

## Revelation 18:4, 5

"Come \_\_\_\_\_ of her, \_\_\_\_\_ people."

NOTE: Interestingly, God states that He has people who are still in Babylon. Just as some people in ancient Babylon were faithful to God, so today some of God's people are in modern spiritual Babylon. But God is calling His people to come out of spiritual Babylon before His final wrath is poured out upon her. Spiritual apostasy may be in the very air we breathe in the last scenes of earth's history. How important that we remain loyal and true to the Scriptures. That is our only safety from the snares of the final great apostasy. Chapter 7 of Daniel adds significant details as to the identity of this false religious system which will seek to envelop the whole world in the last days (see Lesson 9). God clearly warns us so that we will not be deceived by the apostasy

of the end time. In love, God warns those entrapped by modern ~!  
spiritual Babylon to get out as soon as possible, before the final wrath of God is poured out upon Babylon.

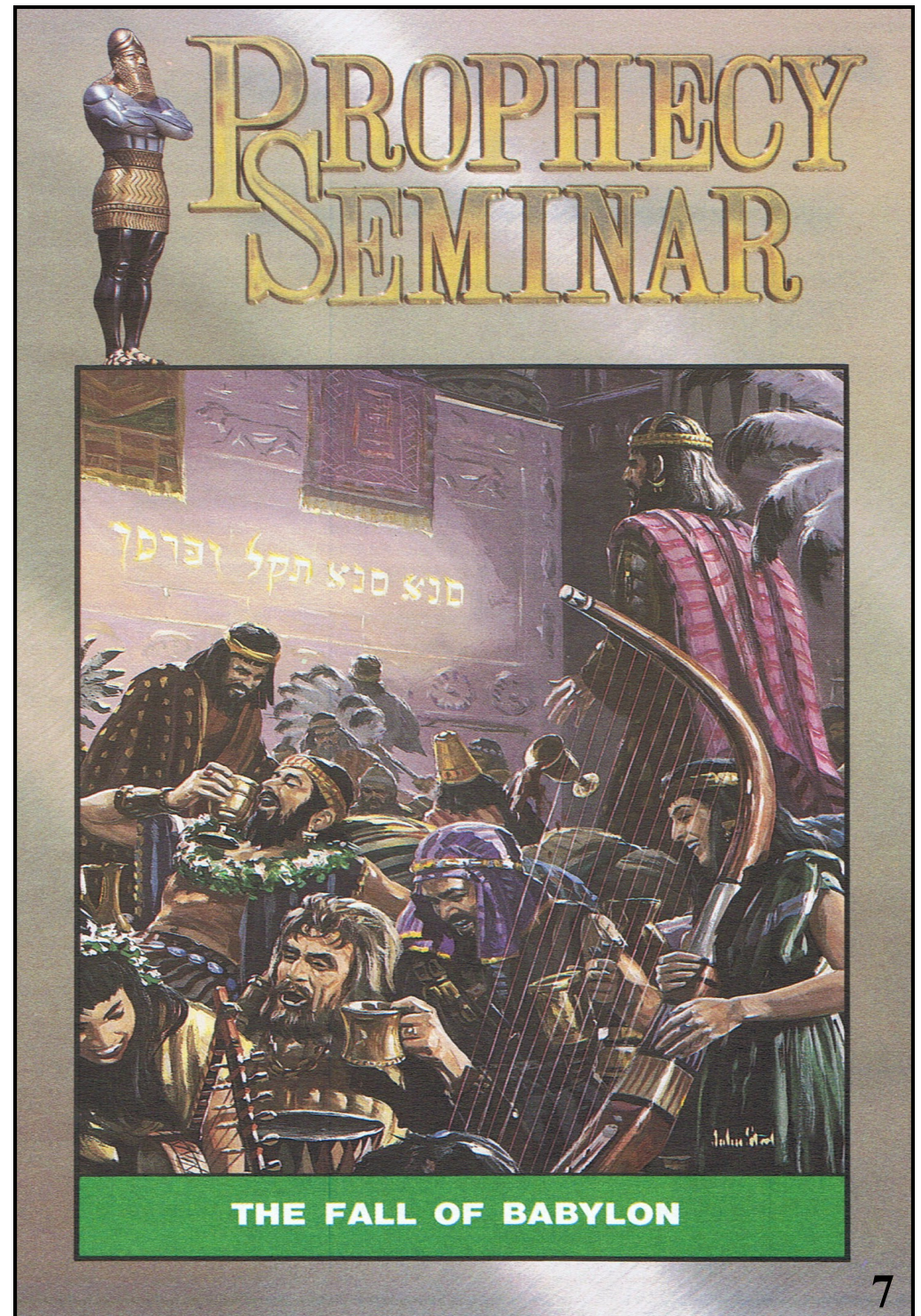
20. If you should ever find yourself ensnared by this Babylonian system that unites paganism and Christianity, will you heed the warning of God's Word to come out of Babylon?



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PS-05





God is patient with people and nations. This is clear from His dealings with Nebuchadnezzar. Yet there comes a time when God must ring down the curtain if there is no response. It happens to individuals; it happens to nations. God bore long with ancient Babylon, giving revelation after revelation of Himself. Nebuchadnezzar responded, but his successors did not. Daniel 5 portrays the final night of ancient Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar is dead. Belshazzar, the successor of Nebuchadnezzar, sits upon the throne, co-regent with Nabonidus, his father. In this lesson, we will observe the events surrounding the last night of Babylon. We will notice how the New Testament takes these events and applies them to what is called "modern Babylon", or "spiritual Babylon", and predicts a similar fall for it. Revelation warns that what happened 2500 years ago in ancient Babylon will be repeated in the last days.

## THE LAST NIGHT OF BABYLON

### 1. List five things that Belshazzar did that defied the God of heaven. Daniel 5:1-5

- a. "Belshazzar ... made a great \_\_\_\_\_" in defiance of the God of heaven.
- b. He "drank \_\_\_\_\_ in the presence of the thousand".
- c. He "gave the command to bring the gold and silver \_\_\_\_\_ ... from the \_\_\_\_\_ which had been in Jerusalem".
- d. "The king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from \_\_\_\_\_".
- e. They "\_\_\_\_\_ the gods of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_."

NOTE: Belshazzar must have had some knowledge of the true God. Certainly, he heard the stories of Nebuchadnezzar's insanity, the fiery furnace, and the great image. But, although he must have known these things, he did not acknowledge the true God.

The Bible describes all of the leaders of Babylon as participating in Belshazzar's drunken feast. While in this drunken state, Belshazzar called for the vessels which had been taken from the temple of God in Jerusalem. In defiance of the God of heaven, the rulers of Babylon drank intoxicating liquor from them. Using the very vessels consecrated to the worship of the true God, they offered praise to the gods of gold and silver. Here we see an attempt to mix elements of the worship of the true God with the worship of pagan deities. This was the act that brought down the wrath of God and resulted in the fall of ancient Babylon.

adultery. Spiritual adultery is an illicit relationship that combines the worship of God with false worship. In Daniel 5 we saw that ancient Babylon acted defiantly against God with an illicit relationship mixing elements of the worship of God with the worship of pagan deities. Spiritual Babylon's fornication, or adultery, likewise is an illicit relationship that mixes elements of the worship of God with pagan practice. There is nothing that brings down the wrath of God more than an illicit relationship of truth and error. Babylon purports to worship God, but has mixed truth with error, paganism with Christianity. This can only invite the wrath of God.

### 16. What does God say to this harlot who defies God by mixing paganism and Christianity? Revelation 17:5

"\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_."

NOTE: In Revelation, God is warning us against an apostate system of religion that mixes paganism with Christianity and yet claims to worship God. We must be vividly aware that both Daniel and Revelation are warning us against a false religious system in the last days that will attempt to force people to worship God falsely by mixing paganism and Christianity, just as ancient Babylon defied God by mixing elements of the worship of God with the worship of pagan deities. How important it is that we be as faithful as Daniel so that we are not corrupted by modern Babylon.

### 17. What message does God proclaim about modern Babylon? Revelation 18:2

"Babylon the great is \_\_\_\_\_, is \_\_\_\_\_ and has become a dwelling place of \_\_\_\_\_."

NOTE: Just as ancient Babylon fell when it defied God by mixing the worship of God with paganism, so mighty spiritual Babylon falls whenever it mixes paganism and Christianity. When it has committed this defiling act - mixing paganism and Christianity - the Bible indicates that it has become the place where devils dwell.

### 18. How widespread will be the influence of mighty spiritual Babylon in the last days? Revelation 18:3

"\_\_\_\_\_ the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

NOTE: Babylon the great is a worldwide spiritual apostasy from truth. Her adultery is worldwide, and nearly all people are deceived by her.

### 19. What loving message does God send to His people who are in Babylon?

River Euphrates is dried up. That which supports spiritual Babylon is dried up to prepare the way for the kings of the east, the mighty deliverer of God's people. (This amazing prophecy will be studied in detail in Lesson 25.)

**12. What happens when the kings of the east come to deliver God's people? Revelation 16:18,19 (1185) [1226].**

"Great \_\_\_\_\_ was remembered before God."

NOTE: The same events that caused the fall of ancient Babylon will cause the fall of Babylon at the time of the end.

## CHARACTER OF MODERN BABYLON

Revelation makes it very clear that there will be another Babylon at the time of the end. The Babylon spoken of in Revelation is not the same as the Babylon of Daniel's day. When Cyrus and Darius conquered Babylon, it became a heap of ruins and has remained so to the present day. The Bible foretells the rise of another Babylon which will do the same to God's people as did ancient Babylon. Modern Babylon, according to the book of Revelation, is the final great oppressor of the people of God.

**13. What does the Bible call Babylon? Revelation 17:1, 2**

"The great \_\_\_\_\_ who sits on many waters."

**14. What do the waters that the harlot sits on represent? Revelation 17:15 (1186) [1227].**

"The waters... are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_."

NOTE: The waters represent all the people over which Babylon has control. Babylon is called a "harlot" because of her illicit relationships.

**15. What is the great sin of Babylon? Revelation 17:2 (1185) [1226].**

"With whom the kings of the earth committed \_\_\_\_\_ and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the \_\_\_\_\_ of her \_\_\_\_\_."

NOTE: Babylon's great sin is fornication, or adultery. Adultery is an illicit relationship. Obviously, in this case, it is not physical adultery, but spiritual

PS-05

**2. In the midst of their blasphemy against God, what suddenly appeared and startled the entire assembly? Daniel 5:5, 6**

"Fingers of a man's \_\_\_\_\_," writing on the wall.

NOTE: Fear enveloped the entire assembly as they saw the fingers of a man's hand suddenly appear and write a mysterious language on the wall of the king's palace. Belshazzar had every reason to shake and quake. The day of reckoning had come.

**3. Who did the king call to Interpret the writing? Daniel 5:7**

"The \_\_\_\_\_ men of Babylon."

NOTE: Belshazzar had not learned Nebuchadnezzar's lesson. He called the same group of wise men that had failed to adequately interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dreams.

**4. Were the wise men able to interpret the writing? Daniel 5:8**

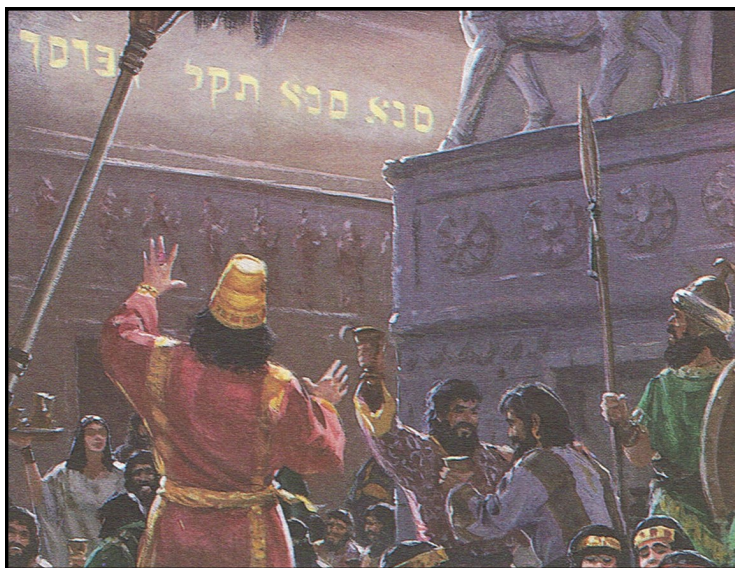
NOTE: Notice the progression in the discrediting of the wise men of Babylon. In Daniel 2, they couldn't reveal the king's dream, but Daniel could. In Daniel 4, they couldn't interpret the dream, but Daniel could. Now, to their total discredit, they could not even read the writing on the wall, but we will soon see that Daniel could.

## DANIEL INTERPRETS THE WRITING

**5. Who suggested to the king that he call in Daniel? Daniel 5:10-12**

The \_\_\_\_\_.

NOTE: For some reason the queen was not in the room when the writing appeared. She was apparently related to Nebuchadnezzar, and probably was acquainted with the true God. Perhaps she was a converted person, which would explain the reason why she was not present for the scenes of debauchery in the king's palace that night. But, as soon as she heard of the terror in the ballroom, she immediately made her presence known and suggested to Belshazzar that he call in Daniel, whom she knew would be able to interpret the writing.



6. What position did Belshazzar offer to Daniel if he read and interpreted the writing? Daniel 5:13-16

You "shall be the \_\_\_\_\_ ruler in the kingdom".

NOTE: There were already two rulers in Babylon, Nabonidus and Belshazzar. That is why Daniel would be the third ruler.

7. Before Interpreting the writing, Daniel fearlessly reminded Belshazzar of Nebuchadnezzar's insanity because he failed to recognize and honour the God of heaven. Did Belshazzar already know this? Daniel 5:17-22

"Although you \_\_\_\_\_ all this."

NOTE: Daniel makes it very clear that Belshazzar already knew the reason for Nebuchadnezzar's insanity and evidently was well-acquainted with the true God. But, in spite of all this, he had failed to humble himself and follow in the footsteps of Nebuchadnezzar.

8. What had Belshazzar done that had invoked the wrath of God? Daniel 5:23

"You have \_\_\_\_\_ yourself \_\_\_\_\_ against the Lord of heaven... have brought the \_\_\_\_\_ of His house ... have drunk \_\_\_\_\_ from them."

NOTE: It is this defiling act of taking the vessels that were consecrated to the worship of the true God and mixing them with pagan worship that brought the wrath of God upon Belshazzar.

9. Give the meaning of the words written on the wall. Daniel 5:25-28

- a. "MENE: God has \_\_\_\_\_ your kingdom, and finished it."  
b. "TEKEL: You have been \_\_\_\_\_ in the balances, and found wanting."  
c. "PERES: Your kingdom has been \_\_\_\_\_, and given to the Medes and \_\_\_\_\_ Persians."

NOTE: God was announcing the fall of Babylon. That very night, October 12, 539 B.C., Babylon fell.

10. a. How soon was the prophecy fulfilled? b. Who became the new ruler of Babylon? Daniel 5:30, 31

- a. That very \_\_\_\_\_.  
b. \_\_\_\_\_ the Mede.

NOTE: Even while the feast was going on, the fall of Babylon had begun. The Babylonians had felt safe in their city. The River Euphrates, which ran through the city, provided a constant source of water. The walls were impregnable. There was plenty of food stored up for a long siege. The Babylonians knew that the army of the Medes and Persians was on the outside, but they felt secure. However, Cyrus, the commander of the Medes and Persians, performed an ingenious engineering feat. He had his soldiers divert the River Euphrates. Then he marched his army through the river bed underneath the wall of the city and through the inside gates which had been left open by the drunken Babylonians. Thus mighty Babylon fell.

11. How does the book of Revelation describe the fall of modern Babylon at the end time? Revelation 16:12-16

- a. The river Euphrates is \_\_\_\_\_.  
b. It prepares the way for the kings of the \_\_\_\_\_.

NOTE: The same conditions that existed at the fall of ancient Babylon will exist again at the end time. The drying up of the ancient River Euphrates prepared the way for Cyrus and his armies who came from the east. Having conquered Babylon, Cyrus eventually allowed God's people to go back to Palestine from the captivity. Thus he is seen as the deliverer of God's people. Once more in the book of Revelation the