad. I strove for peace in Babylon...and in all his (other) sacred cities....I returned to (these) sacred cities on the other side of the Tigris, the sanctuaries of which have been in ruins for a long time, the images which (used) to live therein and established for them permanent sanctuaries.



James Pritchard

The Ancient Near East Texts Relating to the Old Testament, 315-16.

I (also) gathered all their (former) inhabitants and returned (to them) their habitations. Furthermore, I resettled... unharmmed, in their (former) chapels, the places which make them happy. May all the gods whom I have resettled in their sacred cities ask daily Bel and Nebo for a long life for me...all of them I resettled in a peaceful place... ducks and doves,...I endeavoured to fortify/repair their dwelling places . . .

Babylon's History After 539 B.C.

- Herodotus gives Babylon's measurements (450 B.C.)
- Alexander the Great visits and dies in Babylon (323 B.C.)
- Seleucus seizes Babylon (312 B.C.)
- Strabo pronounces Babylon's hanging gardens as one of "seven wonders of the world" (25 B.C.)
- Babylonians present on Pentecost (Acts 2:9)
- Talmud promulgated from Babylon (A.D. 500)
- Haukal mentions Babylonian village (A.D. 917)
- Babylon known as "Two Mosques" and "Hilah" (A.D. 1100)



Dr. John Walvoord

The Nations in Prophecy, 63-64

“As far as the historic fulfillment is concerned, it is obvious from both Scripture and history that these verses have not been literally fulfilled. The city of **Babylon** continued to flourish after the Medes conquered it, and though its glory dwindled, especially after the control of the Medes and the Persians ended in 323 B.C., the city continued in some form or substance until A.D. 1000 and **did not experience a sudden termination such as anticipated in this prophecy.**”

Parallels Between Jeremiah 50-51 & Revelation 17-18

	Jeremiah	Revelation
Associated with a Golden cup	51:7a	17:3-4; 18:6
Dwelling on many waters	51:13	17:1
Intoxicating the nations	51:7b	17:2
Same name	50:1	17:5
Persecuting the saints	51:48	17:6; 18:24
Stone sinking into Euphrates	51:63-64	18:21
Sudden destruction	51:8	18:8
Destroyed by fire	51:30	17:16
Final, uninhabitable	50:39	18:21
Deserved	50:29	18:6
God's people flee	51:6, 45	18:4
Heaven rejoices	51:48	18:20

Dyer, "The Identity of Babylon in Revelation 17–18 (Part 2)," 441-43.

Larkin, *The Book of Revelation*, 158.

“...and this is in exact harmony with the words of Isa. 13:19. ‘And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees’ excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah;’ and the Prophet Jeremiah makes the same statement. Jer. 50:40. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah was not protracted through many centuries, their glory disappeared in a few hours (Gen. 19:24–28), and as ancient Babylon was not thus destroyed, the prophecies of Isaiah and Jeremiah cannot be fulfilled unless there is to be a future Babylon that shall be thus destroyed. In Rev. 16:17–19, we are told that Babylon shall be destroyed by an Earthquake, attended with most vivid and incessant lightning and awful thunder.”

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Zechariah 5:5-11

⁵ Then the angel who was speaking with me went out and said to me, “Lift up now your eyes and see what this is going forth.” ⁶ I said, “What is it?” And he said, “This is the ephah going forth.” Again he said, “This is their appearance in all the land ⁷ (and behold, a lead cover was lifted up); and this is a woman sitting inside the ephah.” ⁸ Then he said, “This is Wickedness!” And he threw her down into the middle of the ephah and cast the lead weight on its opening.



Zechariah 5:5-11

⁹ Then I lifted up my eyes and looked, and there two women were coming out with the wind in their wings; and they had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heavens. ¹⁰ I said to the angel who was speaking with me, “Where are they taking the ephah?” ¹¹ Then he said to me, “To build a temple for her in the land of Shinar; and when it is prepared, she will be set there on her own pedestal.”



Zechariah 5:5-11

- Woman (wickedness)
- Ephah (commerce)
- House (Temple-2 Sam 7; religion)
- Shinar (Gen 10:10; 11:2; Dan 1:2)



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Daniel 1:1-2

“¹ In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.² The Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and he brought the vessels into the treasury of his god.”



Hitchcock

The Second Coming of Babylon, 109.

ZECHARIAH 5:5-11

REVELATION 17–18

Woman sitting in a basket

Woman sitting on beast, seven mountains, many waters (17: 3, 9, 15)

Emphasis on commerce (basket for measuring grain)

Emphasis on commerce (merchant of grain, 18:13)

Woman's name is wickedness

Woman's name is Babylon the Great, Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth

Focus on False worship (temple is built for the woman)

Focus on False worship (17:5)

Woman taken to Babylon

Woman called Babylon



Arthur W. Pink

1886 - 1952

“The vision or prophecy (Zec. 5) contains the germ which is afterward expanded and developed in such detail in Rev. 17 and 18.” Pink, *The Antichrist*, 281.

Daniel Interprets the Writing (5:24-28)



Zechariah 1:7

On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, which is the month Shebat, in the second year of Darius (519 B.C.*), the word of the LORD came to Zechariah the prophet, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo, as follows:

***Babylon fell in 539 B.C!**



Newton

Babylon: Its Future, History, and Doom, 1890, p. 64.

“That this event predicted in this remarkable passage remains still unaccomplished, is sufficiently evident from the fact of Zechariah’s having prophesied after Babylon had received that blow under which it has gradually waned. Zechariah lived after Babylon had passed into the hands of the Persians . . .”

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Revelation 9:14

“one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, ‘Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.’”



Revelation 16:12

“The sixth *angel* poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east.”





East = Babylon

- Genesis 2:8
- Genesis 11:2
- Matthew 2:2



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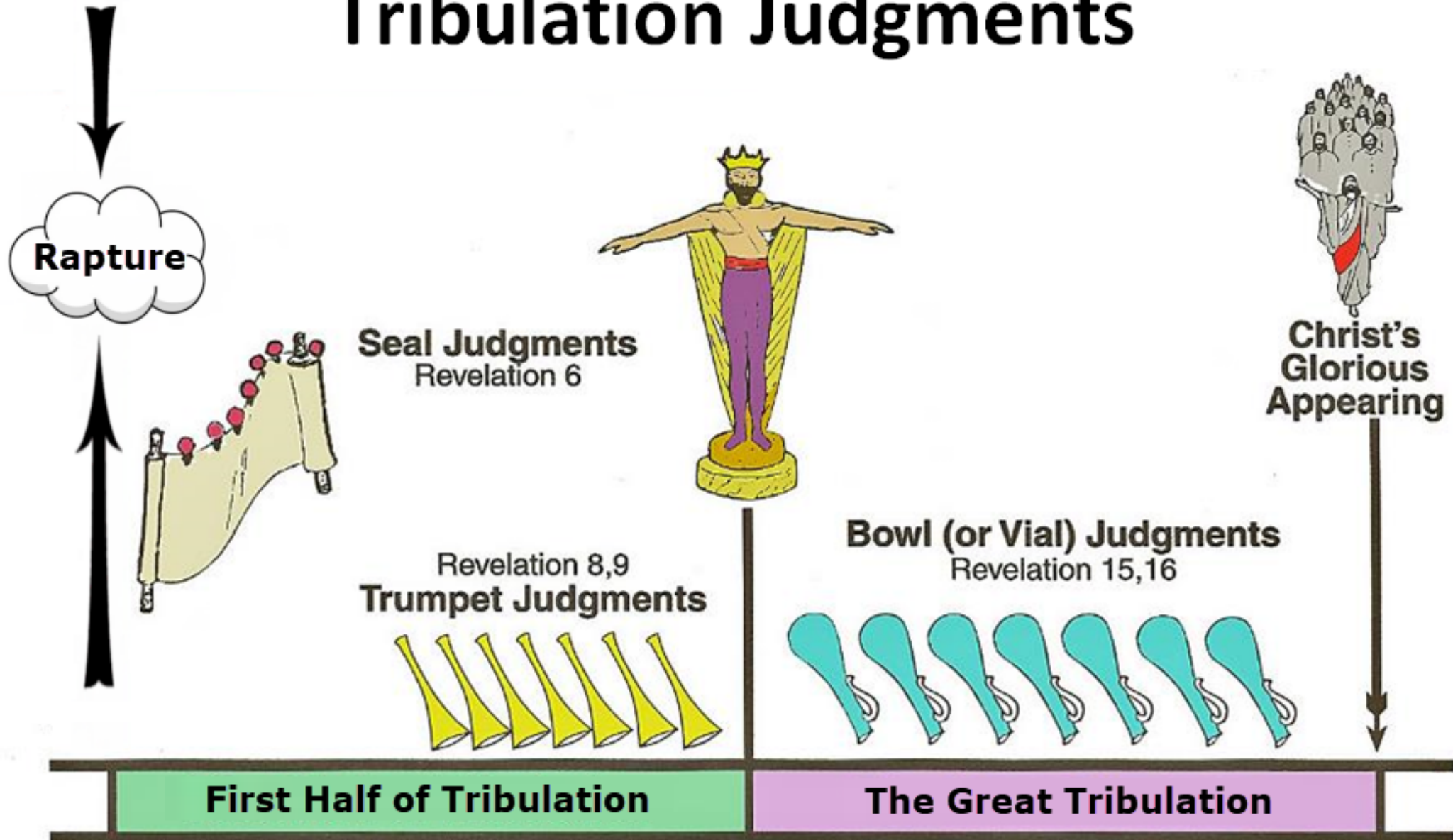


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Tribulation Judgments



5 Non-Chronological Parenthetical Insertions

Seals (Rev 7) 144,000 JEWS

1 2 3 4 5 6 ↓ 7

Trumpets (Rev 10–11) No Delay; 2 Witnesses

1 2 3 4 5 6 ↓ 7 (Rev 12–14) Israel's flight

Bowls (Rev 16:13-16) Armageddon

1 2 3 4 5 6 ↓ 7 (Rev 17–19) Babylon falls

5 Non-Chronological Parenthetical Insertions

1. Rev 7 – 144,000 Jews
2. Rev 10:1-11:13 – Announcement of no more delay and the two witnesses
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5. **Rev 17:1-19:6 – Babylon's fall**

Revelation 17:1

“Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters.”



Revelation 17:18

“The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.”



Revelation 18:10

“standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’”



Literal Geography in Revelation

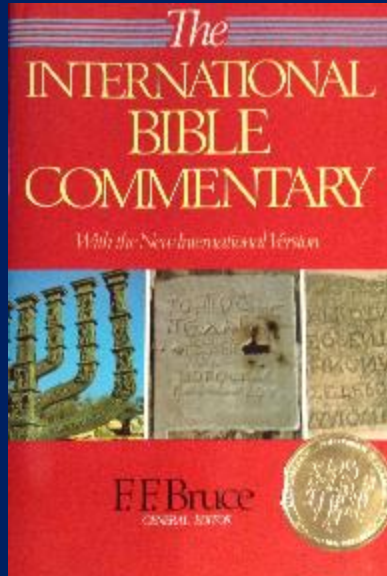
Asia	1:4	Philadelphia	3:7
Patmos	1:9	Laodicea	3:14
Ephesus	2:1	Euphrates	9:14;16:12
Smyrna	2:8	Jerusalem	11:8
Pergamum	2:12	Armageddon	16:16
Thyatira	2:18	Jerusalem	20:9
Sardis	3:1	New Jerusalem	21:2

OT Descriptions of Babylon in Rev 17–18

	Revelation 17–18	Old Testament
Waters	17:1	Psalms 137:1
Babylon the Great	17:5	Daniel 4:30
Mother harlots	17:5	Genesis 11:1-9
Fallen, fallen is Babylon	18:2	Isaiah 21:9
Will not see widowhood	18:7	Isaiah 47:7-9
Colorful attire	17:4; 18:16	Daniel 5:7, 16, 29
Sorcery	18:23	Isaiah 47:9-13
Destroyed in a day	18:8, 10	Daniel 5:30
Occupation of Birds	18:2	Daniel 4:12

F. F. Bruce

“Revelation,” in International Bible Commentary, 1986, p. 1621.



“This title was written on her forehead: Mystery: ‘mystery’ indicates that the name she bears...is not to be understood literally, but allegorically: Babylon the Great is read, but ‘Rome’ is meant (cf. verses 9, 19).”

“MYSTERY” IN HARLOT’S TITLE? REV. 17:5

**And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY,
BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND
OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. (KJV, NIV)**

**... and upon her forehead a name was written, a
mystery, “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF
HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE
EARTH.” (NASB)**

“Mystery” Defined

“In the N.T, it [*mystērion*] denotes, not the mysterious (as with the Eng. word), but that which, being outside the range of unassisted natural apprehension, can be made known only by Divine revelation, and is made known in a manner and at a time appointed by God, and to those who are illumined by His Spirit.”

W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White, *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of the Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville: Nelson, 1996), 424.

Colossians 1:26

*“that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the *past* ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His.”*





Arthur W. Pink

1886 - 1952

“We believe that the English translators have misled many by printing (on their own authority) the word ‘mystery’ in large capital letters, thus making it appear that this was a part of ‘the woman’s name. This we are assured is a mistake. That ‘mystery’ is connected with the ‘Woman’ herself and not with her ‘name’ is clear from v. 7, where the angel says unto John, ‘I will tell thee *the mystery of the Woman*, and of the beast which carrieth her.’””

Revelation 17:3

“And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.”





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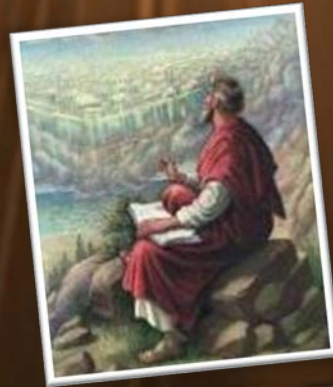
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Revelation 17:5

“and on her forehead a name *was* written, a mystery,
“BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”



Other Alternatives?

1. Religious system?
2. Jerusalem?
3. Rome?
4. Revived Rome?
5. Two Babylons?
6. Trans-temporal
7. Eclecticism



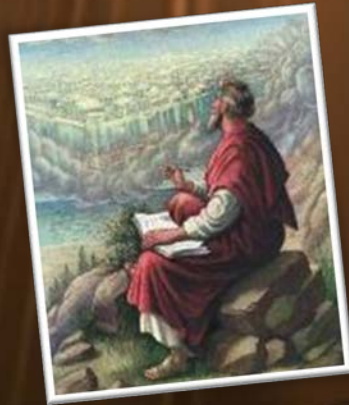
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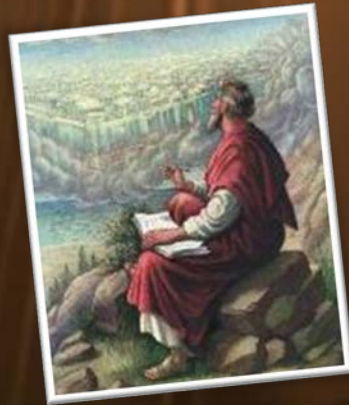
Revelation 17:18

“The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.



Revelation 18:10

“standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’”



Bullinger

The Apocalypse or "The Day of the Lord", 509

“It is indeed surprising how any mistake could have been made in the identification of this woman. For the Holy Spirit first shows us her very name upon her forehead. Then, in verse 18, He tells us as plainly as words can tell anything, that ‘the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reignest over the kings of the earth’, and chap. xvi. 19, as well as xvii. 5, identifies this city with Babylon. God says it is a ‘city.’ He does not say *a system* or *a religion*, but a ‘CITY.’”

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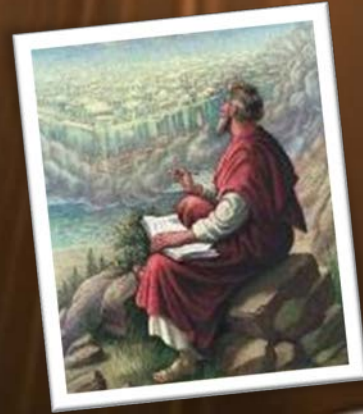
Hank Hanegraaff

The Apocalypse Code: Find out What the Bible Really Says About the End Times and Why It Matters (Nashville, TN: Nelson, 2007), 118, 19-20.

“What has puzzled me over the years is not the identity of “the great prostitute,” but how so many could mistake her historical identity...In biblical history only one nation is inextricably linked to the moniker “harlot.” And that nation is Israel! Anyone who has read the Bible even once has flashbacks to the graphic images of apostate Israel when they first encounter the great prostitute of Revelation. From the Pentateuch to the Prophets, the image is repeated endlessly. Perhaps the most gut-wrenching portrayal of Israel as prostitute is found in Hosea.”

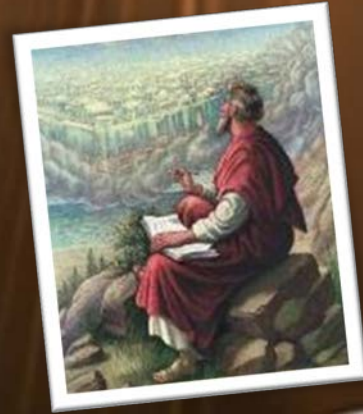
Nahum 3:4

“All because of the many harlotries of the harlot, The charming one, the mistress of sorceries, Who sells nations by her harlotries And families by her sorceries.”



Isaiah 23:17

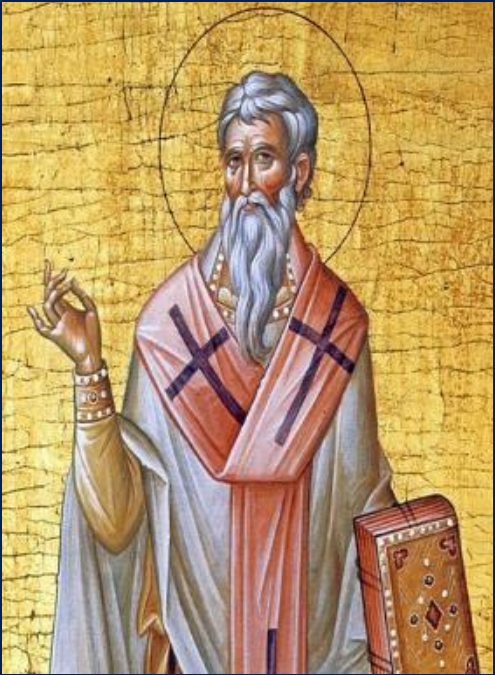
“It will come about at the end of seventy years that the LORD will visit Tyre. Then she will go back to her harlot's wages and will play the harlot with all the kingdoms on the face of the earth.”





Late Date (A.D. 95)

Irenaeus *Against Heresies* 5.30.3



“But if it had been necessary to announce his name plainly at the present time, it would have been spoken by him who saw the apocalypse. For it was not seen long ago, but almost in our own time, at the end of the reign of Domitian.”

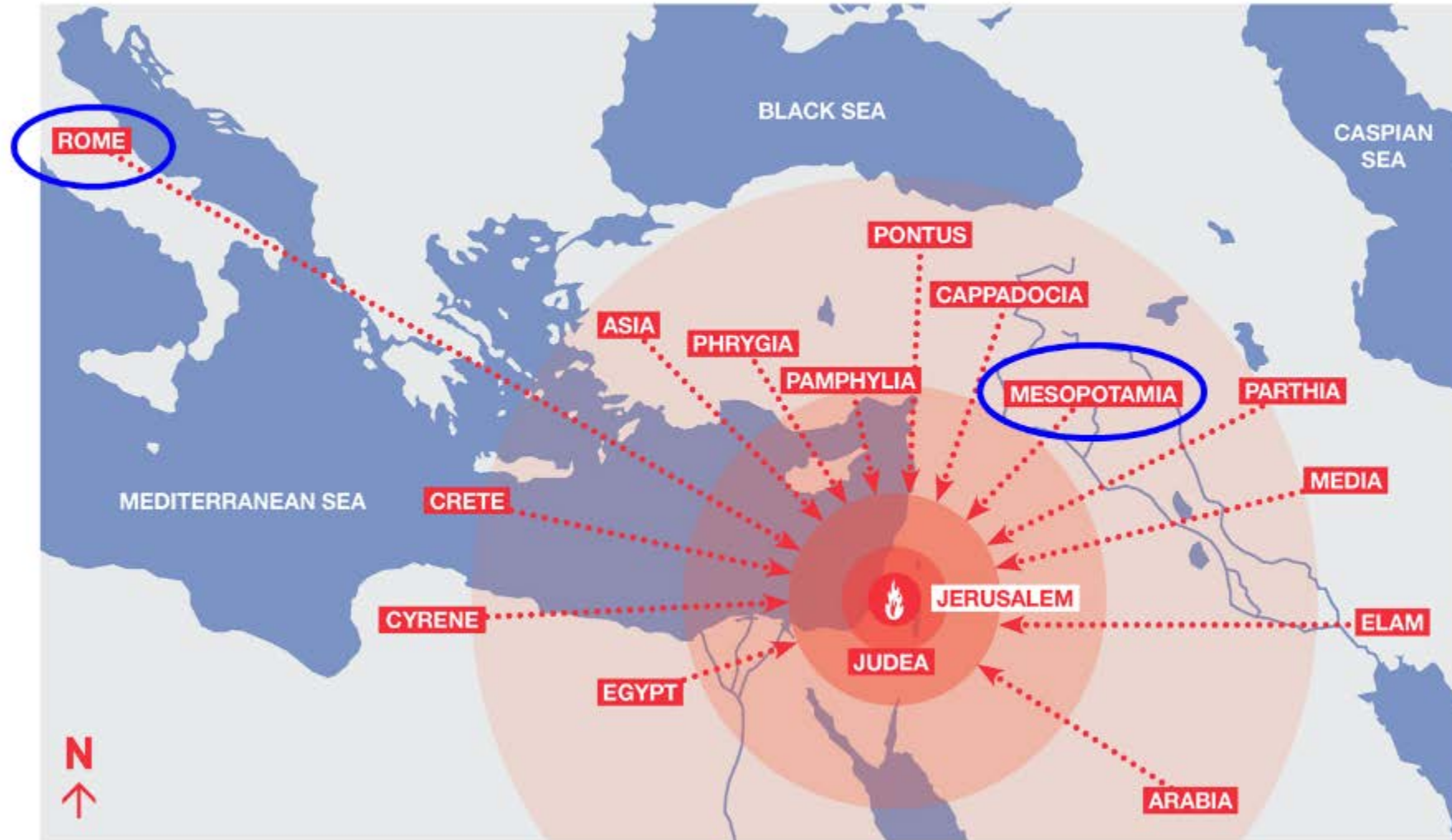
Other Alternatives?

1. Religious system?
2. Jerusalem?
3. **Rome?**
4. Revived Rome?
5. Two Babylons?
6. Trans-temporal
7. Eclecticism



THE NATIONS OF PENTECOST ACTS 2:9-11

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Revelation 17:9-10

“Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains [oros] on which the woman sits, ¹⁰ and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while.”



Daniel 2:37-38

You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory;
³⁸ and wherever the sons of men dwell, *or* the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.



Revelation 17:3

“And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness;
and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of
blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.”

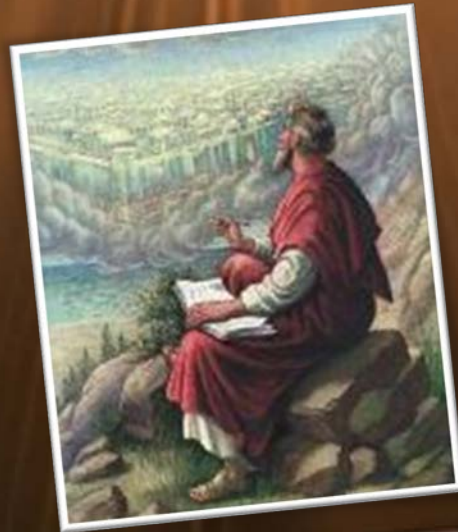




Art By Pat Marvenko Smith Copyright 1982/1992
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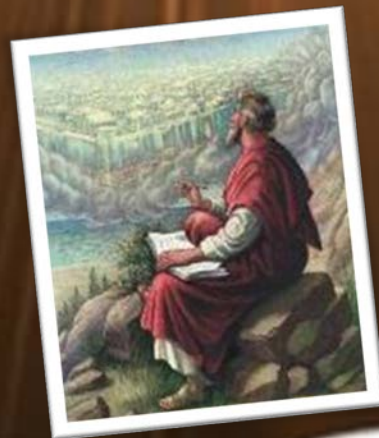
1 Peter 5:13

“She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and *so does* my son, Mark.”



1 Peter 1:1

“To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen.”



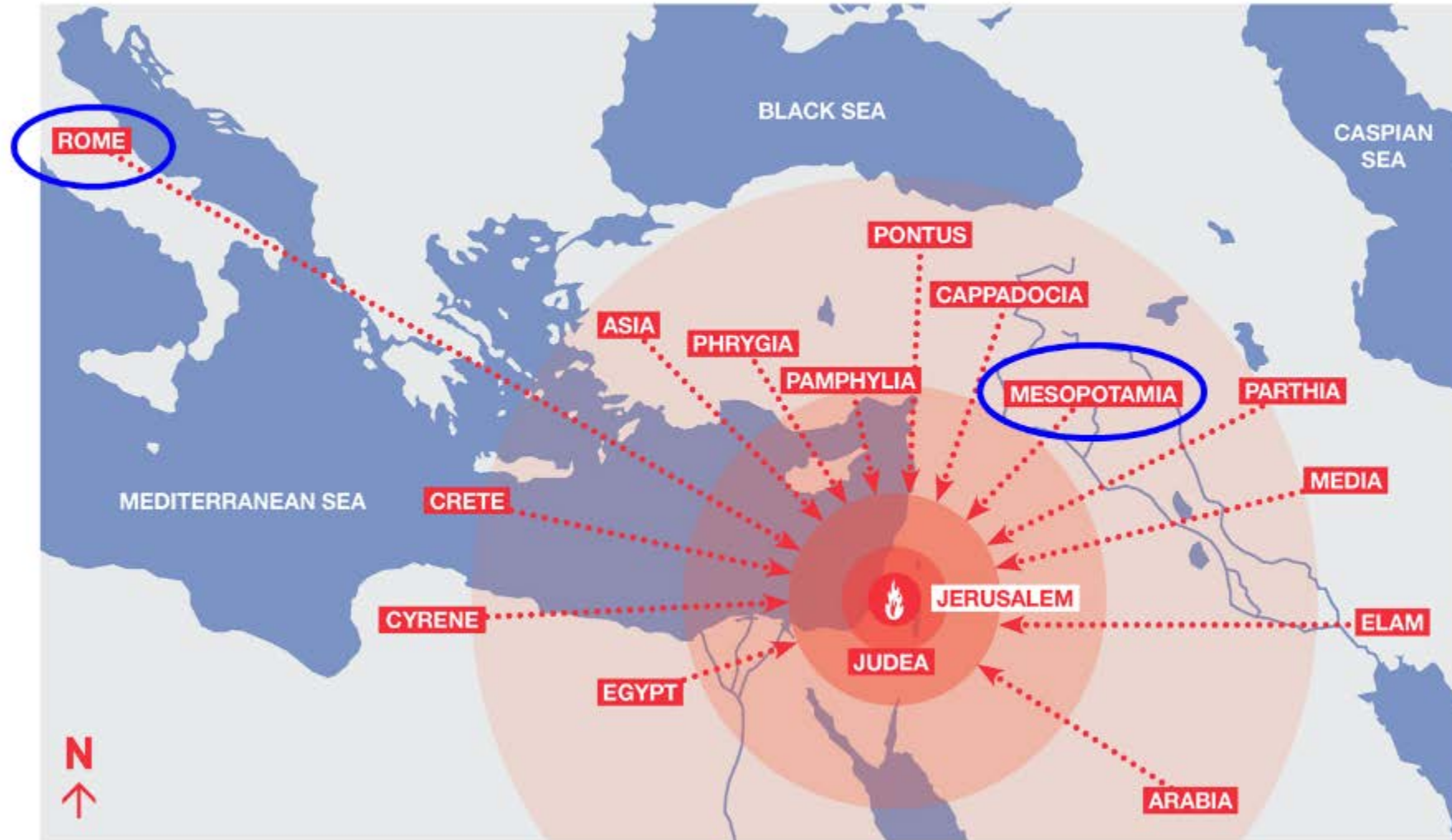
Galatians 2:7-8

“⁷ But on the contrary, seeing that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised ⁸ (for He who effectually worked for Peter in his apostleship to the circumcised effectually worked for me also to the Gentiles).”



THE NATIONS OF PENTECOST ACTS 2:9-11

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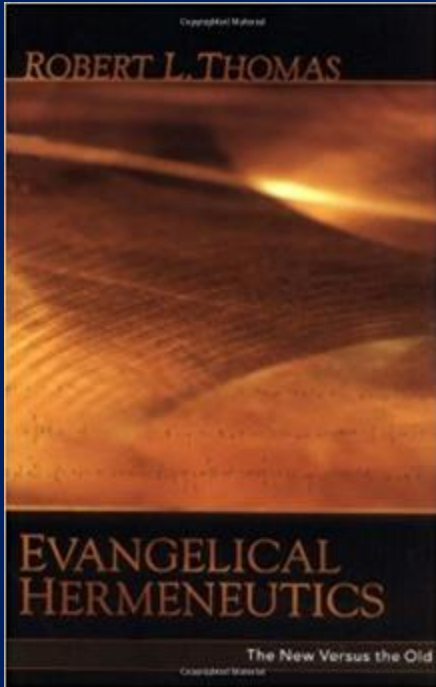
Josephus

Antiquities, 15.2.2

“But when Hyrcanus was brought into Parthia the king Phraates treated him after a very gentle manner, as having already learned of what an illustrious family he was; on which account he set him free from his bonds, and *gave him a habitation at Babylon, where there were Jews in great numbers. These Jews honored Hyrcanus as their high priest and king, as did all the Jewish nation that dwelt as far as Euphrates*; which respect was very much to his satisfaction...”

Robert Thomas

"Evangelical Hermeneutics," .336.



“Another clear distinctive of literal interpretation is its avoidance of assumptions not justified in the text. Theories that 'Babylon' in Revelation chapters 14 and 16-18 is a code for Rome have been widespread.”



Martin Luther

"Against the Roman Papacy, an Institution of the Devil," in *Luther's Works*,
ed. Eric. W. Gritsch (Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1966), 273-74.

"No man can believe what an abomination the papacy is. A Christian does not have to be of low intelligence, either, to recognize it. God himself must deride him in the hellish fire, and our Lord Jesus Christ, St. Paul says in II Thessalonians 2 [:8] will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by his glorious coming." I only deride, with my own weak derision, so that those who now live and those who will come after us should know what I have thought of the pope, the damned antichrist, and so that whoever wishes to be a Christian may be warned against such an abomination."



John Calvin

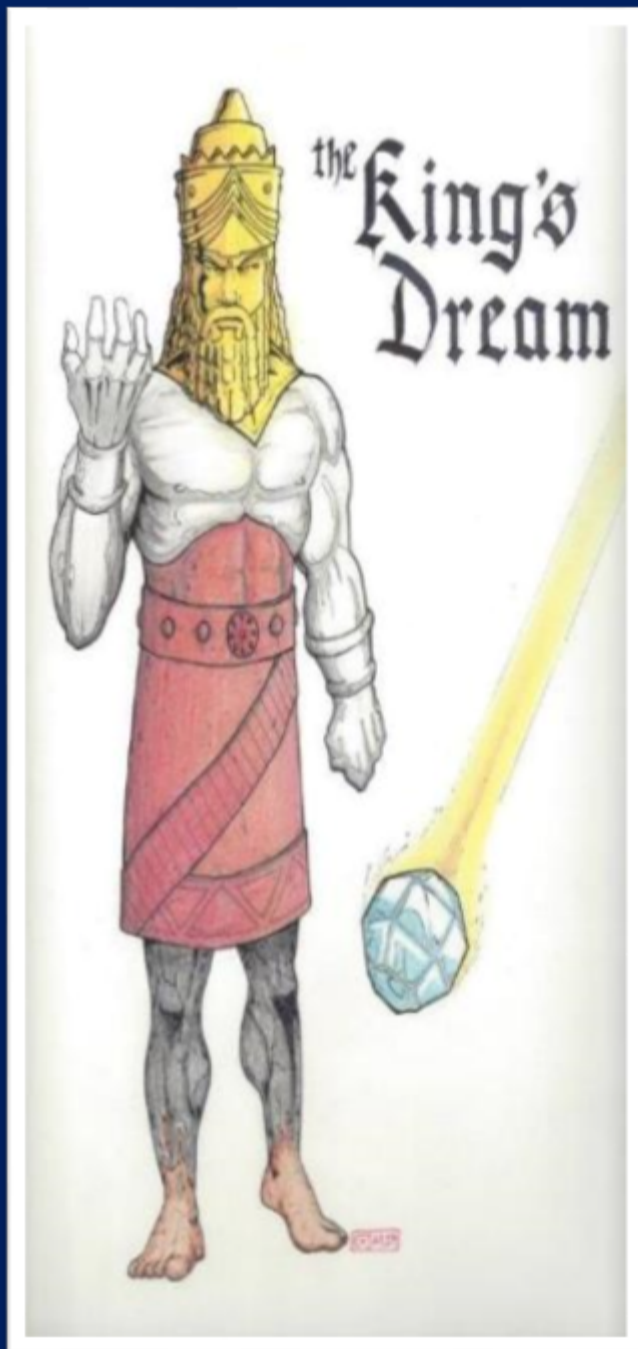
Calvin, *Institutes*, IV, ii, 12.

...therefore is evident that we by no means deny that the churches under his tyranny remain churches. But these he has profaned by his sacrilegious impiety, afflicted by his inhuman domination, corrupted and well-nigh killed by his evil and deadly doctrines, which are like poisoned drinks. In them Christ lies hidden, half buried, the gospel overthrown, piety scattered, the worship of God nearly wiped out. In them, briefly, everything is so confused that there we see the face of Babylon rather than that of the Holy City of God.”

Other Alternatives?

1. Religious system?
2. Jerusalem?
3. Rome?
4. **Revived Rome?**
5. Two Babylons?
6. Trans-temporal
7. Eclecticism





Statue & Stone

2. A Statue and a Stone



Statue is destroyed by a great stone, which represents Jesus Christ



HEAD
GOLD

WORLD POWER
BABYLON
606-539

CHEST AND ARMS
SILVER

WORLD POWER
PERSIA
539-331

STOMACH AND THIGHS
BRASS

WORLD POWER
GREECE
331-323

LEGS AND FEET
IRON & CLAY

WORLD POWER
ROME
322 B.C.—A.D. 476
FUTURE

Revelation 17:3

“And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness;
and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of
blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.”





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Other Alternatives?

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7. Eclecticism





John F. Walvoord

The Revelation of Jesus Christ: A Commentary
(Chicago: Moody, 1966), 267.

“Babylon, ecclesiastically symbolized by the woman in Revelation 17, proposes a common worship and a common religion through uniting in a world church. This is destroyed by the beast in Revelation 17:16 who thus fulfills the will of God (Rev. 17:17). Babylon, politically symbolized by the great city of Revelation 18, attempts to achieve its domination of the world by a world common market and a world government. These are destroyed by Christ at His second coming (Rev. 19:11–21).”



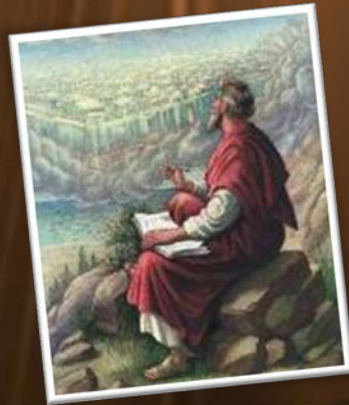
John F. Walvoord

The Revelation of Jesus Christ: A Commentary
(Chicago: Moody, 1966), 257, 263.

“The city here according to verse 5 is a mystery, not a literal city...The ultimate decision depends upon the judgment of the expositor, but in many respects it is simpler to postulate a rebuilt Babylon as fulfilling literally the Old Testament prophecies as well as that embodied in this chapter.”

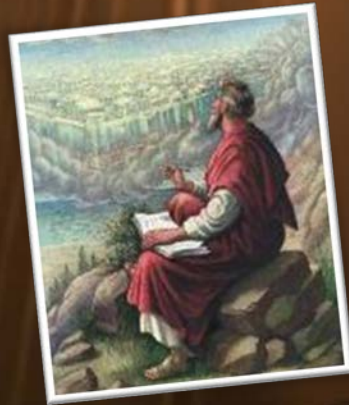
Revelation 17:18

“The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.



Revelation 18:10

“standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’”



Bullinger

The Apocalypse or "The Day of the Lord", 509

“It is indeed surprising how any mistake could have been made in the identification of this woman. For the Holy Spirit first shows us her very name upon her forehead. Then, in verse 18, He tells us as plainly as words can tell anything, that ‘the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reignest over the kings of the earth’, and chap. xvi. 19, as well as xvii. 5, identifies this city with Babylon. God says it is a ‘city.’ He does not say *a system* or *a religion*, but a ‘CITY.’”

Revelation 17:1

“Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters.”



ONE BABYLON

	Rev. 17	Rev. 18
Same name	17:5	18:2
City	17:18	18:10
Same clothing	17:4	18:16
Holding a cup	17:4	18:6
Fornicating with Kings	17:2	18:3
Drunk with wine of immorality	17:2	18:3
Persecuting believers	17:6	18:20, 24
Destroyed by fire	17:16	18:8, 18
Destroyed by God	17:17	18:5, 8

Dyer, "The Identity of Babylon in Revelation 17–18 (Part 1)," 311-13.

Two Babylons View

	Ecclesiastical Babylon	Commercial Babylon
Chapter	Revelation 17	Revelation 18
Literalness	Not literal	Literal
Time of Destruction	1 st half of Tribulation	Second Advent
Emphasis	Religion	Commercial & Political

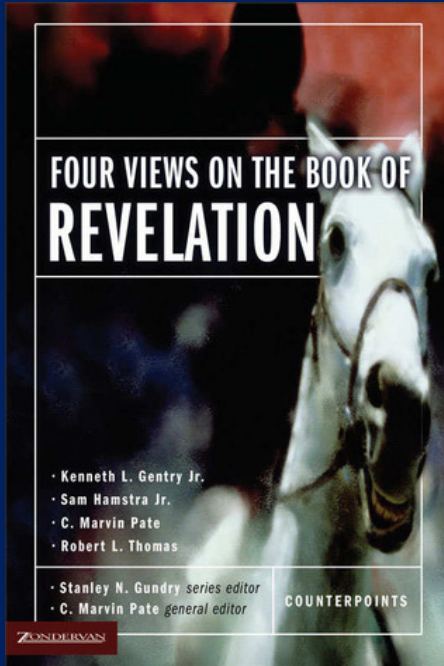
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6. Trans-temporal
7. Eclecticism



Sam Hamstra

Sam Hamstra, "An Idealist View of Revelation," in *Four Views on the Book of Revelation*, ed. C. Marvin Pate (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998), 117.



“In the first century, Babylon was Rome. Two generations ago it was Berlin. Today, perhaps, it is Las Vegas or even a university campus. Babylon can be found everywhere throughout the history of the world. It is the center of anti-Christian seduction any time in history.”

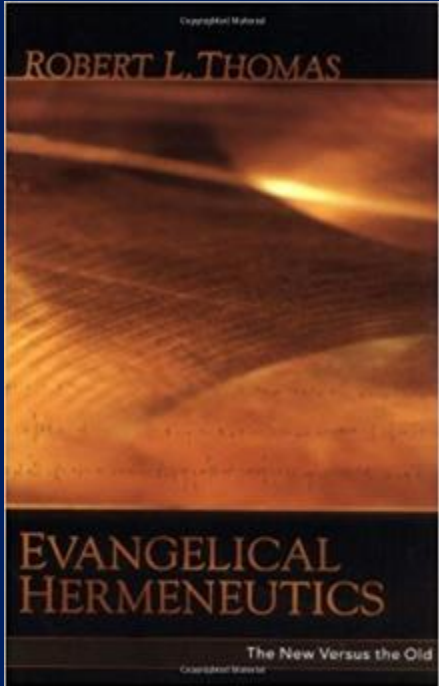
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7. **Eclecticism**



Robert Thomas

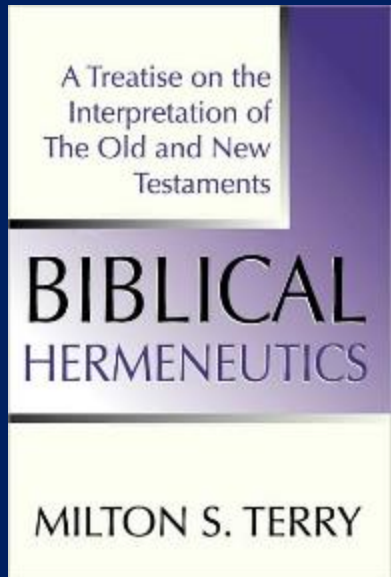
“Evangelical Hermeneutics,” .362.



“Blaising and Bock...interpret Babylon in Revelation 17–18 as representing Rome and Rebuilt Babylon on the Euphrates, and in addition, in ‘the sweep of history’ it could represent any city since the world empire’s center is always shifting.”

Milton Terry

Biblical Hermeneutics: A Treatise on the Interpretation of the Old and New Testaments (1885; reprint, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1947), 205.



Milton Terry explains: “A fundamental principle in grammatico-historical exposition is that the words and sentences can have but one significance in one and the same connection. The moment we neglect this principle we drift upon a sea of uncertainty and conjecture.”

Seven Areas

- I. Tower of Babel (Gen. 1–11)
- II. Prophecies of Isaiah (13–14) & Jeremiah (50–51)
- III. Prophecy of Zechariah (Zech. 5:5-11)
- IV. Kings of the East (Rev. 9:14; 16:12)
- V. End-Time Harlot (Rev. 17–18)
- VI. Inadequate Theories
- VII. Current Events**



Early Babylon Interpreters

Govett (1813–1901)

Pink (1923)

Newton (1853)

Jennings (1937)

Newell (1935)

Pember (1941)

Bullinger (1909)

Cooper (1942)

Seiss (1909)

Lang (1948)

Larkin (1919)

Dyer (1979)

Ice, “Babylon in Bible Prophecy,” 5 . www.pre-trib.org.



Morris

The Revelation Record, 349

“Computer studies of the Institute for Creation Research have shown, for example, that **Babylon is very near the geographical center of all the earth’s land masses**. It is within navigable distances of the Persian Gulf and is at the crossroads of the three great continents of Europe, Asia and Africa. **Thus there is no more ideal location anywhere for a world trade center, a world communication center, a world banking center, a world educational center, or especially, a world capital!** The greatest historian of modern times, Arnold Toynbee, used to stress to all his readers and hearers that Babylon would be the best place in the world to build a future world cultural metropolis.”

June 2007 Conventional Oil Reserves

Rank	Country	Percentage of oil reserves
1	Saudia Arabia	21.9 %
2	Iran	11.4 %
3	Iraq	9.5 %
4	Kuwait	8.4 %
5	United Arab Emirates	8.1 %
6	Venezuela	6.6 %
7	Russia	6.6 %
8	Libya	3.4 %

David Jeremiah, *What in the World is Going On*, 207



Iraq Celebrates Naming Babylon a UNESCO World Heritage Site

QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA of Times of Israel - July 6, 2019

“BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq on Friday celebrated the UNESCO World Heritage Committee’s decision to name the historic city of Babylon a World Heritage Site in a vote held in Azerbaijan’s capital, years after Baghdad began campaigning for the site to be added to the list...The 4,300-year-old Babylon — now mainly an archaeological ruin and two important museums — is where dynasties have risen and fallen since the earliest days of settled human civilization. King Hammurabi wrote his famous code of laws in Babylon, while Nebuchadnezzar sent his vast army from the city to Jerusalem to put down an uprising and bring the Jews back as slaves.”

“Want Middle East Stability? Move UN to Iraq”

“The idea of moving U.N. headquarters seems to resonate with many...Where should it go? Try Iraq...In order to maintain its fledgling democracy, Iraq needs international commitment, an inducement to stop factional violence, and a stable form of income not subject to the terrorists’ reprisals...New York is an expensive city, and representation at the U.N. is currently a costly endeavor...The remaining big spenders should have a positive effect on the Iraqi job market and improve the overall economy of the entire region, which might in turn reduce the tendency ...”

Cynthia E. Ayers and David W. Cammons, “Want Middle East Stability? Move UN to Iraq,” Newsweek, April 9, 2007, posted at: [Http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/postglobal/needtoknow/2007/04/want_middle_east_stability_mov.html](http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/postglobal/needtoknow/2007/04/want_middle_east_stability_mov.html)

How Could Babylon Be Built So Quickly?

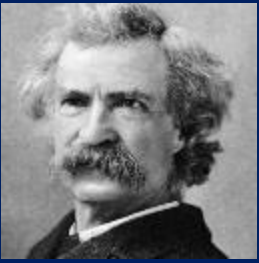
- Too literal & too small
- Imminency?
 - ◆ Gap
 - ◆ Speed?
 - ◆ Chicago fire
 - ◆ Dubai
 - ◆ Neom, Saudi Arabia
- Harbor?



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Mark Twain

The Innocents Abroad, Complete, 1st ed. (A Public Domain Book, 1869),
267, 285, 302. These quotes can be found in chapters 47, 49, 52.

“... A desolate country whose soil is rich enough, but is given over wholly to weeds... a silent mournful expanse.... a desolation is here that not even imagination can grace with the pomp of life and action.... we never saw a human being on the whole route.... there was hardly a tree or shrub anywhere. Even the olive tree and the cactus, those fast friends of a worthless soil, had almost deserted the country.”

Why?

COUNTRY	GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT
ISRAEL	\$123 BILLION
Egypt	\$81 billion
Syria	\$26 billion
Lebanon	\$21 billion
Jordan	\$12 billion

Source: CIA World Fact Book, 2005

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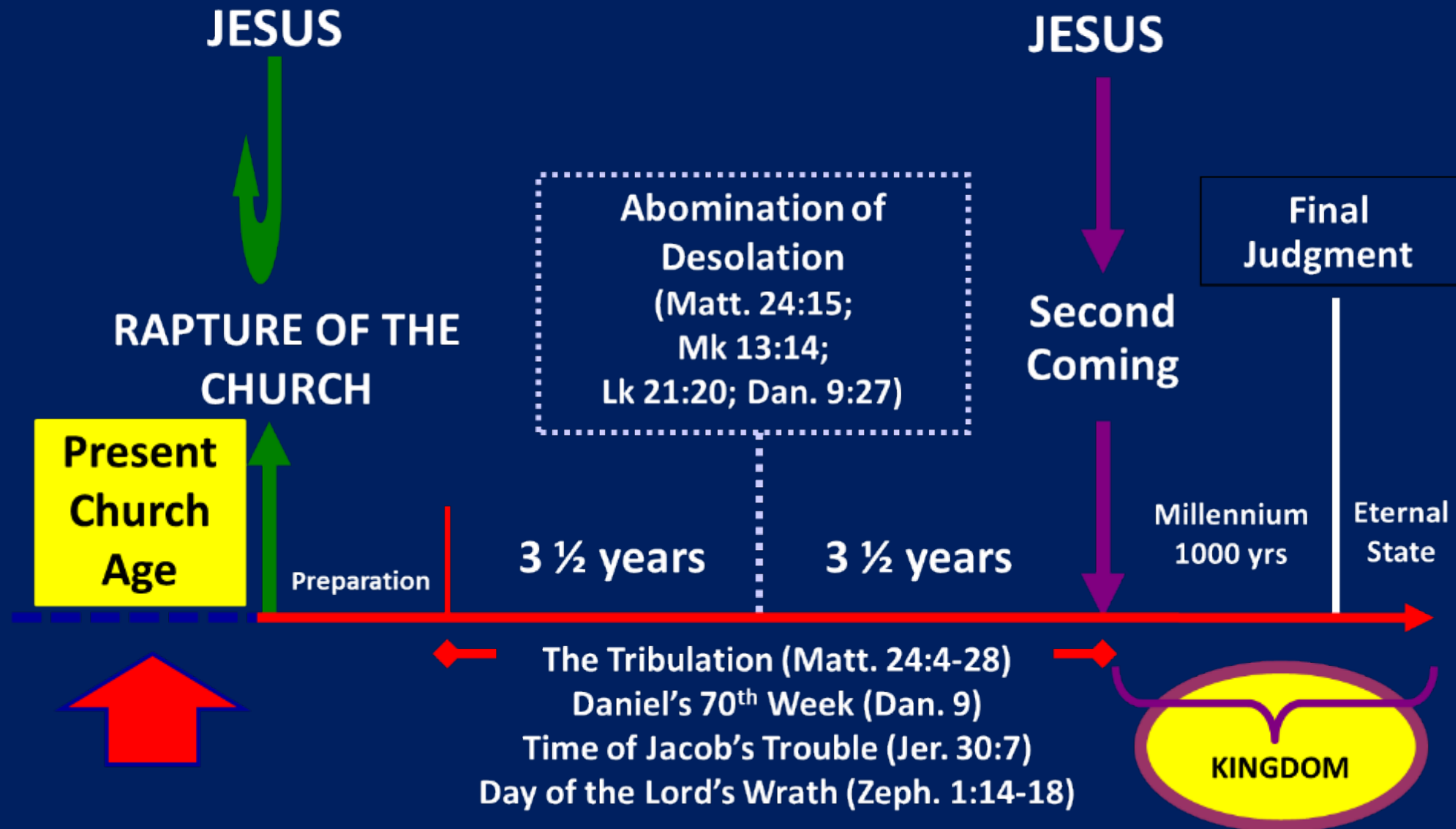


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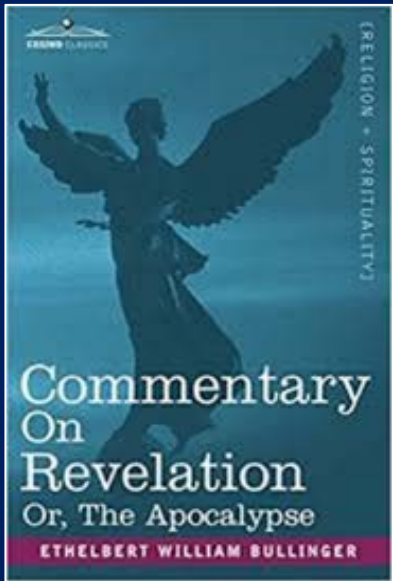


The End Times



Bullinger (1909)

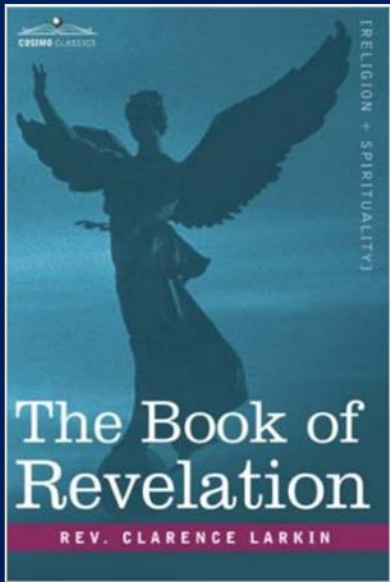
Commentary on Revelation, 577



“And Babylon, though fallen gradually, and very low, has never suffered such a destruction. There is only one conclusion, that in the interval of, say some 30 or more years between the removal of the church and the last "week "of Daniel's prophecy, it will be revived and exceed all its former magnificence.”

Larkin (1919)

The Book of Revelation, 162



“But I hear the protest, how can you say we be expecting Jesus to come at "any moment," if the city of Babylon must be rebuilt before He can come? There is not a word in Scripture that says that Jesus cannot come and take away His Church until Babylon is rebuilt. The Church may be taken out of the world 25 or even 50 years before that.”

How Could Babylon Be Built So Quickly?

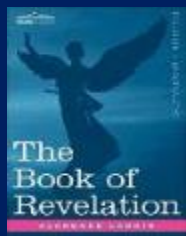
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Larkin (1919)

The Book of Revelation, 162

“The rapid growth of modern cities is one of the remarkable phenomena of the times. Since 1880 more than 500 cities have been built in America. Less than 100 years ago the site of the City of Chicago was but a swampy expanse at the mouth of the Chicago river. Now it has been transformed into a beautiful Metropolis, stretching 25 miles along the shore of Lake Michigan, with 5000 miles of streets, many of them beautiful boulevards 120 feet wide. In 1840 Chicago had only 4470 inhabitants, today the population is over 3,000,000. Once the Capitalists of the world are ready the revived City of Babylon will spring up in a few years.”

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This is a detailed political and geographical map of the Middle East and surrounding regions. The map shows major countries such as Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, and others. It includes major cities, bodies of water (Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea), and geographical features like the Taurus and Zagros mountains. A red arrow points to the Gulf of Oman area. The map is labeled with various geographical features and political boundaries.

Scale: 1:21,000,000
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic Projection
 standard parallels 12° N and 38° N

Legend:
 - Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative
 - Green (high) is Israeli-occupied Syria
 - West Bank and Gaza Strip are Israeli-occupied with current status subject to the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreements; permanent status to be determined through further negotiations
 - Israel proclaimed Jerusalem as its capital in 1950, but the US, like nearly all other countries, maintains an Embassy in Tel Aviv



DUBAI



How Could Babylon Be Built So Quickly?

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A Prince's \$500 Billion Desert Dream: Flying Cars, Robot Dinosaurs and a Giant Artificial Moon

“Saudi Arabia’s crown prince turned to U.S. consultants for help imagining a massive new city-state in a barren section of his kingdom. What emerged was a Jetsons-style world of automation. SHARMA, Saudi Arabia—This seaside corner of northwest Saudi Arabia is so barren that the only abundant resources a group of consultants could identify were sunlight and ‘unlimited access to salt water.’ But Saudi crown prince Mohammed bin Salman didn’t see a wasteland when he landed in his helicopter here a few years ago. He saw the future — and hatched a plan for a \$500 billion city-state to cover 10,000 square miles of rocky desert and empty coastline to attract the ‘world’s greatest minds and best talents’ to the world’s best paying jobs in the world’s most livable city.”

Justin Scheck, Rory Jones, and Summer Sawwww.wsj.comid, “A Prince’s \$500 Billion Dollar Desert Dream,” online:, 25 July 2019.

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Babylon Needs a Harbor?

“It was unacceptable to Saddam [Hussein] that a country as great as Iraq did not have a long coastline. Over and over he talked about the necessity of building a Navy and becoming a seafaring power. Iraq’s isolation from the sea was a cruel accident of history, he believed, and one that had to be rectified—a theme he continued to dwell on after his invasion of Kuwait.”

Babylon Needs a Harbor?

“Actually, the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers converge in southern Iraq and enter the Persian Gulf in Iraqi territory. The problem has been that Iran and Kuwait squeeze Iraq into a bottleneck at the mouth of the rivers and Iraq’s attempts to forge a harbor there have been thwarted by the hostile refusals of those two countries. But suppose international pressures were brought to bear upon Iran to allow Iraq access to the Shatt al-Arab waterway all the way to Basra and cooperation could be coerced from Kuwait to open up the area around its little island of Bubiyan and Warba.”

Babylon Needs a Harbor?

“A commercial port and harbor for ships could become a reality for Babylon in a relatively short period of time. With modern dredging equipment, a deep channel waterway could be opened from the Persian Gulf all the way to Babylon. With its location on the Euphrates River, ships and sailors could indeed have access to this future queen of modern cities. The Antichrist ruler, with his political and economic power and global influence, could easily make that happen. So, as you can see, a harbor in Babylon is not at all out of the question.”

Conclusion

Seven Areas

- I. Tower of Babel (Gen. 1–11)
- II. Prophecies of Isaiah (13–14) & Jeremiah (50–51)
- III. Prophecy of Zechariah (Zech. 5:5-11)
- IV. Kings of the East (Rev. 9:14; 16:12)
- V. End-Time Harlot (Rev. 17–18)
- VI. Inadequate Theories
- VII. Current Events



Ecclesiastes 1:9

“That which has been is that which will be, And that which has been done is that which will be done. So there is nothing new under the sun.”

