

## **Building on Biblical Foundations**

### **“Mystery Babylon”**

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### **Genesis 11**

Continuing through Genesis, we pick up in Genesis 11. But before we do that, here is a reminder of where we left off. We've been talking about the righteous seed vs. the seed of Satan. Back to Genesis 3:15 . We know that the seed of Satan will be at war with the seed of the woman – the seed of the Lord.

We saw this in Cain. He begat after his kind and wickedness filled the earth. So much so that God sent a flood to destroy everything – except one family – the family of Noah – a righteous man – a man right with God. A man who kept himself from the evil influence of his generation.

The Lord preserved this family and after the waters receded, He began again and the Lord commanded Noah and his sons to repopulate the earth.

We learned of the condition of the three sons of Noah. How two followed in the ways of their father and one did not. Here is a visual of what is transpiring. . . what happens when we beget after our own kind.

Remember this is a kingdom rule – we will each reproduce after our kind. Everything does. An apple bears a seed that when planted in fertile soil will grow into an apple tree that will bear many more apples – each with seeds of their own and so on.

Why is this important? Let's look at it. **Slide with APPLES**

This same principal applies to good and evil. Begetting after their kind.

Remember from the three sons of Noah the world is re-populated. Two sons were right with God – Japheth and Shem. One was not – Ham. Ham was cursed by Noah along with his son Canaan.

**Following the lineage of Ham** are nations who war against Israel and the God of Israel. This was not limited to people born of that corrupted seed . . . but cities were also born of that seed.

Nimrod – who we touched on last week – the builder of Nineveh, was also the seed through which the building of Babel, Babylon, Sodom and Gomorrah came to be.

At the time of Nimrod, we are told that all the inhabitants of the earth had turned away from Jehovah. . . again. Wickedness prevailed – exponentially again. Idol worship and rejection of the one true God abounded.

### **Genesis 11:1-9**

**Now the whole world had one language and a common form of speech. And as people journeyed eastward, they found a plain in the land of Shinar (*aka Babylonia*) and settled there. And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” So they used brick instead of stone, and tar instead of mortar. “Come,” they said, “let us build for ourselves a city with a tower that reaches to the heavens, that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of all the earth.”**

**Then the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the sons of men were building. And the LORD said, “If they have begun to do this as one people speaking the same language, then nothing they devise will be beyond them. Come, let Us go down and confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another’s speech.”**

**So the LORD scattered them from there over the face of all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it is called Babel, (Or *Babylon* ; the Hebrew word for *Babel* sounds like the Hebrew for *confused*) for there the LORD confused the language of the whole world, and from that place the LORD scattered them over the face of all the earth**

I called this message – Mystery Babylon and we will continue this message next week too. This is a term found in the book of Revelation and we will take a closer work before we are finished today.

What, Where and When is Babylon?

### **What is Babylon**

Starting with the question: What is Babylon?

1. Babylon is a physical place, an actual historical city.
  2. While Babylon is a place, it is also a spirit.
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1. Physical Babylon: The city of Babylon was located near the region that is now Bagdad. It was inhabited by enemies of Israel and is spoken of in scripture from Jeremiah, Psalms, Isaiah, Daniel, Revelation.

### ***Jeremiah 51:60***

***So Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that should come upon Babylon, even all these words that are written against Babylon.***

It was the city and kingdom that conquered Israel. Where the best of that generation lived in exiled. A kingdom that God used to smite rebellious Israel, to punish Israel for her unfaithfulness.

### **Daniel 1:1**

**In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it.**

But even still there were some of Israel that remained faithful to the Lord - a remnant - and the Lord protected these. We read the account of Daniel Shadrack Meshack and Abednigo in the Book of Daniel. We will get to that as we make our way through the scriptures.

2. Spiritual Babylon: Babylon is also a spirit - It is the spirit of anti-God. It is the spirit of rebellion. Rejection of the one True God and Lord over all. It rejects God as creator and instead worships created things. It rejects God as Ruler resulting in Lawlessness. It rejects God as holy and brings every kind of perversion, depravity and abomination. It denies the sovereignty of God and exalts self his place.

In ancient days it was manifest by the worship of idols made of wood and stone. In modern days, it is not so obvious. In America we don't see temples with wooden or stone idols, however an idol is **anything** that is worshipped.

### **How can we recognize what an idol is?**

1. It is anything that receives the honor, glory and praise due to the Lord.
2. When we lift anything above the Lord in our hearts – it can be a thing – a person – a child, a lover, or your home, your business, your toys.
3. It can be a concept – safety, security, wealth, education.
4. We can be our own idols. Worshipping ourselves. Bowing down to the god of self that demands its own way.

The spirit of Babylon is always at war with the Spirit of the Lord. A condition of heart that says I will not bow. It is stiff necked, resistant, proud, arrogant, and boastful. Paul writes about it in Romans.

### **Romans 1:21-28**

**21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.**

**24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.**

**26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. 27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.**

**28 Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; 31 they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. 32 Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them**

We see this spirit at work within the people who build the tower of Babel.

The people make a statement that may seem innocent on the surface. **“Come,” they said, “let us build for ourselves a city with a tower that reaches to the heavens, that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of all the earth.”**

***There are two important things to note here:***

1. The people desired to make “a name” for themselves.
2. And opposed the command of God, by choosing to stay in one place.

Let’s look at each one. First what is wrong with making a name for oneself? It is the first sin – the sin of pride. This was Satan’s undoing. He desired to be like God – equal to God. This was Adam and Eve’s downfall as well – they wanted to be like God and at from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

What does God think of pride: ***Read Proverbs 8:13 and 1 John 2:16***

Well, here we are again – there is truly nothing new under the sun. Pride is the same sin – redesigned, repackaged and redelivered. We see this in our own generation don’t we.

The pride of humanity – the arrogance in twisting what God has made to be anything than other than how the Lord designed it. Laboratory meat, gender reidentification, redefining marriage.

Creating a world where self rules – not the Lord. We are our own governors, our own rulers. We bow to no one – certainly not an invisible God.

This is the design of Satan from the beginning. To entice and deceive the people of the earth to reject the sovereign rule of God. To worship self, to make a name for themselves.

**What is our commission from Jesus?  
To make a name for ourselves or to make his name known?**

And the second statement revealed their intention to stay in one place. The Lord commanded the people to fill the earth. . .they were to go forth and once again multiply – just as God commanded Adam and Eve – he once again commanded Noah and his sons.

***Genesis 9:1 “And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.”***

This was a generation far from the Lord. They walked in wickedness and were therefore living outside the protection of the Lord. While the Lord promises to keep from harm those who worship him:

**Psalm 91:9-14**

**If you say, “The Lord is my refuge,”  
and you make the Most High your dwelling,  
10 no harm will overtake you,  
no disaster will come near your tent.  
11 For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways;  
12 they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.  
13 You will tread on the lion and the cobra;  
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.**

**14 “Because he[b] loves me,” says the Lord, “I will rescue him;  
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.**

This promise does not extend to those who reject the Lord, those who cannot say the Lord is my refuge, those who do not make Him their dwelling.

No for them there is no promise of safety. There is no promise of rescue. Even when we are far off, we know it in our hearts. We know we are walking in danger. The inhabitants of Babel knew they would not be safe on their own – and so they decided together to dwell in a great city, to protect themselves.

**We can draw a parallel here to our modern times.**

In this age, wickedness has increased once again and many stand in the place of the inhabitants of Babel. They say I will make a name for myself. They look for honor, and glory and exaltation. They lift themselves up into the place where the Lord should be. The Lord has been replaced in our society.

In this age of self esteem, self actuation, self rule. . . where is God?

We've taken him out of our land and yet we expect His blessing?

The heart of man is despicably wicked. Without the Lord living in our hearts, we are utterly lost. We are corrupt from our youth. Our best works are filthy rags to a Holy God. So where is our hope? It is in Jesus – for He is the only one who could save us – and that is what He did.

Back to Babel. . .in those days there was one language. But the Lord confused their language so they could not continue to build their tower. They were forced to scatter. The tower - the Lord destroyed with fire and the earth consumed it. This did not stop the people from practicing their idolatry, from worshipping themselves and living in rebellion to God.

We have seen it continue throughout the generations. Study history and you will see wickedness rise in every era. And there is always an antichrist figure. Satan does not know when the last day is, he does not know which generation shall be the last so in every generation there is an antichrist person ready to fulfil prophecy as *The Antichrist*.

### **1 John 4:1**

**Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.**

### **How to recognize the spirit of Antichrist?**

- Every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus has come
- He is already in the world

### **2. Where is Babylon?**

Physical Babylon historically was in the middle east, near the modern city of Bagdad.

Spiritual Babylon is everywhere. Babylon is found in the world's systems that are at war with God. The Spirit of Babylon is the spirit of Anti- Christ and Anti-God. It is in opposition to the Lord and his People. Is it Russia? Yes. Is it the Middle East? Yes. Is it China? Is it Europe? Is it America? Yes.

How do we know? We see evidence of the work of the spirit of Babylon. Remember the illustration of the seed? Jesus said we should know a tree by its fruit. A good tree produces good tree (after its kind). A bad tree produces bad fruit (after its kind).

Do you see the spirit of Babylon at work in America today? What do you think?

**Do we see:**

God's sovereignty or Self rule  
Absolute Truth or subjective (my) truth  
Worship of the Creator or the creation  
Submission to God or rebellion  
Love for neighbors or division and hate  
Trusting God's provision or trusting in self sufficiency  
Dependence on God or dependence on self  
Respect for authority or lawlessness  
Holiness – Righteousness or Depravity, perversion

**3. Where is Babylon today?**

We have already discussed the historical Babylon – that city and kingdom of biblical times. And how the spirit of Babylon is at work in the world today – in America today. Yet there is another Babylon spoken of in scripture. . . and this is the Babylon in Revelation.

**Revelation 17:1-6**

**1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:**

**2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.**

**3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.**

**4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:**

**5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**

**6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus:**

Some would say this is a nation. Some say it is a city. But I believe this passage speaks of that antichrist spirit.

Explanation from Revelation:

**17:15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.**

**17:18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.**

Babylon – the spirit – that rules over the multitudes of the earth - those who are in rebellion to God

And this is the spirit that shall increase as we get closer to day of Christ’s return. And this is how we recognize it: As Paul warned Timothy:

**2 Timothy 3: 1-5**

**This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.**

**2For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,**

**3Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,**

**4Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;**

**5Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.**

So what do we do? We believers of the living God?

**Reject the spirit of Babylon**

- 1. Make the Lord MOST HIGH your dwelling. Know the Lord – be found in him. Abide in him. Draw near to him.**
- 2. Know his voice. That you may be found in him. That Jesus would say of you – this one is mine.**
- 3. Be in the Word of your God. Allow the Lord to teach you. To correct you. To refine you.**



4. **Live as a witness before neighbors. Be quick to give a reason for the hope that is in your heart.**
5. **Worship the Lord in spirit and in truth**
6. **Keep yourself from idols. Recognize the idol worship that surrounds you and depart from it.**

#### **Did the tower of Babel actually exist?**

In June 2021, the British tabloid The Daily Express ran a story saying that the Tower of Babel actually existed and had been discovered. According to statements made by Tom Meyer, a professor of Bible Studies at Shasta Bible College, there is archeological evidence to suggest that it actually existed and became a tourist destination in the ancient world. [Source: Candida Moss, Daily Beast, June 6, 2021]