

HAS BABYLON'S JUDGMENT HOUR ARRIVED?

Note to the speaker:

Help audience to understand what is meant by the Biblical expression "Babylon the Great." Impress on them that her judgment is just and soon to occur. Help them to see the urgent need to flee from bloodguilty Babylon the Great before it is too late

IDENTIFYING THE SYMBOLIC WOMAN KNOWN AS BABYLON THE GREAT (8 min.)

Bible describes "Babylon the Great" as "the great harlot" and "the great city that has a kingdom over the kings of the earth" (Re 17:1, 5, 15, 18)

A kingdom over other kingdoms and nations is an empire (*it-1* 240)

Not a political empire, for she commits fornication with the kings of the earth and misleads the nations by her "spiritistic practice" (Re 18:3, 23)

Her devastation by the ten horns of the symbolic scarlet-colored wild beast is mourned by her political and commercial companions (Re 17:16, 17; 18:9-19; *re* 267-8)

She is an enemy of true worship (Re 17:4, 6; 19:1, 2)

All these factors identify Babylon the Great as the world empire of false religion (*re* 235)

Referring to Babylon the Great as a harlot is significant

For example, the nation of Israel was warned that allying itself with the nations of Canaan was tantamount to committing "immoral intercourse ["play the harlot," *Revised Standard*] with their gods" (Ex 34:12-16; *it-1* 240)

Both Israel and Judah were condemned by Jehovah for "prostituting" themselves to the political nations and their gods (Eze 16:15-17, 26-30, 38; Isa 1:21; Jer 3:6-10, 13; Ho 6:10; 7:11; 8:9, 10; *it-1* 1037)

James warned against spiritual adultery through friendship with the world (Jas 4:4)

Babylon the Great, who prostitutes herself to "the kings of the earth," is truly "the mother of the [spiritual] harlots" (Re 17:2, 5; *re* 237-8, 244)

THE BLOODGUILT OF BABYLON THE GREAT (20 min.)

Although the name Babylon the Great shows her to be the spiritual counterpart of ancient Babylon, false religion's bloodguilt predates founding of Babylon by Nimrod (Ge 11:1-4)

False religion must answer for the blood of "all those who have been slaughtered on the earth" (Read Revelation 18:24)

In condemning the religious leaders of Judaism, Jesus showed that false religion began on earth at the time of the original rebellion (Read Matthew 23:33-36) (*w91* 12/1 20)

Satan introduced false religion in the garden of Eden (*g89* 1/8 5)

By falling for Satan's deception and coveting the forbidden fruit, Eve became the first human idolater (Ge 3:6, 17-19; *it-1* 1168)

Satan became "a manslayer," beginning the bloodguilty history of false religion (Joh 8:44; Ge 3:1-5)

The first shedding of righteous blood was by the hand of Cain, an adherent of false religion (Ge 4:8-10)

World empire of false religion deserves Jehovah's executorial judgment (Re 18:8, 20; *re* 256-8)

Her appalling bloodguilt must be avenged (Re 18:24; *re* 245, 270-1)

From Jehovah's standpoint, false religion is also bloodguilty for not teaching the truth (Mr 7:7, 8; *re* 271)

Her flocks have not learned the truth of genuine brotherly love (Mic 4:3, 5; Joh 13:34, 35; Ac 10:34, 35; 1Jo 3:10-12; *w96* 4/15 13-14)

Worshiping according to the truth is a requisite for pleasing God and gaining eternal salvation (Joh 4:24; 2Co 4:3, 4; 1Ti 2:3, 4; Re 21:27; *re* 310)

False religious practices and teachings—such as the Trinity, immortal soul, and hellfire doctrines—dishonor God

Jesus denounced this worship as "vain" (Mt 15:7-9)

Directly or indirectly, Babylon the Great must answer to Jehovah for the blood "of *all* those who have been slaughtered on the earth"

She will be devastated and "completely burned with fire" (Re 16:19; 17:16; 18:8, 17, 21-23; *re* 256, 270)

Judgment on false religion comes "in one hour" (Re 18:10, 17, 19; *w97* 4/1 14; *w89* 4/15 15-16)

IS BABYLON THE GREAT'S DESTRUCTION NEAR? (7 min.)

Composite "sign of [Christ's] presence and of the conclusion of the system of things" has been developing since 1914 (Mt 24:3; *w97* 4/1 5-8; *w93* 3/1 4-6)

Jesus referred to various features of "the sign" as "a beginning of pangs of distress" ("pangs of birth," *Kingdom Interlinear*) (Mt 24:8)

Like pangs of birth, which increase in severity, frequency, and duration, distress of this system intensifies as Babylon's judgment nears (2Ti 3:1, 13; *w83* 4/1 6)

Striking ‘manifestation of Christ’s presence’ is imminent (Read 2 Thessalonians 2:8) (*re* 282)

World events suggest that false religion is now in the target zone for destruction

ESCAPE BLOODGUILTY BABYLON’S JUDGMENT—FLEE TO SAFETY! (10 min.)

Need to heed warning of Revelation 18:4 (*w*93 5/1 24)

Since Babylon the Great is guilty of bloodshed to the ultimate degree, one must flee to the antitypical city of refuge (*w*95 11/15 15-20)

Cities of refuge mercifully provided by God under the Law as safe havens for the unintentional manslayer (Read Numbers 35:11, 12)

To benefit from God’s mercy today, we must run to and remain within the antitypical city of refuge (Read Numbers 35:26-28)

Guarding against worldly attitudes and enticements and having plenty to do in the work of the Lord can help us remain there (*re* 126)

By continually demonstrating faith in Jesus’ sacrifice and availing ourselves of his services as High Priest, we will be spared from execution when Babylon the Great and the rest of this system of things are destroyed (Re 7:9, 10, 14)

End of all false religion will mark the dawning of a new era in God’s exercise of sovereignty (Read Revelation 19:1, 2, 6) (*re* 274-5)

Will be followed by the immediate end of the rest of Satan’s system of things (Re 19:19-21)

By taking action now and remaining faithful to Jehovah, we will enjoy the blessings of the righteous new world that follows (Mt 24:13; Re 21:1-4)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read or commented on)