

SESSION 10 — SUPPLEMENT B

REVELATION 16:17–18:24

Parallels of Babylon in Revelation with Jeremiah 50–51

Dyer has argued that Rev 17–18 and Jer 50–51 have strikingly close similarities.¹ Furthermore, he has pointed out that aspects of the Jeremiah prophecy have never been completely fulfilled. The implications of this are significant, for if John has the Jeremiah passage in mind, then this would argue for a literal Babylon on the Euphrates (the meaning it had for Jeremiah). Dyer concludes,

These parallels lead to the conclusion that John and Jeremiah were describing the future destruction of the same city. John so identified his prophecy with the unfulfilled prophecy of Jeremiah that the association is unmistakable. Therefore the identity of the Babylon in Revelation 17–18 is the future rebuilt city of Babylon on the Euphrates. It will once again be restored and will achieve a place of worldwide influence only to be destroyed by the Antichrist in his thirst for power.²

A. The Description

Compared to a golden cup	"Babylon has been a golden cup in the hand of the Lord" (Jer 51:7a)	"I saw a woman . . . having in her hand a gold cup" (Rev 17:3-4; cf. 18:6)
Dwelling on many waters	"O you who dwell by (בְּ) many waters" (Jer 51:13)	"I shall show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters" (Rev 17:1)
Involved with nations	"The nations have drunk of her wine; therefore the nations are going mad" (Jer 51:7b)	"Those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality" (Rev 17:2)
Named the same	"the word which the Lord spoke concerning Babylon, the land of the Chaldeans" (Jer 50:1)	"Babylon the great" (Rev 17:5) "Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city" (Rev 18:10)

¹ Charles Dyer, "The Identity of Babylon in Revelation 17—18; Part II," *BibSac* 144:576 (Oct-Dec 1987): 433-49.

² *Ibid.*, 449.