

Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!





Praise and Prayer Request

Philippians 1:3-6 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, but it is out of focus. The background is a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is centered on the pages.

Call to Worship
Isaiah 55:3-7

Isaiah 55:3-7 Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Brethren, We Have Come to Worship

Hymn 321



Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Hymn 91



Receiving of the Offering



2 Cor. 9:5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready **as a willing gift**, not as an exaction.

Famous Quote:

“Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen, such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of God upon earth.”

JOHN WESLEY



Today's Message

“Babylon has Fallen”

A Warning we All Should Heed

Scripture text: Revelation Ch 18

Babylon was not only an ancient city and a powerful empire, but also **the symbol of mankind's rebellion against God**. In Revelation 18, **Babylon represents the world system** of "the beast," particularly in its economic and political aspects. At the same time, John calls Babylon a "city" at least eight times (Rev. 14:8; 17:18; 18:10, 16, 18–21).

Revelation 18:10 They will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say, "Alas! Alas! **You great city, you mighty city, Babylon!** For in a single hour your judgment has come."

Revelation 14:8 Another angel, a second, followed, saying, "**Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great**, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality."

Revelation 17:18 And the woman that you saw is the **great city** that has dominion over the kings of the earth."

Revelation 18:16 "Alas, alas, for the **great city** that was clothed in fine linen, in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold, with jewels, and with pearls!

Revelation 18:18-21 and cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning, "What **city** was like the **great city**?" And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, crying out, "Alas, alas, for the **great city** where all who had ships at sea grew rich by her wealth! For in a single hour she has been laid waste. *Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, for God has given judgment for you against her!*" Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "So will Babylon **the great city** be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more;

Old Testament prophecy seems to make clear that **the city itself will not be rebuilt** (Isa. 13:19–22; Jer. 51:24–26, 61–64). Some equate Babylon with Rome, particularly since “the harlot” and “the beast” cooperate during the first half of the Tribulation. Perhaps Peter was using Babylon as a “code name” for Rome when he wrote his first letter (1 Peter 5:13).

Certainly, John’s readers would think of the Roman Empire as they read these words about Babylon.

Isaiah 13:19-22 And **Babylon**, the glory of kingdoms, the splendor and pomp of the Chaldeans, **will be like Sodom and Gomorrah when God overthrew them. It will never be inhabited or lived in for all generations;** no Arab will pitch his tent there; no shepherds will make their flocks lie down there. But wild animals will lie down there, and their houses will be full of howling creatures; there ostriches will dwell, and there wild goats will dance. Hyenas will cry in its towers, and jackals in the pleasant palaces; its time is close at hand and its days will not be prolonged.

Jeremiah 51:24-26 "I will repay Babylon and all the inhabitants of Chaldea before your very eyes for all the evil that they have done in Zion, declares the LORD. "Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, declares the LORD, which destroys the whole earth; I will stretch out my hand against you, and roll you down from the crags, and **make you a burnt mountain.** No stone shall be taken from you for a corner and no stone for a foundation, **but you shall be a perpetual waste, declares the LORD.**

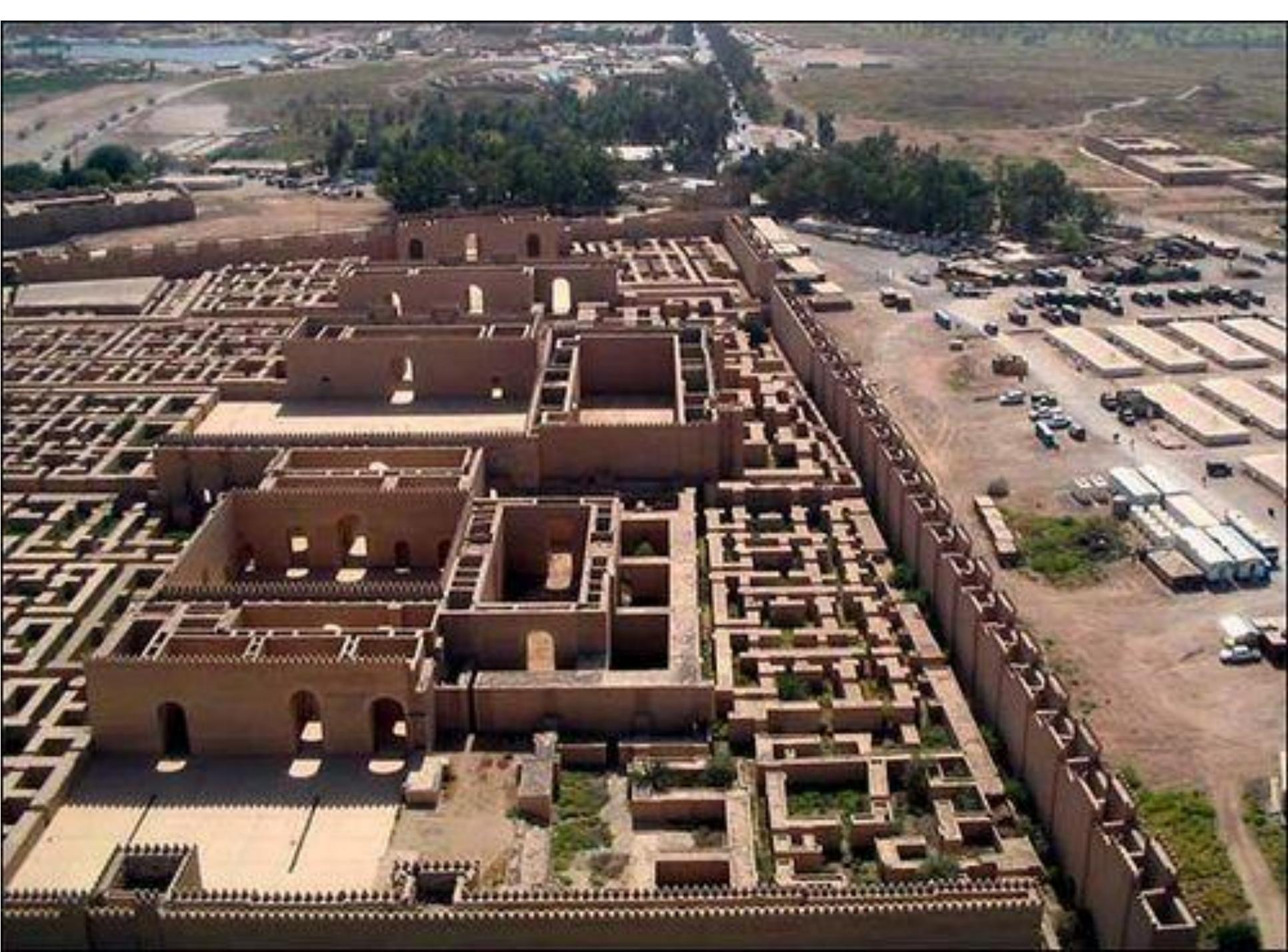
Jeremiah 51:61-64 And Jeremiah said to Seraiah: "When you come to Babylon, see that you read all these words, and say, '**O LORD, you have said concerning this place that you will cut it off, so that nothing shall dwell in it, neither man nor beast, and it shall be desolate forever.**' When you finish reading this book, tie a stone to it and cast it into the midst of the Euphrates, and say, '**Thus shall Babylon sink, to rise no more,** because of the disaster that I am bringing upon her, and they shall become exhausted.'" Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.

Babylon as seen today from Google Earth



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Thus by looking at the pictures, there must be something else referred to in the Scripture.

Another place, or a symbolic place, that acted like the Babylon of Old.

The destruction mentioned in the Scripture seems to be that of a nuclear explosion, which totally destroys everything, forever.

This has not happened in the Old City of Babylon, this is yet to come.



Revelation 18:17-18 For **in a single hour** all this wealth has been **laid waste.**" And all shipmasters and seafaring men, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea, stood far off and cried out as **they saw the smoke of her burning,** "What city was like the great city?"

1 Peter 5:8-13 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. **Stand firm in it. She who is at Babylon**, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son.

John heard four voices give four important announcements.

The voice of condemnation (vv. 1–3). This announcement was anticipated in Revelation 14:8 (some commentators would also include Rev. 16:19, but I have interpreted the “great city” in that context as Jerusalem). There is a definite reference here to Jeremiah 51–52, where the prophet saw the fall of historical Babylon. **But here John saw the destruction of spiritual Babylon, the world system organized by “the beast.”**

It was no ordinary angel that made this announcement, for he had great power and a glory that radiated throughout the whole earth. Despite Satan's devices and the opposition of evil men, "the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord" (Hab. 2:14).

Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

The phrase “is fallen, is fallen” not only adds dramatic effect to the announcement, but suggests a **dual judgment**: ecclesiastical Babylon, “the harlot,” in Revelation 17, and political Babylon here in Revelation 18. This thought is amplified in Revelation 18:6 when God announces that Babylon will receive “**double**” for her many sins.

Revelation 18:6 Pay her back as she herself has paid back others, and **repay her double for her deeds**; mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed.

The church, the bride of the Lamb, is the habitation of God (Eph. 2:22); Babylon, on the other hand, is the habitation of Satan (Rev. 18:2).

This parallels the judgment on ancient Babylon (Isa. 13:21ff; Jer. 51:37ff). Furthermore, John called the city “a cage of every unclean and hateful bird” (Rev. 18:2).

In Christ’s Parable of the Sower, He also used the birds as a picture of Satan (Matt. 13:31–32).

Ephesians 2:21-22 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, **grows into a holy temple in the Lord.** In him you also are being built together **into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.**

Revelation 18:2 And he called out with a mighty voice, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! **She has become a dwelling place for demons,** a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.

Isaiah 13:20-22 It will never be inhabited or lived in for all generations; no Arab will pitch his tent there; no shepherds will make their flocks lie down there. **But wild animals will lie down there**, and their houses will be full of howling creatures; there ostriches will dwell, and there wild goats will dance. Hyenas will cry in its towers, and jackals in the pleasant palaces; its time is close at hand and its days will not be prolonged.

Jeremiah 51:36-39 Therefore thus says the LORD: "Behold, I will plead your cause and take vengeance for you. I will dry up her sea and make her fountain dry, and **Babylon shall become a heap of ruins, the haunt of jackals, a horror and a hissing, without inhabitant.** "They shall roar together like lions; they shall growl like lions' cubs. While they are inflamed I will prepare them a feast and make them drunk, that they may become merry, then sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake, declares the LORD.

This judgment has come because the Babylonian “system” has polluted the whole world. As in the judgment of “the harlot,” the sin is that of “fornication” or idolatry. The system intoxicated the people of the world with all the riches and pleasures it had to offer. It catered to those who were “lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God” (2 Tim. 3:4).

2 Timothy 3:4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, **lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,**

Christians in every age have had to heed the warning of 1 John 2:15–17. **How easy it is to become fascinated by the things the world has to offer.** Like a person taking a sip of wine, we can soon find ourselves drinking deeply and then wanting more. **The world system that opposes Christ has always been with us, and we must beware of its subtle influence.**

The world system satisfies the desires of the earth-dwellers who follow “the beast” and reject the Lamb. **But worldly things never permanently satisfy or last.** The love of pleasures and possessions is but an insidious form of idolatry, demonic in its origin and destructive in its outcome.

1 John 2:15-18 Do not love the world or the things in the world. **If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.** For all that is in the world--the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions--is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but **whoever does the will of God abides forever.** Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.

The voice of separation (vv. 4–8).

This admonition parallels Jeremiah 50:8 and 51:6, 45. **In all ages, God's true people have had to separate themselves from that which is worldly and anti-God.** When God called Abraham, He ordered him to get out of his country (Gen. 12:1). God separated the Jewish nation from Egypt and **warned the Israelites not to go back.** **The church today is commanded to separate itself from that which is ungodly** (Rom. 16:17–18; 2 Cor. 6:14–7:1).

Genesis 12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "**Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house** to the land that I will show you.

Romans 16:17-18 I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. **For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites**, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.

2 Corinthians 6:14 -18 Do not be **unequally yoked with unbelievers**. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or **what fellowship has light with darkness?** What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? **What agreement has the temple of God with idols?** For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. **Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them,** says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

John offered two reasons for God's people separating themselves from the diabolical system.

The first is that they **might avoid pollution**, becoming "partakers of her sins" (Rev. 18:4).

"Neither be partaker of other men's sins" (1 Tim. 5:22). The word means "joint fellowship or partnership." There is a good partnership in the Lord (Phil. 4:14), but there is also an evil partnership that we must avoid (Eph. 5:11). True unity of the Spirit exists among believers, but we must not compromise by joining forces with that which is opposed to Christ.

The **second reason** is that **God's people might be spared the terrible plagues** He will send on Babylon. God had patiently endured the growing sins of the evil system, but now the time had come for His wrath to be poured out. He would treat Babylon just as she treated His people.

What specific sins would God judge? We have already noted Babylon's evil influence on the nations of the world, seducing them with idolatry. **Another sin that will be judged is pride: "She hath glorified herself!"** (Rev. 18:7) She saw herself as a queen who could never be dethroned, and this false confidence and pride could never be accepted by the Lord.

Revelation 18:7 As she glorified herself and lived in **luxury**, so give her a like measure of torment and mourning, **since in her heart she says**, 'I sit as a queen, I am no widow, and mourning I shall never see.'

A third sin is Babylon's worship of pleasures and luxury. To "live deliciously" (Rev. 18:7) is to live proudly in luxury while others go without. It means to make possessions and pleasures the most important things in life, and to ignore the needs of others. John summarized this attitude as "**the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**" (1 John 2:16).

God's people must not delay in separating themselves from this evil system, because God's judgment will come suddenly and **Babylon will be destroyed in a single day**. Sometimes God's judgments work silently "as a moth" (Hosea 5:12), but at other times they are "as a lion" (Hosea 5:14) and spring suddenly, and there is no escape. **In one day, the entire economic empire will collapse! But those who have their citizenship in heaven will rejoice at the judgment of God.**

Revelation 6:9-11 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, "**O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?**" Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, **until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete**, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

Near the Cross

Hymn 254

