



BABYLON: MOURN OR REJOICE?

Joey Faust (4-25-21)

TEXT: Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh...

2 While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened...

5...and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:

Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

"...because man goeth
to his long home..."

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that **man of sin** be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

"...and the **mourners** go
about the streets..."

1 Corinthians 5:2 And ye are puffed up, and have not **rather mourned**, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

**2 Corinthians 7:7...when he told us
your earnest desire, your **mourning**,
your fervent mind toward me; so that
I rejoiced the more.**

James 4:9 Be afflicted, and
mourn, and weep: **let your
laughter be turned to
mourning,** and your joy to
heaviness.

James 5:1 Go to now, ye rich men,
weep and howl for your miseries
that shall come upon you.

2 Your riches are corrupted...

3...Ye have heaped treasure
together for the **last days.**

Revelation 18:7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much **torment and sorrow give her**: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, **and mourning**, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

Revelation 18:9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, **shall bewail her, and lament** for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, **Alas, alas**, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

11 And the merchants of the earth shall **weep and mourn** over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

Revelation 11:10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall **rejoice over them**, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

Revelation 18:19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, **weeping and wailing**, saying, **Alas, alas**, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.

20 Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

Jeremiah 50:46 At the noise
of the taking of Babylon the
earth is moved, and **the cry**
is heard among the nations.

And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall **all the tribes of the earth mourn**, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (Matthew 24)

Ecclesiastes 12:2 While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened...

5...and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:

Isaiah 13:1 The **burden of Babylon**, which Isaiah the son of Amoz did see.

6 Howl ye; for **the day of the LORD** is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.

7 Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt:

9 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

10 For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: **the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.**

11 And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of **the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of **the terrible**.**

13 Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.

19 And **Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.**

Jeremiah 50:1 The word that the Lord spake against **Babylon**.

31 Behold, I am against thee, **O thou most proud**, saith the Lord God of hosts: for **thy day** is come, the time that I will visit thee.

32 And **the most proud** shall stumble and fall, and none shall raise **him** up: and I will kindle a fire in his cities, and it shall devour all round about **him**.

Revelation 19:20 And **the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.**

Daniel 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High...

26 But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.

Isaiah 14:4 That thou shalt take up this proverb against the **king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!**

6 He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth.

7 The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: **they break forth into singing.**

12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

22 For I will rise up against them, saith the LORD of hosts, and cut off from Babylon the name, and remnant, and son, and nephew, saith the LORD.

23 I will also make it a possession for the bittern...

25...I will break **the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot:**

Genesis 10:8 And Cush begat **Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.**

9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.

10 And **the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.**

11:1 And **the whole earth** was of one language, and of one speech.

2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in **the land of Shinar**; and they dwelt there.

4 And they said, Go to, let us **build us a city** and a tower, whose top may **reach unto heaven**; and let us **make us a name**, lest we be **scattered** abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

Daniel 4:22 It is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and **thy dominion to the end of the earth.**

30 The king spake, and said, **Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?**

Francis William Newman, *A History of the Hebrew Monarchy*, 1865:

[Argued that the prophecies concerning the destruction of Babylon, etc., have not been fully fulfilled; he therefore argues the Bible is not inspired]

"There seems to them to be no proper reason for supposing the apocalyptic Babylon to be other than Rome, as held by the majority of Christians of all ages...one finds it difficult to believe in the necessity for the rebuilding of the literal city... the writer finds himself in this class..." (H.A. Ironside, 1928)

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Revelation 17:4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus...

9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

Goddess Roma



Seven Hills of Rome

Robert Govett, *Babylon Mystical
and Babylon Literal, Or, The Vision
of the Ephah*, 1875

"What has puzzled me over the years is not the identity of 'the great prostitute,' but how so many could mistake her historical identity...In biblical history only one nation is inextricably linked to the moniker 'harlot.' And that nation is Israel "
(Hanegraaff)

Benjamin Wills Newton,
*Babylon: Its Revival and Final
Desolation, 1859.*

Samuel Davidson, *An Introduction to the*
New Testament, 1848:

"...Newton's explanation which resolves the *seven mountains* into 'all the concentrations of governmental influence' that are to belong to the literal Babylon..."

Burlington B. Wale, 1883:

"For if the Futurist theory be true, Babylon is to be re-built on the banks of the Euphrates, and become a vast and splendid emporium, and centre of the world's wealth; the Jews to be restored, their temple re-built..."

Revelation 12:14 And to **the woman** were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might **fly into the wilderness**, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

Matthew 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) 16 **Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:**

Zechariah 5:7 And, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead: and this is a woman that sitteth in the midst of the ephah.

9 Then lifted I up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came out two women, and the wind was in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork: and they **lifted up** the ephah between the earth and the heaven.

10 Then said I to the angel that talked with me, Whither do these bear the ephah?

11 And he said unto me, **To build it an house in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base.**

Revelation 18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

Jeremiah 50:2 Declare ye among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard; publish, and conceal not: say, Babylon is taken, Bel is confounded...

4 In those days, and in that time, saith the Lord, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and **weeping: they shall go, and seek the Lord their God.**

7 All that found them have devoured them: and their adversaries said, **We offend not, because they have sinned against the Lord...**

11 **Because ye were glad, because ye rejoiced, O ye destroyers of mine heritage...**

13 Because of the wrath of the Lord it shall not be inhabited, but it shall be wholly desolate: every one that goeth by Babylon shall be **astonished, and hiss at all her plagues.**

23 How is the hammer of the whole earth cut asunder and broken! how is Babylon become a desolation among the nations!

38 A drought is upon her waters; and they shall be dried up: for it is the land of graven images, and they are mad upon their idols.

39 Therefore the wild beasts of the desert with the wild beasts of the islands shall dwell there, and the owls shall dwell therein: and it shall be no more inhabited for ever; neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation.

40 As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour cities thereof, saith the Lord; so shall no man abide there, neither shall any son of man dwell therein.

46 At the noise of the taking of Babylon the earth is moved, and **the cry is heard among the nations.**

Isaiah 47:5 Sit thou silent, and get thee into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called, The lady of kingdoms.

6 I was wroth with my people, I have polluted mine inheritance, and given them into thine hand: thou didst shew them no mercy; upon the ancient hast thou very heavily laid thy yoke.

"On 14 February 1978, the...government of Iraq under Saddam Hussein began the 'Archaeological Restoration of Babylon Project': reconstructing features of the ancient city atop its ruins. These features included the Southern Palace of Nebuchadnezzar..."

"A Babylon International Festival was held in September 1987, and annually thereafter until 2002 (excepting 1990 and 1991), to showcase this work."

"Following the 2003 invasion of Iraq, the area around Babylon came under the control of US troops, before being handed over to Polish forces in September 2003..."

"John Curtis described how parts of the archaeological site were levelled to create a landing area for helicopters, and parking lots for heavy vehicles. Curtis wrote of the occupation forces: 'They caused substantial damage to the Ishtar Gate, one of the most famous monuments from antiquity...US military vehicles crushed 2,600-year-old brick pavements, archaeological fragments were scattered across the site, more than 12 trenches were driven into ancient deposits and military earth-moving projects contaminated the site for future generations of scientists...!...'"

"In 2005 the site was handed over to the Iraqi Ministry of Culture."

"An article published in April 2006 stated that UN officials and Iraqi leaders have plans to restore Babylon, making it into a cultural center."

"In May 2009, the provincial government of Babil reopened the site to tourists, but not many have come as yet..."

"On July 5, 2019, the site of Babylon was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site...."

"Iraq's ancient city of Babylon gets long-overdue international recognition...One can only imagine that Marduk, the supreme god of Babylon, to whom local ladies still ask for intercession...is well pleased that Babylon has been officially recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site...The UNESCO World Heritage designation is a positive step for future planning...80% of the artifacts remain underground..."

(<https://www.mei.edu/publications/iraqs-ancient-city-babylon-gets-long-overdue-international-recognition>, 2019)

NPR, February 23, 2021:

'It Was Like Magic': Iraqis Visit Babylon And Other Heritage Sites For 1st Time... Nearly three millennia after Nebuchadnezzar's reign, visitors from a tour group cluster to admire a brick frieze depicting strange creatures that look like lions with eagle claws... 'It's great!' says Furqan Fouad, a 21-year-old Iraqi visitor... She's carrying a copy of her novel, whose cover is purple like her sweater and hairband. 'It's a sci-fi and a fantasy, and it's about Ishtar,' she says, referring to a Mesopotamian goddess of love and war... The company now runs regular weekend bus tours, complete with picnics and musicians, to Babylon, and is one of a handful of companies doing so from Baghdad..."

Jeremiah 51:5 For Israel hath not been forsaken, nor Judah of his God, of the Lord of hosts; though their land was filled with sin against the Holy One of Israel.

6 Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the Lord's vengeance; he will render unto her a recompence.

7 Babylon hath been a golden cup in the Lord's hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.

29 And the land shall tremble and sorrow: for every purpose of the Lord shall be performed against Babylon, to make the land of Babylon a desolation without an inhabitant.

37 And Babylon shall become heaps, a dwellingplace for dragons, an astonishment, and an hissing, without an inhabitant.

38 They shall roar together like lions: they shall yell as lions' whelps.

43 Her cities are a desolation, a dry land, and a wilderness, a land wherein no man dwelleth, neither doth any son of man pass thereby.

48 Then the heaven and the earth, and all that is therein, shall sing for Babylon...

49 As Babylon hath caused the slain of Israel to fall, so at Babylon shall fall the slain of all the earth.

**Zephaniah 2:15 This is the
rejoicing city that dwelt
carelessly...**

**Luke 6:25 Woe unto you that are full!
for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that
laugh now! for ye shall mourn and
weep.**

**26 Woe unto you, when all men shall
speak well of you! for so did their
fathers to the false prophets.**

**2 Corinthians 1:12 For
our rejoicing is this, the
testimony of our
conscience...**

**2 Corinthians 6:10 As sorrowful, yet
always rejoicing...**

**Acts 5:41 And they departed from the
presence of the council, rejoicing that
they were counted worthy to suffer
shame for his name...**

Romans 12:12 Rejoicing in hope...

Jeremiah 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart...

Luke 15:5 And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

6 And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

**Psalms 126:6 He that goeth
forth and weepeth, bearing
precious seed, shall doubtless
come again with rejoicing,
bringing his sheaves with him.**