

SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.
A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION
SESSION 25 – CHAPTER 18

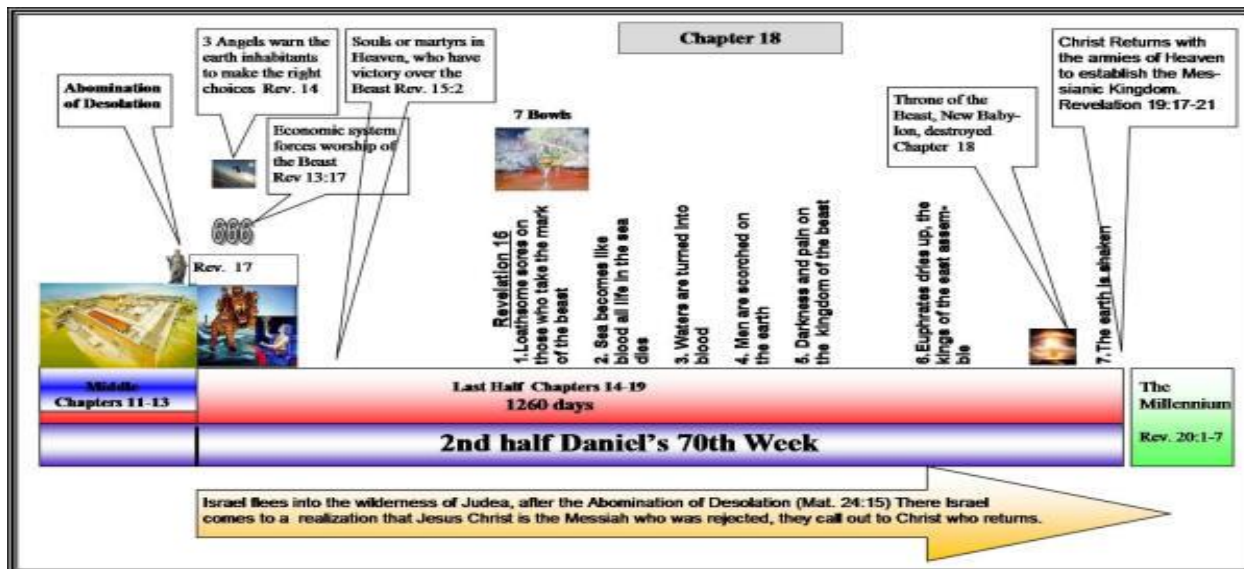


The focus of **chapter 17** was about the judgment of the harlot religious system that rode the Beast. The main focus of this chapter will be about the judgment of the Babylonian counterfeit kingdom of God called “Babylon the Great”. Babylon represents all world government and religious systems under Satan. They have been in organized rebellion against God since their conception at the tower of Babel under Nimrod. This rebellion will climax with the end time world government and religion that will have its headquarters located at Babylon, Iraq. The supernatural being behind this rebellion against God is the counterfeit god of this world system (**2 Cor. 4:4**). This chapter tells us about the world kingdom that Satan fully establishes when he is allowed total control over the earth for 3 ½ years. The chapter also tells us about the judgment upon this satanic kingdom and religion from the real God in heaven.

Chapter 18 of Revelation is a continuation from the 16th chapter. In Chapter 16 seven angels with seven bowls have 7 plagues poured out on the earth. The plagues take place in the last quarter of the 7-year tribulation period. During this period of the bowl judgments, God’s wrath is being completed on the earth. People, who received the mark of the beast, are in continuous pain. Water and food are scarce because of the plagues on the sea and fresh water. The heat of the Sun is scorching the earth causing death and burning in the earth. The inhabitants of the Earth blaspheme God’s name as a result of his wrath.

Satan, Antichrist, and the False prophet gather the armies of the east and the world toward Jerusalem to wage war on God. As the armies of the Earth near Jerusalem, a tremendous earthquake, one unequaled in the history of the earth, destroys the cities of the world. The capital city of the Beast “Babylon” is in darkness and has been divided into three parts as a result of the great earthquake. As the armies of the earth gather and the inhabitants from the cities emerge from their rubble; hail falls from the sky weighing about 135 pounds each.

The armies of heaven are being readied for their entry into the Earth. The wedding supper of the Lamb is just finishing, and the bride is ready to depart with the Groom. But before they enter the Earth, remnants of Babylon the Great will be obliterated from the Earth. In the 18th chapter we see the final chapter on man’s monument to himself, destroyed before the triumphant armies of Heaven. As the smoke from Babylon the Great goes into the air, word quickly spreads to the gathering armies of the Earth of the destruction of their capital.



Revelation 18:1-3 *“¹And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. ²And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. ³For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.*”

After these... John had just witnessed the destruction of the woman riding the Beast, by the 10 horns (10 kings) who hate the woman. This was a parenthetical break from the chronological flow of events. After the 7th bowl is poured, and the greatest earthquake in history, John is shown the destruction of, “Babylon the Great”, the capital city of the Earth.

Another angel... This angel is different from the one who took John into the wilderness to witness the destruction of the woman riding the Beast. The angel in **chapter 17** was one of the angels who held the bowl judgments. This angel is described in awe inspiring terms.

This angel seems like a final herald to the inhabitants of the earth of the coming judgment on Babylon. This angel’s appearance will be seen in the physical world as he descends from Heaven. He is described as having great (Gr. exousia ...authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength.) authority and glory. The earth lights with his presence. With the kingdom of the Beast in darkness; the light from this angel will bring immediate focus of all eyes to Heaven.

He cried.... Literally screaming, in power with a loud voice (megas phoône). The angel will be known not only by his glorious appearance but his loud message.

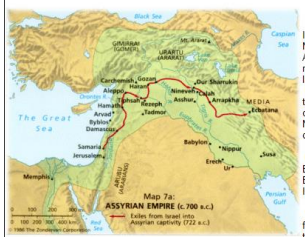
Babylon the great... This angel is announcing the final and complete destruction of Babylon. Babylon plays a prominent role in scripture from the time of the flood till the return of Christ. Some see the Babylon mentioned in Revelation as a veiled reference to the city of Rome. The more literal reading of Babylon as the actual physical city fits the literal understanding of scripture. And with the current situation in the World, a literal Babylon seems in the works.

Short History of Babylon

Babylon was created after Noah's flood when mankind was one. Mankind left the mountains of Ararat and moved west, then east to the plains of Shinar. Shinar has been located in our current day in southern Iraq, where the city of Babylon is located. Man, at that point, is under the leadership of Nimrod. Nimrod built major cities and started building a tower. The tower was built so man could reach into heaven and make one name for themselves. The rebellion behind building the tower caused God to scatter man according to their family tribal lineage. God confused languages where people could only communicate with their close family members with all others sounding like "Babel." This caused man to migrate to different parts of the earth with like speaking family members. Therefore, the tribes of the Earth were established. This tribal link with the languages of the world can be found in words like mother and father.

One way that linguists prove that languages are related to one another is by using cognates. A cognate is a related word in another language. For example, the English word *mother* has cognates in several other Indo-European languages: Greek *meter*, Russian *mate*, German *mutter*, Sanskrit *matri*, and Irish *mathair*. These words all share a similar sound, and thousands of years ago they were likely all the same word in the same language.

Genesis 11:1-9 *1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. 2 and it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. 3 And they said one to another, go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. 4 And they said, go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. 5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. 6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. 7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.*



8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. 9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

Nimrod was the first post-flood empire builder. In addition to building the city of Babylon, he built other cities listed in **Genesis 10**. Many of these cities would later become empires such as Assyria. Assyria would then vie with Babylon, Egypt, Hittite, Elam, and Urartu, for control of the lands of the Middle East for the next 1500 years.

Genesis 10:8-11 ***8 Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one in the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD. 10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. 11 Out of that land went forth Asshur, and builded Nineveh, and the city Rehoboth, and Calah, 12 and Resen between Nineveh and Calah; the same is a great city.***

About 2100 BC, God would call Abraham to the land of Moriah (**Gen 12:1-7**) and promise his descendants possession of the land. During this time, we see Abraham interacting with both the Hittites and Egyptians. To the East, Assyria and Babylon struggled for control of the lands of the Tigris and Euphrates.

We see the influence of Babylon and God's anger at the nation even while Joshua is entering the land about 1425 B.C. Achan, one of the Israelites, takes a garment from Jericho, made in Babylon, against the orders given to Israel. As a result, Achan causes Israel to be defeated by the small city of Ai.

Joshua 7:21 ***"21 When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, I coveted them and took them; and behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it."***

In 625 BC Nabopolassar father of Nebuchadnezzar rebelled against Assyrian domination of Babylon and re-established the Babylonian empire later to be known as "Neo-Babylon". In 605 BC, Nebuchadnezzar became the King of Babylon. The first 4 chapters of Daniel revolve around Nebuchadnezzar's interaction with the descendants and God of Israel.

Nebuchadnezzar would reconstruct Babylon to its former glory. This Neo-Babylon is the Babylon referred to in Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel.

"Neo-Babylon" would become a foreshadowing of the last Babylon that will be the capital city of the Earth.

After the defeat of Babylon by Cyrus the Persian in 539 BC (Daniel 5), Babylon as a city continued to exist. Alexander the Great died in the city of Babylon in 322 BC, while he was in the process of reconstructing the city to its former glory. Babylon as a city is only a shadow of its former glory. But if we take the scripture literally, Babylon will be rebuilt and become the greatest of all cities. At least in the second half of the tribulation it will become the seat of power for Satan as he operates through the Antichrist.

This chapter in Revelation can be better understood by also knowing the other main prophecies about Babylon given in the Bible. Isaiah and Jeremiah also cover Babylon in depth.

The prophecies of Isaiah against Babylon:

Isa 13:1-6 “¹The burden of Babylon, which Isaiah the son of Amoz did see. ²Lift ye up a banner upon the high mountain, exalt the voice unto them, shake the hand, that they may go into the gates of the nobles. ³I have commanded my sanctified ones, I have also called my mighty ones for mine anger, even them that rejoice in my highness. ⁴The noise of a multitude in the mountains, like as of a great people; a tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together: the LORD of hosts mustereth the host of the battle. ⁵They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, even the LORD, and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole land. ⁶Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. “

Notice that during the “Day of the Lord” this army comes to destroy the land of Babylon. The “Day of the Lord” is the time of destruction on the earth in the last days before God’s kingdom.

⁷Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man’s heart shall melt: ⁸And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames. ⁹Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. ¹⁰For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

This is not history; it is talking about the future “Day of the Lord”. We have the same references to the sun, moon, and stars as we do in Joel and the Olivet discourse. We know of no time in history when these things happened and there certainly was no time that all sinners were destroyed out of the land of Babylon. There have always been sinners in the land of Iraq and in the world’s religious and political systems, so the prophecy could not have been fulfilled in the past and is still future.

11 And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. 12 I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.

The world will be punished for its evil and there will be so few men left that men will be rarer than gold.

13 Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.

In the day of the Lord's anger, the earth will be removed out of her place. Many other prophecies indicate that the earth in the end times will be thoroughly shaken and the surface of the earth will be changed. It should be clear that these passages are not speaking about the Babylonian empire of the past.

“14 And it shall be as the chased roe, and as a sheep that no man taketh up: they shall every man turn to his own people, and flee every one into his own land. 15 Every one that is found shall be thrust through; and every one that is joined unto them shall fall by the sword. 16 Their children also shall be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be spoiled, and their wives ravished. 17 Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, which shall not regard silver; and as for gold, they shall not delight in it. 18 Their bows also shall dash the young men to pieces; and they shall have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eye shall not spare children.”

The Medes will be among those who destroy Babylon. They were people north of Iraq. The Kurds are descendants of the Medes. When the northern armies come against Babylon, it is reasonable to assume that the Kurds will fight with them.

19 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. 20 It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there. 21 But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and owls shall dwell there, and satyrs shall dance there.

This passage was never fulfilled since the area of Babylon is inhabited even today. The passage specifically calls it the beauty of Chaldees. The Chaldeans lived in Iraq. Arabians do pitch their tents in south-east Iraq and will in the kingdom of the Beast that will extend beyond Iraq. Those who think the passages about Babylon are describing the destruction of the United States or Europe ignore many such passages. The Arabians do not pitch tents in the United States or in Europe unless they are on a camping vacation.

Zechariah chapter five makes it clear that wickedness will have a house built for her in the last days in the land of Shinar: ***“where it shall be established and set there upon her own base”***. The plain of Shinar is in Iraq. The base it speaks of is the same site as the tower of Babel. On this base, a temple will be built for the Beast.

Zechariah describes the move of the Beast Kingdom world headquarters from Europe to Babylon Iraq.

Zechariah 5:6-11 ***“⁶And I say, ‘What is it?’ And he saith, ‘This—the ephah that is coming forth.’ And he saith, ‘This is their aspect in all the land. ⁷ And lo, a cake of lead lifted up; and this is a woman sitting in the midst of the ephah.’ ⁸ And he saith, ‘This is the wicked woman.’ And he casteth her unto the midst of the ephah, and casteth the weight of lead on its mouth. ⁹ And I lift up mine eyes, and see, and lo, two women are coming forth, and wind in their wings; and they have wings like wings of the stork, and they lift up the ephah between the earth and the heavens. ¹⁰ And I say unto the messenger who is speaking with me, ‘Whither are they causing the ephah to go?’ ¹¹ And he saith unto me, ‘To build to it a house in the land of Shinar.’ And it hath been prepared and hath been placed there on its base.”***

Isaiah chapter 14 has much to say about Babylon:

Isa 14:1-3 ***“¹For the LORD will have mercy on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel, and set them in their own land: and the strangers shall be joined with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob. ² And the people shall take them, and bring them to their place: and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of the LORD for servants and handmaids: and they shall take them captives, whose captives they were; and they shall rule over their oppressors. ³ And it shall come to pass in the day that the LORD shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve,***

God will have mercy on Jacob (Israel). The Babylonians took Israel captive in the past and it is likely to happen again to some extent in the end times. The prophecy indicates the people in Babylon who do not die will become servants in Israel during the kingdom age.

Isaiah 14:4 ***“⁴That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!***

When the Antichrist Beast sets up his kingdom at Babylon, he will apparently build a golden city for himself.

Isaiah 14:5-6: ***“⁵ The LORD hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the scepter of the rulers. ⁶ He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth.***

When the Lord destroys Babylon, none will hinder him. Notice this leader smote the people in wrath and ruled the nations in anger. This is the man indwelt by Satan. He will rule the world for the last 3 ½ years before an end time rebellion from the north destroys his kingdom just before the return of Jesus.

Isaiah 14:7-11...***7 The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing. 8 Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us. 9 Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations. 10 All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us? 11 Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee.***

The world will have peace when Satan is cast down to the pit. Even the kings of the earth in hell will be stirred up and mock him at his fall into the pit.

12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Isaiah here describes the fall of Lucifer (Satan) out of heaven. When Satan is cast out of heaven, he incarnates the body of the dead world leader and they ascend out of the pit. He will exalt himself above the angels and play God. We are told in this book of Revelation and in Daniel that the Beast is given almost total control of the earth for 3 ½ years. God is going to give Satan his wish to be like God on the earth but Satan as a counterfeit god in a man will bring the world to total destruction. Jesus said unless he curtails these days no flesh would be saved (**Mat 24:22**).

Isaiah 14:15-17 ***“15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. 16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, ‘Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; 17 That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?’ “***

The prophecy leaves no doubt that this man will cause great destruction on the earth during the time of his power. All will wonder why they thought this Satan incarnated man was God after they see him cast down to the pit.

Isaiah 14:18-20 *“¹⁸All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house. ¹⁹But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcass trodden under feet. ²⁰Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people: the seed of evildoers shall never be renowned.*

The scriptures indicate this man will not be buried but he and his false prophet will be cast into the Lake of Fire alive. There is some mystery here since the previous passage says he will be brought down to hell (Hades). Yet here and **in Revelation 19:20**, it says he will not dwell in Hades, but he will be cast alive into the Lake of Fire. Our lack of understanding does not make the passages conflict. The previous passage could be talking about the spirit of Satan who incarnated the man, because we know from scripture that Satan will be cast into the pit for a thousand years. Satan does not go into the Lake of Fire until after the thousand years are over. Satan deceives the nations again at the end of the millennial reign.

Another explanation could be that this supernatural man called the Beast will pass through Hades on his way to the dimension known as the Lake of Fire. The Lake of Fire could be the final phase of a downward spiral for those in the dimension of the dead. Over one thousand years later, Satan, death, and hell itself are also cast into the Lake of Fire as well as all who are not written in the book of life. The Beast and False Prophet will still be alive in the Lake of Fire at that time. (**Rev 20:10, Rev 20:14,15**)

Isaiah 14:21 *“²¹Prepare slaughter for his children for the iniquity of their fathers; that they do not rise, nor possess the land, nor fill the face of the world with cities.*

At the time Satan and his Beast are cut off, all the children of Satan will be slaughtered. No one who chooses to take the mark of the Beast will go into the kingdom of God on earth. This passage should make it abundantly clear that not all humans are children (sons) of God.

²²For I will rise up against them, saith the LORD of hosts, and cut off from Babylon the name, and remnant, and son, and nephew, saith the LORD. ²³I will also make it a possession for the bittern, and pools of water: and I will sweep it with the besom of destruction, saith the LORD of hosts. ²⁴The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand: ²⁵That I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot: then shall his yoke depart from off them, and his burden depart from off their shoulders. ²⁶This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations. ²⁷For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?

The Assyrian will be broken when he comes against Israel. From this passage some believe the Beast Antichrist is likely to be from the Assyrian tribe. This leader will control the Assyrian people that will come against Israel in the last days. The Assyrians dwelled in north Iraq and areas north of modern-day Iraq. Even if the Antichrist turns out to be an Assyrian that does not mean the Antichrist will be a Muslim because not all Assyrians are Muslims and also because at this point the Antichrist will be worshipped by all throughout the world that reject Jesus.

The prophecies of Jeremiah about Babylon:

Jer 50:1 *The word that the LORD spake against Babylon and against the land of the Chaldeans by Jeremiah the prophet.*

The word of the Lord comes against the land of the Chaldeans. Bible scholars agree that the Chaldeans lived in the land that is today identified as Iraq.

2 Declare ye among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard; publish, and conceal not: say, Babylon is taken, Bel is confounded, Merodach is broken in pieces; her idols are confounded, her images are broken in pieces. 3 For out of the north there cometh up a nation against her, which shall make her land desolate, and none shall dwell therein: they shall remove, they shall depart, both man and beast.

Bel and Merodach were the Satanic gods of Babylon. In the last days, Babylon continues in idol worship when an image of the Beast is set up in Jerusalem and worshiped. Jeremiah and Isaiah indicate that Babylon will be destroyed by a nation or nations from the north. When the Babylonian Empire fell in ancient days to the Medes from the north it was not destroyed, so the prophecy has not yet been fulfilled.

4 In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the LORD their God. 5 They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the LORD in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten. 6 My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their resting place. 7 All that found them have devoured them: and their adversaries said, We offend not, because they have sinned against the LORD, the habitation of justice, even the LORD, the hope of their fathers. 8 Remove out of the midst of Babylon, and go forth out of the land of the Chaldeans, and be as the he goats before the flocks.

Through Israel's history its leaders have led many astray. The world history of the Jews confirms what was written. In the past, some in the Christian church claimed they were only doing God's

will in killing and persecuting the Jews. Now Islam is saying the same thing. The Jews will have a false sense of security under the last world leader and may even dwell in his kingdom for a time while it rises among the nations as the seat of world government. God will tell His people to get out of Babylon before He destroys her, and He will provide the means for their escape. God is telling those who come out to lead the rest of the Jews of the world to safety.

Jeremiah 50:9-10 *“⁹ For, lo, I will raise and cause to come up against Babylon an assembly of great nations from the north country: and they shall set themselves in array against her; from thence she shall be taken: their arrows shall be as of a mighty expert man; none shall return in vain. ¹⁰ And Chaldea shall be a spoil: all that spoil her shall be satisfied, saith the LORD.*

This passage is consistent with Isaiah that an assembly of great nations will come from the north to destroy Babylon.

¹¹ Because ye were glad, because ye rejoiced, O ye destroyers of mine heritage, because ye are grown fat as the heifer at grass, and bellow as bulls; ¹² Your mother shall be sore confounded; she that bare you shall be ashamed: behold, the hindermost of the nations shall be a wilderness, a dry land, and a desert. ¹³ Because of the wrath of the LORD it shall not be inhabited, but it shall be wholly desolate: every one that goeth by Babylon shall be astonished, and hiss at all her plagues. ¹⁴ Put yourselves in array against Babylon round about: all ye that bend the bow, shoot at her, spare no arrows: for she hath sinned against the LORD. ¹⁵ Shout against her round about: she hath given her hand: her foundations are fallen, her walls are thrown down: for it is the vengeance of the LORD: take vengeance upon her; as she hath done, do unto her. ¹⁶ Cut off the sower from Babylon, and him that handleth the sickle in the time of harvest: for fear of the oppressing sword they shall turn every one to his people, and they shall flee every one to his own land. ¹⁷ Israel is a scattered sheep; the lions have driven him away: first the king of Assyria hath devoured him; and last this Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath broken his bones. ¹⁸ Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will punish the king of Babylon and his land, as I have punished the king of Assyria. ¹⁹ And I will bring Israel again to his habitation, and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan, and his soul shall be satisfied upon mount Ephraim and Gilead. ²⁰ In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.”

Verse 19 and 20 are clearly saying that God will bring Israel back to their land and take away their sins. The apostle Paul said that all Israel will be saved after the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. This can only happen when God reveals himself to Israel in the last days.

21 Go up against the land of Merathaim, even against it, and against the inhabitants of Pekod: waste and utterly destroy after them, saith the LORD, and do according to all that I have commanded thee. 22 A sound of battle is in the land, and of great destruction. 23 How is the hammer of the whole earth cut asunder and broken! How is Babylon become a desolation among the nations!

Babylon is named the hammer of the whole earth because the Antichrist and his kingdom were used by Satan to smash the earth. The passage indicates Babylon will be smashed because she hammered the world.

24 I have laid a snare for thee, and thou art also taken, O Babylon, and thou wast not aware: thou art found, and also caught, because thou hast striven against the LORD. 25 The LORD hath opened his armory, and hath brought forth the weapons of his indignation: for this is the work of the Lord GOD of hosts in the land of the Chaldeans.

Babylon Today

Today several significant events are happening in the land formerly known as Babylon. On October 25, 2003 at the Madrid conference on rebuilding Iraq, there was pledged 33 Billion dollars toward the effort. The Madrid conference logo featured the “Tower of Babel” behind the speaker’s podium. In addition to the world rebuilding the land of Babylon, the new currency features an old face from history which is Hammurabi, one of the most well-known kings of Babylon (1795-1750 BC), known for the written code of law, the “Code of Hammurabi”. If the name of Iraq is changed to Babylon Christians should not be surprised.

Is the city of Baghdad the coming “New Babylon” or is a new city to be constructed? Currently, we don’t know. **Zechariah 5** tells of building a house for “Wickedness” in the land of Shinar. But the house must be built first before “Wickedness” is placed there.

Zechariah 5:10 ***10So I said to the angel who talked with me, “Where are they carrying the basket?” 11And he said to me, “To build a house for it in the land of Shinar; when it is ready, the basket will be set there on its base.”***

Babylon as a foreshadowing

The Babylon of the past is a foreshadowing of the Babylon to come. The books of Jeremiah, Joel, Isaiah, and Ezekiel have direct references to “Neo-Babylon’s” judgment, but their ultimate fulfillment will be seen in the last days with the last Babylon.

For example, 3 Jewish boys, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in **Daniel chapter 3** refuse to bow to the Image set up in the plain by Nebuchadnezzar.

They are then thrown into a fiery furnace and rescued by one who is like unto, “Son of God”. This is a foreshadowing of Israel’s future as the Antichrist sets up an image and demands Israel along with the rest of the world worship the Image. The world accepts, Israel refuses, and is put into a fiery trial only to be rescued by the “Son of God”.

	OLD BABYLON	NEO-BABYLON	LAST BABYLON
TIME PERIOD	2300-800 BC	625-539 BC	AD 2 ???
TIME		Humbled for 7 years as an animal (Dan 4:25)	Rules for 7 years during Tribulation period.
MANKIND	One people, one language Unified against God	Conquers and unifies many nations under Babylon.	One People, One language Unified against God
KINGS	Nimrod is world ruler	Nebuchadnezzar is world ruler	Satan, through Antichrist is world ruler
JEWS		Jews become captives of Babylon	Jews become captives of Antichrist
JERUSALEM	Abraham called out of Ur (Babylon) to Moriah (Jerusalem)	Armies of Babylon destroy Temple and Jerusalem	Armies of Antichrist attack Jerusalem and Temple (Zech. 14:1-2)
IMAGE	Tower of Babel built in rebellion	Image set up for all to worship	Image set up for all to worship

The Judgments on Babylon in **Jeremiah 51 and Isaiah 13 & 14** are specifically linked to the last days but can also be seen as partially fulfilled during the time of “Neo-Babylon”.

Jeremiah 51:25-26 *“²⁵Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, which destroyest all the earth,” saith the LORD. “And I will stretch out My hand upon thee, roll thee down from the rocks and make you a burnt mountain. ²⁶And they shall not take of thee a stone for a corner nor a stone for a foundations; but thou shalt be desolate forever,” says the LORD.”*

Isaiah 13:19-20: *“¹⁹And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees’ excellency shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. ²⁰It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there.”*

Parts of Babylon have been used in the construction of Baghdad and other surrounding cities. Jeremiah can better be seen fulfilling a rebuilt last days Babylon. The coming destruction of Babylon will be utter devastation with no rebuilding in site.

The “Last Babylon” is better seen being fulfilled in **Isaiah 14** for several reasons. Israel’s end-time restoration is linked with the judgment of Babylon. In this scene Israel will rule over her oppressors and will taunt the King of Babylon, who descends into Hell. The King of Babylon is addressed as Lucifer in the 12th verse. This is literally fulfilled at the return of Christ when the King of Babylon, Satan is chained and cast into the abyss for 1000 years. (**Rev 20:1-3**)

Isaiah 14:1-3,12 *“¹For the LORD will have mercy on Jacob, and will still choose Israel, and settle them in their own land. The strangers will be joined with them, and they will cling to the house of Jacob. ²Then people will take them and bring them to their place, and the house of Israel will possess them for servants and maids in the land of the LORD; they will take them captive whose captives they were, and rule over their oppressors. ³It shall come to pass in the day the LORD gives you rest from your sorrow, and from your fear and the hard bondage in which you were made to serve, ⁴that you will take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say: ¹²How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations!”*

Last Days Babylon – Back to Revelation 18

Revelation 18:1-3 *“¹And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. ²And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. ³For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.”*

The Babylon in **Revelation 18** should be understood in the context of a final kingdom on the Earth united against God and his people Israel. To this Babylonian kingdom is the judgment in **Revelation 18** being addressed.

A habitation of devils... Since all of Satan’s angels are expelled from heaven along with Satan, they take up residence in man and rule with him in his satanic kingdom. The last Babylon becomes the demonic headquarters of this satanic undertaking.

All the nations.... Satan is called the god of this age, who has blinded the minds of those who do not believe. (**2 Cor. 4:4**) Satan tempted Jesus with the nations of the earth if he would just worship him. (**Luke 4:5-7**) Through the proxy of the Antichrist and his kingdom, all the nations of the earth will worship Satan in the flesh and will therefore face the wrath of this relationship.

The kings of the earth... The kings, which are the personal representatives of the nations, will be seduced by the demonic forces into union with the Beast.

The merchants... The third class in this indictment by the angel, speaks to the movers and shakers of the world who were seduced by the great wealth offered by the beast.

I John 2:16: *¹⁶For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.*

Call for separation from Babylon

Revelation 18:4-5 *⁴And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. ⁵For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.”*

Another voice... This is Christ’s voice since the people are called, “My people”.

Come out of her... The call is an additional demonstration of God’s mercy on his own people. God is warning his people, thus giving them an opportunity of escape before his complete destruction of Babylon. What were God’s people doing in Babylon? This voice could be at the start of the second half of the tribulation, warning the people of God to leave, or it may be for those in hiding, who as a result of the darkness that overtakes the kingdom of the Beast will have a chance for escape before the final wrath falls. This call is repeated in Jeremiah and Isaiah.

Her sins.... Babylon will be compensated for her sins. There comes a day when God’s mercy ends, and his judgment begins. People often mistake God’s mercy for weakness.

2 Peter 3:9: *⁹The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*

The Charge against Babylon

Revelation 18:6-8: *⁶Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. ⁷How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. ⁸Therefore shall her plagues come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she shall be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.”*

Reward her... The judgment against Babylon will be based on her actions. She will be rewarded with judgment.

According to her works... Babylon's lack of mercy and persecution of the saints will be God's justification in his utter destruction of the city and the eternal judgment of its demonic and human inhabitants.

She glorified herself... Pride was the downfall of Satan and will be the downfall of his kingdom. This final city will be the realization of man's self-glory.

Give her... Torment and sorrow will be reciprocal to her self-glorification and luxury.

Her plagues ... The complete judgment on Babylon will not be elongated but immediate and final.

She shall be utterly burned... The city will be incinerated when God judges her.

Lament of the Kings of the Earth

Revelation 18:9-10 ⁹ *And the kings of the earth who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, ¹⁰ standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, 'alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour is thy judgment come.'* “

The kings of the earth.... How long this takes place before the return of Christ with the armies of heaven, one is not sure, but one thing is for sure, and that is that the city will be destroyed. There will be enough time for the rulers of the earth to realize what has just happened. In one sudden event the city will be destroyed.

Fear of her torment... Her judgment will be a visual display of the very soon coming judgment on the kings of the Earth. Satellite or radio messages will show the kings of the Earth what just happened to their capital city. The kings of the Earth along with Antichrist will be heading toward Jerusalem with the delusion of somehow battling the creator of the universe.

Lament of the Merchants of the Earth

Revelation 18:11-19 ¹¹ *And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no man buyeth their merchandise anymore: ¹² The merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, and fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble. ¹⁴ And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all. ¹⁵ The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing ¹⁶ and saying,*

'Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls! ¹⁷For in one hour such great riches is come to naught. And every shipmaster and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, ¹⁸and cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What city is like unto this great city?' ¹⁹and they cast dust on their heads and cried, weeping, and wailing, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! For in one hour is she made desolate.' "

The merchants of the earth.... (Gr. Emporos: one on a journey, whether by sea or by land, especially for trade) The word for merchant is used 4 times in **Revelation 18** and once in **Matthew 13:45**. The picture is more of a wholesaler or shipper. The merchant shippers, the large corporations that profited from their relationship with Babylon will mourn. The mourning comes not from sin but lack of profit and loss. The list of goods represents a range of trading in the global economy. World commerce will be an important part of the end-times, which will glue nations, and systems together. Governments are now negotiating deals for the mega-corporations, with kings of the earth and the merchants of the earth becoming partners. This global economy will only escalate in the end-of-days. This will leave little room for those in the world who will have to choose between their careers and the Lord.

Bodies and souls of men.... In the time of John, slaves were a common commodity in Roman society. In the end days trafficking in both the dead and living will be a viable enterprise. Even in our own day industries are harvesting fetus material to be used in cosmetics and medical research. Future human and animal cloning and genetic experimentation is creating new world of commercial enterprise.

One could only imagine the traffic in body parts of executed Christians. With the lack of food, as a result of the Seal, Trumpet and Bowl judgments, cannibalism might not be far off. Human slavery of Christians occurs today in Muslim Sudan without many complaints by nations of the world.

Rejoice in Heaven

Revelation 18:20: *"²⁰Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets, for God hath avenged you on her!"*

Rejoice.... Babylon was responsible for persecution of the believers throughout history but especially in the end of days. More people are killed for Christ than any time in the history of the world during the end-of-days. The heavens, with the saints, along with the prophets and apostles dwelling there celebrate the destruction of Babylon, the demonic stronghold.

God has avenged... In Revelation 6:9,7:9-17,13:9,15:2 we see the results of the work of Satan and his kingdom. The death of millions and millions of saints in the last days will be paid in kind to Satan and his representatives as God unleashes his wrath on the earth.

The utter destruction of Babylon

Revelation 18:21-24: *“²¹ And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, ‘Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more.’ ²² And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee. ²³ And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. ²⁴ And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.”*

A mighty angel... This angel is in contrast to the first angel in the 18th chapter announcing the coming judgment on Babylon.

With violence... Babylon’s judgment will involve violent burning fire that will erase Babylon’s presence from the earth in one hour.

Not be found anymore... Here the Greek is very emphatic, there shall be no trace of Babylon’s existence after its final judgment. This reading is more along the lines indicated above in the complete destruction of Babylon in **Jeremiah** and **Isaiah**. In order to fulfill both Old and New Testament prophecies regarding Babylon, the Ishtar gate would have to be non-existent.

The sound of... Music will be a big part of the Babylonian kingdom. Music was also part of Satan’s nature and he uses this ability to deceive those on earth. Today the merchants on the earth traffic in souls using music to deceive the minds of many. Even the church has brought in music that stirs the flesh rather than the spirit. With smoke machines, black ceilings and dark lights and strobe lights, it has become more like the music of the world. It has become more like the world. God is light and in him is no darkness at all. (**1 John 1:5b**)

Ezekiel 28:13b: *“The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created.”*

For your merchants...

The merchants of the Earth will headquarter their business in rebuilt Babylon.

The merchants are described as (Gr...megistanes ...the grandees, magnates, nobles, chief men) great men of the earth. These merchants will move the kings and citizens of the earth to accept the Beast. Another tool Satan and Babylon will use is sorcery (Gr...pharmakeia ...the use or the administering of drugs) the source of the word for pharmacy. Drugs will be another weapon used to bring the nations into submission.

All who were slain... Babylon becomes the home and cage of demons, which are the forces behind the murder of the saints and all slain from the beginning starting with Cain till the end of time.

So, with the armies of the Earth gathering in Jerusalem, the cities of the world will have collapsed, all except Jerusalem, a word comes of the destruction of Babylon the Great. The kings and merchants of the earth mourn as they are attempting to wage war on the Lamb in Israel. Through Israel God will judge the nations. Jesus will return to redeem Israel from the armies of the world.

Jeremiah 51:19-20 ***"The Portion of Jacob is not like them, For He is the Maker of all things; And Israel is the tribe of His inheritance. The LORD of hosts is His name. You are My battle-ax and weapons of war: For with you I will break the nation in pieces; With you I will destroy kingdoms."***