BABYLON



Shutterstock

The scroll of stars and planets covering earth keep mankind from seeing into the realm in heaven. Long before the genesis of man, life in heaven came into being by the Son through the power of His Father (I Corinthians 8:6). He created them spiritual and with knowledge of God immediately—upon their first breath. The Son created countless beings through the power of His Father and this creation comprises of vast dominions with robust kingdoms organized by thrones, powers, rulers and authorities (Colossians 1:16).

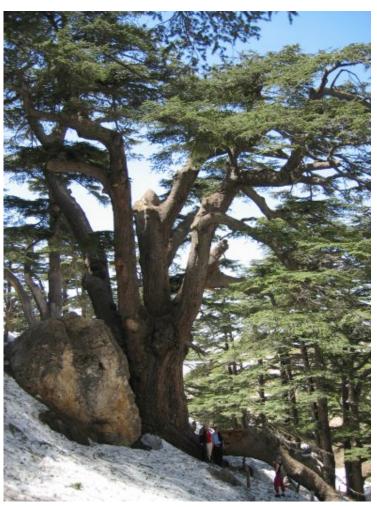
Earth was left void and formless (Genesis 1:2) for time unknown. It wasn't until iniquity was found in heaven and wickedness had reached the tipping-point, when God was ready to give His Son the green light to create mankind exactly as they had planned based on all God foreknew. Through the creation of the genders: male and female, a reflection of the two creations: one in heaven and the other on earth could be understood, until it is time to roll back the sky covering earth.

"All the stars in the sky will be dissolved and the heavens rolled up like a scroll; all the starry host will fall like withered leaves from the vine, like shriveled figs from the fig tree. When My sword has drunk its fill in the heavens, then it will come down upon Edom, upon the people I have devoted to destruction" (Isaiah 34:4-5).

The starry host is described in the Strong's Concordance as an organized army for warfare. אֶּבֶאָּמ (sa·bā·'ām) "Strong's Hebrew 6635: 1) that which goes forth, army, war, warfare, host 1a) army, host 1a1) host (of organised army) 1a2) host (of angels) 1a3) of sun, moon, and stars 1a4) of whole creation 1b) war, warfare, service, go out to war 1c) service."

The fall of the wicked army in heaven will become visible to mortal man on earth when the scroll of stars and planets is rolled back. Wickedness began with the creation in heaven. God will give mankind on earth time to repent, but on the day of the LORD, he will "punish the powers in the heavens above and the kings on the earth below. They will be herded together like prisoners bound in a dungeon; they will be shut up in prison and be punished after many days" (Isaiah 24:21-22).

When God speaks about the creation in heaven, He uses earthly images to help us visualize something that we cannot yet see with our own eyes. Many of the heavenly creation are spiritual giants. God refers to these leaders as "trees" and some are especially tall spiritually and He calls them "cedars". This is an image all of mankind easily understands. The imagery God uses to describe His headquarters in heaven is Lebanon comprised of these spiritual giants, these "cedars".



"Cedrus libani, commonly known as the cedar of Lebanon or Lebanon cedar, is a species of cedar native to the mountains of the Eastern Mediterranean basin. It is an evergreen conifer that can reach 40 m (130 ft) in height. It is the national emblem of Lebanon and is widely used as an ornamental tree in parks and gardens."

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cedrus libani)

Our God is the source of all power and life—He is invincible and yet, He feels pain deeply. Of the one-third in heaven who have turned against Him, He has mourned their spiritual death

deeply.

He shared this type of heart-wrenching pain with Ezekiel who recorded the fall of every member in God's headquarters in heaven. He wrote, "Consider Assyria, once a cedar in Lebanon... it towered on high, its top above the thick foliage...The cedars in

the garden of God could not rival it... I made it beautiful with abundant branches, the envy of all the trees [leaders] of Eden in the garden of God... it was proud of its height, I handed it over to the ruler of the nations, for him to deal with according to its wickedness. I cast it aside... On the day it was brought down to the grave I covered the deep springs with mourning for it...I

clothed Lebanon with gloom... I made the nations tremble at the sound of its fall... then all the trees [leaders] of Eden, the choicest and best of Lebanon, all the trees [leaders] that were well-watered, were consoled in the earth below" (Ezekiel 31:3, 8a, 9a, 10b, 11,15a, 16).

Replacing the word "tree" with "leader", every leader in God's headquarters in heaven—the choicest and best, have fallen and turned against our Father in heaven **and He wept.**

The fall of these mighty heavenly rulers came about after they received an inheritance. Preserved in the Song of Moses, it is written, "When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided up humankind, he set the boundaries of the peoples, according to the number of the heavenly assembly" (NET Bible). The Good News Translation states, "The Most High assigned nations their lands; he determined where peoples should live. He assigned to each nation a heavenly being" (Deuteronomy 32:8). The Contemporary English translation states, "that God Most High gave land to every nation. He assigned a guardian angel to each of them."

Though Abraham and his descendants were not born for another two hundred years at the time these heavenly rulers received their inheritance, God foreknew the birth of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and claimed these people and their descendants to be His inheritance—His rulership over them (Deuteronomy 32:9). God had set over the nations, members of His Holy Council—princes filled with God's Holy Spirit and rich in the knowledge of God and His ways, in heaven to lead the people away from the rebellion at Babel, back to God. These heavenly spiritual giants received rulership as their inheritance—rulership over the nations on earth. Mankind, upon their resurrection into God's kingdom will too, receive rulership as their inheritance.

These spiritual giants were delighted to show their earthly kingdoms the way of God, until the love of power and pride set in; they entered into a battle against each other. Powers rose up on earth, ambition surfaced, trust was broken and suspicion entered into the game of thrones.

The heavenly ruler over Assyria was a favourite to rule God's way. He was the tallest spiritually. "The cedars [gigantic spiritual leaders] in the garden of God [in the family of God] could not rival it... no tree [leader] in the garden of God could match its beauty... the envy of all the trees [leaders] of Eden [God's government] in the garden [family] of God" (Ezekiel 31:8-9).

And yet, this favourite fell. He became an arrogant, cruel and terrifying rebel. Through the words of his earthly subjects, they all boasted, "Surely you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the countries, destroying them completely. And will you be delivered? Did the gods of the nations that were destroyed by my forefathers deliver them—the gods of Gozan, Haran, Rezeph and the people of Eden who were in Tel Assar? Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, the king of the city of Sepharvaim, or of Hena or Ivvah?" (Isaiah 37:11-13)

Over time, through many generations, the earthly kings of Assyria invaded and destroyed many other kingdoms. God Almighty responded to the heavenly ruler over Assyria through His words

to King Hezekiah of Judah who prayed for God's protection. He said, "You have said, 'With my many chariots I have ascended to the heights of the mountains, the utmost heights of Lebanon [God's headquarters], I have cut down its tallest cedars [cut down the members of God's Holy Council], the choicest of its pines [even other choice leaders]. I have reached its remotest heights [hard to reach areas in the heavens], the finest of its forests [groups of spiritually strong leaders]... I have dried up all the streams of Egypt [a majestic kingdom]" (Isaiah 37:24b-25). God closed the boasting of this sadly arrogant ruler with His knowledge that He foresaw this rebellion and He is using rebels to overthrow weaker rebels. This Wickedness is the cause of all suffering. God is using Wickedness to test and purify all of creation in heaven and on earth.

"Have you not heard? Long ago I ordained it. In days of old I planned it; now I have brought it to pass, that you have turned fortified cities into piles of stone. Their people, drained of power, are dismayed and put to shame" (Isaiah 37:26-27).

In case, this proud heavenly ruler thought he worked in secret, God added, "But I know where you stay and when you come and go and how you rage against me" (Isaiah 37:28). From a royal, envied spiritual giant, this heavenly ruler had sunk deep into the toxic darkness of hatred and rage.

God foreknew the fall of His headquarters in heaven, which did not ease the pain on the day it happened. His Holy Council members did not fall all at the same time. Pharaoh of Egypt, God declared under the rule of its heavenly ruler was majestic, yet God saw the direction of the heavenly ruler and He said, "Yet you, too, will be brought down with the trees [leaders] of Eden [God's government in heaven] to the earth below [prison—the pit]; you will lie among the uncircumcised [wicked], with those killed by the sword [destroyed by the word of God]. This is Pharaoh and all his hordes,' declares the Sovereign LORD" (Ezekiel 31:18).

KING OF BABYLON, SERVANT OF GOD

During this time, even God's people from both houses of Israel had rebelled against Him. The king of Assyria took the house of Israel into captivity. When it was time to overthrow Assyria, God turned to the heavenly ruler over Babylon—a faithful servant, to lead the battles against Wickedness. Later the king of Babylon took the house of Judah into captivity. After their overthrow, God revealed to the earthly leader, King Nebuchadnezzar that the most powerful of all gods, gave him the victory and that his god is inferior to the God of Israel.

Babylon would become a model kingdom for a time. King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed wicked Tyre, though a difficult battle, he would not relent until Tyre was overthrown. This battle brought him no compensation, except the pleasure of serving God.

"Son of man, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon caused his army to labor strenuously against Tyre. Every head was made bald and every shoulder made raw. **But he and his army received no wages from Tyre for the labor they expended on it.** Therefore, this is what the Lord GOD says: I will give the land of Egypt to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, who will carry off its

wealth, seize its spoil, and remove its plunder. This will be the wages for his army... I have given him Egypt as a reward for his efforts because he and his army did it for me" (Ezekiel 29:18, 20).

Rogue heavenly rulers had taken the nations on earth down the treacherous road of treason against their Creator. They were taught to obey these rulers, carve out images of them and set up shrines for worship. The heavenly ruler over Babylon remained faithful to Almighty God, while many around him fell. When Egypt fell, God Almighty declared, "I will destroy the idols and put an end to the images in Memphis. No longer will there be a prince in Egypt...I will break the yoke of Egypt there her proud strength will come to an end... I WILL STRENGTHEN THE ARMS OF THE KING OF BABYLON AND PUT MY SWORD IN HIS HAND, but I will break the arms of Pharaoh, and he will groan before him like a mortally wounded man" (Ezekiel 30:13, 18, 24).

Upon the fall of Egypt's heavenly ruler, he groaned gasping for life. This would be a sight to behold for eternal rulers who view their spirituality as invincible. God gave the glory of this victory to the king of Babylon.

God also turned against the rebellious house of Judah and gave the victory to the king of Babylon, His servant. "Now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, **the king of Babylon, my servant,** and I have given him also the beasts of the field to serve him. **All nations will serve him and his son and grandson,** until the time of his own land comes; then many nations and great kings will enslave him" (Jeremiah 27:6-7).

The house of Judah watched their God of Israel work with this gentile king who responded in awe and reverence. Daniel humbly acknowledged, "You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given sovereignty, power, strength, and glory" (Daniel 2:37).

While he heard the words of Daniel, this king did not fathom the God who gave him victory. So, God gave him a dream that revealed the fate of kings who do not acknowledge the Supreme God. King Nebuchadnezzar saw a great tree [great leader] being cut down and branches trimmed, leaves stripped, and fruit scattered. No animal or bird sort shelter. Then the "holy ones" in heaven—likely those involved in the rulership over the kingdom of Babylon on earth, decided on the method of humbling King Nebuchadnezzar. "Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him live with the animals among the plants of the earth. Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let him be given the mind of an animal, tell seven times pass by for him" (Daniel 4:15b-16).

After King Nebuchadnezzar was humbled, he acknowledged the God of Israel as the Supreme God and declared, "Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, for all His works are true, and all His ways are just. And He is able to humble those who walk in pride" (Daniel 4:37).



King Nebuchadnezzar's humility before Almighty God and his reverence for the Supreme God awarded him the head of gold of the enormous, dazzling statue of a man.

"Wherever the sons of men or beasts of the field or birds of the air dwell, He has given them into your hand and has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold" (Daniel 2:38).

This great king declared God's supremacy to the whole world. He wrote, "To the peoples,

nations and men of every language, who live in all the world: May you prosper greatly! It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me. How great are His signs, how mighty His wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; His dominion endures from generation to generation" (Daniel 4:1-3).

This was a significant achievement since each of the nations on earth were told by their heavenly rulers that they were supreme. The Egyptian heavenly ruler boasted, "The Nile belongs to me; I made it for myself" (Ezekiel 29:3b). The heavenly Assyrian ruler boasted of his many military achievements and with the earthly rulers of Assyria, they revelled in cruel and barbaric battles conquering, ravaging and pillaging.

King Nebuchadnezzar would head the reign of the worldwide kingdoms on earth with glory to the Supreme God; he earned the honor of a head of gold. He ruled over "the jewel of kingdoms, the glory of the Babylonians' pride" (Isaiah 13:19a). Each kingdom on earth would be led by its heavenly rulers with progressively decaying reverence to the Supreme God, until finally, the last worldwide ruling kingdom on earth is but a mix of brute force, blasphemy and depraved values.

THE KING OF BABYLON FALLS, BUT A QUEEN RISES

Into the 21st century, the honor this kingdom had in its time is long forgotten and every trace of its faithfulness has vanished. But, what is very clear is that Babylon is no longer a servant of God. Like the heavenly rulers over Assyria and Egypt, he chose rebellion against God and his relentless ruthless attacks in heaven terrified the righteous who feared their own fall.

"On the day the LORD gives you [Israel] relief from suffering and turmoil and cruel bondage, you will take up **this taunt against the king of Babylon...** Even the pine trees [heavenly leaders in God's government] and the cedars of Lebanon [remaining leaders in God's headquarters in

heaven] exult over you and say, 'Now that you have been laid low, no woodsman comes to cut us down'" (Isaiah 14:3, 8). God is consistent in His use of imagery throughout the whole Bible.

"I will punish Bel in Babylon, And I will make what he has swallowed come out of his mouth; And the nations will no longer stream to him even the wall of Babylon has fallen down!" (Jeremiah 51:44)

The use of the male gender indicates that God is referring to the national leadership who was overthrown by the Medes, God's "warriors who rejoice in my triumph" (Isaiah 13:3) and the king of Babylon fell, disqualified from the race for God's kingdom.

The king of Babylon was imprisoned and cast into Sheol, "the pit" inside the earth with the other fallen heavenly rulers, powers and authorities awaiting judgment. "The grave below is excited over you to meet you when you come; it arouses for you the spirits of the dead, all the leaders of the earth; It raises all the kings of the nations from their thrones. They will all respond and say to you, 'Even you have been made weak as we, you have become like us. Your pomp and the music of your harps Have been brought down to Sheol; maggots are spread out as your bed beneath you and worms are your covering'" (Isaiah 14:9-11).

But, from out of this kingdom a woman rises. The use of the female gender indicates that God is referring to a church—a religious body and her ministry is preaching her own theology. The national leadership of a king is replaced with the religious leadership of a queen who, when she is riding the beast from out of the sea, will claim invincibility—seated on an eternal throne. She

thinks that the beast, her King united with her—his Queen, have seized rulership of God's kingdom. She is gravely mistaken. While God was prophesying to Jeremiah about the destruction of the national leadership of Babylon, He continued to detail the destruction of the body preaching idol worship, sorcery, and mysteries.

"'For the time will surely come when I will punish the idols of Babylon; her whole land will be disgraced and her slain



https://hischarisisenough.wordpress.com/2016/03/12/the-whore-of-babylon/

will all lie fallen within **her**. Then heaven and earth and all that is in them will should for joy over Babylon, for out of the north destroyers will attack **her**,' declares the LORD" (Jeremiah 51:47-48).



HER STORY: CITY OF TRADERS

Her story began with his story. Long ago in the land of merchants, a city-center grew luring traders from all over the world. Ezekiel recorded the story of God's spoken words. "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: A great eagle with powerful wings... came to Lebanon [God's headquarters in heaven]. Taking hold of the top of a cedar, he broke off its topmost shoot [took a member from God's headquarters in heaven] and carried it away to a land of merchants, where he planted it in **a city of traders**" (Ezekiel 17:2-4).

God knew the rebellious house of Judah would not understand the imagery in His warning. He said, "Do you know what this means?" (Ezekiel 17:11) He continued without a reply and provided the meaning. For this study, what is important is the identification of the "shoot" from the top of the cedar. "The king of Babylon went to Jerusalem and carried off her king and her nobles, bringing them back with him to Babylon" (Ezekiel 17:12).

The king of Babylon was the leader of the ancient city of traders, but into the 21st century, a woman dressed lavishly in royal clothes is seen ruling over a worldwide trading center—called Babylon. The Apostle John wrote in Revelation. "O Babylon city of power (Revelation 18:10)... city filled with "cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble; cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and carriages; and bodies

and souls of men" (Revelation 18:12-13). Such is the glorious description of the 21st century Babylon.

21st CENTURY BABYLON AND THE CITY OF TYRE

She mirrors another maritime trading center—the powerful city of Tyre situated at the gateway to the sea. The descriptor of the "sea" is another word that is used by God to provide a spiritual image. The sea images the place of wickedness. When God creates a new heaven and a new earth, there will be no sea—no place for wickedness (Revelation 21:1). The Apostle Peter confirmed that the creation of the new heaven and new earth is the home of righteousness (II Peter 3:13).

The great city of Tyre is located in the realm of heaven. "O Tyre," God said. "You say, I am perfect in beauty. Your domain was on the high seas, your builders brought your beauty to perfection" (Ezekiel 27:3). The builders chose the best of the best and built the finest and most robust ship on the sea (Ezekiel 27:5-11). They built a maritime city. "Your home is the seas" and "all the ships of the sea and their sailors came alongside to trade for your wares" (Ezekiel 27:4, 9). Clearly, this is not an image on earth, however, the wicked on earth do participate in her activity.

This image is more than a bustling, robust enterprise on the sea, but it also details the list of the most knowledgeable and skilful specialists within this powerful trading center: heavenly leaders who know how to withstand the outside forces of the sea, a heavenly leader from God's headquarters to provide a bird's eye view and direction is the mast, strong heavenly beings who can move this enterprise forward are the oaks from Bashan, royal heavenly members that keep the enterprise together under stress is the cypress wood adorned with ivory; it also includes earthly kings and queens who pledge their service, influential members of society who contribute to earthly knowledge bases, skilled members who work to fix the cracks when they appear are all working to maintain and forward this enterprise. The imagery of the various wooden materials, fine linen and awnings identify the heavenly leaders that are part of this trading enterprise, while the rest describe the earthly members (Ezekiel 27). This enterprise is a coalition of rogue heavenly rulers, powers, authorities and self-glorifying, self-determined earthly people holding positions of power and authority.

This maritime city also maintains an army of mercenary troops. "Men of Persia, Lydia and Put served as soldiers in your army. They hung their shields and helmets on your walls, bringing you splendor. Men of Arvad and Helech manned your walls on every side, men of Gammad were in your towers. They hung their shields around your walls; they brought your beauty to perfection" (Ezekiel 27:10-11).

This well fortified maritime city is a complete package: self-defending, self-reliant, self-determined coalition.

Babylon on earth into the 21st century will be like a sister to Tyre in heaven. She will work her magic of deception; she will protect her chosen who keep her secrets; she will reward those of

every skill in wickedness with wealth and power. Everyone who works for her is imaged by God as a master of the sea [wickedness]: the shipmasters, the captains and sailors transporting her ideas, falsehood, alien technologies, false salvation to all the merchants who sell to all the people on earth.

"I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" (Revelation 17:3-6).

God uses the image of a harlot for an unfaithful religious body who embrace the religion of the gods they worship. The reality of heavenly rulers, powers and authorities also referred in many verses throughout the Bible as "gods" is viewed by modern thought as mythology; these people have traded truth for falsehood.

"For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods" (Psalm 95:3).

"God presides in the great assembly; he gives judgment among the 'gods'" (Psalm 82:1).

"For you, **LORD**, are the **Most High** over all the earth; **you are exalted far above all gods**" (Psalm 97:9).

"Let all those be ashamed who serve graven images, who boast themselves of idols; worship Him, all you gods" (Psalm 97:7). These rogue heavenly rulers, powers and authorities of Ephesians 6:12 boast about the idols, mortals have made of them. King David pleaded with these heavenly rulers to repent and return to worshiping God, "worship Him [God Almighty], all you gods" (Psalm 97:7).

The Apostle Paul supported their claim of many gods and lords in heaven and on earth, but reminded the Gentiles to worship only **ONE** God. "Truly even if indeed there are those called gods, whether in heaven or on earth, **as indeed there are many gods and many lords**, yet **for us there is but one God the Father**, from whom are all things, and we exist for Him; and **one Lord**, **Jesus Christ**, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him" (1 Corinthians 8:5-6). The gods and lords commanding worship are the rogue rulers, powers and authorities from the realm in heaven where most operate, while others lurk in the shadows on earth. God's people battle against these evil spiritual beings, of which there are many and they are not flesh and blood (Ephesians 6:12).

During ancient times, the rulership of the gods was the reality and their greatest suffering. Distressed about a vision, Daniel prayed for understanding. Three weeks after his prayer, Gabriel an angel, appeared to him. "Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have

come in response to them. But **the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days**. Then **Michael, one of the chief princes**, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia" (Daniel 10:12-13).

Michael is a chief prince in heaven. He rescued Gabriel from the prince of the Persian kingdom. These are members of the creation in the realm of heaven. All these beings were created long before the second creation—on earth. Battles are being fought in the realm of heaven. Gabriel added before leaving Daniel, "Soon I will return **to fight against the prince of Persia**, and when I go, **the prince of Greece** will come" (Daniel 10:20). The names of the kingdoms on earth mirror the names of the kingdoms of the princes in heaven. Those who received an inheritance from God to rule over the nations on earth, named their kingdom on earth as an extension of their kingdom in the realm of heaven.

The chief prince of Meshech and Tubal is Gog (Ezekiel 38:1). This is not a mortal prince on earth; this is a heavenly prince with a vast kingdom located in the far north (Ezekiel 38:15). He is a rogue heavenly ruler sitting quietly watching battles in heaven and on earth, but God will call him to battle. On that day, the raw power of the God of Israel will explode and devour Gog and his hordes in an instant (Ezekiel 38:19-22). The purpose of saving this rogue heavenly leader and his hordes until after the Millennium is to demonstrate to mortal man on earth the immense power of their God. Heavenly rulers do not have the power of the I AM and there is no one like Him (Ezekiel 38:23).

God's first commandment instructs the ancient Israelites not to worship any other gods but Him. The first commandment is not referring to idols. The second commandment forbids the making of idols, bowing down to them, or worshiping them. The first commandment of all commandments would not have ranked so high if these gods were merely mythical characters or mortal impersonators. God Almighty is not a joker. This commandment became number one because rogue gods in the realm of heaven committed treason and have become the chief enemy of all the faithful. They have turned against their Creator, the Supreme God. Their primary goal is to overthrow God Almighty and His Son, Jesus Christ—then, all creation in heaven and earth will be forced to worship them.

Babylon is a center of theology, preaching the doctrines that oppose God Almighty. She has led and continues to lead the religious persecution throughout time. "In her is found the blood of prophets and of the saints, and of all who have been killed on the earth" (Revelation 18:24). She is the religious body "drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony of Jesus" (Revelation 17:6). And yet, when the Apostle John first saw her, he was struck by her outward appearance—something grand and good. Her outward speech will lure the world to buy her wares for a very high price.

TRADERS EXCHANGING TRUTH, KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM FOR LIES, DECEIT AND FOOLISHNESS

The trade described in Ezekiel and Revelation is expressed in material goods, it could also be surmised that a spiritual counter-part is really taking place. God trades with His faithful people. "Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding" (Proverbs 23:23).

Isaiah described the wealth of the righteous. "The LORD is exalted, for He dwells on high; He has filled Zion with **justice and righteousness**. And He will be the stability of your times, a **wealth of salvation, wisdom and knowledge**; The **fear of the LORD is his treasure**" (Isaiah 33:5-6).

While God sells truth, wisdom, instruction and understanding, it is likely that the wares sold by Babylon are falsehood, the ways of Satan, salvation through every other means outside of accepting Christ's sacrifice, and the hidden knowledge in science, medicine and technology that extends physical life, expands the limitations of earth-bound mankind and a means to remain self-glorifying, self-reliant and self-determined.

Christ urged the Laodicean church, "You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich, and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness, and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see" (Revelation 3:17-18).

What the Laodicean church considers as wealth was not wealth in Christ's eyes. They are a naked people without righteousness or knowledge of God's truth, yet the ministry of this church is actively preaching something. Christ urges five of the seven churches of Revelation to return to the pure word of God and of the other two, to hold onto what they have.

God will bring an end to His opposition. He will put in the mind of the scarlet beast from out of wickedness to bring her down; he will destroy her. She images all theologies outside of God's law and His way. There is no hope of any lifestyle, belief system or ideology that is not of God that will survive and enter into God's kingdom. She will not only fall from queenship, but she will be totally destroyed to be forever forgotten without a trace.

Using sarcasm, God says to this infamous prostitute, "Virgin Daughter of Babylon, go down sit in the dust" (Isaiah 47:1). She was convinced that her theology was pure; she taught it with absolute conviction. People on earth listened and considered her to be "tender and delicate"—so perfect. God will use this intolerant and cruel religious body to persecute His people who have wandered away from Him.

Through their suffering, the 21st century nations of Israel will turn from their unfaithfulness and call out to God. "I was angry with my people and desecrated my inheritance; I gave them into your hand and you showed them no mercy. Even on the aged you laid a very heavy yoke. You said, 'I will continue forever—the eternal queen!'" (Isaiah 47:6-7) The fifth seal of Revelation is two thousand years of persecution, but the last seven years will bring the 21st century nations of Israel to their knees, weeping and crying out to the God of Israel for their rescue.

BABYLON, THE I AM

When God revealed Himself to ancient Israel, Moses said, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is His name? What should I tell them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.' God also told Moses, 'Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.' This is My name forever, and this is how I am to be remembered in every generation" (Exodus 3:13-15). This is one of the names of God Almighty. Babylon of the 21st century will claim the same supreme name. "Now then, listen, you wanton creature, lounging in your security and saying to yourself 'I AM, and there is none besides me. I will never be a widow or suffer the loss of children" (Isaiah 47:8).

Only the God of Israel is I AM—the invincible eternal God. "Remember this," God said, "fix it in mind, take it to heart, you rebels [ancient Israel]. Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me; I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please" (Isaiah 46:8-10).

The God of Israel reigns supreme. What He plans cannot be thwarted. Rogue heavenly princes may try all they want, but they will fail. God is speaking to the powerful heavenly rulers, powers and principalities of Ephesians 6:12, not weak mortal man who has a life-span of moments and is dead before he can raise his fists.

The "Queen" from the realm of heaven who has set her roots on earth, boasts, "I AM, and there is none besides me. I will never be a widow or suffer the loss of children" is the same prostitute riding the beast. "To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, 'I SIT as A QUEEN and I AM NOT A WIDOW, and will never see mourning'" (Revelation 18:7). The people on earth who revel in her theology and persecute God's faithful will suffer God's wrath.

God uses the imagery of a widow as a ministry without a head, which she understands leaves her without protection and power. Jesus Christ is the head of the church and a church without Christ is a widow left without protection, direction and love. While Babylon is riding the beast, she has achieved her goal. She has her leader and she is sitting with honor and reverence.

God Almighty is not at all comforting towards her. He states, "Both of these will overtake you in a moment, on a single day: **loss of children and widowhood**" (Isaiah 47:9). She becomes a widow because the beast turns against her and she loses all her followers [children] because once the beast rises up without her, he claims Supreme Kingship; he doesn't want a queen; he wants to rule alone; and he will do as HE pleases (Daniel 11:36).

Her claim to never suffer the loss of children images a ministry teaching a congregation [the children] and bringing them all to come to the full knowledge of the theology being taught.

Babylon's plan is to teach their theology and bring all of creation in heaven and earth under their belief system with her as their supreme leader.

Before she goes down, she will battle hard to conjure up and use all of her magic spells and sorceries, but she will fail quickly and in full measure. "Disaster will come upon you, and you will not know how to conjure it away... a catastrophe you cannot foresee will suddenly come upon you... You have trusted in your wickedness and have said, 'No one sees me.' Your wisdom and knowledge mislead you when you say to yourself, 'I AM, and there is none besides me'" (Isaiah 47:11, 10). She deceived herself into believing that she was the Supreme Ruler with knowledge of the deep things, understanding of wonders and the key to mysteries.

Her preaching will come to an end; in silence she will sit. "For the LORD will destroy Babylon; **He will silence her mighty voice**. The waves will roar like great waters; the tumult of their voice will resound. For **a destroyer is coming against her—against Babylon.** Her warriors will be captured, and their bows will be broken, for the LORD is a God of retribution; He will repay in full. I will make her princes and wise men drunk, along with her governors, officials, and warriors. Then they will fall asleep forever and not wake up," declares the King, whose name is the LORD of Hosts" (Jeremiah 51:55-57).

God warns His people to get out of her—recognize her lies, deceit and fallacies. "Flee from Babylon; escape with your lives! Do not be destroyed in her punishment. For this is the time of the LORD's vengeance; He will pay her what she deserves" (Jeremiah 51:6).

BABYLON HAS FALLEN. HAS FALLEN



When catastrophe surrounds her on earth, this spiritual force may crawl back to strengthen her fortress in heaven, but she will fail; the true I AM will overpower her. "'Though Babylon should ascend to the heavens, and though she should fortify her lofty stronghold, from Me destroyers will come to her,' declares the LORD" (Jeremiah 51:53).

"Then heaven and earth and all that is in them will shout for joy over

Babylon because **the destroyers from the north** will come against **her**," declares the LORD" (Jeremiah 51:48).

Her religion will be shattered into dust. "Now behold, here comes a troop of riders, horsemen in pairs." And one said, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon; and all the images of her gods are shattered on the ground" (Isaiah 21:9).

Those on earth who embraced her theology for their financial gain and power will stand in horror on that day in that moment, they will cry, "'Woe! Woe, O great city... In one hour, such great wealth has been laid waste!' And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea, stood at a distance, and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What city is like the great city?'" (Revelation 18:17-18) God will avenge the deaths of His faithful by this lying and deceitful ministry and their congregation. "After this I heard a sound like the roar of a great multitude in heaven, shouting: 'Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God! For His judgments are true and just. He has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality. He has avenged the blood of His servants that was poured out by her hand.' And a second time they called out: 'Hallelujah! Her smoke rises forever and ever'" (Revelation 19:1-3).

The spell she cast over the people on earth will be lifted. The people will cover their mouths in horror. "How the hammer of the whole earth has been cut off and broken! How **Babylon has become an object of horror among the nations!"** (Jeremiah 50:23)

ANOTHER WOMAN RISES

These deceived shipmasters, passengers and sailors—the experts in wickedness have yet to see another woman rise.

She is radiant, humble, forever indebted to her husband for his sacrifice and eternally grateful for the grace of her God. She is the New Jerusalem—a glorious city trading pure truth, God's knowledge, eternal understanding and precious wisdom. She is a body of men and women—mere mortals with the life-span of moments. Their resurrection into eternal life will be a gift they will eternally treasure; it will never be taken for granted; it will be guarded with a vengeance for they will never forget the suffering caused by sin. They will never turn back, but they will always look forward following and leaning on Jesus Christ, co-ruling with him over the realm in heaven and on earth as his Queen.



https://sunshine in the storm. word press. com/2011/06/12/beth-moores-lecture-series-on-revelation-session-eight/

She is the body of resurrected and transformed mortals who ran the race to the end. They are the victorious who will receive the promised salvation of eternal life. They will fill the positions lost by the fallen rulers, powers and authorities who chose to rebel against their Creator and attempt to take by force His Kingdom. They will be blessed with the honor of serving the Almighty God, their Supreme I AM in His great, eternal kingdom that can never be shaken. She is the true eternal Queen.

God's is destroying His old headquarters in heaven. "Open your doors, O LEBANON, that the fire may devour your cedars! Wail, O cypress, for the cedar has fallen, because the glorious trees have been destroyed; Wail, O oaks of Bashan, for the impenetrable forest has come down" (Zechariah 11:2).

"See, the Lord, the LORD Almighty, will lop off the boughs with great power. **The lofty trees will be felled; the tall ones will be brought low**. He will cut down the forest thickets with an ax; **LEBANON WILL FALL BEFORE THE MIGHTY ONE**" (Isaiah 10:33-34).

God is building His new headquarters on earth! "In a very short time, will not Lebanon be turned into a fertile field and the fertile field seem like a forest?" (Isaiah 29:17)



"The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree; **he will grow like a cedar in Lebanon**. **PLANTED IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD**, they will flourish in **the COURTS OF OUR GOD**. They will still yield fruit in old age; They shall be full of sap and very green" (Psalm 92:12-15).

"I [God] will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like the lily, and he will take root like the cedars of Lebanon [solid leaders]. His shoots will sprout, and his beauty will be like the olive tree [image for priests] and his fragrance like the cedars of Lebanon" (Hosea 14:5-6).

God's new government is sprouting and it will grow into a thick forest in Lebanon full of faithful and loyal leaders with many beautiful gifts and wonderful qualities. God will move this new headquarters to earth and He will live with man. "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God" (Revelation 21:3). God will bring an end to the battle over His kingdom. He has awarded it to His Son and the saints, the Bride of the Messiah. God has chosen to live with His second creation on earth—the new earth where only the righteous live. No buts or whys because God has said, "It is done" (Revelation 21:6).

Compiled by Janette Andrejowich