



UNDERSTANDING BABYLON

It's Origin and Nature

Throughout the centuries God's Word has used types, metaphors, and parables to reveal truth, educate His people, and prepare us for our time (*Christ typified by the smitten rock - Exodus 17: 5-6; the Word of God a sword - Revelation 19:15; Christ typified by manna - John 6:49-50*). The Apostle Paul said in Colossians 2:17, "These are a **shadow** of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ." Early "shadows" of certain people, places, and things in the Old Testament help us to understand people, places, and things in the New Testament. Therefore, if we are to understand Babylon the Great in the last book of the Bible, we must first understand that place revealed in the first book of the Bible.

Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Shem, and Japheth, Noah blessed, Gen. 9:26-27 (Shem's descendants lead us to Christ). But Noah cursed Ham's descendants because of Ham's wickedness, Gen. 9:22-25. Ham had a son named Cush (Heb. Kûwsh "black"), and Gen. 10:8-10 states, "Cush was the father of Nimrod; who became a mighty **warrior** on the earth. He was a mighty hunter **before** the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter **before** the LORD." What doesn't come across in the translation is how Nimrod really was. His name literally means, "**let us rebel.**" The Hebrew word translated here as "**before**" (Heb. pâneh) literally means "against, or in the face of." So Nimrod was a mighty hunter "against, or in the face of" the LORD. He was a hunter of men. He was a chieftain, a tyrant, the first dictator on the earth. The beginning of Nimrod's kingdom was Babel (Gen 10:10) in the land of Shinar (about 50 miles south of modern Baghdad in Iraq). The whole purpose of Nimrod's Babel was to defy God. Gen. 11:4, "...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.**" God had commanded Adam and Eve, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth..." but Ham's grandson had other prideful plans, and he built an immense high tower just in case God sent another flood! Nimrod was saying, "In your face God!" And it was in this place that mankind first entered into idolatry; eventually supporting over 50 pagan gods with as many temples. Why have I taken you to the tower of Babel? In Hebrew it is called "Bah-BEL", in Greek it is "Bab-oo-LONE." Babel is Babylon. Babylon is the original dwelling place of the cursed family of Ham. It is the capital of the kingdom called by the same name. It is the "shadow" (the spirit of rebellion, sin, pride, confusion, idolatry, blasphemy, and arrogance) that describes the worldwide kingdom of Babylon the Great in Revelation. And the cursed rebel warrior Nimrod is a "shadow" of Antichrist.

Centuries later God would use mighty Babylon to bring judgment upon sinful Israel. The Israelites would spend 70 years in captivity until God would bring them home. In AD 70 God would use the mighty Roman Empire to bring judgment again upon sinful Israel; and after 1878 years God would bring them home once more. Very soon God will use a mighty worldwide kingdom, Babylon the Great, to bring judgment upon the whole sinful world; and after 7 years He will restore and establish His everlasting kingdom.... Jesus is Lord!