

# “Book of Revelation—Part 7”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a nine-part series about the book of Revelation. Part 7 was about the “The Second Angel of Revelation 14.”

## **Reminder from last week**

■ Revelation 14:6-7—This angel preaches the gospel to all those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, to every tribe, to every language and to all people.

## **Holman Bible Dictionary**

The second angel of Revelation is about Babylon. Babylon is mentioned 274 times in the OT and 12 times in the NT.

Following are some excerpts from *The Holman Bible Dictionary* under the section called “Babylon” (on pages 141-144).

■ “Babylon was a city-state in southern Mesopotamia during Old Testament times, which eventually became a large empire that absorbed the nation of Judah and destroyed Jerusalem. The city of Babylon was founded in unknown antiquity on the river Euphrates, about 50 miles south of modern Baghdad. The English names Babylon and Babel (Genesis 10:10 and Genesis 11:9) are translated from the same Hebrew word (*babel*).”

■ “During the period of Assyrian Empire, Babylon was dominated by this warlike neighbor to the north . . . Assyrian domination died with [King] Ashurbanipal in 627 B.C. . . . In 612, with the help of the Medes, the Babylonians sacked the Assyrian capital of Nineveh.”

■ “In 604 and 603 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar II (605-562 B.C.), king of Babylon, campaigned along the Palestinian coast. At this time Jehoiakim (king of Judah), became an unwilling vassal of Babylon. A Babylonian defeat at the border of Egypt in 601 probably encouraged Jehoiakim to rebel. For two years Judah was harassed by Babylonian vassals (2 Kings 24:1-2). Then, in December of 598 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar marched on Jerusalem. Jehoiakim died that same month, and his son Jehoiachin surrendered the city to the Babylonians on March 16, 597 B.C. . . . Nebuchadnezzar appointed Zedekiah over Judah. Against the protests of Jeremiah (but with promises of Egyptian aid), Zedekiah revolted against Babylon in 589 B.C. In the resultant Babylonian cam-

paign, Judah was ravaged and Jerusalem besieged . . . The city fell in August of 587 B.C. Zedekiah was captured, Jerusalem burned, and the Temple destroyed (Jeremiah 52:12-14). Many more Judeans were taken to their exile in Babylonia (2 Kings 25:1-21 and Jeremiah 52:1-30)."

■ "In 539 B.C., the Persian Cyrus II (the Great) entered Babylon without a fight."

### **Symbolism of Babylon**

■ "Babylon the metropolis (like the tower of Babel) became symbolic of man's decadence and God's judgment . . . Babylonian religion is the best known variant of a complex and highly polytheistic system of belief common throughout Mesopotamia. Of the thousands of recognized gods, only about 20 were important in actual practice."

### **Babylon's false gods**

Disciples of the Father and the Son seek to avoid the false gods of the Babylonian religion.

■ Isaiah 46:1—"Bel" is the equivalent of "Baal" and "Nebo" was the Babylonian god of speech, writing and water.

■ Jeremiah 50:2—"Bel" is the equivalent of "Baal" and "Merodach" was a Babylonian god sometimes spelled "Marduk."

■ 2 Kings 20:12—Berodach-Baladan (the son of Baladan) is quoted as meaning "god Marduk gave an heir."

### **Babylon's lust for wealth**

■ 2 Kings 20:13—Hezekiah showed the men from Babylon all of his treasure (silver, gold, spices, precious ointment, armory, etc.).

■ 2 Kings 20:14—When Isaiah asked Hezekiah where those men were from, Hezekiah told him that the men came from Babylon.

■ 2 Kings 20:15—When Isaiah asked Hezekiah what the men had seen in Hezekiah's house, Hezekiah replied that the men had seen all that Hezekiah had in his house.

■ 2 Kings 20:16-18—Isaiah told Hezekiah that all his valuables would end up in Babylon.

### **Merchants of the earth**

Before I read the scriptures in the book of Revelation about the merchants of the earth lamenting the collapse of their financial system, I decided to give a few examples of the merchants of the earth. When the financial world collapses, these groups will be lamenting.

- The Roman empire in Rome, Italy.
- The American “deep state” in Washington, D.C.
- The United Nations in New York City.
- NATO in Brussels, Belgium.
- BRICS in Shanghai, China.
- WEF in Davos, Switzerland.
- The British monarchy in Buckingham Palace.
- The Saudi monarchy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- The Japanese monarchy in Tokyo, Japan.
- The Chinese oligarchs in Beijing, China.
- The European oligarchs in Moscow and Kyiv.
- The Catholic hierarchy in the Vatican.

### **Babylon in the book of Revelation**

- Revelation 14:8—Babylon will make all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.
- Revelation 16:19—Babylon will receive the fierceness of God’s wrath.
- Revelation 17:5—Babylon is the “mother of harlots.”
- Revelation 17:6—Babylon will be drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.
- Revelation 17:12—The 10 kings will receive authority for one hour.
- Revelation 18:2—Babylon will become a dwelling place of demons.
- Revelation 18:3—The kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.
- Revelation 18:9—The kings of the earth (who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her) will weep and lament for her.
- Revelation 18:10—The great city of Babylon will face quick judgment.
- Revelation 18:11-13—The merchants of the earth will no longer buy their merchandise—gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fine linen, purple, silk, scarlet, citron wood, objects of ivory, precious wood, bronze, iron, marble, cinnamon, incense, fragrant oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle, sheep, horses and chariots.
- Revelation 18:15-16—The merchants who became rich by her will stand at a distance from the city that was clothed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold, precious stones and pearls.
- Revelation 18:17—In one hour her riches came to nothing.
- Revelation 18:21—A mighty angel said: “Thus with violence the great city of Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore.”
- Revelation 18:23—A mighty angel said: “Your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.”