

More Evidence: Literal Babylon Will Rise Again
Lesson #34 Sept. 23, 2020

Prophecy #3 No Arab Tents

Isa. 13:20 She [Babylon] will never be inhabited or lived in through all generations: neither shall the Arabian pitch his tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there.

As recently as the 1800's the village of Hillah, containing over 10,000 inhabitants, stood on the site of ancient Babylon. In the late nineteenth century, the German archeologist Robert Koldewey conducted extensive studies at Babylon and the four Arab villages situated on the site. Babylon had been inhabited for some time even before his arrival.

- Arab villages which occupied the Babylon ruins for centuries were discovered in 1829 and again in 1912.

Conclusion: Babylon must be rebuilt to fulfil the prophecy of no Arab dwellers on its site ever again. [Robert Koldewey, German archaeologist, reported 4 Arabs villages living at Babylon. "The Excavations of Babylon"]

Prophecy #4 NO Recycling of Babylon's Bricks

Jer. 51:24-26 And I will render unto Babylon and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, saith the LORD.

²⁵ Behold, I am against thee, O destroying mountain, saith the LORD, which destroyest all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a burnt mountain.

²⁶ And they shall not take of thee a stone for a corner, nor a stone for foundations; but thou shalt be desolate forever, saith the LORD.

- When Babylon has its FINAL DESTRUCTION never again will its bricks and stones be used for other building projects.
- The 4 villages Koldewey found within the ruins of Babylon were made of Babylon's baked bricks. He found the natives busily digging into the ancient city for more kiln-baked bricks. [Gods, Graves and Scholars, The Story of Archaeology]
- "The astonishing deep pits and galleries that occur in places owe their origin to the quarrying for brick that has been carried on extensively during the last decades. The buildings of ancient Babylon with their excellent kiln bricks, served even in antiquity as a quarry for common use. [The Excavators At Babylon]
- Other cities around the area of Babylon were built from the ruins of ancient Babylon; in fact the city of Hillah was built entirely from the ruins of Babylon. Bricks with the word "Babylon" stamped on them have been found as far away as Bagdad.

Conclusion: Babylon must be rebuilt to fulfil the prophecy: NO recycling of Babylon's bricks

Further Pieces of Evidence that Narrow Down The Time Of Babylon's Final Destruction

1. The Old Testament predicts this Destruction will occur in the "Day of the Lord."

Isa. 13:1, 6-9 The BURDEN OF BABYLON, which Isaiah the son of Amoz did see.
 Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.
 7 Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: 8 And they shall be
 afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travails:
 they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames.
 9 Behold, the Day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land
 desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

The Day Of The Lord > 19x in Old Testament 4x in New Testament

The phrase "Day of the Lord" usually identifies events that take place at the end of history [Isaiah 7:18-25] and is often closely associated with the phrase "That Day." [208x in OT]
 One key to understanding these phrases: They always identify a span of time during which God personally intervenes in history or human affairs, directly or indirectly, to accomplish some specific aspect of His plan. God will intervene decisively for judgment and/or salvation. It usually brings God's judgment to settle accounts with sinful man.

The phrase "the day of the Lord" is used often in the Old Testament.

- Isa. 2:12; 13:6, 9; Ezek. 13:5; 30:3; Joel 1:15, 2:1,11,31; 3:14; Amos 5:18, 20; Obadiah 15
 Zeph. 1:7, 14; Zech. 14:1; Mal. 4:5
- Convey a sense of imminence, nearness and expectation
 - ❖ Isa. 13:6 Wail, for the Day of the Lord is near!
 - ❖ Ezek. 30:3 "For the day is near, even the day of the Lord is near
 a cloudy day; it shall be the time of the heathen.
 - ❖ Joel 2:1 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain:
 let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh,
 for it is nigh at hand;
 - ❖ Joel 3:14 Multitudes in the valley of decision! For the Day of the Lord is near in the
 Valley of decision.

Divine judgment will be executed.

- On that day a decision will be rendered against everything proud. Isa. 2:12-18
- God will judge nations in the Valley of Jehoshaphat. Joel 3:2 Joel 3:12-13

"The Day of the Lord" in the New Testament > Acts 2:20; I Thess. 5:2

II Pet. 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

- Alluded to in Rev. 6:17; 16:14 a day of "wrath," a day of "visitation,"
 and the "great day of God Almighty."

[Rev. 16:14] and refers to a still future fulfillment when God's wrath is poured out

- on unbelieving Israel Isaiah 22; Jer. 30:1-17; Joel 1-2; Amos 5; Zephaniah 1
- on the unbelieving world Ezekiel 38-39; Zechariah 14

Consider: Did Jesus Christ suffer the wrath of God for me on the cross?

Rom. 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. [sózó = save, heal, preserve, rescue].

I Thess. 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Salvation = Strong's 4991 = sôtéria = deliverance; preservation; *salvation*, i.e.

God's rescue which delivers believers out of destruction *and into* His safety

- His coming for the body of Christ was the event that would keep them out of THAT DAY.

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

It will also be a time of salvation as God will deliver the remnant of Israel, fulfilling His promise

- that "all of Israel will be saved" [Romans 11:26]
- forgiving their sins and restoring His chosen people to the land He promised to Abraham [Isaiah 10:27; Jeremiah 30:19-31, 40; Micah 4; Zechariah 13].

The final outcome of the Day of the Lord will be that "the arrogance of man will be brought low and the pride of men humbled; the Lord alone will be exalted in that day" [Isaiah 2:17].

God's blessing and the recovery of an Edenic paradise have and will continue to offer hope for those whose trust is in God. II Peter 3:13

The purpose of discussions about the day of the Lord, past or future, is to illumine the present.

Peter's question is rhetorical but pointed. In view of the coming day of the Lord,

"What kind of people ought you to be?" II Peter 3:11.

Further Pieces of Evidence that Narrow Down The Time Of Babylon's Final Destruction

1. The Old Testament predicts this Destruction will occur in the "Day of the Lord."
2. There will be a disturbance in the sun and moon.

Isa. 13:10 For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

- NOTHING like this happened in 539 BC when Babylon was captured by Cyrus of Persia.

Note: These same cosmic disturbances and supernatural signs in the heavens are described in conjunction with Jesus Christ's 2nd coming to earth.

Isa. 24:23 Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.

Joel 3:14-16 Joel's prophecy of Armageddon: Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

¹⁵ The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.

¹⁶ The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

Matt. 24:27-30 what will happen immediately after the Tribulation Period in conjunction with His 2nd coming.

For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. ²⁸ For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together. ²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

³⁰ And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Conclusion: Since the destruction of Babylon is described in the same terms as Armageddon and the 2nd Coming of Christ, the final destruction of Babylon is at the 2nd Coming.

3. God will punish the WORLD for its iniquity

Isa. 13:11-12 And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

¹² I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.

- Mankind will be scarcer than gold.

Mark 13:20a And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved:

- Babylon's final destruction is at the end of the future Tribulation Period.

4. Babylon's Final Destruction Will Lead To the Final Restoration Of Judah & Israel

- Isa. 14:1-4 & Jer. 50:2, 4-5

Jer. 50:2, 4-5 Declare ye among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard; publish, and conceal not: say, Babylon is taken, Bel is confounded, Merodach is broken in pieces; her idols are confounded, her images are broken in pieces. In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the LORD their God. ⁵ They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the LORD in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten.

- There has never been a time after Babylon fell when the children of Israel and Judah returned to their land, took the Babylonians captive and joined in an everlasting covenant with the Lord.
- The Jewish people will be regathered to Israel for the final time in preparation for the 1000 year reign of Jesus Christ on earth.

5. It Will Be A Time Of Universal Rest and Peace After Their Destruction

Isa. 14:3-7 And it shall come to pass in the day that the LORD shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve,

⁴ That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!

⁵ The LORD hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers.

⁶ He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth.

⁷ The whole earth is at rest and is quiet: they break forth into singing.

➤ This is the time of the 1000 year Millennial Kingdom

It is obvious from this historical information that the city was not destroyed suddenly nor completely. Instead, it continued to be inhabited after it was conquered and the land around her did not become desolate but continued to be populated and fertile. This is a fact of history. Her ruins were used in building other cities and there was no disturbance in the sun or moon, nor did universal peace follow.

The Word of God is true and these prophecies still await a future fulfillment.

About 2500 years ago, Zechariah wrote an amazing prophecy concerning Babylon and end-time evil. He wrote it ~ 20 years AFTER the Fall of Babylon to King Cyrus of Persia. A group of ~50,000 Jews had returned to Jerusalem to begin rebuilding their lives and build the temple.

Context: Zech. 5:1-11 relates 2 visions which focus primarily on the land of Israel.

God performs a cleansing operation and deals with the sins of the nation.

❖ They are clearly millennial in the ultimate [far] fulfillment.

❖ Zech. 5:1-4 Flying Scroll God Removes Lawlessness

Ultimately, God will judge all sinners who have rebelled against His law. Jude 1:14-15

And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, ¹⁵ To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

But He will start with Israel, the nation that gave us God's law. It's a divine principle that judgment begins with God's people [I Peter 4:17; Ezek. 9:6]. This judgment will occur before our Lord establishes His kingdom on earth, and the "holy land" will truly become holy [Zech. 2:12]. God will "remove the iniquity of the land in one day.

An Old Testament reference to the commercial aspect is seen in Zechariah's vision of the woman with the ephah, a sign of commerce.

Zech. 5:5-11 Removal of Iniquity From the Land - God Removes Wickedness

❖ In Zechariah's time: The Jews, recently returned from Babylon, had put away pagan idolatry. It never rose again. But inwardly in their hearts they had become materialistic. They had hung around Babylon long enough to get sucked into materialism.

The spirit of self-centered materialism was foreign to Israel when they were shepherd people, but it had overtaken them since the spell of Babylon had been cast on them.

- Nehemiah 5 was written to rebuke the spirit of selfish materialism in the post-Babylonian captivity Israelites.

- Malachi 3:8-9 says they have robbed God in their greed.
- The greed, the commerce and the economics of materialism that comprise the final world empire of Babylon is portrayed in Revelation 18.

Zech. 5:5-6 Then the angel that talked with me went forth, and said unto me, Lift up now thine eyes, and see what is this that goeth forth.

⁶ And I said, What is it? And he said, This is an ephah that goeth forth. He said moreover, This is their [sinners who steal and swear falsely; 5:3] resemblance through all the earth.

- An ephah was the largest measure for volume in the OT, comprising about 7-8 gallons.
- It was a dry measure used for measuring or weighing flour and barley.
- The ephah containing the grain is symbolic of commerce, trade and economics.

This is the sin of greed and materialism. [a worldwide economic, materialistic society] James sees the godless, materialistic, self-centered riches of the last days.

James 5:1-6 "Come now you rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are rusted and the rust of them shall be a witness against you and shall eat your flesh as it were fire.

You have heaped treasure together for the last days.

Behold the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is a view kept back by fraud, cries out: and the cries of them who have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. Ye who lived in pleasure on the earth and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. You have condemned and killed the just and he doth not resist you."

There is coming a day when God is going to act in judgment on rich, materialistic sinners who operate in the age known as the last days.

Zech. 5:7-8 And, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead [75-100 lbs.]; and this is the woman that sitteth [dwell or remain] in the midst of the ephah. ⁸ And he said, This is wickedness [lawlessness; mystery of iniquity] And he cast it into the midst of the ephah; and he [angel] cast the weight of lead upon the mouth thereof.

- The commerce he sees will be corrupted or evil.

The woman is being held back by something.

- Wickedness is pushed down into the basket; a heavy lead lid is closed on top of her.
- She is held back in the basket until the time is ready for it to be opened.
- God will not let it out until He is ready. God is sovereign and in control.

Consider: The holding down or restraining of the woman, who personifies evil, is very similar to the restraining of evil in II Thess. 2:7-8. In this passage, God says that Anti-Christ cannot be revealed until "the restrainer" is taken out of the way. This restrainer is a person and a power.

⁷ For the mystery of iniquity [lawlessness; at work in this evil world system] doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

The lead cover shows that God presently restrains wickedness from being as bad as it could be.

Zech. 5:9-11 Then lifted I up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came out two women, and the wind was in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork:

Consider: According to Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14, storks are unclean birds. and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heaven.

¹⁰ Then said I to the angel that talked with me, Whither do these bear the ephah?

¹¹ And he said unto me, To build it an house in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base.

Key: Women are often symbols of religious evil. The 2 women are demon spirits.

- They are associated with the woman in the basket who is wickedness.
- They are protective of that basket.
- They set it up on its base and they are responsible for the organizing, apparently of the Babylon system.

Shinar is first mentioned in Genesis 10:10 with reference to Nimrod, whose kingdom was in Babel "in the land of Shinar." He forged himself a kingdom at any cost and defied the Lord in the process. It occurs again in Genesis 11:2 in reference to the events at Babel, when men vaunted themselves against God and He confused their languages.

Law of First Mention: Principle in the interpretation of Scripture: The first mention or occurrence of a subject in Scripture establishes an unchangeable pattern with that subject remaining unchanged in the mind of God throughout Scripture

Throughout Scripture, Babylon symbolizes the world's enmity against God.

It seems in the final end of everything, evil spirits will set up the final kingdom of evil.

As the end of the age draws near, evil will rear its ugly head again in the place where it began, the city of Babylon on the plain of Shinar.

The time is coming (culminating in the Great Tribulation; Rev. 18) when the restraint will be lifted and wickedness will be enthroned in Babylon, which represents this present evil world system, opposed to God.

Everything will come full circle. The world's first capital city will be the place of its final city. It seems Babylon will become the world capital of an evil world economic system run by Antichrist.

This vision anticipates a final concentration of wickedness and commercialism in a great center in the land of Shinar (Babylon) which will reach out over the whole earth.

Parallels Between Zech. 5:5-11 & Revelation 17-18

Zech. 5:5-11	Rev. 17-18
Woman Sitting In A Basket	Woman Sitting On The Beast, 7 Heads & Many Waters [Rev. 17:3, 9, 15]
Emphasis On Commerce A Basket for Measuring Grain	Emphasis On Commerce Merchant Of Grain [18:13]
Woman's Name Is Wickedness	Woman's Name is Babylon the Great, Mother of Harlots & Of the Abominations of the Earth

Focus On False Worship House Built For Her	Focus On False Worship [Rev. 17:5]
Woman Is Taken To Babylon	Woman Is Called Babylon

Revelation 18 emphasizes: Babylon will fall in one day and in one hour [Rev. 18:8, 10, 17, 19]. So the enthronement and triumph of wickedness in Shinar is only temporary and illusory. God is in control all along, and at the predetermined moment, Jesus will return in victory. Babylon the Great will fall, never to rise again.

Two Practical Lessons

1. Although God is abundantly gracious, He has a full measure for judgment, both for nations and for individuals.

Make sure that you keep your measure of sin on empty! The ephah filled with the woman personifying wickedness pictures what other Scriptures teach, that God has a measure for sin. It is the largest measure because His grace is abundant. God patiently allows sin and sinners to multiply until His measure of judgment is full. Then He takes swift action in judgment, as pictured in the two women carrying the ephah with the woman off to Shinar.

We see this principle in Genesis 15:13-16: God explains to Abraham about His covenant to make of Abraham a great nation. He says that Abraham's descendants will be enslaved and oppressed for 400 years and then they shall return to Canaan. God adds,

"For the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete." That is a staggering statement!

God lets His chosen people suffer in slavery in Egypt for 400 years while He shows mercy to the wicked Amorites (the people of Canaan). God knew in advance when these godless people would fill up the measure of their sins. At that precise moment, God raised up Moses, delivered Israel, and told them to go into the land and slaughter the Canaanites. Their time of judgment had come!

We do not know when God's time of judgment for America or other countries will come. Nor do we know how far we as individuals can go in sin before God's judgment will fall on us.

But the clear warning of Scripture is, *don't press the limit!* Do not presume on God's grace! Judge your own sin so that God doesn't have to judge it for you!

2. When It Seems That Evil Is Winning, Do Not Let It Tempt You To Sin.

Trust God who is sovereign even over evil and who will triumph mightily in the end.

Both Zechariah and Revelation show that even though it *appears* that evil is unrestrained and that evil men go unjudged, it is not so. *Judgment delayed does not mean that judgment has been cancelled!* Jesus Christ will return in power and glory. Babylon will fall. all evildoers will be judged. Christ will hit a come-from-behind grand-slam homerun in the bottom of the ninth!

Ps. 37:1-5, 7a Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.

² For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.

³ Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

⁴ Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

⁵ Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

⁷ Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: