



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter 17 (Part 1)

“Mystery Babylon – It’s History”

GENESIS CHAPTER 11 – THE TOWER OF BABEL

> According to **Genesis 10:8-10** Nimrod was the builder and leader of this place called Babel. The name as given by Nimrod (Gen 10:10), the founder, means (Bab-il), "the gate of the god Il," or simply "of God." Nimrod is declaring his is the way, his tower of worship is the truth, and his city is the life. **Ray Stedman** writes, "Nimrod's name is from the verb **"let us revolt."** He is said to be a mighty hunter (*gibbor tsayidh*) in the sight of the Lord, but the language has a dark meaning. He becomes a tyrant or despot leading an organized rebellion against the rule of Yahweh. He hunts not animals, but rather the souls of men . . . The Jewish Talmud helps us here, for it says that he was "a hunter of the souls of men."

> By the founding of Babylon and Nineveh we have a hint given of the nature of this man . . . In the Babylonian religion, Nimrod (or Marduk) held a unique place. His wife was Semiramis. Marduk and Semiramis were the ancient god and goddess of Babylon. They had a son whom Semiramis claimed was virgin-born, and they founded the mother and child cult. This was the central character of the religion of ancient Babylon, the worship of a mother and child, supposedly virgin-born. You can see in this a clever attempt on the part of Satan to anticipate the genuine virgin birth and thus to cast disrepute upon the story when the Lord Jesus would later be born into history (ref. Genesis 3:15).

> **This ancient Babylonian cult of the mother and child spread to other parts of the earth.** You will find it in the Egyptian religion as Isis and Osiris. In Greece it is Venus and Adonis, and in the Hindu religion it is Ushas and Vishnu. The same cult prevails in various other localities. It appears in the Old Testament in Jeremiah where the Israelites are warned against offering sacrifices to "the Queen of Heaven." This *Queen of Heaven* is Semiramis, the wife of Nimrod, the original mother of the **Mother and Child cult**. The cult has also crept into Christianity and forms the basis for the Mariolatry that has prevailed in the Roman Catholic Church, where the Mother and Child are worshiped as joint redeemers.

> Alexander Hislop, an authoritative writer in this field, has written a book called *"The Two Babylons,"* which should be of great interest if you desire to pursue this further. This idolatrous religion culminates at last in the Bible in the book of Revelation. **There, a "great harlot" appears, whose name is "Mystery Babylon the Great," the originator of all the harlotries and false religions of earth.** The essence of Babylonianism, as we understand from Scripture, is the attempt to gain earthly honor by means of religious authority. That is Babylonianism, and it has pervaded Christian churches, Hindu temples, Buddhist shrines, and Mohammedan mosques. Everywhere it is the element that marks falseness in religion—the attempt to gain earthly power and prestige by means of religious authority. That is what Nimrod began and what God will ultimately destroy, as we read in the book of Revelation."

D) Man’s Ambition (v1-4)

> Observe the four sins of man’s *selfish ambition* found in verse 4:

#1 - Self-Will! – **"Come let us build ourselves a city"** - **Henry Morris** also writes, "Nimrod and his followers willfully leaving the knowledge and worship of the true God and Creator, they began instead to worship the creation. This soon led to pantheism and polytheism and idolatry. How much of this new system of religion came by direct communication with Satan himself we do not know, but there is abundant evidence that all forms of paganism have come originally from the ancient Babylonian religion. The essential identity of the various gods and goddesses of Rome, Greece, India, Egypt and other nations with the original pantheon of the Babylonians is well established. Nimrod himself was apparently later deified as the chief god ("Merodach," or "Marduk") of Babylon. These pagan deities were also identified with the stars and planets—the "host of heaven"—with sun-worshipping occupying a central place. This system was formalized in the zodiac, with its numerous constellations—a most remarkable construction which seems to have been the common possession of all the nations of antiquity." (History repeats itself in the last days; Babylon becomes the fountainhead of false religion in the Post-Flood world. The city Babylon and Iraq figure in Biblical prophecies connected with the end of the age. "Mystery Babylon" is found in Bible prophecy. Revelation 17-18 depicts God's final judgment of world religion plus world commerce and trade since these man-made systems have sprung from the source rebellion of Nimrod and Babel.)

#2 - Self-Worship! – **“Come let us build ourselves a tower whose top is in the heavens”** - A number of years ago, digging in the plains of Shinar, archaeologists discovered the remains of certain great towers that these early Babylonians had built. Some archaeologists have felt that they may even have found the foundation of this original tower of Babel. That is very hard to determine. But they did find that the Babylonians built great towers called **ziggurats**, which were built in a circular fashion with an ascending staircase that terminates in a shrine at the top, around which are written the signs of the zodiac. (Turn to **Ro. 1:18-32**)

#3 - Self-Glory! – **“Come let us make a name for ourselves”** – Mankind can talk about every name and god or goddess freely without reproach except the one true God and Savior the Lord Jesus Christ! Peter declares in Acts 4:12 – *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”* Rom 10:9-11 - *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.* Phil 2:9-11 - *Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* **John 14:14** - *If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*

#4 - Self-Destiny! – **“Come let us defy God together”** – After the judgment of global flood God had told Noah and his sons to **“Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth”** (Gen. 9:1). These post flood folks decided to defy this commandment of the LORD and determined their own destiny by dwelling in the land of Shinar. Why? Because of sin, rebellion, fear, materialism, religion, and unbelief. **Jesus said, Mark 8:35-38** - *For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”* **In Rev 21:7-8** - *He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”*

II) God's Division (v5-9)

This division of languages and people resulted from the love of God for humanity. This form of judgment was provision for salvation, for all were falling under the seduction of Nimrod and this false worship. This division of people groups through language corresponds with each of the generations of Noah's sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth producing their ethnic migrations to various parts of the earth. This event was likely during the lifetime of **Peleg** *“for in his days the earth was divided”* (Gen. 9:25).

III) God's Provision

Unlike Nimrod's call “Come to corruption,” Jesus said – *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”* (Matt 11:28-30) Let's finish with **Acts ch. 2** for on the **day of Pentecost** God miraculously unites the language and sin divided people of this world through His Son Jesus Christ by the power of His Holy Spirit.

Let's fulfill the “Great commission!” - *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* Amen. (Mt. 28:19-20)