

HOPE FOR HUMANITY

REVELATION TODAY

PRESENTATION 17 • PROPHECY'S FINAL FALLOUT

In London you can see old Roman ruins.

SLIDE • WALL. Remnants of the Roman wall that was built in the late 2nd or early 3rd centuries. So, around 200 A.D.

SLIDE • HADRIAN'S WALL. In the north of England you can still see Hadrian's Wall, which runs for 73 miles, built during the reign of the emperor Hadrian, in 122 A.D.

SLIDE • BATH. The city of Bath in Somerset in the south of England is named after the Roman baths that were built there in the first century.

SLIDE • COINS. Roman coins are still found with some regularity around Britain, which shows how Romanized Britain was during that time.

Now, travel almost 2,500m to Lebanon, and you'll find...

SLIDE • RUINS 1. Roman ruins. Baalbek in beautiful Lebanon is a phenomenal site, where you'll find (**SLIDE • RUINS 2**) evidence that this was once a thriving Roman civilization, (**SLIDE • RUINS 3**) the ruins of temples and other buildings that remain testifying that things were once different there. Travel to Jordan, (**SLIDE • RUINS 4**) and you'll see more evidence that the Romans were there, and prominent.

SLIDE • RUINS 5. Jerash, 25 miles north of Amman, Jordan's capital, is an (**SLIDE • RUINS 6**) archeological masterpiece, with its temples, and other ruins to be seen. Travel to Pula, Croatia, 1,500 miles NW of Lebanon, (**SLIDE • ARENA**) and you'll see an arena that looks very familiar, reminding you that even Croatia was governed by Rome at one time.

SLIDE • COLOSSEUM. And of course, travel to Rome itself, now boasting an incredible array of ruins, including the Colosseum, and you're reminded that the Roman Empire was once a thing of not only splendor but immense power.

SLIDE • ROMAN EMPIRE. Consider the size of the Roman Empire—from England in the northwest through much of Europe, North Africa, Greece, Turkey, the Middle East including Egypt, Israel, Syria and Iraq, up to present-day Armenia and Georgia. It covered around two million square miles, and existed for more than half a millennium.

SLIDE • AQUEDUCT. Now ask yourself how an empire like this could fall? Historians say there are several reasons Rome lost its grip on power. Invasions by barbarian tribes, economic trouble, government corruption. Some credit the influence of Christianity, and it's said that the moral corruption of Rome was so great that it had an impact of Rome's viability as an empire.

SLIDE • FLAG. It wasn't long ago that the British Empire was vast and powerful.

SLIDE • BUS. Not so today.

SLIDE • MONGOL EMPIRE. The Mongol Empire of the 13th and 14th centuries was the largest contiguous land empire in history. It was huge.

SLIDE • MONUMENT. Today, Mongolia is a land of a little more than three million people, its capital is the coldest capital on the planet, and although Mongolia is a stunning place and its people are very nice, Mongolia isn't an empire at all, let alone a great empire.

Empires have fallen. And it seems they'll continue to fall. One might wonder how long the United States can continue to function as a great nation, but Revelation chapter 13 shows us the US will be strong and very influential down to the end of time. And in Revelation 14, we see the collapse of a mighty power.

SLIDE • REVELATION 14:6. "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people."

The angel urges us to fear God, to give Him glory, informing us that we're living in the time of heaven's judgment. And then we're told to "worship him who made heaven and earth and the seas and the fountains of waters."

The third angel warns the world against worshiping the beast or receiving the Mark of the Beast. And in between, a fascinating message. And keep in mind—it's part of the final gospel message to go to the world.

SLIDE • REVELATION 14:8. And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

SLIDE • BABYLON. Babylon was the mighty kingdom that desolated Israel, and even though it was destroyed, and although the Bible says it won't ever be rebuilt, Babylon features again in the book of Revelation. How do we understand this?

SLIDE • JEREMIAH 50:3. "For out of the north a nation comes up against her, which shall make her land desolate, and no one shall dwell therein. They shall move, they shall depart, both man and beast." Ten verses later and Jeremiah says, (**SLIDE • JEREMIAH 50:13**) "She shall not be inhabited, but she shall be wholly desolate."

From an Old Testament perspective, it must have seemed impossible that Babylon would fall. King Nebuchadnezzar resisted the idea that Babylon could ever pass away. You'll recall in Daniel 2, Daniel interpreted the king's forgotten dream, and told him about the rise and fall of nations.

SLIDE • DANIEL 2 IMAGE. He predicted the rise of Rome, and before Rome Greece. Before Greece, the combined kingdom of Medo-Persia, and before Medo-Persia, Babylon. Daniel depicted Babylon as a head of gold on a statue made out of various metals. Nebuchadnezzar was told clearly. Babylon will rule, but not forever. It will soon pass away. The king's (**SLIDE • PLAIN OF DURA**) response was to have a statue made completely out of gold, his way of saying, "I don't accept what God has told me. I won't agree that Babylon will pass off the world stage."

It's recorded in Daniel 4 that Nebuchadnezzar said, (**SLIDE • DANIEL 4:30**) "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty?" A message from Nebuchadnezzar uncovered by archeologists said, (**SLIDE •**

QUOTE) “The whole earth was prostrate at Babylon’s feet.” He wrote, “Babylon, the city which is the delight of my eyes, which I have glorified. May it last forever!”

God spoke of Babylon in the book of Isaiah when he said, (**SLIDES (2) • ISAIAH 47:8–9**) “Therefore hear this now, you who are given to pleasures, who dwell securely, who say in your heart, ‘I am, and there is no one else besides me; I shall not sit as a widow, nor shall I know the loss of children’; But these two things shall come to you, in a moment, in one day: The loss of children, and widowhood. They shall come upon you in their fullness because of the multitude of your sorceries, for the great abundance of your enchantments.”

Babylon was confident in itself. So mighty. Seemingly invincible. It was the largest city in the world. But ancient Babylon wouldn’t survive forever. Babylon fell—owing to the pursuit of pleasure, and the neglect of duty before God. Let’s read the story.

SLIDES (4) • DANIEL 5:1–5. “Belshazzar the king made a great feast for a thousand of his lords, and drank wine in the presence of the thousand. While he tasted the wine, Belshazzar gave the command to bring the gold and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple which had been in Jerusalem, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple of the house of God which had been in Jerusalem; and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone. In the same hour the fingers of a man’s hand appeared and wrote opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king’s palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.”

SLIDE • WRITING ON THE WALL. Imagine what that would have been like!

SLIDES (5) • DANIEL 5:18–23. O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father a kingdom and majesty, glory and honor. And because of the majesty that He gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. Whomever he wished, he executed; whomever he wished, he kept alive; whomever he wished, he set up; and whomever he wished, he put down. But when his heart was lifted up, and his spirit was hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him. Then he was driven from the sons of men, his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. They fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till he knew that the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men, and appoints over it whomever He chooses. But you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, although you knew all this. And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified.

The writing was on the wall for King Belshazzar! Here’s what it said.

SLIDE • DANIEL 5:25. (Just this part) MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.

And Daniel interpreted the writing on the wall for the king.

SLIDE • DANIEL 5:26. This is the interpretation of each word. MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; (**SLIDE • DANIEL 5:27**) TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances,

and found wanting (**SLIDE • DANIEL 5:28**) PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians Then the Bible says,

SLIDE • DANIEL 5:30. That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain.

SLIDE • DANIEL 5:31. And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old. Babylon had fallen.

What was the cause of their downfall? They took the holy vessels of God which they knew were used in worship, and used them for common purposes. They desecrated that which they knew was holy to God in worship. They took what they knew was meant for a holy purpose, and willfully used it in an unholy way.

Which brings us back to God's sentence in Revelation 14:8. Remember, this is part of the final gospel message to go to the world.

SLIDE • BOOK OF REVELATION. In Revelation, we see a clear parallel

SLIDE • REVELATION 14:7. There's a call to "worship Him who made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of water."

You know that the entire world is going to hear this call. Remember, the gospel message goes to "every nation, kindred, tongue and people."

Just as Nebuchadnezzar knew full well there was a God in heaven.

Just as Belshazzar, his grandson, knew about Nebuchadnezzar's experience.

There is coming a time when the entire world will hear God's call to repentance prior to the return of Jesus. And then, when men and women are aware of the issues in this great battle between good and evil, God will declare, Babylon is fallen.

SLIDE • REVELATION 12:1. "Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars."

In prophecy, a woman symbolically represents a church. And here we see a picture of the Christian church down through the ages.

SLIDE • SCARLET WOMAN. And then, there's a second woman in Revelation 17.

SLIDES (4) • REVELATION 17:1–6. Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication. 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. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name was written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement."

So who is this? Daniel spoke of a system that "cast the truth down to the ground" (Daniel 8:12).

If it's a woman, then again this woman represents a church. But whereas the first woman was pure, clothed in white, this woman is the opposite. Impure. So why is she called "Babylon"?

SLIDE • TOWER OF BABEL. At the Tower Babel, the languages were confused. Babylon = spiritual confusion.

And today, there's a lot of confusion when it comes to word of God. Think about it. It's commonly believed that God will burn sinners in hell forever, and the same people who tell you that will tell you that God is love. We've found out that a God who is love certainly believes in justice, believes in honoring a person's choices, but He doesn't believe in torture, which is what burning forever and ever would be. God intentionally recreating people over and over again so that He could burn them for as long as time lasts. That's just not Biblical, but it's what people believe. People believe that obeying God's law is just not necessary. That simply doesn't make any sense at all. Of course, you can't earn salvation by obedience. Everyone agrees with that. But to say you can willfully sin against God defies logic. But this is a common idea in churches today. It became popular to believe that Jesus is going to return to this earth secretly, take away the saved, and leave the rest here on Earth and give them another chance to repent. Find your grandmother and ask her how many people believed that when she was a girl. She'll tell you, "No one." It's a new idea, popularized in the last several decades. A hundred years ago it was virtually unheard of in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Britain. Jesus didn't talk about it. He urged us to be ready for His return. Paul didn't write about it, Luke didn't, Peter didn't. But today, it's assumed by believers that what they're hearing about a secret rapture is true. You see—there's great confusion in the church today.

SLIDE • WINE. Revelation 17:2: The world is drunk with the wine of her fornication. Wine = doctrine. We've discovered that two major false teachings are commonly confusing people today as Satan attempts to lead sincere people away from God's plan for their lives.

And notice verse 5, which called this church a mother. If she's a mother, she has children, and here her daughters are represented as women, meaning, other churches. Daughter churches.

SLIDE • DEATH. Revelation 16:13–14: Another false doctrine is about what happens at death. Practically the whole world is deceived. It's the confusion of Babylon. But what does the Bible say?

SLIDE • ECCLESIASTES 9:5. "For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing."

Even though it was Rome who delivered the false teaching of the immortality of the soul to modern Christians, Rome has daughter churches who are teaching her same error. God says they, too, are part of Babylon—spiritual confusion.

Now look at this with me.

SLIDE • REVELATION 14:9. "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark in his forehead or in his hand..."

We've discovered that the mark of the authority of that nation mentioned in the early verses of Revelation is Sunday, in contradistinction to the Bible Sabbath. God gave us the seventh day as a day of rest, and today people everywhere have lost sight of that. Or they don't see it as important. Or they believe God changed the day. But we know better than that now.

SLIDES (3) • QUOTE. The Second Vatican Council teaches that "the Church celebrates the Paschal Mystery every seventh day, which day is appropriately called the 'Lord's Day' or 'Sunday.'" Sunday remains the fertile foundation and at the same time the fundamental nucleus of the liturgical year

which originated in Christ's Resurrection, thanks to which the features of eternity were impressed on time.... "The Word", Origen affirms, "has moved the feast of the Sabbath to the day on which the light was produced and has given us as an image of true repose, Sunday, the day of salvation, the first day of the light in which the Saviour of the world, after completing all his work with men and after conquering death, crossed the threshold of Heaven, surpassing the creation of the six days and receiving the blessed Sabbath and rest in God" (Comment on Psalm 91).

That's breathtaking.

Sunday is called the Lord's Day by whom? Not by God, and not in the Bible. The Vatican City appeals to scholars, not the Bible, and suggests the resurrection inherently contains the authorization to dispense with one of the commandments of God.

Benedict went on to write,

SLIDES (2) • QUOTE. "Inspired by knowledge of this, St Ignatius of Antioch asserted: "We are no longer keeping the Sabbath, but the Lord's Day"... Sunday is the day on which the Risen Lord makes himself present among his followers, invites them to his banquet and shares himself with them so that they too, united and configured to him, may worship God properly."

The church responsible for these errors affecting Christianity is the Roman Papacy, the mother church. The churches that follow her, that teach her teachings, they're the daughters of Babylon. And God calls to all of His children, saying, "Come out of her, my people."

I'll show you how serious this is. There's a fourth angel in Revelation, found in chapter 18. Look at what it says.

SLIDES (2) • REVELATION 18:1-3. "And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies."

There are judgments against Babylon. And God says,

SLIDE • REVELATION 18:4. "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

The seven last plagues fall on those who remain connected with Babylon. That's why, today, God is doing all He can to lead people to come out of Babylon. But why do we believe what we believe? If we're honest, in many cases it's because of tradition. "This is how I was raised." But it's imperative that we honestly seek to know and honor God, and bring our beliefs to the Bible.

SLIDE • PLANE. Passengers on BA3271 were surprised when the flight landed in Edinburgh, Scotland. And that's because BA3271, which flew out of London City airport just after 7:30 a.m., was supposed to be flying to (**SLIDE • GERMANY/DUSSELDORF**) Dusseldorf, Germany. Neither the pilot nor the crew realized they were heading more than 500m in the wrong direction until the plane landed. What should have been an hour-long journey ended up taking 5 hours and 20 minutes, which included two hours sitting on the tarmac in Scotland. But you'll notice that when it was realized the mistake had been made, remedial action was taken, and the plane got to its intended destination as quickly as possible.

SLIDE • JOHN 10:27. Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27).

SLIDE • SHEEP. Jesus called some fishermen one day. He said, "Follow me," and they left their nets and followed Him. Jesus attracted crowds of people wherever he went. There were times people sailed in boats to Capernaum because they wanted to see Jesus. When Jesus blessed the five loaves and the two fish, there were thousands of people present. The story is told in the Bible of the woman who sought healing for her daughter. Jesus was in Tyre and Sidon, in Lebanon. Not very far from Capernaum where He spent so much time. That woman came to Jesus. She was not Jewish. Who told her? There was no internet or radio, and she didn't see Jesus on the TV or read about Him in the newspaper. She heard about Jesus from others, because people were talking about Him. She was drawn to Him, drawn by who He was and what He did and how He treated people. The demon-possessed man on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee said to Jesus, "I want to go with you and follow you." That's what you want to do when you meet Jesus, when you understand something about the cross on which Jesus died, when you know that in this man was such love for the human family that He was willing to give His life for sinners... I want to appeal to you. Follow Jesus now. Follow Him now.

SLIDE • CROSS. He's coming back soon. And His love for you is real, and can only truly be appreciated as we consider the cross. What a Savior, willing to take your sin and offer you a new life in this world and eternal life in the world to come...

Appeal



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