



BABYLON IN BIBLE PROPHECY

By Andy Woods

Seven Areas

- Tower of Babel (Gen 11)
- Prophecies of Isaiah and Jeremiah (Isa 13-14; Jer 50-51)
- Zechariah's vision of the woman in the basket (Zech 5:5-11)
- Kings of the east (Rev 9:14; 16:12)
- The end time harlot (Rev 17-18)
- Inadequate alternatives (Jerusalem, Rome, system?)
- Current events



Genesis 11:1-4

1 Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words.

2 It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.

3 They said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar.

4 They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

Genesis 11:5-9

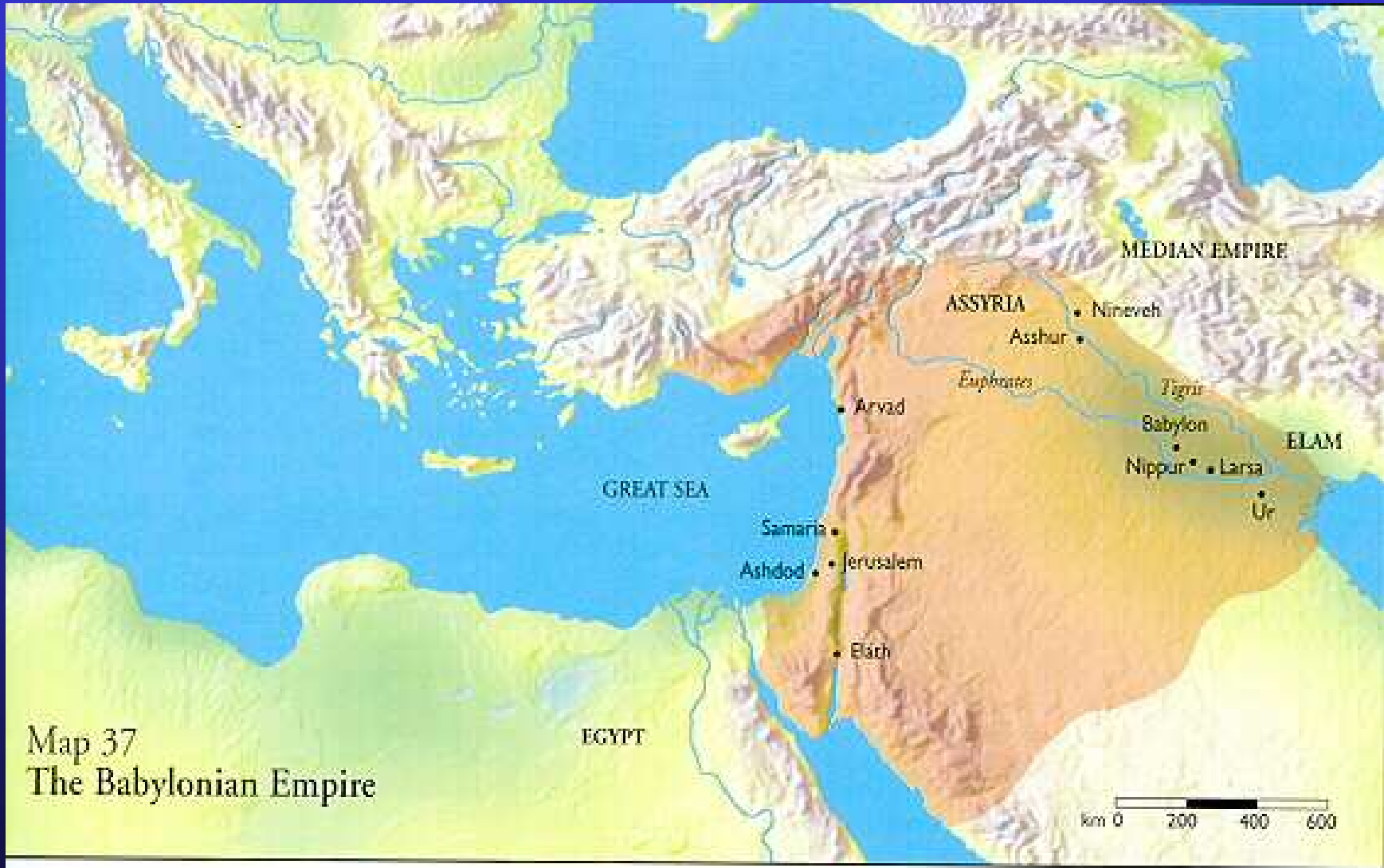
5 The Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.

6 The Lord said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.

7 "Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech."

8 So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city.

9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.



Larkin, *The Book of Revelation*, 151.

- The river Euphrates, on which the city of Babylon was built, was one of the four branches into which the river that flowed through the Garden of Eden was divided, and Satan doubtless chose the site of Babylon as his headquarters from which to sally forth to tempt Adam and Eve. It was doubtless here that the Antediluvian apostasy had its source that ended in the flood. To this centre the “forces of Evil” gravitated after the Flood, and “*Babel*” was the result. This was the origin of the nations, but the nations were not scattered abroad over the earth until Satan had implanted in them the “Virus” of a doctrine that has been the *source* of every false religion the world has ever known.

Spread of the Mother-Child Cult

	Mother	Child
Assyria	Ishtar	Tammuz
Phoenicia	Astarte	Baal
Egypt	Isis	Osirus/Horus
Greece	Aphrodite	Eros
Rome	Venus	Cupid
Roman Catholicism	Mary	Jesus

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.

Isaiah 13/Matthew 24 Connection

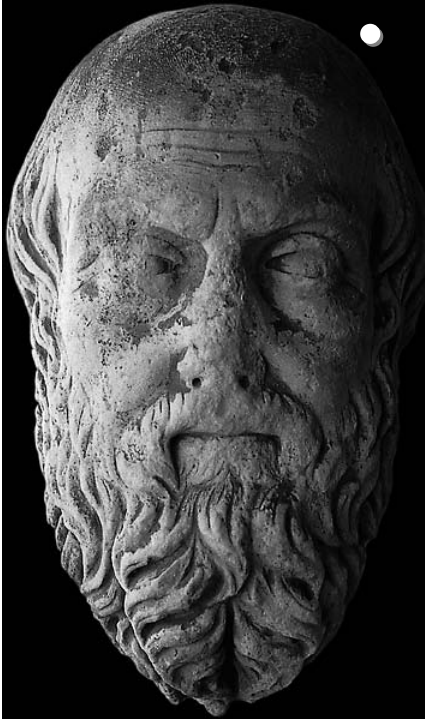
- Isaiah 13:10; Matthew 24:29
- Isaiah 13:12; Matthew 24:21-22

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)**

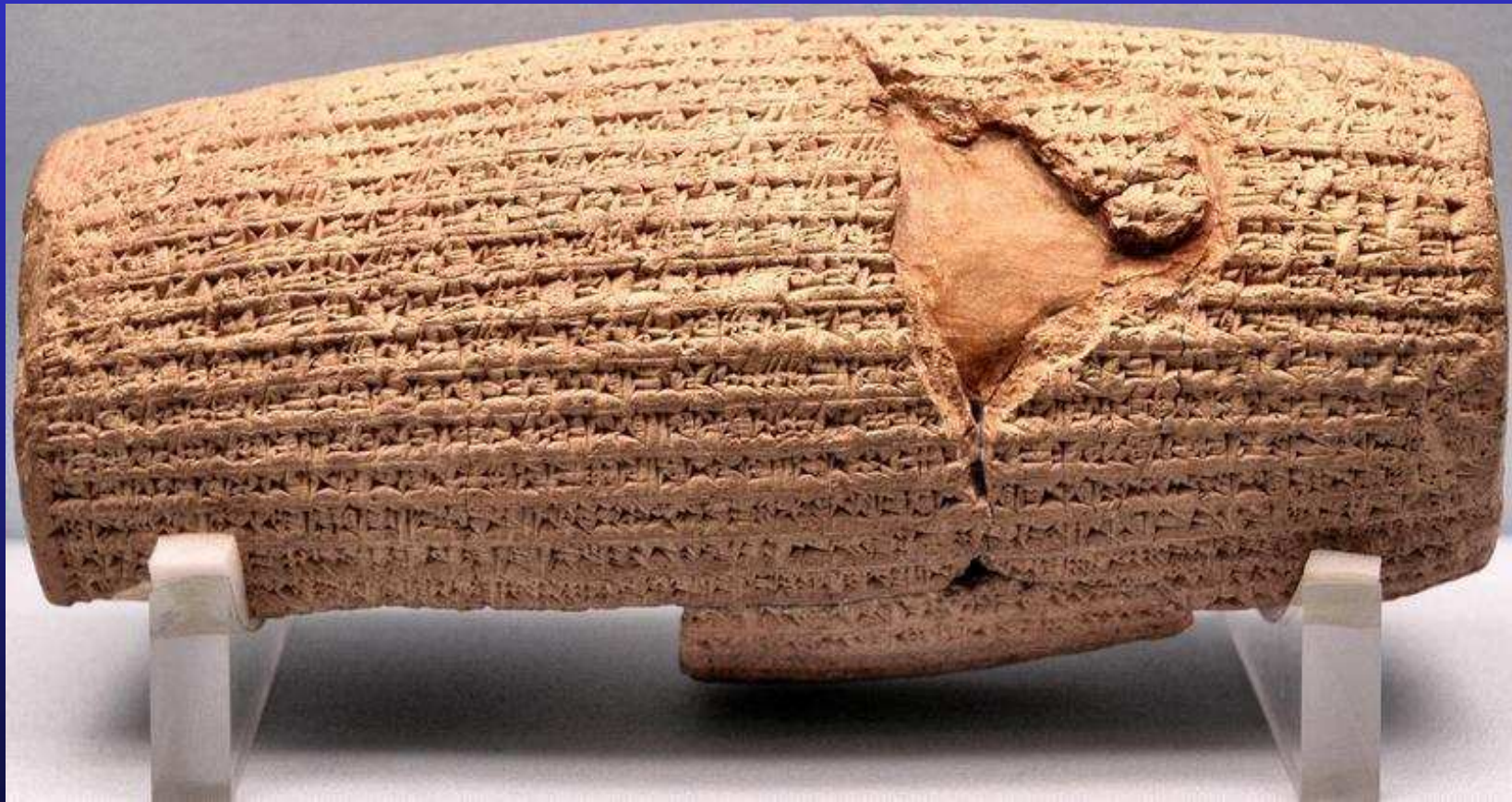
Dyer, "The Identity of Babylon in Revelation 17–18 (Part 2)," 443-49.

Herodotus, *Histories*, 1:191 (450 B.C.)



- “...he conducted the river by a channel into the lake...and so he made the former course of the river passable by the sinking of the stream. When this had been done, the Persians who had been posted for this very purpose entered by the bed of the river Euphrates into Babylon, the stream having sunk so far that it reached about to the middle of a man’s thigh...those Babylonians who dwelt in the middle did not know that they had been captured...”

Cyrus Cylinder



Pritchard, *The Ancient Near East Texts Relating to the Old Testament*, 315-16.

- Without any battle. . . sparing Babylon . . . any calamity. . . . I am Cyrus . . . king of Babylon. . . . When I entered Babylon . . . under jubilation and rejoicing. . . troops walked around Babylon . . . in peace, I did not allow anybody to terrorize (any place) of the [country of Sumer] and Akkad. I strove for peace in Babylon . . . and in all his (other) sacred cities. . . . I returned to (these) sacred cities on the other side of the Tigris, the sanctuaries of which have been in ruins for a long time, the images which (used) to live therein and established for them permanent sanctuaries.

Pritchard, *The Ancient Near East Texts Relating to the Old Testament*, 315-16.

- I (also) gathered all their (former) inhabitants and returned (to them) their habitations. Furthermore, I resettled . . . unharmed, in their (former) chapels, the places which make them happy. May all the gods whom I have resettled in their sacred cities ask daily Bel and Nebo for a long life for me. . . . all of them I resettled in a peaceful place . . . ducks and doves, . . . I endeavoured to fortify/repair their dwelling places . . .

Babylon's History After 539 B.C.

- Herodotus gives Babylon's measurements (450 B.C.)
- Alexander the Great visits and dies in Babylon (323 B.C.)
- Seleucus seizes Babylon (312 B.C.)
- Strabo pronounces Babylon's hanging gardens as one of "seven wonders of the world" (25 B.C.)
- Babylonians present on Pentecost (Acts 2:9)
- Talmud promulgated from Babylon (A.D. 500)
- Haukal mentions Babylonian village (A.D. 917)
- Babylon known as "Two Mosques" and "Hilah" (A.D. 1100)

Hitchcock and Ice, *The Truth Behind Left Behind*, 109



Walvoord, *The Nations in Prophecy*, 63-64

“As far as the historic fulfillment is concerned, it is obvious from both Scripture and history that these verses have not been literally fulfilled. The city of Babylon continued to flourish after the Medes conquered it, and though its glory dwindled, especially after the control of the Medes and the Persians ended in 323 B.C., the city continued in some form or substance until A.D. 1000 and did not experience a sudden termination such as anticipated in this prophecy.”

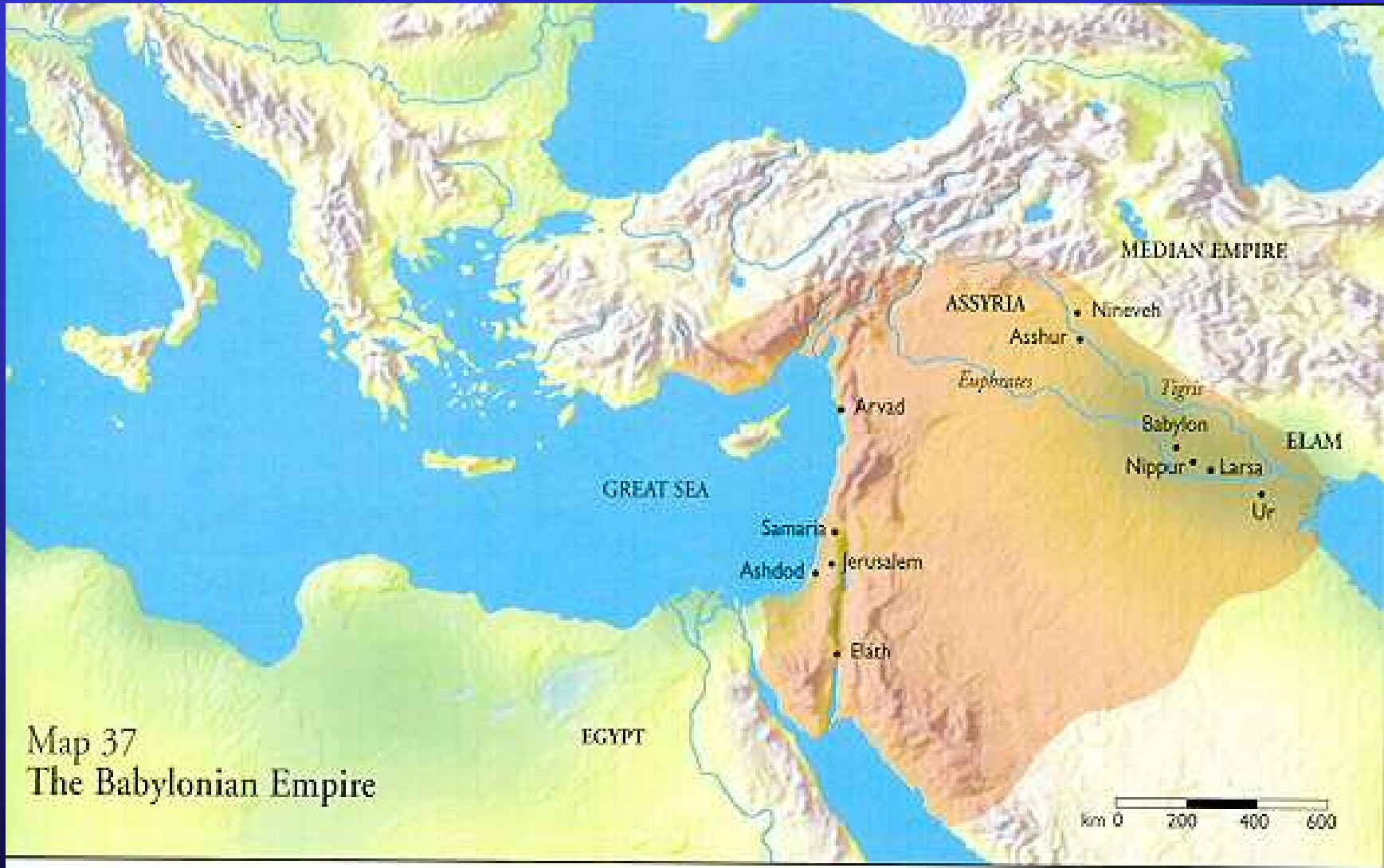
Isaiah's Oracles Against the Nations (Isa 13–23)

- **1. Babylon (13:1-14:23)**
- 2. Assyria (14:24-27)
- 3. Philistia (14:28-32)
- 4. Moab (15-16)
- 5. Damascus and Samaria (17)
- 6. Ethiopia (18)
- 7. Egypt (19-20)
- **8. Babylon (21:1-10)**
- 9. Edom (21:11-12)
- 10. Arabia (21:13-17)
- 11. Jerusalem (22)
- 12. Tyre (23)

Zechariah 5:5-11

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





Zechariah 5:5-11

Woman sitting in a basket

**Emphasis on commerce
(a basket for measuring
grain)**

**Woman's name is
wickedness**

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

Woman is taken to Babylon

Revelation 17-18

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

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

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

Focus on False worship (17:5)

Woman is called Babylon

Hitchcock, The Second Coming of Babylon, 109.

Pink, *The Antichrist*, 281.

- “The vision or prophecy contains the germ which is afterward expanded and developed in such detail in Rev. 17 and 18.”

Newton, *Babylon: Its Future, History, and Doom*, 1890, p. 64.

- “That this event predicted in this remarkable passage remains still unaccomplished, is sufficiently evident from the fact of Zechariah’s having prophesied after Babylon had received that blow under which it has gradually waned. Zechariah lived after Babylon had passed into the hands of the Persians . . .”



East = Babylon

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



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)

Literal Geography in Revelation

- Asia 1:4
- Ephesus 2:1
- Smyrna 2:8
- Pergamum 2:12
- Thyatira 2:18
- Sardis 3:1
- Philadelphia 3:7
- Laodicea 3:14
- Euphrates 9:14;16:12
- Armageddon 16:16

Thomas, *Revelation 8 to 22: An Exegetical Commentary*, 206-207.

OT Descriptions of Babylon in Rev 17–18

	Rev 17–18	OT
Waters	17:1	Ps 137:1
Babylon the Great	17:5	Dan 4:30
Mother harlots	17:5	Gen 11:1-9
Fallen, fallen is Babylon	18:2	Isa 21:9
Will not see widowhood	18:7	Isa 47:7-9
Colorful attire	17:4; 18:16	Dan 5:7, 16, 29
Sorcery	18:23	1sa 47:9-13

Parallels Between Jeremiah 50-51 & Revelation 17-18

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.

Other Alternatives ?

- Jerusalem?
- Rome?
- Religious system?



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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.

Early Babylon Interpreters

- Newell 1935
- Jennings 1937
- Cooper 1942
- Lang 1948
- Seiss 1909
- Larkin 1919
- Newton 1853

Ice, "Babylon in Bible Prophecy," 5.

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*

- “...Babylon is very near the geographical center of all the earth’s land masses. It is within navigable distances to 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 banking center, a world educational center, or especially, a world capital!”

Morris, *The Revelation Record*, 349.















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