

Signs in the Nations pt. 4

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Signs, Times and Seasons

Text: Matthew 24:7

Babylon

Babylon is the second most mentioned city in the Bible, it appears **287** times in 253 verses. Babylon's founding and principles were pagan, humanistic and rebellious against God and is never mentioned in a **positive** way. For nearly 2,000 years Babylon was the most important and influential city in the world. It was the commercial and financial center that linked the Orient, Mediterranean, and Egypt with Persia (Iran). Babylon was known for astronomy, divination, astrology, accounting and private and commercial law.

In Genesis chapter eleven we learn that man's first attempt to establish a world order **apart** from God's influence took place at the tower of Babel. **Genesis 11:1-9** Babylon was established by the same man who also established the city of Nineveh, his name was **Nimrod**. Nimrod may not actually be his name as it may be a designation. Nimrod means **rebel**.

Genesis 10:8-12 In the book of Revelation we are shown that a revived Babylon will be the center of a financial world order that will be the focus of the Tribulation period.

The book of Revelation reveals that when the Antichrist comes to power and establishes a world government, it will be divided into **three** power centers and branches. Rome will be its **political** base. Jerusalem will be its **religious** center and Babylon will become the **financial** center. **Revelation 18:1-20** While we know that Jerusalem is revered by Christians, Jews and Muslims, the Antichrist will erect an idol of himself in a rebuilt temple. The city of Rome should not be seen as a literal seat of political power but a symbol and typology of a worldly mindset and system of operation.

There are those who believe that in order for prophecy to be fulfilled a literal Babylon will have to be **rebuilt** in its former location in Iraq. However, in the New Testament, Babylon is a **symbol** or a typology of sinful humanity. It represents a world culture that is in rebellion against God. It represents the satanic world system in all of its industrial, economic and Godless consumerism. Babylon does not just represent a corrupt financial system; it represents the entirety of the world's systems including its moral and **religious** systems. **Revelation 17:1-6** Babylon represents the ultimate in religious and **moral** prostitutes, which merge with and manipulates governmental power whenever it is to her advantage. This mindset and world system symbolize the religious, political and financial apostasy in the last days.

The Bible tells us that Babylon's destruction and undoing will happen **quickly**.

Revelation 18:2, 19 Within one **hour** God will undo the entire world economy in judgment. God will not allow the influences of a world system that is so antagonistic to contaminate His coming Kingdom.

Truths to understand about Babylon's undoing:

- Babylon will be destroyed because of her sin and **wickedness**. **Revelation 18:2**
- Babylon will be destroyed because of her **influence**. **Revelation 18:3**
- Babylon will be destroyed because of her **infidelity**. **Revelation 18:5**
- Babylon will be destroyed because of her **insolence**. **Revelation 18:7, Proverbs 16:18**
The world system glories in its opulence, debauchery, occultism, witchcraft, ruthlessness and pride. It scoffs at the ideas of purity, holiness and submission to God.
1 Samuel 15:23
- Babylon will be destroyed because of her **inhumanity**. The world system sees people as a means to an end. It sees people as a **commodity**. **Revelation 18:13, 24, Rev 17:6**
The satanic mindset of our day and the last days rejects that man is created in the image of God. Those who lift up a righteous standard of humanity will be hated, persecuted and killed.
- Babylon's destruction will be utterly **complete**. **Revelation 18:21-23**
- The world will react with shock, awe and horror at the destruction of Babylon, the **rulers** of the world will mourn. **Revelation 18:9-10**
The **merchants** of the world will grieve. **Revelation 18: 11, 15-17a**
Those who **transport** the goods of the world will mourn. **Revelation 18:17b-19**
- While the world will mourn the epic collapse and destruction of the world system in one day, all of heaven will **rejoice**. **Revelation 18:20**

~ In "Book of Signs" David Jeremiah says – 'What a contrast of emotions! While the opportunists who profited from Babylon grieve her destruction, the Apostles and prophets in heaven who were martyred by the Babylonian system will exult at the end of its diabolic wickedness'.

What should our response be to the spirit of Babylon that we see in the world today?
Revelation 18:4 God calls us as Christians to get out of Babylon. We are to **separate** ourselves from the godless spirit of our age. Many believers are not responding to this call, they are trying to maintain **dual** citizenship. **2 Corinthians 6:14-17**

As Christians we must realize that everything that the world offers is a **sham** and unstable. All of it is passing away. **1 John 2:16-17** The promises and Word of God is what is stable and everlasting. Our security is in God alone.