

THE CRUMBLING WHITEWASHED WALLS OF BABYLON

In biblical days, walls around cities were built for defense; 1 Samuel 25:16, for protection; Zechariah 2:5, and observation 2 Samuel 18:24

A. THAT WHICH GOD BUILDS IS ETERNAL AND IMMOVABLE

God's City is the New Jerusalem; John 14:2; Ezekiel 40:2; Revelation 21:10-23

1. It was seen in a vision by Abraham; Hebrews 11:10, 16
2. Believers experience the reality of the New Jerusalem; Galatians 4:26, 31
3. The New Jerusalem will be fully realized in eternity; Hebrews 13:14
4. Its walls are described in Revelation 21:12-18
5. Jesus said "Come and follow Me"; Matthew 19:21. He DID NOT commission men to:
 - a. Start their own political party or overthrow the present government
 - b. Create a church denomination, build their own monument or kingdom for themselves
 - c. Invest their time, talent and treasure in the present world order
 - d. Pray for the "kosmos" (the present order and arrangement of the world system); John 17:9
6. Unless the Lord builds the house they labor in vain who build it; Ps. 127:1
7. When men attempt to strengthen their political or religious inventions, or "clean up and cover up" the flaws of their institutions, they are in fact, applying plaster or whitewash to their walls

In contrast,

B. THAT WHICH MAN BUILDS IS TEMPORARY AND UNSTABLE:

Man's City is Babylon; Genesis 11:1-9; Jeremiah 51:6-9; Revelation 14:8; 18:10, 21

1. In its broadest sense, **Babylon is a system of human endeavor that is independent of the ways of the Lord.**
 - a. Throughout the Scriptures, Babylon represents world secularism, man's captivity to sin, and human attachment to wickedness
 - b. In a political or military sense, it has come to symbolize man's political and military power in opposition to the will of the Lord
 - c. In an economic sense, Babylon has symbolized man's desire for financial wealth in commerce and industry apart from God's guidance and direction
 - d. In a religious sense, the book of Revelation portrays Babylon as a harlot, an empire of false religion.
 - e. "Mystery Babylon", also called "the woman" is an international power, for ...by (her) magic spell all the nations were deceived; Rev. 18:23. Babylon invented magic, and virtually every occultic practice can be traced in some form to ancient Babylon
 - f. Babylon is not limited to a certain geographical location (at the time of Christ, Babylon was understood in terms of Rome, which was one of Babylon's 7 "heads", one of its empires)
2. The beginning of Nimrod's kingdom was "Babel" (Babylon); Genesis 10:8-10
 - a. He was a king, and is a type of the "lawless one" who desires dominance in global affairs
 - b. He organized the people who said **let us build a City, and a Tower** whose top may reach unto heaven and **let us make ourselves a name;** Genesis 11:1-6
 - c. The tower was made of dirt (man-made bricks) and slime (false protection) for mortar. It was a tribute to the talents and the will of man, built according to the plans of men. It is that which has been founded upon the sand of the earth; Matthew 7:26-27

- 3.** God pronounced judgment upon “Tyre” in Ezekiel, chapters 26-28, which speaks of the principle of trafficking and merchandising (the love of money), the pomp and pride of the satanic world system.
 - a.** God would judge Tyre because of its delight in Jerusalem’s overthrow to the advantage of her own commercial interests
 - b.** The description of Tyre is personified as “the mistress” of the sea; it is like the harlot of Revelation, chapters 17-18
 - c.** God causes many nations to come up against it and they shall destroy the walls and break down the towers; the Lord will set “engines of war” against its walls, and with His axes he shall break down its towers; Ezekiel 26:3-4, 9

- 4.** False messengers (in the religious, political or economic spheres) plaster their wall with whitewash; Ezek.13:3-15, 17-23
 - a.** The false prophets speak lies and are contaminated with paganistic divination
 - b.** They build a wall with the systematic deception of falsehood and worldly practices. Their messages are as useless as whitewash on a mud brick wall to protect it against “a storm”: the coming Day of the Lord; Isaiah 13:6
 - c.** They are denounced for misleading the people into a false sense of security without the need for repentance; they seduce the people, strengthen the wicked and are like foxes among the ruins

- 5.** The walls of men’s self-sufficiency are coming down; Proverbs 18:11; the wall of Babylon is fallen and the broad walls of Babylon shall be utterly broken; Jeremiah 51:44, 58

- 6.** The elites and the nobles may be feasting and engaged in their idolatry, but a warning from God is being inscribed upon the plaster of Babylon’s walls; Daniel 5:5, 25-28
 - a.** God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it
 - b.** You have been weighed on the scales and found deficient
 - c.** Your kingdom has been divided and given over

- 7.** Saul’s corpse was fastened to the wall of “Bethshan” (his house of security); 1 Sam. 31:10-11

- 8.** Whitewashed sepulchers (tombs) are erected by the religious system; they look beautiful on the outside, but on the inside they are full of death, hypocrisy and iniquity; Matthew 23:27-28

- 9.** Jericho’s fortified walls crumbled and fell down, but prior to the destruction, a remnant is delivered; Joshua 2:1-14

- 10.** Paul told the wicked high priest and his followers who struck him “God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall!”; Acts 23:3

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