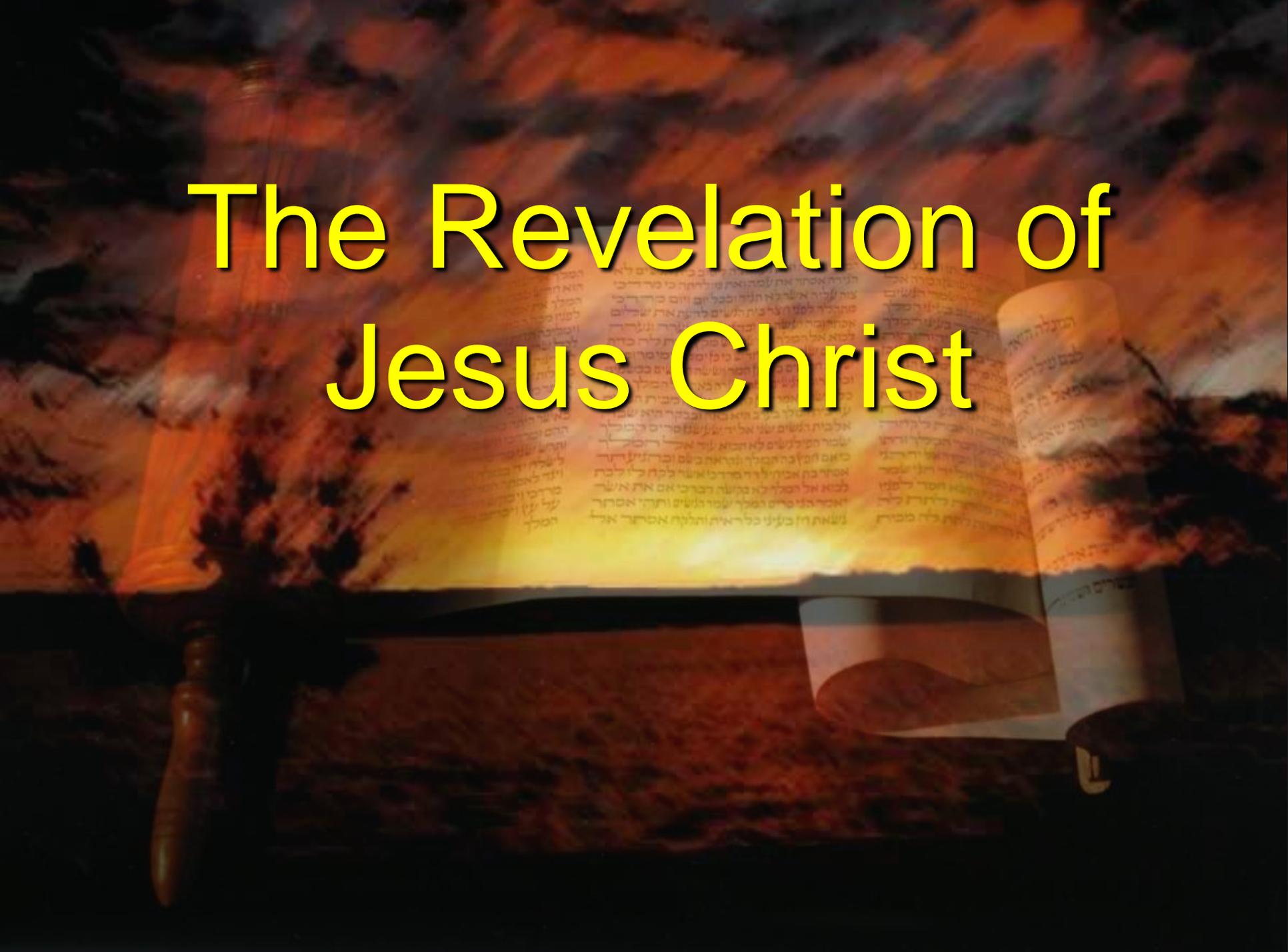


The Revelation of Jesus Christ

An open scroll with Hebrew text is the central focus, illuminated by a warm, golden light. The scroll is unrolled, showing two pages of text. The background is dark and textured, with a large, glowing orb (possibly a sun or moon) visible in the upper right. The overall atmosphere is dramatic and ancient.

The New in the Old Concealed

- Revelation ties together all the Old Testament and New Testament prophecies
 - Over 800 allusions to the OT in 404 verses
- In studying Revelation 17 & 18 we need to also read:
- Jeremiah 50 & 51
- Isaiah 13 & 14

The Threefold Stratagem

- After the flood, Satan launched a more subtle threefold stratagem:
- World Government
 - To manipulate mankind (against the Seed)
- False Religion
 - To deceive mankind (into following a false seed)
- ‘Seek & Destroy’ Plan
 - To annihilate the ‘threat’ of the real Seed

The Rebellion of Cush

- *“Cush is generally represented as having been a ringleader in the great apostasy...”*
- *Cush as the son of Ham, was Her-mes or Mercury; for Hermes is just an Egyptian synonym for the “son of Ham”.*
- *Now, Hermes was the great original prophet of idolatry; for he was recognised by the pagans as the author of their religious rites.”*
– *Rev Alexander Hislop*

The Rebellion of Cush

- *“Hyginus shows that he [Cush] was known as the grand agent in that movement which produced the division of tongues*
- *“For many ages, men lived under the government of Jove, without cities and laws, and all speaking one language. But after that, Mercury interpreted the speeches of men (whence an interpreter is called Hermeneuties), the same individual distributed the nations then discord began.*
– *Rev Alexander Hislop*

The Rebellion of Cush

- *“Mercury, then, or Hermes, or Cush, “the son of Ham”, was the “divider of the speeches of men”. He, it would seem, had been the ringleader in the scheme for building the great city and Tower of Babel”*
 - *Rev Alexander Hislop*

The Rebellion of Cush

- *“...Bel signified “the confounder”. ...And to this meaning of the name of the Babylonian Bel, there is a very distinct illusion in Jeremiah 1:2, where it is said “Bel is confounded”, that is, “the confounder is brought to confusion”.*
– *Rev Alexander Hislop*

The Rebellion of Cush

- *“That Cush was known to pagan antiquity under the very character of Bel, “the confounder”, a statement of Ovid very clearly proves: “the ancients... called me Chaos”. Now, first this decisively shows that Chaos was known not merely as a state of confusion, but as the “god of confusion”. ...Chaos is just one of the established forms of the name of Chus or Cush”*
 - *Rev Alexander Hislop*

The Rebellion of Cush

- Cush aka Vulcan, cf Vulcan's hammer
 - How is the hammer of the whole earth, cut asunder and broken! - Jeremiah 51:23
- Cush aka Bel
 - Bel is confounded: Merodach is broken in pieces – Jeremiah 50:2

The Rebellion of Cush

- Re. Nimrod :
- *“It is stated that it was by the command of a “certain king” that this ringleader in apostasy was put to death. Who could this king be, who was so determinedly opposed to the host of heaven?*
- *Who then, was most likely to head the opposition to the apostasy from the primitive worship? If Shem was at that time alive, as beyond question he was, who so likely as he?”*
– *Rev Alexander Hislop*

The Threefold Stratagem

- Part 1
 - Create a world government to control man
 - Halted at Babel, but now being set up
- Part 2
 - Create a world religion to deceive man
 - Corrupt tree with many branches
- Part 3
 - Seek and destroy the Seed
 - Satan failed

Introduction

- There will be a one world Government
- There will also be a one world religious system that will embrace all faith's
- Revelation 17 foretells the destruction of this religious system that has exerted enormous political sway over the governments of the world
- The world governments will grow tired of 'her' influence and destroy her
 - Making way for the worship of Antichrist!

Introduction

- Chapter 18 will now detail and record the final destruction of Babylon
- This has been one of the longest running dramas in scripture!
- It began in ancient Babylon (in Iraq)
- ...and seemingly is destined to end there
- This has been the mother of all deceptions

Her Title

- “Mystery”
 - To be interpreted mystically or spiritually
- “Babylon”
 - From the Hebrew root word Babel (Confusion)
- “The Great”
 - Greek “megas” meaning “huge”
- One might say her title is:
 - “Huge spiritual confusion”

The Tribulation

Church
Raptured

Second
Coming

Timing of Chapter 17 & 18

The Beginning of Sorrows
3 1/2 Years

The Great Tribulation
3 1/2 Years



**MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT,
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND
ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH**



**Ten Kings
Ruling
under
Antichrist**

7 Years

Timing of Chapter 17 & 18

- Reasons it has to be 1st period of 3 ½ yrs
 1. Rule of the 10 kings who destroy 'Babylon' will not occur until the last 3 ½ year
 - The kings will have had enough of her rule
 2. Trade by sea impossible during last 3 ½ yrs
 - In Rev 18:17, those at sea observe 'Babylon's' destruction, so destruction must occur before the 2nd vial when the sea is turned to blood
 3. Antichrist worshipped by entire world 3 ½ yrs
 - This necessitates this false religious system being removed

Chapter 17 & 18

- Note: one account (not two)
 - Some propose this is a duel judgment on a 'Spiritual Babylon' and 'Political Babylon'
- Theme - Judgment of the Great Harlot
 - Chapter 17 will give us Her Description
 - Chapter 18 will give us Her Destruction
- Chapter breaks were not included until the 12th century

Identity of the Harlot

- The Roman Catholic Church?
- The Roman Catholic church did not originate abominations
- Nor has it existed throughout the history of the world to deceive the nations
- The power that has dominated nations pre-dates Rome...
- And can be traced back to Babylon!

Identity of the Harlot

- The false religious system that has led people away from the worship of the true God, and symbolised as this woman, has been skilfully established by Satan since the time of the Tower of Babel
- With one purpose: to unite all mankind, thus reversing the effects of the Tower of Babel where God confused the languages of the people (Gen 11:7).

Identity of the Harlot

- Once mankind has been reunited again (through this false religious system) Satan will have no further uses for it and will then cause all mankind to worship him in the person of Antichrist. (See again Rev 13:3-4 / also Isaiah 14:14)

Identity of the City

- Babylon, not Rome
- Jeremiah 50, 51
- Isaiah 13, 14
- All deal with the destruction of literal Babylon
 - This has not taken place to date!
 - Babylon has been inhabited though the ages
 - Cyrus makes it his capitol, followed by Alexander the Great

The Tower of Bab-El



The Tower of Bab-El



The Tower of Bab-El



The Tower of Bab-El

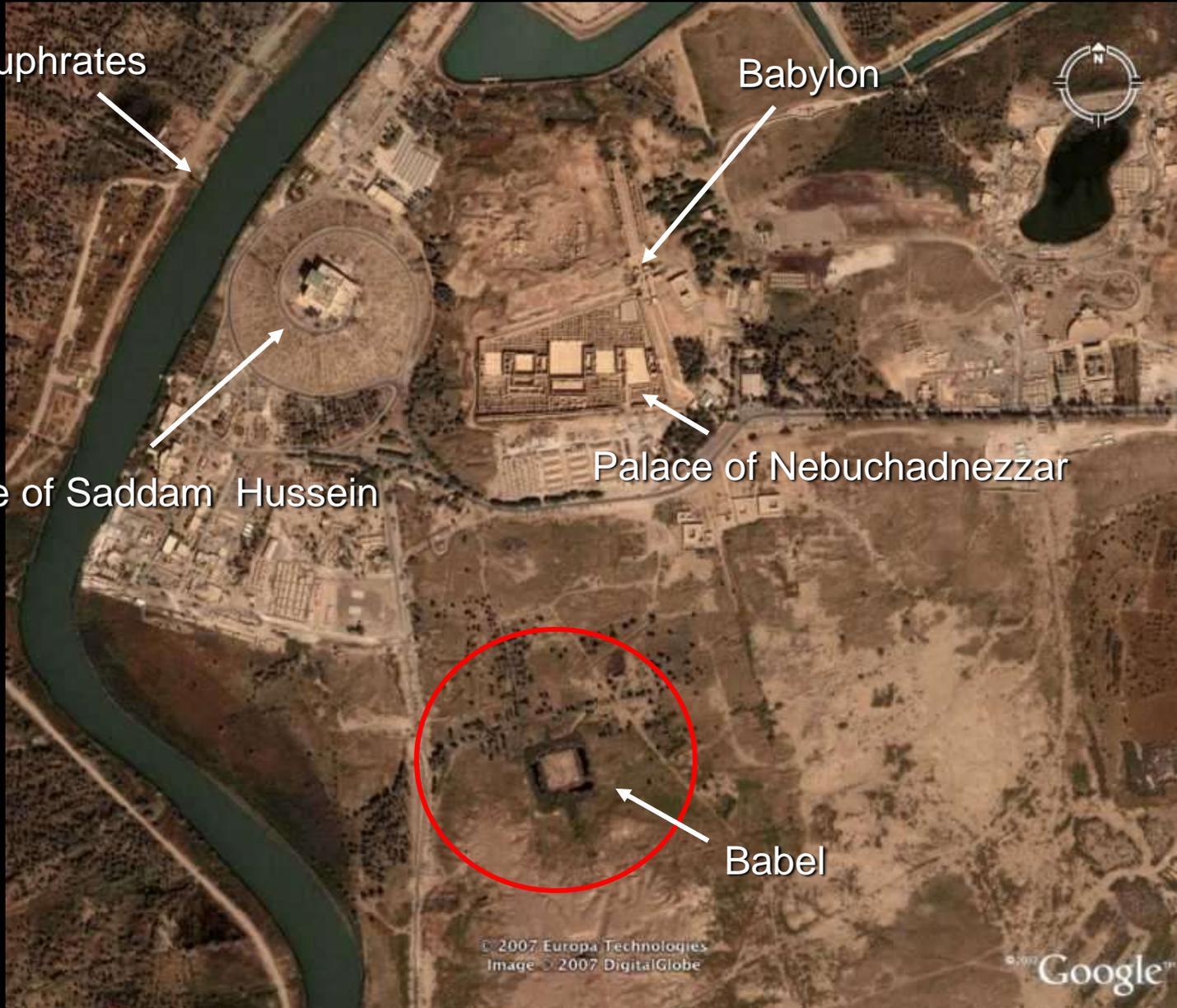
River Euphrates

Babylon

Palace of Saddam Hussein

Palace of Nebuchadnezzar

Babel



The Tower of Bab-El



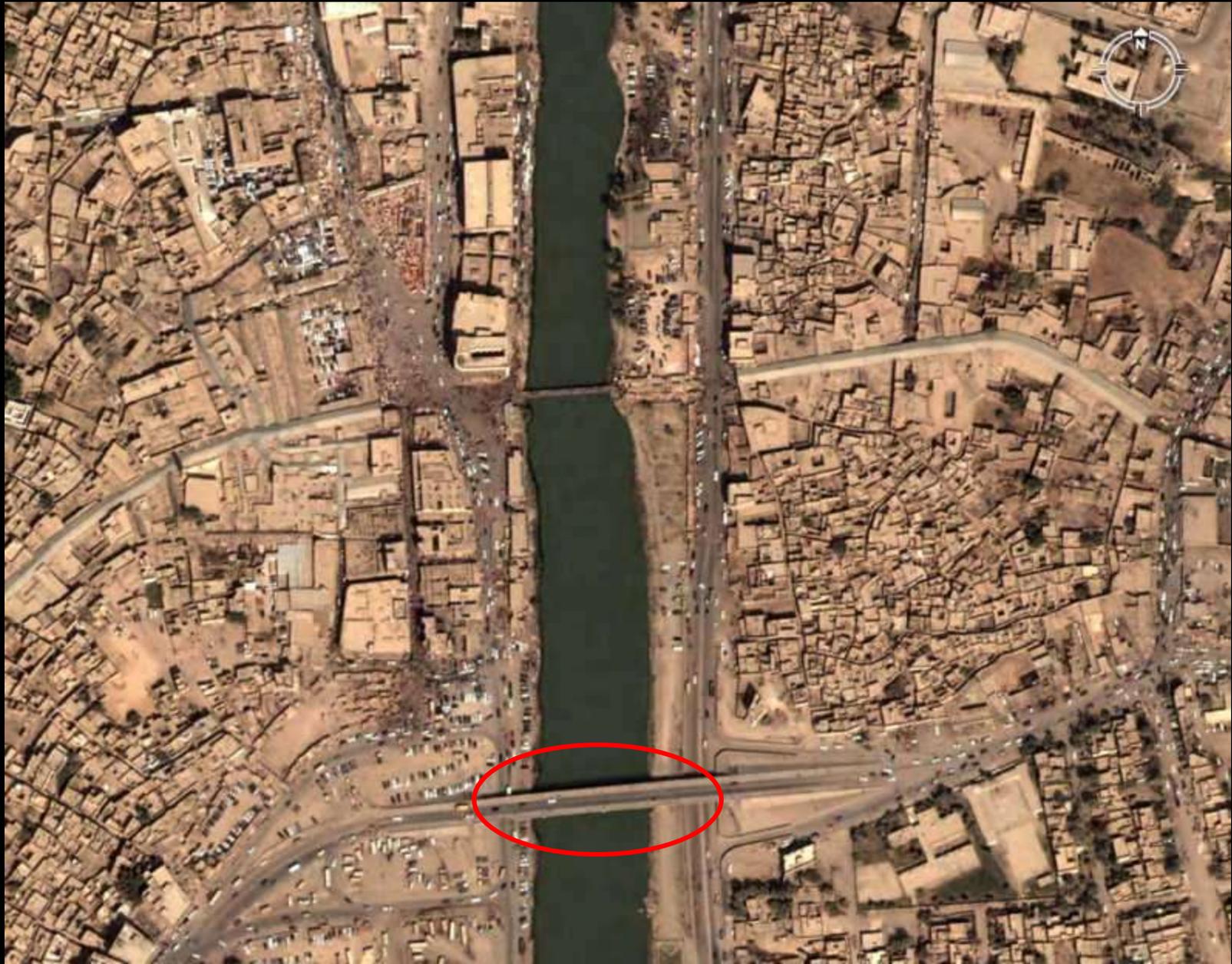
Babylon Today



Babylon Today



Babylon Today



Babylon Today



Zechariah 5:5-7

- The vision of the Woman in the Ephah
- Suggests a return of false religion to Babylon in the last days

Zechariah 5:5-7

- “Then the angel left me for awhile, but he returned and said, “Look up! Something is traveling through the sky!” “What is it?” I asked. He replied, “It is a 35-litre basket filled with the sin prevailing everywhere throughout the land.” Suddenly the heavy lead cover on the basket was lifted off, and I could see a woman sitting inside the basket! He said, “She represents wickedness,” and he pushed her back into the basket and clamped down the heavy lid again.

Zechariah 5:5-7

- Then I saw two women flying toward us, with wings like those of a stork. And they took the 35-litre basket and flew off with it, high in the sky. "Where are they taking her?" I asked the angel. He replied, "To Babylon where she belongs and where she will stay"

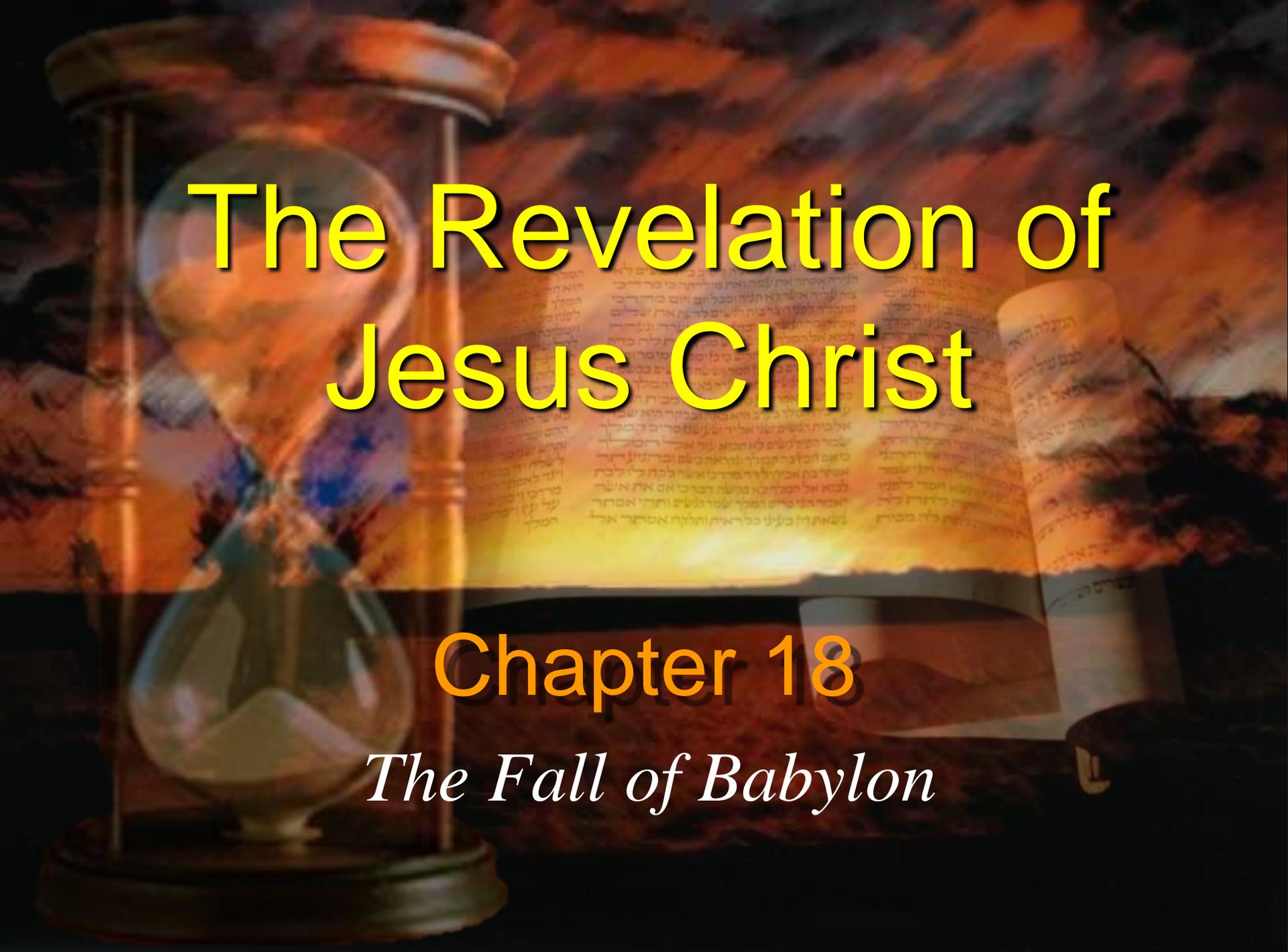
(The Living Bible)

Babylon



Babylon



The background features a sunset with warm orange and red tones. On the left, a brass hourglass is visible, with sand falling from the top bulb to the bottom bulb. On the right, a scroll of parchment with Hebrew text is unrolled, resting on a wooden surface. The overall scene is symbolic of time and prophecy.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter 18

The Fall of Babylon

Revelation 18

¹ *And after these things...*

Revelation 18:1

- After what things?
- After 'Mystery Babylon'?
 - does our subject change to view 'Political Babylon' (whatever that may be)?
- There is no such thing as 'Mystery Babylon';
- It is 'Mystery, Babylon the great'. Cf 18:2
 - The 'mystery' denotes the spiritual influence the city of Babylon that has exerted throughout the ages since the time of the Tower of Babel.

Revelation 18

- Another problem with the idea that there are two Babylon's in view (one spiritual and one political) is that of Judgment
- John is invited to “*come and see the judgment of the great whore*”
- As we arrive at chapter 18 we still have not seen the judgment of the great whore;
- Ch 17 has shown who she is, and that she will be (future tense) destroyed by the 10 kings when they come to power.
- NB: No chapter breaks in the original

Revelation 18

- 'Babylon' is both a woman (representing a spiritual system) and a city.
- The same idea is carried on in this chapter
- The personal pronoun 'her' being used 29 times,
- The fact that we are also viewing a literal city being alluded to at least 19 times.

Revelation 18

- 1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.
- 2 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.

Revelation 18:1-2

Revelation 18

- Now we witness the destruction of Babylon.
- The double reference 'fallen is fallen' implies suddenness.
- This kind of destruction fits perfectly with what we read in Isaiah 13/14 & Jeremiah 50/51, and clearly has not yet occurred in world history.
- Bird's are used in Scripture to indicate workers of iniquity (Ref Matt 13)

Revelation 18

- 3 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.
- 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.

Revelation 18:3-4

Unholy Alliance

- The message is clear – have nothing to do with this woman, this false religious system
- But who is the message to?
- ‘My people’ – all who would class themselves as God’s people should therefore take note.
- The danger is to assume that this warning is not for us!

Unholy Alliance

- Seven times in scripture God's people are warned to flee from her:
 - Isaiah 48:20 / Isaiah 52:11 / Jer 50 8-9 / Jer 51:6-8 / Zech 2:6-7 / 2 Cor 6:17-18 / Rev 18:4
- Seven times in Matthew 24 Jesus warned of great spiritual deception in the last days that would lead many astray:
 - Matt 24:4 / Matt 24:5 / Matt 24:11 / Matt 24:23 / Matt 24:24 / Matt 24:25 / Matt 24:26.

Unholy Alliance

- Paul warns:

¹ 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;

1 Timothy 4:1

Unholy Alliance

- Paul warns:

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, *and be turned aside to fables*".

2 Timothy 4:3-4

Unholy Alliance

- Jesus warned: “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves”. (Matt 7:15-16)
- “Take heed that no man deceive you. For **many** shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive **many.**” (Matt 24:5)
- “And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive **many**” (Matt 24:11)

Unholy Alliance

- When we see that Babylon signifies all false religion (originated at Babel), we understand the cry to 'come out of her'
- The world has committed fornication
- But for the believer to be entangled amounts to adultery
- Paul said:

² For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:2

Unholy Alliance

4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

2 Timothy 2:4

Unholy Alliance

- 14 *...what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*
- 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?
- 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

2 Corinthians 6:14-16

Matthew 13 – Wheat & Tares

²⁸ He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? ²⁹ But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest, and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Matt 13:28-30

Matthew 13 - Summary

- The 'church' is a mixed bag
 - some good, some bad
- At the time (**kairos** = season) of the Harvest (Rapture) the angels will separate the good & bad
- First the bad are gathered into bundles, then the good are gathered into Christ's barn
- The bad are then cast into the furnace (Tribulation) to be 'burned'

Matt 7:21-23
Jude 3,4,
2 Peter 2:1-2

Matt 13:30
Matt 13:49
Gen 18:25
Gen 19:1

Matt 13:30
John 14:3

Matt 13:30
Dan 3
Rev 18

A Mixed Bag

²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Matt 7:21-23

I Never Knew You?

- Who are these people?
- False converts
- With an outward show of religion
- They prophesy
- Display supernatural power
- Do many good works
- They were in the church, but they were not in Christ!

Why Judgment?

¹⁵ For, lo, I will call all the families of the kingdoms of the north, saith the LORD; and they shall come, and they shall set every one his throne at the entering of the gates of Jerusalem, and against all the walls thereof round about, and against all the cities of Judah. ¹⁶ And I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, who have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands.

changing church in a changing culture

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**How to make it happen:
a beginners' guide**

by Paul Roberts 2002 [edited 2007]

Begin here

[Building a team](#)

[Church support](#)

[Venues](#)

[Equipment - sound, light, scent](#)

[Equipment - visuals](#)

[Layout](#)

[Safety](#)

Structuring a service

Ingredients of worship

Making your own resources

[Music & sound](#)

[Video](#)

[Creative writing](#)

[Doing it](#)

practice



Ingredients of worship

When you come to design a service, you will need a whole range of ingredients, which belong to one or more of the following categories:

- **WORD-BASED ingredients** - such as poems, prayers, meditations, song lyrics, incantations, chants, responses
- **SYMBOL-BASED ingredients** - on video, in sculpture, on paper, in gesture, in dance, in artifacts
- **ACTION-BASED ingredients** - creative activities, devotional acts (anointing, candle-lighting, etc), writing, praying aloud, singing, walking around, mime, body-sculpture, circus arts (juggling, firebreathing, etc)
- **SOUND-BASED ingredients** - backing tracks, background music, sound FX, radio/TV clips, sound loops, live music, singing, speaking and quoting, praying, bible-reading, spoken thoughts and meditations, conversation
- **VISION-BASED ingredients** - video and 35mm projections, sculptures, stations, pictures, installations
- **IMAGINATION-BASED ingredients** - guided fantasies, thinking, drawing, composing in real-time (words/music), meditations, praying
- **TACTILE/OLFACTORY-BASED ingredients** - anointing, laying-on of hands, incense, holding stones and other natural objects, molding clay, handwashing

Priests & Pastors

8 The priests said not, Where is the LORD? and they that handle the law knew me not: the pastors also transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after things that do not profit.

Jeremiah 2:8

What wisdom is in them?

9 The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?

Jeremiah 8:9

Repaid In Full

- 5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.
- 6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.

Revelation 18:5-6

- At the Tower of Babel people wanted to **'build a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven'** (Gen 11:4).
- How ironic that here they have reached heaven, not with bricks and mortar, but with their sin.

Her Spiteful Boast

⁷ How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. **Revelation 18:7**

¹ How doth the city [Jerusalem] sit solitary, that was full of people how is she become as a widow she that was was great among the nations, and princess among the provinces, how is she become tributary

Lamentations 1:1

Revelation 18

- 8 Therefore shall her plagues come in **one day**, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.
- 9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

Revelation 18:8-9

Revelation 18

- ¹⁰ Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.
- ¹¹ And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

Revelation 18:10-11

Revelation 18

- 12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,
- 13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.

Revelation 18:12-13

Revelation 18

- 14 And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.
- 15 The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,

Revelation 18:14-15

The Destruction of Babylon

- The Catholic Church alone boasts over a billion members.
- This One World Church will be huge and will by now be controlling so much of the world's economy that the Ten Kings have to get rid of her.
- The trade on earth is going to change dramatically from now on as we move from separate democracies to a dictatorship.

Revelation 18

- 16 And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!
- 17 For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,

Revelation 18:16-17

The Wealth of Babylon

- “The Roman Catholic Church is by far the wealthiest institution on earth.....The value of innumerable sculptures by such masters as Michelangelo, paintings by the world’s greatest artists, and countless other art treasures which Rome possesses (not only at the Vatican but in cathedrals around the world) is beyond calculation”

(‘A Woman Rides the Beast’ Page 76)

The Wealth of Babylon

- At Lourdes in France it was recently reported that, in that one location alone, 59 solid gold chalices, rings, crucifixes, statues, heavy gold brooches – many incrustated with precious stones, the crown of Notre Dame de Lourdes that was made by a Paris goldsmith in 1876 and is studded with diamonds, were found. These items are of inestimable value.

The Wealth of Babylon

- All of this is in stark contrast to Jesus who told His disciples *“The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air [have] nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay [his] head.”* (Matt 8:20).
- Just before this, Jesus had taught His disciples that they were not to lay up treasures and riches on earth, but rather to lay up treasure in heaven where it will have eternal value (see Matt 6:19-20).

Revelation 18

- 18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city!
- 19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.

Revelation 18:18-19

Revelation 18

- 20 Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.
- 21 And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

Revelation 18:20-21

Revelation 18

22 And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee;

Revelation 18:22

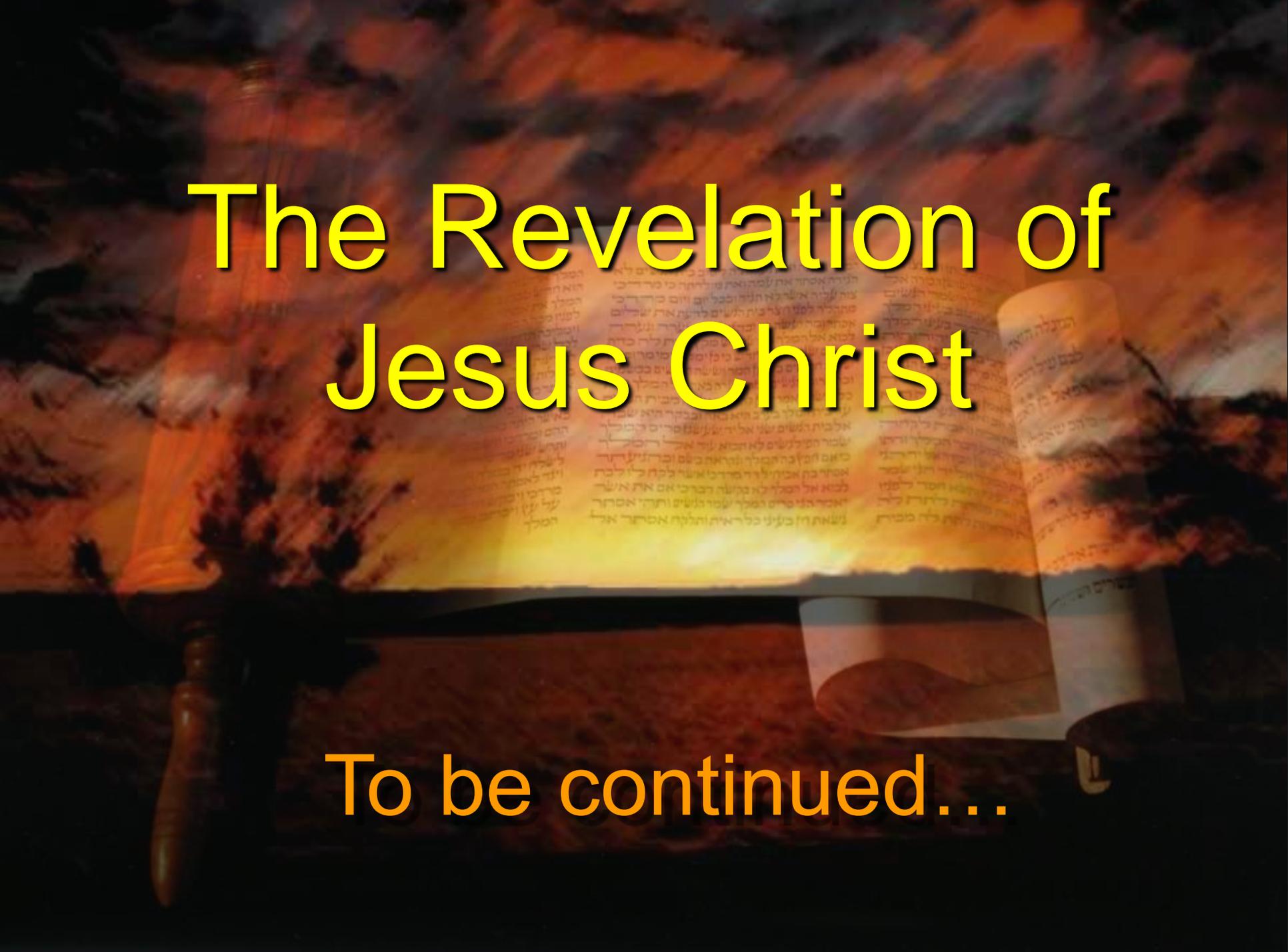
Revelation 18

- 23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.
- 24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

Revelation 18:23-24

Ending Where It All Began

- Thus the prophecies of Isaiah and Jeremiah will be fulfilled
- What started on the plain of Shinar in Iraq almost 4500 years ago as a Satanic attempt to deceive mankind will be ended.
- In many respects this plan of Satan's succeeded
- Countless numbers were led astray and just as Satan attempted at Babel, his man is now poised to take centre stage as the last three and a half years are about to begin.

An open scroll with Hebrew text, glowing with a golden light, set against a dark, textured background. The scroll is unrolled, showing two pages of text. The background is dark and textured, possibly representing a cave or a hidden place. The scroll is the central focus, with a bright light emanating from it.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

To be continued...