

## CROSSFIRE

*“Flee from the midst of Babylon, and everyone save his life! Do not be cut off in her iniquity, for this is the time of the Lord’s vengeance, He shall recompense her.” Jeremiah 51:6*

The Word of God is the standard-bearer of His truth. It is tried in an oven seven times. It is given for our instruction and protection. Therefore, when God gives a warning once, it ought to be enough that men should listen and heed what is said. How much more should we listen when God speaks the same warning across the ages through many prophets? He is not just repeating Himself because He has forgotten what He said. For a message to be given in the prophets six to eight times, once in the New Testament, and again in the Revelation, is distinctly significant. Should we not pay attention?

Portions of the above warning are reiterated twice in Isaiah (48:20, 52:11), three additional times in Jeremiah (50:8, 51:9, 45, 50), once in II Corinthians 6:17, and once in The Revelation 18:4. The Spirit of God, speaking through the prophets, warns His people to “get out of the midst of Babylon, touch not the unclean, forsake her, go each to his own country, save his life from the anger of the Lord, go, do not stand still, be separate, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues.”

Associated scriptures relating to unclean relationships that God’s people need to avoid are numerous. However, the deeper levels of the true meaning of the word Babylon elude our superficial glances, and remain so much mystery to the casual neophyte. As is the case in nearly all of Scripture, Old Testament words, phrases and prophecies have numerous dimensions of meaning. First there is the physical, historical meaning; then there are two future applications, one for physical Israel and one for spiritual Israel, namely the New Testament Christian born again into the kingdom by virtue of faith and grafted into Israel as it were. Babylon *was* a city, *became* a country, *is* a ruling spirit of darkness today, in 2005, and *will be* an arm of the spiritual Antichrist.

In I Corinthians 10:6 and 11, we are reminded that the Old Testament scriptures are written down for believers as warnings and examples that we should not desire evil as the Israelites did. And by implication, we would not then participate in the judgments awaiting Babylon’s spiritual relatives. Now many people today could care less about what the Old Testament has to say. They regard it as history which has nothing to contribute to their lives. Lest you bolt for the door, examine what follows as it mirrors some events in your lives.

The Hebrew word “Babylon” means *confusion*, derived from the Tower of Babel. There evil men were building a tower to the Heavens, in order to make a name for themselves. God brought confusion to stop them, “Lest they do whatever they choose,” seeing how they were in unity. The “confusion” put them into disarray and disunity.

I Corinthians 14:33 reminds us that God is not the author of confusion but of peace. God brought confusion to these people because of the evil intent of their hearts and minds. To those in which He dwells, there is peace. Therefore, confusion is the antithesis of all that emanates from God.

The definition of confusion is as follows:

Confusion - a **mixture of several things, indiscriminately**; hence disorder, irregularity.  
- tumult Acts 19:1-41.  
- a blending or confounding, an **indistinct combination**.  
- shame Psalms 71 Jeremiah 13  
- astonishment, agitation, perturbation, distraction.  
- a **shameful blending of natures**.  
- perplexity of mind.

Synonyms: anomaly, disturbance, **embroiled**, troubled, jumbled, anarchy, disunion, discord, disarray, mess, chaos, complexity, **entanglement**, kink, web, turmoil, tumult, Babel, **at cross purposes**.

Uppermost in these definitions is the concept of an *indiscriminate* mixing together, a blending of a combination of natures. The idea is one of two conflicting, mutually antithetical elements being thrown together, and the resulting chaos and associated conditions. It is not much of a stretch to see the confusion in mixing the two elements of our current pursuit, Good and Evil, or Holy and unholy. (By the way, the Hebrew word for “folly,” particularly in a child, is *evyl*.) So this oil and water mixture, this unholy brew, this mutually exclusive blending is what results in confusion, chaos, and tumult. Can we be intellectually honest and admit if these conditions exist, it is logical to deduce that we have mixed the Holy with the unholy? In another chapter, *What Part of No Don't We Understand?*, we deal with working backwards with the Bible's descriptions of the effects of curses to their causes. The same is no less true for the cause and effect of confusion, chaos and disarray.

With no intention of elevating the complexity of this topic, let me differentiate between those consequences due to generational curses and those that have Babylonian roots.

Consequences due to curses are tied to circumstances occurring before our time. Our freedom from such comes by spiritual discernment, denouncing same, and accepting deliverance.

**Babylonian contamination, by contrast, involves situations under our control, but we may or may not be aware of our participation.**

Let us imagine:

We are in a theater showing a movie that was inaccurately billed on the marquis. Well into the movie, we are subjected to all sorts of filth completely contrary to our faith. But, as things often happen, we are in the middle of the row surrounded by large patrons, thoroughly enjoying all this tripe. So to avoid a row, we continue to sit where we are. By our staying, we silently consent to the message of the movie.

We find ourselves an employee of a company, which for the most part has a favorable image, does good things for the community at large, and for individual employees in general. Their product is beneficial to many, and is generally acclaimed by the public.

As time passes in our employment, our 401K gets larger and larger, as does our pension fund. The entrenchment of our employment becomes deeper and deeper. The golden handcuffs are becoming harder and harder to remove. One day while surfing the Web, we discover our company supports homosexual organizations, as well as the defense of pedophile activities. These are clandestine and are not well known to the public. We find ourselves in an internal mind game, trying to rationalize the good of this company, versus this newfound moral gaffe. The pension fund and the timing of the financial needs of our children's college surge to the forefront of our mental wrangling. No one else in our family knows. We rationalize that the good outweighs the bad, and decide to ignore what we just discovered.

We find ourselves inductees of a secret fraternity because we admire the qualities of another member. Once into the initiation process, we are gradually subjected to elements contrary to our faith. However, social and peer pressure coerce us to stay, and we continue through the initiation. As time passes, the majority of agreeable activities somewhat assuages our initial misgivings, so we stay for the duration. Increasingly, the maturation process for members involves greater and greater violations of our individual standards. However, peer pressure and the gradual nature of the process is just enough to keep us from bolting out the door. Some time later, we find ourselves defending the institution against our other friends. As time passes, the defense becomes more and more vehement to the point no one addresses us on the matter of our involvement.

We find ourselves joining a church because our family has always attended there, or there is a friend who attends and has recommended the group. The majority of "activities" are positive, and altruistic. The leader has a good deal of charisma, and is pleasing to us. We put ourselves under the spiritual authority of the pastor as the head. Like-minded members become our bosom buddies, and there are a good number of social functions that give us acceptance. The children's activities hold promise, and relieve us of much responsibility. Many are in the same socio-economic tier as we are, and have the same values as to life style, raising children, etc. Several years into our membership we find some little-known elements that somehow do not agree with scripture, particularly from the leadership. Out of a sense of duty, being faithful, and/or appeasement, we remain there, subduing the elements of violation to the "greater good" of not rocking the boat. We forget the principle of the innocent suffering for corporate sins.

We find ourselves born into a family with more or less admirable qualities in both mother and father. As children, their size and experience impress us, and their stance on issues seems quite plausible to our young minds. For the most part, our parents are respected by their peers, and are admired by the powers that be. As we become educated more and more, some of our parents' stances are at odds with what we have learned for ourselves. But, respect and long years of parent-child relationships are well established, and inhibit any real resistance to those elements with which we disagree. As a result, we appropriate the stances of our parents, condone those elements contrary to our knowledge, or allow them to continue unchallenged. When any contradiction arises, we find ourselves defending our parents in those things that were formerly objectionable. Imperceptibly, we have *become like our parents*.

Your effervescent 12-year old son is musically gifted. He is given a chance to go overseas and sing with an international group. You never check out the leaders, the particulars of the trip or his contacts because the group is recommended by a trusted friend. The boy comes home, “different,” subdued, quiet, and withdrawn. Five years later it’s revealed he is a homosexual, having been violated by the music director on the trip. He will die at the age 50 of AIDS.

Your 13-year old son is a member of the Civil Air Patrol, excited about flying and handling air disasters. The Major asks him if he wants to take an overnight trip to Austin to look at a new plane for the CAP. Something in you raises a red flag, and you decline the offer for your son. It turns out the Major is a pedophile.

Your wife is invited to a Bible study out of town, to be taught by a woman unknown to you. She comes home a little disoriented. Six months later chaos, turmoil and near destruction reign.

Your wife has asked the “elders” of the group to anoint her with oil and to pray for her. Aware of the power of the laying on of hands, you sternly admonish those present not to lay hands on her unless and only unless God has specifically told them to do so. Your wife is protected.

You are the leader of a retreat, and you ask a prominent leader to lead the discussion. However, you do not know the man on a first-name basis, but allow him to come and lead the Bible retreat anyway. For some reason chaos ensues, and the attendees are confused, some led to despair and apostasy.

You are interested in a very nice house in a place simply ideal for you and your family. The price is right, and the surroundings prime. You do not check out the history of the house, nor ask God about it. For some reason, disorder, chronic arguments by the family members, and division ensue. You are confused.

You buy a tract of land with a close brother in the Lord, even to the point of co-signing a note with him because he is even a fellow deacon. You fail to check out the true ownership, and neglect to ask the council of your wife. Two years later you are faced with losing your own ranch because your partner has defaulted on his note. The notes are personal liability notes, and your house is in disarray and tumult. Your loss is \$ 60,000 cash.

Ah, but the wheels of justice grind exceedingly fine...

Sooner or later, the Judge of us all comes to set things right.

Sooner or later, the innocent or not-so-innocent Babylonian alliances come home to roost.

Sooner or later, the gaping holes in our protective spiritual hedges are found by the marauding predators.

Sooner or later, our naiveté bears the fruit of confusion, our being inconsiderate welcomes chaos into our world.

Sooner or later our being simple reaps the harvest of disturbances, discord, and disarray.

Sooner or later our unholy alliances harvest shame, perplexity and tumult.

Sooner or later we do not have the mind to even ask the right questions to solve our dismay.

All too often our carelessness results in irretrievable loss and unbearable grief. Babylon doesn't care if our intentions were good or not. In fact, Babylon loves a silly Christian; the gloating is much more delightful.

Time passes, and our sensitivity to any of the above becomes cauterized. Any thoughts of danger associated with the above, if any, are now long buried. For some, there was never any awareness of danger in the first place. Often this is the case. Very seldom is the believer aware of *commission* in these Babylonian alliances. To the contrary, ***a Babylonian alliance occurs most often out of a position of being gullible, unaware, guileless, naïve, unwary, inconsiderate.*** These fall into the *omission* category, and are the very definitions of *simple*. ***Unrighteousness is contagious, righteousness is not.***

***Approving, consenting, condoning, or even being silent about an unholy situation is no insulation against the fruits of Babylonian judgment. It never protected the Pharisees, and it will not protect you.*** We are caught in the crossfire of the enemy.

The Word says Satan is an angel of light; therefore any mixing confronting us, is going to look pretty good, and generally acceptable to Christians is particular. But, of Jesus' hearers, there are two types; the ones who want to hear, and those who do not want to be told what to do. Satan did not want God telling him what to do....

We are confronted with two variables; one is the honest analyses of the effects, and secondly is that of our individual responsibility for the cause. Another word for cause is the word root. The roots of trees are underground, and as such, are hidden from view. Many are deep, growing down vertically instead of horizontally. The same is true for the root causes of our confusion. Does anyone seriously believe Satan would leave a root cause exposed for all to see easily?

August 21, 2005

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