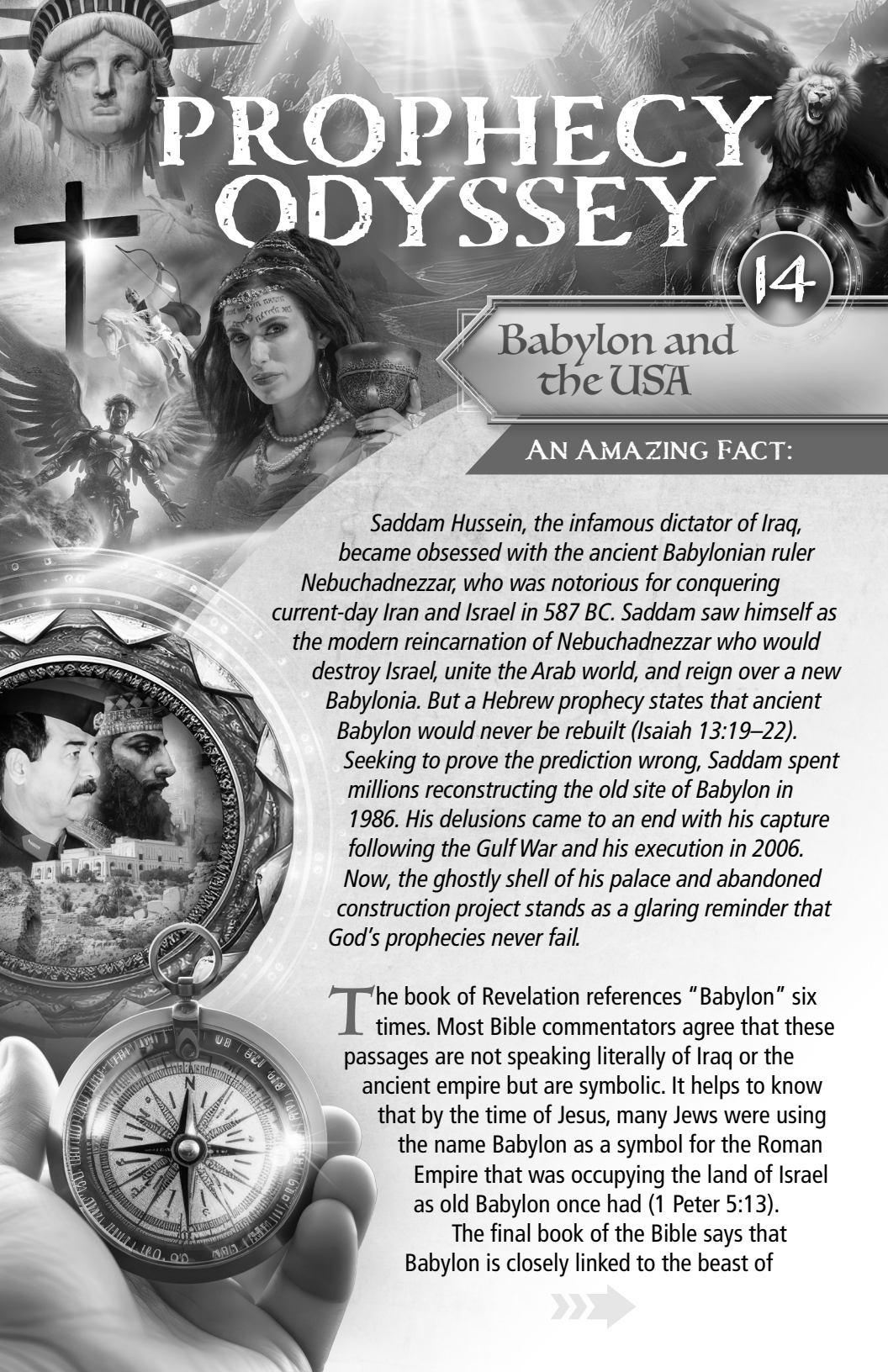




# PROPHECY ODYSSEY

14

## Babylon and the USA

### AN AMAZING FACT:

*Saddam Hussein, the infamous dictator of Iraq, became obsessed with the ancient Babylonian ruler Nebuchadnezzar, who was notorious for conquering current-day Iran and Israel in 587 BC. Saddam saw himself as the modern reincarnation of Nebuchadnezzar who would destroy Israel, unite the Arab world, and reign over a new Babylonia. But a Hebrew prophecy states that ancient Babylon would never be rebuilt (Isaiah 13:19–22). Seeking to prove the prediction wrong, Saddam spent millions reconstructing the old site of Babylon in 1986. His delusions came to an end with his capture following the Gulf War and his execution in 2006. Now, the ghostly shell of his palace and abandoned construction project stands as a glaring reminder that God's prophecies never fail.*

**T**he book of Revelation references “Babylon” six times. Most Bible commentators agree that these passages are not speaking literally of Iraq or the ancient empire but are symbolic. It helps to know that by the time of Jesus, many Jews were using the name Babylon as a symbol for the Roman Empire that was occupying the land of Israel as old Babylon once had (1 Peter 5:13).

The final book of the Bible says that Babylon is closely linked to the beast of



Revelation 13 and the world's last superpower. Understanding the identity of this final Babylon is also key to understanding last-day prophecies ...



*When you see a blank, use your Bible to look up the missing word and fill it in.*



## What is the second angel's message in Revelation 14?

**REVELATION 14:8**

*And another angel followed, saying,*

*"\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."*

NOTE: Revelation 14 contains an urgent three-point message that must reach the entire world before Jesus' second coming (Revelation 14:14, 15). In this lesson, we will focus on the second point of that message. God's indictment of Babylon is given because she has made all nations drunk with her intoxicating wine. This lesson addresses some very straight, and perhaps disturbing, messages to both Catholic and Protestant believers. Remember that the second angel's message is from Jesus, the One we all love. Open your heart to His truth, for His aim is to save and bless you.



## How does God symbolize Babylon in Revelation 17?

**REVELATION 17:18**

*The \_\_\_\_\_ whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.*

NOTE: In Bible prophecy, a woman symbolizes a church. Thus, a pure woman represents God's true church, as seen in Revelation 12. An unfaithful woman represents a church that has departed from Scripture. We can be certain who this fallen woman is because Revelation 17:18 says she was ruling when Revelation was written. History tells us it was *pagan* Rome (Luke 2:1) that eventually turned over its authority, capital city, and power to *papal* Rome.



### What other evidence from Revelation 17 points to papal Rome as spiritual Babylon?

- A. She is guilty of blasphemy (v. 3).
- B. She is dressed in purple and scarlet (v. 4).
- C. She is called the Mother (v. 5).
- D. She has harlot daughters who also are fallen (v. 5).
- E. She persecuted and martyred the saints (v. 6).
- F. She sits upon seven mountains (v. 9).
- G. She ruled over the kings of the earth (v. 18).

NOTE: Papal Rome fits every description. Its headquarters is in Rome, “the city of seven hills.” Scarlet is the color of cardinals’ robes, and the pope often wears the royal color of purple at important functions. The Roman Catholic Church freely admits that during the Middle Ages, she persecuted the saints and ruled over the kings of the earth. God’s symbolism fits perfectly—a fallen mother church whose fallen daughters protested and, thus, began to be called Protestants.

Notice this quote from Father James A. O’Brien: “That observance [of Sunday instead of Saturday] remains as a reminder of the Mother Church from which the non-Catholic sects broke away” (*The Faith of Millions*, Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., 1974, p. 401).



### How do the beasts of Revelation 13 and 17 compare?

#### REVELATION 13:1

*I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven \_\_\_\_\_ and ten \_\_\_\_\_, ... and on his heads a \_\_\_\_\_ name.*

#### REVELATION 17:3

*I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of \_\_\_\_\_, having seven \_\_\_\_\_ and ten \_\_\_\_\_.*

NOTE: The beast of Revelation 13:1–10 and the beast of Revelation 17 are the same. Revelation 17 points out the church-state coalition, with the church (the fallen woman) riding and controlling the states (the beast). Revelation 13 also portrays two beasts involved in forcing others to worship. The first beast is the same power as the “mother of harlots” described in Revelation 17.



## What is the meaning and origin of the word “Babylon”?

**GENESIS 11:4, 6, 7, 9** *Let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens. ... And the LORD said, ... Let Us go down and there \_\_\_\_\_ their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech. ... Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD \_\_\_\_\_ the language of all the earth.*

NOTE: The terms “Babel” and “Babylon” both mean “confusion.” The name originated at the Tower of Babel, built by defiant pagans after the Flood. They hoped to build it so high that no future floodwaters could cover it. But the Lord confused their languages, which created such chaos that the project was abandoned. Babylon later arose to be an idolatrous world kingdom that persecuted God’s people. In Revelation, the term “Babylon” signifies a counterfeit religious kingdom that is an enemy of God’s spiritual Israel.



## How does God describe Babylon when urging His people to leave?

**REVELATION 18:2, 4** *He cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is \_\_\_\_\_, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit. ... \_\_\_\_\_ of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.”*

NOTE: In Revelation 18:2, God repeats that Babylon has fallen and has become the home of devils and evil spirits. He warns that her sins are so offensive that Babylon will be severely judged and destroyed. God's people must come out quickly, or else be destroyed with Babylon's plagues.



## Jesus accuses Babylon of making the world drunk with her wine—what does this represent?

**REVELATION 17:4** *Having in her hand a golden cup full of*

NOTE: The "new wine" that Jesus offered the disciples at the Last Supper was a symbol of His blood and the pure gospel teaching (Matthew 26:27–29). Babylon's wine cup is full of intoxicating lies (Proverbs 12:22)—false teachings that make people spiritually drunk. Here is a partial list of her beguiling lies:

- A. Ten Commandments not binding (see Lesson 4).
- B. Sunday sacredness (see Lessons 11, 15).
- C. Secret rapture (see Lesson 1).
- D. Immortality of the soul (see Lesson 9).
- E. Eternal torment in hell (see Lesson 8).
- F. Confessing your sins to a priest (see Lesson 11).
- G. Counterfeit baptisms (see Lesson 6).
- H. A confusion of tongues.

The sad truth is that once Babylon's messages are accepted, a person becomes spiritually drunk and virtually unable to understand what the Bible really says, because these false doctrines dull a person's ability to comprehend the truth.



## What power will support the beast in the end time?

**REVELATION 13:11** *I saw another \_\_\_\_\_ coming up out of the earth.*

NOTE: Brace yourself! This second beast of Revelation 13 symbolizes the United States of America. Consider the evidence:

**A. When it arose.** God described this power as rising up about the same time the first beast goes into captivity and receives its deadly wound (Revelation 13:10, 11). The United States rose about the time the papacy's power was broken at the end of the 1,260 years, which was in 1798. America declared its independence in 1776, voted in the Constitution in 1787, adopted the Bill of Rights in 1791, and was widely recognized as a world power by 1798.

**B. Where it arose: from the earth.** As we've studied before, the waters from which most kingdoms (beasts) arose represent a densely populated area (Revelation 17:15). The earth represents the opposite. The United States fits this point perfectly because it was established on a sparsely populated continent.



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According to the prophecy, how does America transform and mutate over time?

**REVELATION 13:11**

*He had two horns like a \_\_\_\_\_ and spoke like a \_\_\_\_\_.*

NOTE: In prophecy, a lamb represents Jesus and a horn represents power. The two great horns represent the Protestant principles upon which America was founded—civil and religious liberty. The Founding Fathers fled Europe to escape religious and political persecution. They came to establish a government without a king and religion without a pope. Speaking as a dragon means that the United States, under the influence of Satan, will abandon its original principles of freedom by passing laws that force people to worship contrary to conscience. Violators will face economic sanctions (Revelation 13:16, 17) and ultimately death (v. 15).



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How does the USA support the first antichrist beast of Revelation 13?

**REVELATION 13:12**

*He ... causes the earth and those who dwell in it to \_\_\_\_\_ the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.*

NOTE: The United States will lead the nations of the world in forcing allegiance to the papal antichrist. Whom will you worship and obey? Will it be Christ, your Creator and Redeemer, or the antichrist? Every soul on the earth will finally worship one or the other. Satan's approach will appear to be deeply spiritual, accompanied by incredible miracles (Revelation 13:13, 14), which will deceive billions (v. 3).



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What three powers will unite against God's people in the end time?

**REVELATION 16:13** *I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the \_\_\_\_\_, out of the mouth of the \_\_\_\_\_, and out of the mouth of the \_\_\_\_\_.*

NOTE: The "dragon" is Satan, who once worked through pagan Rome (Revelation 12:3–9). The "beast" is papal Rome, described in Revelation 13:1–10. And the "false prophet" is apostate Protestantism in America, the beast of Revelation 13:11–17 that has two horns like a lamb but speaks like a dragon. Forming a counterfeit trinity, these powers will unite in their work of spreading deception and building a confederacy against God's people. "The battle of that great day of God Almighty" is the same event as the dragon making war with the woman's offspring in Revelation 12:17.



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What effective methods will this end-time coalition utilize?

**REVELATION 16:14** *They are spirits of demons, performing \_\_\_\_\_.*

**REVELATION 13:13, 14** *He performs great \_\_\_\_\_, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he \_\_\_\_\_ those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do.*

NOTE: This end-time coalition will work mighty miracles through demons, deceiving virtually the entire world (Revelation 13:3). Revelation 18:23 says, "By your sorcery all the nations were deceived." This is the same power that does great signs, even making fire fall from the sky (13:13, 14). (Compare with the description of the false prophet in 19:20.)



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What will prevent God's end-time people from being deceived?

**ISAIAH 8:20**

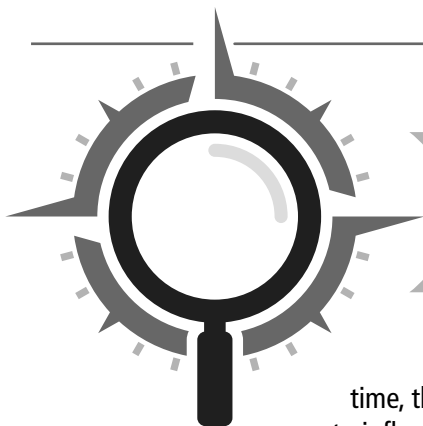
*To the \_\_\_\_\_ and to the \_\_\_\_\_! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*

NOTE: God's people will need to test everything by the Bible. They will not be deceived, because they will test the miracles and teachings to determine whether they come from spirits of devils or from the Lord.

## » YOUR RESPONSE

Today, God is calling you out of Babylon and into the safety of His remnant church. He says that those who remain in Babylon will partake of her sins and receive her plagues. In Noah's day, only eight people entered the ark God had provided for their salvation. All others perished. Today, He provides His remnant church as an ark of safety, and millions are entering. Jesus is inviting you to "come into the ark, you and all your household" (Genesis 7:1). Will you say "yes" to His invitation today?

**ANSWER:** \_\_\_\_\_



## FURTHER STUDY

### How powerful are the USA and Rome?

Revelation 13 points out that in the end time, the papacy and the United States will team up to influence the entire world to worship the beast. Are these entities powerful enough to accomplish this?

The papacy is by far the strongest religiopolitical power in the world. Nearly every leading country has an ambassador or state representative at the Vatican. The pope is revered and welcomed by virtually all countries, and the current pope has visited more than 50 with the goal of unifying the religious world under papal leadership. Regarding the pontiff's power to influence world affairs, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said, "Everything which took place in Eastern Europe [leading up to the collapse of communism] would have been impossible without the pope's efforts and the enormous role, including the political role, which he played in the world arena."<sup>1</sup>

Since the end of the Cold War, only one nation has been unrivaled in its military power and global influence. With the dissolving of the Soviet Union in 1991, the United States became "the planet's sole remaining superpower."<sup>2</sup> And, despite Russia's and China's recent attempts to "push their weight around," America still dominates the globe, remaining the only country that "can decisively involve itself in any region of the world."<sup>3</sup>

Bible prophecy predicts with clarity that the United States and the papacy will join hands, and world events clearly show that the coalition is being formed.

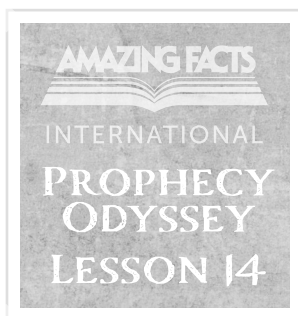
1. Mikhail Gorbachev, "Pope had a key role in freeing Eastern Europe," *Tampa Bay Times*, March 9, 1992.

2. Charles Krauthammer, "The UN Obsession," *Time*, May 9, 1994.

3. Taylor McNeil, "Why the United States Is the Only Superpower," *TuftsNow*, November 21, 2019.



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