



Bible Prophecy Guide

The Fall of Babylon

Summary 3

Genesis 11:1,4-9 – Babylon's history goes back to the tower of Babel. The tower was an attempt to make a name for themselves, to unite all flesh, and to reach heavens that they might never suffer another flood. These characteristics represent the heart of Babylon.

Isaiah 13:19-20 – Scripture is clear that the city of Babylon would be destroyed and never more inhabited. If you go there today, you find that it is a rather desolate place, that as Scripture predicted, only ruins exist where this magnificent city once stood.

Revelation 18:1-4 - Here we see that Babylon will receive of the 7 last plagues mentioned in chapter 16 which implies Babylon's presence at the end of time. Clearly based on the language and context, this is referring to Babylon as a symbol of the wicked at the end. Thus we see the need of understanding Babylon's literal history as recorded in Scripture that we might better understand it's role in prophecy.

Daniel 4 & 5 both describe arrogant Babylonian kings who fell. We should take careful note to see why one recovered and one did not.

The Fall of Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel 1:20 – Daniel and his friends introduce the king to their God through their witness. It certainly caused the king to take notice.

Daniel 2:46 – After learning that the God of Daniel had given him the dream, he responds by trying to honor the messenger instead of God.

Daniel 3:28-30 – Nebuchadnezzar still didn't get it even after Jesus appeared before him in the fiery furnace. The best he comes up with is trying to once again legislate faith and continues to rely on cruel means of enforcing his decrees.

Daniel 4:4-9 – In spite of the fact that Nebuchadnezzar saw how Daniel's God made Daniel and his friends 10 times wiser than his wise men and enabled them to interpret his dream in Daniel 2 when his Chaldeans couldn't and delivered them from the fiery furnace when they stood for Him in Daniel 3, Nebuchadnezzar still calls upon his so called wise men to explain his next dream in vs 6 and refers to Bel as his god in verse 8. When his wise men come up empty handed, Daniel came before him to explain the dream.

Daniel 4:19-27 – This was a conditional prophecy, meaning it was certain if the King continued in his ways, but if he repented and turned from his evil ways, God would have mercy upon him and lengthen his prosperity. In Scripture, we often find conditional prophecies when man is part of the equation. Conditional prophecies are essentially if/then statements meaning if you do this, then God will do this.

Daniel 4:28-33 – In His mercy, God extended 12 months for Nebuchadnezzar to repent and by God's grace find power to change his ways. But with time, the warning faded perhaps from his memory and he brushed it aside. For a year later he is recorded as taking the credit for what God has given to him. Thus, judgment came.

But as Daniel 4:34-37 – Notice the text says that when he lifted his eyes heavenward, that is when understanding returned to him. By his testimony, he finally accepted what Daniel had professed in Daniel 2. Pride is a powerful thing. It was the basis of Satan's fall in heaven (Ezekiel 28:17.) May we pray that God not allow pride to hinder us from receiving His Word. We must ask ourselves, is pride hindering me from hearing what God is trying to show me?

The hope of Daniel 4 is that God is patient and longsuffering. God first spoke to Nebuchadnezzar in a dream. When the king didn't respond, He appeared to him in the fiery furnace. When he still didn't respond, He literally knocked him over and made him roam as a wild animal until finally; Nebuchadnezzar came to his senses and to God. God will do all in His power to save you but you must be willing.

Like Nebuchadnezzar, we are often so caught up in what we have made that we fail to realize what He can make of us. Nebuchadnezzar went to the same so-called wise men for answers when problems arose but there, he found only questions and darkness. Have we been returning to the same nonsensical venues for solutions to our problems only to find emptiness and silence? God is working so hard to capture our attention and yet often we are so focused on our things, our selves, or other people's possessions or positions that we fail to notice the one who can fill our deepest need. Nebuchadnezzar finally surrendered and allowed Jesus to become ruler of His life.

The Mystery of Iniquity vs the Mystery of Godliness

Ezekiel 28:14-17 – Pride is what led to Satan's downfall in heaven (the holy mountain of God was likened to heavenly kingdom in Daniel 2:44-45).

Isaiah 14:12-15 – Satan desired to be like God and was thus cast out of heaven and will one day be destroyed according to Ezekiel 28:18.

Genesis 3:4-6 – Pride is what led Eve to take the fruit, that she might be elevated to be like God. But God had already made her in His image. When she took the fruit, she began to die, and eventually returned to dust.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-8 – We are told that before the 2nd coming of Jesus, this antichrist power, the man of sin, will be revealed. And notice that like with ancient Babylon, it involves self-exaltation. Indeed, this is the mystery of iniquity and he will be destroyed at the 2nd coming of Christ.

1 Timothy 3:16 – Christ's humility and condescension in taking on humanity for our salvation is the opposite of pride and selfishness.

Philippians 2:5-11 – Jesus wasn't concerned with pride or even with being equal to the Father but made himself of no reputation so that He might save us. And in this very act, He was exalted and glorified.

James 4:10 – It is when we humble ourselves before God, that He lifts us up.

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Daniel 5 – Belshazzar throws a party and uses the vessels of the Hebrew temple to celebrate and worship his man-made pagan gods. By doing this, he was stating that his gods had defeated the Hebrews' God. This blending of true worship with false worship brought down the wrath of God and caused what was perceived as an impregnable city to be defeated.

The words that appeared on the wall indicated the judgment of Babylon was complete. This event occurred just 5 days after the day of Atonement. History also tells us that it would have been a full moon on this night, which is significant as the moon god was one of the key gods of Babylon! Their full moon didn't do them much good that night.

Isaiah 45:1 – This passage predicted roughly 200 years in advance who would overtake the city and even predicted the person's name before he was born. Indeed, Cyrus was born and given his name and later led the Persian army into the city as described by the prophet Isaiah. Just as prophecy predicted accurately the first fall of Babylon, so we can have faith that it's prediction of spiritual Babylon and its fall will come true too.

Revelation 14:8 - The prophetic Babylon falls because of her fornication. Fornication occurs when two persons, things, or ideas come together that aren't supposed to come together. If we consider Babylon's past, we understand that ancient Babylon fell when it mixed true and false worship. When one considers how often the theme of worship appears in Revelation, we begin to sense that perhaps this will be the key issue at the end of time. We will study more into this later in the series.

Isaiah 47:1, 3, 7-9 – When Babylon fell, Babylon, who claimed the place of God who is the only great "I Am" (Exodus 3:14) lost her children and was left naked. She would be brought down to the dust.

Revelation 17:1-5, – Babylon is compared here to a woman who is likened to a mother and a harlot.

Revelation 18:4 – Remember that Babylon will be judged with plagues.

Revelation 16:9, 11 – Here we see that the plagues do not generate a spirit of repentance of those in Babylon.

Revelation 16:12-13 – We see a description of spiritual Babylon in the 6th plague and how like when it fell in chapter 5, it's waters will once again be dried up. Water according to **Revelation 17:15** represents peoples, multitudes, and nations. Thus, we see that right before Jesus comes, the people will turn against Babylon but their hearts are not changed.

Revelation 18:4 – In these last days, the appeal is made, come out of Babylon

Matthew 11:28 – Come out of the spirit of Babylon and Come in to the rest that Christ provides. Babylon is about trying to save yourself and make a name for yourself. Christ says if you will surrender to me, I will dwell in you, so that your heart is changed into a heart of love. Thus when carrying out His will, you will be but carrying out your own impulses. Won't you accept His invitation to enter His rest today!