

## **THE INFLUENCE OF RELIGIOUS BABYLON**

The concerted efforts of the natural wisdom of man under the direction of Nimrod, produced Babylon. It consisted of a city (counterfeit church) and a tower (ministry, a stronghold of strength); Genesis 10:8-10; 11:2-5

**A.** Nimrod was a “mighty hunter” and like the god of this world, he “hunts” for the souls of men; 1 Pet. 5:8. He organized a revolt in defiance of God’s will.

1. He foreshadows the antichrist, the last great world ruler; 2 Thess. 2:1-8
2. He instituted a new, idolatrous worship and built a world empire: a center of unity, over which he was king of the people who said: “let us build for ourselves a city and a tower whose top will reach into heaven and let us make for ourselves a name”; Gen. 11:4

**B.** There are ultimately only two “cities”; one is built by God and one is built by man:

1. The City of God: New Jerusalem; Ezek. 40:2; Heb. 11:10, 16; 13:14; Rev. 21:15-16
2. The City of Man: Babylon; Genesis 11:1-9; Jer. 51:6-9; Revelation 14:8; 18:10, 21

**C.** Jesus has stated that **BABYLON IS FALLEN**; Revelation 14:8; 18:2

1. **BABYLON** comes from the word “babel”, which means “confusion”; God is not the Author of confusion; 1 Cor. 14:33; James 3:16. It was called “the gate of God”, built to establish a monument on earth, for the glory of man; Gen. 11:1-9

2. Babylon has religious, economic and political aspects; in its broadest sense, it is a **SYSTEM OF HUMAN ENDEAVOR** that is independent of the ways of Almighty God, Who reveals Himself in the Person of Jesus Christ; John 14:9; Colossians 1:15

3. Mystery Babylon is also called “the woman”; it is an international power, for “...by her magic spells (sorceries) all the nations were deceived”; Rev. 18:23. Babylon invented magic; every occultic practice can be traced in some form back to ancient Babylon.

4. Lucifer is called the king of Babylon; Is. 14:4, 12-14: “For thou hast said in thine heart:

- a. “I will ascend into heaven” - a desire to climb higher; to ascend through works
- b. “I will exalt my throne above the stars of God” - a desire to compete with others; spiritual competition
- c. “I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north” - a desire to be seen of men; a desired position for recognition and attention
- d. “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds” - desire for a high place; self exaltation
- e. “I will be like the Most High” - a desire for worship; to be recognized as God; idolatry

5. Religious Babylon is full of deception and it includes all that the carnal mind devises. It is characterized by vain imaginations, false teaching and Babylonian practices. Its “mighty exploits” for God are done through human strength and ability.

6. Babylon’s church services are little more than social clubs or centers for entertainment; music ministry has become an industry. Others perform religious works out of a false sense of duty, or to appease their guilty conscience; Ezek. 11:19-20; 36:26-27; Heb. 8:10

7. The Spiritual Harlot / Religious Babylon offers a false sense of security for those within its system. It offers an assurance of salvation, comfort, status, identity and position, instead of intimacy with Jesus Christ and obedience to His Word; John 17:3

8. Religious Babylon is the counterfeit church, characterized by self-will and personal ambition. Their leaders set themselves above others, take titles for themselves, and hinder others by taking away the “key of knowledge” (true revelation); Matt. 23:2-7; Luke 11:52

- 9.** Babylonian ministers desire recognition, and attempt to project their importance by wearing special vestments or robes to distinguish themselves from “the laity”; Matt. 23:5-10; Mark 12:38-40; they form ministerial hierarchies, associations and conferences for their “clergy”. They set up images, idols and abominations in God’s house; Ezek. 8:6-16
- 10.** Their “towers” are made of dirt (man-made bricks) and “slime, tar” (false protection); Gen.11:3. Their monuments and houses are built as a tribute to the talents of man, according to their own plans, upon the sand of the Earth; Matthew 7:26-27
- 11.** Religious Babylon is marked by the pursuit of hidden knowledge, esoteric mysteries and experiences, which becomes a god that people worship; see Acts 17:16-23. In their pursuit to attain intellectual, spiritual superiority, they practice Gnosticism by combining tenants of Christianity, Greek philosophy and Oriental mysticism.
- 12.** Religious Babylon is a destitute vineyard that produces worthless grapes; the institutionalized, religious church systems have produced instead, briars and thorns; Isaiah 5:1-7; the choice vine has become degenerate shoots of a foreign vine; Jer. 2:21
- 13.** The influence of Babylon pressures people to give allegiance to their laws and doctrines, by imposing restrictions upon them, or binding them to men and their organizations, instead of releasing them to obey the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- 14.** Religious Babylon produces lying signs and wonders that work in conjunction with seducing spirits. People become addicted to spiritual “experiences”, strange fire, hype and sensationalism. The spirits must be tested; all must be measured by the Word of God. We must earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints; Jude 3.
- 15.** Religious Babylon imposes its own traditions, rituals, by-laws and outward observances. (Under the New Covenant, we do not “keep the Sabbath” by attending church meetings on a certain day; we keep God’s “law” by walking in love, when we enter into a living relationship with Jesus Christ, Who is our Sabbath Rest); Rom. 13:8-10
- 16.** Babylon’s influence causes fellowships of believers to turn themselves into a corporate business, according to the laws of the states, thereby, becoming a creation of the state. When a ministry becomes a “legal corporation”, it is governed by men, product-focused (with programs and services), success-driven and profit-oriented; Matt. 21:12-13
- 17.** Religious Babylon seeks to increase itself in power, position, riches and numbers. Jesus said that the scribes and Pharisees (who loved their uppermost seats and their money), will travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when they do, they make him twice the son of hell as themselves; Matthew 23:6, 15.
- 18.** Jesus Himself is the true “covering” for the believer; Col. 1:18, but the minister of Babylon may suggest to the congregation their need for a personal or denominational (false) “covering”, thereby entitling him to their financial support or a salaried position. The faithful shepherd IS worthy of support; 1 Tim. 5:17-18, but NOT the hirelings or wolves of Babylon who have entered the church; John 10:12-13
- 19.** Jesus told us to COME UNTO HIM; Matt. 11:28; Hebrews 13:13, NOT UNTO THE CHURCH. The church is not the answer; Jesus is the Answer! We are to be witnesses for Jesus, not for the church (Babylon’s influence has helped to create the “condition” of Laodicea which is a mess). The church does not replace the King!
- 20.** Religious Babylon includes the emergent church: it tolerates all faiths, is full of apostasy and thinks it is a “queen”. Jesus said “Come out of her My people”; Rev. 18:4, 7

