

False Religious Doctrines And Concepts

Babylon – the original source of false religion.

Revelation 17:1-6 [NIV] *“One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, ‘Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters. With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.’ Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. This title was written on her forehead: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished.”*

The mystery religion of Babylon has been symbolically described in these verses of the Christian Bible.

This is part of the Revelation given to the apostle John by Jesus Christ the Son of God. [**Revelation 1:1-3**]

When the Christian Bible uses symbolic language, a “woman” can symbolise a church.

The true church that has Jesus Christ as its head [**Ephesians 1:22; Ephesians 4:15; Colossians 1:18**] is likened to a bride [**Revelation 19:7-8**] a woman without stain or blemish. [**Ephesians 5:25-27**]

In striking contrast to the woman of the false church as described in Revelation.

If it is correct to apply this symbolism to a church system, it is clear that only a defiled and apostate church could be meant by the adulterous woman of **Revelation 17**.

When the apostle John wrote the book of Revelation the original city of Babylon was in ruins as was foretold by Old Testament prophets. [Isaiah 13:19-22; Jeremiah chapters 51 and 52]

But the religious concepts and customs that originated in Babylon continued on and were well-represented in many nations of the world.

Just what was the religion of ancient Babylon?

How did it all begin?

What significance does it hold to modern religions today?

How does it tie in with what the apostle was told to write in Revelation by our Saviour Jesus Christ?

Genesis 11:1-2 [NIV] *“Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.”*

The land of Shinar became known as Babylonia, later Mesopotamia and today Iraq.

This was a land of abundant crops due to the rich deposits of the rivers Euphrates and Tigris.

There was one problem for the people, the land was overrun with wild, dangerous animals. [Exodus 23:29-30]

Obviously anyone who could successfully provide protection from these wild beasts would receive great acclaim from the people.

Genesis 10:8-10 [NIV] *“Cush was the father of Nimrod, who grew to be a mighty warrior on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; that is why it is said, ‘Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the LORD.’ The first centres of his kingdom were Babylon, Erech, Akkad and Calneh, in Shinar.”*

Apparently Nimrod’s success as a mighty hunter caused him to become famous among the people in the land of Shinar.

To make the protection of the people easier Nimrod built walled towns in which the people could live, among these towns was Babylon.

The name Nimrod comes from the Hebrew root word “*Mârad*” meaning rebel or revolt, also the term “*before the Lord*” carries a hostile meaning.

“Before” is the Hebrew word “*pâneh*” meaning to turn against.

From Nimrod’s elevated position he also turned the people against the Creator God. [*The Jewish Encyclopaedia*’ volume 9, page 309]

Genesis 11:3-4 [NIV] *“They said to each other, ‘Come, let’s make bricks and bake them thoroughly.’ They used brick instead of stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, ‘Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth.’”*

To consolidate his empire Nimrod built in Babylon the great emblem of power and rebellion against the Creator God.

The language used seems to be very like that used by Satan when he deceived Eve and led her into rebellion against the Creator God. [**Genesis 3:4-5**]

The Jewish historian Josephus comments on the building of the tower in ‘*Antiquities Of The Jews*’ Book 1, 4:2-3.

Basing his conclusions on information that has come down to us in history, legend and mythology, Alexander Hislop has written in detail of how Babylonian religion developed around traditions concerning Nimrod, his wife Semiramis, and their child Tammuz. [*The Two Babylons*’ by Alexander Hislop]

When Nimrod died, according to the old accounts, his body was cut into pieces, burnt, and sent to various areas of the then populated world.

Similar practices are mentioned in the Christian Bible [**Judges 19:29; 1 Samuel 11:7**]

Following Nimrod’s death the people of Babylon mourned him greatly.

Taking advantage of this, and to hold onto power, Nimrod’s wife Semiramis claimed Nimrod was now the sun-god.

Later, when she gave birth to a son, Semiramis claimed it was their hero Nimrod brought back to life.

Semiramis had probably heard the prophecy of the coming Messiah to be born of a woman, for this truth was known from the earliest times. [**Genesis 3:15**]

Semiramis claimed her son was supernaturally conceived and that he was the promised seed, the “Saviour.”

In the religion that developed, not only was the son worshipped but also the mother.

Much of this Babylonian religion and worship was carried on through mysterious symbols.

The golden calf, for example, was a symbol of Tammuz, son of the sun-god, Nimrod.

Since Nimrod was believed to be the sun-god or Baal, fire was considered to be his earthly representation.

Thus we see candles and ritual fire being lit in his honour.

Nimrod was also symbolised by sun images, fish, trees, pillars and animals.

Romans 1:21-32 [NIV] *“For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator, who is for ever praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. Furthermore, since they did not think it worth while to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practise them.”*

This fits exactly the course that the people of Babylon followed in their rebellion against the Creator God.

This Babylonian system of idolatry spread from Babylon throughout the earth as people in Shinar were scattered as a result of the confusion of their language.

Genesis 11:5-9 [NIV] *“But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building. The LORD said, ‘If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.’ So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.”*

Each group of people with a common language took with them their worship of mother and child and the various mystery symbols with them.

When Rome became a world empire, it is a known fact that she assimilated into her system of gods and religions from the Pagan countries over which she ruled. [‘The Legacy of Rome’ by Bailey, page 245]

Into this system of Pagan Roman religion Jesus Christ the only true Saviour was born, lived among humans, died and rose again.

Jesus Christ from heaven sent the Holy Spirit and the New Testament Christian Church was established on the earth.

The true Church of God, Christianity, anointed by the power of the Holy Spirit, spread throughout the Roman Empire.

However, before many years past, false prophets set themselves up as “lords” over God’s people in place of the Holy Spirit.

2 Thessalonians 2:3, 7 [King James] *“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;” ... “For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.”*

The mystery religion of Babylon began to infiltrate the Christian churches.

1 Timothy 4:1-2 [King James] *“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;”*

Satan backed deception to take the people away from the truth.

Jude 1:3-4 [NIV] *“Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a licence for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.”*

Christianity was coming face to face with the long-established Babylonian paganism in its various forms that was throughout the Roman Empire.

The early Christians who refused to have anything to do with these pagan customs and beliefs were persecuted, many tortured and martyred.

Then great changes began to be made, the Emperor of Rome professed conversion to Christianity.

Imperial orders went out for all Christian persecutions to cease.

Some bishops in the Christian Church were given high honours.

The Church began to receive worldly recognition and power, under the protection of the Roman rule.

Instead of the Church being separated from the world, it became part of the world. [**John 17:14-16**]

The Emperor of Rome showing favour, demanded a place of leadership in the Church, for in paganism, emperors were believed to be gods.

From this time onwards there was a wholesale mixtures of paganism into Christianity were made, especially in Rome.

This mixture will be proved by this series of articles showing various practices in Christian Churches today have their roots in Babylonian paganism.

Revelation 12:9 [NIV] *“The great dragon was hurled down, that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.”*

This leading astray includes much that is done in the worship and rituals of some Christian Churches.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 [NIV] *“For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.”*

This is true of some false teachers in the Christian Church even today.

The aim of this series of articles is **not** to condemn or ridicule devout Christians or treat their beliefs lightly.

Instead, I hope to inspire people, regardless of their church affiliation, to forsake what I will prove to be Babylonian doctrines and concepts and seek a return to that faith which was given by Jesus Christ to the apostles He taught when on earth.