

# The Tale of Two Cities

Armageddon and the Fall of Babylon – Part III

Revelation 17:1-7; 16-17

## Introduction

There are two cities that are mentioned more times than any others in the Bible.

### Jerusalem – the City of God

Jerusalem is mentioned the most, appearing more than 800 times. The first time it appears in scripture is in Genesis 14 and the last time is in Revelation chapter 21. Throughout scripture, Jerusalem is pictured as a special city in the plan and purpose of God. It is, in fact, the city of God.

The root word “shalem,” pronounced “Salem” or “shalom,” makes up the latter part of the name “Jeru’salem”. Rather woodenly translated, Jerusalem means “foundation of peace”.<sup>1</sup>

It would be correct to understand this to imply that the city of Jerusalem is the place of God’s peace.

This city is certainly the place where God made peace with all mankind as His Son hung on the cross. In so doing, a peace treaty was fashioned in His blood for all who would believe.

Paul wrote in Romans 5:1,

*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

To the Colossians, Paul wrote,

*For it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness [of God] to dwell in Him [Christ],*

*and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross . . .*

*(Colossians 1:19-20a)*

The city of Jerusalem truly represents for the believer the foundation of our peace.

Now the city of Jerusalem is experiencing anything but peace. We would never refer to Jerusalem as “the peaceful city,” would we?

The reason for this is that the King is not yet ruling in this city – as He will one day, according to Revelation 19.

## Babylon – the City of Man

In the meantime, there is another city prominently featured throughout human history. The city of Babylon is mentioned in the Bible nearly 300 times. It first appears in Genesis chapter 10, and its last appearance is in Revelation chapter 19 when it is destroyed.

Just as the city of Jerusalem represents the plans and purposes of God, there is a city named Babylon that represents the plans and purposes of man.

In order to understand the significance of Babylon’s rise and fall in the last book of the Bible, we have to go back to its origin in the first book of the Bible.

The founder of Babylon was Nimrod, the mighty hunter who defied God’s decree to Noah and his family to

*. . . “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.” (Genesis 9:1)*

By the way, in the same context, Noah was given a promise by God concerning the forces of nature, which, through the flood, had devastated the topography of the earth. God promised that not only would water never again flood the entire earth, the systems of weather and the resources of the planet would sustain life in general. God said to Noah in Genesis 8:22,

*“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”*

In other words, for the remainder of the earth’s duration – that is, until Christ creates a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21) – the earth will experience normal seasons of seedtime and harvest, winter and summer, and the twenty-four hour cycle of night and day.

This can be considered an addendum to our former discussion in Revelation 16 about global warming and global cooling.

In God’s promise to Noah, there is an ongoing basic balance of natural resources, patterns of weather, and even the changing cycle of seasons. In

North Carolina, we get to enjoy all four of the seasons. Those of you who moved here from the North are amazed to find there are more than two.

The decree from God through Noah, following the universal flood, was to disperse throughout the whole earth. But along came the great-grandson of Noah, the world's first tyrant, a man named Nimrod.

Nimrod defied God's command and attempted to build a one-world federation of nations.<sup>ii</sup>

However, this was more than political muscle. It was deeply religious. He would be the founder, along with his wife (who was especially involved), in creating a blasphemous, idolatrous, one-world religion.

All of Nimrod's political defiance was expressed in the building of a city named Babylon. All of his religious defiance was expressed in the building of the tower of Babel.

Genesis 11:4 records,

*. . . "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."*

In other words, the people of Nimrod's day defied God's command to multiply over the face of the earth. Instead, they chose to build an empire in which God would be defied.

Now, political unity will only work with some people. Political unity is fickle. Republicans can cross the aisle and become Democrats and Independents can become Republicans. Sometimes they vote together, but most often they vote differently. Few people are willing to risk their lives for a political party. No one dies for the Democratic Party; there are no suicide bombers trying to rid the world of Republicans – at least not yet.

However, religion is different and far more powerful. When people unify around a religious cause, they are willing to give their lives for that cause and the bond of unity.

When political causes are wedded to religious causes, it produces the makings of a nation and even a world empire.

Nimrod will later be deified as Babylon's chief god Marduk. Herodotus, the Roman historian, traveled through Babylon and saw one statue of Marduk that weighed twenty-two tons and was made of solid gold. In today's economy, that statue would be worth more than six hundred million dollars. That is commitment!

In the Hebrew text of Genesis 11:4, the words "let us build a tower whose top will reach into heaven," includes words that were added by the translators to make sense of the Hebrew preposition. However, these words actually cloud the meaning. The people of Nimrod's time were not trying to build a tower tall enough to reach into heaven, but a tower whose top was dedicated to the heavens. The words "will reach into" are not in the original text. The preposition could more woodenly be translated, "Let us build a tower whose top is with the heavens."

In other words, the top of this tower was dedicated to the universe. The first system of worship worshiped the heavens. The God of creation was denied and the creation became god.

More and more, thanks to best-selling books like the *Secret* and media personalities who promote it like Oprah Winfrey, there is in our generation a growing population of people literally believing in the existence of the universe as a being of power that can give them what they desire in life.

The universe has become god. Sun, moon, and stars are believed to give life and determine destiny. Millions of people today are religiously devoted Babylonians – they believe their sign and the movements of the stars have something to do with their purpose and destiny on Earth.

This was the first worship system of Babylon. In fact, the Tower of Babel originated the zodiac. Turn to any book on astrology and its history will point to the Chaldeans – another name for the citizens of Babylon.

The Chaldeans divided the heavens into sections and gave meanings to each on the basis of stars and constellations they observed. A person's destiny in life was said to be determined by whatever section or sign they were born under.

In the ziggurat or tower, the signs of the zodiac were emblazoned on the ornate ceiling and walls at the top of the tower, which represented a holy place for religious worship.<sup>iii</sup>

From Babylon, astrology passed to the Egyptians where animism and polytheism were added. The pyramids were even constructed with certain mathematical relationships to the stars. These elaborate tombs of the Pharaohs were designed to fit into their worship of the sun, moon, and stars of the universe.

So the first federation – the first United Nations – was a society built to bring the human race together to exalt man and exclude God.

This first attempt at a “unified religion,” so to speak, ultimately deified creation and dethroned the Creator – or at least would try.<sup>iv</sup>

In fact, Nimrod will become a prototype of the antichrist as he becomes a god, deified in statues of gold. This is much like the antichrist, who will place a huge statue of himself in Jerusalem’s holy temple as he declares to the world that he is the living god and as he rules the world from his capital city, Babylon, known as the gate of god.

One author said that the gods of Rome, Greece, Egypt, and every other world empire essentially grew out of the religious systems of the Babylonian empire. The gods were simply repackaged and renamed over the centuries.<sup>v</sup>

However, there is more to the political and religious mystery of Babylon. By the way, this is my introduction to Revelation chapter 17, so hang on!

In Genesis 11, unbelieving humanity, already prepared for anti-God legends and the deifying of mankind, fell hook, line, and sinker into the mystery religions of Babylon.

John Walvoord provides the following summary:

*Nimrod had a wife known as Semiramis who created secret religious rites of the Babylonian mysteries, according to extra-biblical records. The legends grew that Semiramis had a son, conceived miraculously by a sunbeam. He was the promised deliverer of earth and named Tammuz. Tammuz was in effect a false fulfillment of the promise made to Eve of a deliverer born from the seed of woman – in other words, conceived without the involvement of man (implied in Genesis 3:15 and come true in the virgin born Jesus Christ).<sup>vi</sup>*

We can see how Satan, early in human history – in fact, in the very first religious and political rebellion – sowed the seeds of lies by wrapping them around kernels of truth.

According to Babylonian legend, originating with Semiramis, Tammuz was killed, but after forty days of his mother’s weeping, was raised from the dead.

By the way, Satan obviously understood the implication of God’s promise to Eve that the Savior would be virgin born; and he obviously listened as the prophets revealed more and more truth about the coming Messiah. He then counterfeited this throughout the world in false religious systems.

It is striking that the first perverted religious system would center on deifying the universe along

with the idea that god-beings would exist, and one particular god-man would be born of a virgin.

Mother Semiramis and her god-conceived son Tammuz became the first version of a religion wrapped around a queen of heaven and her equally divine son.

The names were changed in the religions of different places, but the basic story remained the same. In Phoenicia, for example, the mother was Astarte and the son was Baal.

Do these names sound familiar? Israel would believe the kernel of the promise of God through Eve, but fall for a false religion and idolatry.

In Egypt, the mother was called Isis and her son was Osiris. In Greece, she was Aphrodite and her son was Eros. In Assyria, the son’s name remained Tammuz, but the mother’s name was Ishtar.

This religion spread. Both mother and son were considered equally divine in Babylon and as it spread throughout the world, the liturgy of worship was defined.

The mother was soon called the Queen of Heaven. Her forty days of weeping were memorialized in the forty days of Lent, followed by the celebration of Ishtar in which eggs, symbolizing new life, were exchanged as presents. Of course, the word “Easter” is transliterated from “Ishtar”.

In these and other rituals, the Babylonian religion counterfeited the promise of God that His Son would be born of a virgin and die for the sins of the world.<sup>vii</sup>

There is nothing wrong with celebrating Easter as long as it is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. However, He did not rise from the dead because of His mother’s tears.

And there is nothing inherently wrong about Easter eggs – as long as they are not revered as givers of life. There is nothing wrong with candy eggs – as long as they are chocolate, otherwise they are wasted calories and that would not be right.

You might say, “But Ishtar is named after a pagan god.”

So are the Nike golf shoes you wear. Nike was a pagan goddess whose name meant “victory”. I doubt she has ever helped your golf game.

As long as our faith is not bound up in the symbol but focused on the Savior, we are in good stead.

Martin Luther, the Reformer, took the Christmas tree, a pagan Roman symbol, and hung globed candles on it, thus giving it redemptive meaning.

We do this a thousand times over.

By the way, none of the pagan counterfeits of mother and son has the virgin-born son dying for the sins of the world and providing forgiveness from sin. They are all merely created with an anti-Creator message and allow man even further justification for sinning.

In fact, the development of Semiramis, the wife of Nimrod, began the practice of religious prostitution as a form of worship. In other words, let us call sin sanctified. So they founded an order of virgins who were anything but chaste, and who served as temple prostitutes for those who came to the temple of worship.

As we read the history of Israel, we find them time and time again buying into the religion of Babylon – the cult practices of astrology and religious prostitution.

In fact, Ezekiel would record God's judgment on them as they were weeping for Tammuz, the son of Semiramis (Ezekiel 8:14).

Jeremiah condemns his people for burning sacrifices to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her (Jeremiah 44:17).

You may recall the Israelites' infatuation with Baal, another version of a supposed virgin-born god-man. Remember that in I Kings 18, Elijah's contest defeated all of the false prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel.

So God comes to judge mankind at the tower of Babel and confuses their language, effectively scattering mankind to the far corners of the earth.

The Hebrew meaning of the word Babel or Babylon means, "confusion".

The Sumerian language translates this, "the gate of god".<sup>viii</sup>

However, by the time the people had scattered with differing language throughout the world, the religion of Babylon, the worship of creation, and the synthesizing of sin and sacrifice had burrowed into their spiritual DNA, and they constantly looked for gateways to the gods outside God's own revelation.

It is fascinating to discover that throughout scripture, the city of Babylon would worship false gods and be in conflict with the city of Jerusalem and the true and living Creator God. We do not have to travel far past Genesis 11 before there is a conflict involving these two cities.

The first war is recorded in Genesis chapter 14. Several kings formed a coalition which defeated Sodom and carried away its citizens as slaves.

One of these abducted people just so happened to be Lot, the nephew of Abraham, as well as his wife and two daughters. When Abraham heard the news of their capture, he and his men mounted up and went to war. With God's help, they defeated this coalition of kings.

One of the coalition kings happened to be the King of Shinar – a name for the region that included Babylon. So this is a battle in which Abraham, representing the purposes of God, defeats the King of Babylonia, representing the purposes of man and energized by Satan, the ultimate anti-God.

This gets even more interesting as Abraham returns from battle. He is met by the king and high priest of Salem – old Jerusalem. This king, Melchizedek, came out from Salem and fed Abraham and his soldiers with bread and wine. Many believe Melchizedek prefigured the King and High Priest of Jerusalem – Jesus Christ. Perhaps even in this act, he was prefiguring the Lord who would give His disciples bread and wine as a memorial of His sacrifice.

Abraham, we are told, responded to this king of Jerusalem by giving to him, without any request or provocation, a tithe of the best of his spoils from battle.

This was the first armed conflict between the forces of Babylon and the forces of Jerusalem.

In fact, from this point on in the Bible, there is what we could call "a tale of two cities" – God's city, Jerusalem, versus man's city, Babylon.<sup>ix</sup>

The conflict will only increase between the city of confusion and the city of peace.

Babylon appears next in a victorious scene over Jerusalem. The Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar, leveled Jerusalem to the ground over the course of three military campaigns (II Kings 24-25). This conquering king moved the vessels of Solomon's temple into the temple of his gods, as if to say, "My gods are more powerful than your gods" (II Chronicles 36:10). Babylon was truly the kingdom of gold.

However, just as Daniel prophesied from within the city walls of Babylon, it would be defeated by the Medo-Persians; then the Persians would be defeated by Greece, and Greece would be defeated by Rome.

The final world empire will be a coalition of ten kingdoms in the Revived Roman Empire, and its capital city will be, of course, Babylon. The conflict that began in Genesis will reach its climax in Revelation.

Since the building of the tower of Babel, Satan has wanted, worked, and schemed to bring mankind back to Babylon – to pick up the fight between the city of man and the city of God.

Ladies and gentlemen, the first war recorded in the Bible involved Jerusalem and Babylon; the last world war recorded in the Bible will be between Jerusalem and Babylon.

The whole course of human history is essentially a tale of these two cities and who they represent.<sup>x</sup>

Human history can be viewed as the attempt by Satan to bring man back to a new Babylon. He desires to create a global order in which all of mankind – every empire in the world – once again says, in effect, “We will create a kingdom that defies Creator God.”

Satan seems to succeed.

Just as Nimrod appeared on the scene in the first book of the Bible, the antichrist appears in the last book of the Bible.

Like Nimrod and Nebuchadnezzar, the antichrist builds a statue in his honor.

In the same way as Nimrod and Nebuchadnezzar of old Babylon, the king of new Babylon demands that everyone worship before the image of his greatness and the glory of his new empire.

Just like these kings of old, the antichrist will ultimately be defeated in battle.

This last conflict is called the Battle of Armageddon.

In our past studies, we unpacked the truth of this battle as the forces of the kings who marched against God were defeated. The blood that flowed from the defeated armies ran like a river through the valley of Jezreel.

The bowls of God’s judgment are finally emptied – Christ in His glorious coming defeats the armies of Babylon and the antichrist.

Now, that is enough of an introduction.

## **God’s Judgment on Babylon**

As John the apostle watched the bowls of God’s judgment dumped on planet earth – and the earth pounded with hail stones and topography reoriented by the global earthquake – he was no doubt stupefied by the sights and sounds of God’s judgment. At this moment, as it all wraps up, an angel comes to him and pulls him aside. Notice verse 1 of Revelation 17.

*Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying,*

***“Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,”***

Now, as has already happened several times in the record of John’s revelation, events are raced across the monitor of human history as if in fast motion. Then, a slow motion button is pressed and we are given a lot of details and behind-the-scenes tours regarding the unfolding events.

Chapters 17 and 18 are a slow motion button in which we are shown the details of Babylon in living color.

Chapter 17 shows the religious system of Babylon and her demise.

Chapter 18 shows the regal city of Babylon and her destruction.

By the way, there is more said about Babylon in the book of Revelation than any other topic or event.

There are 404 verses in the book of Revelation – we are covering ten per year. Out of the 404, forty-four of them have to do with Babylon. This is 11% of the book of Revelation devoted to the one subject of Babylon. In fact, more attention is given to Babylon than the new heaven and new earth.<sup>xi</sup>

Would we not like more information about heaven? Why the disparity? Perhaps it is because we cannot understand much about heaven, but we had better understand the nature of Babylon.

God knew that His people in every dispensation – throughout the course of human history – would be involved in a spiritual battle with the city of confusion; the kingdoms of this world along with the false religions of man’s imagination.

Let me give six characteristics of the system of spiritual Babylon – the system of false religion, provided in chapter 17.

## **Six Characteristics of Religious Babylon**

### **1. The first characteristic of spiritual Babylon is her influence.**

Verse 1b tells us that she,

*. . . sits on many waters*

Skip to verse 15 where we are told,

*. . . “The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.”*

In other words, there will be the growth of a religious unity that will influence most of the world.

Notice verses 1b-2.

. . . ***“I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality.”***

Imagine the world without true Christians. The rapture has taken place and Christians are gone. Sin will be unleashed throughout the world like never before, for the restraining influences of godliness will be gone.

Religion will not have slowed down. The references to Babylon’s religious system are pictured with sexually freighted words because God has always considered idolatry and false religion to be spiritual adultery. The world will be drunk with both sin and idolatry.

Think about this. How many religious systems of worship do you think will carry on after the rapture without missing a beat? All of them.

Protestant churches will carry on, although many will be nearly emptied. Catholic churches will have their mass as usual. The Mormon church will not miss a second. Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Judaism will all continue on.

The missing element is the true salt of the earth. The genuine believer in Christ will have been raptured and the only religious people left behind will care very little about the Bible.

The missing people are the ones who attended denominational meetings and said, “We can’t do that! What are you thinking?”

The missing people are the missionaries, both vocational and informal, who testify to the exclusive truth of Christ alone.

This testimony will be gone. The world will be able to move with lightning speed at unifying, as doctrine is now discarded with abandon and delight. The religions of the world will coalesce rapidly.

When the World Council of Churches was organized in Amsterdam in 1948, one of its aims was to bring all branches of Christianity (and I use that term loosely) together; including Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Eastern Orthodox churches under one organization.<sup>xii</sup>

All their dreams will come true.

The current Catholic Pope’s desire to find unity with Islam and Judaism will also come true.

The religions of the world will unite in one confused Tower of Babel.

One author said he expects to see more and more mergers of denominations and more emphasis on ecumenism – which is a word that refers to the effort to merge all the world’s religions into one giant world religion.<sup>xiii</sup>

Here it comes. All it takes is for the bride of Christ to disappear and the world will be left for a brief period of time without the salt and light of the gospel.

## **2. The second characteristic of spiritual Babylon is her partnerships.**

Notice verse 3.

***And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.***

We have already learned that the empire of the antichrist will be the seventh world empire – the Revived Roman Empire – and it will be made up of a coalition of ten kings. We will not take the time to go through each descriptive phrase again regarding the antichrist’s kingdom.

However, there is one verse that I want you to notice – verse 9.

***Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman [the harlot] sits,***

The reference to seven hills has made some believe that this woman – this system of false religion – is the Roman Catholic Church, since Rome sits on seven hills. However, not only is this viewpoint far too restricted – for the entire world will embrace this woman – this view is not even supported by the very next phrase. There is not a period at the end of verse 9, but a comma. And these seven are seven kings.

In other words, the seven hills are seven kings or kingdoms. Who are they?

John tells us in verse 10.

***. . . five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come . . .***

“Thanks John, that is helpful.”

Well, it is helpful, if you understand John’s metaphor of hills being empires.

***. . . five have fallen . . .***

When we study world history, we learn that five western world empires have come and gone – Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece.<sup>xiv</sup>

What empire *is*? Think about when John was living. It was during the reign of the Roman Empire.

Guess what – there is only one more empire to come that will rule the world. The antichrist’s.

We are living in the moment in human history when the next world empire ruled by a man will be the last.

The fact that this harlot is seen riding on the beast is John’s way of saying that she is partnering with it – perhaps even, at the outset, in control of the antichrist’s rise to power.<sup>xv</sup>

### **3. The third characteristic of spiritual Babylon is her wealth in this unified religion.**

Notice verse 4.

*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,*

Purple and scarlet clothing was the most expensive that could be owned. In order to make these clothes, millions of a certain small sea snail that emitted a purple dye would be harvested in the Mediterranean region. In John’s day, one ounce of purple dye would cost more than one pound of gold.

The religion that captures the world’s attention will be immensely elaborate, awe inspiring, and wealthy.

I find it interesting that this woman is decked out in things that heaven will have in abundance – gold, precious stones, and pearls. It made me realize all over again that compared to heaven, the religions of the world will look like trinkets.

I remember playing with my youngest daughter Charity when she was a little girl the board game, Pretty, Pretty Princess. Is that a great game or what? The players move along on the board and if they pass a certain point, they get to pick up a piece of jewelry and put it on. The winner gets it all – earrings that looked like huge rubies, a necklace of plastic gems, and even a gold plastic crown. We have pictures of me wearing all this jewelry after winning the game – which is kind of scary now! However, to a young kid, it really looked like something.

Heaven will make the jewelry of this world look like plastic ornaments and little game pieces.

### **4. The fourth characteristic of spiritual Babylon is her perversion.**

Note verse 5.

*and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”*

In other words, it all started with Babylon! The source of organized rebellion, creature worship, universe adoration, astral devotion, demon-inspired idolatry, and so on is Babylon. She is the mother of spiritual prostitution – worship that should belong to God alone is given to another.

We are told that her name is on her forehead. It is interesting to note that the common prostitute in the first century – and it was a flourishing legal profession at the time – wore her name on a scarf on her head or on a colorful headband. This was the way she advertised; this was her attempt to be remembered and called for again by name.

So the spiritual harlot seeks to be remembered and desired. However, it will not work after all.

### **5. The fifth characteristic of spiritual Babylon is her agenda.**

Notice verse 6.

*And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus.*

Since the time of ancient Babylon to the current day, false religion has caused there to be one blood bath after another against the believer.

By the time of the Tribulation, the woman is actually portrayed as drunk – totally inebriated by the blood of Christians.

### **6. The sixth, and final, characteristic of spiritual Babylon is her ultimate destruction.**

Skip to verse 16.

*And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire.*

Put simply, the ten-kingdom federation and the antichrist will have no need of her anymore as the antichrist unveils his image and desecrates the Holy Place.

This one-world church will be replaced, most scholars believe, around the middle of the Tribulation

period, when the antichrist will claim to be god and set himself up to be worshiped alone.

What happens to this wealthy, worldwide religious system? She is robbed – disgraced – devoured and destroyed.<sup>xvi</sup>

More than likely, she will have claimed some right to rule and they will get rid of her. The antichrist will no longer need her and he will discard her once and for all.

Where is God during these wretched days of blasphemy? Is He in control? Are things out of hand?

Notice verse 17. Do not miss this.

***For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled.***

The return to Babylon and the religion of Babel is part of the plan of God. The coming final conflict between Babylon and Jerusalem is part of God's redemptive plan. God is the author of this tale of two cities.

From Genesis to Revelation, the purposes of God will be fulfilled. Depend on it.

In your life right now, no matter the struggle, the suffering, the chaos or the conflict, God's purposes for you will be fulfilled, perfectly and on time, and with such future glory we cannot imagine.

Christ, the heir to Jerusalem's throne, shall come, and we with Him in this final conflict between the city of man and the city of God. This final conflict will be won as the city of Jerusalem defeats the city of Babylon, and Christ will reign on David's throne.

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<sup>i</sup> The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible: Volume 3, ed. by Merrill C. Tenney, (Zondervan, 1975), p. 459.

<sup>ii</sup> John Phillips, Exploring Genesis (Loizeaux Brothers, 1980), p. 104.

<sup>iii</sup> James Montgomery Boice, Genesis: Volume 1 (Zondervan, 1982), p. 343.

<sup>iv</sup> Mark Hitchcock, The Second Coming of Babylon (Multnomah, 2003), p. 41.

<sup>v</sup> Boice, p. 341.

<sup>vi</sup> Hitchcock, p. 41.

<sup>vii</sup> Hitchcock, p. 41; David Jeremiah, Escape the Coming Night: Volume 3 (Turning Point, 1994), p. 118.

<sup>viii</sup> The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia: Volume 1, ed. by Geoffrey W. Bromiley (Eerdmans, 1979), p. 384.

<sup>ix</sup> Hitchcock, p. 46.

<sup>x</sup> Henry Morris, The Revelation Record (Tyndale, 1986), p. 329.

<sup>xi</sup> Hitchcock, p. 101.

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<sup>xii</sup> John Walvoord and Mark Hitchcock, Armageddon, Oil, and Terror (Tyndale, 2007), p. 142.

<sup>xiii</sup> Daymond R. Duck and Larry Richards, The Book of Revelation (Thomas Nelson, 2006), p. 248.

<sup>xiv</sup> John MacArthur, Revelation: Volume 2 (Moody Press, 2000), p. 170.

<sup>xv</sup> Sam Gordon, Revelation: Worthy is the Lamb (Ambassador, 2000), p. 343.

<sup>xvi</sup> John Phillips, Exploring Revelation (Loizeaux Brothers, 1991), p. 219.