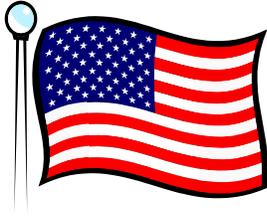


## Is America the Babylon of Bible Prophecy?

By Pastor Kelly Sensenig



Some recent books and prophetic hype have surfaced today about America's connection with the prophecies that revolve around Babylon. Many look at the current trends in our society or nation (America) and begin to rethink the teaching about Babylon's rise during the End Times. Some are attributing the apostasy that is occurring in America to the Babylon of Bible prophecy. Of course, this cannot be an accurate assessment of the Biblical facts. There have been various books written about Babylon and a lot of babble about Babylon these days but we must come back to what the Scriptures actually teach and say about this city and system of the End Times. Trying to equate modern nations like America to the Babylon of Bible prophecy ignores the basic historical, grammatical, and literal rules of hermeneutics. When interpreting the Bible we must stay within the parameters of these interpretive rules if we are going to come to correct conclusions regarding the prophetic teaching of Babylon.

The points below address the reasons for NOT accepting the view that Babylon pictures America in relation to her decline and apostasy in the world today. Babylon is presented in Scripture as both a **system** (Rev. 17 - ECCLESIASICAL BABYLON) and **city** (Rev. 18 - COMMERCIAL BABYLON) during the seven-year Tribulation Period, which reverts back to her historical past and once again reasserts herself in the End Times. Babylon is a city but it is also a vast religious system that stands for everything God does not tolerate. The woman representing Babylon in Revelation 17 is a city (Rev. 17:18) of extreme wealth that controls peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages (Revelation 17:5, 15). She is the literal rebuilt city of Babylon that will become the headquarters of ecumenical religion and commerce.

Tom Constable has well stated:

"Babylon is not just the name of a city in the Middle East. It is also a name that symbolizes the chief characteristics of that city throughout history, which have been a certain religious system and a certain commercial system. We need to keep this double use of the name as a real city and as a symbol in mind as we study these chapters."

There are various Biblical reasons or arguments that prove America CANNOT be a reference to Babylon. Read and study these Biblical arguments with an open heart and mind, ready to learn God's prophetic plan for Babylon.

### #1

Babylon is NOT a cryptic reference or code word for some other evil entity or nation like Rome or America. I believe that just like Israel always refers to Israel in the Bible (Gen. 32:32; Mal. 1:1; Matt. 19:28; Rom. 10:1; 11:1, 26), so Babylon always refers to Babylon. Likewise, just as Jerusalem always refers to Jerusalem (Josh. 10:1; Zech. 14:2; Luke 13:34; Rom. 15:26; Gal. 1:17-18), so Babylon always refers to Babylon (2 Kings 17:24; Dan. 7:1; Matt. 1:11-12; Acts 7:43; 1 Pet. 5:13; Rev. 14:8; 16:19; 17:5). Neither Israel as a people changed nor did their city change that they live in today. If Israel and a Jerusalem, as a city, do not change their identities and geographic locations, then why does Babylon change her identity and location?

We make no sense out of the Bible and Bible prophecy when we change the names of historic cities and landmarks. Thomas Ice once said that "the Book of Revelation is a Grand Central Station into which all future Bible prophecy flows." If we pay attention to the Book of Revelation, we will have to pay attention to the past. This is because prophecy comes out of the past, and this is the case regarding Babylon's ancient past and history. What happened historically in connection with Babylon and its evil agenda will reoccur in the future on a global and much larger scale.

### #2

Babylon is a city – America is a nation (Rev. 17:18). Babylon is presented as a literal city housing a political system of religious and economical influence in the end-times (Rev. 17-18) within the "land of Shinar" (Zechariah 5:5-11) - not America. To identify Babylon as America flatly denies the Biblically-stated location for this city during the End Times. The city of Babylon is not located in North America but in southern Iraq.

### #3

Babylon cannot replace America since the city has never been completely destroyed historically as the Bible depicts; therefore, it must be resurrected and rebuilt for the End times to experience its utter doom and judgment from God, as the prophecies indicate (Jer. 50:39-40; 51:6-9). *History reveals the city was never destroyed in the way these Hebrew prophets predicted it*

would be, which guarantees it must be rebuilt. Babylon declined gradually, over hundreds of years, and never was devastated in anything like the sudden judgment that consumed Sodom and Gomorrah (Isa. 13:19; Jer. 50:40). In other words, when you study what God says about Babylon in the Book of Revelation, *it is clear that those prophecies have not been fulfilled through past events*; therefore, they must be fulfilled through future events as described in the Book of Revelation. This means Babylon MUST be rebuilt for the End Time prophecies to be LITERALLY fulfilled. This means the nation of America cannot replace Babylon.

Through the centuries Babylon gradually lost influence and population as the seat of world government changed to the Medes, then the Greeks, and finally to the Romans, who already had established the capital in Rome. We know that Babylon existed during the time of Christ since Peter wrote his epistle from there (1 Peter 5:13). As late as 917 AD it was a small village.

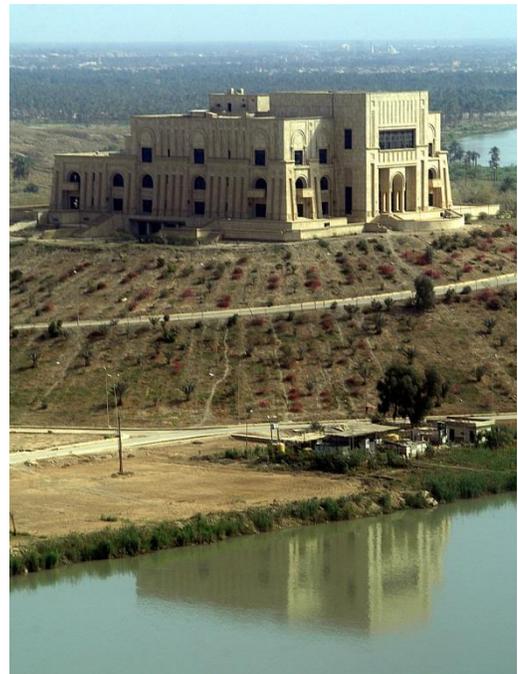
Babylon has never been destroyed cataclysmically ("as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah") but this will occur in the future. Like Sodom & Gomorrah, Babylon is built over vast supplies of bituminous asphalt and pitch. It is said by a preacher Dr. Charles Pak who led a tour to Babylon in 1975 that he was told that the asphalt is only ten feet below the surface of the earth throughout the whole city. While this might indicate there is oil underground, it is also an ideal condition to produce its ultimate destruction by fire and brimstone as is depicted in the prophetic passages (Isa. 13:19; Jer. 50:40; Rev. 14:8, 16:19, 18).

Isaiah 13:20 states that the ruins of Babylon are never to be inhabited: "it will never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation ..." But we know that Babylon was inhabited for much of its ancient history even after the Medes and Persians conquered the Babylonian Empire. In fact, one writer records that about 1100 AD, under the name of Hillah, Babylon was enlarged and fortified; in 1898 Hillah boasted ten thousand inhabitants. In fact there are said to be about 250,000 people living in Babylon today.

Babylon will live again as the seat of Satan. You can be sure that any city mentioned 7 times in 2 chapters (Rev. 17 & 18) and which looks back to the ancient prophecies of the city of Babylon, which existed in the days of the Hebrew prophets (Isaiah 13-14, Jeremiah 50-51), will once again be the literal city of Babylon. Babylon will again become Satan's headquarters for a

short time, serving as the governmental and commercial capital of the world during the coming Tribulation Period. The ten kings and kingdoms within the boundaries of the Old Roman Empire, who are under Antichrist's power, will destroy the religious system of Babylon (Rev. 16:16-17) at the middle of the Tribulation Period, but the commercial and political aspect of the city will continue to exist until the end of the Tribulation Period (Rev. 18).

The city of Babylon was historically located in what is today southern Iraq. Saddam Hussein was quietly rebuilding the ancient ruins of Babylon for decades. Starting in 1983, Saddam Hussein, imagining himself as heir to Nebuchadnezzar, ordered the rebuilding of Babylon. Like king Nebuchadnezzar, Hussein had his name inscribed on the bricks, which were placed directly on top of the ruins, some 2,500 years old. Saddam Hussein of Iraq spent over one billion dollars on the rebuilding of that ancient city, which will be taken over some day by the Antichrist. Babylon will once again become the governmental, commercial, and religious center of the world.



The gulf wars did disrupt the rebuilding of Babylon. There was damage done to the ancient ruins in the gulf war but the United States and other nations

pledged to develop Babylon into an international world center and possibly a theme park based on her ancient wonders. In 2009, the ruins and Hussein's palace were opened to tourists. The only thing that is holding up the rebuilding of Babylon from emerging into a world class tourist center is stability in Iraq and development of their oil.

Some now think that Iraq has larger oil reserves than Saudi Arabia and by 2020-2030 Iraq could be world's leading oil producer. All of this will enhance the rebuilding of Babylon. History is going to be repeated in the future! Babylon will once again rise as a world power that influences the world. It will happen just the way the Bible says. Babylon is being rebuilt and it will become the headquarters for apostate world religion, commerce, and politics. This is why John recorded, "and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration" (Rev. 17:6). In other words, he was utterly astounded and amazed at the resurfacing of this ecumenical monstrosity of wickedness during the End Times. The building of Babylon will not take centuries to complete; it's already being rebuilt and the day is coming when it will return to its former glory and in some measure be an established city during the End Times.



Although the city of Babylon sunk beneath the sands of time during the past seventeen hundred years, it has begun to rise in this century. Watch for Babylon to become a dominant force in the world religiously, commercially and governmentally. It will happen just as God's Word teaches.

#### #4

The Bible portrays the Antichrist as having his political capital in Babylon (Revelation 17:1-3; 18). The Antichrist will not have his capital or headquarters in America but in the Middle East and area of the old Roman Empire which is the place he originates from during the End times ("out of this kingdom" – the original Roman Empire - Dan. 7:24). America does not fit the role of the Antichrist whose heritage and capital city will be linked to the ancient land of Assyria within the domain of the Old Roman Empire (Micah 5:4-7).

## #5

America is NOT specifically mentioned in the prophetic Scriptures because she was not a player in the historical roles of world empires (“heads” on the beast) in relationship to Israel’s existence. She was not part of the nations that surrounded Israel. Furthermore, she is not in the vicinity where End Time events are focused (Europe, Middle East, Iraq, Old Roman Empire). The same empires or nations such as Egypt, Babylon, Syria, and others are mentioned because of their significance to Israel’s past history. The future is a recreation of the ancient empires and cities which once again clash during the End Times (Dan. 11:36-45).

## #6

The Bible depicts that all commerce and power shifts to the Middle East (not America) and to the area of the original Roman Empire where the Antichrist will control the earth religiously, politically, and commercially (Dan. 2, 7; Rev. 13:1-10; 17-18). World currency and commerce is headed toward the East (Rev. 13:16-17) – not the West.

## #7

Daniel’s visions of the statue (Daniel 2) and beast rising out of the sea (Daniel 7) were that of the historical rise of the Babylonian Empire. The references of future Babylon would indicate that this is the same empire or power being addressed during the Tribulation Period – not some different empire or country (America). Babylon as a *system* and *city* reemerges during the End Times in the same area that it previously existed. No person has the license to change the geographical locations of this empire or city without doing an injustice to God’s Word. *The new Babylon of the End Times is the Old Babylon resurrected (not a different entity in a different location).*

It’s clear that the prophecies about Babylon in Isaiah and Jeremiah must be understood in connection with her relationship to her historical roots (Babylonian Empire and city of Babylon) – not to some modern nation (America) that was NOT represented in Daniel’s statue (Dan. 2), writings, or thinking. The head of gold on Daniel’s statue was Babylon – not America! Therefore, any resurgence of Babylon in the future MUST correspond to the ancient place and roots of the Babylon of old. Revelation 14:8; 16:19; 17 and 18, which speak extensively about Babylon, have many allusions to such Old Testament prophecies about Babylon, such as Isaiah 13 and 14, Jeremiah 50 and 51, and Zechariah 5:5-11. This means that John is linking the

prophetic Scriptures with the prophets of old and declaring that the Babylon understood by Old Testament prophets will reemerge in the future as predicted by the New Testament prophet John.

## #8

How can a historical empire (Babylon) magically change its meaning and name to America if we believe in the literal interpretation of Scripture? We must consistently use this hermeneutic to study Bible prophecy and determine the nature of the city of Babylon. The question regarding the city of Babylon can be solved by answering the question of whether or not all biblical reference to Babylon should be understood literally? If we believe in the literal interpretation of Bible prophecy, then we should understand this city as the original city of Babylon.

Dr. Charles Dyer says, "The Bible mentions Babylon over two hundred and eighty times, and many of those references are to the future city of Babylon that is rising from the fine sands of the desert today." God has not changed the meaning of Babylon from the Old to New Testament. The only reasonable interpretation for a literal interpreter to reach is that the Babylon of Bible prophecy is the Babylon on the Euphrates River. Dr. Robert Thomas states: "In the future day anticipated in the pages of this prophecy, this city will become the focal point for a religious system staunchly opposed to the truth of Christianity. The system will thrive for a time in gaining influence over the commercial and political entities of its time ..."

For many years the *literal interpreters* of Bible prophecy believed that Israel would one day return to her land even when many were denying it. Of course, this eventually happened with the founding of the present state of Israel in 1948. The Jews are back in their land and poised to fulfill their destiny when the Tribulation begins. In a similar way, literal interpreters of Bible prophecy have always believed and taught that the Roman Empire would unite together and that one day there would be a Revived Roman Empire under the power of the Antichrist. We have seen the precursor steps of this taking shape before our very eyes with the reunification of Europe and the Middle East. In the same way, we should believe in the literal rebuilding of the city of Babylon since this is exactly what the Bible teaches will occur during the End Times (Tribulation Period). One should expect to see a foreshadowing of this today so the prophecy can be literally fulfilled during the Tribulation Period. And this is exactly what we see.

If Babylon is America the interpreter of Scripture must:

- Support his answer with clear Scriptures that definitively prove America is Babylon. What Scriptures when understood in their historic and prophetic contexts actually convey that America is Babylon?
- Demonstrate that historical Babylon has nothing to do with future Babylon.
- Show how a nation (America) can at the same time be called a city (Babylon)?

### #9

America cannot be Babylon since she has no relationship historically to the harlot system which will resurrect itself during the End Times. The nation of America does not concur with the facts stated about the harlot.



**Babylon's Prostitute:** The harlot or whore that is identified as Babylon is a reference to a system that stems back to the days of Nimrod and Babel which is the fountainhead or origin (MOTHER) of all pagan religion and false teaching that exists in the world today. Historically she has corrupted all the previous world kingdoms and kings ("kings of the earth" – Rev. 17:2) as evidenced in the "heads" on the beast vision (representing world kingdoms and their rulers). Prophetically, she emerges into a *prostitute church* during the End Times that is against the Gospel and truth. The woman has always been a prostitute from the days of her inception in Babel and will present herself in her same whorish ways during the Tribulation Period.

America cannot be a reference to "the great whore" (Rev. 17:1 – a prostitute religious system) which is identified as "THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS" (Rev. 17:5), a system that was the spawning ground (the MOTHER) of all the corrupt teachings and apostasy on earth today, which began with Nimrod and the original rebellion at the Tower of Babel. Why is this? The answer is rather obvious. America cannot be the "MOTHER OF HARLOTS" (the source and origin of all idolatry, paganism, and false teaching) since her foundation was built upon respect for God, the Bible, the Ten Commandments and morals. The foundation and origin of this whorish system is totally different than the foundation of America. Prophetically, the whorish woman is

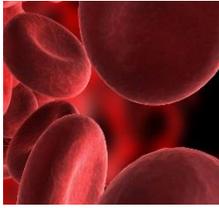
identified as the religious or apostate church of the End Times (not America) which has historically corrupted the past world empires (represented in the heads on the beast). The picture of the whore does not fit into America's history. To associate America with this harlot does not align with the picture of her evil beginnings and unchanging character through the ages.

Babylon has been apostate from day one (Rev. 17:5; Gen. 11:1-9) and this is why she is called the "MOTHER OF HARLOTS" (Rev. 17:5). Babylon's historic description as the source and origin of all apostasy does not fit the picture of America which began as a nation founded upon Christian principles. This is a clear fact that cannot be dismissed. To identify America as Babylon is to misconstrue America's historic beginnings as a nation that feared God and which possessed Christian principles. Our coins attest to the fact that America is NOT Babylon for they read "In God We Trust." This does not sound like Babylon!

Revelation 17:5 declares: "And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." This verse must be viewed from the standpoint of both history (something the Babylonian system was in the past – Jer. 51:7) and prophecy (something she will be in the future). What the Babylonian system was historically will be repeated in the future but in a far greater way. The influence of her pagan, false teachings will reach to all countries on planet earth at the same time. The prostitute's worldwide allurements and influence is referenced by her interaction with the "kings of the earth" (Rev. 17:2) and the "waters" upon which she sits (the masses of people – Rev. 17:1 with 15). Her religious apostasy and delusion will be spread throughout the earth so in the future she will once again become "THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS" (the source of all harlot religions ecumenically merged together in the End Times) "AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" (spreading her apostasy or false teaching throughout the world).

## **#10**

America cannot be Babylon since Babylon has historically been responsible for shedding the blood of God's saints. America's history and foundation is not a history of persecution in relationship to saints. It actually was founded by Pilgrims who defended religious liberty.



**Babylon's Blood:** After John speaks of this woman (MOTHER OF HARLOTS) in relation to her history and End Time appearance, he also reminds us of her murderous ways which stem back to the past and culminate in the End Times. The woman symbolizing the apostate religious system Babylon was seen to be “drunken with the blood of the saints” (Rev. 17:6). This was true historically and it will be true prophetically of Babylon. What this woman was in the past will extend into the future. *John presupposes that her future is an extension of her past when speaking of her murderous, evil ambitions of God's saints.* This makes it very clear that the apostate, religious system cannot be America, since we know from a historical perspective, this woman (Babylon) is seen to have murdered God's saints. However, we know that this was not true regarding America's past history. America was a refuge for the saints who came to this country for religious freedom. It was not a place where God's saints were murdered but welcomed. Of course, this was not the case with Babylon which has always been a murderer of God's true saints.

For instance, Sir Robert Anderson of Scotland Yard estimates that Rome was guilty of the death of 50,000,000 Christians. The inquisition, the stakes, torture chambers, and catacombs are all part of history. These are witnesses against this woman and her bloodshed. The system of Babylonian paganism and Romanism (an extension of Babylonianism) has killed millions. She has been historically thirsty for blood and it will be no different in the future when she, along with the entire apostate church, rules the world during the first half of the Tribulation Period, riding on the beast (Rev. 17:1-3).

John spans this harlot's history and future with one stroke of the pen. Again, what was true of this wicked system historically will also be true prophetically. Babylon has not changed. From Genesis to Revelation she is the same. She is an apostate religious system that has persecuted God's true saints. The Babylonian apostasy as a religious system, which was found in Assyria, Egypt, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome has always killed and persecuted the true people of God. However, this has not been the history of America and it's impossible to compare the two from a historical perspective. Therefore, America cannot be Babylon.

## #11

America cannot be Babylon since she does not have any historical or prophetic connection to the “mystery” and “beast” imagery found in

Revelation 17. America does not have any relationship to the seven heads and ten horns on the beast that she (Babylon) rides (Rev. 17:1-3). America's past history and future has no relationship to the teaching of the seven "heads" and ten "horns." As we will explain, six of the heads represents historic world empires and key leaders of the past while the seventh head represents a prophetic revival of the sixth (the Roman Empire) and takes on characteristics of all the previous world empires (Rev. 17:9-11). The ten horns are actually ten nations and kings (leaders) that will arise in the vicinity of the Old Roman Empire (Rev. 17:12) over which the Antichrist (the final king with his Babylonian kingdom) rules. None of these historic and prophetic details have anything to do with America. Therefore, America cannot be Babylon. She does not fit into the historic past or future of this harlot city and system which is seen riding the beast which possesses these heads and horns.

The Bible presents this whore (the Babylonian system of the End Time apostate church) as sitting on the beast in Revelation 17:3 (*representing her power over the past empires and kings of the earth, including the prophetic empire of the Antichrist and his empire, during the first 3.5 years of the Tribulation Period*). The Bible presents this prophetic scene as a "MYSTERY." It specifically calls the woman riding on the beast "MYSTERY BABYLON" (Rev. 17:5) and the answer to what this mystery entails is provided for us in Revelation 17:7-10.



**Babylon's Mystery:** Babylon's mystery is that she will manifest her pagan and religious system through an ecumenical unity that occurs during the End Times (Tribulation Period) which brings all false religions and liberal denominations together under one umbrella, promoting her false teachings.

The word used for "MYSTERY" (mystērion) in the New Testament refers to a secret that is about to be revealed. In other words, something about this whorish system, previously kept concealed through the ages, is about to be openly revealed in the Book of Revelation. The word "mystery" implies a *new revelation* of something that was previously hidden regarding the pagan system of Babylon.

Note: This does NOT refer to a new identity or the remaking of Babylon into another country (Babylon now becoming America) but to something new in

relationship to the city and system of Babylon, which was not previously revealed during its former existence on earth. In other words, there is a *new revelation about the old Babylonian system and city*. John is teaching something that was previously hidden about the system of Babylon (a sacred secret – a mystery) which is now being openly revealed. John is unveiling the system’s ecumenical reemergence during the End Times as an apostate church to once again dominate the earth with its historic paganism and corruption.

Babylon’s future resurgence in the world is part of “the mystery of iniquity in its final form” (2 Thess. 2:7) when all world religions (HARLOTS), which spawned from this wicked Babylonian system (MOTHER), will ecumenically unite and promote their pagan religions that run contrary to the Gospel and God’s truth. Here is the MYSTERY. The harlot church riding a beast (the apostate church controlling the personal Antichrist and Revived Roman Empire) can be viewed as a New Testament mystery, which was previously hidden, but now is revealed and interpreted in light of New Testament revelation.

The mystery is there will be a final form of Babylonian apostasy governing the earth for 3.5 years (the first 3.5 years of the Tribulation Period) that will be an amalgamation of corrupt religion, denominationalism, liberal and modernistic Protestantism, Catholicism, Eastern Orthodox, Buddhism, Hinduism, and all other world religions lumped together in one final pagan system of rebellion, whose roots stem back to ancient Babel.

Of course, the only appropriate or fitting city to become the headquarters for this End Time evil, ecumenical, monstrosity is the city of Babylon itself, which is the origin (MOTHER) of all pagan teachings that run contrary to the Gospel and God’s Word.

The “MYSTERY” teaching (new teaching of Babylon) presented in Revelation 17-18 is this: Babylon will be a great city (17:18) once again housing a harlot church (all pagan religions ecumenically tied together) during the Tribulation Period. The great city and system that has historically represented pagan religion and false teaching (Rev. 17:5) will reemerge in the End Times as an ecumenical monstrosity (THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS – all harlot system joined together) that defies God’s truth. The system that had its beginning on the plains of Shinar through the work of Nimrod will reach its pinnacle in the same place just before the Second Advent.

The “mystery” about Babylon is linked to her harlotry which will culminate in an ecumenical wicked system, city, and superpower of the End Times. This is described in Revelation 17:8-10. John is viewing the historic landscape of world empires when speaking of the beast upon which the woman (Babylon) sits. Babylon has paganized all the world empires of ancient history (“the kings of the earth” – Rev. 17:2) and the same will be true in the reemergence of the Roman Empire (the beast) during the End Times.

**Babylon’s Beast:** The beast imagery (representing the Antichrist of the End Times and His Roman Empire) is seen carrying the whore (Rev. 17:3) which is Babylon (the city and religious system). This is because ultimately the Antichrist’s capital will be in the rebuilt city of Babylon, the original place of rebellion against God, and he will proclaim himself to be God (2 Thess. 2:4) demanding universal worship (Rev. 13:4-18). This will be the final culmination of all Babylonian, pagan worship.



Essentially, the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation (Dan. 2:31-45; 7:1-8, 24-27; Rev. 12:3; 13:1-3; 17) envision both the historic Roman Empire (the sixth head on the beast) being revived (the seventh head) along with Babylon the city and system of the End Times. Both will reemerge during the End Times out of the ashes of their previous existence. Call it a revival, resurgence, or resurrection – both the beast (Roman Empire) and Babylon will rise on the world scene during the End Times.

Revelation 17:8 begins the explanation of the mystery of this beast with the seven heads that the harlot system sits upon: “The **beast** (with the seven heads is spanning the world empires on earth with their corresponding kings) that thou sawest **was** (all of the world empires and kings that previously existed on earth during their specific times of reign), and is **not** (they all would eventually die or cease to exist - including the Roman Empire in John’s day with its leader); and **shall ascend out of the bottomless pit** (all of the previous world empires and leaders will in some sense reappear in a final form of world power - a Revived Roman Empire – which is ruled by the Antichrist, who as the final pagan king of this empire will deceive the world into believing the lie that he is a reincarnated, historic figure that once ruled

the Roman Empire – Rev. 13:3), and **go into perdition** (they will be utterly and finally destroyed by Christ at the Second Coming – Rev. 19:19-21): and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.”

Revelation 17:9-11 continues to explain the mystery: “And here *is* the mind which hath wisdom (Lord help us!). The **seven heads are seven mountains** (mountains are a reference to kingdoms in prophetic language - Dan. 2:44-45; Jer. 51:25. This means the whorish system of Babylon has corrupted all the previous and future world kingdoms with her pagan teachings. The chronological order of these kingdom are Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, Revived Roman Empire), on which the **woman** (the apostate church with her corrupting influence) sitteth.”



“And there are **seven kings** (key leaders corresponding to these mountain kingdoms that span the ages of history and prophecy – Sennacherib, Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus, Alexander the Great, Caesar, and the Antichrist): **five are fallen** (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece with their corresponding kings of leaders), and **one is** (Rome during John’s day along with Caesar), **and the other is not yet come** (Revived Roman Empire with its future king - the Antichrist); and **when he cometh** (the king or leader that personifies the final Roman kingdom), he must continue a short space (reign with power during the Tribulation Period).

“And the beast that **was** (the empires and kings that lived in the past), and **is not** (the empires and kings that died in the past), even he is **the eighth** (comes back to life as an eighth independent, sovereign dictator and leader of the End Times claiming to be a legendary figure such as Nimrod, Nebuchadnezzar, or Caesar reincarnated from the past – Rev. 13:3-8), and is **of the seven** (he absorbs the evil characteristics of the entire seven kingdoms and kings that precede him – including his own Revived Roman Empire), and **goeth into perdition** (is destroyed at Christ’s Second Coming – Rev. 19:19-20).

**Beauty on the Beast:** In summary, the whorish “**woman**” (representing Babylon – the city and religious, apostate system of both history and prophecy – Rev. 17:5, 18) is found sitting upon a “**beast**” (Rev. 17:3 – representing the empires of earth’s history including the seventh kingdom under the Antichrist’s rule during the End Times) which consists of “**seven heads**” (the heads are identified as “mountains” and then called “kings” – Rev. 17:9). Once again, these seven heads represent *the previous world powers or empires, along with their kings* (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persian, Greece, Rome, and the final Revived Roman Empire).



The final world empire (the seventh) will be *built upon features of the previous world kingdoms* (leopard, bear, and lion - Rev. 13:2) that this woman has adversely influenced throughout the centuries. This new, coming, and dreadful world empire finds fulfillment in the Antichrist’s Revived Roman Empire of the End Times (not America) which reappears in the boundaries of the original Roman Empire that included Europe and the Middle East. The Antichrist emerges from the region of the Old Roman Empire (Dan. 2:40-43; 7:7-8, 24 – “out of this kingdom” of Rome) and controls these same geographic regions, ruling over ten kingdoms (portrayed by the “**ten horns**” on the beast imagery – Rev. 17:12) in the area of the original Roman Empire. All of these Biblical facts *exclude* America from being Babylon. **Babylon’s role in the End Times is an extension from its historic past – not a revision of some different nation (America) that goes apostate during the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.**

## #12

There is no BIBLICAL evidence that specifically states America is Babylon. You cannot find Scriptural support for this conclusion. In short, no Biblical identification can be made that America is Babylon. Concluding that Babylon is America is *speculation* – not *Scriptural* exegesis. The Bereans of Acts 17:11 “searched the scriptures” to see “whether those things were so.” We need to do the same thing in regards to the identity of Babylon.

### #13

No professors in any of the leading dispensational seminaries, who embrace the literal interpretation of Scripture, have ever concluded that America is Babylon (Prov. 11:14; 24:6). This should cause some red lights to flash, if suddenly one comes to the conclusion or teachers that America must be Babylon. The old saying by Harry Ironside is true: "If it's new; it's not true." Charles Dyer completed his Th.M. thesis at Dallas Theological Seminary in May 1979, in which he argued for a future rebuilding of Babylon. However, well before his time there were other prophecy students, like William Newell, developing and teaching the prophetic destiny of the literal city of Babylon on the Euphrates River, as a religious and economic powerhouse of the End Times.

### #14

Geographical identifications of cities such as Babylon, Jerusalem, Assyria, or Damascus, should never be taken outside their Biblical places of and spheres of geography. To do so requires Biblical proof and there is no straightforward Biblical evidence to warrant doing this without possessing preconceived ideas and opinions and interpreting the Bible in light of current events ("no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation" - 2 Pet. 1:20).



Interpreting the Bible in light of current events is called "newspaper exegesis." We must develop our understanding of the future based upon the Biblical facts that are actually presented and not attempt to pigeonhole America into Bible prophecies which relate to other historical empires and cities. No amount of hermeneutical gymnastics or misdirected, sensationalized associations of Babylon with America can overturn the clear teaching of Scripture on the subject of Babylon. Babylon has not changed her location and face throughout the years. The city of Babylon will be rebuilt and the system of Babylon will reappear with great power during the End Times, as she rides the beast (Rev. 17:1-3), controlling the Antichrist's movements for 3.5 years.

### #15

If Babylon (as a harlot system) relates to America then America will be destroyed by the Antichrist at the middle of the Tribulation Period. This is what the Bible predicts will occur in conjunction with the religious aspect of Babylon. Revelation 17:16 states: "And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and

naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.” How can this happen to the nation of America? How does this apply to America? In short, there is no application of Babylon’s prophecy to America and the whole argument that Babylon is America falls on its face. Furthermore, in Revelation 18 and other Bible texts (Rev. 14:8, 16:19) God destroys the city of Babylon by a catastrophic earthquake. If this city is not the literal city of Babylon on the Euphrates River then what American city is it? Is it Washington D.C? Is it another major city such as New York? Who could ever know?

Is any viable interpreter of Scripture ready to associate Washington with the city of Babylon? The whole argument that America becomes Babylon is simply unwarranted and cannot be supported by the facts of Scripture historically or prophetically. The system and city stems back to Genesis and the Tower of Babel and resurrects itself during the End Times without changing its location and ugly face. It remains the MOTHER OF HARLOTS, a murderer of God’s saints, and will become a modern marvel of commerce and politics during the End Times under the leadership of the Antichrist.



In conclusion, Babylon was the most important city in the world for about 2,000 years and the Bible tells us that she will be revived and brought on to the end-time stage to play a leading role during the Tribulation Period (Rev. 14:8; 16:19; 17- 18). Will the literal city of Babylon really come back to life in the End Times? Revelation chapter 18 and the prophecies of Isaiah and

Jeremiah predict that it will be resurrected. Believing in the restoration of the literal city of Babylon tests our faith regarding the literal fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

America does not fit any of the prophetic teachings regarding Babylon. It’s impossible to exchange the name Babylon for America when studying the Biblical truths regarding this city and system. A simple acrostic will give us the general idea of the Biblical teaching on Babylon and why America cannot be the Babylon of Bible prophecy.

## **A Babylon Acrostic**

- B** = Built again for the End Times (Isa 13:20; Jer. 50-51; Rev. 17:18)
- A** = Ancient past – MOTHER OF HARLOTS (Rev. 17:5)
- B** = Both a city and apostate system during Tribulation (Rev. 17-18)
- Y** = Yielding of Antichrist to her religion for 3.5 years (Rev. 17:1-3)
- L** = Lashing out against and destroying her religion (Rev. 17:16)
- O** = Obliterated with a catastrophic earthquake (Rev. 16:18-19; 18)
- N** = Never again to be inhabited (Isa. 13:20, Jer. 50:3; 51:29).

### **Mark Hitchcock wrote:**

“God put the oil in the ground, God sets the stage of world history, and I believe when the final events are ready, when the final curtain goes up, Babylon is going to be there. It’s going to be there as an economic power.”

Jesus is coming again. It can’t be long; it must be soon!