

INTRODUCTION

1. Begin 6th cycle: Babylon & the Bride. Preview & overview.
2. Stories of seductive but dangerous cities.
3. Rv 17:1-5 Bab = symbol of *world - do not love the world* [1Jn 2:15-17]

1st: An Ancient Seduction: The OT

1. *Bab* is the culture of *seed of serpent* [Gn 3:15]: *enmity w/ seed of wmn*.
2. Origin of Bab: city of Enoch [Gn 4:16-24]. Creation ordinances; values; religiosity; vocations; arts - Lamech: polygamy, violence, blasphemous abuse of authority - Gn 4:23-24. v25-26 seed of wmn: *call on name of Lord*: worship
3. World was Babylonianized -> Flood. *Nimrod* - Gn 10:8-12 1st use of *kingdom*
 - i. *mighty* [2x] *hunter* - despotic tyrant ruled by violence *before the Lord*
 - ii. 1st use of *Babel & Nineveh* [2nd use of *Assyria*] = enemies
4. Babylon - Gn 11:1-9
 - i. 1 language; speak God-like words; *Come let us...* [Gn 1:26]; technology used blasphemously; refuse to fill earth [Gn 1:28]. Religious rebellion.
 - ii. Tower: "Babilu" - the gate of God." Astrology. Heb "Babel": confusion.
 - iii. Lord judges - v6 [Gn 3:22] sent to fill the earth. Calls Abraham
5. Lot in Sodom [Gn 18-19]: example of how not to live in Bab!

6. Joseph: example of how to live in Bab. Israel -> Egypt: Moses leads to Canaan
7. Israel divided: Northern Kingdom - idolatry. Assyrians [722]. Southern Kingdom - Babylon [586].
8. Prophets warning ignored. Daniel: not Babylonianized. Return from exile & rebuild temple [538] - but compromised in heart.

2nd: An Abiding Seduction: The NT

1. Israel in Jesus' day was apostate. [Jn 1:11]. Opposed to Jesus & church.
2. Politicized "Messiah" & "Kingdom" [Jn 6:15; Mt 16:23; Jn 18:36] - Mt 4:8-10
3. Mt 6:24; 16:23-27 *Mammon/wealth* [1Jn 2:15-17].
4. 1Pt 5:13 - Babylon = Rome to *aliens* in Turkey [1:1-2]. cf. Rv 17:9 *7 hills*

Applic #1: We Should Be Afraid of Apostasy

1. The danger posed by the Harlot. Demas: Col 4:14; Phile 1:24 - then 2T 4:10
2. Do you ever feel the tug of *this present world*? Asaph in Ps 73? Robert Robertson - THB #400 3rd vs - "prone to wander".
3. Faith is validated as we worship as a church & Jesus warns churches [Rv2-3].

Applic #2: What God Do We Love? What Life Do We Live?

1. Mt 6:24 - 2 Gods - 2 promises - 2 ways to live.
2. We live for what we love [2T 3:1-5] *lovers of self, of money, of pleasure* not *lovers of God*. Dead religion. Harlot's seduction brings wrath of God. The enticement is ancient & abiding. Let us heed warnings & be faithful to Christ.