

# Prologue to The Revelation

## The Secret of Babylon

After the flood, Noah set up an altar for thank offerings, but three generations later, his great-grandson became a founder of cities and promoted the sculpting of idols in Babel. Nimrod, the eighth son in the line of Cush the son of Ham, built an infamous tower—the spiritual mystery of Lucifer’s sin. In his defiance of God, the king was rebuilding the culture that had been destroyed. His pride provoked God who recalled His promised grace to Noah: He’d never again destroy the whole world with a flood.

In His wisdom, the LORD had another plan. Dividing their speech into many languages, He confused the city and scattered its people across the earth; they resettled, founding cities that grew to nations. *He hath shown strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. (Lk. 1:51)*

Under Nimrod, the “Babel-onians” were building the tower to reach to the heavens as Lucifer had done by coveting the throne of God. Though they’d left Babel, she hadn’t left them.

*And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower whose top may reach unto heaven; (Gen 11:3) God spoke to Lucifer: For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. (Is. 14:13a, 14)*

The historian Josephus suggested Nimrod had built the tower to be higher than the floodwaters to thwart any plans God might have for another deluge. He noted, they’d “used tar for mortar” to waterproof its walls!<sup>101</sup> (Gen 11:3) Nimrod must have known that Noah and his sons had coated the ark *with pitch to float*; he didn’t doubt the historicity of the flood. Josephus later retold the story, which had been repeated by many ancient cultures.<sup>102</sup>

**11** Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. <sup>2</sup> And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. <sup>3</sup> Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake *them* thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. <sup>4</sup> And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *is* in the heavens; let us

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make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”

<sup>5</sup> But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. <sup>6</sup> And the LORD said, “Indeed the people *are* one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. <sup>7</sup> Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.” <sup>8</sup> So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. <sup>9</sup> Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth. (Gen. 11:1-9 NKJV)

Josephus wrote, “The place wherein they built the tower is now called *Babylon* because of the confusion of that language which they readily understood before; for this reason it was that the city was called *Babylon*; for the Hebrews mean by the word *Babel*, ‘Confusion.’”<sup>103</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. <sup>9</sup> He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.” <sup>10</sup> And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. (Gen. 10:8-10 NKJV)

The biblical evidence of Babel’s original location is seen in the Hebrew name *Zerubbabel*, or zerub-Babel, translated, “shoot of Babylon.”<sup>104</sup> Conceived in Babylon during the captivity of the Jews, his name reveals the original site of the city though archeologists dispute its location to this day; yet from the tower of Babylon, men had defied God and fled in confusion. Here’s a more complete explanation:

In 1906, Theophilus Pinches, Assyriology\* professor at UC of London, wrote an essay about Nimrod and his worship as king of the gods. [Page numbers are from the essay.] According to him, idolatry was practiced in Babel. Pinches refers to the most ancient epic poetry, *Gilgamesh*: “The tenth chapter of Genesis

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tells us of the story of Nimrod, who cannot be any other than the Merodach of the Assyro-Babylonian inscriptions ... but the god of Merodach, if he be, as seems certain, a deified Babylonian king, must have been identified with the stars that bear his name after his worshippers began to pay him the divine honor as the supreme deity ... (pp. 12-13) “The Greeks called the Babylonian Merodach by the name of Zeus ... concerning the importance of Babylon, Merodach’s city, later on, there is no doubt whatever. (p. 16) ... “The great cities and the temple towers were pervaded by the god whose abode they were. (p. 17) “With the Babylonians, the gods were represented as stone at an early date, and it’s possible that wood was also used. (p. 21) “All the great cities of Babylonia were [treated as] sacred places, the chief in renown and importance in later days being the great city of Babylon, where E-sagila, ‘the temple of the foundation of heaven and earth’ held first place. This building is called by Nebuchadnezzar, ‘the temple tower of Babylon,’ and may be better regarded as the site of the ... ‘Tower of Babel.’”<sup>105</sup> (p. 23)

This is a third expert witness of Babylon as Babel; its king demanded worship as “God.” The culture worshiped idols and built a tower “to heaven.” Since Babel, cities with skyscrapers were idolized by the nations. [\*Assyriology is the study of the history, language, and antiquities of Assyria and Babylon.]

<sup>1</sup> And after these things, I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. (Rev. 18:1-3) [It is a port of a consumer nation.]

## The Serpentine Beast

The worship of kings as gods is the theme of the earliest epic poem in which Baal is the king of Babel. [Baal, Zeus, Jupiter, Abaddon, Apollyon, Belial, Bel, and Beelzebub are other names

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of Satan.<sup>106</sup>] As the king of Babel, Nimrod was in *Gilgamesh* as *Baal*, meaning “lord.”<sup>107</sup> *Beel-zebub* is “lord of the flies/lord of the dung.”<sup>108</sup> He reigned from Babel as Satan ruling the man.

A conspiracy led by unseen kings, powers, and principalities, has been going on for millennia. Our warfare is against them, not against people. An intervention of God can affect these events by the prayers of saints in agreement with His Word; even so, the prophecies must be fulfilled that point to the hour of tribulation, defining the saints who are worthy for the appointed time.

*Lucifer* is translated, “light bearing.” Though he appears like an angel of light, by envy, he became the prince of darkness, deception, and death.<sup>109</sup> (2 Cor. 11:14) As the king of Babel, he affected Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, France, Europe, and all the world—even Israel and the church!<sup>110</sup>

By wisdom, we can identify his city; she’s so obvious, she’s hidden. She filled history with empires; the kingdoms after hers were all Babylonian. She was seated on all seven, and an eighth king came out of them; he was the same beast that carried her.

When her empire was gotten by the Medes and Persians, the Babylonians influenced their people. Then Greeks adopted their culture, and the Seleucids gained the Middle East: its empire “was basically a Babylonian one with a Greek veneer—but Babylonian to the core.”<sup>111</sup> Her culture saturated the Medes, Persians, and Greeks, especially the Seleucids who even called themselves “Babylonian kings.” Babylon’s impact on Persia and Greece was real; she had given birth to the empires they became.

Babel’s people had scattered across the earth, influencing the world. Long after Babylon, the Greeks worshiped Zeus in the Pergamon temple. (Rev. 2:13) Seated in Asia, Satan ruled the Babylonian culture. In Dan. 2, Nebuchadnezzar had dreamed of an idol. Its gold head was his own; the idol was Babylonian, head to toes. Babylon would be the golden city, the head of the entire empire at the end of this age:

<sup>4</sup> That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased! ... <sup>12</sup> How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!  
(Is. 14:4, 12)

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Greeks and Romans were affected by the Babylonian god Baal, called the “god of gods,” a.k.a. Zeus or Jupiter to them; but their gods were devils that had unsuccessfully tried to usurp the Kingdom of Heaven. Men worshiped them as gods, and received devils, becoming savages. From the Mediterranean to Persia, Babylonians worshiped Baal. Unnatural unions were made by men with devils. The Seleucids, who also embraced the worship of devils, constructed the Temple of Zeus and its altar in Pergamon. (See Rev. 2:13)

Soon after their journey through the wilderness, the Hebrews turned to the nations and became rebellious and immoral, even sacrificing their children to Baal. Later in time, the Israelites turned from God again to idols, and they suffered for it. After embracing the Babylonian culture, Hellenized Jews received Antiochus the Great (III) into Jerusalem to refresh his animals. He spoke favorably of them for this in letters to his colleagues.<sup>112</sup>

Forced out of Egypt by the Roman army, his son Antiochus IV [called *Epiphanes*, or “God Manifest”] entered the temple in Jerusalem and set up an idol of Zeus as himself, commanding the Jews to worship him alone. He burned their scrolls and made laws against circumcision and the Mosaic covenant. He then desolated Judea by a terrible slaughter.<sup>113</sup>

He was ruling over the land of the dragon, calling himself by Lucifer’s title, “king of Babylon.” When he exalted himself as the “god of gods,” he was taken by wickedness.<sup>114</sup>

Jesus warned us it would happen again before He returns like lightning across the skies. He referred to the idol in a temple not yet rebuilt: <sup>15</sup> *When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:),* <sup>16</sup> *then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains: (Mat. 24:15-16)*

Out of Asia, the dragon entered Rome to gain the church and rule Europe. The gods of this world deceive and tempt the church today just as the dragon deceived and lured her in the early centuries and as he tempted Eve in the garden. That’s who he is, and its beast is the dragon Satan who carries the spirit of the city.

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<sup>3</sup> And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. (Rev. 12:3)

<sup>1</sup> And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. <sup>2</sup>And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his seat, and his power, and great authority. <sup>3</sup> And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. (Rev. 13:1-3)

As Jesus said, *Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits.* (Mat. 7:15-16a)

<sup>1</sup> I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: <sup>2</sup>preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. <sup>3</sup>For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, <sup>4</sup>and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. (2 Tim. 4:1-4 NASB)

Our words reveal our hearts. Deceiving spirits repeat their lies often to instill them in their listeners until they indoctrinate us. Teachers who don't guard their minds and hearts can turn the ears of men to myths. Strongholds are built stone upon stone; their walls separate us.

### The Mysterious City

Mystery Babylon has the attributes of the ancient city that God cursed in Isaiah 13. She can't rise again, but her mystery is how her spirit moves into the empires and dominates the nations. She seduces humankind by targeting world leaders, tempting

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them to the pride of Nimrod; therefore, our leaders' opponents are as essential as a thorn in the flesh, making them rely on God.

<sup>19</sup> And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.<sup>20</sup> It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall he shepherds make their fold there. (Is. 13:19-20)

Satan's kingdom was divided and fallen; knowing that their destruction is at hand, devils prowl the world, deceiving leaders to deceive their followers. They know a kingdom cannot stand if it's divided against itself and are determined to take us down with them. The only way to achieve their goals is by deception.

We'll be tempted to unite irrespective of the truth, but the condemnation is this: *that men loved darkness rather than light.* (From Jn. 3:19) By loving the truth and the light, we are saved from the darkness and death of this world. But if we believe there is no way to lose our salvation, then what difference do our words and actions make? Is God mocked? (Gal. 6:7) It seems obvious that the wise heed His warnings, but if we hold onto traditions, we will manipulate the scriptures that contradict them.

Majority opinions are usually deceptive; a wide gate leads to destruction. However, if we believe God alone, then we can approach the unity of the faith in the bond of love by the truth. The majority teach opinions that could cost us our salvation, a thought we prefer to shun though we have been forewarned: *work out your salvation with fear and trembling.* (See Phil. 2:12)

The truth is life to us, but deceit is death. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life—all three, undivided. We either accept the many warnings, or receive the lie that they don't apply to us; however, He saves us who behave like we believe His words. *Can two walk together, except they be agreed?* (Am. 3:3)

When we learn its history, we begin to see the whole church in a new light. Let's not fall into the errors of the church past, but instead, let's be free of them. What a generation we are! Our responsibility is profound, and it is first an individual one: we must believe the words passed on to us by the eyewitnesses—the apostles and the prophets before them. We must search them out,

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contemplate, and gain understanding for ourselves, for our families, and for all who care about eternity and want to know the truth. The truth would unite us as one body who believe the Scriptures in their context, prayerfully meditating to learn their words and receive them. We should readily meditate day and night on His precepts, on His works, on His statutes, and on His words. (See Ps. 1:2; 63:6; 77:12; 119:15, 48; 143:5; 1 Tim. 4:15)

Yeshua spoke from the Tenakh when He said, “My words are Spirit, and they are life.” God uses His words as His Spirit’s carrier. His life is in His words; if we receive them, they are seeds of His Spirit in our hearts. Will we yield like tender, tilled soil to accept His inspired words? Then they will bring forth the life of God in us. (Lk. 8:5-15)

True Christianity is not what the world thinks it is; believers do not fill the churches; they are the remnant of truth-seekers within them. Yeshua knows His own. The Lord is our Shepherd, and we are His sheep who hear His voice and follow Him. (From Jn. 10:27) The darkness of this world cannot hide the light that glows like a city on a hill.

The words of the Almighty struck the heart of a king like a sword that pierced him with conviction:

<sup>30</sup> The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

<sup>31</sup> While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.

<sup>32</sup> And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that **the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.** (Daniel 4:28-32) [Boldface type used for emphasis.]

## Writer's Note / The Revelation

In June 1945, the “Big Three” of WW2 met with twenty-six Allies in a converted skating rink in Flushing Meadows, NY, to officially sign the UN Charter.<sup>101</sup> In November 1947, the UN agreed to restore the land to the Jews. The result was stunning: even the representative from the USSR voted, “Yes.” Surely, God was with Israel: “33, Yes. 13, No. 10, abstaining.”<sup>116</sup>

The ten horns of Daniel are in Rev. 12 and 17; then Dan. 7, and Rev. 13—in that order. Stronger than the terrible beast of Daniel, the beast of Rev. 13 rules over the nations, but God gathers them to Armageddon against the true King where they hope to destroy the Lamb. (19:19)

We’ll compare the differences between the three beasts of Revelation, beginning with variations and similarities in their bodies. Next, we’ll take a look at the differences in their crowns, heads, and horns, indicating their places in history. Finally, we’ll consider the least understood words, e.g., *the beast which was, is not, and yet is*, and *the beast that is the eighth of the seven* in Rev. 17. The principalities are invisible until they exploit the nations; then we can see their evil works, as we do today.

“The New World Order” is a plan for a globalist government that began as a blueprint of the UN during WW2. Shortly before this, the Balfour Declaration of 1917 had offered a Zionist state for the Jews. After the war, on the one side, all nations were gathered together; on the other, the Jews were granted a small portion. What we don’t see are the powers behind the extremes.

That’s the framework of this two-part book, which the Holy Spirit is revealing as this age ends. Let’s receive the blessing of *The Revelation* that prepares us who *read it* and *hear it*.

When we take down the strongholds that prevent us from believing the words of God, we find His every word is true. Then the message becomes clear as the Holy Spirit opens our eyes.

Our lives have taken microchips of time, but the multitude of history’s events took no time at all in heaven. Imagine how short the centuries are from an eternal perspective! Now let’s make sense of history by its prophecies. Though not many words fill their timelines, the events took millennia to accomplish. While keeping that in mind, let’s begin the search and see with eyes of faith as we watch the invisible world behind the mysteries—even *in the Revelation of Jesus Christ!*