

Identity Wars Study 17 – The Fall of Babylon

What is it that drives men to control all aspects of other people's lives?

- The Nazi war machine under Hitler caused untold heartache to so many families...
- The relief at the news that the war was over led people to dance in the streets with delight. No more death. No more separation. Peace at last.

Was that the last war? Why not? What drives men on to continue what they know is wrong and hurtful?

- The spirit of Cain still lives on. The book of Revelation describes a time, just before Jesus returns, when this controlling, insecure, jealous and worthless spirit will once again be on display.

Revelation 13:1 What is a Beast in prophecy? It's a kingdom or power and control.

- Who does this beast control? Rev 13:2, 7
- All the world submits to this power. Why? When the beast stands in the way of God and His relationship with His children by drawing all the world to worship a false system of religion, why do people fall into line and do what it says? Survival

It is a religio-political system which speaks the language of humanity. It encourages people to find their identity through performance and achievement or blind submission.

- Self-preservation will drive us to accept or do almost anything to survive. This can be achieved in so many ways. Eventually, even worship becomes an issue of survival.
- But This enforced worship becomes man centred instead of God centred. Our worship becomes more important than God's glory.
- Global control will eventually embrace all aspects of our lives. Work, pleasure, leisure, health and worship. Through the introduction of fear and the promise of protection, everyone will be encouraged to fall into line with the new world order.
- Since fear drives our natural instincts, it is easy to acknowledge the authority of the strongest power the world has ever seen. The survival instinct kicks in - and we comply - and we live.
- But remember this is Satan's last stand. He knows this condition of things won't last so he goes full throttle to get his own way. UNO, UNICEF, WEF, UNSC, WHO, ILO, IMF, WBG, WTO, WIPO, IOS, UNESCO, OECD, WCC, etc.

All these organizations trying to make heaven on earth when God says that is not possible because of sin, and the only solution to sin is a new earth.

- Rev 21:1-2. The Holy City is made by God, not by men.

What is God's special message to counteract this final thrust against truth and freedom? Rev 14:6-12

- Who does the first angel call us to worship?
- Why does the second angel say Babylon is fallen? Has it?
- When were the principles of this final world kingdom established? Genesis 10:10.

Do you know the story of Nimrod? Genesis 10:8-12

- The dysfunctional family was born. And so was greatness and control.
- Nimrod needed to prove himself; and he did this by controlling others- herding them into cities and promising protection. Very interesting.
- This led to the first government where somebody of prominent stature became leader and protector of all under his rule.
- Of course this meant there had to be an army to either defend or conquer any surrounding family tribes.

“The authority of former rulers rested upon the feeling of kindred, and the ascendancy of the chief was an image of parental control. Nimrod, on the contrary, was a sovereign of a territory, and men just so far as they were its inhabitants and irrespective of personal ties. Hitherto there had been enlarged tribes – families – Society; now there was a nation, a political community – the State.”

A.T. Jones, Empires of the Bible, (The Review and Herald Publishing, 1904) p 51.

What three steps lead to Nimrod’s greatness and establishing of the controlling ‘State’?

- He was estranged from his father.
- Because of his insecurity, he was constantly seeking approval.
- This craving for approval drove him to win the recognition of the people around him to offset his emptiness and worthlessness.
- This is what makes the wine of Babylon so addictive: most of us come from either broken homes, homes of poverty, homes where mum and or dad are not at home when the children need them as they are too busy working. Or we feel useless or inadequate because we can’t perform as well as others in whatever field or activity we are involved in.
- Even Christians suffer from this because they are not meeting the standards God has set for their life. Whether it’s at work, in school, on the sports-field or at church, the power struggle surrounds us and draws us in to its web.

To defend ourselves we often resort to angry words or back-stabbing to save face or enlarge our little kingdom of self-worth.

- Does not the whole world drink from this cup? Are we not all addicted to Babylon’s wine of performance and self-defence?

So what does the fall of Babylon actually mean?

This phrase “Babylon is fallen” comes directly from Jeremiah 51:8; and finds its context in Jeremiah 50 and 51.

- God’s people had been taken captive by Babylon and had been led astray and had forgotten their resting place.
- While being held captive in Babylon many of us have forgotten our source of life, value, purpose, and meaning.

But God had not forgotten his children. Jeremiah 30:33, 34

In Jeremiah 51:6-10 the call goes out for God’s people to separate themselves from Babylon as it had fallen by causing all nations to drink her wine.

- God shall deliver those who separate themselves from her practices.

The fall of Babylon is both a statement of judgement and freedom.

- Babylon’s judgements of the other nations was soon to come back on her.
- History proved this to be true when Cyrus led his armies to overthrow Babylon in 539BC.
- God’s people were soon to return back to the freedom of their own home in Jerusalem.

The parallel passage found in the second angel’s message in Revelation 14 is a promise that when spiritual Babylon falls it will be a sign that, soon, God’s people are going home.

- But first we must break free from the wine of Babylon’s worthlessness and insecurity.
- We do this by receiving the promise of God through His Beloved Son: He gives us His mind that we may believe and know that we are children of God
- This fills us with confidence and security, and we stand free. 1John 3:1, 2

Can you think of any other verses which declare your sonship/daughtership?

The Three Angels' Messages are also called the Elijah Message, and it is no accident that the final part of the message in Malachi 4:6 says that God will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the children to the fathers.

- The *healing of our families and communities* will be realised when this message of restoration to *our place in God's family and community*, in Christ, is accepted and experienced.

Forsake Babylon and her principles. Flee from servanthood and receive the fact that you are a child of God, and cry, "Abba Father" and know you are His beloved child.

- Through Christ, we are freed from the identity crisis: the war that is destroying us from within. In Christ we stand as children of God forever.
- Let us see God and our fellow man as Christ did. Amen.

And you are my friends if you do what I command you.

I do not call you servants any longer, because servants do not know what their master is doing.

Instead, I call you friends, because I have told you everything I heard from my Father.

You did not choose me; I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures. And so the Father will give you whatever you ask of him in my name.

This, then, is what I command you: love one another.

(John 15:14-17)