

Discernment

Part 5

Babylon

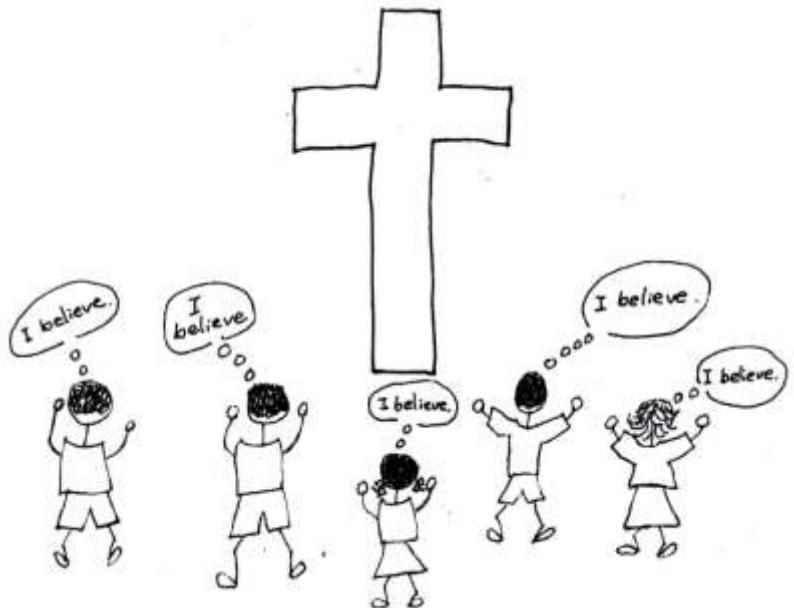
(Revised: 4/4/2013)

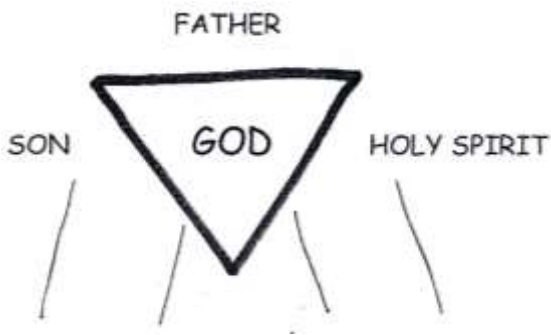




GOOD NEWS FOR UNBELIEVERS! Jesus Christ died spiritually on the Cross for everyone's sins. Then He died physically, was buried and rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father! If you are an unbeliever, you have the opportunity right now to believe! Simply tell God the Father that you are believing in His Son Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. If you make the decision to believe in Him in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer! You will spend eternity in heaven with Jesus Christ, your Savior!

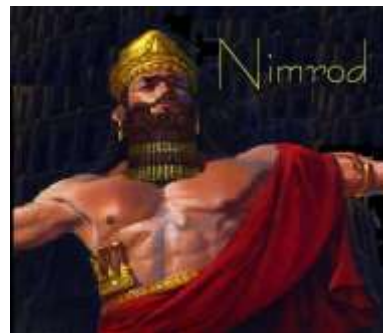
John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.





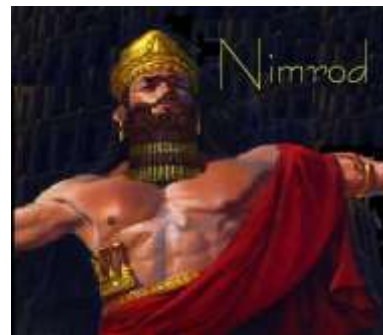
Before Babylon, Noah was the Patriarch or the head of the family; he was the priest; he was the head of the government. He kept order under God's rules!

What is Babylon? It is a city which began shortly after the Flood. It is an expression of man's direct rebellion against God and His command to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. Nimrod, whose great-grandfather was Noah, is the one who founded Babylon. This great-grandson of Noah had a tremendous desire to rise up and attempt to overthrow all existing order.



Genesis 9:1b And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth."

It was tough for Noah after the Flood to see things unraveling. God set it up so that the family would be part of divine establishment. In other words, it was founded by God! Nimrod went against divine establishment. He rebelled against his family - Noah, the government, and God! The word Nimrod means "the rebel". He stirred up revolution. He set himself up to be the rival of Noah and the rival of God! Nimrod became the first tyrant on the earth. He oppressed or tormented others; he was unjust and used others to further his own interests. Nimrod picked himself to be the king. He did not do the will of God!



1 John 2:17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God [believes in the Lord Jesus Christ] lives forever.

Genesis 10:8 Now Cush became the father of Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD." The beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

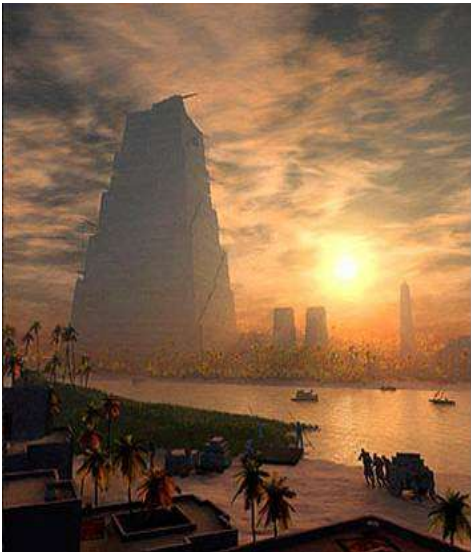
In the Old Testament, the word "mighty" means peculiar greatness, especially warlike greatness. "On the earth" points to the extent of Nimrod's dominion. His ambition, his might and reputation kept extending farther and farther across the earth. Nimrod began to show his might over other people, and just as he was a mighty hunter of animals, he was also the first to establish kingdoms. The phrase "mighty hunter before the LORD" means Nimrod opposed God. Nimrod knew the LORD was watching him. He was openly defiant or disobedient to God!



Genesis 11:1-4 Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar [Babylon] and settled there. They said to one another [they weren't talking to God], "Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name [reputation], otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.

Under the rulership of Nimrod, the people built a city, Babylon. Once Nimrod had the people - the city - obeying him, he went after their souls! He let them build the tower of Babel which represented religion. The building of this tower expressed the people's desire for a new religion. Babylon is the beginning of false religion. Noah was very sad! The people were rejecting God and His grace.

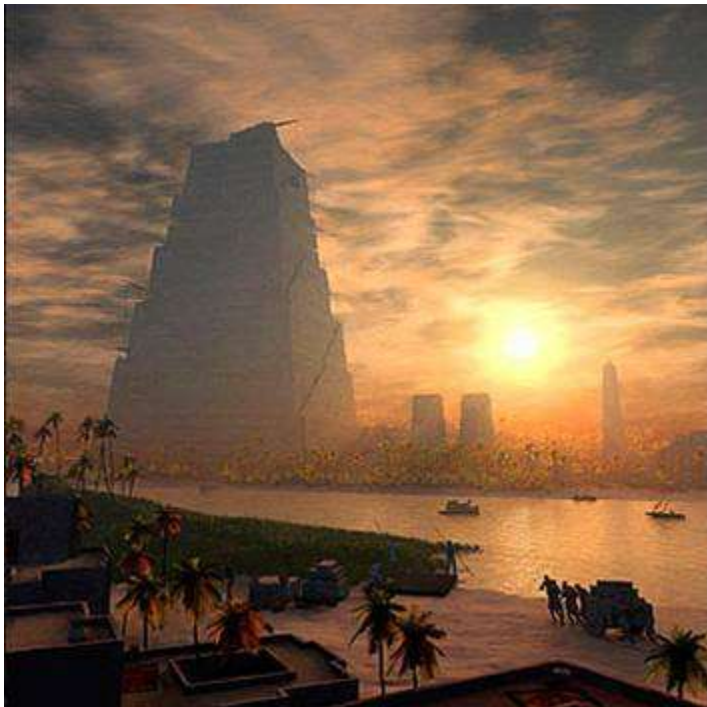
The purpose of this tower was to practice astrology or the signs of the zodiac. Instead of worshipping, obeying, and trusting God, the people were putting their faith in the signs of the stars! Stars are made of exploding gas. They are incapable of having any control over man. **God** made and controls the universe and everything in it - including the stars! God alone deserves the worship and glory!



What a great picture of religion: the city of man trying to reach heaven.



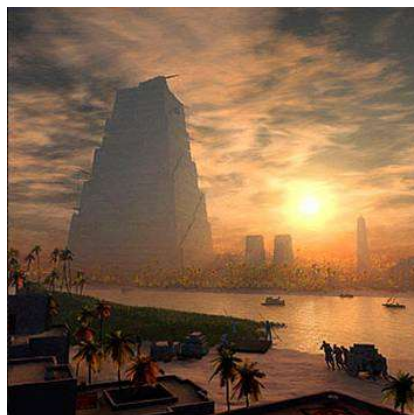
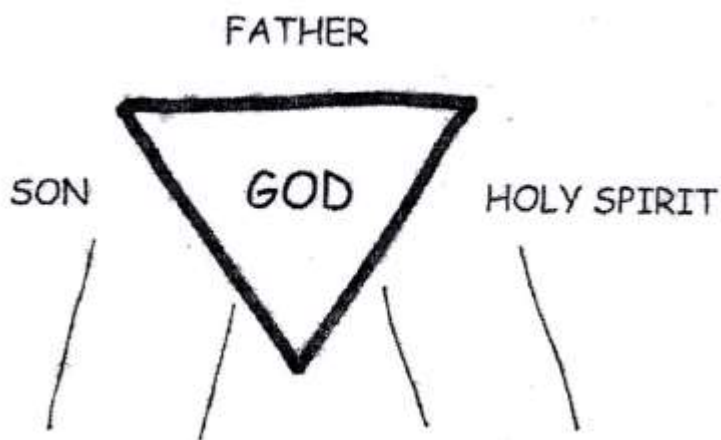
There are two Babylons: political Babylon, where the people build their own city and way of governing themselves; and the religious Babylon, the tower, people establishing their own religion and building their way up to God. When you have the city or government and religion working together, that is Babylon. Religion doesn't want God's gifts and ways. It wants to live in its own ways! Babylon is the mother of all false religions. It will go on until the Lord Jesus Christ destroys it at the end of the Tribulation.



Hebrews 13:14 For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come.



Nimrod wanted one city, one false religion, and one ruler - himself! The same strength, skills and daring that served him so well in the forest made him a force on the battlefield. People wanted to rally around him. Then once the people worshipped him, he got rid of religion; he only used it to get the people to focus on him. God had told Noah, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth." Well, the people weren't doing this. Instead of following God, they were following Nimrod and building their own city and tower. So God said, "Come, let Us [the Trinity] go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech." (Genesis 11:7) The Hebrew root of Babylon means "confusion or mixing".



When people were speaking all different languages, they couldn't understand each other. So they moved off to their own cities; that is what God wanted them to do! He wanted it to be impossible for them to work together in one city and one government. God knew that if they did that, they would become so self-centered and not God centered. It was the confusion of languages that forced Nimrod to leave Babylon.

Genesis 10:11 From that land he went forth into Assyria, and built Nineveh and Rehoboth -Ir and Calah, and Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city. You can see how Nimrod kept enlarging his empire. He wanted a worldwide kingdom. He never changed.

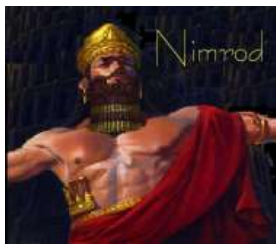
Genesis 11:8-9 So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.



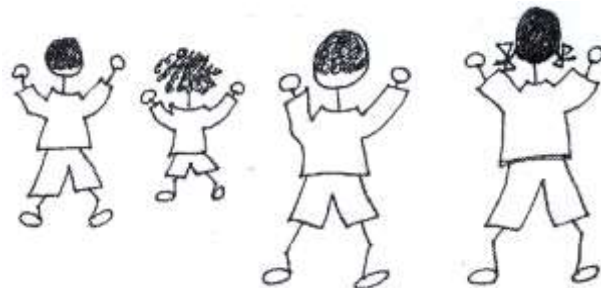
The Bible tells us that apostasy, or a major falling away from Bible doctrine, will occur in the Church Age immediately before the Rapture and the Tribulation period. There will be a total rejection of biblical Christianity, and it will be replaced by the worldwide religion. It will turn into the worldwide or ecumenical religious system of the Tribulation called Babylon the great, the mother of harlots. In Scripture, this title means one who forsakes the true God and worships idols. Remember, believers in the Lord Jesus Christ have no worries! We can see the trends and know that God said these things would happen. We also know that God will always be with us and give us the way to cope with whatever happens!



The worldwide kingdom on earth that is coming next will be ruled by the Beast of the books of Daniel and Revelation. He will be the antichrist and will try to make himself like God. The antichrist, the beast, will be the true type of Nimrod, reigning over all the peoples of the earth, demanding not only obedience, but also worship. There will be a total rejection of biblical Christianity, and it will be replaced by the worldwide or ecumenical religious system of the Tribulation called Babylon the great, the mother of harlots - the one who forsakes the true God and worships idols.



God destroys Babylon at the end of the Tribulation. Satan is put in prison. Next will be the rule of **the Lord Jesus Christ** in the Millennium for 1000 years! Yay! When God has His way and establishes the kingdom with Jesus Christ ruling, the world will finally have an economy that works, perfect government, and true worship of the Lord. What a contrast between the horrible rulership in the Tribulation and the magnificent rulership in the Millennium. However, even with perfect environment and leadership, people will still reject the Lord. After the Millennium will come eternity and the New Jerusalem.



Hebrews 13:14 For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come.



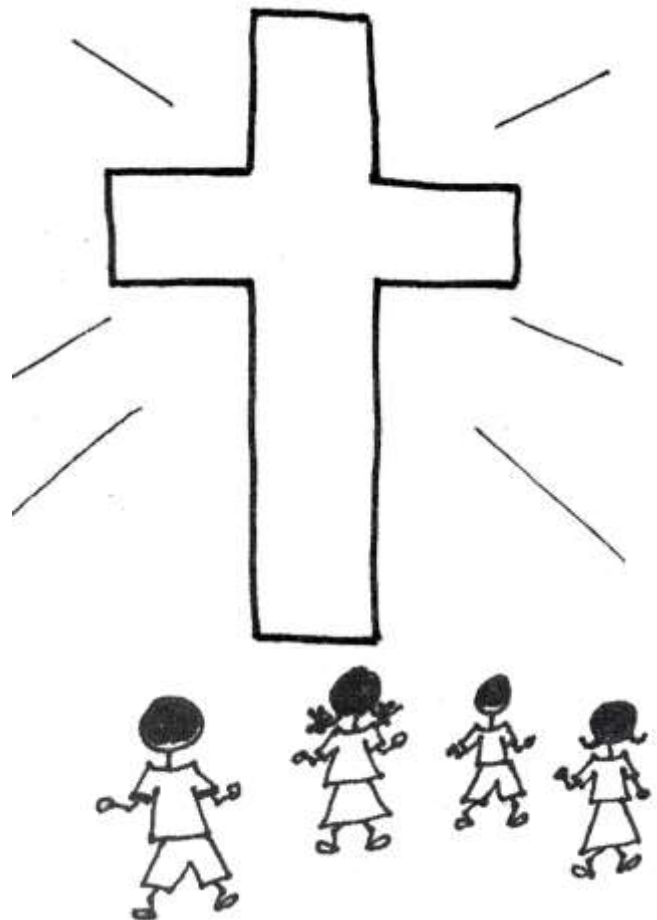
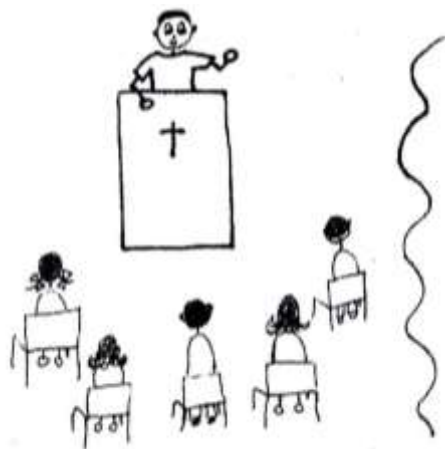
In eternity, the New Jerusalem coming down from heaven will be a mighty picture of the grace of God. This will not be man trying to build a city; this will be God in His grace giving His children a city. It will give glory to God, not to man! It will be magnificent!



Revelation 21:10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.

The main sin is pride. It started with Satan rebelling against God; then Adam and the woman. From there man just kept on rebelling. "I want my own tower, my own religion. I want to give myself a name." Man is proud, stupid and helpless without God. If you are busy building the tower of Babel in your life, you won't have time for God. If you are living in religion, you can't live in grace. The glory of God and His grace is what is missing in religion. It's time to learn from the history in the Bible, the history told to us by God. He created us; He knows us; He knows what is best for us! He wants us to be humble, and daily to learn, believe and use the word of God. That's all He asks! He will do the rest!

1 Peter 5:6-7 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.



Points to Remember

1. Babylon is a city which began shortly after the Flood. It is an expression of man's direct rebellion against God and His command to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.
2. It was tough for Noah after the Flood to see things unraveling.
3. Nimrod knew the LORD was watching him. He was openly defiant or disobedient to God!
4. Under the rulership of Nimrod, the people built a city, Babylon. Once Nimrod had the people - the city - obeying him, he went after their souls! He let them build the tower of Babel which represented religion.
5. There are two Babylons: political Babylon, where the people build their own city and way of governing themselves; and the religious Babylon, the tower, people establishing their own religion and building their way up to God.
6. Nimrod wanted one city, one false religion, and one ruler - himself!
7. When people were speaking all different languages, they couldn't understand each other.
8. The Bible tells us that apostasy, or a major falling away from Bible doctrine, will occur in the Church Age immediately before the Rapture and the Tribulation period.
9. The worldwide kingdom on earth that is coming next will be ruled by the Beast of the books of Daniel and Revelation.
10. God destroys Babylon at the end of the Tribulation. Satan is put in prison. Next will be the rule of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Millennium for 1000 years!
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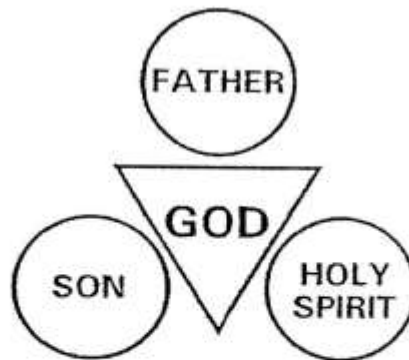
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References: Lighthouse Bible Church

Pastor John Farley

www.lbible.org

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GOD IS FOR US!

