

WHO IS MYSTERY BABYLON?
5 OPTIONS — PART 3
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We're reviewing Revelation Chapters 17 and 18 — Mystery Babylon The Great — to try to identify who she might be.

Revelation Chapter 17 identifies her as a great city who sits on “many waters” — peoples ... multitudes ... many different nations.

What city? **There are at least 5 popular options — New York City (or America) ... Rome (or its “city-state”) ... Original Babylon ... perhaps Jerusalem ... or maybe Mecca (including Saudi Arabia).**

NEW YORK CITY ticks many boxes — powerful ... International — but hard to see it being “drunk with the blood of the saints”. Also — it's not in a desert.

ROME today doesn't seem to fit. Not Internationally powerful. Also — cannot be found in a desert.

ANCIENT BABYLON has the “name” and is in a desert ... but it's just ruins today.

JERUSALEM ticks quite a few boxes? In a desert. Called a “Great City” in Revelation Chapter 11. Jesus charged her with the Blood of The Prophets. God often called her a Harlot. Very wicked in the end-times (Sodom and Egypt).

But — not conclusive. A number of cities are called Harlots (Nineveh — also a “Great City”— and Tyre). Also — **following her chastisement — Jerusalem returns to God. He then calls her a “delight and married” (no longer a “Harlot”).**

However ... one major distinction between Mystery Babylon and Jerusalem is their ultimate destiny. **MYSTERY BABYLON IS UTTERLY BURNED WITH FIRE — “NEVER TO BE FOUND AGAIN” ... A PLACE OF DEMONS AND UNCLEAN CREATURES.**

JERUSALEM IS TO CONTINUE INTO THE MILLENNIUM AND ETERNITY AS A RIGHTEOUS CITY.

Finally ... we looked at:

MECCA (probably to include Saudi Arabia).

Birthplace of Mohammed. **Birthplace of the world's biggest man-made FALSE RELIGION.**

The worship centre for 2 billion Muslims (that pray 5 times per day) ... and a required pilgrimage place that you have to visit once in your life.

They have killed about 270 million people since their foundation.

A very wealthy state ... the main founder of international terrorism. It uses its money to influence politics (especially in the USA — nearly \$2 billion donated to several recent American Presidents — for illicit (?) “favours” and certain important cover-ups).

ISLAM HAS THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST.

Sits in the desert.

Over 50 nations have a Muslim-majority ... and a number of Muslims are very influential even in Western society (for instance — the Mayors of New York and London). Plus many in government and the media ... with varying degrees of loyalty to Mecca ... the home of Islam.

So Mecca ticks a lot of boxes and its destruction would be catastrophic financially for many nations and “kings of the earth”. They would certainly grieve and lament.

But some other scriptures we could look at?

Isaiah 47:1

1 “Come down and sit in the dust,
O virgin daughter of Babylon;
Sit on the ground without a throne,
O daughter of the Chaldeans!

For you shall no more be called
Tender and delicate.

Isaiah 47:5-11

5 “Sit in silence, and go into darkness,
O daughter of the Chaldeans; (**Babylon**)

For **you shall no longer be called**
The Lady of Kingdoms.

6 I was angry with My people;
I have profaned My inheritance,
And given them into your hand.
You showed them no mercy;
On the elderly you laid your yoke very heavily.

7 And **you said, ‘I shall be a lady forever,’**
So that you did not take these things to heart,
Nor remember the latter end of them.

8 “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’;

9 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. (“*Sorceries and enchantments*” — *It’s influence on the world. How did that come about?*)

10 “For you have trusted in your wickedness; (*and it is a WICKED RELIGION!*)

You have said, ‘No one sees me’;
Your wisdom and your knowledge have warped you;
And you have said in your heart,
‘I am, and there is no one else besides me.’

11 **Therefore evil shall come upon you;**
You shall not know from where it arises.
And trouble shall fall upon you;
You will not be able to put it off.

And **desolation shall come upon you suddenly,
Which you shall not know.**

Isaiah 47:5 (NASB)

5 “**For you will no longer be called
The queen of kingdoms.**

Isaiah 47:7 (NIV)

7 **You said, ‘I am forever — the eternal queen!’**

YET — DESTROYED IN ONE DAY (compare Revelation 18:8).

Note her sorceries and enchantments — to “bewitch” the world.

It doesn’t really help identify Babylon ... but does remind us that the Book of Revelation is for the most part — not “brand new” prophecy ... but echoes of Old Testament prophecy.

Isaiah 13:1

1 **The burden against Babylon** which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw.

Isaiah 13:6-10

6 Wail, **for the day of the LORD is at hand!**

It will come as destruction from the Almighty.

7 Therefore all hands will be limp,

Every man’s heart will melt,

8 And they will be afraid.

Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them;

They will be in pain as a woman in childbirth;

They will be amazed at one another;

Their faces will be like flames. (*Just so frightening — terrifying*)

9 Behold, **the day of the LORD comes,**

Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger,

To lay the land desolate;

And **He will destroy its sinners from it.**

10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations

Will not give their light;

The sun will be darkened in its going forth,

And the moon will not cause its light to shine.

End-time language? “Day of The Lord” = the Trumpet Plagues and Bowls.

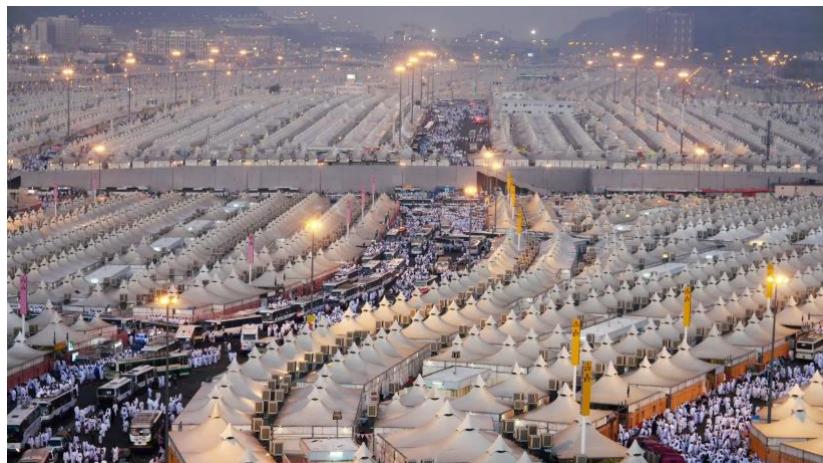
Isaiah 13:19-21

19 And **Babylon, the glory of kingdoms,**
The beauty of the Chaldeans' pride,
Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.
20 **It will never be inhabited,**
Nor will it be settled from generation to generation;
Nor will the Arabian pitch tents there,
Nor will the shepherds make their sheepfolds there.
21 But wild beasts of the desert will lie there,
And their houses will be full of owls;
Ostriches will dwell there,
And wild goats will caper there.

BABYLON TO BE DESTROYED (assume both the actual city and the kingdom it represents).

“No Arabian will pitch tents there”? A remarkable statement — but only if this future Babylon is in Arabia?? In which case their absence is very strange. Wouldn’t be a dramatic statement to say the Arabians won’t pitch their tents in New York City ... Rome (or even Jerusalem)?

MECCA is in Arabia. And is famous for its “tent cities” during the Hajj. So why won’t Arabians pitch their tents there? BECAUSE IT IS DESTROYED



Isaiah 21:1

1 The burden against **the Wilderness of the Sea**.

As whirlwinds in the South pass through,
So it comes from the desert, from a terrible land.

Isaiah 21:1 (KJV)

1 The burden of **the desert of the sea**.

Isaiah 21:1 (NIV)

1 A prophecy against **the Desert by the Sea**:

Isaiah 21:1 (NLT)

1 This message came to me concerning **Babylon—the desert by the sea**:

Talking of Babylon in prophecy. The desert of — or by — the sea.

Saudi Arabia is a desert — surrounded by seas (Red Sea ... Persian Gulf ... Arabian Sea).

In Arabic ... Saudi Arabia is “Jazirat Al Arab” — “the Island of the Arabs”.



Isaiah 21:6-9

6 For thus has the Lord said to me:
“Go, set a watchman,

Let him declare what he sees.”

7 And he saw a chariot with a pair of horsemen,
A chariot of donkeys, and a chariot of camels,
And he listened earnestly with great care.

8 Then he cried, “A lion, my Lord!
I stand continually on the watchtower in the daytime;
I have sat at my post every night.

9 And look, here comes a chariot of men with a pair of horsemen!”
Then he answered and said,

“Babylon is fallen, is fallen!

And all the carved images of her gods
He has broken to the ground.”

BABYLON IS FALLEN ... IS FALLEN.

Quoted in:

Revelation 18:2

2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “**Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen**, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!

Isaiah 21:11

11 The burden against **Dumah**. (*Dumah was the 6th son of Ishmael who founded a city in Western Arabia?*)
He calls to me out of Seir,
“Watchman, what of the night?
Watchman, what of the night?”

Isaiah 21:13

13 The burden against **Arabia**.
In the forest in **Arabia** you will lodge,
O you traveling companies of Dedanites.

Isaiah 21:16

16 For thus the LORD has said to me: “Within a year, according to the year of a hired man, all the glory of **Kedar** will fail; (*Kedar was the second son of Ishmael and had a tribe in Arabia*)

So Isaiah Chapter 21 is all about Babylon and its fall. Yet all of the Geographic references are to Arabia. Where we find the Great City of Mecca — the holiest city to a quarter of the earth's population.

MECCA AND SAUDI ARABIA SEEM FAIRLY WELL SUPPORTED SCRIPTURALLY.

As we saw last week — between them **they have massive power worldwide — in terms of deceptive teaching and in the power of money.**

Revelation 18:9-13

9 “The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning,

10 standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, **Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.**

11 “And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore:

12 merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble;

13 and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men.

A long list of commodities that they import —3 categories: Luxury Goods ... Foods ... Humans (slave labour). This Great City doesn't seem to have many (any) resources of its own. But must have lots of money — or favours available to dispense?

Consistent with a City in the Desert — or a Desert Kingdom?

Revelation 18:14-20

14 The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all.

15 **The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,**

16 and saying, ‘**Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls!**

17 **For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.**’ Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance

18 and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, **What is like this great city?**’ (*which is now past tense*)

19 “They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, ‘**Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth!** **For in one hour she is made desolate.**’

20 “**Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!**”

Those who traded with “Babylon” lament her destruction. They are bereft over the financial impact. **BUT HEAVEN REJOICES!!**

Revelation 18:21-24

21 Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “**Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore.**

22 The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. (*Mystery Babylon is over. It is finished!*)

23 The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. **For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.**

24 **And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.**”

A violent ending —not a gradual decline.

Revelation 18:2

2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “**Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen**, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!

Revelation 19:1-5

1 After these things **I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven**, saying, “**Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!**”

2 **For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.**”

3 Again they said, “Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!”

4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, “Amen! Alleluia!”

5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying, “Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!”

A great multitude (KJV: much people) — in Heaven — shout God’s praise as they witness the destruction of Modern-Day Babylon —her smoke ascends forever!

Who is this great multitude? The resurrected saints who’ve been in Heaven since their catching-away about a year earlier.

I will probably leave it there for now.

But to summarise:

- **We’ve reviewed all of the narratives again so hopefully are very familiar?**
- **With prophecy ... we see through a glass darkly.** So not all aspects are totally clear ... but **once we “get there” it should be “obvious”!**

- **We've looked at 5 possible cities (though some also point to a "New World Order" or even the "Apostate Church".**
- **None seem a perfect fit at present? Though it may look different in the next 5–10 years?**
- **Once the Man of Sin (if Islamic) takes his place in the temple — and "rules" from there — the character of Jerusalem may change dramatically?**

In Saudi Arabia ... a huge construction project is underway near the Red Sea — futuristic cities — of Neom and a 100 mile city — "The Line" — with ports ... airports ... millions of occupants — costing \$trillions. (Though many delays due to technical challenges and costs). So Saudi may look very different over the next 10 years.

KNOW THE NARRATIVES!! BETTER KEEP WATCHING!