

NOON BIBLE STUDY: REVELATION 14 (PART 3)

REVELATION 14:1-8

CHAPTER 14 VISION:

VICTORIOUS LAMB APPEARS ON MT. ZION
REDEEMED SAINTS WITH THE LAMB
ANGELIC ANNOUNCEMENTS...

JUDGMENT IS COMING (THE BOWLS OF GOD'S WRATH ABOUT TO BE POURED OUT IN REVELATION 16). AND SO THERE ARE A FEW FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT RING OUR VIA ANGELIC AND HEAVENLY CALL

1 - GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT (V. 6-7):

- A. ETERNAL GOSPEL
- B. "FEAR GOD AND GIVE HIM GLORY..."
- C. "HOUR OF JUDGMENT IS COMING"
- D. "WORSHIP HIM WHO MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH AND THE SEA AND SPRINGS OF WATER"

Q - WHY DO YOU THINK THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE AT THIS TIME?

IF THIS IS A FINAL, 11TH HOUR APPEAL TO THE EARTH TO TURN TO GOD BEFORE JUDGMENT DAY - HOW IMPORTANT IS WORSHIP??!! HOW IMPORTANT IS GIVING GOD GLORY? HOW IMPORTANT IS FEARING HIM? IT'S AS IF THIS IS THE CORRECT RESPONSE TO THIS MOMENT. IF A PLANE IS MAKING AN EMERGENCY LANDING, LOOK FOR THE NEAREST EXIT. IF THERE IS A LOSS OF CABIN PRESSURE, PUT THE MASK OVER YOUR NOSE & MOUTH. IN CASE OF WATER LANDING, YOUR SEAT CUSHION CAN BE USED AS A FLOTATION DEVICE. THESE ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE MADE AT THE START OF A FLIGHT AND WOULD BE REPEATED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY. THEY ARE CRITICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT ARE GOING TO BRING SAFETY TO THE PERSON IN DANGER.

THAT IS WHAT THE GOSPEL IS AND THE CALL TO WORSHIP THE GOD OF CREATION ALONE.

REVELATION 14:8 - ANNOUNCEMENT #2

2 - SYSTEM FAILURE ANNOUNCEMENT (V. 8)

- A. "FALLEN, FALLEN IS BABYLON THE GREAT"
- B. "...SHE WHO HAS MADE ALL THE NATIONS DRINK OF THE WINE OF THE PASSION OF HER IMMORALITY..."

WHAT IS BABYLON?

AT THE TIME OF JOHN'S WRITING, BABYLON WASN'T REALLY A SIGNIFICANT PLAYER ON THE WORLD STAGE. IT'S LIKELY THAT THIS REFERENCE ISN'T SPEAKING OF THE LITERAL COUNTRY OR CITY OF BABYLON, BUT OF WHAT BABYLON REPRESENTS BIBLICALLY - AND THERE IS A LOT THAT SCRIPTURE COMMUNICATES ABOUT BABYLON.

WHERE IS/WAS BABYLON?



GARDEN OF EDEN -



GENESIS 2:8-14 - THE LORD GOD PLANTED A GARDEN TOWARD THE EAST, IN EDEN; AND THERE HE PLACED THE MAN WHOM HE HAD FORMED. 9 OUT OF THE GROUND THE LORD GOD CAUSED TO GROW EVERY TREE THAT IS PLEASING TO THE SIGHT AND GOOD FOR FOOD; THE TREE OF LIFE ALSO IN THE MIDST OF THE GARDEN, AND THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL. 10 NOW A RIVER FLOWED OUT OF EDEN TO WATER THE GARDEN; AND FROM THERE IT DIVIDED AND BECAME FOUR RIVERS. 11 THE NAME OF THE FIRST IS PISHON; IT FLOWS AROUND THE WHOLE LAND OF HAVILAH, WHERE THERE IS GOLD. 12 THE GOLD OF THAT LAND IS GOOD; THE BDELLIUM AND THE ONYX STONE ARE THERE. 13 THE NAME OF THE SECOND RIVER IS GIHON; IT FLOWS AROUND THE WHOLE LAND OF CUSH. 14 THE NAME OF THE THIRD RIVER IS TIGRIS; IT FLOWS EAST OF ASSYRIA. AND THE FOURTH RIVER IS THE **EUPHRATES**.

NIMROD, BABEL, SHINAR -

GENESIS 10:6-11 - THE SONS OF HAM WERE CUSH AND MIZRAIM AND PUT AND CANAAN. 7 THE SONS OF CUSH WERE SEBA AND HAVILAH AND SABTAH AND RAAMAH AND SABTECA; AND THE SONS OF RAAMAH WERE SHEBA AND DEDAN. 8 NOW CUSH BECAME THE FATHER OF NIMROD; HE BECAME A MIGHTY ONE ON THE EARTH. 9 HE WAS A MIGHTY HUNTER BEFORE THE LORD; THEREFORE IT IS SAID, "LIKE NIMROD A MIGHTY HUNTER BEFORE THE LORD." 10 THE BEGINNING OF HIS KINGDOM WAS **BABEL** AND ERECH AND ACCAD AND CALNEH, **IN THE LAND OF SHINAR**. 11 FROM THAT LAND HE WENT FORTH INTO ASSYRIA, AND BUILT NINEVEH AND REHOBOTH-IR AND CALAH,

THE TOWER OF BABEL -

GENESIS 11:1-9 - NOW THE WHOLE EARTH USED THE SAME LANGUAGE AND THE SAME WORDS. 2 IT CAME ABOUT AS THEY JOURNEYED EAST, THAT THEY FOUND A PLAIN **IN THE LAND OF SHINAR** AND SETTLED THERE. 3 THEY SAID TO ONE ANOTHER, "COME, LET US MAKE BRICKS AND BURN THEM THOROUGHLY." AND THEY USED BRICK FOR STONE, AND THEY USED TAR FOR MORTAR. 4 THEY SAID, "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." 5 THE LORD CAME DOWN TO SEE THE CITY AND THE TOWER WHICH THE SONS OF MEN HAD BUILT. 6 THE LORD SAID, "BEHOLD, THEY ARE ONE PEOPLE, AND THEY ALL HAVE THE SAME LANGUAGE. AND THIS IS WHAT THEY BEGAN TO DO, AND NOW NOTHING WHICH THEY PURPOSE TO DO WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM. 7 "COME, LET US GO DOWN AND THERE CONFUSE THEIR LANGUAGE, SO THAT THEY WILL NOT UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER'S SPEECH." 8 SO THE LORD SCATTERED THEM ABROAD FROM THERE OVER THE FACE OF THE WHOLE EARTH; AND THEY STOPPED BUILDING THE CITY. 9 THEREFORE ITS NAME WAS CALLED **BABEL**, BECAUSE THERE THE LORD CONFUSED THE LANGUAGE OF THE WHOLE EARTH; AND FROM THERE THE LORD SCATTERED THEM ABROAD OVER THE FACE OF THE WHOLE EARTH.

Q - WHAT IS THE SITUATION THAT GOD IS ADDRESSING IN THIS RECORD? (REMEMBER THIS IS AFTER THE FLOOD)



ABRAHAM'S RELATIONSHIP WITH BABYLON - ABRHAM IS CALLED TO LEAVE BABYLON

GENESIS 11:27-28 (NLT) - THIS IS THE ACCOUNT OF TERAH'S FAMILY. TERAH WAS THE FATHER OF ABRAM, NAHOR, AND HARAN; AND HARAN WAS THE FATHER OF LOT. 28 BUT HARAN DIED IN UR OF THE CHALDEANS, THE LAND OF HIS BIRTH, WHILE HIS FATHER, TERAH, WAS STILL LIVING.

GENESIS 11:31-12:4 (NLT) - ONE DAY TERAH TOOK HIS SON ABRAM, HIS DAUGHTER-IN-LAW SARAI (HIS SON ABRAM'S WIFE), AND HIS GRANDSON LOT (HIS SON HARAN'S CHILD) AND **MOVED AWAY FROM UR OF THE CHALDEANS**. HE WAS HEADED FOR THE LAND OF CANAAN, BUT THEY STOPPED AT **HARAN** AND SETTLED THERE. 32 TERAH LIVED FOR 205 YEARS AND DIED WHILE STILL IN **HARAN**.

12:1 THE LORD HAD SAID TO ABRAM, "LEAVE YOUR NATIVE COUNTRY, YOUR RELATIVES, AND YOUR FATHER'S FAMILY, AND GO TO THE LAND THAT I WILL SHOW YOU. 2 I WILL MAKE YOU INTO A GREAT NATION. I WILL BLESS YOU AND MAKE YOU FAMOUS, AND YOU WILL BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS. 3 I WILL BLESS THOSE WHO BLESS YOU AND CURSE THOSE WHO TREAT YOU WITH CONTEMPT. ALL THE FAMILIES ON EARTH WILL BE BLESSED THROUGH YOU." 4 SO ABRAM DEPARTED AS THE LORD HAD INSTRUCTED,...

BABYLONIAN EMPIRE -



BABYLON WILL GROW FROM A TOWN WITH A TOWER TO A CITY AND AN EMPIRE. HISTORY CHANNEL RECORDS:

"BABYLON WAS THE LARGEST CITY IN THE VAST BABYLONIAN EMPIRE. FOUNDED MORE THAN 4,000 YEARS AGO AS A SMALL PORT ON THE EUPHRATES RIVER, THE CITY'S RUINS ARE LOCATED IN PRESENT-DAY IRAQ. BABYLON BECAME ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL CITIES OF THE ANCIENT WORLD UNDER THE RULE OF HAMMURABI. CENTURIES LATER, A NEW LINE OF KINGS ESTABLISHED A NEO-BABYLONIAN EMPIRE THAT SPANNED FROM THE PERSIAN GULF TO THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA. DURING THIS PERIOD, BABYLON BECAME A CITY OF

BEAUTIFUL ARCHITECTURE, INCLUDING THE HANGING GARDEN OF BABYLON, THE ISHTAR GATE AND THE TOWER OF BABEL."

THE CITY OF BABYLON WAS LOCATED ABOUT 50 MILES SOUTH OF BAGHDAD ALONG THE EUPHRATES RIVER IN PRESENT-DAY IRAQ. IT WAS FOUNDED AROUND 2300 B.C. BY THE ANCIENT AKKADIAN-SPEAKING PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN MESOPOTAMIA. BABYLON BECAME A MAJOR MILITARY POWER UNDER AMORITE KING HAMMURABI, WHO RULED FROM 1792 TO 1750 B.C. AFTER HAMMURABI CONQUERED NEIGHBORING CITY-STATES, HE BROUGHT MUCH OF SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL MESOPOTAMIA UNDER UNIFIED BABYLONIAN RULE, CREATING AN EMPIRE CALLED BABYLONIA.

HAMMURABI TURNED BABYLON INTO A RICH, POWERFUL AND INFLUENTIAL CITY. HE CREATED ONE OF THE WORLD'S EARLIEST AND MOST COMPLETE WRITTEN LEGAL CODES. KNOWN AS THE CODE OF HAMMURABI, IT HELPED BABYLON SURPASS OTHER CITIES IN THE REGION. A NEW LINE OF KINGS ESTABLISHED THE NEO-BABYLONIAN EMPIRE, WHICH LASTED FROM 626 B.C. TO 539 B.C. THE NEO-BABYLONIAN EMPIRE BECAME THE MOST POWERFUL STATE IN THE WORLD AFTER DEFEATING THE ASSYRIANS AT NINEVEH IN 612 B.C.

THE NEO-BABYLONIAN EMPIRE ENJOYED A PERIOD OF CULTURAL RENAISSANCE IN THE NEAR EAST. THE BABYLONIANS BUILT MANY BEAUTIFUL AND LAVISH BUILDINGS AND PRESERVED STATUES AND ARTWORKS FROM THE EARLIER BABYLONIAN EMPIRE DURING THE REIGN OF KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR II. NEBUCHADNEZZAR II WAS THE RULER OF BABYLONIA C. 605—561 BC. HE EXPANDED HIS EMPIRE WHILE BUILDING THE CITY OF BABYLON INTO A WONDER OF THE ANCIENT WORLD." (SOURCE: [HISTORY.COM/TOPICS/ANCIENT-MIDDLE-EAST/BABYLON](https://www.history.com/topics/ancient-middle-east/babylon))

BABYLON WAS A GREAT EMPIRE DURING THIS TIME - BUT IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT IT WAS THE NATION THAT GOD USED TO BRING JUDGMENT UPON HIS PEOPLE. AT THIS TIME IN HISTORY, THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH HAD FORSAKING YAHWEH AND TURNED AWAY FROM HIS WAYS. THROUGH MANY WARNINGS, THEY IGNORED GOD'S PROPHETS CALL FOR REPENTANCE. AS A RESULT, BABYLON DEFEATED THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH, DESTROYING THE CITY OF JERUSALEM AND THE TEMPLE ITSELF ON MOUNT ZION. THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH AND JERUSALEM ARE LED AWAY IN EXILE TO BABYLON FOR 70 YEARS (YOU CAN READ MORE ABOUT THIS IN 2 KINGS 24-25, AS WELL AS THE BOOKS OF JEREMIAH, EZRA & NEHEMIAH). THIS HAPPENED DURING THE REIGN OF KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR -

NEBUCHADNEZZAR WAS THE GREATEST KING OF BABYLON AND HE IS FEATURED PROMINENTLY IN THE BIBLE (ESP. THE BOOK OF DANIEL). HE IS DESCRIBED AS A POWERFUL AND ARROGANT MAN. NEBUCHADNEZZAR IS HELD UP IN SCRIPTURE AS THE KING OF THE GREATEST EMPIRE IN THE WORLD. IN DANIEL 2, THE COURSE OF HUMAN HISTORY WAS REVEALED TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR IN A DREAM. IN THE DREAM HE SEES GIANT STATUE WITH VARIOUS PART OF THE STATUE (COMPOSED OF DIFFERENT MATERIALS) REPRESENTING THE KINGDOMS OF THE WORLD. BABYLON WAS REPRESENTED BY THE HEAD OF THIS STATUE (PROMINENT PLACE) WHICH WAS MADE OUT OF GOLD (THE MOST PRECIOUS/GREATEST OF THE MATERIALS).

DANIEL 2:37-38 - "YOU, O KING, ARE THE KING OF KINGS, TO WHOM THE GOD OF HEAVEN HAS GIVEN THE KINGDOM, THE POWER, THE STRENGTH AND THE GLORY; 38 AND WHEREVER THE SONS OF MEN DWELL, OR THE BEASTS OF THE FIELD, OR THE BIRDS OF THE SKY, HE HAS GIVEN THEM INTO YOUR HAND AND HAS CAUSED YOU TO RULE OVER THEM ALL. YOU ARE THE HEAD OF GOLD.

ALL THE OTHER KINGDOMS WILL FOLLOW AFTER BABYLON (PERSIA, MEDIA, GREECE, ROME, ETC) BUT IN THIS PROPHECY, IT ALL STARTS WITH BABYLON. BUT AT THE END OF THE DREAM THE STATUE IS DESTROYED BY A LARGE STONE THAT PULVERIZES THE STATUE AND THEN GROWS INTO A MOUNTAIN. HERE IS WHAT DANIEL SAYS ABOUT THIS STONE::

DANIEL 2:44-45 - "IN THE DAYS OF THOSE KINGS THE GOD OF HEAVEN WILL SET UP A KINGDOM WHICH WILL NEVER BE DESTROYED, AND THAT KINGDOM WILL NOT BE LEFT FOR ANOTHER PEOPLE; IT WILL CRUSH AND PUT AN END TO ALL THESE KINGDOMS, BUT IT WILL ITSELF ENDURE FOREVER. 45 "INASMUCH AS YOU SAW THAT A STONE WAS CUT OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN WITHOUT HANDS AND THAT IT CRUSHED THE IRON, THE BRONZE, THE CLAY, THE SILVER AND THE GOLD, THE GREAT GOD HAS MADE KNOWN TO THE KING WHAT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE FUTURE; SO THE DREAM IS TRUE AND ITS INTERPRETATION IS TRUSTWORTHY."



AND NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S RESPONSE:

DANIEL 2:46-47 - THEN KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR FELL ON HIS FACE AND DID HOMAGE TO DANIEL, AND GAVE ORDERS TO PRESENT TO HIM AN OFFERING AND FRAGRANT INCENSE. 47 THE KING ANSWERED DANIEL AND SAID, "SURELY YOUR GOD IS A GOD OF GODS AND A LORD OF KINGS AND A REVEALER OF MYSTERIES, SINCE YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REVEAL THIS MYSTERY."

SO THERE'S A LOT TO SAY ABOUT BABYLON - AND RIGHT FROM THE START OF THE STORY! HERE'S A SUMMARY: THIS REGION IS THE "CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION" AND ALSO WHERE HUMANITY HAS OFTEN GONE TO MAKE A NAME FOR THEMSELVES. BABYLON WAS THE FIRST MAN-MADE CITY AND ALSO THE FIRST WORLD EMPIRE - IT WAS A LITERAL AND SYMBOLIC ANTAGONIST TO GOD AND GOD'S PEOPLE. THE KINGS OF BABYLON WERE THE KINGS OF KINGS, POWERFUL AND PRIDEFUL RULERS THAT PROMOTED HUMAN POWER AND WERE SPECIFICALLY SET OUT AGAINST GOD'S PEOPLE...

SO EVEN THOUGH AT THIS POINT (BOTH THE FIRST CENTURY AND OUR OWN TIME), THE EMPIRE OF BABYLON IS A HISTORICAL MEMORY AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, THE SYSTEM OF BABYLON IS ALIVE AND WELL.

- DEPENDANCE AND FOCUS ON HUMAN STRENGTH RATHER THAN GOD
- ARROGANCE AND PRIDE CELEBRATED VIRTUES
- WEALTH AND PROSPERITY PRIORITIZED
- IDOLATRY AND IMMORALITY ABOUND

ROME, THE CURRENT INCARNATION OF THE BABYLON SYSTEM IS FULL OF THESE THINGS AND THE CURRENT SOURCE OF AFFLICTION TO GOD'S PEOPLE. ROME APPEARS TO BE STRONG AND POWERFUL, BUT RINGING OUT IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM IS THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HER DAYS ARE NUMBERED. AS THE LETTER OF REVELATION WOULD BEGIN TO CIRCULATE THROUGHOUT THE EMPIRE, THE CHRISTIANS WOULD UNDERSTAND THIS MESSAGE, BUT FOR THE PAGANS WHO MAY HAVE GOTTEN THEIR HANDS ON THIS DOCUMENT OR CONFISCATED IT AS THEY ARRESTED THE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS, THE USE OF "BABYLON" WOULD HAVE BEEN A CODE.

THE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS THEN, AND TODAY, ARE NOT SET AT OVERTHROWING THEIR CORRUPT AND EVIL GOVERNMENTS - WHETHER POPULARLY ELECTED OR A MILITARY DICTATOR WHO FORCIBLY TOOK POWER - WE DO NOT GET ENTANGLED IN THE AFFAIRS IN THIS WORLD. WE ARE INSTEAD SALT OF THE EARTH (MATTHEW 5:13), LIGHT OF THE WORLD (MATTHEW 5:14), LOVERS OF NEIGHBOR (MARK 12:31) AND LOVERS OF ENEMY (MATTHEW 5:44), STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS (HEBREWS 11:13; 1 PETER 2:11), AND AMBASSADORS (2 CORINTHIANS 5:20), CITIZENS OF HEAVEN (PHILIPPIANS 3:20)

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE DON'T KNOW HOW THE STORY ENDS. WE KNOW THAT AT THE 7TH TRUMPET WE WILL HEAR:

"...LOUD VOICES IN HEAVEN, SAYING, "THE KINGDOM OF THE WORLD HAS BECOME THE KINGDOM OF OUR LORD AND OF HIS CHRIST; AND HE WILL REIGN FOREVER AND EVER." (REVELATION 11:15)

SO AS REVELATION'S VISION OF JUDGMENT DAY COMES, THE ANGEL ANNOUNCES THAT BABYLON, THE SYSTEM OF THIS FALLEN WORLD HAS HERSELF FALLEN. BABYLON WAS THE BEST THE WORLD COULD ACHIEVE AND SHE IS A FAILURE.

HUMANS WERE NOT DESIGNED TO RULE THE WORLD ON THEIR OWN. HUMANS WERE NOT DESIGNED TO MAKE A NAME FOR THEMSELVES. HUMANS WERE NOT DESIGNED TO BE THE FOCUS AND CENTER OF ATTENTION. HUMANS WERE NOT MEANT TO BE FEARED, GIVEN GLORY OR WORSHIPED - ONLY GOD IS WORTHY OF THOSE THINGS. AND HUMANS FIND THEIR PURPOSE AND MEANING IF AND WHEN THEY FEAR GOD, GIVE HIM GLORY AND WORSHIP HIM.

YET THE "SPIRIT OF BABYLON" PERSISTS IN OUR WORLD TODAY. BUT WE HAVE JUST READ THAT "BABYLON", NO MATTER HOW GLORIOUS IT SEEMS RIGHT NOW, IS A FAILURE. SHE IS SELLING POISON AND TEMPORARY PLEASURE AND POWER AND EVENTUALLY THE POISON SHE IS SELLING AND SPREADING WILL DESTROY HER.

