

Babylon is Fallen!



Q. Who is **Babylon** and what do you mean *it is fallen*?

A. **Babylon** is another name God uses for the churches and congregations of our day. It was typified by the Tower of Babel that was in building long ago when God intervened and caused it to cease from being a tower. Spiritually God has intervened in the affairs of men in bringing the **church age to an end**. Today He is pouring out His plagues on Babylon and in so doing, He is commanding those who belong to Christ to **come out** and join Him, spiritually, on the mountains to keep the feast of tabernacles. Christ has been revealed through the Bible as God has unsealed it. This is why we are now understanding the nature of this judgment:

*And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. **Revelation 14:8**
And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. **Revelation 18:4**
Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the LORD'S vengeance; he will render unto her a recompence. **Jeremiah 51:6***

Q. Are you saying I should no longer go to church? Doesn't the Bible teach that before the end of the world, we will see the tribulation and the man of sin?

A. The Bible does teach this, but the problem is the way many have been understanding and teaching the details of these events. The tribulation the Bible talks about has to do with the **falling away** of all churches on a **worldwide scale**. According to the current Biblical calendar, this event already started in **1988** and was to go on for a period of **23 years**. Tribulation comes just prior to the end of the church age, then God calls His Elect out because the churches are now under the power of Satan. Satan is a spirit being. He's called a man because God frequently refers to the church body as a man. God destroying the nation of Israel in 587 BC was a picture of the great tribulation. Just as the people of God were carried away captive by the Babylonians under the leadership of its king. So too, the churches have gone into captivity and is now referred to as Babylon with Satan as the king of Babylon. He has taken his seat and is ruling in the temple of God because of the ever increasing disobedience of the church to the Bible:

*When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place... (churches) Then let them which be in Judea (elect body) flee into the mountains (safety of Christ outside the church): **Matthew 24:15-16**
*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. **2 Timothy 4:3-4**
*And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. **2 Peter 2:2**
*Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick... **Revelation 2:5**
*They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you (drives you out of the churches) will think that he doeth God service. **John 16:2*******

Q. How has the church fallen away? Jesus said He would build His church and the gates of hell would not prevail.

A. We do read that in *Matthew 16:18*, but the church in view is not the local churches as we know them. We know this because at any time in history there have been the wheat (elect body) and the

tares (unsaved) sown by Satan, in the churches (*Matthew 13:38-39*). The church in view is the invisible, eternal church which is made up of every born again, predestined believer wherever they may be in the world. Christ paid for their sins on an individual basis and the gates of hell will not prevail against them.

And she shall bring forth a son and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:21

I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

John 17:9

For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.

Acts 18:10

By the way, because God has unsealed the Bible today, we're also learning that **hell** is a condition of being under the wrath of God and it is taking place today as God is judging His own people. He has shut the door (Christ) on them so that salvation is no longer possible. The actual fate of the unsaved in eternity future is in the hands of God. And given the fact that God is to be feared, we warn ALL men to be reconciled to God:

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Ecclesiastes 12:13

Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

2Corinthians 5:11

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

2Corinthians 5:20

Q. And what do we do with the verse that says *not to forsake the assembling of the church?*

A. You mean *Hebrew 10:25* and it says we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves. Today the believers are being assembled unto Christ. But prior to the command to leave the church, the unsaved in the churches had forsaken this assembling by turning away from God. Today it is too late to renew them again to repentance (*Heb 6:6*). Also, as mentioned before, the day that is in view is God's judgment on the corporate body now. The important thing is for those in the churches to be obedient to God's command to depart out. As far as individuals coming together, God's people may still fellowship with likeminded believers outside of church authority.

Q. Why are the churches under God's judgment?

A. The Bible faults the churches and congregations of our day on many doctrinal issues. Here are just a couple:

Salvation. Today's salvation program is that God loves everybody and we have to do some work like accept Jesus as savior to be saved (free-will gospel). While we are commanded to call on His name, we have to remember that God himself is responsible for our salvation because we are spiritually dead. (*Ephesians 2:1, 8-9 / John 6:44, Romans 9:15, Romans 3:11*)

Signs and wonders. The dominant Gospel of our day is one that embraces supernatural activities like falling over backwards, miraculous healings, dreams, visions and tongues. The Bible warns that these would be a sign of end times (*Matthew 24:24, II Thessalonians 2:9*). At the time the Bible was being written, God did bring messages in a tongue or a vision. These were truly supernatural and God used them as types and figures pointing to some aspect of the salvation program. However, when we get to the closing verses of the Bible, God warns that we are not to **add** or **take away** from the Bible (*Revelation 22:18-19*). By this God is protecting us against the deceitful nature of Satan who comes as an angel of light and his ministers as ministers of

righteousness (2 Corinthians 11:13-15). God commands the believers to come out of the churches or they will eventually be asked to leave if they try to be faithful to the whole Bible. This was before the command to come out of Babylon as God's Elect (the third part) were being tried at the start of the tribulation:

And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God. **Zechariah 13:9**
For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: **1Peter 4:17**

Q. That is awful. Why can't church leaders understand this and become more faithful to the Bible?

A. Because this is God's program and everything is going as planned. He has allowed Satan to rule in the churches. Furthermore, God himself is blinding church leaders and evangelists:

And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:
2 Thessalonians 2:11
Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation...
Revelation 2:22

Q. But what does this say about the end of this literal world. How close are we?

A. As we carefully study the Bible, we do see patterns in the way God uses numbers. He has also provided a calendar in Genesis 5 and 11 that has proven to be accurate over the years. We can see a timeline of history that shows creation occurring in the year 11,013 BC. The flood of Noah's day in 4990 BC. Jesus being born in the year 7 BC etc.

Q. What are these numbers and how can we learn from them?

A. Here is a summary of some common numbers and their meanings when viewed in light of the whole Bible.

#2—Church / body of believers

#3—God's purpose that *whatever is in view be so*. Sometimes used to point to a time just prior to a resurrection

#4—Universality A reference to the whole church body

#5—Salvation or judgment depending on context

#7—Perfection or tribulation

#10, 100 or 1000—point to completeness of time

#12—Fullness to include ALL believers

#13—Complete Fullness

#17—To be under the care and keeping of Christ

#23—Points to the judgment of God on the corporate body in tribulation (1988 to 2011)

#40 Testing or Trial An attribute of the great tribulation

#84 Tribulation (3x4x7=84). This number can be seen in all the tribulation accounts.

Q. Are you saying that 2011 will be the end of the world?

A. While we do see a pattern in the numbers, and 2011 would appear to be the time of the literal end of the world, we should be careful to read the Biblical calendar in the light of the whole Bible. According to the calendar, 1994 would have been the Jubilee year that initiated the depart out, and the time in question in 2011 would be the window between May and October 21, since it coincides with some important feast days. **However**, given the language of the Bible where the Day of the Lord is focusing on God's judgment on the churches, we must humbly say we can't

know with absolute certainty that 2011 will be the end of the literal world or how God plans to carry out the details related to the end. The days of the tribulation were cut short to 2300 days (*Da 8:13-14*) for the sake of the Elect (*Mt 24:22*) and therefore God may no longer be officially on the calendar. Moreover the Bible tells us that we are to be spiritually minded. The ceremonial laws and feast days established were pointing, spiritually to some aspect of God's salvation program. The feast of tabernacles, for example, which has a lot to do with the end of the world would fall on October 21 in 2011. But that feast is actually being fulfilled today as God's people come out of Babylon to be nourished by Christ on the mountains:

And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.
Zechariah 14:16
In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.
John 7:37

The feast days and new moons were shadows of things to come and we are not to place any substance in them:

Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: ...Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.
Colossians 2:16-17
But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?...Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.
Galatians 4:9-10

Q. That is interesting. And what does this mean for me if I'm still unsaved?

A. We have reasons to believe that God is no longer saving in the churches. However, as long as we continue to live we should always cry to God for His mercy and hope that He will save us. We should also make every effort to be under the hearing of God's Word, the Bible.

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God
Romans 10:17
Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:
Isaiah 55:6
It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.
Lamentations 3:26

Where do you Stand with the LORD?

For more information on the end of the church age, the Biblical calendar, the feast days and other important topics, please visit us online at bereanstudies.net.

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