

MINI DOCTRINE SERIES FROM



MYSTERY BABYLON

DOCTRINE OF FALSE RELIGION

By Dr. Dan Arbogast

MYSTERY BABYLON

In the book of Revelation the Apostle John was given a revelation concerning a future event, and it has been recorded for all to read and understand.

God revealed to John through the Holy Spirit, the future judgement of Babylon the great.

This event, which we have stated is yet future, will take place during the last half of the seven year tribulation.

SCRIPTURE:

Revelation 16:19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell; and great Babylon came into remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

Revelation 17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

There is no need to speculate as to who or what Babylon is. As we go through our study of Babylon, we will rely on the word of God for wisdom.

The Bible answers the Bible and Revelation gives a description of Babylon in vivid detail.

In Revelation 14:6 through 18:24 there are two groups of people mentioned. There are those who are saved by believing the gospel and those who follow Babylon.

Babylon, like any other Bible doctrine, must be studied comparatively. In other words, we need to take an over all view of Babylon by comparing Scripture with Scripture.

In order to do that we must go to the beginning of the doctrine of Babylon in the Bible.

This is called the "law of first mention." Therefore, we will attempt to find the first mention of Babylon in the Bible.

Since Babylon "came into remembrance before God," it must have had a beginning.

NOTE: There are false ministries among us who erroneously claim that the Babylon of Revelation is the United States of America and the city Babylon is New York City.

The idea comes from Bible ignorance, and quite frankly, is false doctrine promoted by false prophets.

This error may easily be corrected by one verse in Revelation. Revelation 18:4 says, "Come out of her, my people..."

If Babylon is America, or New York City, then we, as citizens and christians, must pack our bags and leave, or come out of her.

One would have to be a complete fool to believe that!!

BEGINNING LAW OF FIRST MENTION

Every Bible student is familiar with the Babylon of Daniel, and king Nebuchadnezzar.

However, the first time Babylon is mentioned in the Bible is in 2 Kings 17:24. Yet the doctrine of Babylon goes back even farther.

The idea of Babylon goes all the way back to Genesis chapter three. However, we will begin with the Tower of Babel in Genesis chapter eleven.

SCRIPTURE:

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

Genesis 11:4 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.

God had already commanded mankind to replenish and fill the earth. (Genesis 9:1)

Yet man, in rebellion against God, decided to build a tower to heaven, and become great, and not be scattered. (Genesis 11:4)

This tower is symbolic of mankind working his way to heaven without God.

SCRIPTURE:

Ephesians 2:8,9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God -

Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Mankind has been trying to work his way to heaven since the beginning. The Tower of Babel was a type of a works righteousness.

Babel is a type of man trying to unite against God. (ref. Genesis 11:3,4)

When God saw the efforts of man he came down from Heaven. (Genesis 11:5 - 7)

It seems as though God is constantly forced to come down to man.

When he did, he confounded the language of man, and man could not communicate, and was forced to obey the the original commandment of "replenish the earth."

Babel was the brainchild of a man named Nimrod. He was the son of Cush.

SCRIPTURE:

Genesis 10:8-10 And Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one in the earth.

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

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

The word Nimrod means to rebel. The word mighty has many applications, including, a tyrant, strong, mighty, and to act insolently.

The word before may also be translated against.

Therefore, Nimrod was a rebel who was mighty and insolent against the LORD.

The beginning of his kingdom was Babel.....

Nimrod and his followers said, "let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name,..."

Actually, God is the one who gave the name Babel to the tower mankind was building. (Genesis 11:8,9)

The word Babel is derived from the root word *balal*. It literally means to overflow, and to mix and mingle. Simply, it is confusion.

Originally, the word babel came from two words. They were bab-el, which meant "gate to God."

God changed it to Babel which means confusion. False religion is mans way of opening a gate to God, yet God calls it confusion.

The kingdom of Nimrod, the rebel against God, began at Babel.

Today we use the term babbler, or babbling idiot, to describe someone who is incoherent in speech, or makes no sense.

The Oxford Dictionary calls it a foolish idle chatterer.

Ironically, if we consider all of this, one who is involved in false religion, is a babbler, or babbling idiot, who is trying to build his own gate to God.

God calls it confusion!!!

TWO BABYLONS

Out of that beginning at Babel came two distinct things. One is the geographical, historical Babylon, everyone is familiar with. The other is the formation of a one world government and religious system in alliance against God.

This system is an ideaology. It is an ideaology of a works righteousness which had it's beginning long before God created man.

It began with Satan when he decided he would be as God and rise above the throne of God. (Isaiah 14:12-17 Ezekiel 28:11-19 Luke 10:18 Revelation 12:3,4)

Remember we said the idea of Babylon goes all the way back to Genesis chapter three? That is still true, even though it originated with Satan long before.

The idea was instilled in mankind in the garden, when Eve was confronted with Satan and was deceived. Mankind has been in confusion ever since.

Before we view Babylon the ideaology, we will take a brief look at Babylon the place. Where was this place called Babel, and where is it today?

There were more than one geographical Babylons, historically. We will only be concerned with one, and that is the one associated with the Tower at Babel.

SCRIPTURE:

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

The beginning of Nimrod's kingdom was in the land of Shinar. Shinar means the country of two rivers, or the land between two rivers.

The Tigris and the Euphrates river meet just before emptying into the Persian Gulf.

Although this land was ruled by many empires throughout the centuries, it was known as the Chaldean or Babylonian Empire.

It was in this land that Nebuchadnezzar built the famous city of Babylon. Actually, it was known as the Babylonian Empire.

Although no one knows exactly where the original tower of Babel was located, there is much speculation. Some say it was located in the city of Babylon.

We do know however, that it no longer exists, and neither does Babylon the city.

During Old Testament times many towers were built in honor of the gods of the ancient empires, including the god they called Belus.

Ancient Babylon became a pile of ruins which was in fulfillment of God's prophecy. (Isaiah 13:19-22 Jeremiah 25:12-14 50 and 51)

The geographical Babylon, the place, has already come into remembrance before God.

It is Babylon, the ideology, the idea, that remains to be destroyed by God in the last half of the seven year tribulation.

The idea, or ideaology, of Babylon was promoted by Nimrod in the land of Shinar. The idea was to build a gate to God.

God came down from heaven and saw the tower and called it confusion. He also, "scattered them abroad from there upon the face of all the earth." (Genesis 11:7-9 10:110,11)

However, mankind took the idea of a works righteousness with them throughout the earth. Man has been building his own gate to God in some way or another ever since. It is still confusion.

ORIGIN OF BABYLON

Nimrod's plan of a one world religion and a one world government had it's origin long before the tower of Babel.

As we have already stated, the idea began with Satan while he was still in heaven.

Man became involved when Adam and Eve were confronted with Satan in the garden.

God told Adam not to eat of the fruit of the tree of life. (Genesis 2:17)

In Genesis chapter three Satan and Eve had a conversation she should have avoided. In verse one Satan questions God's word. In verse three Eve added to God's word. In verse four Satan contradicted God's word. Finally, in verse five, Babylon began.

SCRIPTURE:

Genesis 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods (God), knowing good and evil.

Satan told Eve she would be as God and know good and evil.

So Adam and Eve ate of the fruit. When people become religious they think they know the difference between good and evil, and they become godlike, in their own mind.

That is false religion, and that is Babel, which is confusion, and that is Babylon. (babbel - on)

We seem to think false religion and cultism is something we can point our finger at and say that is wrong.

We see the so called sun god and the devil worship and Satanist church and say that is false religion.

However, false religion is just that; religion. It is mans act of religious worship that is false. It is our being godlike in our own mind that is false.

CAIN AND ABEL

In Genesis chapter four we have the first account of a false worship and a true worship.

SCRIPTURE:

Genesis 4:3-7 And in the process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought forth the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering;

But unto Cain and to his offering he had no respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? And why is thy countenance fallen?

If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

Cain and Abel brought their offerings to the Lord. With Abel, God had respect and was pleased with his offering. Yet God was not pleased with the offering of Cain.

On the surface it just doesn't seem fair does it? After all, they both brought an offering to the Lord. Why would a just God have respect for one over the other?

God said to Cain, Why? Why are you wroth? (angry) Then God said to Cain, "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted?"

Once again the Bible answers the Bible.

SCRIPTURE:

1 John 3:10-12 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And why slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brothers righteous. (ref. Jude 5-11)

Cain really thought he was doing the right thing. Yet, we are told his works were evil, and a child of the wicked one, the devil.

On the other hand, Abel was considered righteous.

Not only that, God told Cain if he did not well, sin was at the door, and sin would rule over him. (Genesis 4:7)

What was the sin? It was a works righteousness. It was false religion. He had the wrong motive for his offering.

ALL IN THE BLOOD

Notice, if you will, the offering of Abel. He offered the fat of his offering. In order to do that, he had to kill the animal.

When he killed the animal, he had to shed the blood of the animal.

Abel was acknowledging the need of the blood and the importance of the blood. His motives were right and he was right.

Cain and his works were manifest as evil and he was manifest as a child of the devil. He was not righteous. He was just religious.

In Revelation 14:6 we see an angel proclaiming the everlasting gospel, and in Revelation 14:8 we see the fall of Babylon foretold.

The difference between Cain and Abel is the gospel. Abel believed the gospel, and Cain rejected the gospel.

Because Abel believed the gospel, he was forgiven of his sin and received the righteousness of God. Cain was religious and founded his righteousness on his own works. It does not work and he was considered not righteous by the Lord. (read 1 John 3 and 4)

SCRIPTURE:

Revelation 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

The gospel is that Christ died, was buried, and rose again, for the forgiveness of sin. (1 Corinthians 15:1-5 Acts 10:34-43 13:32-39 26:22,23)

Jesus Christ was the promise of God. He died on the Cross and rose again for the forgiveness of sins. All we have to do is believe in him. That is, have faith in the fact that Christ died for us, and our sins are paid by his blood. (1 Peter 1:18-21 Revelation 1:5 12:11)

When Abel shed the blood of the animal he offered, he was acknowledging the blood of his coming Savior.

There is no one righteous in the sight of God. (Romans 3:10)

Everyone is a sinner and needs to be saved by the blood of Christ. (Romans 3:23)

Our righteousness comes from God himself. (Romans 10:1-4)

When we think we know the difference between good and evil, and chose to be good, we assume we are good enough to be accepted by God.

That was Cain's problem. Satan told Eve she would know good and evil and be as God.

God told Cain, "when thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted?"

What God meant was to do the right thing. That is to accept his righteousness. Cain thought the right thing was to do good and be religious.

It was not the offering of Abel that God accepted, it was his motive for the offering. Abel was acknowledging his acceptance of God as his Savior.

Abel knew it was all in the blood.

Nimrod was a mighty hunter against the Lord. He rebelled against God and attempted to lay the foundation of a great works righteousness. Kings, nations, religious leaders, church organizations, and individuals have attempted to build religious and political systems against the Lord ever since.

ISRAEL'S FAILURE

The Nation of Israel was God's chosen people in the Old Testament. They were set apart and nurtured by God.

They were a total failure. Why? Babylon!! Not the Babylon of Nebuchadnezzar. It was Babylon the ideology.

It was the ideology of Cain and Nimrod.

Israel fell into idol worship. They adopted the gods of their neighboring nations. They became religious.

Their God was not happy with them. Throughout the Old Testament God exhorts and admonishes them. A good example is found in Isaiah 1:1-17 3:12-15 and 65:1-15.

In Isaiah 1:9,10 the Lord compares them to Sodom and Gomorrah.

SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 1:11 To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD; I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts, and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.

Isaiah 1:12 who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts?

Isaiah 1:13 Bring no more vain oblations

The Lord asks, "what is the purpose of all your sacrifices," and, "who hath required this at your hand?"

The Lord also said they were, "vain oblations." In other words, it was a waste of time and useless. Churches today are filled with vain and useless oblations.

SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 1:14 Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth; they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.

Isaiah 1:15 And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you; yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood.

The Lord said concerning these vain oblations that he was, "weary to bear them." Tired of false religion. He also said he would hide his eyes and not answer their prayers.

We have already seen in the first part of verse 13 that God calls false religion vain oblations. Allow us to quote the rest of that verse.

SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 1:13 Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me, the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting.

God calls it iniquity. A sin. False religion is a sin. It is the most abominable sin man can commit.

SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 65:2 I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, that walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts;

Isaiah 65:5 That say, Stand by thyself, come not near me; for I am holier than thou. These are a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all the day.

Not only does God hate false religion, it is easy to see that false religion promotes a "holier than thou attitude."

False religion not only permeates our society, it saturates fundamental Bible believing churches.

Organizations, local churches, and individuals, become religious. Man is a religious animal.

It seems that when a person gets saved, he begins to know good and evil, he considers himself good, institutes some religious act, and becomes holier than thou.

Years ago, I remember an evangelist who was speaking in a church I was attending.

He began his message with, "God hates sin, and I hate sin." The congregation, of course, ate it up.

After all, he was putting himself on the same level as God. He and God both hated sin. (I knew God hated sin because he died on the Cross for mine, the evangelist didn't)

After he pranced the floor for about forty five minutes and tried to get everyone emotional, he invited everyone to the front of the church to lay their sins at the altar.

Excuse me!! I have seen many altars in many churches, but I have never stumbled over anyones sins. As a matter of fact, I have never seen the blood of Christ at any man made altar.

Where does the Bible say that? Does the Bible not say that Jesus Christ is our altar, and he is at the right hand of the Father in heaven? (Hebrews 13:8-15)

The evangelist may have meant well, but he was wrong. We know God hates sin, but personally, this writer is a sinner. I have always been a sinner, and will be a sinner until the day I die.

However, I know Christ has forgiven my sin the very second I put my faith in him. He is my altar. He is my true religion. Without Christ I am helpless and worthless and useless.

Israel in the Old Testament, did the same thing we do today in the church age, we begin to think we know good and evil, and when we do we think we are good, and become, "holier than thou."

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

There is the basic foundation of true religion. Believing in, or faith in Christ. There is no other foundation. (1 Corinthians 3:11)

It is on this foundation that true christianity is built, and nothing else. It is how I build on this basic Bible doctrine that determines if I am serving Babylon.

Then there are those who think they are religious, and have never even laid the foundation of faith in Christ. If I have not trusted Christ as my Savior, and attend a church that does not teach salvation by grace, I am serving Babylon.

The only way to God the Father is through God the Son.
(John 14:6 17:3,6)

Israel failed for the same reason most denominations are a failure today; FAITH.

They wandered in the wilderness forty years because of a lack of faith. (Hebrews 3:6-19)

Everything Israel did is recorded in the Bible for anyone to read. It is there for all to use an example. (read 1 Corinthians 10:1-14)

SCRIPTURE:

Romans 10:1-4 Brethren, my hearts desire and prayer to God for Israel, that they might be saved.

For I bear them record that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

For they, being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.

In this portion of Scripture Paul gives us a description of false religion. It is a zeal for God without knowledge.

It is being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish our own righteousness.

False religion is not submitting ourselves unto the righteousness of God.

My faith is founded on establishing my own righteousness. I do not have enough faith in Christ to accept his righteousness.

Abel accepted the righteousness of God. His offering was an acknowledgement of God's righteousness. He trusted in the fact that God would provide a Savior who would shed his blood for him.

His life as a christian was established on the same gospel we have today, and the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 10:4 Galatians 3:6-9 Hebrews 4:2)

SCRIPTURE:

Genesis 10:8a And Cush begot Nimrod.....

Genesis 10:9a He was a mighty hunter before the LORD....

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

Genesis 10:11a Out of that land went forth.....

When God confounded the language at Babel he dispersed mankind. They went out of the land of Shinar. When they did, they took the idea of Babylon with them.

The world is filled with false religion, in every language.

Over time, the land of Shinar developed into a great empire. It became the Chaldean, or Babylonian empire. Cities were built with great temples to false gods.

The Tower of Babel no longer exists, but the idea of Nimrod lives on. "Let us build us a gate to God."

We are living in the latter days. We know that because the earth has been replenished. (filled) There are no new continents to explore and conquer.

Since the inception of the church in the book of Acts, the gospel has spread throughout the world, and so has Babylon.

SCRIPTURE:

Revelation 14:6-8 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

Saying, with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgement is come; and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountain of waters.

And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

In this present age, we have many great men, like Abel, who believe and preach the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We also have the message of Cain, which is false doctrine, and a works righteousness. It is Babylon. (babbal - on)

During the seven year tribulation, God will give mankind one last chance. Believe the gospel and glorify, and worship God, or follow Babylon.

Babylon is called a city because the word in the Greek means a "walled dwelling place." It also means, "warfare."

Many have tried to associate the city with Rome, or some church, or a country.

However, the Babylon of Revelation is the ideology of those men who went out of the Land of Shinar. It is false religion.

During the seven year tribulation Babylon will have a free ride to glory. The church will no longer be in the way. She will ride the beast, who is the antichrist.

Finally, a one world religious and political system will be established. The world will rejoice over the fact they can have any religious belief they desire.

Finally, *"great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath."*

SCRIPTURE:

Revelation 17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

The word mystery and mysteries is used twenty seven times in the New Testament. It is translated from the Greek word (*musterion μυστηριον*), and it means, a truth concealed until the time revealed, or the revealing of a truth.

A mystery is a previously hidden truth, which is now revealed.

There is no more mystery concerning Babylon. It has been revealed in the New Testament, in the book of Revelation, for all to read and understand.

Consider all these things concerning Babylon ...

In Revelation 17:1 she is likened to a whore upon many waters. The waters are nations and people, and she seduces mankind into rejecting the gospel.

In 17:2 The kings of the earth have committed fornication with her.

In 17:3,4 she is decked in gold and pearls, yet is full of abominations and filth.

In 17:6 and 18:24 she is guilty of the blood of the saints and the prophets and the holy apostles.

In 17:3 she rides a scarlet colored beast. False religion takes a ride on the beast and enjoys her final fling with the antichrist.

In 17:16-18 the kings will finally hate her and destroy her. Even false religion is no longer tolerated by mankind.

In Revelation, chapters seventeen and eighteen are devoted to the record of the final doom of Babylon.

In Revelation 19:1-10 the Hallelujah chorus is sung in heaven over the fall of Babylon. The gospel and the church are no longer persecuted by false religion.

The blood of the saints is avenged.

False religion is one thing, but when it begins to saturate fundamental churches and lead God's people astray, it is another.

SCRIPTURE:

Revelation 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partaker of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

Revelation 18:5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

Out of the land of Shinar went the ideology of Babylon. It is mankind working his way to heaven without God. It is false religion, it is Babylon. (babbel - on)

FINAL NOTE

In the world we live in today, we may see the formation of the Tower of Babel all over again. However, it is global.

Nimrod's idea of a gate to God is reality. It is the idea of "God in you."

The world is in preparation for the appearance of the antichrist.

We already have the foundation of the one world government. It is called a new world order, and is made manifest by the United Nations.

Within this foundation is the one world religious system. It will adhere to the political system and Babylon will ride the beast.

Those who preach the gospel of Christ are portrayed as hate mongers and radical right wingers. (whatever that means)

We are told to love everyone and not to preach our separative idea of lost and saved.

After all, we are told, God is love, and is in everyone. That is Babylon.

If you are a true christian, you will put all your faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. You will proclaim the true gospel so others will come out of Babylon.

Salvation is absolutely free by faith in the finished work of Christ at Calvary. It is in his blood we are set free from Babylon.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved"

CAN YOU KNOW THAT YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE?

THE ANSWER IS...YES!

1. ALL HAVE SINNED.

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

Romans 3:23

2. YOU CANNOT SAVE YOURSELF.

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us."

Titus 3:5

3. CHRIST HAS PROVIDED FOR YOUR SALVATION.

"Who (Christ) His own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed."

I Peter 2:24

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

4. YOU MUST ACCEPT CHRIST FOR SALVATION.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

Acts 16:31

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."

John 1:12

5. YOU CAN KNOW.

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

I John 5:13