

UPDATE ON THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT

Nimrod founder of Babylon, Gen 10:10. From verb to confuse or confound, 11:9. Prominent under Hammurabi (1728-1686) and Neb. Wife of Nimrod (or some say mother of) was Semiramis, head of rel. Son Tammuz was conceived miraculously. Considered fulfillment of Gen 3:15. Said to have been killed and raised. Mother and child in arms symbol and appeared in various pagan rel. In Bible see Ezek 8:14; Jer 7:18; 44:17-19, 25. Seriramis=Ashteroth. Tammuz=Baal. In Pergamos, on Roman emperors Pontifex Maximus. Under Rome combined elements of Xnty and heathen rel. Mother-child incorporated. Babylon=human civilization organized in opposition to God. Political and rel aspects. Related to city or cities and is a system. Like Wall St. In rel aspect it seduces world to worship beast. *There sat woman weeping for tammuz* *We will burn incense to the Queen of heaven & pour out drink off to her as on holy day - our fathers ... & we had plenty to eat & we were well. But since we left off drinking we have wanted all things & have been consumed by sword & famine.*

I. Characteristics of Religious Babylon, 1-5

- A. Unfaithful harlot. 4x. Spiritually unfaithful but also prostitution of everything for self-gain. Hard to separate rel and commercial Babylons, so will be interconnected. "...the churches ought to be able to control the whole economy of the nation within the predictable future." EGBlake, This Week, Jun 22, 1969.
- B. Ecumenical, 1, 15.
- C. Politically powerful, 2. Seduces nations to share her ungodliness in name of rel.
- D. Luxuriously enticing. With promise of wealth and luxury she entices men to follow her system. Word for abominations used for idolatry in OT.
- E. Counterfeit. Harlots wore bands on foreheads with name of owners in Rome. Mystery, Babylon... Ch is mystery Eph 3 and this is counterfeit.
- F. Federation 5b. Family of harlots. Protestant union not going so well. RC softening and not growing so fast so may look for union. Universalism caters to this. Woman is not Rome only.

II. The Actions of Religious Babylon, 6, 3

*1894 - Open Ch. League*      *1948 World Council*  
*1900 - Natl Fed of Ch & Chr Workers*      *1962 COCU*  
*1905 - Fed. Conf C*  
*1910 - Natl C of Ch of N.A.*

- A. Persecutes believers of trib days, 6
- B. Aids and is aided by the beast, 3. Beast (13:1) supports her and yet she seems to dominate for a while.

Location

III. The of Religious Babylon, 9-10.

Many say this is a reference to Rome but 10a difficult in this connection. Probably relates to 7 successive outbursts of Babylonish activity in various kingdoms beginning with Nimrod. Babylon on Euphrates may be rebuilt. News, Mar 29, 1971, /says \$30mill appropriated to rebuild acc to original

IV. The End of Religious Babylon, / design. Beast connected with West, however. 16.

- A. Agent, Beast supported by 10 kingdoms.
- B. Time. Middle of trib?

*NO  
Nondy  
Charmothis*

V. The Theology of Religious Babylon

*1946 Universalist in FCC*

- A. Universalism. That all men are redeemed and only need to have it announced to them. Missions (need to convert people) has become mission (to announce what is true). If don't hear in this life don't miss anything in future. This may prepare way for all religions (not just RC and Prot) to unite.
- B. Theology of Revolution. *Hope* Thesis: Chaos in past. Antithesis: Utopia in future. Synthesis: man working to change chaos to utopia today. Jurgen Moltmann, Tubingen. Anything (incld guns) OK if bring utopia. Advocates armed overthrow of govt if nec. He aims toward a universal, world church, totally involved with world community

Concl. Perhaps because of waning of organizational progress in ecumenical movmt, we have failed to see the impetus which false theologies are giving to it.

*Don't be smug  
" " deceived  
Do be faithful*