



BABYLON RISING: A PARIDIGM SHIFT

Episode One: Jeremiah 29:4-14

By fighting cultural and political wars to recover a Jerusalem that never was, American evangelicals have lost their moral compass. Until we rediscover who we are, where we are, and why we are here, we will never be overcomers in a New World Order. This requires a paradigm shift and a Revelation reset.

1. Who we are: “exiles from Jerusalem” [vs. 4] “returning home someday” [vv. 10-14]

- We belong to no nation on earth [vs 14; **Philippians 3:20**]
- Our stay here is temporary; we are foreigner; we are neither nationalists or globalists, but aliens from another world [vs 10]
- We belong to the Creator, not the creation, its creatures, or its creations; we do not put our hope in this earth, its systems, its utopian dreams, or its self-proclaimed saviors. To followers of Christ, they are antichrists, not worthy to take the place of our Lord Almighty [vs. 4; **Psalm 146:3-7**]

- We are not part of an earthly Jerusalem that promises to give the peace of God, but instead delivers a false illusion. This Jerusalem never was, and never can be. [vv. 20-23; Revelation 11:7-13]

The Holy City in Israel has always been an unholy place. And the city on a hill that lights up the world, may have been the Puritan dream for the Pilgrims, but America has only had aspirations of being a Christian nation. It has more often been like earthly Jerusalem, a place of ungodliness. The unholy culture wars, that have polarized America and caused evangelicals to lose their moral compass, have sought in vain to restore America to a Jerusalem that never was.

- We belong to a spiritual Jerusalem called the invisible church [vv. 8&9; Romans 9:6; Hebrews 12:22-24] St. Augustine called it *The City of God* which operates within *The City of Man*, bringing light to its darkness and salt to retard its pagan rot. Jesus called it "a city on a hill that cannot be easily hidden [Matthew 5:14] If the light goes out in the Church, then the City of Man is left only with a dim, artificial light. A paradigm shift calls for us to refocus on being the church Jesus called us to be, rather than fighting an unholy war to turn Babylon into a Jerusalem it can never be.
- We are the Bride of Christ, destined to be the New Jerusalem in Paradise Restored [Revelation 21:9 ff.; Ephesians 5:27].

2. Where we are: in Babylonian captivity [vs. 4] We do own it, and it must never own us. It offers certain pleasures, opportunities, and securities [vv. 5-7] that we are free to enjoy for a season. But we can never compromise our faith to gain or hold on to them [vv. 4, 8, 18&19] So, what is Babylon?

- The dream of antichrists to save the world [Nimrod the prototype, [Genesis 10:8-12](#)] by gathering people with an unfulfilled longing for paradise lost [[Genesis 10:9&11:1](#)] and offering them a utopian substitute [[Genesis 11](#)].
- A One World Order [[Genesis 11:1-3](#)]: The antichrist savior always seduces with the utopian dream of peace and prosperity for everyone willing to be a cog in the machine.
- The Tower of Babel (Ziggurat) [[Genesis 11:4](#)] Babylon is a creation of the earth, conceived and built by creatures (The City of Man) who resort to worship of creation itself rather than the Creator. From beginning to end, it is creation-centered rather than Creator-centric.
- Babylon can do amazing feats of genius, which is its seductive appeal to earthlings, its reason for abandoning God for so-called scientific advances, and its ultimate decay and destruction [[Genesis 11:5-7](#)]
- God will always confound and destroy Babylon, for she is his mortal enemy [[Genesis 11:8&9](#)]

- Babylon is a prostitute who provides a human face to what is in reality the spirit of a ferocious beast [Revelation 17; Daniel 7] who is manipulated and given power by the Red Dragon, [Revelation 12&13] who is really Satan.
- The Beast has a fatal wound that has been healed [Revelation 13:3]. It, and the Babylon that gives it seductive appeal, dies over and over again, only to resurrect itself in new and perfected powers. One only has to study the rise and fall of city states, nations, and empires to see this reality.

3. How are we to live in Babylon in this present age? [Jeremiah 29]

- With a paradigm shift [vv. 8&9] Do not listen to the false prophets of our day who are calling you to the culture war gospel.
- Build houses and plant gardens, and enjoy the fruits of Babylon [vs. 5].
- Build strong marriages, families, who remain true citizens of heaven while exiled in Babylon [vs. 6].

- Work and pray for the peace and prosperity of Babylon for the sake of your families and neighbors [vs. 7; 1 Timothy 2:1-4]
 - Like Daniel, Nehemiah, and Esther, even be willing to work in the government and institutions of Babylon, as long as you are willing to go to your death rather than disobey the King of heaven.
4. Never forget your ultimate destiny [vv. 10-14] You are the Bride of Christ, destined to be the New Jerusalem that fills Paradise Restored with radiant beauty [Revelation 21:9ff.; Ephesians 5:27]