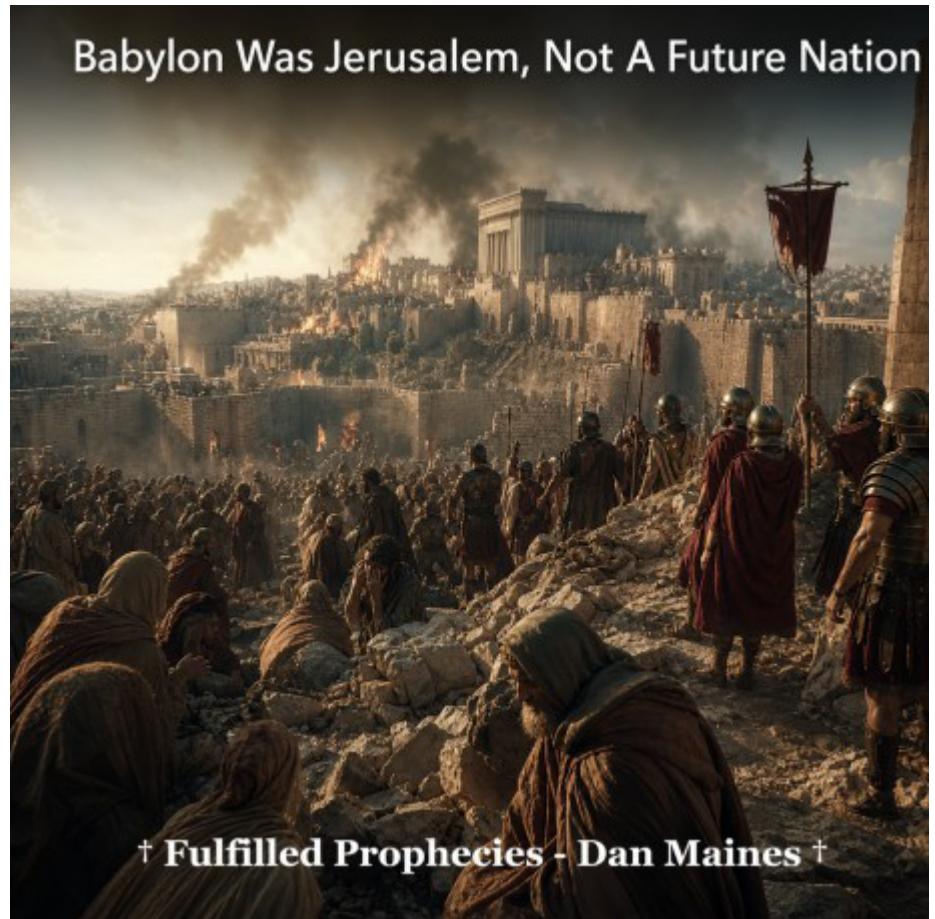


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Babylon Was Jerusalem, Not A Future Nation



By Dan Maines

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Introduction

† This is directed to all futurists, you're reading Revelation like it's a modern newspaper, but the Bible never points you to a future superpower, it points you straight back to first century Jerusalem (Revelation 1:1, 3)

† First, the claim that Babylon was never inhabited again is being taken way too literally, while ignoring how the Bible itself uses that kind of language (Isaiah 13:19-20)

† Now apply that to Revelation, this is covenant judgment

language, not modern literalism (Revelation 18)

Isaiah 13:19-20

And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the
Chaldeans' pride,
Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.
It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to
generation;

Nor will the Arab pitch his tent there,

Nor will shepherds allow their flocks to lie down there.

† Yet literal Babylon wasn't permanently uninhabited forever,
the language is prophetic judgment language, meaning total
covenantal destruction (Isaiah 13:19-20)

† This shows us how God speaks about judgment, not literal
unending emptiness (Isaiah 13:19-20)

† You're forcing literalism into prophetic language that was
never meant to be read that way (Isaiah 13:19-20)

Isaiah 34:10

It will not be extinguished night or day;

Its smoke will go up forever.

From generation to generation it will be desolate;

None will pass through it forever and ever.

† But Edom wasn't literally burning forever, this is judgment
language, not modern literalism (Isaiah 34:10)

† This proves forever language is covenantal and symbolic of
destruction, not endless physical conditions (Isaiah 34:10)

† Revelation uses the same prophetic language, so it must be
interpreted the same way (Revelation 18)

Matthew 23:35-36

so that upon you will fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed
on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of
Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between
the temple and the altar. Truly I say to you, all these things will
come upon this generation.

† Jesus already identified the guilty city, and He said it would

happen in that generation (Matthew 23:35-36)

† This is not future, this is first century judgment on Jerusalem (Matthew 23:35-36)

† You can't move this into our time without ignoring Jesus' clear time statement (Matthew 23:35-36)

Revelation 18:24

And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slaughtered on the earth.

† Revelation confirms the same city guilty of the prophets' blood, this is Jerusalem (Revelation 18:24)

† Only one city in the Bible is ever charged with killing the prophets, and that's Jerusalem (Luke 13:33)

† This cannot be the United States, because the Bible already identified the guilty city (Revelation 18:24)

Revelation 18:21

Then a strong angel picked up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, So will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will never be found again.

† This is covenant judgment language showing total and irreversible destruction, not physical disappearance of land (Revelation 18:21)

† Will be found no more means its covenant identity, its temple system, its priesthood, and its standing before God would never be restored (Hebrews 8:13)

† Old covenant Jerusalem can NEVER be found again, do you know 2,000 year old Jews, that entire system is gone forever (Hebrews 8:13)

† The same language is used throughout the prophets to describe covenantal destruction, not geographic erasure (Isaiah 13:19-20)

† After AD 70, Jerusalem never returned as the center of God's covenant people, it was replaced by the New Jerusalem, the church (Revelation 21:2)

† So when it says found no more at all, it's speaking of its role and identity before God, not the physical location on a map

(Revelation 18:21)

Luke 13:33

Nevertheless I must go on My journey today and tomorrow and the next day; for it cannot be that a prophet would perish outside Jerusalem.

† Jesus said prophets die in Jerusalem, not Rome, not America (Luke 13:33)

† This locks the identity of Babylon to Jerusalem (Luke 13:33)

† Scripture interprets Scripture, not modern headlines (Luke 13:33)

Revelation 11:8

And their dead bodies will lie on the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.

† The great city where the Lord was crucified is Jerusalem, not Rome, not the United States (Revelation 11:8)

† Revelation itself tells you how to identify the city, you don't need modern speculation (Revelation 11:8)

† This directly connects Babylon to Jerusalem within the same book (Revelation 11:8)

Matthew 24:2

But He responded and said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down."

† Jesus foretold the total destruction of Jerusalem, which matches Revelation's judgment language (Matthew 24:2)

† This shows Babylon's fall was not future, it was the destruction of that city in that generation (Matthew 24:2)

† The temple system ending proves the old covenant world was completely removed (Hebrews 8:13)

Revelation 17:18

The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.

- † It says is, not will be, meaning the city existed in John's time (Revelation 17:18)
- † That alone destroys any future nation interpretation (Revelation 17:18)
- † The Bible locates Babylon in the first century, not 2,000 years later (Revelation 17:18)

Hebrews 8:13

When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is about to disappear.

- † Old covenant Jerusalem can NEVER be found again, do you know 2,000 year old Jews, that system is gone forever (Hebrews 8:13)
- † That priesthood, that temple, that covenant world vanished just like Scripture said (Hebrews 8:13)
- † The destruction in AD 70 ended it permanently as God's covenant city (Hebrews 8:13)

Revelation 21:2

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

- † That's the church, the fulfilled people of God, not a future city and not the United States (Revelation 21:2)
- † The old was judged and removed, the new has already come (Revelation 21:2)
- † You're living in the reality of the New Jerusalem now (Revelation 21:2)

Revelation 1:1

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John,

- † Revelation was about their time, not ours (Revelation 1:1)
- † You can't stretch soon into thousands of years without

breaking the text (Revelation 1:1)

† This destroys the idea of a future Babylon like the United States (Revelation 1:1)

Revelation 1:3

Blessed is the one who reads, and those who hear the words of the prophecy and keep the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

† The time was at hand, not thousands of years away (Revelation 1:3)

† This confirms everything in Revelation was imminent for them (Revelation 1:3)

† Babylon was already present in their time, not ours (Revelation 1:3)

Historical References

† Josephus records the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, showing the city was burned and leveled (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6)

† Tacitus confirms the massive destruction and loss of life in Jerusalem under Rome (Tacitus, Histories 5.13)

† Eusebius records the judgment that came upon Jerusalem exactly as Jesus foretold (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3)

† The Romans renamed Jerusalem Aelia Capitolina after its destruction, showing the complete break from its old covenant identity (Hadrian, 2nd century)

How It Applies To Us Today

† You're not waiting for Babylon to fall, it already fell in that generation (Revelation 18)

† You're not looking for a future kingdom, you're living in it now (Revelation 21:2)

† Stop reading modern nations into Scripture and start letting Scripture interpret itself (Revelation 1:1-3)

Q & A Appendix

Q If Babylon was destroyed, why does the world still exist

A Because Babylon was a covenant city, not the planet, and its judgment was fulfilled in AD 70 (Revelation 18; Matthew 23:36)

Q Why can't Babylon be the United States

A Because the Bible clearly identifies the guilty city as the one that killed the prophets, which is Jerusalem (Luke 13:33; Revelation 18:24)

Q What does never inhabited again really mean

A It means total covenantal destruction, not literal abandonment of geography (Isaiah 13:19-20; Hebrews 8:13)

Q If Jerusalem still exists today, how can it be Babylon that was destroyed

A Because the judgment was against its covenant role, not its geography, that old covenant system ended and was never restored (Hebrews 8:13; Revelation 18:21)

Q Why does Revelation say Babylon will be found no more at all

A Because its temple, priesthood, and covenant standing were completely removed and replaced by the New Jerusalem (Revelation 18:21; Revelation 21:2)

Q Could Babylon be Rome since it ruled the world at that time

A No, because Rome was never accused of killing all the prophets, that charge belongs only to Jerusalem (Matthew 23:35-36; Luke 13:33)

Q Why do people think Babylon is a future nation like the United States

A Because they ignore the time statements and read current events into the text instead of letting Scripture define itself (Revelation 1:1-3)

Q What replaced old covenant Jerusalem after its destruction

A The New Jerusalem, which is the fulfilled people of God, the church (Revelation 21:2; Galatians 4:26)

Q Was the destruction of Jerusalem really that severe

A Yes, it was total covenantal judgment exactly as Jesus foretold, leaving the temple system completely gone (Matthew 24:2; Josephus, Wars of the Jews Book 6)

Q Why is it so hard for futurists to believe this already happened
A Because they've been taught to expect future fulfillment instead of trusting the clear time statements given in Scripture (Revelation 1:3; Matthew 23:36)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Isaiah 13:19-20; Isaiah 34:10; Matthew 23:35-36; Revelation 18:24; Revelation 18:21; Luke 13:33; Revelation 11:8; Matthew 24:2; Revelation 17:18; Hebrews 8:13; Revelation 21:2;

Revelation 1:1, 3

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6; Tacitus, Histories 5.13; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3; Hadrian, Aelia Capitolina renaming

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