

Mystery Babylon:

Myths & Errors of Interpretation

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Introduction:

The subject of “Mystery Babylon” has fascinated many Bible Prophecy students in the past twenty years or so as questions arise as to the identity of Mystery Babylon. There are many different theories proposed as to the identification, all but two are fairly new. This recent upsurge of different theories has provoked many a debate within internet discussion forums whether they be Christian or secular forums.

As a scholarly researcher on the subject since 1987, I have developed a vast treasure house of facts, data points if you will, on the subject of Mystery Babylon and all of its facets, not merely the identity issue. What I have noticed in various online discussion forums by posters making assertions on the subject of Mystery Babylon, is that a lot of myths and errors are stated and repeated over and over, again and again, creating tremendous confusion. In an effort to counter this problem, it seemed appropriate to me to present at least some of the factual inaccuracies and set the record straight

What follows is an attempt to list some of the more egregious, factual errors on the subject and present the correct those errors for the record.

Myth/Error #1. – The name of “Mystery Babylon”

Many people refer to the prophetic passages of Revelation chapters 17 and 18 as referring to a “Mystery Babylon” as if “Mystery” was part of the title name. This is incorrect. The source of the error is found in Revelation 17:5 which reads as follows:

“And upon her forehead was a name written mystery, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. “

Below is the actual, original Greek text, with a more literal English rendering underneath, as translated by Dr. Alfred E. Marshall, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI, 1975. Above the Greek words are the gender designations of each word in question.

Neuter Neuter

και επι το μετωπον αυτης ονομα γεγραμμενον
and upon the forehead of her a name having been written

Neuter **Feminine** **Feminine** **Feminine** **Feminine**
μυστηριον βαβυλων η μεγαλη η μητηρ των πορνων
a mystery, Babylon the Great the mother of the harlots

Neuter Neuter Nueter Neuter
και των βδελυγματων της γης
and the abominations of the Earth.

What I want you to notice is the gender switch after the word “mystery.”

The word “mystery” is written in neuter gender which means that it is not part of the name. So that it is NOT --- Mystery Babylon the Great, Mother of the Harlots – but rather “Babylon the Great, Mother of the Harlots.”

The word “mystery” is indicating that the name itself is a mystery, not that the word “mystery” is written on her forehead as her name. Do you understand the difference?

I realize that it might seem like a minor difference and perhaps even ‘hair-splitting’ – but it does alter the term itself, because many people think that if her name is “Mystery Babylon” then the only prophetic passages about her will be found in Revelation 17 and not also chapter 18, which is another error we’ll deal with shortly.

Still others, equate both chapters to the woman as “Mystery Babylon” but because they see the name as “Mystery Babylon” they fail to realize that in looking for the term “Mystery Babylon” elsewhere in the Bible and

finding no such name elsewhere, they falsely conclude that there are no other mentions of this woman or the related Babylon for future prophecy information. This latter conclusion is also erroneous, and will be dealt with next.

Because we are paying attention to the rules of Greek Grammar we can safely conclude that the neuter gender words remain separate from the feminine gender words, in terms of understanding what constitutes the actual name itself.

Another aspect of this common error of the name is that the term “and of the abominations of the Earth” is also the woman’s title written on her forehead.” Here again, the Greek Grammar shows us that the last phrase is merely descriptive of the woman and not the actual words written on her forehead. The actual words written on her forehead, based upon our recognition of the rules of Greek Grammar for interpretation are as follows:

“Babylon The Great, The Mother of the Harlots.”

Link to a USA website of the followers of ISHTAR in America today. Note they eagerly mention that Ishtar is “The Mother of the Harlots.”

The Ishtar Temple Organization’s “History of the Temple of Ishtar
<http://www.ishtar temple.org/history2001.htm>

Also another page of background
<http://www.ishtar temple.org/sacredIshtar.htm>

“The earliest evidence from Sumeria reveals a culture which accorded women equal status with men, and which principally venerated the goddess Inanna/Ishtar, lunar goddess of life and love, named as the Whore of Babylon in the Bible. 🌐The Mesopotamians held daily religious rituals, offering food and drink to their deities in the temples - which were also centers for trade and acted as banks, extending loans.”

Ishtar's tides and names - like those of all ancient deities - were many and various. In Babylon, her name meant 'Star', the Light of the World. Semitic people gradually conquered the lands of Sumer, introducing changes to the earliest myths and

adding further names for the goddess. She was known as Ashtoreth, to whom King Solomon returns at the end of his days; she was also named -Har, or Hora - from which the words harlot and whore sprang. Inanna/Ishtar was served by powerful prostitute-priestesses who were 'the vehicles of her creative life in their sexual union with the men who came there to perform a sacred ritual'.²⁴ This goddess exhibited a rich diversity of powers, for she also had a terrifying aspect as goddess of war and storms. Her primordial origins are suggested by images depicting her with the magical Tree of Life, the sacred serpent, and numerous birds - linking her with the earliest snake-bird goddesses known to us in many cultures.

THE WHORES OF BABYLON

Ishtar's sacred harlots belonged to an organized hierarchy, painstakingly recorded by the Babylonians. Her top-ranking priestesses were called *entu*, and wore special clothing to distinguish them from the others. Their caps, jewellery and ceremonial staff were the same as those of the ruler, and their status equal to those of the male priests.

The Babylonian *naditu*, ranking next in importance to the *entu*, were drawn from the highest families in the land. In dedicating their lives to the goddess they were supposed to remain single and childless. However, the *naditu* cheerfully ignored this stricture, and led full and active lives. They were bright and canny, with considerable business acumen: 'They bought, sold and hired out; lent money and grain; invested, imported, exported, dealt in slaves, managed land and people, played for the cloisters an essential part in the economy of the country.'²⁷ Beneath these women came the *qadishtu* (sacred women) and the *ishtaritu*, many of whom specialized in the arts of dancing, music and singing.

The sacred marriage between priestess and king was the most solemn and numinous of all Mesopotamian religious rituals. Through this act, the fecundity and sheer life-force of the goddess was honored, released, and drawn down to vivify the land and its people. Her blessing was conferred on the earth itself and on the position of the ruling king. Without his wedding to the goddess, in the living form of her priestess, the king was not considered fit or able to rule the people. His temporal potency was

inextricably linked with his physical prowess and attuned to his own instinctual sexual energies.

New Year, the 'day of rites', was the time set aside for these ecstatic, hedonistic celebrations. In Mesopotamia, New Year fell at the time of the spring equinox, when the earth was pulsing with fresh, new life. In a feast of collective pleasure lasting many days, the people venerated the divine nature of sexual joy. Everything was designed to stir the senses, and men and women bathed and anointed their oiled skin with herbs and essences. They darkened their eyelids, painted their faces and decorated themselves with jewellery. Scented lotions were used to set curls in their dark hair. Arrayed in all their finery they toasted the goddess and her bridegroom with wine, and performed serpentine, circling dances to the haunting music of lyres, flutes and drums. Sacrifices and libations were made and the perfumed air was thick with the heady scents of cinnamon, aloes and myrrh. In Babylon, a great pyre of incense smouldered atop the legendary, pyramid-like Tower of Babel. At the peak of this lavish carnival the king approached the temple, bearing offerings of oil, precious spices and tempting foods to lay before Inanna/ Ishtar. The crowds thronging the temple precincts chanted sacred erotic poems, creating a highly-charged atmosphere of sensual anticipation and mystical participation. In these poems the goddess, and by extension the priestess who embodied her, prepared for her nuptials with great care: When for the uwild bull, for the lord, I shall have bathed, When for the shepherd Dumuzi, I shall have bathed, . . . When with amber my mouth I shall have coated, When with kohl my eyes I shall have painted. 🌟31

The sacred marriage took place in the heart of the temple, where the king waited for the goddess/priestess to approach and receive him. One poem describes how the profound religious significance of their union made 'the throne in the great sanctuary' as glorious as the daylight, and transformed the king, who became 'like the Sun-god', literally and symbolically enlightened. Inanna's passion is described in rapturous poetry. The hymns and sacred erotic poems of Mesopotamia celebrate sexuality in a way which reveres its power, inspirational energies and transformative qualities. It is this indivisible fusion of the sexual and the spiritual that formed the core of their religion.

Sacred Prostitutes

<http://moondance.org/1997/summer97/nonfiction/sacred.htm>

The Goddess of Liberty, Lucifer's Cult of Liberty, Paganism and the Illuminati-Freemasonry of today.

<http://www.rense.com/general51/cult.htm>

The Statue of Liberty – Goddess of Liberty

http://www.wilsonsalmanac.com/statue_of_liberty.html

Libertas- Wikipedia = is generally associated with Roman mythology since **Libertas** was the goddess and personification of liberty. There have been found Libertas temples on the Palatine Hill and Aventine Hill, two of the Seven hills of Rome on which ancient Rome was built. A modern, and purely symbolic, representation of the deity, is the famous Statue of Liberty, which stands on Liberty Island in New York Harbor.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Libertas>

Freemasonry and the cult of Liberty

<http://www.biblebelievers.org.au/mason7.htm>

Myth/Error #2. – A future Babylon is only predicted and detailed in the book of Revelation.

This is also false assumption. Until the past twenty years or so, most prophecy commentators assumed that the book of Revelation was the only Biblical Prophecy dealing with a future Babylon because they mistook the name as being “Mystery Babylon” and failing to find the term elsewhere in scripture assumed the book of Revelation was the only source of prophetic information on the subject.

Now that we've shown the error of including “mystery” as part of the name, we are able to pursue a search elsewhere in the Bible for any prophecies unfulfilled regarding a future Babylon. When we search, we do find other passages such as:

#1. Isaiah chapters 13, 14, and 47 are primary passages. Snippets may refer to a future Babylon in Isaiah 18 and 21, along with 48:20.

#2. Jeremiah chapters 50 and 51.

#3. Zechariah 5: 5-11 – Is an often cited passage, although it gives no details about Babylon itself. It describes a woman and many think the woman is being taken to Babylon, but the only reference is to a Land of Shinar ... the question is which Land of Shinar, there were many besides the one located in Babylonia. There was one in Turkey, another along the Jordan River and yet another along the Nile River near the Egyptian city called Babylon, which today is part of the city of Cairo. Early Rabbi's in the 2nd and 3rd Century B.C. wrote that Zechariah was already in Babylonia and the land of Shinar of Babylon, therefore, the woman was being taken to a different place called "The Land of Shinar."

The cited prophecies of Isaiah and Jeremiah are the only ones providing details about a future Babylon. We know these passages refer to a future Babylon for 2 reasons.

#1. There are Hebrew idioms of a Messianic nature which indicate that the passages refer to events occurring at the time of the Coming of the Messiah" or in other words – associated with the Day of the Lord at the end of the Gentile era.

#2. The descriptions of the judgment by both Isaiah and Jeremiah remain unfulfilled. Yes, Babylon was conquered by Persia or Iran in 539 B.C. but the Persians didn't destroy the city by fire. Isaiah and Jeremiah wrote that in the future, Babylon would be destroyed by fire, never to be rebuilt. In fact, Jeremiah said that Babylon would be inundated by the ocean waves and would sink below the sea never to rise again. Jeremiah 51:42, 55, 64.

Both Isaiah and Jeremiah indicated this future Babylon would be the world's super-power just before the coming of the Messiah. They also said Babylon's military defenses would extend into outer space. Jeremiah also described her destruction as not merely the city but the entire nation including cities and farmlands.

So you see, we have more to go on concerning a future super-power nation than merely the Revelation passages. These Old Testament prophecies give us even more facts and data sets with which to identify this end-time super-power code-named metaphorically as Babylon.

Myth/Error #3 – The Woman of Revelation 17 “Rides” a Beast.

This may seem like a trivial thing, but there is a popular misconception bandied about that the woman of Revelation 17 ‘rides’ the beast who is the Antichrist. The idea that the “woman rides the beast” has been popularized in the past 20 years by author Dave Hunt who wrote a popular book by the same title – “A Woman Rides the Beast.”

Hunt’s book attempts to prove that the woman of Revelation 17 is the Roman Catholic Church. His theory has been the most popular identity theory for the past 400 years, since the Reformation. While it is the most popular, it has serious flaws in its thesis and Hunt shows his lack of attention to detail in the very title of his book.

The term “A woman rides the beast” and the idea of her ‘riding’ the beast comes from a misquote of Revelation 17:3. In misquoting the verse, there is a misinterpretation applied also.

Revelation 17:3 states:

“So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.”

If you notice the phrase highlighted in blue and black, you’ll instantly notice that the key word is “SIT” – not ride. This is the only instance in which the woman and the beast are physically linked together in a physical sense.

In the original Greek text, the key word translated into the KJV as “sit” is the Greek word – καθήμενη -- which is best translated as “sitting” as Dr. Alfred Marshall notes in his Interlinear of the Greek New Testament translation. If you wish to confirm this for yourself, you can do so by looking at Strong’s Concordance in the back of that work in the Greek-to-English dictionary – look for the word with **Strong’s Code Number 2521**.

The woman and the beast are stationary. They are NOT moving. The beast is not moving and thus, the woman is NOT “riding” a beast but sitting on a beast.

Now this may seem like a fine point, even ‘nitpicking’ and in a way it is just that, but it serves to point out the lack of sharp attention to detail by some who want you to believe their research and conclusions. If you can’t trust them on the finer points, can you trust them on the major points? Perhaps, you can trust them, but then again, perhaps not.

Myth/Error #4. The Woman of Revelation 17 is Semiramis, wife of Nimrod and other allegations by Alexander Hislop.

Many prophecy commentators and scholars of the past have relied heavily in their understanding of Revelation 17 and 18 upon a book written by the late Alexander Hislop. Hislop’s book, “The Two Babylons.”

Hislop lived in the early to mid 19th century (died in 1865) before archaeologists discovered the ancient city of Babylon, which had been buried in desert sand for more than 400 years. At the time Hislop wrote his book, some scholars, particularly liberal theologians in Germany claimed that there was never any such city as Babylon, but rather was merely a myth. There was little real evidence or writings with genuine authenticity for which Hislop could have based his works. His resources were confined to Greek and Roman writers.

Hislop claimed that there was a woman named Semiramis who was the Queen of Babylon and the wife of Nimrod, the founder of Babylon and builder of the Tower of Babel. Semiramis was asserted by Hislop to be the Roman Catholic Church’s “Virgin Mary.” He had no real proof with which to base his claims.

A long-time supporter and defender of Hislop’s book, Ralph Woodrow, wrote what many claimed was THE definitive work defending Hislop’s book from angry Roman Catholic theologians who labored to prove Hislop’s errors. Woodrow’s “definitive” work defending Hislop was titled: “Babylon Mystery Religion.”

Woodrow was confronted with a challenge by a school teacher who urged Woodrow to dig further into Hislop's claims, particularly about Semiramis. The result of Woodrow's follow up research was that there was no such person as Semiramis. Ralph then followed up with a book entitled "The Babylon Connection" which pointed out Hislop's errors and effectively repudiated Hislop.

Here is what we know about the Semiramis controversy.

Archaeologists discovered the Royal Library of the Kings of Babylon and historical documents listing all of the royal kings of Babylon who led the city and the empire of Babylonia. Nowhere in any official, royal documents is there any mention of a queen named Semiramis. In fact there is no mention of that name, anywhere in any Babylonian documents.

Furthermore, there is no such record of a Semiramis in the Assyrian empire which succeeded Babylon. The closest possible connection is that of a woman in Assyria who briefly ruled for her young son until he became of age to rule. This woman's name was Sammu ramat. She lived circa 800 B.C. According to Hislop then, this was the Semiramis who ruled Babylon as the wife of Nimrod, King of Babylon.

There is one small problem, or rather one giant problem. Nimrod lived long before the time of Sammu ramat, by about 2,000 year's difference. It is also a stretch to claim Sammu-ramat as Semiramis. Furthermore, there is no evidence that Sammu-ramat founded a pagan religion.

Here are some other falsehoods foisted by Hislop

- The Babylonians went to a confessional and confessed sins to priests who wore black clergy garments.
- Their king, Nimrod, was born on December 25. Round decorations on Christmas trees and round communion wafers honored him as the Sun-god.
- Sun-worshippers went to their temples weekly, on Sunday, to worship the Sun-god.
- Nimrod's wife was Semiramis, who claimed to be the Virgin Queen of Heaven, and was the mother of Tammuz.

- Tammuz was killed by a wild boar when he was age 40; so 40 days of Lent were set aside to honor his death.
- The Babylonians wept for him on “Good Friday.” They worshipped a cross-the initial letter of his name.

The royal records of Babylon make no record of a Nimrod per se. Nimrod apparently ruled before the era of the Kings of Babylon or Sumer as the people called their nation.

Furthermore, the Sumerians or Babylonians had many religions, gods and goddesses, chief of which was a goddess named Inanna or in the Akkadian dialect – Ishtar. Ishtar’s doctrine for the forgiveness of sins was to have a worshipper engage in sexual intercourse with a temple priestess or priest called Harlots or Whores. Ishtar was given many titles among them was the title of “MOTHER OF THE HARLOTS.”

Ishtar was and is “The MOTHER OF THE HARLOTS” – as given her by her worshippers as a term of great respect and holiness.

A worshipper’s sins were forgiven by engaging in “holy sex” with a priestess or priest whose body would become “possessed” by the spirit of the goddess so that the goddess and the priestess became as one together and thus when joined in intercourse with the worshipper, the worshipper would be purified of sins and baptized by the sexual secretions washing away sins.

After the religious ritual of ‘holy sex’ the worshipper would drop a gold or silver coin(s) in a thanksgiving offering collection box as a means of thanking the goddess and at the same time providing financial support for the upkeep of the temple and providing for the needs of the temple workers and priestly class. The temple invented the concept of money and making gold, silver coins. The Ishtar temple also invented the idea of Banking and loaning money at interest in fractional reserve banking. Until Ishtar’s religion – there is nothing in prior recorded history indicating the concept of money, banking or lending at interest.

A harlot or whore in Babylon was considered to be holy, sinless, pure and highly revered. It was the highest honor a woman could attain in Babylon to become a harlot or whore in Ishtar’s temple. Ishtar was their ‘mother.’

The concept of Prostitution started out as a religious concept that would usurp God's intended plan of salvation. For this reason, God considered it an Abomination above other Abominations, for it was the path to damnation because it rejected God's plan of salvation and of course it was based upon the idea of human works that could purify sins.

Ishtar was connected to Tammuz as her fiancée but he died as her lover not as her son. In fact, Ishtar was a virgin, a perpetual virgin – who never bore children, although some late Greek writers tried to connect her as having borne a daughter.

There is no indication that Tammuz was in any way connected with a cross by Ishtar worshippers up through the time of Christ. That may have changed after Christ's death and resurrection when the Greek Gnostics attempted to mix Ishtar's Gnostic dogmas with Christianity but this idea is unsubstantiated.

Hislop's contention that Babylonian worshippers went to a priest to confess sins is totally bogus and without any proof whatsoever. This is also true for the notion of a Nimrod being born on December 25. The sun-god of Babylon was the brother of Ishtar. His name was Utu in the Sumerian dialect and Shamash in the Akkadian dialect. His temple was called "The White House."

For those who prophecy commentators who cite Semiramis and link to the Roman Catholic Church, they are promoting a patent fraudulent idea perpetrated by Alexander Hislop. Anyone posting comments on discussion forums about Semiramis and the RCC needs to be challenged. A good source to use for such a challenge is a link to Ralph Woodrow's website pages commenting about Hislop's errors.

<http://www.ralphwoodrow.org/books/pages/babylon-mystery.html>

<http://www.ralphwoodrow.org/books/pages/babylon-connection.html>

Myth/Error # 5. The Woman is identified with the 7 Hills of Rome in Revelation 17:9

Here again, we find a myth or error based upon advocates not paying attention to details. The verse in question states:

The KJV

And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

The New American Standard Version

"Here is the mind which has wisdom The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits,"

The New International Version

"This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits."

Now, the actual Greek text is:

ωδε ο νους ο εχων σοφιαν αι επτα κεφαλαι
Here {is} the mind -- having wisdom The seven heads

επτα ορη εισιν οπου η γυνη καθηται επ αυτων
seven hora are where the woman sits upon them

Note the word in blue is the word "hora." For Greek scholars, my system is unable to add the diacritical markings of the diphthong of the rough breathing mark which carries the "huh" or "H" sound. To non-Greek readers, I'm unable to provide a punctuation mark above the letter "ο" in the Greek font because of my limited software. There should be an "H" sound in front of – ora – which makes the word in reality – 'hora.'

The word “hora” in the original Greek root word meaning, according to Liddell & Scott’s Greek-English Lexicon – means “large land mass.” Strong’s Code Number 3735 – states a mountain or hill but this is incorrect according to Liddell & Scott’s Lexicon, which notes the term’s original meaning of large land mass applies to a continental land mass.

Moulton & Milligan’s Vocabulary of the Greek Testament notes that the term was used in the first century in secular literature only for mountains and hills.

The Greek worshippers of Ishtar had as one of their mystery doctrines, the concept that Ishtar’s royal crown had 7 horns or spikes each of which functioned for the purpose of reflecting the occult enlightenment of her brother, the sun-god Utu (aka Shamash) upon each of the 7 “hora” and 7 seas of the world. In this doctrine of Ishtar, the 7 “hora” were the 7 continents of the world.

Now, the myth or error of this verse is that the verse is referring to the infamous 7 hills of Rome. I’ve done extensive research of dozens of hours or more in duration tracking down ancient writings in the Greek concerning the phrase 7 hills of Rome. That phrase is found only 7 times in Greek secular writings before the time of Christ, dating around the time of Julius Caesar. We have no records of the term being used at all during either the first or second centuries A.D. We do not see the term used again in writings until nearly 300 A.D.

Furthermore, the word used for the 7 hills of Rome in the Greek language is the word “Bounos” which is a Latin word borrowed by the Greeks which the Romans used for the 7 hills of Rome.

Therefore, we need to ask – IF John and the Holy Spirit intended for Verse 9 to be a reference to the 7 hills of Rome and the woman connected to Rome, which was the word “hora” used and not “bounos?” To use “hora” instead of “bounos” to refer to Rome would have been to error in the choice of word usage.

Why would the word “Hora” – which is the key word of Ishtar’s mystery doctrine about her crown of 7 spikes, be used if it were not intended to refer to Ishtar and her worldwide influence over all the continents of the world?

The only conclusion we can draw is that Verse 9 is in no way intended to refer or to link the woman with the city of Rome.

Myth/Error # 6. The phrase, “My People” in Rev 18:4 refers to Jews not Christians.

The verse states:

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 error in thinking the verse refers to Jews and commanding them to flee out of Babylon is erroneous, for 2 reasons.

#1. The assumption is that the phrase can only be applied to Jews and not to Christians.

This is repudiated from within the New Testament. Romans 9:24-26

#2. Greek verbs “Come out” indicate direction of movement towards the speaker.

Rev 18:4b

εξελθατε	ο	λαος	μου	εξ	αυτης
Come ye out.	The	People	of me	out of	her

The Greek grammar indicates that the “mood” of the grammar is “Imperative mood.” This means the statement is a Command. It requires obedience. It is not a mere suggestion.

According to Greek grammarian J. Gresham Machen, the word εξελθατε is a word that includes direction. It means to move toward the speaker or in this case, - “to come UP and Out of” towards the speaker. The first part of the verse indicates that the voice is located in Heaven. So that, in verse 4, we have a command to move out of and upwards towards the speaker.

We see a parallel to this verse in First Thessalonians 4: 16 ...

“For the Lord, Himself shall descend from Heaven – with a SHOUT, with the voice of the Archangel...”

The term “with a shout” is the Greek word κελευσματι which means “ a word of command”

So both verses speak of a command being given from heaven by a voice in reference to the Rapture of the Church. Revelation 18:4 is the Rapture and it occurs prior to verses 5 and 6 which give the decree for not one but two judgments, one of which starts the Tribulation in a 1 hour fire judgment as described also in Rev 17:16 in the same hour that the Antichrist assumes power – see 17:12-14 and the other one comes at the end at the Second Coming in a water judgment with Babylon sinking beneath the ocean waves never to rise again. Jeremiah 51: 42, 55, 64 and Revelation 18:21 and Rev 16:17-21 **So that Revelation 18:4 is a reference to the Church, not the Jews.**

Myth/Error #7. Revelation chapters 17 and 18 should be viewed separately and not linked in any way. They are two separate prophecies.

Myth/Error #8. The woman is not related to the city in any way.

These are two errors that can be dealt with in the same answer.

They are errors created by oversight and or lack of understanding either English or Greek grammar. Look carefully at the last verse in Chapter 17.

And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

If we diagram the sentence and remove and adverbial phrase we can see the subject, the predicate verb and the direct object.

Woman IS great city

The verb “IS” functions as a mathematical equals sign – or “ = “ sign. The woman IS the city. This verse links chapter 17 and chapter 18 together into a single unified prophecy. The woman is identified with the city, the city is identified with the woman. Why? The woman is the guardian angel of the mega-city or great city or super-power nation.

Myth/Error #9 – “Mystery Babylon is a city NOT a nation.”

When one first reads over Revelation, chapters 17 and 18 in the English, it would seem that the passages quite clearly state that the term Babylon or “great Babylon” or “Babylon the great” is merely referring to a city and not a nation or an empire. A casual reading would lead to what seems like a logical conclusion. It is a very logical conclusion based upon English translations. The problem is that the English translations are not quite so accurate.

If, all we had to go by, was the book of Revelation the conclusion that Babylon is merely a city could be easily debated against those who claim Babylon is a nation.

There are 2 major reasons why Babylon or “mystery Babylon” cannot merely be a city.

#1. The original Greek text term conveys more than a mere city.

#2. Jeremiah, chapters 50 and 51 destroy any such notion that Babylon is merely a city.

Let’s first look at the original Greek term describing Babylon.

There is a key word associated with Babylon and the term city. It is the Greek adjective “megala” often translated casually into English as “Great.” The Greek term “megala” combined with either Babylon or “city” is found in the following passages.

Revelation 14:8 “Babylon is fallen is fallen, that great city...”

Revelation 16:19 as “Babylon the Great” or “Babylon the Megala”

Revelation 17: 1 as “the Harlot – the Great” or “Harlot, the Megala”
Revelation 17: 5 same term again – written on the woman’s forehead as a title name.

Revelation 17:18 “And the woman which thou sawest IS that great city”

Revelation 18 2 “Babylon the Great” is fallen

Revelation 18:10 “Alas, Alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city”

Revelation 18:16 “Alas, Alas that great city”...

Revelation 18:18 “What city is like unto this great city”

Revelation 18:19 “that great city”

Revelation 18:21 “shall that great city Babylon...”

Revelation 19:2 “He hath judged the great whore”

The key word in every instance is the word translated into English as Great is the Greek word Megala or a derivative thereof.

So what does the Greek word “megala” mean?

The Greek Root word is “Megas” – We get the English word “mega” from this word. We use the word in ways similar to the Greek speaking peoples of the first century A.D. How?

We might describe a 5.0 to a 6.0 magnitude earthquake as moderate. We might describe a 7.0 to an 8.0 earthquake as a large earthquake. How would news media report a 12.0 earthquake that sank all of the islands in the sea, like all of the British Isles, all of Japan, all of the Philippines, all of Hawaii and every other island and at the same time flattened ever mountain in the world? Probably the best adjective to add to the term earthquake under such circumstances would be to say that it was a “MEGA” Earthquake.

Another example would be in our use of the term vitamins. A normal vitamin would be just a vitamin. If a vitamin is called a mega-vitamin what does that mean? It means more than just a mere vitamin. In the Greek language, the use of “mega” or “megas” would super-intensify the accompanying word it describes. Often times we could use the word “super” instead of mega, such as in the Super-bowl or as in a Super-power.

The word megas means – super in size, intensity and scope. It goes beyond the word it describes and makes the described word to mean far more than normal.

Often times the Greek term “hey polis hey megala” referred to the empire that a city belonged to. In other words, in referring to the Roman empire, one would refer to Rome as a means of indicating the Roman empire, but when doing so, would add “hey megala” meaning more than just the city but also the empire. The same was said for Athens, Carthage, and ancient Babylon too, when referring to the empire itself.

We do the same today don't we. Often times you'll hear on the nightly TV newscast a reference to something like this – “Moscow told Washington today it would...” or “Paris was not pleased by Moscow's response. What do such statements mean? Are we talking about cities reacting to each other? Yes and no. We're actually indicating the cities as stand-ins for their nations because they are the capital city or the chief city for a given nation. The same was true of how the ancients referred to their cities and empires.

Now, this is one aspect of the debate over whether Revelation 17 and 18 are describing a city code-named Babylon. The other aspect of the debate is what the correlating prophecies of Jeremiah say about Babylon.

Jeremiah's prophecies of a future, end-times Babylon describe it as a super-power nation.

Jeremiah 50:32 refers not merely to Babylon for judgment but also her cities – plural. We see the plural used again in 51:43.

Jer 50:32 – God is speaking of the king of Babylon's empire...

And the most proud shall stumble and fall, and none shall raise him up: and I will kindle a fire in his cities, and it shall devour all round about him

Jer. 51:43 speaking of Babylon or Babylonia

Her cities are a desolation, a dry land, and a wilderness, a land wherein no man dwelleth, neither doth any son of man pass thereby.

Then there is the little matter of her farmlands: Jeremiah 50:16a indicates that Babylon has farms by references to her planters and harvesters.

Cut off the sower from Babylon, and him that handleth the sickle in the time of harvest.

When was the last time you saw farms in any city? When was the last time you saw Wheat Combines or Corn pickers running around Vatican city or Rome or London, or New York City or any city for that matter?

Then of course there is Jeremiah 50:12 which really takes the air out of the argument that a future Babylon is merely a city.

Your mother shall be sore confounded; she that bare you shall be ashamed: behold, the hindermost of the nations shall be a wilderness, a dry land, and a desert.

Babylon will be the “last of the nations” indicating that Babylon is in fact, a nation, albeit a super-power nation.

IF yet there is still any doubt at all – and there shouldn't be but just in case let's look at a shocking verse in Jeremiah 51:53

Though Babylon should mount up to heaven, and though she should fortify the height of her strength, yet from me shall spoilers come unto her, saith the LORD.

The Hebrew terms in this verse describe a portion of outer space, near earth. I present an extensive analysis of this verse in “America, The

Babylon, Volume 1. I also present dozens of other reasons why Babylon is not a city or an organization or a church or the Roman Catholic Church or Rome or New York City. I dramatically demonstrate why Babylon is a nation.

Whoever Babylon is, she has military capabilities in outer space. Now you tell me of a city that has a military, period, let alone a military with outer space capabilities.

So yet again, we have a myth/error that on the surface of the English texts appears to correct but when we dig deeper we find it to be incorrect.

Myth/Error #10. The 10 Horns & the Beast destroy the woman in Rev 17:16

This error is perhaps the most difficult to explain the error. The Greek text of the verse itself is rather complicated. To properly understand the verse we have to pay careful attention to the word order.

And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

It would seem that the verse is telling us that the ten horns and the beast hate the whore and they actively destroy her, strip her naked and eat her flesh and burn her with fire. The original Greek text is different

και τα δεκα κερατα α ειδες και το θηριον ουτοι μισησουσιν την πορνην και ηρημωμενην ποιησουσιν αυτην και γυμνην και τας σαρκας αυτης φαγονται και αυτην κατακαουσουσιν [εν] πυρι

There is a missing word in the best Greek manuscripts. It is the next to last word, which you see in brackets. The fact of the matter is that the destruction that is being described is accomplished by the fire. The fire eats her flesh and consumes her. The beast and ten horns hate what is happening to her as they watch in horror during the one-hour it takes for her destruction.

Now we might have a legitimate objection to this but for various other prophetic passages in which God's angels are described as committing the destruction, such as in Revelation 18:21 and in Isaiah 13:1-6 where Isaiah uses obscure, abbreviated Hebrew idioms to indicate that the judgment is carried out by "sinless" beings who come from the throne of God to execute judgment on Babylon.

In Jeremiah, passages that seem to speak of enemies coming from the north or over the north pole engage in her destruction. However, Hebrew scholars such as Dr. Michael Heiser have pointed out that these passages by Jeremiah such as "out of the north" are deep Hebrew idioms for Heaven and God's realm. So again, we have other scriptures clearly indicating God's loyalist and sinless angels are at work carrying out the destruction of Babylon, not the Beast, not the 10 horns, not Russia, not China.

There is one caveat to this. Iran. Jeremiah 51:11 and 27-28 indicate that the Medes i.e. Iran and three tribes located in Iran today, will deal with Babylon's troops. I personally take it that Babylon is the United States and that Iran will mop up against US forces in Iraq and the Persian Gulf as God sends divine judgment onto the continental United States.

Myth/Error #11 There are survivors of Babylon's judgment and Babylon rebuilds.

Where anyone comes up with such an idea is beyond me. Revelation 18:21-24 should make it quite clear that Babylon is gone forever. This is also true for numerous Old Testament passages such as Isaiah 13:17-21.

Myth/Error #12. Babylon is judged for murdering only the prophets and saints during the Tribulation period.

This notion is based upon Revelation 17:6 and 18:24.

A careful examination of 18:24 reveals that Babylon is guilty of the blood of ALL who have ever been murdered on earth, clear back to the very first murder. We know this because the verse contains a Greek perfect participle plus the all-inclusive word "ALL."

The Greek perfect participle indicates that slain refers to the very first slaying in all of human history, namely Abel being killed by Cain. It also includes everyone since all the way up until the present time that Babylon is judged. All means all.

One might object and say, how can this be? One might object stating that there is no prior precedent for this in scripture for blame to be ascribed to someone or something for things they were not around to do in prior history.

The appropriate answer in response is – yes there is precedent. In Matthew 23:35, Jesus tells the Pharisees that they are found to have the blood of all the Old Testament prophets on their hands too as well as Abel. How can this be?

The Pharisees were adherents to the Jewish Kabbalah. The Kabbalah was a mixture of Judaism with Babylonian paganism, which the Babylonians had remembered from pre-Flood days of Noah. They were part of the ‘mystery of Babylon’ and the Ishtar mystery religion which the fallen angel Ishtar is thought to have instituted in the pre-Noah period and perhaps extending clear back to Cain and Abel. The Pharisees were a part of this system which survived and has manifested itself today in the dominant super-power nation code-named Babylon.

Myth/Error #13. Babylon experiences one, single judgment only and its at the Second Coming of Christ.

This is a common myth, error or misunderstanding of the text. It’s understandable for those prophecy students and commentators who have failed to link the Revelation passages with the Isaiah and Jeremiah prophecies.

Isaiah chapter 13: 19-22 speaks of a fire judgment that results in desert-like conditions with no human habitation. It gives no time frame for how long this situation lasts other than to say there will never again be human habitation in Babylon.

Jeremiah 50 and 51 describes carnage and fire judgment as does Revelation 17:16 plus 18:8,9,18-19.

What is interesting to note is that Revelation speaks of her judgment taking only one hour for total annihilation. In that same one hour, the “Beast” and ten horns meet and the ten horns ‘vote’ power unto the beast. This indicates that the one hour fire judgment of Babylon triggers the rise to power of the Antichrist. Yet, that is not the end of Babylon’s judgment story.

Revelation 16:19 indicates that Babylon is judged again at the 2nd Coming of Christ.

Revelation 18:4-6 indicates Babylon receives 2 distinct judgments.

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.

For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

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.

Combine this “doubling” judgment with the following verses and their descriptions of a different judgment besides fire.

Rev 18:21

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.

Jeremiah 51:42

The sea is come up upon Babylon: she is covered with the multitude of the waves thereof.

Jeremiah 51:55

Because the LORD hath spoiled Babylon, and destroyed out of her the great voice; when her waves do roar like great waters, a noise of their voice is uttered:

Jeremiah 51: 64

And thou shalt say, Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her:

So we also see a “water judgment” in which the sea comes up over Babylon and she sinks, never to rise again. This means that if she sinks to become a sea bed then she can’t also be a desert like Isaiah 13:19-22 describes.

So we have a verse describing a “double” judgment and descriptions of two entirely opposing sets of conditions post-judgment. This means we have two different judgments at two different points of time.

The fire judgment that takes one hour occurs at the same one hour of time that the ten horns vote power to the beast or Antichrist as found in Rev 17:12-18. Thus the first judgment comes at the start of the Tribulation period and triggers the rise to power of the Antichrist.

Revelation 18:4 indicates a Rapture event transpires before the first fire judgment that begins the Tribulation period. Thus, we have a Pre-Trib Rapture being described in Revelation 18:4.

The second judgment comes at the Second Coming of Christ in which Babylon sinks beneath the ocean waves at the same time that all the islands of Earth disappear below the ocean waves and all the mountains are flattened. See Revelation 16:17-21

Myth/Error #14. Russia, China and other nations destroy Babylon by fire.

In previous Myth/Error responses, we've noted that Isaiah 13:1-6 uses obscure Hebrew idioms to indicate that the beings who destroy Babylon are the sinless ones of God coming from the throne of God. This terminology, while obscure in the Hebrew, does indicate angelic action and certainly not sinful nations on Earth. Jeremiah also mentions "out of the north" a Hebrew term indicating from the throne of God and not over the North Pole. We also have other references to angelic action where we see Jeremiah liken the judgment to Sodom and Gomorrah, which were destroyed by angelic activity.

Myth/Error #15. Zechariah describes the woman as returning to Babylon.

Rabbinical writings tell us that Zechariah's writings were done from the vantage point of Babylon. On that basis, Zecharia's description of the woman returning to Babylon (i.e. Land of Shinar) makes no sense because she's already there. Rabbis and others have noted that there was/is more than one "Land of Shinar" including an area with that name in Turkey, another along the Jordan River in modern-day Jordan and another along the Nile River.

I believe this vision is of a statue of Ishtar, "Mother of the Harlots" and "goddess of Liberty/Freedom" being taken to a new land of Shinar – America where she is helicoptered onto the top of the US Capitol Dome which the US Founding Fathers originally referred to as The Temple of (the goddess) Liberty. The statue atop the dome is called The Goddess of Freedom – a likeness of what Freemasons call the Roman goddess Libertas – which was the early Roman name for Ishtar.

If you don't believe me about the US Capitol building being the Temple of Liberty check out the links below from the US Library of Congress.

Temple of Liberty:

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/us.capitol/s0.html>

Temple of Liberty #2

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/us.capitol/s7.html>

Here is an early drawing of the Temple of Liberty, Classical Temple Dedicated to Liberty, Justice, and Plenty, James Trenchard "Temple of Liberty" The Columbian Magazine, (Philadelphia) 1788, opp. p. 473 Engraving in book Rare Book and Special Collections Division Library of Congress (24)

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/us.capitol/twnty4.jpg>

It should be noted that the chief Babylonian goddess was called the goddess of Liberty, goddess of Justice and was the Fertility goddess as well as being called The Mother of the Harlots.

Another page on the Temple of Liberty

<http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/1995/95-014.html>

The United States Capitol was the most important of the public buildings planned by the nation's founding fathers. It was to serve as the centerpiece of the 10-mile square plot of land on the Potomac River acquired as the home of the new federal government, and of the new nation itself. The Capitol is celebrating its 200th birthday during the decade of the 1990s, and this exhibition, "Temple of Liberty: Building the Capitol for a New Nation," traces the deliberate and fascinating effort to create a building reflecting the ideals under which the new government was founded.

"Temple of Liberty" features newly commissioned models and nearly 200 original documents, some recently discovered and many newly conserved. Almost a century has passed since the last such exhibition, and during that time the Capitol has become increasingly a symbol for democracy around the world.

Here's a link to a photo of the goddess of Freedom and a blurb about her
<http://godc.about.com/od/pictures/ig/U-S--Capitol-Picture-Gallery/The-Statue-of-Freedom.htm>

I hope you have found this information useful. There is much more information of a similar nature available and you'll find references to such materials below, along with Re-copy and Re-print information for anyone who wants to share this material with others.

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