Who Is Babylon The Great?

(More Bible Studies Available @ marktabata.com)

Revelation 17:5-And on her forehead a name *was* written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Babylon Is Iraq

Isaiah 13	Revelation 18
Oracle against Babylon (Isaiah 13:1)	Judgment against Babylon the Great (Revelation 18:2)
Babylon will be overthrown by God (Isaiah 13:19)	Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great (Revelation 18:2)
Wail, for the day of the LORD is near (Isaiah 13:6)	Kings and merchants weep over Babylon's destruction (Revelation 18:9-19)

Isaiah 13	Revelation 18
Nations swept into terror and panic (Isaiah 13:7-8)	Kings stand far off in fear (Revelation 18:10)
Babylon becomes desolate forever (Isaiah 13:20)	Babylon becomes deserted and ruined (Revelation 18:21-23)
Wild/desert creatures/demons inhabit ruins (Isaiah 13:21-22)	Demons, foul spirits, unclean birds inhabit Babylon (Revelation 18:2)
No human habitation (Isaiah 13:20)	No more repeated throughout Revelation 18:21-23
God uses nations as instruments of judgment (the Medes in Isaiah 13:17)	God uses earthly powers/allies of the beast against Babylon (17:16-17)

Babylon Is Tyre

Tyre (Ezekiel 27)	Babylon (Revelation 18)
Ezekiel 27:2-3-“take up a lamentation for Tyre”	Revelation 18:9-19-kings, merchants, and sailors lament Babylon
Ezekiel 27:3-Tyre is perfect in beauty	Revelation 18:7-Babylon glorified herself and lived luxuriously

Ezekiel 27:12-25-long list of traded goods	Revelation 18:11-13- long list of luxury cargo
Ezekiel 27:13-trading in persons of men	Revelation 18:13-slaves and souls of men
Ezekiel 27:17-22-international trade network	Revelation 18:3, 15, 23-merchants of the earth enriched by Babylon
Ezekiel 27:25-ships of Tarshish were carriers	Revelation 18:17-19-shipmasters and sailors mourn
Ezekiel 27:27-sudden destruction in midst of seas	Revelation 18:8, 10, 17-destruction comes in one hour
Ezekiel 27:28-30-sailors cry bitterly	Revelation 18:17-19-shipmasters cry and mourn
Ezekiel 27:30-casting dust on heads	Revelation 18:19-sailors throw dust on heads
Ezekiel 27:32-What city is like Tyre?	Revelation 18:18-What city is like this great city?
Ezekiel 27:33-Tyre enriched kings of earth	Revelation 18:3, 9-kings enriched through Babylon
Ezekiel 27:34-36- nations horrified at Tyre's end	Revelation 18:9-10-kings stand afar off in fear
Ezekiel 27:36-Tyre becomes a terror and is no more	Revelation 18:21-23-Babylon found no more at all

Babylon Is Edom

Isaiah 34	Revelation 17-19

Isaiah 34:2-wrath against the nations	Revelation 17:1; 18:3-Babylon corrupts nations
Isaiah 34:9-10-land burns continually	Revelation 17:16; 18:8-9 â€” Babylon burned with fire
Isaiah 34:10- smoke ascends forever	Revelation 19:3-smoke of Babylon rises forever
Isaiah 34:11-possession of unclean spirits/ demons	Revelation 18:2-dwelling place of demons and unclean birds
Isaiah 34:14-wild beasts and satyrs/demons	Revelation 18:2-dwelling place of demons and unclean birds
Isaiah 34:14-night creature (Lilith in some readings)	Revelation 18:2-dwelling place of demons and unclean birds
Isaiah 34:15-birds inhabiting ruins	Revelation 18:2-cage of unclean birds
Isaiah 34:17-permanent inheritance by creatures	Revelation 18:21-23 â€” no human activity remains

Babylon Is Rome

Revelation 17:3, 9, 18-So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast *which was* full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns...9 "Here *is* the mind which has wisdom: The seven

heads are seven mountains on which the woman sit….**18** And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."

- Perhaps no point is more obvious in Revelation than this: Rome is here symbolized by the seven mountains. After all, Rome is the one city in history universally recognized for its seven hills: the Palatine, Aventine, Caelian, Esquiline, Viminal, Quirinal, and Capitoline hills. The Roman writers Suetonius and Plutarch refer to the first century festival in Rome called Septimontium, i.e., the feast of "the seven hilled city." The Coin of Vespasian (emperor A.D. 69–79)

pictures the goddess Roma as a woman sitting on seven hills. Ancient pagan writers often mention the famed seven hills of Rome, writers such as Ovid, Claudian, Statius, Pliny, Virgil, Horace, Propertius, Martial, and Cicero, as well as by Christian writers, such as Tertullian and Jerome. Indeed, "there is scarce a poet that speaks of Rome but observes it. (Kenneth Gentry, Jr.,, Navigating The Book Of Revelation: Special Studies On Important Issues, 499-507 (Kindle Edition); Fountain Inn, South Carolina; GoodBirth Ministries)

- HERE the doom of Rome is prophesied. Throughout Revelation,

Rome is described as Babylon, a description which was common between the Testaments. The writer of 2 Baruch begins his pronouncement against Rome: 'I, Baruch, say this against you, Babylon' (2 Baruch 11:1). When the Sibylline Oracles describe the imagined flight of Nero from Rome, they say: 'Then shall ffrom Babylon a king shameless and fearless, whom all mortals and the noble men loathe' (Sibylline Oracles 5:143). In the ancient days, to the prophets, Babylon had been the very incarnation of power and lust and luxury and sin; and, to the early Jewish Christians, Babylon seemed to have been reborn in the lust and

luxury and immorality of Rome....Babylon is said to have made all the nations drink the wine of the wrath of her fornication. In this phrase, two Old Testament ideas have been fused into one. In Jeremiah 51:7, it is said of Babylon: 'Babylon was a golden cup in the Lord's hand, making all the earth drunken; the nations drank of her wine, and so the nations went mad.' The idea is that Babylon had been a corrupting force which had lured the nations into a kind of insane immorality. The background is the picture of a prostitute persuading a man into immorality by filling him full of wine, so that he could no longer resist her seductive charms.

Rome has been like that, like some glittering prostitute seducing the world." (William Barclay, The New Daily Study Bible: The Revelation Of John, Volume Two, 125-126 (Kindle Edition); Louisville, KY; Westminster John Knox Press)

Satan Connected With Babylon The Great

Babylon/Iraq

Satan is given glory by the work of Babylon (Revelation 13:2) which includes literal Babylon/Iraq (Revelation 18 referencing Isaiah 13). Now compare this with the Lucifer

passage also connected to Babylon (Isaiah 14:12-15).

Babylon/Tyre

Satan is given glory by the work of Babylon (Revelation 13:2) which includes Tyre (Revelation 18 referencing with Ezekiel 27). Now compare this with the "king of Tyre" passage (Ezekiel 28:11-19).

Babylon/Rome

Satan (The Dragon-Revelation 12:9) Works Through The Beast (Revelation 13:2) Which Is Then Identified As Babylon/Rome (Revelation 17:2-3; 17:9, 18).

Some Lessons Learned

1. We need to study the Old Testament if we want to better understand the Book of Revelation (Revelation 1:1-3; Romans 15:4).
2. Every nation of man that is opposed to God, His Word, and His people may rightly be termed "Babylon" (cf. James 4:4).
3. There is definitely a spiritual war going on and it will continue to intensify (cf. 2 Corinthians 10:3-6; Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Peter 5:8).
4. Even if it feels like we are losing now, in the end we are going to be victorious (Revelation 12:11; 17:14).

Explanatory Notes

On Babylon/Animals/Demons

Revelation 18:2-And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!

Isaiah 13:21-22-But wild beasts of the desert will lie there, And their houses will be full of owls; Ostriches will dwell there, And wild goats will caper there. **22** The hyenas will howl in their citadels, And jackals in their

pleasant palaces. Her time *is* near to come, And her days will not be prolonged."

Isaiah 13:21-22 (Brenton's LXX)-But wild beasts shall rest there; and the houses shall be filled with howling; and monsters shall rest there, and devils shall dance there, **22** and satyrs shall dwell there; and hedgehogs shall make their nests in their houses. It will come soon, and will not tarry.

- Two of the passages noted above deserve some attention. In Isaiah 13:21–22, a description of the impending devastation of Babylon, the terms ṣiyyîm and ʾiyyîm occur in

tandem with the śĕʿîrîm (Isa 13:21) associated with illegitimate sacrifices in Leviticus 17:7 (cf. Deut 32:12). The same grouping is present in Isaiah 34:14, a passage that adds lîlît to the assemblage—the Hebrew spelling of the well-known Mesopotamian demon-goddess Lilith:76…As Janowski notes, these terms could very naturally speak of "zoologically definable animals, i.e. nocturnal consumers of carrion, who appear in pairs or in packs," but "their association with theriomorphic demons … and the demon Lilith, is intended to place the aspect of the counterhuman world in the foreground."78 Why does the

biblical writer cast the judgment of Babylon in this way? Babylon was, in many ways, a metaphor for evil and chaos in the Old Testament, "one of the dread images of the Bible, stretching from OT history to the apocalyptic vision of Revelation."79 Talmon adds, "The presence of such monsters in fact indicates that a place had been reduced to the primeval state of chaos."80 But Babylon was merely the primary point of reference to a much more comprehensive threat. In his study of "desolation passages" in the prophets, John Geyer draws on Milgrom's observation that the biblical vocabulary for desolation has secure Mesopotamian cognates

that “refer to the netherworld.”81… Biblical writers were not expressing the notion that night birds and animals were actually demons any more than modern people who entertain superstitions about black cats think those animals are not members of the animal kingdom. An owl might be the symbol of Lilith, but owls were nevertheless birds. The vocabulary of nocturnal presence and behavior allowed the prophets to communicate the notion that some places are the jurisdiction of cosmic evil and therefore occupied by evil spirits. (Michael S. Heiser, Demons: What the Bible Really Says About the Powers of

Darkness, 27-29 (Kindle Edition): Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press)

On Mount Hermon/Mount Seir/Edom

- The Ancient Book of Enoch preserved by the Ethiopians and found among the Dead Sea Scrolls contains not only accurate prophecy but also the story of Semyaza. Semyaza and a band of two hundred angels saw what Azazel was doing and decided to do the same. They descended on Ardis, the summit of Mount Hermon, and bound themselves by an oath to take wives, have children, and reshape the world into one of their own making. This was in the days of Jared, Enoch's

father, about 460-622 years after Creation. Azazel had already taken a wife by this time. Some Rabbis taught that his wife was Naamah, daughter of Lamech. (She should not be confused with Naamah, the daughter of Enoch, who was the wife of Noah.) Their descendants were known as the Sedim. The Sedim were a class of pre-flood Nephilim who were worshiped as guardian spirits by the Akkadians. There were even rabbis, according to the Talmud, who invoked these Sedim in rituals for the purpose of exorcism. Azazel began teaching his clan how to make weapons of war, knives, swords, and shields from metal. He also taught jewelry

making from earth metals and precious stones, in addition to teaching women to use make-up. Semyasa and the others taught many other forbidden and twisted things to their wives. They taught sorcery, enchantments, the cutting of roots for poisons and their antidotes, astrology and astronomy, and an intricate religion that set up themselves and their sons to be worshiped in the place of God. One legend states that it was Semyaza who married Naamah, the daughter of Lamech. With such perversion in the land, maybe she was the wife of both Azazel and Semyasa! According to Enoch, the main center of the Nephilim seems to have been

at Ardis, the summit of Mount Hermon. But the story doesn't stop there...(Ken Johnson, Fallen Angels, 29-30 (Kindle Edition): CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform)

- Here's what we know: The Babylon of John's vision is a religion and a city. Ezekiel gave us important clues that modern prophecy scholars have missed because they haven't considered the history and religion of the people who lived in the ancient Near East. Chapter 27 of Ezekiel is a lament over the city of Tyre. The great trading city was founded by the Phoenician descendants of Amorites who settled along the eastern shore of the

Mediterranean. This lament has a clear parallel in Revelation. It not only cements the connection between the visions of Ezekiel and John, it shows that the iniquity of the Amorites is still with us...Tyre was the most powerful commercial empire in the Mediterranean for centuries. Even after the city's influence began to fade, its colony in north Africa, Carthage, grew so powerful that its most famous general, Hannibal, nearly destroyed Rome. At the peak of Tyre's power, in Ezekiel's day, the prophet linked the strength of Tyre, its ships, to Mount Hermon and Bashan. Senir was the Amorite name for Hermon, the mount of assembly ruled by

“the” god of the western Amorites, El. But the Amorites were history by Ezekiel’s day, at least under the name “Amorite.” Their lands were ruled by their descendants, the Arameans, Phoenicians, and Arabs, by the time of King David, about four hundred years before Ezekiel. So, why did the prophet use the archaic name for the mountain? Ezekiel deliberately linked Tyre to the region’s spiritual wickedness in the minds of his readers. Not only was Senir/Hermon the abode of El, where the Rephaim spirits came to feast, it towered over Bashan, the entrance to the netherworld. By calling the mountain Senir instead of Hermon, Ezekiel specifically

connected Tyre to the Amorites, whose evil was legendary among Jews.[461] As we noted early in the book, Babylon was founded by Amorites. Descendants of Amorites, the Phoenicians, made Tyre the foremost commercial empire of the ancient world. The link between Tyre and Mystery Babylon is the lament over its destruction…The parallels here have been noted by Bible scholars for generations. What I propose is that this connection points to the spiritual source of this global end-times religion—the gods of the Amorites, who joined forces as the directors of Allah, Inc. By extension, then, it also points to the city that this religion calls home—

Mecca. (Derek P. Gilbert, Bad Moon Rising: Islam, Armageddon, and the Most Diabolical Double-Cross in History, 278-284 (Kindle Edition): Crane, MO: Defender Publishing)