

BABYLON VERSUS JERUSALEM

A. Introduction

The Bible shows that in the history of the world there are two “epicenter cities”. Redemptive history revolves around these two cities. One is Babylon and the other is Jerusalem. Babylon is “the city of man”, while Jerusalem is “the city of God”.

B. Babylon – the city of man

1. *Babylon Idealized* (Gen. 10:8-10; 11:1-9)

The key thing about Babylon is that it represents FALSE RELIGION working in concert with human government. Babylon signifies the seat of false religion and idolatry. It represents unified, man-centered, idolatrous rebellion.

2. *Babylon Imperialized* (Daniel 1-5). [Imperialized = Made capital of an Empire]

3. *Babylon Prophesied* (Isa. 13-14, 47; Jer. 50-51; Zech. 5:5-11). Prophecy scholars note that often prophecy has an element of near-partial fulfillment, and at the same time interwoven is an element of distant-complete fulfillment. The fulfillment of the near assures fulfillment of the distant. This is true of Babylon. Some prophecies have already been fulfilled, while others are yet to be fulfilled in the last days in relation to Antichrist.

4. *Babylon Globalized* (Rev. 14:8; 16:19; chps. 17 & 18).

Revelation 17 and 18 present the final form of Babylon in its globalized form. There are two aspects of it. Revelation 17 speaks of ECUMENICAL RELIGIOUS BABYLON, while Revelation 18 speaks of COMMERCIAL Babylon in its final form under Antichrist.

5. *Babylon destroyed* (Rev. 14:8; 18:21).

C. Jerusalem – the city of God

1. *Jerusalem Idealized* (Gen. 14:18-20)

In Genesis 14 we have Melchizedek (a type of Christ) who is both a king and a priest ruling over Jerusalem, which is the city of peace. In this we have Jerusalem IDEALIZED.

2. ***Jerusalem Imperialized*** (cf. 2 Sam. 5:7). [Under David it became known as “The City of David”.]
3. ***Jerusalem Prophesied*** (cf. Dan. 9:24; Zech. 12-14; Joel 3:16-17; Rom. 11:26-27)
4. ***Jerusalem Globalized*** (Ps. 2:6-8; Isa. 2:2-3) [In the Kingdom]
5. ***Jerusalem Eternalized*** (cf. Ps. 48:8; 125:1; Rev. 21:2) [New Jerusalem]

D. Conclusion

There is only ONE city in all the Bible that we are specifically told to pray for, and that is the city of JERUSALEM (cf. Ps. 122:6; Isa. 62:7). Jerusalem is close to the heart of God and He instructs us to pray for her peace! Those prayers will be answered when the Messiah comes and delivers Israel.

Shalom!