

Doctrine of Babylon

1. The name Babylon is derived from the Hebrew root *balal* (to confound).
2. The origin and nature of Babylon in the land of Shinar is described in Genesis 10.
 - *Genesis 10:8 And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the Lord: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord. 10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. 11 Out of that land went forth Asshur, and builded Nineveh, and the city Rehoboth, and Calah, 12 And Resen between Nineveh and Calah: the same is a great city.*

Special Note.

Nimrod (to rebel) is the father of a Hamitic civilization that was characterized by its rebellion against God.

3. In Genesis 11 the first judgment upon Babylon is recorded for the sin of building a city and tower to rival the worship of God. It was at Babel that the language of men went from being a unified language to that of many dialects.
 - *Genesis 11:1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. 2 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. 3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. 4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. 5 And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. 6 And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. 7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. 8 So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. 9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.*

Special Note.

The purpose of Babel was unity of men against God.

The program was united effort.

The principle was human glory, not divine glory.

“Let us make brick and burn them thoroughly.”

A reflection of human good.

“Let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven.”

A desire to replace God.

“Let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad.”

A desire to be God.

The peril, in the minds of these people, was not apostasy, but disunity. The Lord had told man to go forth and replenish the earth. But man did not want to go forth. They did not want disunity. The modern ecumenical movement reflects this spirit of seeking for unity to this day even if the divinity of Christ is not recognized. Without Christ as very God of very God, there is no unity in deity.

4. The importance of Babylon is attested to throughout the Scripture.

- Babylon is important because it is the city of organized rebellion against God. It was here that the first church and state for the society of Satan was embodied. It was here that the first attempt was made to establish a spiritual kingdom, but one made by man, on earth. So a step pyramid was built to worship the local deity. The expression of the tower was an expression of the unity of man with heaven, or, philosophically, the unity of man with the universe.
- Babylon is important because it became a great nation. About 1830 BC, the city of Babylon became to rise in prominence as a city-state. In the sixth century BC, under the leadership of Nebuchadnezzar II (605 BC -562 BC), Babylon reached its highest glory.
- Babylon is important because it was an instrument used by God to discipline Israel. In 586 BC, Babylon conquered the city of Jerusalem, enslaved many of its citizens, destroyed the holy Temple, and desecrated holy vessels.
- Babylon is important because it became the fulfillment of prophecy. In a vision given to Daniel the prophet, it was prophesied that Babylon would be conquered by the Medes-Persians. It was. On October 12, 539 BC, Babylon fell to Cyrus of Persia.
- Babylon is important because, in the Christian community, it became a synonym for every social and religious form of corruption, and an example of God’s fierce judgment.
- Religious corruption. *Revelation 17:3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: 5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*

6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. 7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. 8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. 9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

- Social corruption.

Revelation 14:8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

Revelation 17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

- Fierce judgment.

Revelation 16:19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

Revelation 18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

Revelation 18:10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour is thy judgment come.

5. In contrast to the ancient city of Babel is the city of Salem (Jerusalem), led by a king named Melchisedec (Melchizedek) who was a priest of the Most High God.

- *Genesis 14:18* And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. 19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: 20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.
- *Psalms 110:4* The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

- Hebrews 5:6 As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. 7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; 8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; 10 Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec. 11 Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.*
- Hebrews 6:20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. 7:1 For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; 2 To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; 3 Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually. 4 Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils. 5 And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham: 6 But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises. 7 And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better. 8 And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth. 9 And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham. 10 For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him. 11 If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron? 12 For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law. 13 For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar. 14 For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood. 15 And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest, 16 Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life. 17 For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. 18 For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof. 19 For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God. 20 And inasmuch as not without an oath he was made priest: 21 (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:) 22 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament. 23 And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: 24 But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. 25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. 26 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;*

27 Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself. 28 For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

6. Jerusalem was to be the place where God was to be worship.

- Nations would worship in Jerusalem. *Micah 4:2 And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.*
- Jerusalem is recognized as a holy place, a place of judgment. *Revelation 15:4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? For thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.*
- The Messiah would come to Jerusalem. *Haggai 2:7 And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts.*
- Many people would come to Jerusalem. *Zechariah 8:22 Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord.*

7. The earthly Jerusalem was, and is, a prototype of the heavenly Jerusalem that was to come.

- *Revelation 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

8. The New Jerusalem is nothing less than the church.

- Christians are pillars in the Temple of the New Jerusalem. *Revelation 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.*
- Christians form the bride of Christ whose adornment is reflected in a mixed metaphor with the New Jerusalem. *Revelation 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

9. Babylon is the natural and persistent enemy of Jerusalem all through the Bible.

- It was into Babylon that the people of the city of God (Jerusalem) went when they rebelled against the Lord and went into captivity.

10. Babylon symbolizes the hearts of all individuals in every generation which are in rebellion against God.

11. “Babylonianism” is the system of human efforts which seeks to replace God with a wisdom and work of man’s own invention.
12. Babylon was the first organized religious rebellion against God. The spirit of Babylonianism has morphed over the centuries.
- The Egyptians, Greek, and Roman pantheon of gods and goddesses, reflects Babylonianism.
 - The Hindu belief of Reincarnation reflects the spirit of Babylonianism.
 - The desire of Buddhists to be one with the universe reflects the spirit of Babylonianism.
 - The worship of Sophia during the French Revolution of 1789 reflects Babylonianism.
 - The New Age Movement reflects the spirit of Babylonianism.
 - The Ecumenical Movement reflects the spirit of Babylonianism.
 - The United Nations reflects the spirit of Babylonianism.
 - Internationalism reflects the spirit of Babylonianism.
 - Zionism, which exalts Israel above all the nations of the earth, reflects the spirit of Babylonianism.
 - Dispensational theology which postulates a world dictator, an anti-Christ, ruling over all the nations of earth reflects the spirit of Babylonianism.
13. If Jerusalem is the home of gospel truth, Babylon is the home of apostasy. To every expression of Babylonianism is the gospel judgment.
- *Isaiah 21:9 And, behold, here cometh a chariot of men, with a couple of horsemen. And he answered and said, Babylon is fallen, is fallen; and all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground.*
 - *Revelation 14:8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.*

Special Note.

Today, Iraq occupies the territory that once formed the mighty Babylonian empire.

Special Note.

The Two Babylons, Alexander Hyssop

14. The negative effect of Babylonianism within the church can be discerned in many erroneous teachings that the church has held over the centuries. The Reformers moved away from most of the errors of the Catholic Church which had become influenced by the ancient Babylonian beliefs in the early centuries.

- Doctrine of Confessionals
- Doctrine of Baptismal Regeneration
- Doctrine of Infant Baptism
- Doctrine of Purgatory (Plato and Virgil borrowed the concept from the Far East, it is Babylonianism)
- The practice of kissing the toe of the pope (The Druids kissed the toe of their high priest 1000 years BC)
- The practice of the use of incense in the Christian church (the early church fathers did not believe in the use of holy water and refused to handle the incense)
- Prayers for the Dead is Babylonianism