

The mistake of spiritualizing Babylon

The name "Babylon" today is twisted into a whip (i.e. made into a metaphor) to be used against any enemy deemed by God's supposed people to be unspiritual. Protestants say "Babylon" is the Catholic system of belief. Christians say it's either "the world," or a revived Roman empire. Even those who claim spiritual maturity make "Babylon" God's metaphor for religious bondage of any kind. How often I have heard the phrase from Rev. 18:4, "Come out of her, My people" (and used it myself), to extricate folks from man-made religious institutions.

As well-meaning as some of these twists may be, they share one unfortunate trait: rash unbelief in what God is revealing (not hiding) in this scroll. In this, the Unveiling (not the hiding) of Jesus Christ, God describes a literal city in present-day Iraq (the former capital of three world empires) as the headquarters of an apostate Jewry to whom the world will be beholden and to whom the world will pay tribute.

Before we use Rev. 18:4 metaphorically, we must consider the entire account in detail: ships, magnates, precious commodities, "great city," "strong city"—what of all this? Some parts may serve as a figure, but to so treat the whole requires an ungainly stretch of imagination. And since every imagination is different, then so is every interpretation; the book then becomes a veiling rather than an Unveiling.

Yet one interpretation fits everything: in Babylon, we are witnessing apostate Israel in her final struggle for world domination apart from her true Messiah.

Literally.

Martin Zender's Clanging Gong News

"If I know all mysteries and all knowledge, but have no love, I am a clanging gong" --1 Cor. 13:1-2



Two out of three isn't bad.

The specter of Babylon

What I am going to say in this edition of *Clanging Gong News* will be considered, in some camps, vastly unspiritual. And yet, as I said last week, believing what God has said—while allowing for figures of speech—is the most spiritual thing one can do. I will also say things here concerning God's Chosen People (that is, the Jews) that will smack so hard of political incorrectness that you may wish to ditch this issue before someone catches you reading it. (Let that be fair warning.) I could not care less for political correctness. My concern is that my words could be construed as anti-Semitic. This is the farthest thing from my intention. I am the least prejudiced person I know. What I will present are facts, both from scripture and from modern news sources. So let us begin.

It is clear from the Unveiling of Jesus Christ (the book of Revelation) that Babylon will once again, at the end of this eon, become the commercial capital of a world kingdom, and home to the wealthy yet apostate sons of Jacob. This will be the financial hub of the so-called iron kingdom—prophesied in Daniel, chapter 2—that will end the present wicked eon. It will be the successor to the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, and the Grecian empires, the only other empires in human history to dominate the entire earth.

It is remarkable how so-called spiritualizers spiritualize away, not only this coming world



capital headquartered in Babylon, but our Lord's ensuing thousand-year kingdom, whose capital is Jerusalem.

The aforementioned world kingdoms are a matter of historic record, as is the fact that all three empires made Babylon—in the plain of Shinar, on the banks of the Euphrates, yes, *that* Babylon—their capital. Anyone who acknowledges that the first three kingdoms of Nebuchadnezzar's dream (contained in the image described in Daniel, chapter 2) are physical, literal, political kingdoms, but then suddenly changes course in mid-stream and dismisses the fourth kingdom as figurative—and, worse, treats the kingdom of Christ that smashes and

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There will be **4** world kingdoms in the present eon
3 are past
1 is coming

All are literal.

EMPIRE	CAPITAL
BABYLONIAN	Babylon
MEDO-PERSIAN	Babylon
GRECIAN	Babylon
IRON KINGDOM	Babylon

These four kingdoms correspond to Nebuchadnezzar's image in Daniel, chapter 2. Literal, literal, literal...*figurative?* On what grounds? Do you happen to notice any—

DIVINE CONSISTENCY?

...Babylon

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displaces it as figurative as well—assumes the burden of explanation. And yet they dismiss this burden without any rationale other than that their position is “spiritual” and yours involves “the natural mind” (i.e. “thinking”).

The following is from an e-mail sent me from my friend in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Tony Smith, who sent the accompanying photo:



In the 1980s, Saddam Hussein began his program of reconstructing the ancient city of Babylon, but the work was cut short by the U.S. invasion of 2003. Our own excitement to see what is happening in Babylon today should be almost unbearably exquisite.

Today, Babylon is located just one mile north of the large city of Al Hillah, population 365,000. Al Hillah is the present day capital of the province of Babel, and was once a major center of Islamic scholarship and education. The walls of the ancient city of Baby-

lon were said to be 56 miles in circumference and thus would easily encompass Al Hillah within. So in a very real sense, Babylon has already been partially restored.

Despite the damage caused to the site by Hussein's program of reconstruction and the U.S. military invasion of 2003, (the U.S. encampment—Camp Babylon—has since been turned over to the Iraqis), Iraqi and UN officials intend to continue the work begun by the dead dictator.

An article in the April 21, 2006 edition of the International Herald Tribune states that millions are being poured into the works with the hopes of turning the area into a cultural center. The article describes the area around Babylon as “among the safest in Iraq, a beacon of civilization once again in a land of chaos.”

The following is from Bloomberg News, January 8, 2009:

The World Monuments Fund is launching a project with Iraq to preserve the ancient city of Babylon. The U.S. Department of State has given about \$700,000 for the project, called “The Future of Babylon.”

“Iraqi heritage belongs to all humanity,” said Samir Sumaida’ie, Iraq’s ambassador to the U.S. “In the immense task of caring for its world heritage, Iraq welcomes help from and collaborations with the international preservation community.”

In the book of Revelation, a dissolute woman *represents* Babylon. What does this mean? It means that Babylon does not need interpreted; it *is* the interpretation. ■

The intoxicant of Babylon is already upon us

THE SONS OF JACOB CONTROL MAINSTREAM NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT

“And one from among the seven messengers who have the seven bowls came, and he talks with me, saying: ‘Hither! I shall be showing you the sentence of the great prostitute who is sitting on many waters with whom the kings of the earth commit prostitution, and those dwelling in the earth are made drunk with the wine of her prostitution.’ And he carries me away, in spirit, into a wilderness. And I perceived a woman sitting on a scarlet wild beast, replete with blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was clothed with purple and scarlet, and gilded with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand, brimming with the abominations and uncleannesses of the prostitution of her and the earth” (Rev. 17:1-2).

John *saw* a cup, so therefore the cup is figurative. Since the cup is figurative, then “drunk with the wine of her prostitution” is also figurative. What do these figure represent? They represent a



Disney CEO Robert Iger

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Q&A Special Edition

Who is the woman sitting on the scarlet wild beast in Rev. 17? And what is the wild beast?

As I said last week, what John saw constitutes the figurative part of Revelation. When God explains to John what the thing he saw represents, that’s the literal part. “And the woman you perceived is the great city,” says God in Rev. 17:18. Plain and simple: the woman is figurative; the city is literal; the city is Babylon. As for the wild beast, it has seven heads (figurative), which represent seven kings (literal-Rev. 17:9). This wild beast is an amalgamation of the four beasts Daniel saw rising from the sea in Daniel, chapter 7, which—rising east to west—represent the four great religions of earth: Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and Christianity.

Now watch this: when you add up the total heads and horns of the four beasts in Daniel, they equal the number of heads and horns of the single wild beast of Revelation. (Compare Dan. 7:1-7 with Rev. 13:1). Amazing! Additionally, “The wild beast which I perceived,” says John (13:2—that is, the thing John saw that wasn’t real) “was like a leopardess, and its feet were as a bear’s, and its mouth as the mouth of a lion.” Not coincidentally, the beasts Daniel saw in Dan. Chapter 7 were: a leopardess, a bear, a lion, and a non-descript monstress; these unreal beast *images* represented real things: the leopardess is Islam, the bear is Hinduism, the lioness is Buddhism, and the non-descript monstress is Christianity. But wait! Why isn’t the monstress mentioned in Rev. 13? The monstress (Christianity) has devoured the other religions to become one amalgamated religion! This is precisely what is now occurring, under the guise of “religious tolerance.” This is not true religious tolerance, however. For the West, it is a selling-out of Christ.

Christendom will be forced to conquer and absorb the other religions. She will not eliminate them, but will unite them into one watered-down, crossless entity. The horns and heads are the militarized and political aspects of this beast. And it is upon this beast that Babylon will ride—and thrive.

For a while.

Rants & Stuff

The Apostle Paul says we should not murmur (Philippians 2:14). Therefore, I shall rant.



Mainstream religion still won't get it

Even when Babylon is rebuilt, mainstream Christianity won't know what's happening. Some of them will see it as the beginning of the time of the end, but they won't think it's upon them because "the evil people" won't be in power yet. The majority of Christians fail to grasp that Satan is transformed these days into a messenger of light (2 Cor. 11:14). Light. Hm. Greek: *phos*....movies...hmm...television...computers...hmm...light. Satan? Nah! Just a crazy coincidence.

Jews will be running Babylon, and the western beast (that is, the crossless mega-religion/government of Chris-mo-hin-bud-dom) will be helping Israel (God's people!) do her thing in Babylon—SO EVERYTHING WILL BE GROOVY. It's only

when some evil force comes up against the good and righteous mega-religion that the mega-religionists will have to worry about Antichrist.

Um, can you say, "Pharisee Syndrome?" ■

...intoxicant (continued from page 2)

world that is to become dull of sense and void of judgment through the agency of an intoxicant offered by Babylon's leaders. Who are these leaders? In John's vision, the woman (Babylon) is "drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus" (Rev. 17:6). This can be none other than apostate Israel.

The world's appetite for immorality is insatiable. Movies, television, popular music, and magazines have primed the majority of Earth's population for greed, gluttony, hedonism, alcoholism, illegal drug use, deviant sex, anger, divorce, envy, and death. The pushers? Jewry. This is not anti-Semitism; it is fact. Consider the following CEOs and their companies: Gerald Levin: AOL Time Warner; Robert Iger: Walt Disney; Edgar Bronfman, Jr.: Universal Studios; Sumner Redstone: Viacom; Dennis Dammerman: General Electric; Peter Chernin: News Corporation Limited.

These seven men, collectively, control ABC, NBC, CBS, the Turner Broadcasting System, CNN, MTV, Universal Studios, MCA Records, and Geffen Records. And they're all Jewish. Coincidence? Medial mogul Sam I. Newhouse (Jewish) owns the Sunday supplement Parade and the Conde Nast collection of magazines, including Vogue, The New Yorker, Vanity Fair, Allure, GQ, and Self, not to mention the publishing firms of Random House, Knopf, Crown, and Ballantine, among other imprints; and cable franchises with over one million subscribers.

Columnist Joel Stein wrote the following in the December 19, 2008 L.A. Times:

I have never been so upset by a poll in my life. Only 22% of Americans now believe "the movie and television industries are pretty much run by Jews," down from nearly 50% in 1964. It just shows how dumb America has gotten. Jews totally run Hollywood.



How deeply Jewish is Hollywood? When the studio chiefs took out a full-page ad in the Los Angeles Times a few weeks ago to demand that the Screen Actors Guild settle its contract, the open letter was signed by: News Corp. President Peter Chernin (Jewish), Paramount Pictures Chairman Brad Grey (Jewish), Walt Disney Co. Chief Executive Robert Iger (Jewish), Sony Pictures Chairman Michael Lynton (surprise, Dutch Jew), Warner Bros. Chairman Barry Meyer (Jewish), CBS Corp. Chief Executive Leslie Moonves (so Jewish his great uncle was the first prime minister of Israel), MGM Chairman Harry Sloan (Jewish) and NBC Universal Chief Executive Jeff Zucker (mega-Jewish).

The Jews are so dominant, I had to scour the trades to come up with six Gentiles in high positions at entertainment companies. As a proud Jew, I want America to know about our accomplishment. Yes, we control Hollywood. Without us, you'd be flipping between "The 700 Club" and "Davey and Goliath" on TV all day.

In 1928, with the film industry in its infancy in Los Angeles, A.E. Knoch wrote the following in *The Unveiling of Jesus Christ*:

All society seems to be on a spree. It is pleasure mad. Many years ago, a friend who had traveled all over Europe told me that almost all the questionable pleasures as well as the vices of the continent were contributing to the increasing opulence of the Jews, who were largely in control of such businesses, for it was the quickest way to wealth. The gentiles' lust for pleasure is the most profitable field for Jewish speculation. My impression that the same was true in the United States has been amply attested by the increasing prominence of Jewish leaders in all lines of amusement, and by the slough of immorality into which many forms of diversion have sunk. As the time has not yet arrived for the open manifestation of Babylon, it is not incumbent on us to prove that the Jews already control the wealth of the world and are now debauching the peoples. All we need to show is the tendency in that direction. The worst is yet to come. ■