

**Revelation 14: 8; “Babylon is Fallen, Fallen”, Sermon # 105 in the series -
“The Faithful and True Witness”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall
on February 6th, 2011, in the Afternoon Worship Service.**

It has been awhile since I preached to you from this blessed book, so let me refresh your memory as to where we are. From Chapter 11, verse 8, on to Chapter 19, verse 21, we find John opening up the truth of the third time period in the history of the Christian Church; the time of the 1260 days prophecy. I said to you that it is quite probable that these prophetic days should be considered as years if we are to really understand how long the Church of Jesus Christ would have to fight against this greatest scheme of the Devil's. His greatest plan to roadblock the forward progress of the gospel was to create a counterfeit Christianity within the visible Church. This is the Babylon which is spoken of in our text. In the development of this system, over many hundreds of years of time, the Devil would deceive people inside and outside of the Church. He would do so by means of Popes making decrees, bringing false doctrine into the visible Church of Jesus Christ; to deceive “if possible, the very Elect”. This time period of the New Testament Church's Babylonian Captivity is revealed for us in the “little book” which John ate in Chapter 10, verse 10. It is the book which was “sweet as honey in his mouth when he ate it, but afterward his stomach became bitter”. The “little book” is about the rise and fall of the “little horn” of Daniel 7, verse 8. It is about the rise and fall of the Antichrist. It is about how Christ and His Church overcome and defeat this scheme of Satan and his false church. But what is very wonderful about the verse that we are studying this afternoon, is this; that there is a very real sense in which from the time of the Reformation until the Millennium begins; that Babylon has already fallen. She has already fallen in the mind of God and Christ; and her fall is being proclaimed to John and to all who read this book, in no uncertain terms, by the second angel of these three angels mentioned in verses 6-9. So if I as your pastor (the angel of this church) would be faithful to Christ, I must also proclaim to you the fall of Babylon. We want to see first of all, that Babylon is a great spiritual city, but she is a fallen spiritual city. 2ndly – We want to look briefly at the greatest reason why she falls under God's judgment. And then 3rdly, we want to think about the time when she will completely fall.

1st of all – Let us understand that Babylon is a great spiritual city, but it is a fallen spiritual city.

“Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city...” This is the first reference in the book of Revelation to name Babylon, but it is not the first reference to the city which it refers to. In Revelation 11: 8, referring to the time at the end of the 1260 days when the 2 mystical witnesses representing the Church's teaching and exercise of church discipline are killed, it says that “their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.” That city is the city of Rome. It is not literal Jerusalem where our Lord

was literally crucified. It is a false spiritual Jerusalem where our Lord is blasphemously crucified every day in the saying of the Mass. This city is nine times referred to in this book of Revelation as a “great city”. It had humble beginnings, but it grew up to be something great. It is not great in goodness, righteousness and truth. Rather it is great in regard to sins, errors, and heresies of various sorts. Sodom was a city that was notorious for its sexual sins, but it was also notorious for its pride and laziness and fullness of food; its luxuries. The Papal system has been notorious in regard to these things. Notorious for the supposed celibacy of its ministers; which doctrine we all know has resulted in sexual perversions of all sorts in their midst. There have been many lawsuits to prove it in our own day. 1st Timothy Chapter 4, verse 1, shows us what Antichrist’s priests would be like. “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.”

I think that what I am saying about Rome’s priests might be hard for even some Christians to receive, and so I would like to quote to you from John Gill’s commentary on Revelation 11, verse 8 to give you another witness to what I am saying. He is writing way back in the mid-1700s, and he says on the phrase, “which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt”; - “it is called so in a mystic and allegoric sense, in distinction from the literal sense; (see 1 Corinthians 10:3,4); it is called Sodom because of the fullness of bread, plenty and abundance of all outward good things in it; as well as for the pride and idleness of the priests, monks, and friars which swarm in it; and also for the open profaneness and contempt of true and serious religion in it; and particularly for the sin of sodomy, so frequently committed here, with impunity, yea with allowance, and even with commendation. This sin was extolled with praises, as Brightman observes, by John a Casa, archbishop of Beneventum; and was defended in a book, published for that purpose, by one Mutius; and which was allowed by the bulls and letters patent of Pope Julius the Third; and it is called Egypt, because of its tyranny and oppression; as the Egyptians kept the Israelites in bondage, and made them to serve with rigor, and embittered their lives, so the pope, and his Gentiles, or Egyptians, have in a most oppressive and rigorous manner tyrannized over the souls, bodies, and estates of men; and also because of its great idolatry, Egypt being very remarkable for the number of its deities, and the meanness of them; by which the idols and idolatries of the church of Rome may be fitly expressed: *where also our Lord was crucified*; that is, in the great city, which is fitly compared to Sodom and Egypt; for Christ was crucified actually in Judea, which was then become a Roman province, and under Pontius Pilate, a Roman governor, and by his order, and suffered a Roman kind of death, crucifixion, and for a crime he was charged with, though a false one, against Caesar the Roman emperor; and Christ has been crucified at Rome itself in his members, who have suffered persecution and death, and even the death of the cross there; and he has

been crucified afresh, both by the sins and immoralities of those who have bore the Christian name there, and by the frequent sacrifices of him in the Mass. Moreover, by this periphrasis may be meant Jerusalem; and the sense be, that as the great city, or jurisdiction of Rome, may be spiritually or mystically called Sodom and Egypt, so likewise the place where our Lord was crucified, that is, Jerusalem; and that for this reason, because that as Jerusalem stoned and killed the prophets of the Lord, and upon the inhabitants of it were found all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, so in Rome, in mystical Babylon, will be found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon earth, (Matthew 23: 35, 37 Revelation 18: 24).” This is the reason that New Testament Babylon is already fallen, already under the judgment of Almighty God.

Old Babylon was notorious for this as well; its harsh treatment and persecutions and oppressions of the Old Testament people of Israel and Judah, who knew God. Think of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in Daniel Chapter 3. Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, thought so highly of himself that he ordered a 75 foot high image of gold to be made in his own likeness, and then commanded that everyone, the Jews included, bow down to it at the sound of the music that he had played. These men said that they would not bow down or serve their gods or worship the gold image which he had set up. They were cast in to a burning fiery furnace, where they most certainly would have perished had it not been that a fourth was in there with them. And the form of the fourth “was like the Son of God.” The Lord Jesus Christ is standing with His New Testament Church against this New Testament Nebuchadnezzar, the Pope, who would have everyone to recognize him as someone to stand in the place of Christ. His wearing of the three-tiered tiara and the gorgeous robes, and having people bow and show him reverence, and even worship him, kissing his ring and calling him “His holiness”; all this should bring to our minds the remembrance of a city long ago that took captive the people of God. It does not remind us of Christ.

This New Testament Babylon is notorious for its great lavish display of its riches at the Vatican, the dress of her Popes and Priests, and the rich displays in her buildings and worship. But Rome is also notorious for its idolatry; its use of images in worship; all the way from its use of pictures of Jesus; to crucifixes and the worship of the saints and Mary, in the form of statues, which decorate their cathedrals. It is good for us to remember that what we are talking about here relates to all that has gone before. There is a City of God which is built by Christ; that is His true Church, and then there is a city of man which is built by men’s ideas of what worship should be. Rome is the city, which more than all, epitomizes this. You will remember that this was how the original Babylon was built. It began with Cain and his false view of worshiping God being rejected by God Himself. And then Cain, being angry and upset about it, went and killed his brother Abel because of it. He went and built and lived in his own city. So New Testament Babylon has persecuted the true people of God down through the 1260 years of her captivity. The history books are jammed full of it. Then remember also Nimrod in Genesis 10: 8. “Cush begot Nimrod; he

began to be a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the Lord.” “And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, which became Babylon. Babel was the city, which in Chapter of 11 of Genesis, it is mentioned that they tried to build the tower for themselves, “whose top would be in the heavens.” They would make a name for themselves. And this is exactly what Rome attempts to do. Their worship is based upon the works of their hands, their great cathedrals where their works are added to Christ’s work, and where their false ceremonies take the place of faith in Christ and His word. But the Lord was not pleased with them then, and He is not pleased with Rome now. “Babylon is fallen , fallen, that great city is fallen.”

Now, 2ndly – We want to look briefly at the greatest reason why she falls under God’s judgment.

Our text says, “Because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” Among all the other reasons why spiritual Babylon is fallen, the greatest is that she aggressively exports “the wine of the wrath of her fornications,” to all the nations. This is a very unusual phrase. It has reference to Jeremiah Chapter 51, verses 6 and 7. “Flee from the midst of Babylon, and every one save his life!” “Do not be cut off in her iniquity, for this is the time of the Lord’s vengeance; He shall recompense her.” “Babylon was a golden cup in the Lord’s hand, that made all the earth drunk.” “The nations drank her wine; therefore the nations are deranged.” These verses have a double reference. They apply to the Old Testament Babylon which was used by God to bring His judgments upon the sinful nations of Israel and Judah for their idolatry. Then after God had delivered his ancient people up to captivity, because of their sin, He then purposed to judge Babylon for her sins. We should never think that sins are forgotten by God, unless forgiven through the blood of Christ and repentance of those sins. God remembers and He will punish in His own good time. False spiritual Babylon acts as a harlot in the eyes of God. Babylon had drunk deep of the wine of her taking pleasure in false gods, and lavish, sensual, and violent living. Her kings lived and acted in such a way that all the nations around them came to drink of that same wine of her trafficking in what was false in religion and sinful in their actions. They worshiped and believed what was false because Babylon looked like she could do this and get away with it. But it was actually the Lord in His righteous judgment who gave her this golden cup as a righteous recompense for her luxurious, sensual, and false way of living and worshipping her own gods. By this cup, which the nations would drink, they would become deranged in their thinking. They would think that false worship and sinful practices would prevail. But God says, “Fallen, Fallen, is Babylon the great. Such has happened also with New Testament Babylon. God has given her the golden cup so that she and all those who are seduced by her, will fall under His everlasting judgments if they do not repent. We should all ask ourselves now whether we have repented of all will-worship; that is, wanting to worship God in some other way, that He has not prescribed? This is what Rome does. She has made up her own religion by Papal decree and seduces the nations of the world with it; claiming that she has the true gospel.

And then, lastly, we want to think about the time when Babylon will completely fall.

Eventually the time of the Church's Babylonian captivity will come to an end. It may indeed be in our own lifetime. The length of time of the Antichrist's road-blocking Christ's kingdom's advance by promoting false doctrine and false worship is mentioned as being 42 months in Chapter 11, verse 2 and Chapter 13, verse 5. It is called One Thousand Two Hundred and Sixty Days in Chapter 11, verse 3, and in Chapter 12, verse 6. And it is called, "a time, times, and a half a time" in Chapter 12, verse 14. That is the very description of time which was given to the "little horn" in Daniel 7, verse 25. These periods of time are all referring to the same period of time; they are just being described in different ways, so that we will not miss the meaning. When Ezekiel was told by the Lord to prophesy against his own nation of Israel in Ezekiel Chapter 4, verse 1, he was told to "take a clay tablet and lay it before him, and portray on it a city, Jerusalem." "Lay siege against it, build a siege wall against it, and heap up a mound against it; set camps against it also, and place battering rams against it all around." "Moreover take for yourself an iron plate, and set it as an iron wall between you and the city." "Set your face against it, and it shall be besieged, and you shall lay siege against it." "This will be a sign to the house of Israel." "Lie on your left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it." Now this is what I would have you to notice: "According to the number of the days that you lie on it, you shall bear their iniquity." "For I have laid on you the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days; so you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel." "And when you have completed them, lie again on the your right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days." "I have laid on you a day for each year." There is the very Biblical and applicable principle that I am using in regard to these periods of time mentioned here. These days, my friends, were prophetic years, and they represented the time period which started when Israel rebelled against King Rehoboam to the time of the destruction of Jerusalem, when Zedekiah was taken captive to Babylon. It was 390 years.

Now the Apostle John, who was the New Testament Apostle and prophet appointed to write in detail about the New Testament "Babylonian Captivity" of the Church, uses this same principle of a day for a year in describing the exact number of years which the true Church of Jesus Christ should have to "lie under siege" spiritually, as it were, from these Antichristian powers. I have told you that I believe that those years began way back in 756 A.D. when the Pope came into his greatest position of temporal earthly power, and they should end somewhere around 2017 A.D., if the date of when they commenced is correct. I have also said to you that it is possible that I am not correct, and it could be as late as 800 A.D. when the use of images in the worship of the Church was formally approved by a council of bishops. But it seems unlikely that this "captivity" began any later than this. But that these prophetic days are really years is my conviction in regard to what is related in these previous 3 chapters of the book of Revelation. We have gone from talking about the

beasts coming out of the sea and the earth, to talking about the Lamb standing on Mt. Zion with the one hundred forty four thousand. We see that, yes, the Church had been taken into spiritual captivity, and had been greatly hindered in promoting the true gospel of the grace of Jesus Christ, by these beasts for some 750 years before the Reformation. But now we see this glorious thing; our Lord Jesus Christ taking steps to recover His Church out of this captivity. And since He is with her through all of her trials, all through this Church age; we will also see in Chapter 20, at the end of this time period of the 1260 days; that Christ's Church will be delivered from this captivity. Christ's kingdom, His truth, and the salvation which is only found in Him, which is what she has faithfully tried to promote, will go forward. It will indeed conquer among the nations. That will be the Millennium, when the "nations shall be deceived no longer." That will be "the first resurrection" when the Church is raised from her near death state at the end of these years, to re-establish her witness to Christ, and to see tremendous success in fulfilling the Great Commission. The everlasting gospel is that the Lord Jesus Christ is the One around whom all the history of the world, from beginning to end, revolves. And Christ standing with His Church, bringing Reformation, and empowering her to faithfully witness all the way to the end of the 1260 years, will indeed bring about the complete fall of this spiritual Babylon. The Church will not have gone through this time of captivity in vain. By the power of His Spirit accompanying the preaching of His Word, He will in his own good time, bring in the 4th time period of Church history, the Millennium, which is mentioned in Revelation 20. And will you not pray for this glorious day to come soon? And pray also that you as a part of Christ's Church will faithfully bear witness to the truth of His Word.