

From *Babylon* to Jerusalem

By Deborah Kellogg

There is an important question that we all must ask ourselves today, are we headed in the direction of Babylon or Jerusalem?

Babylon, with its foundation in the building of the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11:1-9), was a picture of man in his own strength, zeal and ingenuity, trying to do something great that would bring a desired result but apart from the God of the Bible. It was man's attempt to build something new and better, even a new and better world, through his own efforts, trusting in his own ability and greatness. Jerusalem, however, is a different place. It is a picture of the throne of God, the place where God is worshiped and His presence dwells, the place where the King of King reigns. It symbolizes man who in true humility puts his dependence and trust in God, his strength, purpose and guidance coming from Him. He is zealous to see God's desires and plans fulfilled. He prays and acts fervently to that end.

Babylon, is also a picture of counterfeit unity. In the building of the Tower of Babel, people were being brought together for a common purpose and working

together diligently towards a desired and seemingly noble end, but it was of their own making. It was inspired by man, a great idea but not in unity with God's plans and purposes. The motivation behind it based in pride, and will end up bringing glory to man and not to God. Jerusalem, however, is much different. It represents God and men dwelling together in unity and oneness. Looking to and being inspired by God, then becoming unified because of this. This is true unity. It is what the Bible talks about as coming into the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. It will cause people to come together, abiding in God's presence, with His plans and desires.

In Revelation 17-18, it speaks of Babylon as a woman arrayed in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, holding a golden cup. She appeared pleasing, inviting and seemed to represent something that would bring about good. It goes onto to say that she made the kings and the people of the world drunk with the wine of her fornication. They drank from her, became intoxicated by her ways and became influenced by her desires. She glorified herself and lived in luxury. Turning towards Babylon can often appear like the right way to go, a way that looks like it brings peace, a great and seemingly good way to solve the problems in the world, our community or that we face personally. **But if these solutions are inspired by man, they will come into direct opposition to God and all that He stands for.**

God is calling the Jewish people as well as the Church to come out from under the influence of Babylon and turn towards

Jerusalem. Pray for the removal of the stones of Babylon that are blocking our way towards Jerusalem. Pray for an awakening in the Church that they may take their place alongside Israel in fulfilling God's plans for their aliyah, restoration, and true peace.

“Oh, Lord save your people, the remnant of Israel!”

Jer 31:7

This year has been called by many Christian leaders as the year of open doors. May many doors open in the hearts of Israel and the Church to hear God calling to them at this critical hour.

May we share the same fervent desire to see the fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy, as the Lord says, **“I am zealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with great zeal...I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy; My house shall be built in it says the Lord of Hosts... with great fervor I am zealous for her...I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem.** Jerusalem will be called the city of Truth, the Mountain of the Lord of Hosts, the Holy Mountain... Behold, I will save My people from the east and from the west, I will bring them back and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be My people and I will be their God, in truth and righteousness. Let your hands be strong, you who have been hearing in these days... Yes, many strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem and pray before the Lord... In those days ten men from every language of the nations will grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'” (Zech. 8)

