

(Revelation 17-18)

Next to the city of Jerusalem, there is no city in the Bible that commands more attention than Babylon . There are four major chapters in the Bible that give great prophetic detail to what will happen to Babylon just before the glorious Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Two of the chapters are found in the O.T. book of Jeremiah (50-51) and the other two are found here in Revelation (17-18). In the Bible Babylon is used in three different ways:

- 1) It refers to a false idolatrous system of religion .
- 2) It refers to a major political power that is not right with God.
- 3) It refers to a literal city .

Babylon has its historical roots in the book of Genesis . The city was originally named . “Babel” and was originally built by Nimrod (Gen. 10:9-10). False religion began in this city and the arrogance of false religion reached such a level that God confounded languages so that all people would not become totally given over to evil (Gen. 11:3-9).

The king in the Bible who really brought Babylon back into historical limelight was Nebuchadnezzar. He led a major campaign against Jerusalem and leveled the city and took captives back to Babylon (II Kings 25). It was to Babylon where Daniel was taken captive . and it was from Babylon where Daniel prophesied .

Daniel predicted that major political powers of Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome would follow the Babylonian Kingdom (Dan. 2:39-42). It was at this city that King Nebuchadnezzar demanded that he be worshipped (Dan. 3). It was during this time period (605-600 B.C.) that Babylon was seen in all of its splendor. Daniel’s prophecy of Babylon being overthrown was fulfilled in 539 B.C. when Cyrus (also predicted by Isaiah 50 years earlier - Is. 44:28; 45:1) overthrew Babylon and the Medo Persian Empire was established. During this overthrow Babylon was greatly destroyed but not to the point described by Jeremiah or Revelation.

Jeremiah 50:1-46

Fact #1 - When this judgment occurs, Babylon’s religion and religious artifacts will be totally destroyed . **50:2** – The Babylonian religion is Islam.

Fact #2 - When this judgment occurs, Babylon will be attacked by a powerful northern nation. **50:3; 51:48**

Fact #3 - When this judgment occurs, Israel will seek a proper relationship with God. **50:4**

Fact #4 - When this judgment occurs, Israel will seek her Promised Land. **50:5-6**

Fact #5 - When this judgment occurs, Israel will be under great persecution . **50:7**

Fact #6 - When this judgment occurs, many will flee the area. **50:8**

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- Fact #7** - When this judgment occurs, several nations will participate in Babylon's total and complete destruction. **50:9**
- Fact #8** - When this judgment occurs, a massive area will be destroyed and ancestors . will be totally ashamed. **50:10-12**
- Fact #9** - When this judgment occurs, it will be the full indignation and vengeance of God. **50:13-16**
- Fact #10** - When this judgment occurs, it will be a prelude to Israel's return to her Promised Land. **50:17-19**
- Fact #11** - When this judgment occurs, there will be no sin found anymore in Israel. **50:20**
- Fact #12** - When this judgment occurs, it will take Babylon by surprise and will mean her complete destruction. **50:21-27** – Merathaim (v. 21) means double rebellion and Pekod (v. 21) means punishment.
- Fact #13** - When this judgment occurs, all young men and military men will be destroyed . **50:29-30**
- Fact #14** - When this judgment occurs, Babylon's leader will be targeted and destroyed . **50:31-32**
- Fact #15** - When this judgment occurs, it is due to her arrogance against God and mistreatment of God's people Israel. **50:33-37**
- Fact #16** - When this judgment occurs, it will come directly from Israel's Redeemer , Jesus Christ with Millennial Rest in view. **50:34**
- Fact #17** - When this judgment occurs, it will totally destroy citizens, leaders ("officials"), scholars ("wise men"), religious leaders ("oracle priests") the mighty, the animals, and vehicles. **50:35-37**
- Fact #18** - When this judgment occurs, there will be a lack of water . **50:38**
- Fact #19** - When this judgment occurs, the land will be a desolate wild animal haven. **50:39-40**
- Fact #20** - When this judgment occurs, attacks will come from various world armies . **50:41**
- Fact #21** - When this judgment occurs, there will be no mercy from any military power. **50:42**
- Fact #22** - When this judgment occurs, Babylon's king will be terrified and distressed. **50:43**
- Fact #23** - When this judgment occurs, all know it is God's prophetic judgment. **50:44-46**

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The destruction of Babylon is such an important event toward the end of the Tribulation, as the Second Coming of Jesus Christ nears, that God mentions it in many passages and specifically devotes four chapters to graphically describe what God will do. The chapters are Revelation 17-18 and Jeremiah 50-51.

In Jeremiah 51:63, we may observe that this prophecy is geographically aimed at the area of the Euphrates. This places this judgment right in Iraq.

Jeremiah 51:1-64

Fact #1 - God will Personally send a destructive spirit against Babylon. **51:1**

The word “Leb-kamai” means those who “rise up against Me” or the “heart of My attackers.” Babylon has been at the heart of everything that has attacked God. It all started here. Notice that the judgment is aimed at the inhabitants; it will be aimed at people.

Fact #2 - God will send enemies from all directions to destroy Babylon. **51:2**

Foreigners will come from all directions. More than likely the Antichrist will be part of this and will be used by God to destroy Iraqi and Islamic nationals.

Fact #3 - God will destroy all who try to defend Babylon. **51:3**

The object of this judgment is destruction and any who try to defend Babylon will be destroyed.

Fact #4 - God’s destruction will be so devastating that dead bodies will lie in the streets. **51:4**

Chaldea was land in the southern part of Iraq around the Persian Gulf. It includes Kuwait.

Fact #5 - God’s destruction of Babylon does not mean God will forsake Israel. **51:5**

Even though this will be a major moment in the Tribulation, God will still preserve Israel. God never loses His head when pouring out wrath; it is very precise.

Fact #6 - When God destroys Babylon any who want to live must flee or be destroyed. **51:6**

We believe that some Jews will have moved into this part of the world because at the beginning of the Tribulation, the Antichrist brought about some phony peace pact between the Arabs and the Israelis.

Fact #7 - As godless as Babylon is, it has always been sovereignly controlled by God.
51:7, 25:12-29

Babylon has been used by God to intoxicate the nations to the point where they are theologically insane. Most people in the world would rather believe in themselves and their works rather than to rely upon the grace of God. Notice carefully that “all” the world has been intoxicated, which means all of the world is filled with false religion. God is going to target Babylon and literally wipe her out, and then all will know there was one true God and one true Word of God.

Fact #8 - The destruction of Babylon will not be halted or healed because it comes from heaven. **51:8-9**

What is stated in **verse 9** is that there have been times when God’s Word has gone into Babylon. Most recently in the war with Iraq, the truth of the Word of God has somewhat infiltrated this part of the world through our soldiers and various agencies. But the fact is, she will not be healed by a message of Jesus Christ and God’s heaven will judge her.

Fact #9 - The destruction of Babylon will cause Israel to worship God. **51:10**

There are many references in this chapter to Israel: **51:5, 10, 19, 24, 33, 35, 49, 50**. Undoubtedly, when God destroys the Arab world right in front of Israel’s eyes, it will become a key moment when Israel will worship God for she will nationally realize God is on our side. There will be rejoicing in Israel and in heaven (Revelation 18:20). As we have previously observed, one of the purposes of the Tribulation is to regather Israel; and when God wipes out the Arab world, it will certainly be a moment that will bring Jews together to worship God.

Fact #10 - The destruction of Babylon will in part be due to the treatment of His Temple.
51:11

The Medes lived in land which is northern Iran. The Arab world has demolished Temple worship in Jerusalem and God has not forgotten it. Presently the Temple area is controlled by a hideous and godless and demonic Arab shrine, “the Dome of the Rock.” This idolatrous building has no business being on the sacred property of God, so God says, I will set the record straight. I will pour out My vengeance on the place where this all started, Babylon, and I will use heathen forces to do the job.

Fact #11 - When God destroys Babylon, nothing will be able to stop the destruction. **51:12**

God will call for His army to come and destroy this area, and no matter what the defense it will not stop the destruction.

Fact #12 - When God destroys Babylon, her beauty and wealth will be destroyed.
51:13; 50:29

After Cyrus overthrew Babylon in 539 B.C., the city remained populated and productive. Not much information is available during the Middle Ages, but there is evidence that since the 1700s this part of the world has been inhabited. Dr. Koldewey, a German archeologist in the 1900s, claimed that there were people living within the ancient city limits of Babylon when he was doing his research. He claimed that there were several villages within the walls of ancient Babylon. In 1987, Dr. Charles Dyer contacted Mrs. L. Glynne Dairo, who was the assistant secretary of the British School of Archeology in Iraq, and she confirmed that there are three modern settlements inside the walls of ancient Babylon. What this means is that this area is still populated and still in existence, but in the Tribulation God will completely destroy it and the people in it.

Fact #13 - When God destroys Babylon, He will bring forces against her like locusts. **51:14**

Locusts are organized, unified, and destructive. They are fierce and fast.

Fact #14 - When God destroys Babylon, people will realize how great God really is and how nothing man is. **51:15-18**

All of the manmade Islamic shrines and mosques will be completely obliterated.

Fact #15 - The judgment against Babylon will be a judgment for and with Israel and will be one that specifically preserves Israel. **51:19-24**

God has kept the record of all the negative things that the Arabs have done against Israel and He will pay back.

Fact #16 - The judgment against Babylon will be completely vindictive and eternal.
51:25-43

Dr. Charles Dyer said of **verse 26** that even to this day ancient stones and bricks are used on buildings and houses. This predicts a day when all of them are destroyed. Dyer said this has not happened yet.

God is going to use certain nations to obliterate this part of the world, which He names in **verse 27** (Ararat is Armenia; Minni is western Iran; Ashkenaz is Turkey). According to **verses 34-35**, just as Nebuchadnezzar devoured His people, God will destroy Babylon; and according to **verse 43**, when He does, no human will live in Iraq.

Fact #17 - The judgment against Babylon will totally destroy any satanic achievement. **51:44**

Bel was the chief demonic deity of Babylon who is none other than Satan. Satan has done many things in the Arab world and God will destroy every one of them.

Fact #18 - When God destroys Babylon, any of God's people must immediately flee. **51:45**

There will be some Jews in Iraq and possibly some Arabs and other ethnic groups who have believed after the Rapture. All believers will need to get out of this area. When a place is about to receive the fierce wrath of God, no one wants to be near it.

Fact #19 - When God destroys Babylon, it will occur after two years of rumors. **51:46-47**

Presently the talk concerning Iraq is rebuild. Four or five years into the Tribulation, the rumor will be God's ferocious judgment is coming.

Fact #20 - When God destroys Babylon, all who are right with God will rejoice. **51:48**

Those in heaven and those on the earth will be rejoicing that this evil place is destroyed by God.

Fact #21 - When God destroys Babylon, it will be in behalf of Israel. **51:49**

God holds this place accountable for the killing of His people.

Fact #22 - When God destroys Babylon, survivors should immediately think of Jerusalem. **51:50**

Why should the thoughts turn toward Jerusalem at this point in time? Because Jesus Christ is about to physically return there. The end of the Tribulation is near and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ is moments away.

Fact #23 - When God destroys Babylon, Israel will be ashamed that they allowed things to desecrate God's Temple. **51:51**

Israel will be ashamed of the fact that she drifted from God and as a result they lost their sacred worship.

Fact #24 - When God destroys Babylon, it will be unstoppable and complete. **51:52-58**

Observe from **verse 53** that at the time of this judgment, this part of the world is once again large and impressive. It will be a place of a strong military, fortified presence. God will wipe it all out.

Fact #25 - When God destroys Babylon, it will never be in existence again. **51:59-64**

Notice the emphasis in this section on the "written Word."

- 1) The Word of God is to be read. **51:61**
- 2) The Word of God is to be interpreted. **51:62**
- 3) The Word of God is to be illustrated. **51:63**

God's Word clearly predicts the total destruction and annihilation of Babylon, Iraq.