

When I say the word “politics,” do you have positive thoughts or negative thoughts?

I did some study on that word this week in preparation for my message and I learned a little bit about the origin of it. The word “politics” comes from the Greek word “politika” which is based on the work of Aristotle concerning the affairs of cities. Later in the mid-15th century, Aristotle’s work was translated into English and that’s where we get the word “politics” – referring to the science of government. Now in my study, I also came across another origin of the word. Others suggest the word “politics” comes from two separate words – the word “poly” which in Greek means “many”, and the word “ticks” which refers to blood-sucking creatures.

Yes, I know it is confusing, but I am pretty certain the word originated from Aristotle; however, I have to wonder if Aristotle could have looked into the future – would he have opted for the “many blood-sucking creatures” idea?

Well, unlike Aristotle, we get to peak into the future so to speak, and this morning, we are going to look at the systems of the Antichrist during the Tribulation period that seem to be filled with nothing but blood-sucking creatures.

Last week in **Revelation 17**, we were introduced to the great harlot. If you recall, this great harlot symbolized a very enticing and inviting and wealthy false religious system that emerges during the Tribulation period. This false religious system, which is just one feature of a much larger system, will expand far and wide, it will impact everyone from the greatest to the least – it’s global, and its religious influence will be used by the Antichrist to consolidate his power and control.

Initially, the Antichrist will support this false religious system – she sits on his back, but there will come a time when he has no use for her, and he will betray her during the middle of the Tribulation period. As part of God’s sovereign plan, God causes evil to turn on itself as the Antichrist sets himself up in Jerusalem to be worshiped as a god without any other religious competition.

So, last week we were told of her fate – this great harlot, this false religious system, was stripped of everything, but as we will see this morning, her terrible fate sent ripples throughout the secular systems of the world that were in bed with her so to speak. The false religious system did not exist in a vacuum – she was intertwined and intermingled with the political and the economic arms of the empire, and when she fell, it had a domino effect.

Now, before we go any further, once again, I want to clarify what **Babylon** is because we are going to see it mentioned several times – and it can get confusing. If you remember from last week, I said that Babylon appears to represent both a literal city – likely the capitol city of the Antichrist – much like Rome was for the Roman Empire, but **Babylon** also represents a massive far reaching global system. As I mentioned last week, Wall Street is an example of this, where it is both a physical location in New York City as well as a symbol of our national financial system. Another example could be Hollywood – a literal neighborhood in Los Angeles California but it also represents a worldwide film industry.

So, I believe Babylon is a literal physical city – not sure where, and at the same time, it represents a global system comprised of both religious and secular features – all of which are directly opposed God and ultimately seek independence from Him.

Okay, with that out of the way, I think we can proceed. If you have your Bible, turn to **Revelation 18** and we will begin with **verse 1**.

¹After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory. ²And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird. ³For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality.”

The Apostle John begins by telling us, “**After these things I saw**” which suggests this is a chronological progression from what John had just witnessed back in **Chapter 17** and in his vision, John sees an angel coming down from heaven declaring, “**Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!**” Here the angel announces the future judgment against Babylon, and yet he speaks to John as if the future has already happened. It’s a guaranteed judgment, and then the angel provides a description of Babylon after God judges it, and gives His reasons for doing so.

This future Babylon, now seen here as a city, is left utterly desolate. It was once a great and prosperous city, the command center for the religious and the secular arms of the empire, but after it fell, the city had become a stomping ground for everything that is wicked and unclean. If you remember, demons were released from the abyss below to torment the lost inhabitants of the earth, and later Satan

and his demons were cast down to the earth by Michael and his angels, and here it seems they have taken up refuge in the ruins of Babylon. It's where they dwell, it's where they hover like birds of prey waiting for someone to devour – and this picture is very fitting because before its destruction this wicked Babylon and those who cooperated with her lived it up like blood-sucking creatures at the expense of others.

The false church, the power-hungry political leaders referred to as **kings**, and the greedy business and corporate types referred to as **merchants** all worked together in unison to carry out the bidding of the Antichrist. The corrupt politicians laid in bed with the false church to gain power and influence, while those in commerce grew richer from her – taking much more than they really needed to satisfy their greed. Again, all the systems of Babylon – the world's religion, the world's government, and the world's economy were all intertwined together under the control of the Antichrist, but now that the religious system is gone at the midpoint of the Tribulation period – the other systems who remain – feel the pain.

Then John hears a warning from heaven beginning with **verse 4**.

⁴ I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues; ⁵ for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. ⁶ Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back to her double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her. ⁷ To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, ‘I SIT AS A QUEEN AND I AM NOT A WIDOW, and will never see mourning.’ ⁸ For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong.

We are told by John that he hears another voice from heaven, saying **“Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues.”**

This is a warning given to those who become followers of Jesus during the Tribulation period. Now I'm not sure if believers are being warned to distance themselves from the city, to separate themselves from the system she represents, or maybe both, but whatever the case – the message is really clear.

“Get out, because everything is about to collapse. Babylon is doomed for destruction and you don't want to be there, you don't want to be involved with her

in any shape, form or fashion when she crumbles, so come out of her before it is too late.”

God has drawn a line in the sand. On one side of the line is a commitment to Christ, and the other side of the line is a connection to a world that opposes God and ultimately seeks to exist without Him. God is telling believers, everything is collapsing, everything is falling, so turn away from the intoxicating enticements of power, and possessions, and pleasure that this Babylon promises.

Babylon fed herself with power and splendor and luxury at the expense of others, and now God will give her nothing but torment and sorrow and grief. Babylon seduced the nations, she glorified herself while ignoring the suffering she caused, she thought she was untouchable – even called herself a **queen** due to her association with the Antichrist, but she will get what she deserves and then some.

I am reminded of what God said – *“Vengeance is Mine; I will repay.”* It will be complete and super quick, as Babylon experiences the wrath of God to the fullest degree. Judgment falls, and one at a time, those who stood with her now stand in complete shock and terror as they grieve over her.

Let’s pick up with **verse 9**.

⁹“And the kings of the earth, who committed acts of immorality and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning, ¹⁰standing 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.’

As I mentioned earlier, the **kings of the earth** represent the world’s political system during the Tribulation period – a system which Dr. David Jeremiah claims will be socialist in nature. He suggested that socialism is tailor made for the Antichrist – explaining that under socialism, it creates conditions that bring great stress and trouble and difficulty, and then it demands a single system of government that becomes the central authority and regulator of all resources, all means of production, and the distribution of wealth.

Dr. Jeremiah described that under socialism, all resources are thought to be under the control of *“the people”* – stemming from the idea that society, the community as a whole, should own and control all the resources and assets to distribute them equally to the masses. That’s the idea, and at first glance, the idea sounds very promising – **but how could all “the people” actually make these decisions?** Well,

“the people” can’t – it’s not practical, it’s not realistic, so under socialism, the government becomes the sole central authority of the resources and the production and the distribution of wealth, and unfortunately, these governments are not controlled by *“the people,”* rather, they are controlled by *“certain people”* – the kinds of people who selfishly seek out power, and authority, and wealth. That’s the ugly reality of socialism, and it describes the political reality during the Tribulation period.

These political leaders in the government of the Antichrist will have complete control over *“the people.”* They will dominate and prey upon them – all the while living it up in luxury and immorality – but then the unexpected happens. They witness their capital city – their seat of government in smoke and flames, and no doubt they realize the party is over. From their perspective, as the city burns – so does the system. They are terrified at her torment – they weep and mourn because they know the same fate is coming to them. For Americans, the Democrats are gone. The Republicans are gone. The Independents are gone. The entire political system of the world is gone to make way for the righteous rule of God under the Lord’s earthly reign.

So, the political system takes a nose dive with the city of Babylon, but as we will see, the economic system receives a lethal blow as well. Let’s continue beginning with **verse 11**.

¹¹ “And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargoes any more— ¹² cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every kind of citron wood and every article of ivory and every article made from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble, ¹³ and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and cargoes of horses and chariots and slaves and human lives. ¹⁴ The fruit you long for has gone from you, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and men will no longer find them.

As you look at this passage, you almost get the picture that John is walking through a destroyed shopping mall. The jewelry stores, the clothing stores, the furniture stores, the houseware stores, the perfume stores, and the food courts are completely destroyed. There’s nothing left, and the **merchants** – those who represent the world’s economy, they weep and mourn because their materialistic way of life, their prestigious corporate positions, their businesses, their profit is

going up in smoke along with the city of Babylon. They are financially ruined. No one is conducting business, and no one buys or sells their products, and I need to point out that from John's perspective, most of the items mentioned here represent luxuries under the rule of the Roman Empire – luxuries that even included slavery and human trafficking – likely the sex trade.

The only thing that seemed to really matter to these **merchants** was the “bottom line” and when that took a hit with the destruction of the city – only then does the crying start.

So, the luxuries that people longed for and lusted after are gone, as God destroys a city and a system that has promoted the worship of stuff.

Well, the grieving continues. John tells us beginning with **verse 15**,

¹⁵ The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning, ¹⁶ saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls; ¹⁷ for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!’ And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea, stood at a distance, ¹⁸ and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What city is like the great city?’ ¹⁹ And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste!’

We are told that the business types and the corporate executives join the government leaders to watch Babylon burn from a distance, and together they weep and mourn – not so much over the loss of the city, but for the loss of their power, and their influence, and their wealth. For them, the loss of Babylon was a personal loss.

In this passage, we are told that the transportation and the shipping industry is also doomed. In the first century, these industries included caravans and other land-based ways of moving goods, but maritime shipping was still the most important. Ships continually crossed the Mediterranean to move both people and products in and out of the region, and likewise, during the Tribulation period, when Babylon comes to full power, she will certainly be supported all forms of transportation and shipping, but when Babylon is destroyed – everything comes to a screeching halt.

Now, while I have you here, I want to point something out. Because of the reference to the **shipmasters** and the **sailors** who stood at a distance watching the city burn, some have concluded that this city called Babylon must be a major seaport city, but I don't think we should assume that. When John says they **stood at a distance**, for us, that could mean almost anything to include seeing a mushroom cloud hundreds of miles away or it be nothing more than television coverage and satellite imagery.

If you think about it – *at a distance*, we see what is happening in Ukraine, so my point is, where ever this city is, whether it has a shoreline or not, this Babylon once had control of the transportation and shipping industry, but now it all falls apart. The city is completely wiped out, and Babylon's ruin is the ruin of those who cooperated with her.

So, it's all over but the crying – but not everyone is crying. Some are actually rejoicing. Look at **verses 20** and **21**.

²⁰ Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her.” ²¹ Then a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “So will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer.

It's a party in heaven. All the saints cheer. The Old Testament prophets cheer. The New Testament apostles cheer. The martyrs who had been persecuted and murdered during the Tribulation period cheer as Babylon receives the trouble she previously imposed on others.

Then, John watches an angel pick up a **millstone**. Millstones were used for grinding grain into flour – so it is large and very heavy. The angel plunged the millstone into the deep sea, symbolizing the finality of God's judgment against Babylon. Like the millstone that sinks into the dark depths of the sea, Babylon is **thrown down** – never to recover – never to be found again.

Let's continue with **verse 22**.

²² And the sound of harpists and musicians and flute-players and trumpeters will not be heard in you any longer; and no craftsman of any craft will be found in you any longer; and the sound of a mill will not be heard in you any longer; ²³ and the light of a lamp will not shine in you any longer; and the

voice of the bridegroom and bride will not be heard in you any longer; for your merchants were the great men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery. ²⁴ And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth.”

Life is over in Babylon. No music, no art, no marriage, no homes, no work, no commerce, no production – no nothing. Everything that had been corrupted and distorted by the wicked system of the Antichrist is gone.

The false religious system was destroyed at the mid-point of the Tribulation period, and now along with the city, the political and economic systems have been destroyed as well. All that remains is for Jesus Christ to come from heaven and to personally defeat the Antichrist and his armies in one last battle. This the Lord will do, and then He will establish His own kingdom on the earth.

So, the question is often asked – **Where is this city called Babylon?** As you might imagine, there are all kinds of wild guesses out there, but for me, it always seems to come back to two possibilities – and the first is Rome. Many believe the empire that the Antichrist emerges from is the revived Roman Empire largely stemming from passages found in Daniel. Plus, Rome is a city that already has worldwide religious influence, and in the early church, Babylon was used as a code word for Rome.

So, for me, Rome seems to tick all the boxes, but as you know, your pastor has issues, and as I have told you many times, I tend to take Scriptural literally until it's obvious I should not, and there is a possibility in my mind that the future headquarters of the Antichrist is actually the ancient city of Babylon.

I want to show you a short video. [Babylon: Ancient Site, Modern Problems - Bing video](#)

That's a dose of reality, **isn't it?** Babylon was defeated by the Medes and the Persians in 539 B.C. – not destroyed, just left in ruins to rot, and as I speak today, it is being rebuilt as an archeological and historical restoration project. It's being rebuilt in the open – right under our noses.

Now, some of you might be asking this question – **Doesn't the Bible tell us Babylon will never be rebuilt again?** My answer would be “yes, both the prophet *Isaiah* and the prophet *Jeremiah* said this very thing” however, when it comes to prophecy, sometimes it can be difficult to identify its application. **In other words, does the prophecy pertain to something immediate, does the prophecy apply to**

something that will occur in the far distant future, or in some instances, does it have a dual application? I think that is the situation here, where these prophets referred to two overthrows of Babylon – one that occurred in the 70th year of Israel’s captivity, and the second that will occur in the future on the day of the Lord at the end of the Tribulation period, and at that time, Babylon will then be totally obliterated as predicted by the prophets – never to be inhabited again.

Here's my point with all of this – we live in exciting times. We are actually seeing Bible prophecy come alive in our time – right before our very eyes. Dr. Jeremiah says, “*the future casts a shadow, and we are living in that shadow.*” It’s exciting because it confirms the time is near – closer than you might have thought.

Now, because the time near, that might create anxiety and fear in some, but as faithful followers of Jesus Christ – no matter what happens in this world, no matter what we experience in our present reality – the fact remains – God is still on the throne, Jesus will return just as He promised, He will be victorious, good will triumph over evil, and in the end, it will all be worth it for those who overcome. When the dust finally settles, Jesus wins – and those who are with Him will win as well.

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