

# True Tale of Two Cities

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There is a well-known book that tells the true tale of two cities that exist undetected by the majority of mankind. One of these cities has a loving and benevolent ruler, while the other has a cunning and wicked one. Because one of these cities has wicked values, it will eventually be destroyed. Therefore, it is important to identify the differences between these cities in order to avoid sharing the values of the one that will be destroyed.

This may seem like a simple task but, in reality, it is very difficult because everyone is born into the city of the cunning and wicked ruler without realizing, or believing, that a better one exists. Also, departing from the city of the cunning and wicked ruler is very hard because it represents everyone's concept of reality (see study: *A Fault in Reality (as we know it)*).

In the word of Almighty God (the Bible), the city of the cunning and wicked ruler is compared figuratively to a great harlot, which is a woman who does not obey the law of God pertaining to marriage between one man and one woman. Instead, she has multiple sexual relationships with many different people.

*Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me (John), saying, "Come, I will show you the judgment of **the great harlot who sits on many waters** (symbol of nations; cf. Rev. 17:15)" (Rev. 17:1; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).*

This harlot is synonymous with "the great city" who's values negatively influence everyone in the physical realm.

*And **the woman** whom you (John) saw **is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth** (Rev. 17:18; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

This great city that influences affairs on this earth is also compared to the ancient "physical" city of Babylon, which negatively impacted those under its influence.

*After these things I (John) saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. <sup>2</sup>And he cried with a loud voice, saying, "**Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a habitation of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!** <sup>3</sup>**For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury** (Rev. 18:1-3; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

Some of the language used in Revelation 18:2 is also figurative, and it includes those living in the spirit realm who are compared to "unclean and hated birds." Specifically, fallen angels (see study: *A Cage for Every Unclean Bird*). Therefore, spiritual Babylon negatively influences those in both the spirit and physical realms. In fact, elsewhere in God's word, this wicked city's values are compared to the corruption found in ancient Sodom and Egypt.

*Now when they (God's two witnesses) finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. <sup>8</sup>And their dead bodies will lie in the street of **the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified***

(Rev. 11:7-8; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Revelation 11:8 is confirming that Christ's death occurred under the influence of the "god of this age", who is Satan (2Cor. 4:3-4). As Satan exists in the spirit realm, so does the city he rules.

*These things says he who has the sharp two-edged sword: <sup>13</sup>I know your works, and where you dwell, **where Satan's throne is** (Rev. 2:12-13a; emphasis added).*

Although the ancient physical city of Babylon was not always corrupt, it gradually became that way through its rejection of God's values, as summarized by His law and commandments (cf. Dan. 2:37-38). This kingdom was conquered by the Persian King Cyrus in 539 BCE. In like manner, a future kingdom having similar characteristics will be brought down, and this will occur at the return of Jesus Christ. However, before this happens, the citizens of this spiritually corrupt system will suffer various forms of derangement, which is becoming ever more commonplace when viewing the political landscape of today's world.

*Babylon was a golden cup in the Lord's hand, that (eventually) made all the earth drunk (without self-control). The nations drank her wine (self-indulgent values); therefore **the nations are deranged** (Jer. 51:7; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

*Hear, O earth! Behold, I will certainly bring calamity on this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because **they have not heeded My words, nor My law, but rejected it** (Jer. 6:19; emphasis added).*

*The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken. Behold, **they have rejected the word of the Lord; so what wisdom do they have?** (Jer. 8:9; emphasis added).*

Therefore, anyone who trusts and obeys the word of God, must do the best they can to avoid living in accordance with the value system of "modern day Babylon".

*And I heard another voice from heaven saying, **"Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive her plagues"** (Rev. 18:4; emphasis added).*

This same warning was issued to those who lived in accordance with the value system of ancient Babylon, which extended to other nations and even permeated daily life in the city of Jerusalem.

***Depart! Depart!** Go out from there, touch no unclean thing; go out from the midst of her, be clean, **you who bear the vessels of the Lord** (Isa. 52:11).*

The apostle Paul made the same "figurative" connection between physical "vessels of the Lord", and those who trust and obey God's word.

*Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and "Let **everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity**" (cf. 1Jn. 3:4).<sup>20</sup> But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. <sup>21</sup>Therefore **if anyone cleanses himself from the latter** (repents of sin), **he will be a vessel for honor, set apart and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work** (2Tim. 2:19-21; cf. 1Thes. 4:3-4; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

In contrast to the great city of the cunning and wicked ruler, there is the city of the loving and benevolent ruler. This city had a very small beginning, but is gradually growing and will eventually overtake the city of the wicked ruler.

Another parable he (Christ) put forth to them, saying: "**The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed**, which a man took and sowed in his field, <sup>32</sup>**which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree**, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branched (Mt. 13:31-32; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

But **the wicked shall perish; and the enemies of the Lord**, like the splendor of the meadows, **shall vanish. Into smoke they shall vanish away** (Ps. 37:20; cf. Dan. 2:44; 7:26; Zeph. 1:3; emphasis added).

The city of the loving and benevolent ruler has laws and commands that guarantee peace and harmony for all its citizens. In other words, God's law and commandments are the only source for a positive outcome; no matter who you are, where you live, what ethnicity or gender you are (cf. Gal. 3:28).

Great is the Lord (Almighty), and greatly to be praised in **the city of our God, in His holy mountain**. <sup>2</sup>Beautiful in height, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion on the sides of the north, the city of the great King (Ps. 48:1-2; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Figuratively speaking, "the city of God" and "the mountain of God" are synonymous terms describing the seat of God's government. This is important when reviewing the next prophecy because it confirms that the rulership of the loving and benevolent king will surpass all previous governments (mountains/hills) that have negatively influenced affairs on this earth.

Now **it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains**, and shall be exalted above the hills; **and all nations shall flow to it**. <sup>3</sup>Many people shall come and say, "Come, and

let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For **out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem**. <sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations, and shall rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore (Isa. 2:2-4; emphasis added).

In Isaiah 2:3, "Zion" and "Jerusalem" are names that are applied equally to New Jerusalem because everything that previously existed in the physical realm will be dissolved (Isa. 34:1-4; 2Pet. 3:11-12).

Then I, John, saw **the holy city, New Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband (Rev. 21:2; emphasis added).

And he (an angel) carried me (John) away in the Spirit to **a great and high mountain**, and showed me **the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God** (Rev. 21:10; Ed. notes in parentheses).

But you (repentant sinners) have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, **the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels** (Heb. 12:22; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Therefore, anyone who trusts and obeys every word of God will be a citizen in the city ruled by a loving and benevolent king (Mt. 4:4). This king will eventually defeat the city of the cunning and wicked ruler (cf. Gen. 3:1).

Then I (John) saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And he who sat on him was called faithful and true, and in righteousness

he judges and make war. <sup>12</sup>His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except himself. <sup>13</sup>He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called The Word of God (cf. Jn. 1:1). <sup>14</sup>And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean (cf. Rev. 19:8b), followed him on white horses. <sup>15</sup>Now **out of his mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it he should strike the nations.** And he himself will rule the with a rod of iron. **He himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.** <sup>16</sup>And he has on his robe and on his thigh a name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS** (Rev. 19:11-16; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

city of the wicked and cunning king. However, at the end of the day, it is still the choice of every individual (Dt. 30:19).

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Thankfully, it is never too late to examine which city we are actually living in and then make the necessary changes to avoid the scenario described in Revelation 19:11-16. However this is predicated on Almighty God "revealing" that our citizenship is currently in the city of the cunning and wicked ruler.

*No one can come to me (Christ) **unless the Father who sent me draws him**; and I will raise him up at the last day (Jn. 6:44; cf. 6:65; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

*But he (Christ) answered and said, "Every plant which my heavenly Father has not planted, will be uprooted (Mt. 15:13; Ed. note in parentheses).*

**Blessed is the man whom You choose, and cause to approach You, that he may dwell in Your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, of Your holy temple (Ps. 65. 4; cf. Mt. 16:17; emphasis added).**

Hopefully, Almighty God will continue to reveal the values of His city to more and more people; so they have an opportunity to depart from the