

Pentwater Bible Church

Isaiah Message 28

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Oil painting by Lucas van Valckenborch (1535–1597)

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The Book of Isaiah Message Twenty-Eight

BABYLON INTRODUCTION PART III

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Isaiah 13:1

The burden of Babylon, which Isaiah the son of Amoz did see (ASV, 1901).

The concept of Babylon is presented in eight chapters in sets of two which are found in four individual books of the Bible. It first appears in Genesis chapters 10 and 11. Then, it reappears with additional detail in Isaiah chapters 13 and 14. The third set of chapters is found in Jeremiah chapters 50 and 51 and the final set is located in Revelation chapters 17 and 18. Since we are entering chapter 13 of Isaiah it is important to see exactly what the Bible teaches about Babylon; Babylon the concept is found in three separate categories in the Bible.

- 1) A physical location (city)
- 2) An ecclesiastical corruption in the plan that God has laid out.
- 3) A way of life on this earth; the world's system and its resulting corruption.

Revelation 18:4-5 implores us to come out of her.

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. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities (KJV).

This message that the apostle John received on the isle of Patmos was given by Christ through an angel to him about 96 A.D. It is therefore directed to all people since that time including us. So, for the last 1923 years the Bible has predicted the downfall of Babylon. This destruction will include the city, the government, the ecclesiastical systems and the economy. The city of Babylon will be destroyed during the campaign of Armageddon. The three systems will be destroyed and replaced upon Christ's Second Coming. He will replace the government, during Millennium with Jesus on the throne in Jerusalem running it according to His law. In fact, one interesting study is to read all the passages associated with Jerusalem and also Babylon. One is the city began by God and the other by Satan. Babylon ends with destruction and becomes a haven for demons. Jerusalem becomes the Lord Jesus' imperial world headquarters during the Messianic Kingdom and finally it is replaced with the New Jerusalem which comes down from Heaven to earth restoring the eternal order to the earth.

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace (ASV, 1901).

For today it is important to understand the nature of the three systems, their effect on our lives and our responsibility to adhere to the commandment in Revelation 18:4-5 to come out of her.

The Government

Religion (ecclesiastical)

The Economy and City

These three systems have a strong effect on our lives as they touch all humans in ways that we seemingly cannot avoid. Every country on this earth has a government. God has placed the need for Him in the heart of all humans so all follow some form of religion even if it is denied. That denial usually results in what is called secularism or humanism. The economy touches all lives on the earth. Everybody must participate to some degree in economic matters. We will cover the city in our next session. Let's look at each individually and discuss how we may adhere to the commandment.

THE GOVERNMENT:

That God has instituted government is quite clear from Scripture and from empiricism.

Romans 13:1-5

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake (KJV).

All people have a conscience and a desire to be governed/led in some manner. That is the need to be led and follow some established rules. Since God established civil and theocratic government it is His choice as to who will rule over us.

Daniel 5:21

And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will (KJV).

We are commanded to follow the direction of those that govern us.

I Peter 2:13-15

Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men (KJV):

Since God ordained government and commanded to follow our leaders how can it be that we are commanded to come out of her?

Psalm 127:1

Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh [but] in vain (KJV).

It is when the government does not acknowledge God as the creator and sustainer of all that we are not to obey laws which are force us to deny or violate God's Laws.

Presently the Western Democracies acknowledge God and His authority over the operation of the government to one degree or another. When the government decides that we must honor men and ways that are against God's commandments then we must resist. Not rebel but resist.

Act 5:29

Then Peter and the [other] apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men (KJV).

Unless the government requires us to disobey God's commandments we are obligated to obey it. Political differences are insufficient to warrant disobedience. However, if we were for example, commanded to abort any child after a government-imposed limit per family, we would have grounds for disobedience. We also presently have an obligation to vote for individuals that will uphold God's laws as much as possible. For example, if one is in favor of aborting babies for any reason we must not vote for them. Further, we must speak out against such practices. As governments gradually grow more corrupt as we draw nearer to the Tribulation we must distance ourselves from those that ordain godless practices. If the government begins to act like the Roman Caesar Domitian we must disobey. Domitian was the despot who banished the apostle John to the isle of Patmos. He demanded that the people address him as dominus et deus or "my lord and God."

When this happens, we must come out of her...

RELIGION:

As believers we must *not* participate in any religious organizations that do not accept the deity of Christ and have Him as the head of their organization. Further, we must be salt and light to speak out against unbiblical requirements in the church organizations in which we participate.

2 Corinthians 14-17

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you (KJV).

2 John 1:7-11

For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into [your] house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds (KJV).

THE ECONOMIC ASPECT OF BABYLON

The following verses in chapter 18 segment out the subject of the economy. It is important to notice that the text is from a voice in heaven saying to God's people to come out of Babylon. This includes all believers, Jews and Gentiles since 96 A.D. as well as those who become believers during the Great Tribulation and do not take the mark of the Beast (Antichrist's 666). The following verses from the eighteenth chapter illustrate the economic component of Babylon.

Revelation 18:3, 11-19,23

For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men. And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all. The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate. And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived (KJV).

We must note here that the message discusses five (5) aspects of the Babylonian economy.

1. Corruption
2. Enslavement of the souls of men
3. Believers souls lusted after material things
4. We became rich
5. We have been deceived

The Bible makes it quite clear that prosperity for the believer comes from Him. There is nothing wrong with being prosperous. It is the Lord's will that we be prosperous. This does not mean excess or riches. The Bible makes a great distinction between prosperity and riches. God wants us to focus on Him. He does not want us to focus on riches. Further, if we simply focus on Him as a formula to get prosperous He will not honor that misguided approach either. He knows the difference. Again, our goal is not wealth. It is a strong fulfilling relationship with the God of the universe. If we are striving to become materially wealthy instead of growing closer to God we are exhibiting characteristics of one who is in love with money instead of God. This will lead to all sorts of evil in our lives (1 Timothy 6:10). Love of Money is a root of all sore of evils. Money itself is simply an abstract concept that has purchasing power for goods and services. Money itself is not evil. Corruption is inherent when love of money replaces love of God. This false love corrupts, as men want to pridefully dominate others, and exert powerful influence through

the economy.

This is the Babylonian corruption of economic matters; controlling men by enslaving them through economic matters.

Proverbs 22:7

The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower [is] servant (slave str. # 5650) to the lender (KJV).

We will use a few verses here to illustrate that belief, trust and following the Lord leads to prosperity.

Job 36:11

If they obey and serve [him], they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures (KJV).

Psalms 1:1

Blessed [is] the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful But his delight [is] in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper (KJV).

Joshua 1:7

Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it [to] the right hand or [to] the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest (KJV).

Deuteronomy 29:9

Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do (KJV).

Psalms 122:6

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee (KJV).

3 John 1:2

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth (KJV).

Even though the Lord does not guarantee material wealth, He does want us to have *enough*

in terms of financial resources. Further, He does not want us to be destitute.

Proverbs 30:7-9

Two [things] have I required of thee; deny me [them] not before I die: Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny [thee], and say, Who [is] the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God [in vain] (KJV).

In other words, as in all things God wants us to be balanced. He knows what we need. He first wants us to seek Him and then He will add to us material wealth as He sees fit to meet our needs.

Matthew 6:31-33

Therefore, take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:;) (unbelievers in Christ's time on earth) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you (KJV).

In other words, always trust God first for your circumstances and He will give you what you need. That includes opportunities to earn a living and enough resources to provide for your family

Since the world is seeking to enslave the souls of men through economic matters, how do we come out of the Babylonian corrupt system? This as the government and ecclesiastical corruption are seemingly impossible to escape. Remember this is not a formula to achieve wealth. Wealth is a byproduct of loving God not a goal in itself.

1. Love God more than anything in this world. (Mark 12:30) Trust that He will provide. (Matthew 6:31-33)
2. Get out of debt. Particularly unsecured debt
3. Do not spend more than you make.
4. Give sufficiently to His work, both in terms of funds and your time. (Parable of the unjust steward Luke 16:1-13)
5. Do not be envious (covetous) or jealous of others blessings. It will rot your testimony before God. (James 4:5 etc.)
6. Do not judge others in terms of their wealth or your perception of their wealth. (Christ's words to Peter in John 21:22)
7. Be industrious in all that you do. (The Ant in Proverbs 6:6-10)
8. Save for the future. (The Ant in Proverbs 6:6-10).

Money is mentioned in the Bible over 800 times. God is serious about this subject.

Luke 16:11

If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true [riches] (KJV)?

This verse appears at the end of the parable of the unjust steward. He is telling us that we must give to God first in all things and in particular money. It appears from this verse that God uses money as a test of our management and stewardship skills before entrusting us with greater spiritual things. We must use the first of our monetary resources for God's work. There are rewards in heaven for us if we handle money properly and give to His work. The world is smarter than us in these matters. This parable shows that to be the case.

God wants us to save, provide for our families now and leave an inheritance to our heirs.

1 Timothy 5:8

But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel (KJV).

This gives us an idea of how God wants us to save for a rainy day, to set something back for safekeeping. This is not amassing wealth for wealth's sake. It is prudent to save.

Proverbs 13:22

A good [man] leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner [is] laid up for the just (KJV).

Proverbs 21:20

[There is] treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up (KJV).

Luke 14:28

For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have [sufficient] to finish [it] (KJV)?

Next message: THE BURDEN OF BABYLON CONTINUED— WE MUST COME OUT OF HER.

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