

the book of

REVELATION

sermon series



Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

President – Chafer Theological Seminary

Seven Areas

- I. Tower of Babel (Gen. 1–11)
- II. Prophecies of Isaiah (13–14) & Jeremiah (50–51)
- III. Prophecy of Zechariah (Zech. 5:5-11)
- IV. Kings of the East (Rev. 9:14; 16:12)
- V. End-Time Harlot (Rev. 17–18)
- VI. Inadequate Theories
- VII. Current Events



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Spread of the Mother-Child Cult

	Mother	Child
Assyria	Ishtar	Tammuz
Phoenicia	Astarte	Baal
Egypt	Isis	Osirus/Horus
Greece	Aphrodite	Eros
Rome	Venus	Cupid
Asia	Cybele	Desius
India	Isi	Aswara
Roman Catholicism	Mary	Jesus
Israel	Queen of Heaven (Jer. 7:18; 44:17)	Tammuz (Ezek. 8:14-15)

Alexander Hislop, *Two Babylons*

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Isaiah 13-14

- Day of the Lord (13:6-9)
- Cosmic disturbances (13:10-13)
- Global judgment (13:11-12)
- Sodom and Gomorrah (13:19)
- Complete and final desolation (13:20-22)
- Universal peace and rest (14:5-8)
- Israel's regeneration (14:1-4)

Morris, *Revelation Record*, 348.

Jeremiah 50-51

- Sudden destruction (51:8)
- Complete destruction (50:3, 13, 26, 39-40; 51:29, 43, 62)
- No reuse of building materials (51:26)
- Believers flee (50:8; 51:6, 45)
- Israel's regeneration (50:2, 4-5, 20; 51:50)

Cyrus Cylinder



Parallels Between Jeremiah 50-51 & Revelation 17-18

	Jeremiah	Revelation
Associated with a Golden cup	51:7a	17:3-4; 18:6
Dwelling on many waters	51:13	17:1
Intoxicating the nations	51:7b	17:2
Same name	50:1	17:5
Stone sinking into Euphrates	51:63-64	18:21
Sudden destruction	51:8	18:8
Destroyed by fire	51:30	17:16
Final, uninhabitable	50:39	18:21
Deserved	50:29	18:6
God's people flee	51:6, 45	18:4
Heaven rejoices	51:48	18:20

Dyer, "The Identity of Babylon in Revelation 17–18 (Part 2)," 441-43.

Larkin, *The Book of Revelation*, 158.

“...and this is in exact harmony with the words of Isa. 13:19. ‘And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees’ excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah;’ and the Prophet Jeremiah makes the same statement. Jer. 50:40. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah was not protracted through many centuries, their glory disappeared in a few hours (Gen. 19:24–28), and as ancient Babylon was not thus destroyed, the prophecies of Isaiah and Jeremiah cannot be fulfilled unless there is to be a future Babylon that shall be thus destroyed. In Rev. 16:17–19, we are told that Babylon shall be destroyed by an Earthquake, attended with most vivid and incessant lightning and awful thunder.”

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Zechariah 5:5-11

- Woman (wickedness)
- Ephah (commerce)
- House (Temple-2 Sam 7; religion)
- Shinar (Gen 10:10; 11:2; Dan 1:2)





Hitchcock

The Second Coming of Babylon, 109.

ZECHARIAH 5:5-11

REVELATION 17-18

Woman sitting in a basket

Woman sitting on beast, seven mountains, many waters (17: 3, 9, 15)

Emphasis on commerce (basket for measuring grain)

Emphasis on commerce (merchant of grain, 18:13)

Woman's name is wickedness

Woman's name is Babylon the Great, Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth

Focus on False worship (temple is built for the woman)

Focus on False worship (17:5)

Woman taken to Babylon

Woman called Babylon



Arthur W. Pink

1886 - 1952

“The vision or prophecy (Zec. 5) contains the germ which is afterward expanded and developed in such detail in Rev. 17 and 18.” Pink, *The Antichrist*, 281.

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East = Babylon

- Genesis 2:8
- Genesis 11:2
- Matthew 2:2



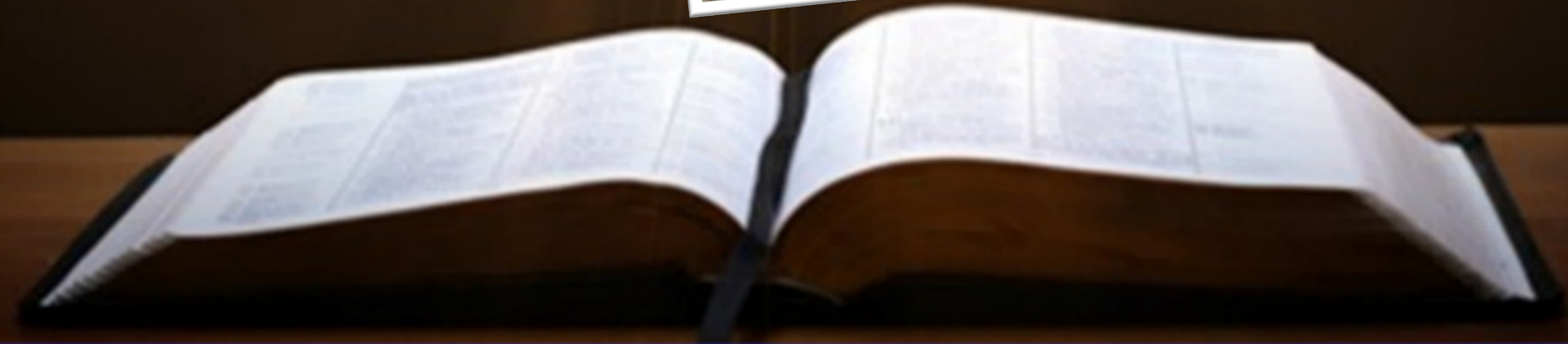
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Revelation 18:10

“standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’”



Literal Geography in Revelation

Asia	1:4	Philadelphia	3:7
Patmos	1:9	Laodicea	3:14
Ephesus	2:1	Euphrates	9:14;16:12
Smyrna	2:8	Jerusalem	11:8
Pergamum	2:12	Armageddon	16:16
Thyatira	2:18	Jerusalem	20:9
Sardis	3:1	New Jerusalem	21:2

OT Descriptions of Babylon in Rev 17–18

	Revelation 17–18	Old Testament
Waters	17:1	Psalms 137:1
Babylon the Great	17:5	Daniel 4:30
Mother harlots	17:5	Genesis 11:1-9
Fallen, fallen is Babylon	18:2	Isaiah 21:9
Will not see widowhood	18:7	Isaiah 47:7-9
Colorful attire	17:4; 18:16	Daniel 5:7, 16, 29
Sorcery	18:23	Isaiah 47:9-13



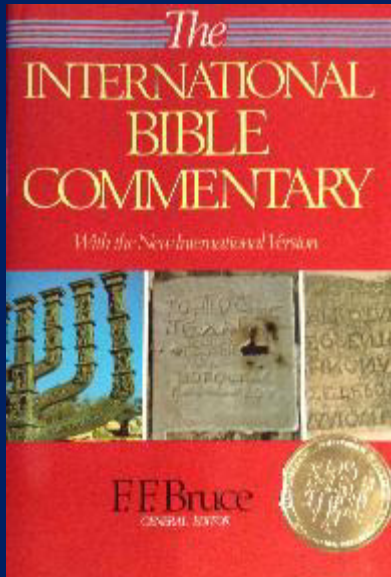
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“The city here according to verse 5 is a mystery, not a literal city...The ultimate decision depends upon the judgment of the expositor, but in many respects it is simpler to postulate a rebuilt Babylon as fulfilling literally the Old Testament prophecies as well as that embodied in this chapter.”

F. F. Bruce

"Revelation," in International Bible Commentary, 1986, p. 1621.



“This title was written on her forehead: Mystery: ‘mystery’ indicates that the name she bears...is not to be understood literally, but allegorically: Babylon the Great is read, but ‘Rome’ is meant (cf. verses 9, 19).”

“MYSTERY” IN HARLOT’S TITLE? REV. 17:5

And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. (KJV, NIV)

... and upon her forehead a name was written, a mystery, “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” (NASB)

“Mystery” Defined

“In the N.T, it [*mystērion*] denotes, not the mysterious (as with the Eng. word), but that which, being outside the range of unassisted natural apprehension, can be made known only by Divine revelation, and is made known in a manner and at a time appointed by God, and to those who are illumined by His Spirit.”

Colossians 1:26

“*that is*, the mystery which has been hidden from the *past* ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His.”



Revelation 17:3

“And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.”





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Arthur W. Pink

1886 - 1952

“We believe that the English translators have misled many by printing (on their own authority) the word ‘mystery’ in large capital letters, thus making it appear that this was a part of ‘the woman’s name. This we are assured is a mistake. That ‘mystery’ is connected with the ‘Woman’ herself and not with her ‘name’ is clear from v. 7, where the angel says unto John, ‘I will tell thee *the mystery of the Woman*, and of the beast which carrieth her.’”

Pink, *The Antichrist*, 262.

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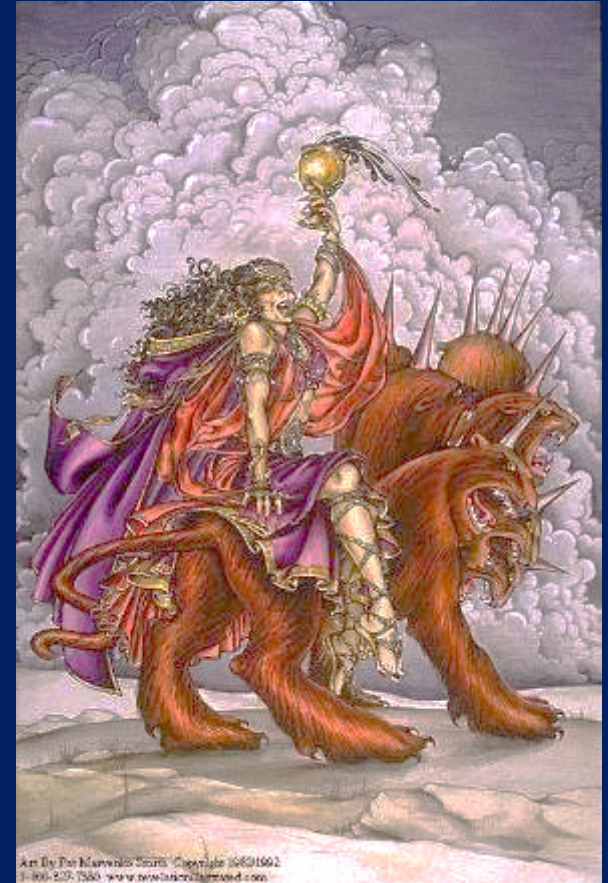
Revelation 17:5

“and on her forehead a name *was* written, a mystery, “**BABYLON** THE GREAT, THE **MOTHER** OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”



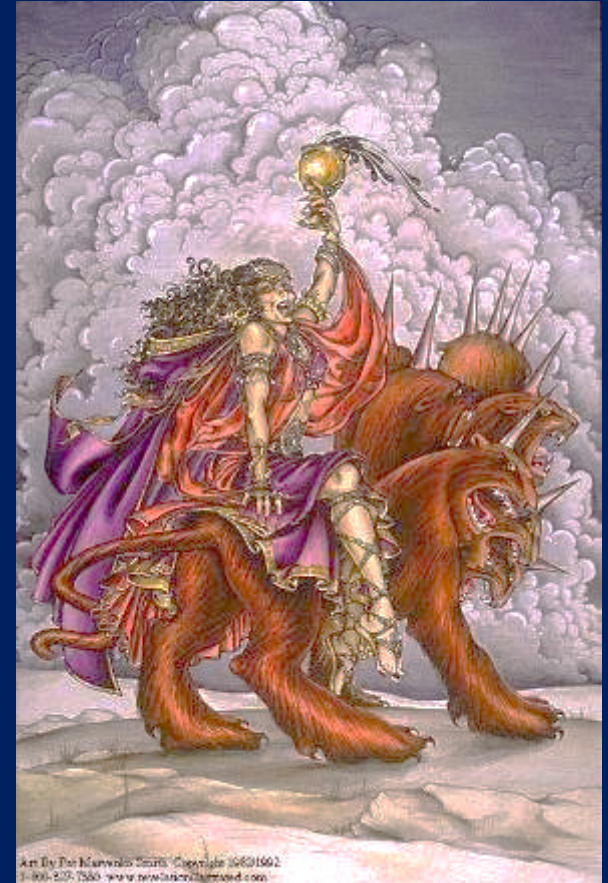
Other Alternatives?

1. Religious system?
2. Jerusalem?
3. Rome?
4. Revived Rome?
5. Two Babylons?



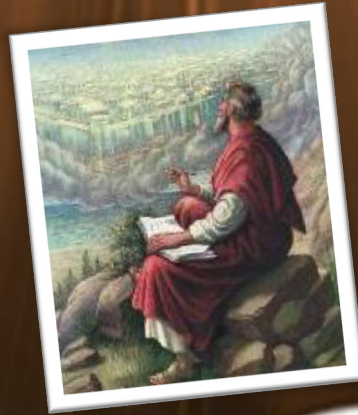
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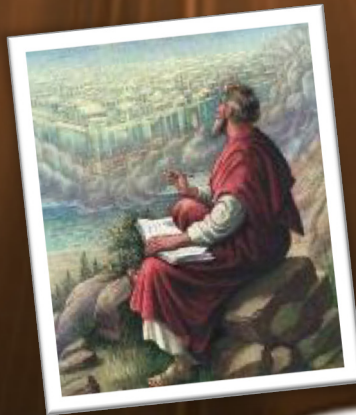
Revelation 17:18

“The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.



Revelation 18:10

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Bullinger

The Apocalypse or "The Day of the Lord", 509

“It is indeed surprising how any mistake could have been made in the identification of this woman. For the Holy Spirit first shows us her very name upon her forehead. Then, in verse 18, He tells us as plainly as words can tell anything, that ‘the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reignest over the kings of the earth’, and chap. xvi. 19, as well as xvii. 5, identifies this city with Babylon. God says it is a ‘city.’ He does not say *a system* or *a religion*, but a ‘CITY.’”



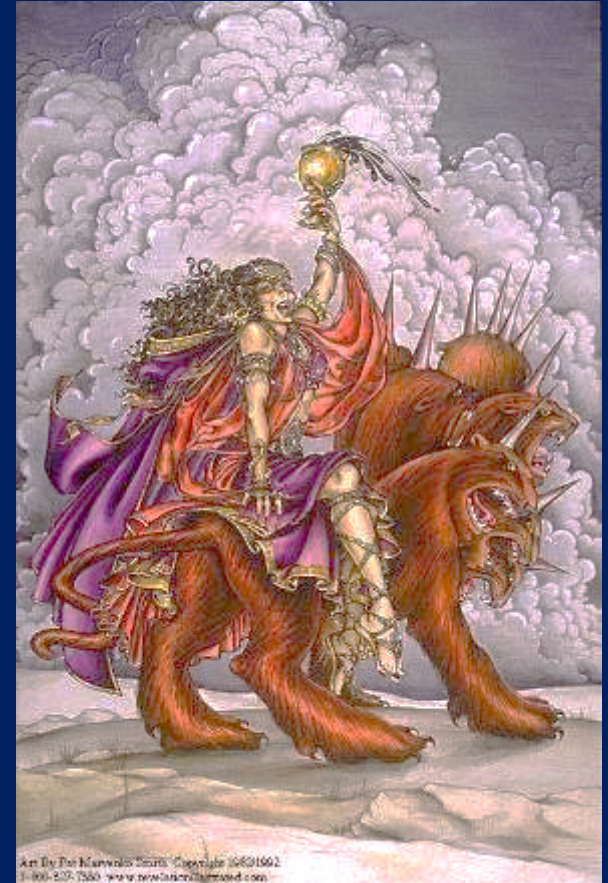
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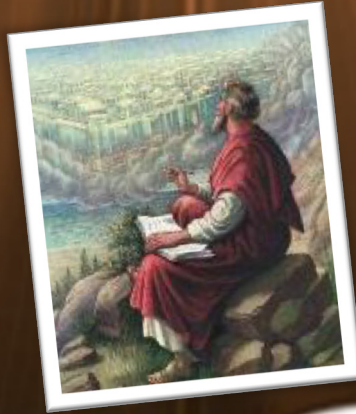
Hank Hanegraaff

The Apocalypse Code: Find out What the Bible Really Says About the End Times and Why It Matters (Nashville, TN: Nelson, 2007), 118, 19-20.

“What has puzzled me over the years is not the identity of “the great prostitute,” but how so many could mistake her historical identity...In biblical history only one nation is inextricably linked to the moniker “harlot.” And that nation is Israel! Anyone who has read the Bible even once has flashbacks to the graphic images of apostate Israel when they first encounter the great prostitute of Revelation. From the Pentateuch to the Prophets, the image is repeated endlessly. Perhaps the most gut-wrenching portrayal of Israel as prostitute is found in Hosea.”

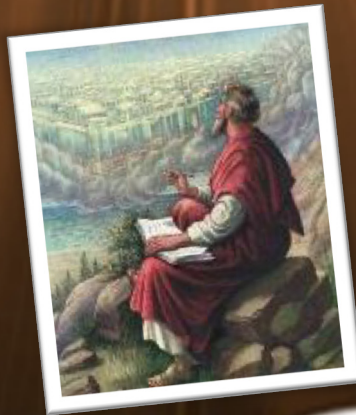
Isaiah 23:17

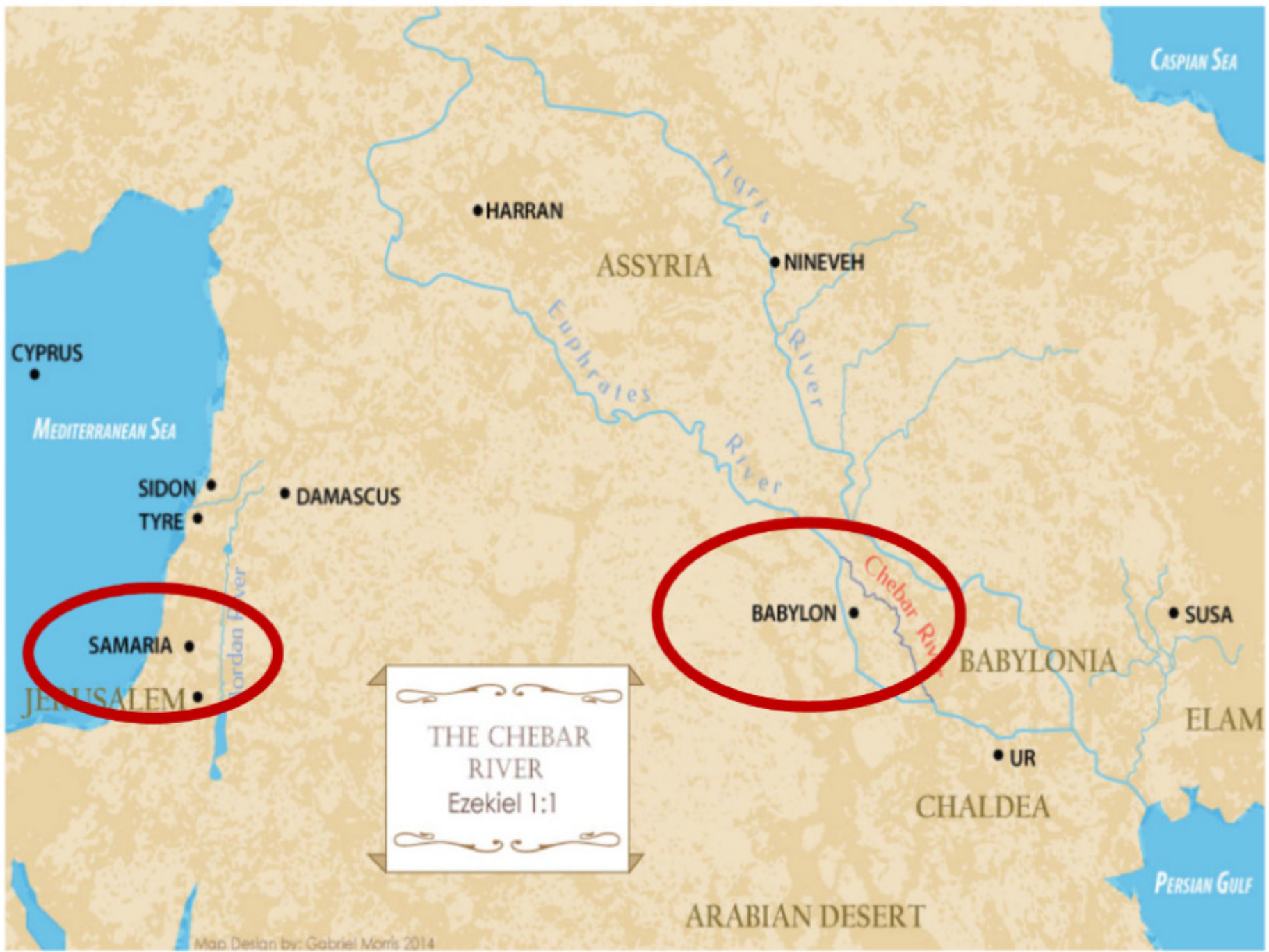
“It will come about at the end of seventy years that the LORD will visit Tyre. Then she will go back to her harlot’s wages and will play the harlot with all the kingdoms on the face of the earth.”



Nahum 3:4

“All because of the many harlotries of the harlot, The charming one, the mistress of sorceries, Who sells nations by her harlotries And families by her sorceries.”

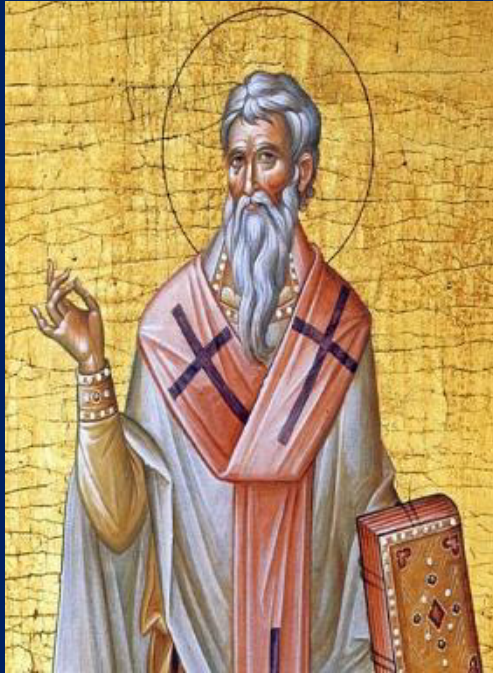




THE CHEBAR RIVER
Ezekiel 1:1

Late Date (A.D. 95)

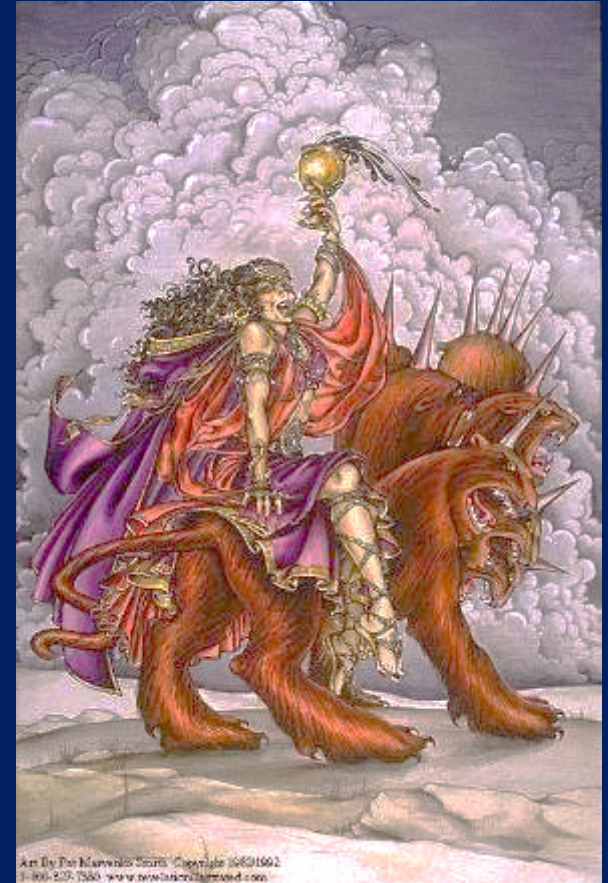
Irenaeus *Against Heresies* 5.30.3



“But if it had been necessary to announce his name plainly at the present time, it would have been spoken by him who saw the apocalypse. For it was not seen long ago, but almost in our own time, at the end of the reign of Domitian.”

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THE NATIONS OF PENTECOST ACTS 2:9-11

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Revelation 17:9-10

“Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains [oros] on which the woman sits, ¹⁰ and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while.”



Daniel 2:37-38

You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; ³⁸ and wherever the sons of men dwell, *or* the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.



Revelation 17:3

“And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.”

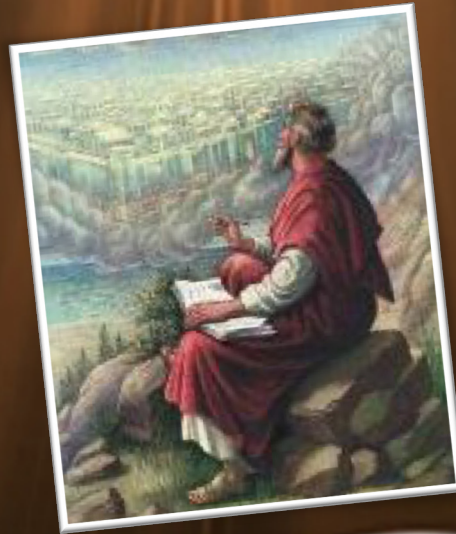


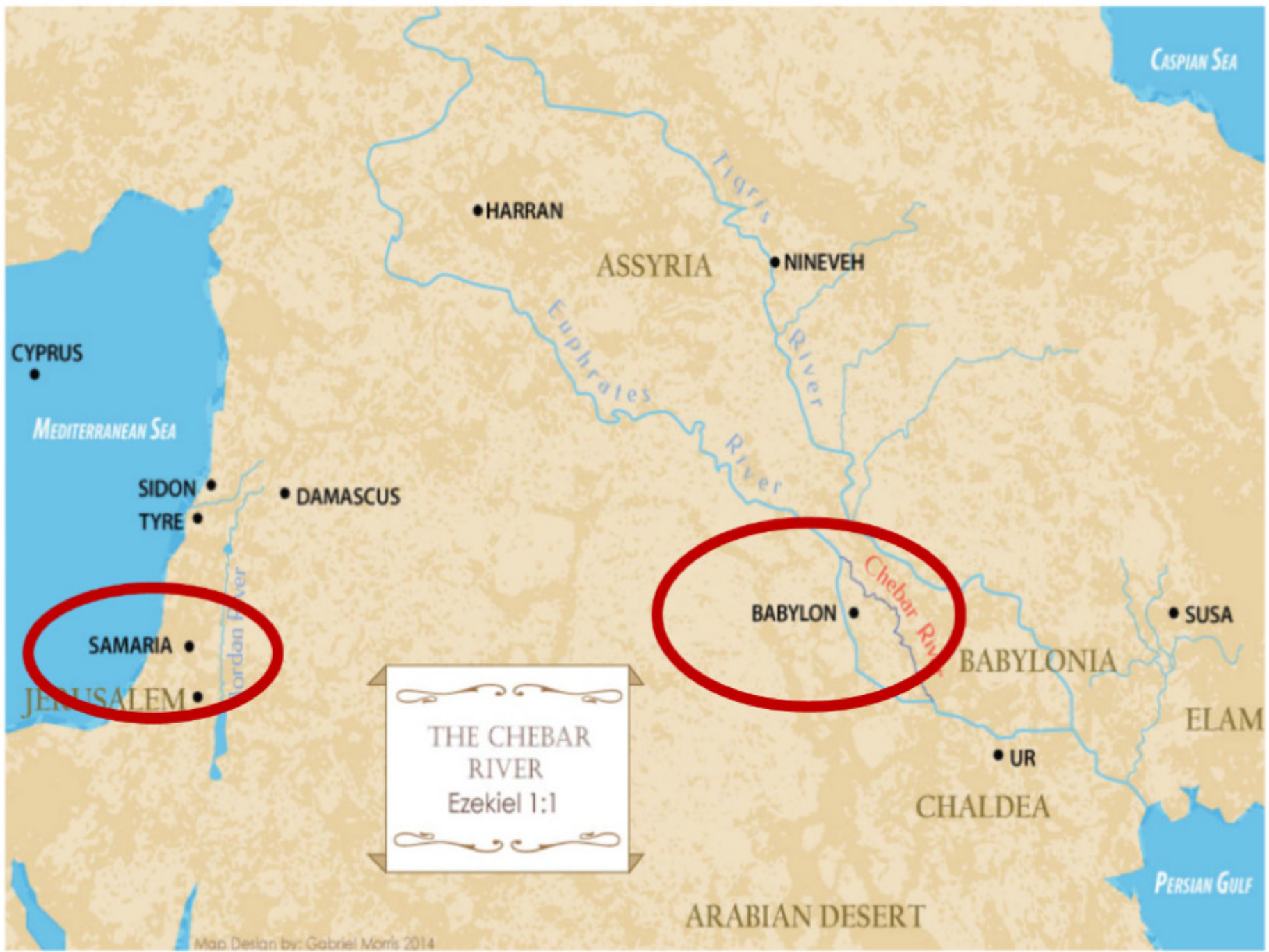


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1 Peter 5:13

“She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so *does* my son, Mark.”





THE CHEBAR RIVER
Ezekiel 1:1

Galatians 2:7-8

“7 But on the contrary, seeing that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised⁸ (for He who effectually worked for Peter in his apostleship to the circumcised effectually worked for me also to the Gentiles).”



THE NATIONS OF PENTECOST ACTS 2:9-11

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Josephus

Antiquities, 15.2.2

“But when Hyrcanus was brought into Parthia the king Phraates treated him after a very gentle manner, as having already learned of what an illustrious family he was; on which account he set him free from his bonds, and *gave him a habitation at Babylon, where there were Jews in great numbers. These Jews honored Hyrcanus as their high priest and king, as did all the Jewish nation that dwelt as far as Euphrates;* which respect was very much to his satisfaction...”

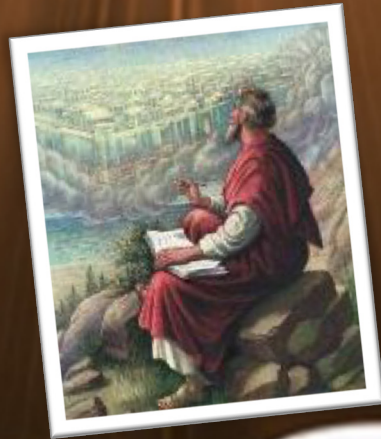
Strabo, *Geography*, 16.1.5?

“Strabo, who died in A.D. 25, is cited in proof that by this time no city was left. . . . This is an instance of how easily lax quotation or assertion may falsify both an author and an issue, which being once done, other writers too easily follow suit. What Strabo says is: ‘And now indeed [Selucia] has become greater than Babylon, which *for the most part* has become deserted’ (ἡ δ’ ἔρημος ἡ πολλή).”

G. H. Lang, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Select Studies*
(London: Paternoster, 1948), 302.

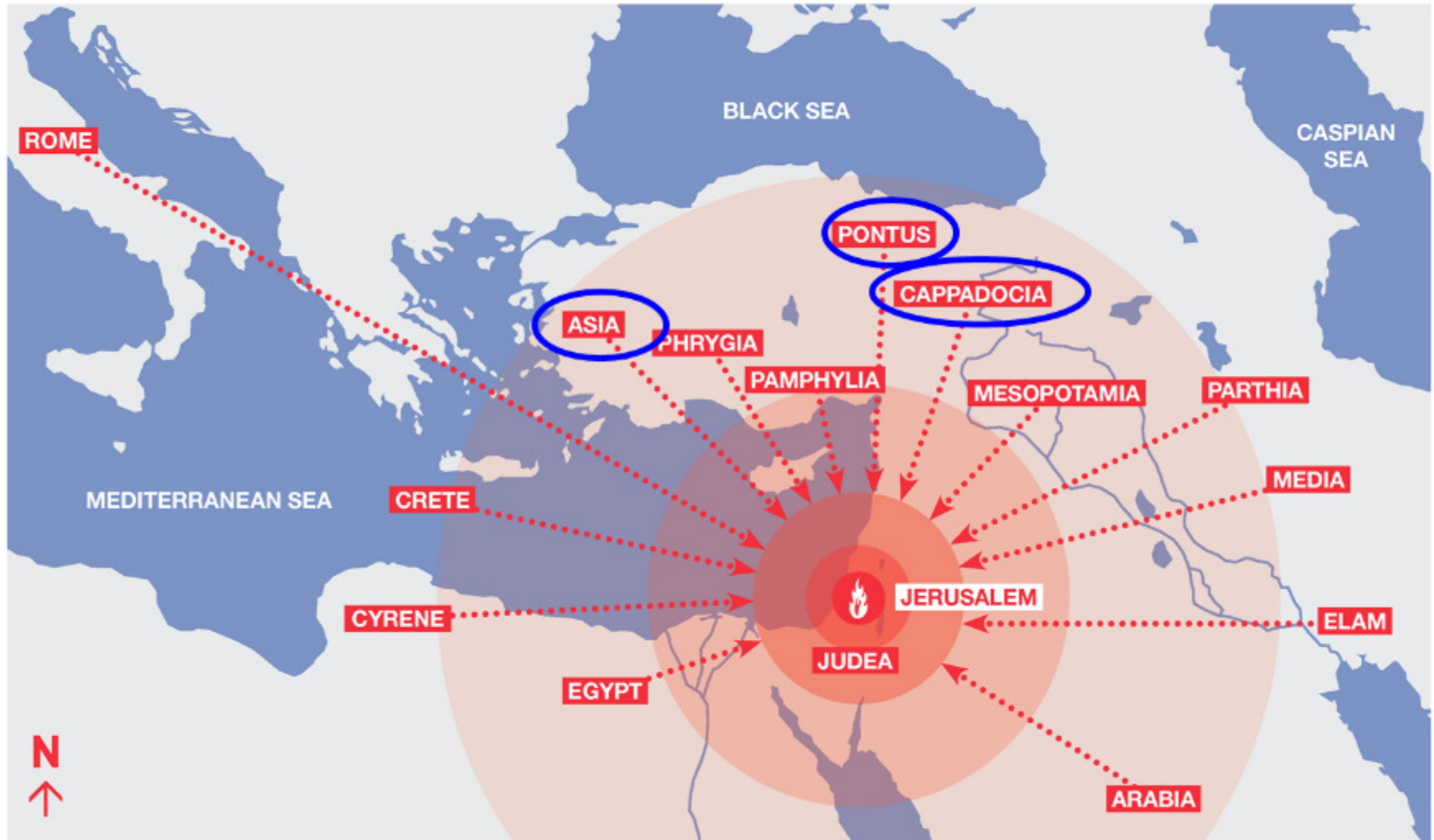
1 Peter 1:1

“To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen.”



THE NATIONS OF PENTECOST ACTS 2:9-11

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Morris

The Revelation Record, 323

“At the very least, it would be confusing to John’s first century readers, as well as to later generations, for him to write so much about Babylon when he really meant Rome (Paul was not afraid to speak directly against Rome in his writings, so why should John be?) or ‘the false church’ (all the apostles , including John, wrote plainly and scathingly about false teachers and false doctrines in the church and would not hide their teachings by symbols). It must be stressed that Revelation means “unveiling,” not “veiling.” In the absence of any statement in the text to the contrary, therefore, we must assume that the term Babylon applies to the real city of Babylon...”



Martin Luther

"Against the Roman Papacy, an Institution of the Devil," in *Luther's Works*, ed. Eric. W. Gritsch (Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1966), 273-74.

"No man can believe what an abomination the papacy is. A Christian does not have to be of low intelligence, either, to recognize it. God himself must deride him in the hellish fire, and our Lord Jesus Christ, St. Paul says in II Thessalonians 2 [:8] will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by his glorious coming." I only deride, with my own weak derision, so that those who now live and those who will come after us should know what I have thought of the pope, the damned antichrist, and so that whoever wishes to be a Christian may be warned against such an abomination."



John Calvin

Calvin, *Institutes*, IV, ii, 12.

“However, when we categorically deny to the papists the title of *the* church, we do not for this reason impugn the existence of churches among them. Rather, we are only contending about the true and lawful constitution of the church, required in the communion not only of the sacraments (which are the signs of profession) but also especially of doctrine. Daniel [Dan. 9:27] and Paul [2 Thess. 2:4] foretold that **Antichrist** would sit in the Temple of God. With us, it is the **Roman pontiff** we make the leader and standard bearer of that wicked and abominable kingdom. The fact that his seat is placed in the Temple of God signifies that his reign was not to be such as to wipe out either the name of Christ or of the...



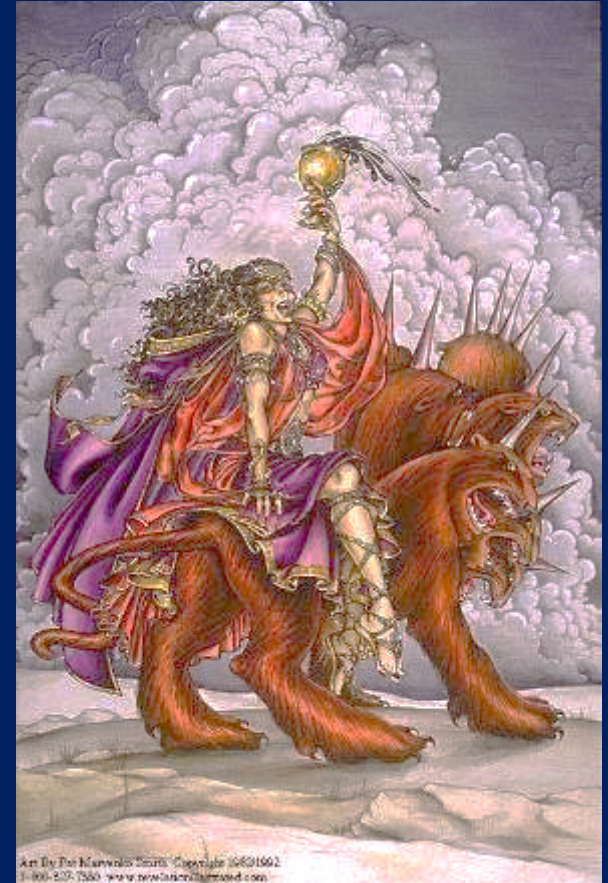
John Calvin

Calvin, *Institutes*, IV, ii, 12.

...church. From this it therefore is evident that we by no means deny that the churches under his tyranny remain churches. But these he has profaned by his sacrilegious impiety, afflicted by his inhuman domination, corrupted and well-nigh killed by his evil and deadly doctrines, which are like poisoned drinks. In them Christ lies hidden, half buried, the gospel overthrown, piety scattered, the worship of God nearly wiped out. In them, briefly, everything is so confused that there we see the face of Babylon rather than that of the Holy City of God.”

Other Alternatives?

1. Religious system?
2. Jerusalem?
3. Rome?
4. Revived Rome?
5. Two Babylons?





Statue & Stone

2. A Statue and a Stone



Statue is destroyed by a great stone, which represents Jesus Christ



HEAD
GOLD

WORLD POWER
BABYLON
608-539

CHEST AND ARMS
SILVER

WORLD POWER
PERSIA
539-331

STOMACH AND THIGHS
BRASS

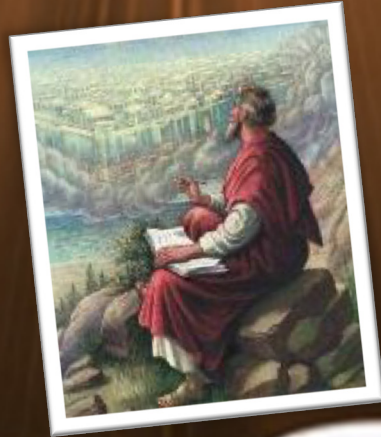
WORLD POWER
GREECE
331-323

LEGS AND FEET
IRON & CLAY

WORLD POWER
ROME
322 B.C.—A.D. 476
FUTURE

Revelation 17:3

“And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.”

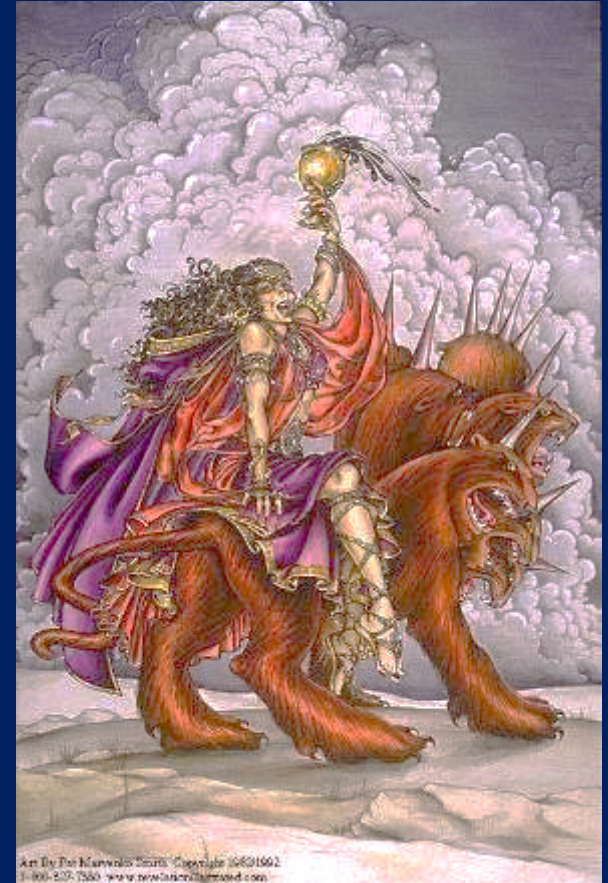




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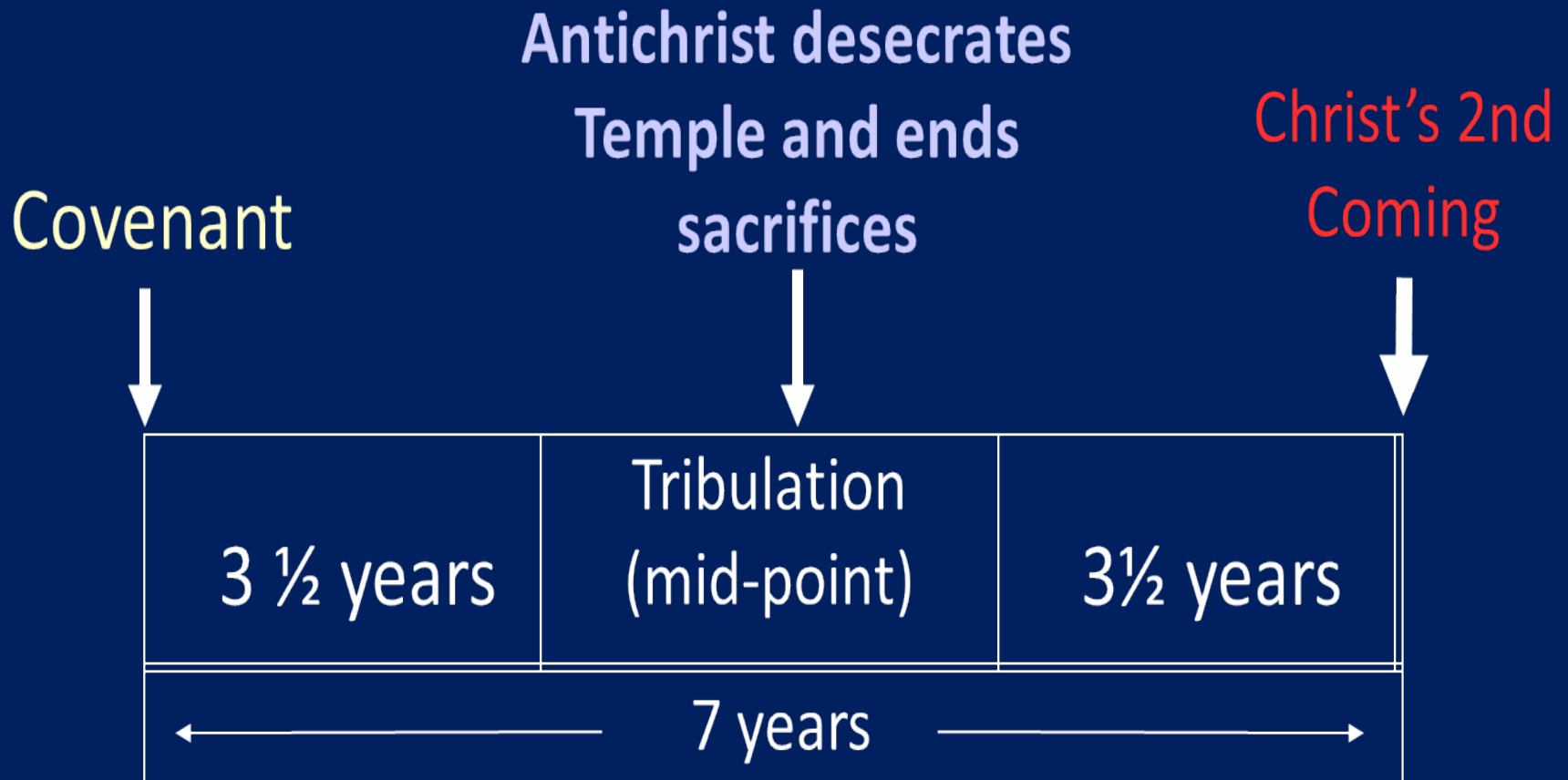
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(Chicago: Moody, 1966), 267.

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DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD



Two Babylons View

	Ecclesiastical Babylon	Commercial Babylon
Chapter in Revelation	Revelation 17	Revelation 18
Literalness	Not literal	Literal
Time of Destruction	1 st half of Tribulation	Second Advent
Emphasis	Religion	Commercial & Political



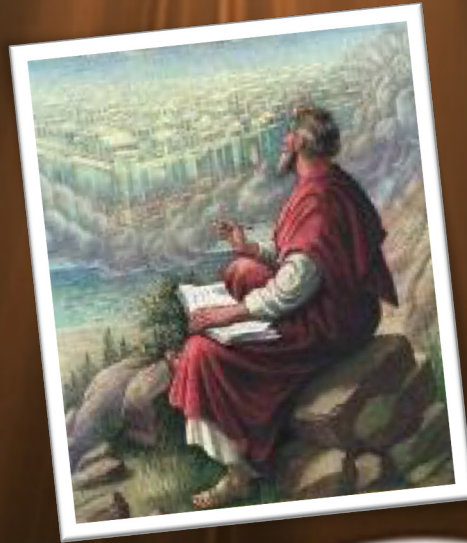
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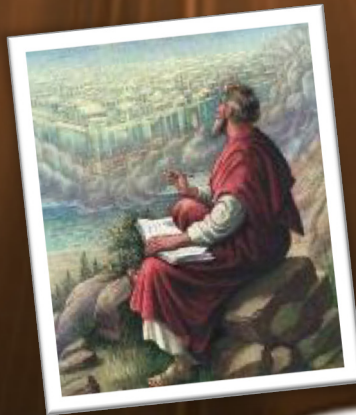
Revelation 17:18

“The woman whom you saw is the great city, [polis] which reigns over the kings of the earth.



Revelation 18:10

“standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city [polis], Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’”



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“It is indeed surprising how any mistake could have been made in the identification of this woman. For the Holy Spirit first shows us her very name upon her forehead. Then, in verse 18, He tells us as plainly as words can tell anything, that ‘the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reignest over the kings of the earth’, and chap. xvi. 19, as well as xvii. 5, identifies this city with Babylon. God says it is a ‘city.’ He does not say *a system* or *a religion*, but a ‘CITY.’”

Revelation 17:1

“Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters.”



5 Non-Chronological Parenthetical Insertions

Seals (Rev 7) 144,000 JEWS

1 2 3 4 5 6 ↓ 7

Trumpets (Rev 10–11) No Delay; 2 Witnesses

1 2 3 4 5 6 ↓ 7 (Rev 12–14) Israel's flight

Bowls (Rev 16:13-16) Armageddon

1 2 3 4 5 6 ↓ 7 (Rev 17–19) Babylon falls

5 Non-Chronological Parenthetical Insertions

1. Rev 7 – 144,000 Jews
2. Rev 10:1-11:13 – Announcement of no more delay and the two witnesses
3. Rev 12-14 – Israel's flight, two beasts, six scenes of hope
4. Rev 16:13-16 – Gathering of the nations to Armageddon
5. **Rev 17:1-19:6 – Babylon's fall**

ONE BABYLON

	Rev. 17	Rev. 18
Same name	17:5	18:2
City	17:18	18:10
Same clothing	17:4	18:16
Holding a cup	17:4	18:6
Fornicating with Kings	17:2	18:3
Drunk with wine of immorality	17:2	18:3
Persecuting believers	17:6	18:20, 24
Destroyed by fire	17:16	18:8, 18
Destroyed by God	17:17	18:5, 8

Dyer, "The Identity of Babylon in Revelation 17–18 (Part 1)," 311-13.

Seven Areas

- I. Tower of Babel (Gen. 1–11)
- II. Prophecies of Isaiah (13–14) & Jeremiah (50–51)
- III. Prophecy of Zechariah (Zech. 5:5-11)
- IV. Kings of the East (Rev. 9:14; 16:12)
- V. End-Time Harlot (Rev. 17–18)
- VI. Inadequate Theories
- VII. Current Events**



Early Babylon Interpreters

Govett (1813–1901)

Pink (1923)

Newton (1853)

Jennings (1937)

Newell (1935)

Pember (1941)

Bullinger (1909)

Cooper (1942)

Seiss (1909)

Lang (1948)

Larkin (1919)

Dyer (1979)

Ice, "Babylon in Bible Prophecy," 5 . www.pre-trib.org.





Morris

The Revelation Record, 349

“Computer studies of the Institute for Creation Research have shown, for example, that Babylon is very near the geographical center of all the earth’s land masses. It is within navigable distances of the Persian Gulf and is at the crossroads of the three great continents of Europe, Asia and Africa. Thus there is no more ideal location anywhere for a world trade center, a world communication center, a world banking center, a world educational center, or especially, a world capital! The greatest historian of modern times, Arnold Toynbee, used to stress to all his readers and hearers that Babylon would be the best place in the world to build a future world cultural metropolis.”

June 2007 Conventional Oil Reserves

Rank	Country	Percentage of oil reserves
1	Saudia Arabia	21.9 %
2	Iran	11.4 %
3	Iraq	9.5 %
4	Kuwait	8.4 %
5	United Arab Emirates	8.1 %
6	Venezuela	6.6 %
7	Russia	6.6 %
8	Libya	3.4 %

David Jeremiah, *What in the World is Going On*, 207

Iraq Tries to Get Babylon on UNESCO World Heritage List

Jan 20, 2015

“Iraqi Minister of Tourism and Antiquities on Monday said that his country is seeking to restore the ancient ruin city of Babylon onto the UNESCO world heritage list.”



Iraq Celebrates Naming Babylon a UNESCO World Heritage Site

QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA of Times of Israel - July 6, 2019

“BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq on Friday celebrated the UNESCO World Heritage Committee’s decision to name the historic city of Babylon a World Heritage Site in a vote held in Azerbaijan’s capital, years after Baghdad began campaigning for the site to be added to the list..The 4,300-year-old Babylon — now mainly an archaeological ruin and two important museums — is where dynasties have risen and fallen since the earliest days of settled human civilization. King Hammurabi wrote his famous code of laws in Babylon, while Nebuchadnezzar sent his vast army from the city to Jerusalem to put down an uprising and bring the Jews back as slaves.”



Iraq Celebrates Naming Babylon a UNESCO World Heritage Site

QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA of Times of Israel - July 6, 2019

“The Babylonian exile of the Jews lasted from 605 BCE until the Persian King Cyrus the Great conquered Babylon and in 539 BCE allowed the Jews to return home and build the Second Temple...Dozens of Iraqis waving their national flag gathered at the Ishtar Gate at the site celebrating their city’s new international status. Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi described the vote as ‘another victory for the Iraq of civilizations that was and will always be a lighthouse to the world.’ President Barham Saleh tweeted that after Babylon, more ancient sites will be added to the list through which ‘Iraq will restore that status that it deserves.’”

“Want Middle East Stability? Move UN to Iraq”

“The idea of moving U.N. headquarters seems to resonate with many...Where should it go? Try Iraq...In order to maintain its fledgling democracy, Iraq needs international commitment, an inducement to stop factional violence, and a stable form of income not subject to the terrorists’ reprisals...New York is an expensive city, and representation at the U.N. is currently a costly endeavor...The remaining big spenders should have a positive effect on the Iraqi job market and improve the overall economy of the entire region, which might in turn reduce the tendency to...

“Want Middle East Stability? Move UN to Iraq”

...engage in violence. With such a large and formidable presence, fundamental human rights issues ranging from honor killing and female infanticide to state-imposed death sentences for children, religious converts, and political dissidents...could be more effectively addressed, transforming the region developmentally in the process.”

How Could Babylon Be Built So Quickly?

- Imminency?
 - ◆ Chicago fire
 - ◆ Dubai
 - ◆ Neom, Saudi Arabia
- Harbor?



How Could Babylon Be Built So Quickly?

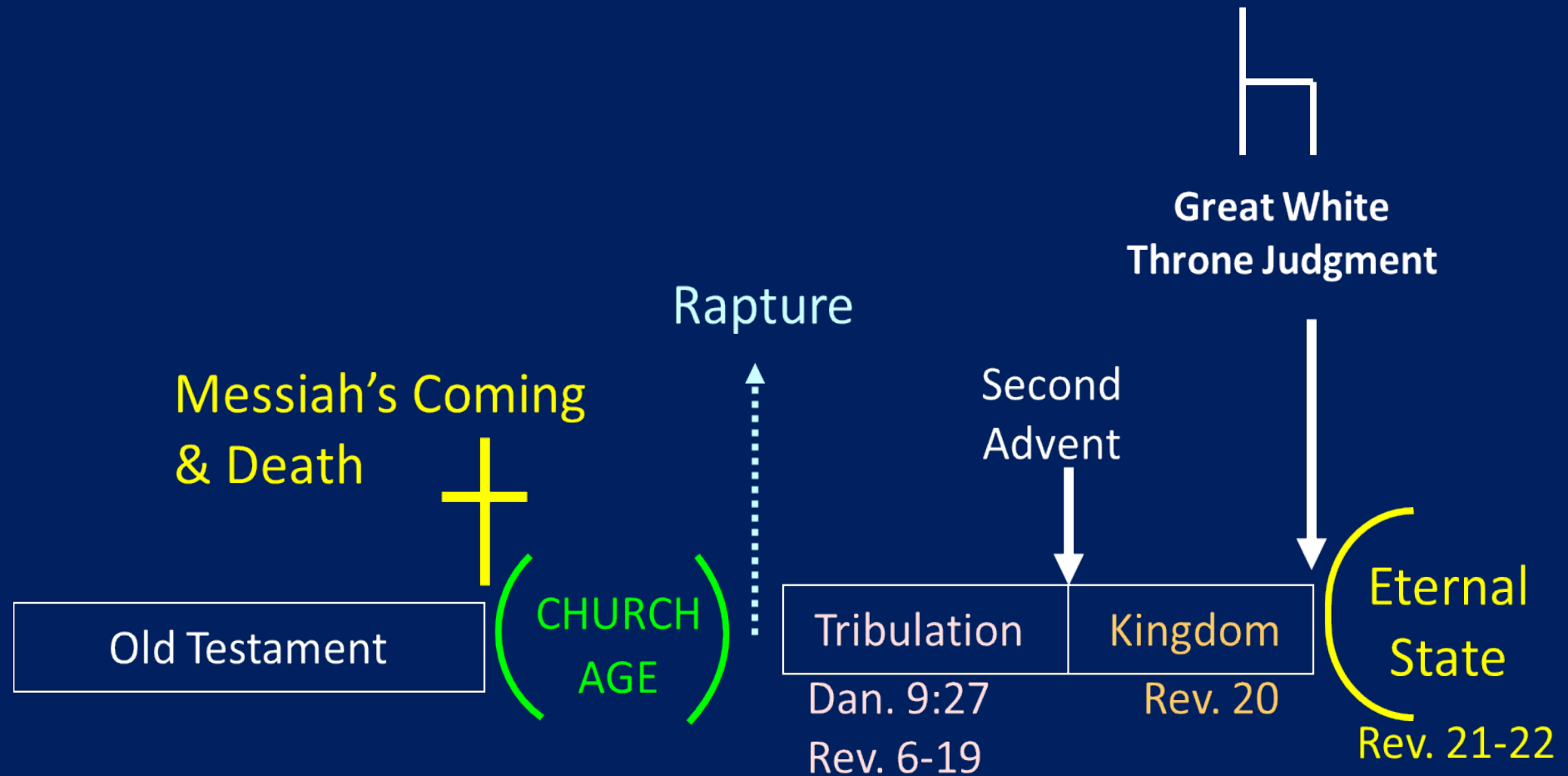
■ Imminency?

- ◆ Chicago fire
- ◆ Dubai
- ◆ Neom, Saudi Arabia

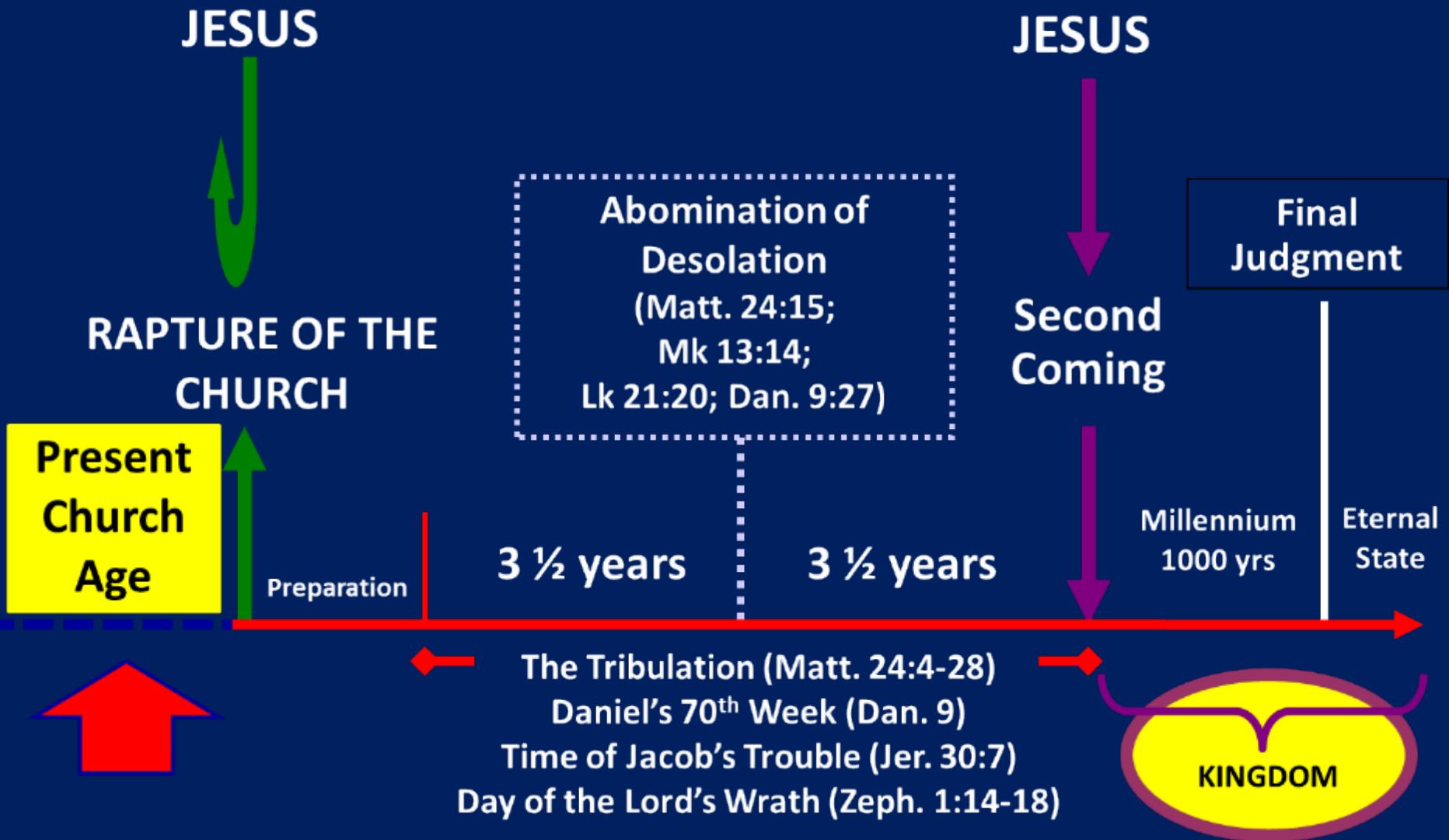
■ Harbor?



Prophecy Panorama

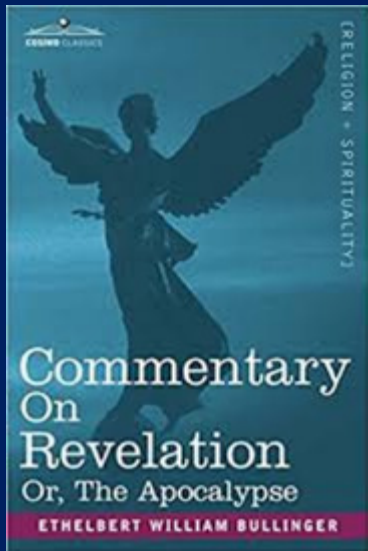


The End Times



Bullinger (1909)

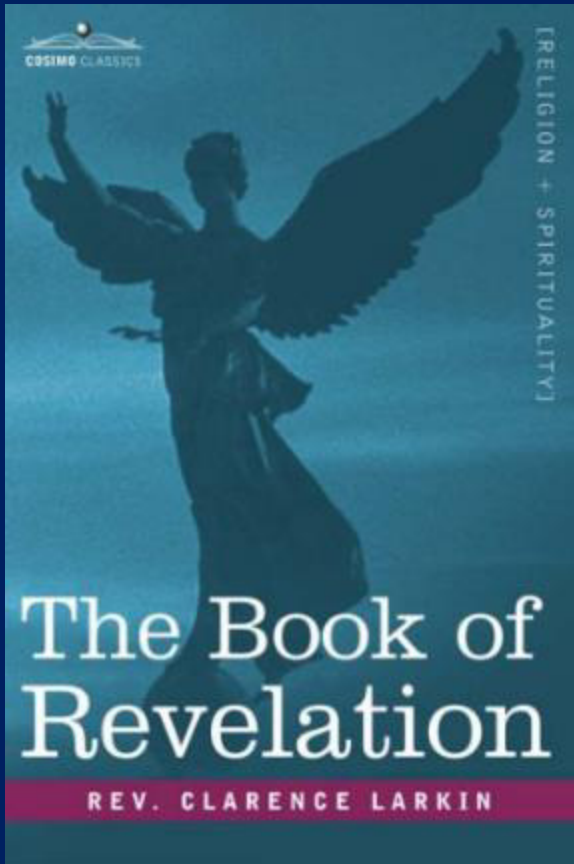
Commentary on Revelation, 577



“And Babylon, though fallen gradually, and very low, has never suffered such a destruction. There is only one conclusion, that in the interval of, say some 30 or more years between the removal of the church and the last "week "of Daniel's prophecy, it will be revived and exceed all its former magnificence.”

Larkin (1919)

The Book of Revelation, 162



“But I hear the protest, how can you say we be expecting Jesus to come at "any moment," if the city of Babylon must be rebuilt before He can come? There is not a word in Scripture that says that Jesus cannot come and take away His Church until Babylon is rebuilt. The Church may be taken out of the world 25 or even 50 years before that.”

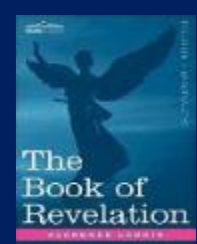
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■ Harbor?





Larkin (1919)

The Book of Revelation, 162

“The rapid growth of modern cities is one of the remarkable phenomena of the times. Since 1880 more than 500 cities have been built in America. Less than 100 years ago the site of the City of Chicago was but a swampy expanse at the mouth of the Chicago river. Now it has been transformed into a beautiful Metropolis, stretching 25 miles along the shore of Lake Michigan, with 5000 miles of streets, many of them beautiful boulevards 120 feet wide. In 1840 Chicago had only 4470 inhabitants, today the population is over 3,000,000. Once the Capitalists of the world are ready the revived City of Babylon will spring up in a few years.”

How Could Babylon Be Built So Quickly?

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- ◆ Dubai
- ◆ Neom, Saudi Arabia

■ Harbor?



MIDDLE EAST



DUBAI







How Could Babylon Be Built So Quickly?

■ Imminency?

- ◆ Chicago fire
- ◆ Dubai
- ◆ Neom, Saudi Arabia

■ Harbor?



A Prince's \$500 Billion Desert Dream: Flying Cars, Robot Dinosaurs and a Giant Artificial Moon

“Saudi Arabia’s crown prince turned to U.S. consultants for help imagining a massive new city-state in a barren section of his kingdom. What emerged was a Jetsons-style world of automation. SHARMA, Saudi Arabia—This seaside corner of northwest Saudi Arabia is so barren that the only abundant resources a group of consultants could identify were sunlight and ‘unlimited access to salt water.’ But Saudi crown prince Mohammed bin Salman didn’t see a wasteland when he landed in his helicopter here a few years ago. He saw the future — and hatched a plan for a \$500 billion city-state to cover 10,000 square miles of rocky desert and empty coastline to attract the ‘world’s greatest minds and best talents’ to the world’s best paying jobs in the world’s most livable city.”

Justin Scheck, Rory Jones, and Summer Sawwww.wsj.comid, “A Prince’s \$500 Billion Dollar Desert Dream,” online:, 25 July 2019.

How Could Babylon Be Built So Quickly?

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■ Harbor?



Babylon Needs a Harbor?

“It was unacceptable to Saddam [Hussein] that a country as great as Iraq did not have a long coastline. Over and over he talked about the necessity of building a Navy and becoming a seafaring power. Iraq’s isolation from the sea was a cruel accident of history, he believed, and one that had to be rectified—a theme he continued to dwell on after his invasion of Kuwait.”

Babylon Needs a Harbor?

“Actually, the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers converge in southern Iraq and enter the Persian Gulf in Iraqi territory. The problem has been that Iran and Kuwait squeeze Iraq into a bottleneck at the mouth of the rivers and Iraq’s attempts to forge a harbor there have been thwarted by the hostile refusals of those two countries. But suppose international pressures were brought to bear upon Iran to allow Iraq access to the Shatt al-Arab waterway all the way to Basra and cooperation could be coerced from Kuwait to open up the area around its little island of Bubiyan and Warba.”

Babylon Needs a Harbor?

“A commercial port and harbor for ships could become a reality for Babylon in a relatively short period of time. With modern dredging equipment, a deep channel waterway could be opened from the Persian Gulf all the way to Babylon. With its location on the Euphrates River, ships and sailors could indeed have access to this future queen of modern cities. The Antichrist ruler, with his political and economic power and global influence, could easily make that happen. So, as you can see, a harbor in Babylon is not at all out of the question.”

Conclusion

Ecclesiastes 1:9

“That which has been is that which will be, And that which has been done is that which will be done. So there is nothing new under the sun.”



Seven Areas

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