

Leaving Babylon

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Introduction

In John Bunyan's classic, *A Pilgrim's Progress*, he writes of a city called Vanity Fair. Outwardly, the city is full of wonder and excitement, but inwardly her heart is as black as midnight. She ensnares believers and drains the spiritual life out of them. The city is the polar opposite of the Kingdom of God.

This booklet is about how to free ourselves from Vanity Fair, or rather, spiritual Babylon.

I'll do this by first examining the historical significance of Babylon in Genesis. Second, we'll look at the passages outside of Revelation that give insight into her character. Third, Rev.17 and 18 will be examined to see how Babylon influences the world before the return of Christ. Finally, we'll see how she touches us and what we need to do to keep from being destroyed by and with her.

My prayer is that the Lord will use this booklet to help you live in greater freedom.

Chapter One

Nimrod

The foundation of anything is critical. Whether you are building a house or raising children, much of the future outcome of a project or person is determined during the formative stage.

Likewise, if we want to understand Babylon during this end time generation, we must understand her history. By understanding the past we get a sense of what the future holds.

Our Enemy doesn't do anything new. It's all recycled. People, places and technology change but tactics and outcomes remain the same.

As we look at Babylon's founder consider how his influence and character are still being profoundly felt by the people of the earth. Just as Adam's sin affected us all, so have Nimrod's actions.

The Scripture reads,

“Cush was the father of Nimrod, who grew to be a mighty warrior on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; that is why it is said, ‘Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the Lord.’ The first centers of his kingdom were Babylon, Erech, Akkad and Calneh, in Shinar. From that land he went to Assyria, where he built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah and Resen, which is between Ninevah & Calah; that is the great city.”
(Gen.10.8–12)

Reading the passage one would think that Nimrod was an outdoorsman who enjoyed building. You assume that Nimrod was a fine country boy who liked to hunt and had a lot of drive. Yet, nothing could be further from the truth.

It is clear as you read underneath the text that Nimrod was a tyrant of the first order. The Chaldee paraphrase says, "Cush begat Nimrod who began to prevail in wickedness, for he slew innocent blood and rebelled against Jehovah."

Nimrod's name has the idea of rebellion and revolt behind it. His name is derived from a word that means "to rebel" (Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #4775). Many see him as the leader behind a mass rebellion against God.

Josephus, the Jewish historian of the 1st century, regarded, "Nimrod as the originator of a systematic opposition to the true God." The Bible scholar, H.C. Leupold believed Nimrod rose up against God and attempted to overthrow all existing order. Philo, the 1st century Jewish scholar, said, "Everyone who sins greatly ought to be ... spoken of as a 'second Nimrod.'"

He was a "mighty warrior on the earth" and a "mighty hunter before the Lord." This sounds like he was aggressive and hunted animals, that is until you understand the historical background.

God told Noah and his sons to "increase in number and fill the earth." (Gen.9.1) The idea is that they were to fill the earth, not to congregate in one particular area. Nimrod built the great cities of the earth. How was he able to do this if the people were scattered and they lived an agrarian lifestyle?

He subjugated them.

John Gill writes, "He was the first that reduced bodies of people and various cities into one form of government and became the head of them; either by force and usurpation or it may be with the consent of the people, through his persuasion of them."

A “mighty hunter before the Lord” can also be understood to mean “a mighty hunter against the Lord”. He worked against God’s purposes by hunting or enslaving men. Many scholars believe Nimrod was the world’s first tyrant.

Much like a modern tyrant, he would dominate others through force and then enslave them to do his will. He “warred” against the peoples of the earth and enslaved them to build the great cities. Until this time, there were no “centers of power”.

We know Nimrod’s motives were not noble due to the construction of the Tower of Babel (Gen.11.1–9). Though the text doesn’t say, many scholars believe that Nimrod was the originator of the Tower. His desire was to “make a name for ourselves and not be *scattered* over the whole earth.” (Gen. 11.4) He wanted to consolidate the people of the earth, even though God wanted them to be scattered so they would fill the earth. By uniting the people in large cities, they would be easier to control.

Nimrod wasn’t a country boy with a lot of ambition. He was a man driven by an insatiable desire for power.

Martin Luther writes: Similarly, Nimrod was the first after the flood to strive for the sovereignty of the world. Not satisfied with its southern part (Africa), he extended his grasp eastward, in the direction of the lands of Shem...Therefore Moses adds: “He was the first on earth to be a mighty man,” not by divine command or by the will of the fathers...but through tyranny. We must not suppose that he achieved this without murder and bloodshed.

The construction of the Tower of Babel is the supreme example of his lust for power. It’s not coincidental that Babylon originally meant “the gate of God.” Babylon, early on, must have been a place of spiritual significance much like Bethel was and Jerusalem was and is.

At the “gate of God” Nimrod would take on the God of Heaven and Earth. The Tower was more than an historical marker. It was an affront to God. Mortals taking on the Immortal; gaining a name against the great “I AM”.

It may be that Nimrod was trying to seek revenge against God since He had previously flooded the earth. Or, he might have been trying to build himself a physical platform to take on the God of heaven. Therefore, he used tar to waterproof the structure in case God tried to flood the earth. Any way you look at it, the same character traits are seen: pride, arrogance and hatred.

Nimrod isn't the only thing that needs to be understood in the Tower narrative. Listen to the phrase: “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth.” (Gen.11.4)

Through Nimrod's inspiration, the people of the earth are reliving the very act of Adam & Eve. They are trying to “be like God.” (Gen.3.5) Satan tempted the first couple to believe this lie and here he is tempting the first culture to do the same.

God says, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.” (Gen.11.6) His response to their aggression is to “go down and confuse their language.” (Gen.11.7)

Since Babylon takes center stage during the end-times, it's important that we see the connection between Nimrod and the Tower and how this scenario will be replayed.

Revelation 13 and 2 Thes.2.4-11 describe how the anti-Christ and the activity of Satan will unite the world in opposition to God. Though a literal tower won't be built, in the minds of most God will be dethroned and

mankind will reign. The anti-Christ will have the entire culture supporting his ascendancy.

The spirit of Nimrod will fill the earth. Nimrod enslaved much of the known world, and the anti-Christ will do the same. Nimrod inspired the world to take on God, so too will the nations of the earth gather together in one final effort to overthrow the King of Kings (Rev.16.14; 19.19).

The result will be the same. God will come down and scatter them (Rev.19.11-21).

What does this mean for us today?

Babylon is still here. Though there are no countries called Babylon, the characteristics of the culture are everywhere. Pride, bondage, violence, control, greed & oppression abound.

Everything goes back to its origin. Technology advances but man's values and sin patterns do not. The Babylon of Rev.17 and 18 is the full-blown incarnation of Babylon in Genesis 10 and 11. They both are inspired by the same Evil and they both suffer the same fate.

Babylon was the seat of power and Nimrod controlled it. The influence of Babylon was felt all throughout the known earth. Just as in the end times, the Satanic spirit of Babylon will permeate the world.

Though this book is about Babylon, you cannot easily separate Nimrod from Babylon for he shaped the culture. He sought worldwide domination and seemingly wanted revenge against God for flooding the earth. He would not bow the knee to God, but rather wanted others, including God, to bow the knee to him.

Nimrod is a clear picture of the anti-Christ, and his Babylon is a clear picture of the end-time culture.

Chapter 2

O How You Have Fallen

Babylon is Satan's response to the kingdom of God. As such, it reflects his character. The attributes of the first Babylon didn't emanate from the character of Nimrod, but from Satan. Therefore, we can discover the true nature of Babylon by looking into passages that reveal his heart.

In Isaiah 14.3–23, there is a prophetic word spoken about Babylon. It is Scripture that has a dual understanding. It not only refers to the literal king of Babylon, but to Satan also.

Isaiah 14.12–15

**¹² How you have fallen from heaven,
O morning star, son of the dawn!
You have been cast down to the earth,
you who once laid low the nations!**

**¹³ You said in your heart,
"I will ascend to heaven;
I will raise my throne
above the stars of God;
I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,
on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain.**

**¹⁴ I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High."**

Doesn't that sound like Nimrod? Isn't that similar to what the people said who built the tower of Babel?

Pride is the hallmark of Satan and he spreads this infectious disease to everyone. Nimrod exalted himself over the earth. The people living in the plains of Shinar (Gen.11.2) wanted to make a name for themselves.

Though these verses in Isaiah are speaking most directly to Lucifer, they are also referring to the kings reigning over national Babylon. From other parts of Scripture we can see the arrogance that filled these Babylonian leaders.

One of the clearest examples is Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4. His pride led to his temporary insanity. He only regained his sanity when he acknowledged God was sovereign over the kingdoms of the earth (Dan. 4.34-37).

Ezekiel 28.11-19 refers to the King of Tyre, who was proud and proclaimed himself to be a god (Ezek. 28.2), but it has direct application to Satan as well.

The passage describes both his splendor and position. Then it says:

“Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence...” (Ezek. 28.16).

“Your heart became proud on account of your beauty...” (Ezek. 28.17)

“By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries.” (Ezek. 28.18)

Pride and greed filled the life of Satan, which are the same attributes of the King of Tyre (Ezek. 28.2-5). There is a connection between trade, greed and violence that needs to be explored.

The primary root word in the Hebrew for ‘trade’ and ‘slander’ is the same (Strong’s #7402). The word carries the idea of walking about from place to place, like a peddler. The idea Ezekiel 28 may convey is that Satan

walked about gaining alliances for his ultimate aim to “sit enthroned on the mount of the assembly” (Is.14.13).

His conversations led to “hamas” (Zondervan NIV Exhaustive Concordance #2805), the Hebrew word for violence. Its root word means “heat, hot and fury” (Strong’s #2525 & 2555). It could be speculated that Lucifer driven by his pride tried with violent passion to divide the hosts of heaven and have himself exalted.

This might not be such a stretch when you consider it’s very similar to his approach when he tempted the first couple and the first culture. This is also how he plans to bring history to a close.

Just from Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 we see the common themes of Babylon in Genesis. Pride, violence, greed and thirst for power consume Satan. Then, through his influence, it works its way out in the lives of earthly leaders.

There are several other key passages in the Bible that must be noted. Though they don’t mention Babylon they reflect its nature.

2 Timothy 3.1–5

¹But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ²People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God-- ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

James 3.14–16

¹⁴But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. ¹⁶For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

James 4.1–4

¹What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ²You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. ³When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

⁴You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

1 John 2.15–17

¹⁵Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

Observe some of the phrases that are similar to key ideas already surfaced:

- Lovers of money, lovers of pleasure, covet, spend what you get on your own pleasures, friendship with the world, cravings of sinful man, lust of the eyes.
- Boastful, proud, conceited, selfish ambition, boasting of what he had and does.
- Abusive, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self control, brutal, treacherous, rash, bitter envy, kill, quarrel, fight.

The reasons for highlighting these verses along with Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 is to understand that whether it was before creation, after the flood, 600 BC or in the 1st century AD, the spirit of Babylon filled the land.

We cannot escape Babylon's influence and, especially now, since it will only be magnified in the days ahead.

Chapter Three
The Great Prostitute

Babylon in the Book of Revelation is called “the great prostitute.” (Rev.17.1) Her influence has been felt throughout the ages, but her greatest manifestation will be before the return of Christ.

If we want to understand her influence in the world before the return of Christ, then we must consider the story Jesus told of the wheat and tares. The first section is the story and the second is Jesus’ interpretation.

Matthew 13.24–30

²⁴Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

²⁷"The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'

²⁸" 'An enemy did this,' he replied.

"The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

²⁹" 'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'

Matthew 13.36–43

³⁶Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."

³⁷He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man.

³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

40"As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. 41The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. 42They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

The phrase in verse 30 is critical, "Let both grow together until the harvest." The corresponding interpretive verse is also essential, "The harvest is the end of the age..." (v.39).

From this passage, it's clear that both sin and righteousness will come to complete maturity at the end of the age. Before the return of the Lord, there will be a full harvest of good and evil. Sin energized by Satan and righteousness energized by Jesus will come to their full expression.

Since the 1940's we've witnessed glimpses of both. Hitler, Stalin, Mao Tse Tung, Rwanda and Sudan are graphic examples of what sin looks like in its maturity. The charismatic movement, healing crusades, the Jesus people, evangelistic crusades, the church planting movement and worldwide prayer initiatives are but small windows of righteousness in its maturity. It is difficult to imagine what both sin and righteousness will look like in the coming days, but we do have an idea.

The description of the Babylon in Rev.17 - 18 is a picture of what sin is like in full maturity. Look how John describes this prostitute:

- **"The great prostitute sits on many waters...the waters...are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages." (17.1,15)**
- **"The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls." (17.4)**
- **"She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries." (17.4)**
- **"THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" (17.5)**

- **“the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints” (17.6)**
- **“She has become a home for demons” (18.2)**
- **“The kings of the earth committed adultery with her and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.” (18.3)**
- **“In her heart she boasts, ‘I sit as queen; I am not a widow and I will never mourn.’” (18.7)**
- 18.11–13 describes her excessive luxuries.

The same character traits that filled the original Babylon are brought to a new level in this one.

Who is this woman?

Much has been written about future Babylon. Some believe she is a world-wide religious system. Some purport the Roman Catholic Church or a variation of it is the fulfillment of these passages. Others see her as the Roman Empire during the time of the early church and others contend she will be the revived Roman Empire. More extremist believe New York City or the United States or possibly the European Union is the prostitute. Finally there are those that believe Babylon is literal Babylon located in Iraq, which will one day be rebuilt and be the center of the anti-Christ's activities.

We must remember that even before the fall of man there have been two kingdoms in conflict. They are the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness. These kingdoms express their work in the world through two women, who are personified in the Book of Revelation as the Bride of Christ and the Great Prostitute.

They are also referred to as cities. The Great Prostitute is Babylon (Rev.17.1, 5) and the Bride of Christ is the New Jerusalem (Rev.21.2, 9–10). These women are composed of people who are under the headship of different leaders – Jesus and Satan.

The difference between the two is stark.

The Great Prostitute

- Babylon the Great
- Adulterous
- Greedy
- Impure
- Full of every known sin
- Martyrs the saints
- Adored by the nations
- Demon filled
- Destroyed by God

The Bride of Christ

- New Jerusalem
- A Virgin
- Giving
- Pure
- Clean before God
- Endures Persecution
- Adored by Jesus
- Spirit filled
- Married to the Lamb

These women are channels. The channel God uses to change the world is the Bride of Christ. The channel Satan uses to dominate the earth is the Great Prostitute.

This prostitute isn't a city. She isn't an economic system nor is she a political system. Rather, she is a *VALUE system that has been around since Satan was cast from heaven. She has walked the streets for thousands of years.

She isn't "out there" and one day will show up with the false prophet and anti-Christ in tow. She's here now. She's around us. She's in us.

She is the value system that touches *a//* mankind (Rev.17.1-2, 15). She promotes pride, greed, oppression, violence, immorality and all their manifestations.

Wherever you witness these values on display, either in your life or in the culture, there you see the influence of the whore.

*(A value system is a set of beliefs that govern our actions.)

*Chapter Four***Come Out Of Her, My People**

The word of the Lord to the body of Christ is, "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues." (Rev.18.4)

Judgment is coming to the prostitute. Wherever her values have found a place in our lives, we will be judged too. Let us not be foolish enough to think she hasn't affected us.

As a nation, she does more than influence us. She controls us. The description of her pride, greed, violence, oppression and immorality clearly illustrates the depth of her involvement in the American culture.

The vilest way she controls our nation is by our direct involvement in killing of believers and the suppression of the gospel. How?

Our government and economic system are driven by the bottom line. Money, not principle, is most often the deciding factor on foreign relations.

Think about it, where are the current day Christian martyrs from? Southeast Asia and the Middle East. Believers in most of these countries are persecuted and many are martyred. In most of these nations there is no such thing as freedom of religion.

Why doesn't our government stand firm against these nations and sanction them? Why don't we put huge tariffs on their products until they stop their human rights violations? Why?

Because they provide us with cheap goods! We can't sanction them because it would hurt us economically! Why don't we say to Saudi Arabia and China, "We aren't importing another thing from your country until

your stop persecuting and prosecuting Christians”? If we did, our economy would implode.

The Great Whore has America.

We could do something to stop the deaths of Christians, but we don't want to hurt our economy and political standing. We could use our economic and political clout to pressure these nations, but it would cost us too much and might throw our economy into chaos.

“With her (our government) committed adultery and the (citizens of the United States) were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.”
(Rev.17.2, my paraphrase).

Her influence over believers

Only God knows the true depth Babylon's influence in our lives. He calls us to leave her. We must look at her character traits and see whether or not they are a part of us.

Pride – Since the beginning, pride has been the foundation of Babylon. Satan, Nimrod, the first Babylon, and the kings of Babylon all have exhibited pride and arrogance.

Pride means – highness, swelling, to rise/increase. It's the desire for recognition, to look good, to be put above others. It's an attitude that says, “I know what is best and you can't tell me anything.” It's also a desire for control and a persistent opposition to God's will.

One person told me, “If you're a human, you have a problem with pride.” Another person said, “The only thing that stings is flesh, so whenever something stings I have to check my flesh.” Our flesh often stings because of pride.

Pride issues forth when we don't see God's involvement in every part of our lives. We begin to think that we are the source of our own strength and wisdom.

We take credit for resources and abilities that come directly from God. I may develop an invention that helps millions, but God is the one who gives me the physical and intellectual abilities to develop it. Pride is an affront to God.

God wants us to recognize His supremacy over every part of our lives. When we get to heaven, we won't have a problem with pride. We will fully know who rules the universe and our role in it. Until then, we will probably all wrestle with this in some way.

Greed – Satan, the governing influence behind the prostitute, was noted for his trading ability in Heaven.

“Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence...By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries.” Ezek.28.16, 18.

We don't know precisely what that means, but it does indicate he was restless. The word, “trade”, has the idea of walking around (notes in Chapter 2). This sounds like Job 1.7, **“The Lord asked Satan, ‘Where have you come from?’ Satan answered the Lord, ‘From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it.’”**

And 1 Peter 5.8: **“Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”**

Restlessness and the lack of contentment are the big motivators behind greed. We aren't content with our position and possessions. We don't agree with Paul, who said, “But if we have food and clothing we will be

content with that.” (1 Tim.6.8) We don’t believe God will meet our every need and our hunger for more increases.

Rev.18 depicts the prostitute’s insatiable hunger for worldly wealth. Greed is such a part of all our lives that we can no longer distinguish between genuine needs and wants. Our lives are filled with constant activity and our minds are driven by the desire for more.

What happened to Satan also happened to Solomon. They both were set apart by God to direct His affairs. They both had powerful positions. They both had great wisdom. They both traded and accumulated great wealth. And, they both reached the point where God wasn’t enough. They grew restless and were not content. God was no longer enough and they left Him.

Does anybody else have that problem?

Not long ago I was at a Christian camp located on a lake. One evening I was out by the waters edge watching all the kids riding their jet skis, skiing behind their parent’s boat, and staying in these huge RVs. I thought to myself, “My kids will never have that stuff...they’ll never get to go on a fancy vacation...they’ll never get to do the things other kids do.” I started feeling sorry for myself and my kids.

The next day the Lord showed me how the Prostitute had me in her arms. I had accepted her values. Her ways were so subtle that I bought into the lie that what the Lord has provided for me wasn’t enough. My restlessness had led me away from the kingdom of God and into the streets of Babylon.

Lot’s wife is a huge warning to the end time generation – Luke17.32. We cannot allow the things of this world to weigh us down or distract us from the plans and purposes of God.

Immorality – HIV is the worst plague in human history, and it is primarily transmitted through immoral behavior. TV, internet, radio, print and other types of media are a polluted moral river. They are an incessant stream of filth into our homes. In less than five minutes, I could turn on my radio, television and internet and have stuff flowing into my house that would make Sodom and Gomorrah blush.

Like a prostitute, she is constantly tempting believers to give into their flesh. She chips away at beliefs by claiming personal choice. She tell us there are no absolutes and that we can do whatever we want as long as it doesn't hurt anyone.

When believers take a stand on moral issues, they are marginalized or characterized as eccentrics. Our beliefs are considered restrictive and judgmental. In our day, evil is considered good and righteousness is considered sinful. Satan has always contended against the commands of God (Gen.3.1).

Hosea 4.8 says, "They feed on the sins of my people and relish their wickedness." The priests of Hosea's day were reveling in the sins of the people. God is saying not only must we remove immorality from our lives but we cannot participate vicariously in the sins of others. When we enjoy watching the sinful behavior of others, we will be disciplined.

We are called to purity. Though this is a wicked time, we have the testimony of Noah and Abraham. They lived in immoral cultures, but were not tainted by it. We must relentlessly remove everything in our lives that is sinful.

Violence – Due to the violence we see every day, we are desensitized. Splattered blood, mangled body parts and other graphic images no longer make us cringe.

For others, we are fascinated by death. Television dramas that focus on murder don't simply compel us because of the "who-dun-it" aspect, but because of the gruesome nature of the deaths. We're drawn into this darkness.

Satan is the purveyor of darkness, destruction and death. God emanates light, liberty and life. Violence fills the four corners of the earth. Murder, genocide, terrorist activity and war are everywhere.

Jesus said that before he returns it will be like the days of Noah (Luke 17:26). Genesis 6:11 says that in the days of Noah, "The earth was corrupt in God's sight and full of violence."

The prostitute is violently opposed to God's activity. Every year, at least, 100,000 Christians are killed for their faith in Jesus. It is estimated that since 1990, more believers have been killed for their faith than the previous 2000 years of church history.

Think about it! The death and persecution of millions of believers is because the prostitute hunted them down and killed them. These are our brothers & sisters! Every time a believer is killed for his faith, it's our brother who is murdered. Every time a woman is raped because of her faith, it's our sister that has been violated. That's how she touches all of us!

Leaving Babylon

Getting out of the arms of the Prostitute isn't easy. It's not primarily about stopping stuff either. It's really about returning to Jesus. We have to come out of her and go to Him.

We are committing adultery with this world system (James 4:4) when we stay inside her. As long as we remain, we're telling Jesus we'd rather have the prostitute than Him. It is a slap in the face of God.

Let's just suppose you had a family member who was murdered. If it were proven that Wal-Mart was behind the death of your family member, would you continue shopping there? Would you reason to yourself, "But they have such good sales and the employees are so nice. I just don't have a problem with Wal-Mart."

You wouldn't respond that way. You would never enter Wal-Mart again and would warn every person you know.

Yet, the great Prostitute has killed our brothers & sisters in Christ, many physically and millions more spiritually, but we still stay inside of her. She has her cold, icy hands around the spiritual vitality of most and there's little more than a slight gasp.

God says:

"COME OUT OF HER!

COME OUT OF HER!

COME OUT OF HER!"

And go to Jesus!!!

She is set against the purposes of God and actively seeks to hinder and destroy His plans. She isn't to be admired or taken lightly. She has the countenance of a dove and the heart of a snake, but God has given you the authority to step on her head!

What are the steps you can take to remove yourself from her?

With each person it will be different. I believe the best thing to do is to submit everything – thoughts, possessions, gifting, sexuality, habits – to

Jesus. Ask him to filter everything out of your life that has the smell of Babylon on it.

Resources

The Rise and Fall of King Nimrod, by Dudley Cates.

Web Articles:

- www.pbministries.org – A.W. Pink’s commentary on Genesis 10 – 11.
- www.crosswalk.com – Genesis 10 – 12 commentary.
- www.apostolic.edu – “Spirit of Nimrod” article.
- www.cwd.co – “Nimrod” article.
- http://members.aol.com/XianAnarch/nimrod_1.htm – “Nimrod: The First Politician” article.