

Identifying the Antichrist as “Babylon”

The literal story of King Nebuchadnezzar’s setting up the golden image on the plains of Dura typifies the forthcoming final showdown between the worshippers of God and the worshippers of the beast revealed in John’s prophecy of Revelation chapter 13. Understanding the issues in this last conflict between Christ and antichrist is imperative if we are to be found worshipping with the redeemed at the feet of Jesus on the sea of glass. The final issues revolve around the government of God versus the government of Satan. What is the core issue? What principle of governance differentiates these kingdoms? God rules with self sacrificing, self lowering service while honoring God-given liberty to choose whom we will trust and serve. Nebuchadnezzar’s self exaltation and enforcing worship at the point of death represents the forceful principles of the kingdom of Satan.

The parallels between Daniel 3 and Revelation 13:

The parallels of the literal story of Babylon in Daniel chapter 3 and Revelation’s final showdown involving universal worship of the antichrist found in chapter 13 are as follows:

1. In both we find “an image.”
2. In both we find “666.”
3. In both we find a “decree enforcing worship.”
4. In both we find a “death decree.”
5. In both we find “a minority hated.”
6. In both we find a “deliverance.”
7. In both we find “witnessing before courts & kings.”
8. In both we find “the faith of Jesus displayed.”
9. In both we find the faithful keeping the commandments of God.

Examples in history of the antichrist, the mystery of iniquity:

Let’s look at some key examples of how the rebellious mystery of iniquity against God and His governing principles has manifested.

The lack of trust in God’s warnings caused all but eight of the inhabitants of the entire earth to meet with the consequences of their choice. The world was destroyed by the flood. Shortly thereafter, God promised that there would never be another flood, but at the tower of Babel we again find the mystery of iniquity infecting most of mankind.

At the tower of Babel, distrust in the promise of God that there would never again be a worldwide flood, was manifested in Nimrod’s leading his followers to build a tower to save themselves should another flood occur. This revealed the same rebellion against the word of God as had been manifested before. In fact one of the definitions of “before” in Genesis 10:9 “He was a mighty hunter before the LORD:” translates “against.”

Although many more examples could be given, we will now look at the rebellion of Babylon, which found its origin in the rebellion at the tower of Babel. In Daniel 2 we find God gave King Nebuchadnezzar a dream which revealed that one day those earthly kingdoms reproducing Satan’s principles of government with increasing intensity will be replaced by the everlasting kingdom of God.

Daniel chapter three records Nebuchadnezzar’s rebellion against the prediction of the fall of his kingdom as well as the fall of successive kingdoms. He made an image representing his kingdom would be perpetual. He incorporated Satan’s principles of self exaltation and force, decreeing that all should worship the image or be killed. This rebellion perfectly typifies the mystery of iniquity, the rebellion of Satan who exalted himself above God, desiring worship and using force or coercion to draw one third of the angels into rebellion.

Revelation speaks of another “Babylon” in rebellion against God and the principles of His kingdom. This Babylon is not the literal Babylon in Iraq for God correctly foretold it would never be rebuilt. Prophetic Babylon is now to be understood as a spiritual, worldwide, end time rebellion against God and His governing principles. Just as ancient Babylon combined religion and politics, prophecy foretells an end time illicit union between church and state misappropriating the free worship of God by assigning to the state the authority to dictate worship. God

has not given the state the right to rule over the conscience of men with respect to worship, or to persecute them and destroy those who will not accept the confusing, false doctrines they promote, symbolized by the wine of Babylon's abominations.

Notice below the words, "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

Revelation 17:1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: 2) With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. 3) So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. 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.

Because a woman in symbolic prophecy represents a church, this institution must be a church because she is called a woman. Revelation speaks of a pure woman, as well as an adulteress woman.

Jeremiah 6:2 I have likened the daughter of Zion to a comely and delicate woman.

Revelation 12:1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

Revelation 17:1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

Not only is she a woman, but she is called a whore and she is a mother with daughters who are also "harlots." She is a blasphemous church. Blasphemy is defined in Scripture as making thyself God and claiming to be able to forgive sins.

John 10:33 The Jews answered Him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

Mark 2:7 Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?

The Mother of Harlots commits fornication through illicit union with the kings of the earth which ends in persecution and death of the saints. Historically whenever church and state have enforced worship, persecution of the faithful church follows.

Revelation 17:6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

The final battle between good and evil, between Christ and Satan, between Christ's seed and Satan's seed, will also emerge from a union of church and state that will result in persecution of the church.

Principle of interpretation:

We find in Revelation references to the literal stories of events found in the Old Testament used as types which when thoroughly studied reveal principles that apply to prophesied New Testament events. In the following verse we have an example of such typology.

Revelation 11:8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

Revelation 2:20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

Revelation 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

Type meets antitype:

Below find examples of literal events used to typify spiritual applications in Revelation's prophecies.

Literal Babylon—"Thou that dwellest upon many waters:"

Jeremiah 51:12 Set up the standard upon the walls of Babylon, make the watch strong, set up the watchmen, prepare the ambushes: for the LORD hath both devised and done that which He spake against the inhabitants of Babylon. 13) O thou that dwellest upon many waters, abundant in treasures, thine end is come, and the measure of thy covetousness.

Spiritual Babylon—"The great whore that sitteth upon many waters"

Revelation 17:1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

Below spiritual Babylon sits on spiritual waters.

Revelation 17:15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

Literal Babylon—"Babylon hath been a golden cup in the Lord's hand"

Jeremiah 51:7 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.

Spiritual Babylon—"The woman having a golden cup in her hand"

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:

Literal Babylon's—Wine caused confusion:

Jeremiah 51:7 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.

Daniel 5:1 Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand. 2) Belshazzar, whiles he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein. 3) Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of

the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them. 4) They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.

Spiritual Babylon's—Wine causes confusion:

Revelation 17:2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

Literal Babylon—"I shall be a lady forever," "I shall not sit as a widow:"

Isaiah 47:7 And thou saidst, I shall be a lady for ever: so that thou didst not lay these things to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of it. 8) Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children:

Spiritual Babylon—"I sit a queen, and am no widow:"

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.

Literal Babylon—worshipped idols:

Jeremiah 50:1 The word that the LORD spake against Babylon and against the land of the Chaldeans by Jeremiah the prophet. 2) Declare ye among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard; publish, and conceal not: say, Babylon is taken, Bel is confounded, Merodach is broken in pieces; her idols are confounded, her images are broken in pieces.

Spiritual Babylon—worshipped idols:

Revelation 18:12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,

Revelation 9:20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

Literal Babylon—deceived by sorceries:

Isaiah 47:9 But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments. ... 12) Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail.

Spiritual Babylon—deceived by sorceries:

Revelation 18:23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.

Literal Babylon—“Babylon is fallen, is fallen:”

Isaiah 21:9 And, behold, here cometh a chariot of men, with a couple of horsemen. And he answered and said, Babylon is fallen, is fallen; and all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground.

Spiritual Babylon—“Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen:”

Revelation 14:8 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.

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.

Literal Babylon—“My people, go ye out of the midst of her, & deliver every man his soul from the fierce anger of the Lord:”

Jeremiah 51:45 My people, go ye out of the midst of her, and deliver ye every man his soul from the fierce anger of the LORD.

Spiritual Babylon—“Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins & that ye receive not of her plagues:”

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

Literal Babylon—judged:

Jeremiah 51:6 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. ... 9) We would have healed Babylon, but she is not healed: forsake her, and let us go every one into his own country: for her judgment reacheth unto heaven, and is lifted up even to the skies.

Spiritual Babylon—judged:

Revelation 17:1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: 2) With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

Revelation 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. 5) For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. 6) Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.

Literal Babylon—“That saith to the deep, Be dry, & I will dry up thy rivers:”

Isaiah 44:27 That saith to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers:

Spiritual Babylon—“The sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates & the water thereof was dried up:”

Revelation 16:12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

Literal Babylon—their candle snuffed out:

Jeremiah 25:10 Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle.

Spiritual—Babylon—their candle snuffed out:

Revelation 18:23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.

Literal Babylon—As a stone “shall Babylon sink & shall rise no more:”

Jeremiah 51:63 And it shall be, when thou hast made an end of reading this book, that thou shalt bind a stone to it, and cast it into the midst of Euphrates: 64) And thou shalt say, Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her: and they shall be weary. Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.

Spiritual Babylon—“Like a great millstone, cast into the sea, & shall be found no more:”

Revelation 18:21 And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

Literal Babylon—to be made desolate for ever:

Jeremiah 25:12 And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.

Jeremiah 50:13 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.

Jeremiah 51:24 And I will render unto Babylon and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, saith the LORD. 25) Behold, I am against thee, O destroying mountain, saith the LORD, which destroyest all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a burnt mountain. 26) And they shall not take of thee a stone for a corner, nor a stone for foundations; but thou shalt be desolate for ever, saith the LORD.

Spiritual Babylon—Babylon made desolate for ever:

Revelation 17:16 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.

Revelation 18:8 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 18:16 And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! 17) For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, 18) And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! 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.

Literal Babylon—Cyrus (sun) (shepherd) (anointed) (comes from the east) (sets captives free) (called righteous:)

Cyrus means "sun." Cyrus was called righteous. Cyrus comes from the east.

Isaiah 41:2 Who raised up the righteous man from the east, called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings? ...

Cyrus was called anointed.

Isaiah 45:1 Thus saith the LORD to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;

Cyrus let the captives of Israel go free.

Isaiah 45:13 I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the LORD of hosts.

Spiritual Babylon—Jesus (Son) (Shepherd) (Anointed) (comes from the east) (sets captives free) (called righteous:)

Jesus is the Son of God.

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Jesus is the good shepherd.

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth His life for the sheep.

Jesus is the Anointed. Jesus sets the captives free.

Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

Jesus comes from the east.

Matthew 24:27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be.

Jesus is righteous.

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

Literal Babylon—The river Euphrates dried up to prepare for the kings from the east, Cyrus & Darius:

Isaiah 44:28 That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid. 45:1 Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut; 2) I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: 3) And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.

Spiritual Babylon—The water dried up that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared:

Revelation 16:12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

Literal Babylon—“At her fall the heaven & the earth shall sing for Babylon:”

Jeremiah 51:48 Then the heaven and the earth, and all that is therein, shall sing for Babylon: for the spoilers shall come unto her from the north, saith the LORD.

Spiritual Babylon—“Rejoice over her, thou heaven, & ye holy apostles & prophets:”

Revelation 18:20 Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

Prepared by Cindy Robinson

Literal Babylon vs. Spiritual Babylon

<p>“Thou that dwellest upon many waters” Jer 51:13</p> <p>“Babylon hath been a golden cup in the Lord’s hand” Jer 51:7</p> <p>Wine caused confusion. Dan 5:1-4</p> <p>“I shall be a lady forever” “I shall not sit as a widow” Isa 47:7, 8</p> <p>Idolatrous, worshipped Bel, the sun god, Jer 51:1, 2</p> <p>Deceived by sorceries, Isa 47:9, 12</p> <p>“Babylon is fallen, is fallen” Isa 21:9; Jer 51:8</p> <p>“My people, go ye out of the midst of her, & deliver every man his soul from the fierce anger of the Lord” Jer 51:45</p> <p>Babylon was judged, Jer 51:6, 9</p> <p>“That saith to the deep, Be dry, & I will dry up thy rivers” Isa 44:27</p> <p>Babylon’s candle snuffed out, Jer 25:10</p> <p>As a stone “shall Babylon sink & shall rise no more” Jer 51:63, 64</p> <p>Babylon to be made desolate for ever, Jer 25:12; 50:13; 51:24-26</p> <p>Babylon conquered by Cyrus (sun) (shepherd) (anointed) (comes from the east) (sets captives free) (called righteous) Isa 41:2; 44: 27-45; 45:1, 13</p> <p>“At her fall the heaven & the earth shall sing for Babylon” Jer 51:48</p>	<p>“The great whore that sitteth upon many waters” Rev 17:1</p> <p>“The woman having a golden cup in her hand” Rev 17:4</p> <p>Wine caused confusion. Rev 17:2, 5</p> <p>“I sit a queen, and am no widow” Rev 18:7</p> <p>Idolatrous, worships Sunday in honor of the sun god, Rev 18:2; 9:20</p> <p>Deceives by sorceries, Rev 18:23</p> <p>“Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen” Rev 14:8; 18:1</p> <p>“Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins & that ye receive not of her plagues” Rev 18:4</p> <p>Babylon is judged, Rev 17:1, 2; 18:4-6</p> <p>Babylon’s river is dried up, Rev 16:12</p> <p>Babylon’s candle is snuffed out, Rev 18:23</p> <p>“Like a great millstone, cast into the sea, & shall be found no more” Rev 18:21</p> <p>Babylon to be made desolate for ever, Rev 17:16; 18:8, 16-19</p> <p>Babylon conquered by Jesus (Son) (Shepherd) (Anointed) (comes from the east) (sets captives free) (called righteous) Luk 1:35; Jn 10:11; Isa 61:1; Mt 24:27; 1Jn 2:1</p> <p>“Rejoice over her, thou heaven, & ye holy apostles & prophets” Rev 18:20</p>
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