

BABYLON

I. A Brief History of the City of Babylon

1. Founded by the followers of Nimrod, Genesis 10:8-10.
2. About 1830 B.C. the city began its rise to prominence.
3. Reached its pinnacle of glory under Nebuchadnezzar, 605-562 B.C.
4. Captured by the Persians in 539 B.C.
5. Destroyed by Xerxes in 478 B.C.
6. Site is 51 miles south of Baghdad, Iraq.
7. "Babylon" in 1 Peter 5:13 is a cryptic reference to Rome.

II. Some Prophecies Concerning Babylon

1. Of its destruction, Isaiah 14:11; Jeremiah 50:29,39; 51:2,37, 55.
2. Of its never being rebuilt, Jeremiah 50:39; 51:64.

III. Religious Babylon in Revelation 17

1. Her Characteristics

- a. An unfaithful harlot, v. 1.
- b. Ecumenical (worldwide), vv. 1 and 15.
- c. Politically powerful, v. 3.
- d. Luxuriously enticing, v. 4.
- e. A federation of churches, v. 5. She is a both a harlot and the mother of harlots.
- f. A persecutor of the saints, v. 6.

2. Her End, vv. 16-17.

IV. The Theology of Religious Babylon

1. The New universalism
2. The Theology of Liberation

V. Commercial Babylon of Revelation 18

1. Her Characteristics

- a. Demonic, v. 2.
- b. Deluding, v. 3.
- c. Delightful, v.3.

2. Her Destruction, vv. 5-8

3. The Reactions to Her Destruction, vv. 9-24
 - a. By rulers and merchants on earth, vv. 9-19.
 - b. By those in heaven, vv. 20-24.

VI. Some Practical Conclusions

1. Have a strong, orthodox theology to combat religious Babylon.
2. Do not partake of the sins of commercial Babylon, 18:4 (1 John 2:15).