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**Babylon - Babylon  
The Great Was  
Jerusalem, Not  
Rome Or A Future  
System**



By Dan Maines

**Babylon The Great Was Jerusalem, Not Rome Or A Future System**

## Introduction

† Most people are taught that Babylon the Great is either Rome or some future worldwide system, but Scripture identifies her plainly, and it doesn't leave room for speculation (Revelation 17:18).

† The key is letting the Bible define its own symbols, not importing modern ideas into the text (1 Corinthians 2:13).

† Once we follow the internal evidence, the identity becomes undeniable, Babylon the Great was covenant Jerusalem under judgment (Matthew 23:37-38).

### **Revelation 11:8**

And their dead bodies will lie on the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.

† The great city is directly identified as the place where the Lord was crucified, that is Jerusalem, not Rome, not a future city (Luke 13:33).

† The phrase spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt shows covenant judgment language, just like the prophets used against Israel when she became unfaithful (Isaiah 1:10).

† This establishes that the great city in Revelation is Jerusalem, and this same great city appears again later as Babylon (Revelation 17:18).

### **Revelation 17:18**

The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.

† This directly identifies Babylon as the great city, the same phrase used in Revelation 11:8, locking the identity together (Revelation 11:8).

† The great city where the Lord was crucified is Jerusalem, so the woman, Babylon, must be Jerusalem (Luke 13:33).

† This removes Rome and any future system completely, because the Bible already defined the city.

## **Matthew 23:37-38**

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who have been sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!

† Jesus places the guilt of killing the prophets directly on Jerusalem, not Rome or any future system (Luke 11:50-51).

† He declares their house desolate, which is temple judgment language, pointing to the destruction that would come in that generation (Matthew 24:2).

† This matches the judgment language of Babylon in Revelation, a city guilty of the blood of the prophets (Revelation 18:24).

## **Luke 11:49-51**

For this reason also, the wisdom of God said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill, and some they will persecute, so that the blood of all the prophets, shed since the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the house of God; yes, I tell you, it shall be charged against this generation.'

† Jesus says all the blood of the prophets would be required of that generation, the same exact charge given to Babylon (Revelation 18:24).

† This proves Babylon cannot be Rome or future, because the judgment was tied to that first century generation.

† The guilt is covenantal and localized to Jerusalem, exactly as Revelation describes.

## **Ezekiel 16:35-36**

Therefore, you prostitute, hear the word of the LORD. This is what the Lord GOD says: "Because your lewdness was poured out and your nakedness uncovered through your obscene practices with your lovers and with all your detestable idols, and because of the blood of your sons that you gave to idols,

† God calls Jerusalem a harlot, this isn't new language, it's covenant language used throughout the Old Testament (Jeremiah 3:6).

† The harlot imagery in Revelation is directly tied back to this same covenant unfaithfulness, not a pagan nation (Ezekiel 23:30).

† Babylon the Great being called a harlot fits Jerusalem perfectly, because she broke covenant with God (Revelation 17:5).

## **Ezekiel 23:37**

For they have committed adultery, and blood is on their hands. So they have committed adultery with their idols, and even made their sons, whom they bore to Me, pass through the fire to them as food.

† The charge of blood guilt is again placed on Jerusalem, matching Revelation's description of Babylon being drunk with the blood of the saints (Revelation 17:6).

† This shows the harlot is not Rome, Rome was never in covenant with God, but Jerusalem was (Amos 3:2).

† Covenant unfaithfulness is the basis for judgment, which only applies to Israel (Hosea 1:2).

## **Revelation 17:5**

and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery:  
"BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES  
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

† The title mother of harlots connects directly to Ezekiel 16 and 23, where Jerusalem is called the source of harlotry (Ezekiel 16:44-45).

† This shows continuity, not a new entity, Revelation is using Old Testament covenant language.

† Babylon is not a new mystery system, it is the revealed identity of apostate Jerusalem.

## **Revelation 18:24**

And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slaughtered on the earth.

† This is the same charge Jesus gave to Jerusalem, all righteous blood coming upon that generation (Matthew 23:35-36).

† No other city in Scripture is ever held responsible for all the blood of the prophets except Jerusalem (Luke 13:33).

† This is the connecting point that proves Babylon the Great is Jerusalem.

## **Historical References**

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6, Chapter 9 describes Jerusalem filled with blood during the Roman siege, matching the judgment language of Revelation.

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3, Chapter 5 records the destruction of Jerusalem as the fulfillment of Christ's

warnings.

† Tacitus, Histories 5.13 confirms the devastation and judgment that fell upon Jerusalem in the first century.

† Clement of Alexandria, Who is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved, Section 42 affirms the early church understood the judgment of Jerusalem as fulfillment of Christ's warnings.

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

† We must let Scripture interpret Scripture and not follow traditions that ignore clear biblical identification (2 Peter 1:20).

† God's judgment was real, historical, and fulfilled exactly as Jesus said it would happen in that generation (Matthew 24:34).

† We're not waiting for Babylon to fall, it already fell, and we're living in the fulfilled kingdom today (Hebrews 12:28).

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q:** If Babylon was Jerusalem, why do people think it's Rome or a future system?

**A:** Because they ignore Revelation 11:8 and Matthew 23:35-36, which clearly identify the guilty city as Jerusalem.

**Q:** Was Rome guilty of killing the prophets?

**A:** No, Jesus said that responsibility belonged to Jerusalem (Luke 13:33).

**Q:** Does this mean Revelation is already fulfilled?

**A:** Yes, the judgment on Babylon, Jerusalem, was fulfilled in AD 70 just as Jesus said (Matthew 24:34).

**Q:** Why does Revelation use the name Babylon instead of Jerusalem?

**A:** Because it is symbolic covenant language, just like Sodom and Egypt in Revelation 11:8, describing Jerusalem in her judged, apostate condition (Isaiah 1:10).

**Q:** If Babylon was Jerusalem, why is she called a great city ruling over kings?

**A:** Because Jerusalem held covenant authority as the center of God's kingdom on earth, and even Rome acknowledged her religious influence, but Revelation identifies her specifically as the same great city where the Lord was crucified (Revelation 11:8; Revelation 17:18).

**Q:** Why is Babylon said to sit on many waters?

**A:** Revelation explains the waters are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues, showing Jerusalem's covenant reach through the diaspora Jews scattered among the nations (Revelation 17:15; Acts 2:5-11).

**Q:** How could Jerusalem be drunk with the blood of the saints?

**A:** Jesus said Jerusalem killed the prophets and would kill His apostles, and that all righteous blood would come upon that generation (Matthew 23:34-36; Luke 11:49-51).

**Q:** Why does Babylon fall suddenly if it is Jerusalem?

**A:** Because Jesus said her judgment would come quickly and within that generation, fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 (Matthew 24:34; Luke 21:20-22).

**Q:** What about the kings of the earth committing fornication with her?

**A:** This reflects covenant unfaithfulness, just like in the prophets, where Israel formed alliances with pagan nations instead of trusting God (Ezekiel 16:26-29; Hosea 7:11).

**Q:** Why do people think Babylon is a future system?

**A:** Because they ignore the time statements and clear identifiers, and instead read modern ideas into the text instead

of letting Scripture interpret itself (Revelation 1:1; Revelation 22:10).

**Q:** Was the fall of Babylon visible and historical?

**A:** Yes, it was fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem, recorded in Scripture and confirmed by historians like Josephus (Luke 21:20-24).

**Q:** Does this mean we are not waiting for any future Babylon judgment?

**A:** That's right, Babylon has already fallen, and we are living in the established kingdom that cannot be shaken (Hebrews 12:28).

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

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## Source Index

† Revelation 11:8; Revelation 17:18; Matthew 23:37-38; Luke 11:49-51; Ezekiel 16:35-36; Ezekiel 23:37; Revelation 17:5; Revelation 18:24

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6, Chapter 9; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3, Chapter 5; Tacitus, Histories 5.13; Clement of Alexandria, Who is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved, Section 42

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