

Pentwater Bible Church

Revelation Message 34

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Saint John on Patmos by Hans Memling Cir 1479

Daniel E. Woodhead – Pastor Teacher

Pentwater Bible Church

Revelation Message Thirty-Four

THE CAMPAIGN OF ARMAGEDDON PART III

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THE CAMPAIGN OF ARMAGEDDON

The Campaign of Armageddon is actually a multi-staged event. It is not just the invasion of Jerusalem.

The campaign of Armageddon involves eight stages. They are as follows:

- ~~1. The Assembling of the Allies of the Antichrist.~~
2. The Destruction of Babylon.
3. The Fall of Jerusalem.
4. The Armies of the Antichrist at Bozrah (Petra).
5. The National Regeneration of Israel (Zechariah 12)
6. The Second Coming of the Messiah.
7. The Place of the Second coming.
8. The Manner of the Second Coming.

The Battle from Bozrah to the Valley of Jehoshaphat.

The Victory Ascent Up the Mount of Olives.

BABYLON CONCLUDED, ITS DESTRUCTION

Ancient Babylon will be rebuilt and become the Antichrist's political and economic capital of his worldwide empire. This is not to be confused with his temporary battle camp as stated in Daniel 11:45. Saddam Hussain partially rebuilt it during his reign over Iraq.

The world headquarters of the Antichrist will be Babylon (Jeremiah 50:43 & 51:31-32).

In addition to the political capital, it will also be the economic capital of the world. We see this in Zechariah chapter 5.

Zechariah 5:5-11

⁵Then 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. ⁶And I said, What is it? And he said, This is the ephah that goeth forth. He said moreover, This is their appearance in all the land ⁷(and, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead); and this is a woman sitting in the midst of the ephah. ⁸And he said, This is Wickedness: and he cast her down into the midst of the ephah; and he cast the weight of lead upon the mouth thereof. ⁹Then lifted I up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there came forth two women, and the wind was in their wings; now they had wings like the wings of a stork; and they lifted up the ephah between earth and heaven. ¹⁰Then said I to the angel that talked with me,

Whither, do these bear the ephah? ¹¹And he said unto me, To build her a house in the land of Shinar: and when it is prepared, she shall be set there in her own place (ASV, 1901).

The ephah (Strong's 374) is a standard of measure of weight and became the symbol of the economy. The Bible adds lead to this economy for a false measure. This demonstrates corruption (wickedness) in the economy. These verses also let us know the place of the corruption is to be placed in the land of Shinar, which is a synonym for Babylon (Genesis 10:10). So, the future world economy throughout most of the second half of the Tribulation will be centered in the world political headquarters, Babylon. The city, the ecclesiastical system, world economy and government will all be destroyed. Isaiah 13:1–5 tells us how it will happen.

Isaiah saw another gathering of forces but this time it is not the Antichrist's armies. This army is the Lord's. Their purpose will be to destroy Babylon. God will use Gentile believers to destroy Babylon.

The final destruction of Babylon will make it fit only for wild animals and demons. We can see this in Isaiah 13 too. This is similar to what God did to Sodom and Gomorrah.

Isaiah 13:19-22

¹⁹And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. ²⁰It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall shepherds make their flocks to lie down there. ²¹But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and ostriches shall dwell there, and wild goats shall dance there. ²²And wolves shall cry in their castles, and jackals in the pleasant palaces: and her time is near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged (ASV, 1901).

The Lord says that there will be no surviving remnant at all. This can only be in the Tribulation because Babylon has never so far been destroyed.

Isaiah 14:22-23

¹⁴And I will rise up against them, saith Jehovah of hosts, and cut off from Babylon name and remnant, and son and son's son, saith Jehovah. ²³I will also make it a possession for the porcupine, and pools of water: and I will sweep it with the besom of destruction, saith Jehovah of hosts (ASV, 1901).

The Lord through Jeremiah gives us some graphic descriptions of the fall of Babylon. *Merathaim* (Str. 4850) and *Pekod* (Str. 6489) are both Hebrew symbolic names for Babylon.

Jeremiah 50:21-27

²¹Go up against the land of Merathaim, even against it, and against the inhabitants of Pekod: slay and utterly destroy after them, saith Jehovah, and do according to all that I have commanded thee. ²²A sound of battle is in the land, and of great destruction. ²³How is the hammer of the whole earth cut asunder and broken! how is Babylon become a desolation among the nations! ²⁴I have laid a snare for thee, and thou art also taken, O Babylon, and thou wast not aware: thou art found, and also caught, because thou hast striven against Jehovah. ²⁵Jehovah hath opened his armory, and hath brought forth the weapons of his indignation; for the Lord, Jehovah of hosts, hath a work to do in the land of the Chaldeans. ²⁶Come against her from the utmost border; open her store-houses; cast her up as heaps, and destroy her utterly; let nothing of her be left. ²⁷Slay all her bullocks; let them go down to the slaughter: woe unto them! For their day is come, the time of their visitation (ASV, 1901).

Jeremiah gives us the same picture as Isaiah did of the totality of the destruction in the 50th chapter of his book.

Jeremiah 50:39-40

³⁹Therefore, the wild beasts of the desert with the wolves shall dwell there, and the ostriches shall dwell therein: and it shall be no more inhabited forever; neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation. ⁴⁰As when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbor cities thereof, saith Jehovah, so shall no man dwell there, neither shall any son of man sojourn therein (ASV, 1901).

Jeremiah discusses the gathering of many peoples against Babylon in Chapter 50:41-42 and concludes that chapter with God's decree against Babylon and the anguish of the nations over losing the world capital.

Jeremiah 50:45-46

⁴⁵Therefore, hear ye the counsel of Jehovah, that he hath taken against Babylon; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the land of the Chaldeans: Surely, they shall drag them away, even the little ones of the flock; surely he shall make their habitation desolate over them. ⁵⁶At the noise of the taking of Babylon the earth trembleth, and the cry is heard among the nations (ASV, 1901).

The influence that the Babylonian corrupt systems will have had on all mankind since the time of Nimrod are the reason that God's judgment will fall on Babylon. He expresses this in Jeremiah chapter 51.

Jeremiah 51:7-9

⁷Babylon hath been a golden cup in Jehovah's hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunk of her wine; therefore, the nations are mad. ⁸Babylon is

suddenly fallen and destroyed: wail for her; take balm for her pain, if so be she may be healed. ⁹We would have healed Babylon, but she is not healed: forsake her, and let us go every one into his own country; for her judgment reacheth unto heaven, and is lifted up even to the skies (ASV, 1901).

Because the world driven by the Babylonian systems of corruption have been especially harsh in persecuting the Jews the judgment will be harsh toward Babylon (Jeremiah 51:24; 35-36).

The destruction of Babylon will bring about great rejoicing among the faithful seeing God extract His vengeance upon the world system that enslaved so many for so long.

Jeremiah 51:48-49

⁴⁸Then the heavens and the earth, and all that is therein, shall sing for joy over Babylon; for the destroyers shall come unto her from the north, saith Jehovah. ⁴⁹As Babylon hath caused the slain of Israel to fall, so at Babylon shall fall the slain of all the land (ASV, 1901).

The prophecy of the destruction phase closes with a description of the results.

Jeremiah 51:54-58

⁵⁴The sound of a cry from Babylon, and of great destruction from the land of the Chaldeans! ⁵⁵For Jehovah layeth Babylon waste, and destroyeth out of her the great voice; and their waves roar like many waters; the noise of their voice is uttered: ⁵⁶for the destroyer is come upon her, even upon Babylon, and her mighty men are taken, their bows are broken in pieces; for Jehovah is a God of recompenses, he will surely requite. ⁵⁷And I will make drunk her princes and her wise men, her governors and her deputies, and her mighty men; and they shall sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the King, whose name is Jehovah of hosts. ⁵⁸Thus, saith Jehovah of hosts: The broad walls of Babylon shall be utterly overthrown, and her high gates shall be burned with fire; and the peoples shall labor for vanity, and the nations for the fire; and they shall be weary (ASV, 1901).

The Antichrist, known as the king of Babylon will not be in Babylon when this destruction comes about. The fact that he will not be in his capital city is given to us in two passages in Jeremiah's book. The first is Jeremiah chapter fifty.

Jeremiah 50:43

⁴³The king of Babylon hath heard the report of them, and his hands waxed feeble: anguish took hold of him, and pangs as of a woman in travail (ASV, 1901).

The second is Jeremiah chapter fifty-one.

Jeremiah 51:31-32

³¹One post shall run to meet another, and one messenger to meet another, to shew the king of Babylon that his city is taken at one end, ³²And that the passages are stopped, and the reeds they have burned with fire, and the men of war are affrighted (ASV, 1901).

Obviously, the Antichrist is not in Babylon, as he has to be told by a messenger that his city is being destroyed and his troops in the city are becoming frightened. Comparing the Scripture of Armageddon Stage one with these we can see that the Antichrist is meeting his forces in the Valley of Jezreel.

The second is also in in Jeremiah chapter fifty.

Jeremiah 50:28

²⁸The voice of them that flee and escape out of the land of Babylon, to declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God, the vengeance of his temple (ASV, 1901).

The Jews who escape from Babylon will make their way to Jerusalem to announce the destruction to the Jews there. They are declaring God's vengeance on the persecution of the Jews and the desecration of the Temple by the Abomination of Desolation. We remember that that was the setting up of an image of the Antichrist in the Holy of Holies by the False Prophet, which became alive. (Revelation 13:11-15)

The third admonition is found in Jeremiah chapter fifty-one.

Jeremiah 51:5-6

⁵For Israel hath not been forsaken, nor Judah of his God, of the LORD of hosts; though their land was filled with sin against the Holy One of Israel. ⁶Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the LORD's vengeance; he will render unto her a recompence (ASV, 1901).

God is warning the Jews to leave so they will not inappropriately suffer God vengeance on Babylon. They again are commanded to go to Jerusalem in Jeremiah 51:10.

The LORD hath brought forth our righteousness: come, and let us declare in Zion the work of the LORD our God.

The fourth warning comes in Jeremiah chapter fifty-one.

Jeremiah 51:45.

⁴⁵My people, go ye out of the midst of her, and deliver ye every man his soul from the fierce anger of the LORD (ASV, 1901).

The last warning is given in Jeremiah chapter fifty-one also.

Jeremiah 51:50

⁵⁰Ye that have escaped the sword, go away, stand not still: remember the LORD afar off, and let Jerusalem come into your mind (ASV, 1901).

It is important to restate the fact that Babylon has never yet been destroyed. When the Medes and the Persians conquered Babylon under the leadership of Cyrus in 539 B.C. there was only one death, which was Belshazzar. (Daniel 5:6).

In 539 BC, Cyrus captured Elam (Susiana) and its capital Susa. Towards the end of September, Cyrus' armies, under the command of Gubaru, the governor of Gutium, attacked Opis on the river Tigris and defeated the Babylonian army.

Then on October 10, the city of Sippar was seized without a battle, with little to no resistance from the populace. It is probable that Cyrus engaged in negotiations with the Babylonian generals to obtain a compromise on their part and therefore avoid an armed confrontation. Nabonidus was staying in the city at the time, and soon fled to the capital, Babylon, which he had not visited in years.

Two days later, on October 12 (Julian calendar; October 7 by the Gregorian calendar), Gubaru's troops entered Babylon, again without any resistance from the Babylonian armies. Herodotus explains that to accomplish this feat, the Persians diverted the Euphrates River into a canal so that the water level dropped "to the height of the middle of a man's thigh," which allowed the invading forces to march directly through the river bed to enter at night. On October 29, Cyrus himself entered the city of Babylon and detained Nabonidus. Most historical records note that Nabonidus was the last Babylonian king. The Bible is the exception and has caused the doubters no end of condemnation of the authority of the Scriptures. Belshazzar was appointed by his father, Nabonidus, as co-regent. In the ziggurat of Ur, four cylinders were found containing a prayer of Nabonidus. This prayer and a variation of it also found at Ur place Belshazzar in a very close relationship with Nabonidus. It names Belshazzar as the first-born son and asks for the god's special blessing on him. Other documents declare him crown prince with a high level of responsibilities of state.

It is also important to keep in mind that Jeremiah chapters 50 and 51, Isaiah 13 and 14 as well as Revelation chapters 13 and 14 all speak of a total destruction of Babylon. It is not a partial destruction. The capture of Babylon in 539 B.C. was without a skirmish in the city. It simply was left to become an uninhabited place over the years.

BABYLON DESTROYED:

All the merchants will mourn over the destruction of Babylon for their fortunes were made from the corruption that is inherent within the economy. The Revelation speaks of them in chapters 17

and 18, which we have examined within our study of economic Babylon. There are also three groups of people that will rejoice in the Babylonian destruction.

Revelation 18:20

²⁰Rejoice over her, [thou] heaven, and [ye] holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her (KJV).

Even though there will be lamenting on the earth by kings, merchants and transporters in Heaven there will be rejoicing. The saints, apostles and prophets will all be celebrating the destruction. They realize that the destruction of the Babylonian systems mark the near return of Christ to the earth. The passage in Revelation 18 ends with an interesting picture of the totality of Babylon's destruction.

Revelation 18:21-24

²¹And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. ²²And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; ²³And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. ²⁴And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth (KJV).

Jeremiah commanded that a scroll of parts of his book be wrapped around a stone and cast into the Euphrates River (Jeremiah 51:63) to symbolize the sinking of Babylon never to surface again. Now the text here states that another person, an angel also casts a stone the size of a millstone into the sea to depict how totally Babylon will disappear so as not to be found anymore. Babylon will cease to be the world center and capital because she was guilty of the blood of the prophets (Two Witnesses) and the slaughter of the Tribulation saints.

In summary the study of the second stage of the Campaign of Armageddon, while the Antichrist moves his forces into the Valley of Jezreel, his enemies, which are the underground or resistance forces, take the opportunity to destroy Babylon suddenly and quickly. According to Isaiah 13:3, they will be Gentile believers of the Tribulation. Just prior to this they will make their way to Jerusalem to report to the Jews who are there. This sudden destruction of the world political and economic capital will cause great distress on the earth, but not in heaven. Because when Babylon gets destroyed, it will signal to those in Heaven that the Second Coming will occur soon. Along with the destruction the regeneration of the Nation Israel will occur shortly.

NEXT WEEK: REVELATION MSG. XXXV

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

pentwaterbiblechurch@scofieldinstitute.org Toll Free 877-706-2479