

false spirits that will deceive nearly the entire world.

23. What do these spirits of devils do? Revelation 16:14

"They are the spirits of demons, performing

NOTE: Revelation clearly pictures spiritualistic phenomena and miracle-working powers to accompany this false holy-spirit manifestation that deceives nearly the entire world.

24. What was the genuine manifestation of the fire falling from heaven? Acts 2:1-4

"Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of a _____,
... and they were all filled with the _____
and began to speak with other tongues."

NOTE: The Scriptures point to another time when fire fell from heaven. This was Pentecost, when tongues of fire fell on the disciples and they spoke with new tongues. However, Revelation 13 pictures a time to come when so-called fire will fall from heaven. But this "fire" will actually come from Satan and the people will be deceived by this false fire and false gift of tongues. (For the astonishing fulfilment of this phenomenon, see Exhibit 1.)

25. What does God say about this modern spiritualistic Babylon? Revelation 18:2

"Babylon the great is _____."

NOTE: Babylon is no longer the depository of truth. She is fallen. Yet God still has many people in Babylon who love and serve Him.

26. What message does God send to His people in modern Babylon? Revelation 18:4

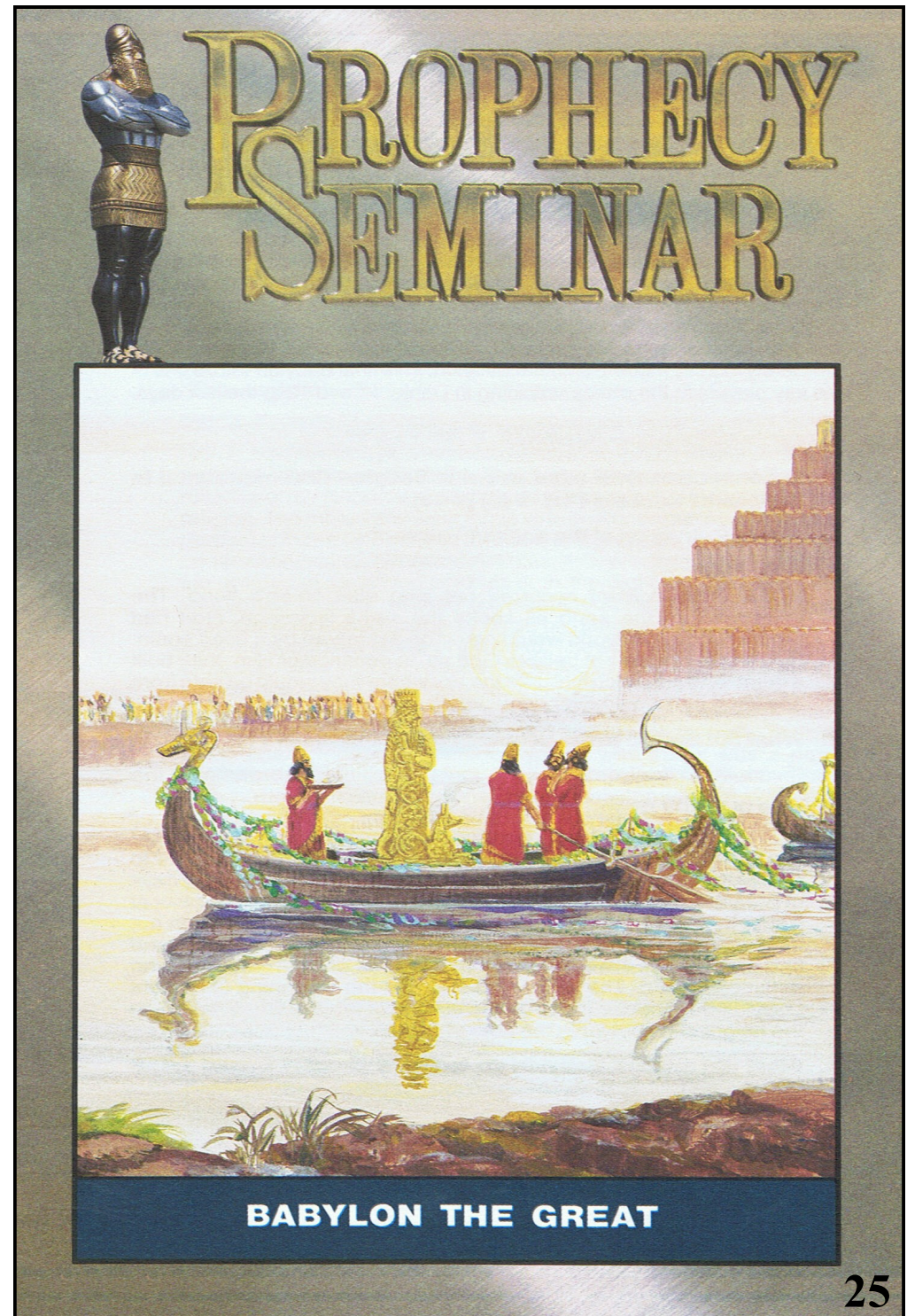
"Come _____ of her, _____ people."

NOTE: God is about to pour out the seven last plagues upon spiritual Babylon, this union of churches that has mixed truth with error and is seeking to deceive the world with its spiritualistic miracles today. He does not ask us to try to reform Babylon - it is beyond reformation. Instead, God gives His people an urgent call to come out of Babylon.

27. Will you respond to God's call and come out of Babylon today?

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Babylon! The very name conjures up images of a devious power that seeks to destroy the people of God. Every serious Bible student very quickly learns the history of this power that Satan has used so mightily in his attempt to destroy the people of God. One cannot read the book of Daniel without being made vividly aware of the part Babylon played in Daniel's day. But is Babylon simply an ancient city, gathering dust on the Euphrates, or is Babylon alive and well today?

The book of Revelation indicates that, in the last days, a modern Babylon will arise, similar to ancient Babylon and equally devastating in its impact upon the people of God (it might be well to review Lesson 7). In this lesson, we will study exciting things. We will explore the kind of power ancient Babylon was, and then carefully examine spiritual Babylon of the book of Revelation. We will clearly identify modern spiritual Babylon. This final Babylon will be one of the key players in the drama unfolding in Daniel 11 and 12 in the last days.

ANCIENT BABYLON

1. In connection with what event is Babylon first mentioned in Scripture? Genesis 11:1-9

At the destruction of the ancient Tower of _____, (See Verse 9.)

NOTE: This incident occurred not long after Noah's flood. The inhabitants of the earth all spoke the same language. God had promised that the world would never be destroyed by a flood again. But the people did not believe God so, in defiance of Him, they built a great tower to reach high into the sky where they would be safe from any flood that would ever come again.

2. What did God do to the people at Babel? Genesis 11:9

"From there the Lord _____ them abroad over the face of all the earth."

NOTE: In the midst of their rebellious attempt to build this tower, God came down and confused the languages and forced the people to scatter throughout the earth. This historic event marked the early days of Babylon. "Babel" has come to mean "confusion", because it was at Babel that the Lord confused the languages. However, let us not forget the reason for the confusion: man had rebelled against God and had erected this tower. Babylon thus has its origin in rebellion and defiance of God. The tower of Babel was the beginning of ancient Babylon but it continued to grow throughout Biblical times, reaching the height of its power in the time of Daniel.

3. What did ancient Babylon do to God's people? Daniel 1:1, 2

The king of Babylon _____ Jerusalem.

NOTE: As we have already studied, Babylon is the power that took Daniel and the Jewish people into captivity. Thus the second characteristic of ancient Babylon was that it persecuted and sought to destroy God's people.

union. It is this spiritualistic phenomena that gives it great influence and the power to work miracles in the last days. However, this great power does not come from God, but from Satan himself.

18. How does the second beast attempt to rally the world around the first beast? Revelation 13:12-14

"He performs great _____, so that he even makes _____ come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men."

19. What spiritualistic power does the second beast exercise to deceive people into worshipping the first beast? Revelation 13:14

"He deceives those who dwell on the earth by those _____ which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast."

NOTE: Modern Babylon performs the same kind of activities as did ancient Babylon to try to gain acceptance. It uses magic, miracles, signs, wonders, etc. All of this is done in order to induce people to worship the first beast and thus create an image to the beast (Revelation 13:14). All of these false spirits and powers will be manifested for the purpose of deceiving people. It is on the point of these miracles, signs and wonders that Romanism and apostate Protestantism unite with Spiritism to form the final great apostasy of modern spiritual Babylon.

20. What is the great sign that this final Babylon brings down from heaven? Revelation 13:13

"He even makes _____ come down from heaven."

21. In the book of Revelation, of what is fire symbolic? Revelation 4:5

"Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the _____ of God."

NOTE: Seven is the number of perfection, indicating that the seven lamps of fire represent the perfect Holy Spirit of God.

22. With what is fire associated in the New Testament? Luke 3:16; Matthew 3:11

"He will baptize you with the Holy _____ and fire."

NOTE: Fire seems to be symbolic of the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. However, in Revelation 13 it is not God who sends this fire from heaven, but Satan, who counterfeits the fire of God. People are deceived into thinking that this false spirit is the genuine Holy Spirit of God. The Bible says that one of the marks of modern spiritual Babylon that will unite it, will be these false spiritualistic manifestations that will be credited to the Holy Spirit, but which actually come from the devil himself. In other words, Protestants and Catholics, who have tried to unite through formal means of unity and have failed, suddenly will be brought together by these

Revelation 13.

14. How does the beast of Revelation 13 fit the characteristics of ancient Babylon?

- a. "On his heads a _____ name." Vs. 1, 5.
- b. "To make war with the _____." Vs. 7.
- c. "And they _____ the beast." Vs. 4.

NOTE: The beast of Revelation 13 is a symbol of the papal apostasy of the Dark Ages (see Lesson 9). It has all the characteristics of ancient Babylon. It blasphemed God in defiance and rebellion; it persecuted those who disagreed with it; it mixed together truth and error; it received false worship. It is the great mother church that introduced the original apostasy into the Christian church. It is the first of the three parts of modern spiritual Babylon.

15. How does the Bible describe the other parts of modern Babylon? Revelation 17:5

"THE MOTHER OF _____."

NOTE: The second part of Babylon is also called a harlot. The Roman Church is the great mother, and her daughters would be those who have come out of Babylon but still hold to her harlotry. In other words, the second part of Babylon is composed of those Protestant churches who have left Rome but continue to practice some of Rome's doctrines that mix truth with error. Thus the first two parts of Babylon describe those churches, whether Catholic or Protestant, that have mixed truth with error, paganism with Christianity. Any church that mixes these two elements is, therefore, modern Babylon.

16. How does Revelation 13 describe the second part of Babylon? Revelation 13:11, 12

"Another beast coming up out of the _____, . . . and he exercises all the authority of the _____ beast in his presence."

NOTE: The second beast of Revelation 13 follows in the footsteps of the first beast. The second beast we have seen to be a symbol of Protestant America, as it originally arose (see Lesson 24). According to Revelation 13, Protestant America joins hands with the first part of Babylon, Romanism. As these two great powers join together, they become mighty spiritual Babylon.

17. What is the third characteristic of modern Babylon? Revelation 18:2

Babylon. . . has become a dwelling place of _____, a prison for every _____ spirit.

NOTE: Spiritism is the third aspect of modern Babylon. We could then expect that, as American Protestantism joins hands with Romanism to create this final great spiritual Babylon, spiritualistic phenomena will accompany its

4. What defiant act did Babylon's leaders perform with the vessels from God's house? Daniel 5:2-4

"They drank wine, and the gods of gold."

NOTE: Here we find Belshazzar taking the sacred vessels consecrated to the worship of Jehovah, pouring wine into them, and drinking to the gods of Babylon. Here is another defiling act of Babylon, as she mixes elements of the worship of God with pagan worship. Thus the third characteristic of ancient Babylon was this mixture of truth and error, of paganism and the worship of God.

5. What spokesmen controlled the theology of ancient Babylon? Daniel 2:2

"The magicians, the _____ the _____, and the Chaldeans."

NOTE: Ancient Babylon even had its own prophets who professed to interpret dreams and visions. They were the brain trust of Babylon, relied upon by Nebuchadnezzar and all the rulers of Babylon for their religion. The magicians were those who practiced magic. The astrologers were those who studied the stars to find out the future or to better understand human behaviour. At times, they predicted the future from the entrails of sacrificed animals or in the flight of birds. They also interpreted dreams, worked out incantation formulas by which evil spirits or sicknesses allegedly could be banished, and asked advice from the supposed spirits of the dead. The sorcerers were those who professed to be able to produce magic spells. "Chaldeans" referred to a class of scholars who had laced their scholarship with spiritualistic phenomena. Each of these four groups utilized spiritualistic phenomena as a basis for their understanding and search for truth. Thus the fourth characteristic of ancient Babylon was that it was a power controlled by Spiritism. In fact, it was the spiritualistic bent of these men that kept ancient Babylon together. Babylon was not alone in the ancient world in utilizing spiritualistic phenomena; most ancient pagan nations were spiritualistic powers.

Please note again the four characteristics of ancient Babylon:

- 1) It was defiant and rebellious toward God.
- 2) It persecuted the worshippers of the true God.
- 3) It mixed truth with error, paganism with the worship of God.
- 4) It was held together by spiritualistic worship.

These characteristics, found in ancient Babylon, will be found again in modern spiritual Babylon.

MODERN BABYLON

6. How does the book of Revelation describe modern Babylon?

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Revelation 17:1-6

"The great _____ who sits on many waters."

7. What is the great harlot called? Revelation 17:5

"MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE _____
OF _____ AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF
THE EARTH."

NOTE: Here is the modern re-enactment of ancient Babylon. The Bible indicates that in the last days there will be a revival of Babylonian-style power. Let's notice how the four characteristics of ancient Babylon are found in its modern counterpart.

8. How does the Bible describe modern Babylon? Revelation 17:3

"I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names
_____."

NOTE: The Bible describes modern Babylon as blasphemous. Blasphemy is a defiant and rebellious claim that clearly resembles the rebellious and defiant claims of the builders of the tower of Babel. What the builders of the tower of Babel did was blasphemy. Likewise, modern Babylon blasphemes God in her defiance and rebellion against the Word of God.

9. What does modern Babylon do to the saints of God? Revelation 17:6

She was "drunk with the _____ of the saints and with
The _____ of the martyrs of Jesus".

NOTE: Modern spiritual Babylon will persecute God's people as verily _____ as did ancient Babylon.

10. How does Revelation describe the acts of modern Babylon? Revelation 17:2

"The kings of the earth committed _____, and the inhabitants
of the earth were made _____ with the wine of her
fornication."

NOTE: Revelation describes this power as a fornicating, adulterous power. Adultery is an illicit relationship. Obviously, this is not talking about physical adultery or fornication, but spiritual adultery. Spiritual adultery is a mixture of truth with error, or paganism with Christianity. It is putting together two things that don't belong together. Just as ancient Babylon mixed truth with error, so its modern counterpart has mixed truth with error, paganism with Christianity.

11. With what is modern Babylon filled? Revelation 18:2

"Has become a dwelling place of _____, a prison for
every _____ spirit, and a cage for every unclean and
hated bird!"

NOTE: Just as ancient Babylon was controlled by spiritualistic phenomena, modern spiritual Babylon is controlled by spiritualistic powers.

Thus we see that all the characteristics of ancient Babylon find their counterpart in modern spiritual Babylon. Spiritual Babylon duplicates the ways of ancient Babylon. It is characterized in the same way; it is controlled by the same power.



THE IDENTITY OF MODERN BABYLON

Modern Babylon refers to a power that will exist in the last days, similar to ancient Babylon in every respect, and this last power will seek to destroy the people of God. It is this power that is described in embryo in Daniel, Chapters 11 and 12, but is given full expression in Revelation, Chapters 16 to 18. Modern spiritual Babylon is not just one power; it is a conglomeration of powers that have bound themselves together.

12. Into how many parts is Babylon divided? Revelation 16:19

"The great city was divided into _____ parts."

13. Who is the original power that forms Babylon? Revelation 17:5

"MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE _____
OF HARLOTS."

NOTE: The original mother would be the same as the original beast of