

Endtime Babylon's Identity

Summary of *Endtimes Essentials* book #3: *Endtime Babylon (EB)*, chs. 1-7

Big idea: Because of its extraordinary wealth, its idolatrous worship of Money, its spiritual corruption, and its unprecedented world-wide promotion of all of these things, America is clearly the best interpretation of the literal meaning of **Babylon the Great** described in Rev 17-18.

A) 3 Layers of meaning

- 1) Metaphorical: The anti-God World as the sinful values and systems ruled by Satan and empowered by the sinful nature of humans to promote independence from God (1 John 2:15-16; 5:19; Jms 4:4). This explains the macro view of Endtime Babylon: **In her was found the blood of prophets and of God's holy people, of all who have been slaughtered on the earth** (Rev 18:24). However, a mere spiritual reality never replaces the literal fulfillment of a biblical prophecy. (*EB* ch. 3). There have been about 600 biblical prophecies fulfilled in history. Every single one of them was fulfilled literally as in a physical person, place, or thing. The same will be true of Revelation 17-18.
- 2) A literal nation: Endtime Babylon is a geographical place where people live (Rev 18:21-23). The unfulfilled prophecies concerning Babylon in Jeremiah 50-51 describe it as: **Babylon [the city] and the land [nation] of the Babylonians... the LORD's purposes against Babylon stand—to lay waste the land of Babylon so that no one will live there... For I will light a fire in the cities of Babylon that will burn up everything around them.**" (50:1; 51:29 NIV, 32 NLT). Multiple **cities** suggest a nation. (*EB*, ch. 5, sec. B)
- 3) A literal city: Endtime Babylon is also described six times as a **great city** (Rev 16:19; 17:18; 18:10 2x, 19, 21; *EB* ch. 6).

B) Primary attribute of Endtime Babylon: *The economic super-power of the World when the Endtimes begin* (*EB*, ch. 4)

Endtime Babylon will be the leader in international business, the foremost consumer and importer of goods coming by ships, by far the wealthiest nation in the world, and living in sinful and worldly luxury.

Endtime Babylon's **international businessmen** [*emporoi*] **were the world's important people** (18:23). **The international businessmen of the world have become wealthy from the power of the Prostitute's sensual and worldly luxuries** (18:3), **will weep and mourn when the Prostitute is destroyed because nobody will buy their goods anymore** (18:11), and **became wealthy by selling the Prostitute these things**. When it is destroyed they will **cry out ... "In one hour such great wealth has been destroyed!"** (18:15, 17). Mere "merchants" (NIV, NLT, NASB) implies a simple "salesman" and is a misleading translation of *emporoi*. Morris: "The word 'merchants' [*emporoi*] used four times in Revelation refers to wholesalers in international commerce, who trade large quantities of items."

Endtime Babylon will be the foremost consumer nation in the world. 18:12-13 lists 28 items of commercial trade it is purchasing. **All who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth!** (18:17).

Endtime Babylon is described as **The Prostitute** who **glorified herself and lived in sensual and worldly luxury** [*strēniaō*] (Rev 18:7) and pursued and enjoyed **the fancy things you loved so much and your luxuries and splendor** [*lipara*] (Rev 18:14 NLT).

C) 12 biblical attributes of Endtime Babylon uniquely fulfilled by America

- 1) A literal nation/city that will exist in the Endtimes (Rev 18:21-23; *EB* ch. 5, sec. B).
- 2) A world-wide super-power of superior wealth (Rev 17:4; 18:9-19, 23; *EB* ch. 4).

56% of Americans are at the highest category of income in the world. But the same percentage (56%) of the rest of the world's population is at the very lowest income level. Only 7% of the rest of the world's people are "high income." Likewise, 56% of the world's people are "poor." Only 2% of Americans are. This is why the *Washington Post* reported that "the United States" was "surprisingly close" to having "99 percent" of its population, "make up the wealthiest 1% of all people in the entire World." These statistics include Europe.

- 3) The foremost promoter of the idolatrous religion of Money (Rev 14:8; 17:2; 18:3; *EB* ch. 4).
- 4) The world's foremost advertiser of worldly goods (Rev 14:8; 17:2; 18:3; *EB* ch. 3; secs. A.2, C)

5) The world's foremost consumer of worldly goods (Rev 18:11-13; *EB* ch. 4, sec. C)

6) The world's foremost nation (Jer 50:1, 29; Rev 12:1-6, 13-16; 17:3, 4-9, 18; *EB* ch. 5, sec. B)

7) The world's foremost military power (Jer 50:23; 51:20, 53, 58; Rev 6:2-4; 17:3, 7, 16; *EB* ch. 5, sec. C). Jeremiah called Babylon **the hammer of the whole earth** (50:23 NIV) referring to its military power. The largest employer in the entire world is the United States Department of Defense. America spends more money on its military worldwide than the next 10 countries combined.

8) The world's foremost technology power (*EB* ch. 5, sec. D)

9) The Gentile world's foremost spiritual Prostitute (17:1, 4, 5; 18:2, 3, 5, 9; 19:2; *EB* ch. 5, sec. E; ch. 13, sec. C; ch. 14). Like Israel, America is uniquely a spiritual Prostitute nation, beginning with a commitment to God and later abandoning it.

10) The world's foremost moral corruptor (14:8; 17:2; 18:3; *EB* ch. 5, sec. F). No nation in the history of humanity has influenced the world in immorality like America. It is by far the biggest producer and distributor of filthy movies and pornography, and the world's champion in the promotion of abortion and the LGBTQ+ agenda.

11) A literal city with all the above attributes (16:19; 17:18; 18:10, 17-19, 21; *EB* ch. 6)

The best candidate for the capital city of Endtime Babylon will be a foremost center and source for what empowers the anti-God World. These are the attributes described in Rev 17-18. Therefore, it will be the world's leading city for the following: 1) financial wealth; 2) international business; 3) entertainment; 4) advertising; and 5) sinful lifestyles. There is only one city in the entire world that is superior in all of these attributes. That city is New York City. There is actually a city of 200,000 people within the city limits of New York City that is named Babylon!

12) A major seaport near much water (Rev 17:1; 18:17-19; Jer 51:13; *EB* ch. 6).

D) The most common interpretations of Endtime Babylon (*EB* ch. 7)

- 1)** A spiritual metaphor for the anti-God "world." As noted above, this is correct. But again, a mere metaphorical fulfillment never exhausts or replaces the literal fulfillment of a biblical prophecy.
- 2)** 1st century Rome. But Rev 17-18 will be fulfilled in the future, not the past.
- 3)** Jerusalem/Israel. It is very unlikely these will become the financial center of the world before the Antichrist comes to power.
- 4)** A future rebuilt city of Babylon in Iraq. See 3 above, and could not be a major seaport.
- 5)** A future "one-world government." But its power is not described as political, but rather immorally influencing the world through its wealth.
- 6)** A world-wide false religion, perhaps Roman Catholicism, Islam, New Age, or a future religion that does not exist today. Endtime Babylon does represent a false religion, but it is the religion of Money, the greatest religion in the world and the greatest rival to God (cf. Matt 6:24; 1 Tim 6:10).
- 7)** The nation of the United States of America, which is uniquely a spiritual Prostitute, founded on Christian morality but abandoning God, becoming the foremost promoter and source of immorality and the false religion of Money, all centered in New York City.

A combination of #1 & #7 is by far the best interpretation. Because of its extraordinary wealth, its idolatrous worship of Money, its spiritual corruption, and its unprecedented world-wide promotion of all of these things, America is clearly the best interpretation of the literal meaning of **Babylon the Great** described in Rev 17-18.