

Mid-East Prophecy Update – September 28th, 2008

- Every week, we set aside a few minutes on Sunday mornings to look at Bible prophecy
- The reason for this is because the Bible predicts certain events that will take place in the last days before the Lord returns.
- We believe that what's happening in the world today is a fulfillment of those Bible Prophecies.

- We look primarily at events in the Middle East, specifically related to Israel because, as it's been said; "Israel is God's prophetic clock."
- Today I would like for us to revisit a prophecy that I believe may very well have a prominent place in God's final prophetic program.
- The prophecy is about a rebuilt Babylon. Though yet future, this prophecy has profound implications that seem very plausible now.

- It's important to understand that the prophecies about Babylon have been a source of much eschatological debate amongst many.
- I hasten to say that while I am not dogmatic about this, at the very least I am interested in this, as it seems to fit with what's happening.
- First, let me begin by listing some facts related to Babylon, and its potential place in the possible fulfillment of related Bible Prophecy.

1. Babylon is mentioned some 300 times in the Bible. (Only Jerusalem is mentioned more.)
2. Babylon is located in modern day Iraq. (Babylon is approximately 60 miles from Baghdad, the modern day capital city.)
3. Babylon was being rebuilt by Saddam Hussein, before he was put to death.
4. Babylon was one of the Seven Wonders of the World with its "hanging gardens," (The Garden of Eden is thought to be in Iraq.)
5. Babylon is described in Revelation as "The Empire of Man."

BABYLON OF REVELATION CHAPTER 17	BABYLON OF REVELATION CHAPTER 18
Religion	Commerce
Mystery	Great
A Harlot	A Great City
On Seven Hills - Rome	On the Coast
Destroyed in the Middle of Tribulation	Destroyed at the End of the Tribulation

- Both the prophets Isaiah (13-14) and Jeremiah (50-51) record the prophecies of Babylon's final destruction once it is finally rebuilt.
- Here-to-fore, Babylon has only been conquered, but never actually destroyed, so it's most likely that it must be rebuilt for this to happen.
- Some believe that this newly rebuilt Babylon will be the headquarters of a "New World Capital," because of its geography and history.

"Computer studies of the Institute for Creation Research have shown, for example, that Babylon is very near the geographical center of all the earth's land masses. It is within navigable distances of the Persian Gulf and is at the crossroads of the three great continents of Europe, Asia and Africa. Thus there is no more ideal location anywhere for a world trade center, a world communication center, a world banking center, a world educational center, or specially, a world capital! The greatest historian of modern times, Arnold Toynbee, used to stress to all his readers and hearers that Babylon would be the best place in the world to build a future world cultural metropolis."

Dr. Henry Morris, "The Revelation Record," Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. Wheaton, Illinois 1986 p 349

The International Herald Tribune - Unesco intends to put the magic back in Babylon - FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2006
 BABYLON, Iraq: In this ancient city, it is hard to tell what are ruins and what is just ruined. Crumbling mud-brick buildings, some 2,500 years old, look like smashed sandcastles at the beach. Signs of military occupation are everywhere: trenches, bullet casings, shiny coils of razor wire and blast walls stamped "This side Scud protection." Babylon, the city with the million-dollar name, has paid the price of war. It has been ransacked, looted, torn up, paved over, neglected and roughly occupied. Archaeologists said American soldiers had even used soil thick with priceless artifacts to stuff sandbags. But Iraqi leaders and UN officials are not giving up on it. They are working assiduously to restore Babylon, home to the Hanging Gardens, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. They want to turn it into a cultural center and possibly even an Iraqi theme park. ...The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is pumping millions of dollars into Babylon and a handful of other sites. It has even printed a snazzy brochure to give to wealthy donors. "Cultural tourism could become Iraq's second biggest industry, after oil," explained Philippe Delanghe, a United Nations official helping with the project. ... "One day millions of people will visit Babylon," [one] said. "I'm just not sure anybody knows when."

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2006/04/13/news/babylon.php>