

Will Babylon Be Rebuilt?

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Introduction

Clarence Larkin believed that Babylon would be rebuilt. He lists the following reasons in his book, **The Book of Revelation**.

- 1.) Babylon is referred to as “That Great City” in **Revelation 14 (KJV):8** And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.
- 2.) Revelation 18 begins in verse 1 as, “And after these things...” He then concludes that all of Revelation, chapter 18, must refer then to the destruction of another entity than was described in Revelation, chapter 17. So he believed chapter 17 described the destruction of the “GREAT WHORE -- Mystical Babylon”, and Revelation, chapter 18 described the destruction of the rebuilt city of Babylon.
- 3.) Much of the prophecy in Isaiah, chapters 13 and 14, and Jeremiah, chapters 50 and 51, has not been fulfilled yet. In his estimation, this would require Babylon to be rebuilt.
- 4.) The “Day of the Lord” is mentioned in Isaiah 13:9-10, and this refers to the time just before the millennium, as we read in **Isaiah 13 (KJV):9** Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. 10 For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.
- 5.) Judgment will come in one hour, as we read in **Revelation 18 (KJV):10** Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.
And in **Revelation 18 (KJV):19** And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.
- 6.) With violence Babylon will be thrown down, as in **Revelation 18 (KJV):21** And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus

with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

7.) The fact that in her will be found the blood of the Prophets, and Holy Apostles and Saints (verses 20, 24), shows that the Papal Church is not in view in this eighteenth chapter, for there was no Papal Church in Old Testament times, or in the days of the Apostles. It is the ancient as well as the revived City of Babylon that is meant, as we read in **Revelation 18 (KJV):20** Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

And in **Revelation 18 (KJV):24** And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

8.) The vision of the Ephah of Commerce mentioned in Zechariah 5:5-11 occurred many years after the fall of Babylon. A house is to be built in Shinar, as we read in **Zechariah 5 (KJV):10** Then said I to the angel that talked with me, Whither do these bear the ephah? 11 And he said unto me, To build it an house in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base.

This requires the city of Babylon to be rebuilt.

Now let us examine each of his reasons, one by one.

An Answer to the First Reason

The first reason again is that Babylon is referred to as “That Great City” in **Revelation 14 (KJV):8** And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

In reference to this scripture, on page 113 of **The Book of Revelation** by Clarence Larkin he says, “Here is proof that the City of Babylon is to be rebuilt. For further proof see chapter eighteen.” He is referring to Revelation, chapter 18.

Now let us read Revelation 14:8 in context with Revelation, chapter 18, as in **Revelation 18 (KJV):1** And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. 2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. 3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. 4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. 5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. 6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. 7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

Larkin believed that Revelation, chapter 18 referred to the literal city of Babylon, while chapter 17 of Revelation referred to mystical Babylon or the Babylonian system of worship

that was personified in the Roman Catholic Church.

Notice that Babylon is referred to as a woman, a “queen” in verse 7 above. Feminine pronouns are used throughout this chapter in reference to Babylon.

Now in verse 2 above, we read that Babylon “the great” is fallen.

And we read of “that great city Babylon” in verse 10, as we continue to read in

Revelation 18 (KJV):8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. 9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, 10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

And we read of “that great city” in verse 16, as we continue to read in **Revelation 18 (KJV):**11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: 12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, 13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men. 14 And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all. 15 The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, 16 And saying, Alas, alas that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!

And we read of “this great city” in verse 18, and “that great city” in verse 19, as we continue to read in **Revelation 18 (KJV):**17 For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, 18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! 19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.

And again we read of “that great city Babylon” in verse 21, as we continue to read in **Revelation 18 (KJV):**20 Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her. 21 And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. 22 And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; 23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. 24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

Now let us compare what we have read in Revelation, chapter 18 with Revelation, chapter 17, as we begin in **Revelation 17 (KJV):**1 And there came one of the seven angels

which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: 2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. 3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: 5 And upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth. 6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

In verse 1 the angel is showing John “the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters”, and in verse 2, she is the one “With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication”. But this same judgment is spoken of in verse 8 of chapter 18, “for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. 9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning”.

In verse 4 of Revelation, chapter 17 the woman “was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication”. And in verse 11 of Revelation, chapter 18, “the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more”, that is, the merchandise that is mentioned in verse 12 of Revelation, chapter 18, the “merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet”.

Then in verse 6 of Revelation, chapter 17, the woman was “drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus”. And this agrees with verse 24 of Revelation, chapter 18, where we read that “in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth”.

Then we continue to read in **Revelation 17 (KJV):** 7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. 8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. 9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. 10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. 11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition. 12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. 13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. 14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. 15 And he saith unto

me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. 16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. 17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. 18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

Now in verse 5 of Revelation, chapter 17, we read that, “And upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth.” Then in verse 18 of the same chapter, “the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.”

So the “whore” in Revelation, chapter 17, is the same as the “great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.” And in the time of the apostle John, that “great city” was Rome. And this city will be burned with fire in verse 16 of Revelation, chapter 17. And we read of the same in **Revelation 18 (KJV):9** And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, 10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

The city of Rome will be so engulfed in the Babylonian system in the time of her judgment that for all intents and purposes, it is “Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth.” Clarence Larkin does see Rome and Babylon In One Religious System on page 127 of the pdf of **The Book of Revelation** by Clarence Larkin.

An Answer to the Second Reason

Now as to his second reason why Babylon must be rebuilt, that is, that Revelation 18 begins in verse 1 as, “And after these things...”, and therefore all of Revelation, chapter 18, must refer then to the destruction of another entity than was described in Revelation, chapter 17, which was the destruction of the “GREAT WHORE -- Mystical Babylon”. We saw that in Revelation 17:18 that the woman was the great city “which reigneth over the kings of the earth”. So when we read in **Revelation 18 (KJV):1** And after these things..., it is simply stating that John was being shown another vision of kings and merchants bewailing the destruction of the city, which is the whore mentioned in **Revelation 17 (KJV):16** And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

An Answer to the Third Reason

Now as to his third reason, that much of the prophecy in Isaiah, chapters 13 and 14, and Jeremiah, chapter 50 and 51, has not been fulfilled yet, and that in his estimation, this would require Babylon to be rebuilt, it is possible that there is yet to be fulfilled some of the prophecy in these chapters. Larkin notes correctly on page 132 of the pdf, **The Book of Revelation** by Clarence Larkin, that “Certainly it has never been true that “neither shall the Arabian pitch tent

there, neither shall the shepherds make their fold there.” Isa. 13:20. Nor can it be said of Babylon – “Her cities are a desolation, a dry land, and a wilderness, a land wherein no man dwelleth, neither doth any son of man pass thereby.” Jer. 51:43 Nor can it be said – “And they shall not take of thee a stone for a corner, nor a stone for foundations, but thou shalt be desolate forever, saith the Lord” (Jer. 51:26), for many towns and cities have been built from the ruins of Babylon, among them Four Capital Cities, Seleucia, built by the Greeks; Ctesiphon, by the Parthians; Al Maiden, by the Persians; and Kufa, by the Caliphs. Hillah was entirely constructed from the debris, and even in the houses of Bagdad, Babylonian stamped bricks may be frequently noticed.”

He refers in context to **Isaiah 13 (KJV):19** And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. 20 It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there.

And in context to **Jeremiah 51 (KJV):42** The sea is come up upon Babylon: she is covered with the multitude of the waves thereof. 43 Her cities are a desolation, a dry land, and a wilderness, a land wherein no man dwelleth, neither doth any son of man pass thereby.

And in context to **Jeremiah 51 (KJV):24** And I will render unto Babylon and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, saith the Lord. 25 Behold, I am against thee, O destroying mountain, saith the Lord, which destroyest all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a burnt mountain. 26 And they shall not take of thee a stone for a corner, nor a stone for foundations; but thou shalt be desolate for ever, saith the Lord.

There are tours of the ruins of Babylon on the internet. An attempt was made by Saddam Hussein, who served as the fifth president of Iraq from 16 July 1979 until 9 April 2003, to rebuild Babylon. Although some restoration and rebuilding has been done, the city is still in ruins, and with massive American destruction during the Iraq 2003 invasion, the legendary city of Babylon today has almost vanished. So to completely fulfill the prophecy in Isaiah and in Jeremiah, it is not necessary to rebuild Babylon.

An Answer to the Fourth Reason

Then as to his fourth reason, that the “Day of the Lord” is mentioned in Isaiah 13:9-10, and this refers to the time just before the millennium, as we read in **Isaiah 13 (KJV):9** Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. 10 For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

The verses which precede these are as we read in **Isaiah 13 (KJV):1** The burden of Babylon, which Isaiah the son of Amoz did see. 2 Lift ye up a banner upon the high mountain, exalt the voice unto them, shake the hand, that they may go into the gates of the nobles. 3 I have commanded my sanctified ones, I have also called my mighty ones for mine anger, even them that rejoice in my highness. 4 The noise of a multitude in the mountains, like as of a great people; a tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together: the Lord of hosts

mustereth the host of the battle. 5 They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, even the Lord, and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole land. 6 Howl ye; for the day of the Lord is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. 7 Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: 8 And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames.

Then we continue to read in context in **Isaiah 13 (KJV)**:9 Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. 10 For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. 11 And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. 12 I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir. 13 Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the Lord of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger. 14 And it shall be as the chased roe, and as a sheep that no man taketh up: they shall every man turn to his own people, and flee every one into his own land. 15 Every one that is found shall be thrust through; and every one that is joined unto them shall fall by the sword. 16 Their children also shall be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be spoiled, and their wives ravished. 17 Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, which shall not regard silver; and as for gold, they shall not delight in it. 18 Their bows also shall dash the young men to pieces; and they shall have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eyes shall not spare children. 19 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. 20 It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there. 21 But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and owls shall dwell there, and satyrs shall dance there. 22 And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in their pleasant palaces: and her time is near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged.

In verse 17 above, Isaiah prophesied over one hundred years before that the Medes would come against Babylon and overcome them. But Isaiah's prophecy does look forward to a time when God will "punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity" in verse 11 above. Babylon is not inhabited now and there still may be some further judgment on Babylon. But this does not mean that Babylon must be rebuilt for the prophecy to be fulfilled. The "Day of the Lord" may be the time when the rest of the prophecy concerning Babylon will be fulfilled.

An Answer to the Fifth and Sixth Reasons

Now the fifth and sixth reasons why Babylon must be rebuilt really go together. So we will look at both together.

As to the fifth reason, he says that the judgment on Babylon is to come in one hour, as we read in **Revelation 18 (KJV):10** Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

And in **Revelation 18 (KJV):19** And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.

And as to the sixth reason, he notes that with violence Babylon will be thrown down, as in **Revelation 18 (KJV):21** And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

On page 132 of the pdf of **The Book of Revelation** by Clarence Larkin, he says, “In the description of the destruction of the city of Babylon given in Rev. 18, we read that her judgment will come in one hour (vs. 10), and that in one hour she shall be made desolate (vs. 19), and as an illustration of the suddenness and completeness of her destruction, a mighty angel took up a stone like a Great Millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying – “Thus with Violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down and shall be found no more at all.” Rev. 18:21.

We are also told in the same chapter that she is to be destroyed by FIRE (Rev. 18:8, 9, 18), and this is in exact harmony with the words of Isa. 13:19.

“And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees’ excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah;” and the Prophet Jeremiah makes the same statement. Jer. 50:40.”

Larkin refers in context to **Jeremiah 50 (KJV):35** A sword is upon the Chaldeans, saith the Lord, and upon the inhabitants of Babylon, and upon her princes, and upon her wise men. 36 A sword is upon the liars; and they shall dote: a sword is upon her mighty men; and they shall be dismayed. 37 A sword is upon their horses, and upon their chariots, and upon all the mingled people that are in the midst of her; and they shall become as women: a sword is upon her treasures; and they shall be robbed. 38 A drought is upon her waters; and they shall be dried up: for it is the land of graven images, and they are mad upon their idols. 39 Therefore the wild beasts of the desert with the wild beasts of the islands shall dwell there, and the owls shall dwell therein: and it shall be no more inhabited forever; neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation. 40 As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour cities thereof, saith the Lord; so shall no man abide there, neither shall any son of man dwell therein.

Jeremiah prophesied from 627 B.C. to 582 B.C. approximately. This would have been during the time when Nebuchadnezzar took Israel into captivity starting in 606 B.C.

According to Jeremiah’s prophecy, there does seem to be more that will happen to Babylon in order to fulfill the prophecy. But it still does not necessitate the rebuilding of Babylon for some has already come to pass.

An Answer to the Seventh Reason

Then for reason number 7 he is saying that the blood of prophets, and Holy Apostles shows that the Papal Church is not in view. He refers to **Revelation 18 (KJV):20** Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

On page 133 of the pdf of **The Book of Revelation** by Clarence Larkin, he says, “The fact that in her will be found the blood of the Prophets, and Holy Apostles and Saints (verses 20, 24), shows that the Papal Church is not in view in this eighteenth chapter, for there was no Papal Church in Old Testament times, or in the days of the Apostles. It is the ancient as well as the revived City of Babylon that is meant. For in Old Testament days the blood of the Prophets was shed by the “Babylonish System” of false religions as visualized in the City of Babylon. So that it can truthfully be said that the blood of Prophets and Apostles of all ages has been shed by her.”

He refers to **Revelation 18 (KJV):20** Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

And to **Revelation 18 (KJV):24** And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

On page 101 of the pdf of **The Book of Revelation** by Clarence Larkin, he says, “For while the “Scarlet Clothed Woman” is not seen until chapter 17, it is clear that she rides the “Beast” from the beginning of the “Week,” for she represents the “PAPAL CHURCH” that comes into power after the true Church has been caught out.”

But if the “PAPAL CHURCH” is the “Scarlet Clothed Woman” in Revelation, chapter 17, on whose forehead is written “Mystery, Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth” in Revelation 17:5, then the “PAPAL CHURCH” is the “Babylonish System” of false religions as visualized in the City of Babylon. That is, it is not the rebuilt City of Babylon, but it is Rome which the woman represents, as in **Revelation 17 (KJV):18** And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

And so we read as in **Revelation 18 (KJV):24** And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

An Answer to the Eighth Reason

Now as for reason 8, he is saying, that the vision of the “Ephah of Commerce” mentioned in Zechariah 5:5-11 occurred many years after the fall of Babylon. A house is to be built in Shinar, as we read in **Zechariah 5 (KJV):10** Then said I to the angel that talked with me, Whither do these bear the ephah? 11 And he said unto me, To build it an house in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base.

This requires the city of Babylon to be rebuilt, as he says on page 133 of the pdf of **The Book of Revelation** by Clarence Larkin, “As this vision of the Prophet occurred many years after the Fall of ancient Babylon, the HOUSE that is to be built for this “Ephah,” or the “WOMAN” who was transported in it, must be built in some future City of Babylon.”

In order to understand these verses, we must read them in context, as in **Zechariah 5 (KJV):5** Then the angel that talked with me went forth, and said unto me, Lift up now thine eyes, and see what is this that goeth forth. 6 And I said, What is it? And he said, This is an ephah that goeth forth. He said moreover, This is their resemblance through all the earth. 7 And, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead: and this is a woman that sitteth in the midst of the ephah. 8 And he said, This is wickedness. And he cast it into the midst of the ephah; and he cast

the weight of lead upon the mouth thereof. 9 Then lifted I up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came out two women, and the wind was in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork: and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heaven. 10 Then said I to the angel that talked with me, Whither do these bear the ephah? 11 And he said unto me, To build it an house in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base.

Now no mention of the “Ephah of Commerce” is mentioned in the Scriptures. While the ephah is a dry measure in the Bible, it is most often used in reference to the offerings. For example, we read in **Leviticus 5 (KJV):11** But if he be not able to bring two turtledoves, or two young pigeons, then he that sinned shall bring for his offering the tenth part of an ephah of fine flour for a sin offering; he shall put no oil upon it, neither shall he put any frankincense thereon: for it is a sin offering.

Then also in **Leviticus 6 (KJV):20** This is the offering of Aaron and of his sons, which they shall offer unto the Lord in the day when he is anointed; the tenth part of an ephah of fine flour for a meat offering perpetual, half of it in the morning, and half thereof at night.

Again we read in **Exodus 16 (KJV):32** And Moses said, This is the thing which the Lord commandeth, Fill an omer of it to be kept for your generations; that they may see the bread wherewith I have fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you forth from the land of Egypt. 33 And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the Lord, to be kept for your generations. 34 As the Lord commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept. 35 And the children of Israel did eat manna forty years, until they came to a land inhabited; they did eat manna, until they came unto the borders of the land of Canaan. 36 Now an omer is the tenth part of an ephah.

An ephah in the Biblical sense was about a cubic foot in space. While an ephah was the measure of dry goods like flour, a bath was a measure of liquid, as in **1 Kings 7 (KJV):38** Then made he ten lavers of brass: one laver contained forty baths: and every laver was four cubits: and upon every one of the ten bases one laver.

And in **2 Chronicles 2 (KJV):10** And, behold, I will give to thy servants, the hewers that cut timber, twenty thousand measures of beaten wheat, and twenty thousand measures of barley, and twenty thousand baths of wine, and twenty thousand baths of oil.

And in **Ezekiel 45 (KJV):11** The ephah and the bath shall be of one measure, that the bath may contain the tenth part of an homer, and the ephah the tenth part of an homer: the measure thereof shall be after the homer.

Now Larkin says on page 133 of the pdf of **The Book of Revelation** by Clarence Larkin, that, “The “EPHAH” which the Prophet saw go forth, is the largest of Hebrew dry measures, and is often used as a symbol of Commerce, and its “resemblance,” or going forth through all the earth, doubtless refers to UNIVERSAL COMMERCIALISM.”

But as we saw in the previous verse in Ezekiel 45:11, “the ephah” is “the tenth part of an homer”. The “homer” would then be the “largest of Hebrew dry measures”, and not the ephah as Larkin says.

Now in the **Keil and Delitzsch Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament**, concerning Zechariah 5:11, we read, “The land in which the woman of sin carried away out of the holy land is permanently to dwell, is the land of Shinar. This name is not to be identified

with Babel, so as to support the conclusion that it refers to a fresh removal of the people of Israel into exile; but according to Genesis 10:10 and Genesis 11:2, Shinar is the land in which Nimrod founded the first empire, and where the human race built the tower of Babel which was to reach to the sky. The name is not to be taken geographically here as an epithet applied to Mesopotamia, but is a notional or real definition, which affirms that the ungodliness carried away out of the sphere of the people of God will have its permanent settlement in the sphere of the imperial power that is hostile to God. The double vision of this chapter, therefore, shows the separation of the wicked from the congregation of the Lord, and their banishment into and concentration within the ungodly kingdom of the world. This distinction and separation commenced with the coming of the Messiah, and runs through all the ages of the spread and development of the Christian church, until at the time of the end they will come more and more into outward manifestation; and the evil, having been sifted out by the judicial power of God and His Spirit, will form itself into a Babel of the last days, as Ezekiel 38 and 39 clearly show, and attempt a last struggle with the kingdom of God, in which it will be overcome and destroyed by the last judgment.”

Then in **Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible** concerning Zechariah 5:11, we read, “And he said unto me, To build it an house in the land of Shinar,.... That is, in the province of Babylon, as the Targum paraphrases it; for Babel, or Babylon, was in the land of Shinar, Genesis 10:10 whither the Jews were carried captive, Daniel 1:2 Isaiah 11:11, and the bearing of the "ephah" thither may denote the cause of their captivity, the measure of sins filled up by them: though this some understand of the like injuries, oppressions, and vexations, brought upon the Chaldeans in the land of Shinar, which they before exercised towards and upon the Jews; and others of the rejection of wicked men from among the Jews, by Ezra and Nehemiah, transporting them as it were back to Babylon again: others of the dispersion of the Jews by the Romans, who chiefly settled after that in the eastern parts of the world; though indeed the whole world was a land of Shinar, or "shaking out" (n) unto them; they being shook out of their own land, and scattered about everywhere; which dispersion has been long and lasting, notorious and conspicuous; and they are now settled upon their own base, established upon their former principles of legality and self-righteousness, and rejection of the true Messiah; or rather this may be understood of the transfer of the ephah, or whole measure of iniquity, into mystical Babylon. The antichristian church of Rome is called Babylon; she is represented as a sink of sin, a mystery of iniquity, Revelation 17:5 and a house being built for this man of sin, antichrist, denotes the continuance of him; and being established on its own base, shows the false foundation on which the church of Rome is built, and her carnal security. So Cocceius, by the "two women", understands the two kingdoms or powers of antichrist, the civil and ecclesiastical powers; which support the man of sin, lift him up, and give him the highest place in the church, and fix his seat where idolatry and persecution reign, as formerly did in Babylon, in the land of Shinar. Though the whole may very well be applied to the last and everlasting punishment of sin and sinners, when the whole measure is filled up. The end of sin and sinners is death and everlasting destruction. The ephah, and the woman in it, are carried, not upwards to heaven, nor to the New Jerusalem, but to the land of Shinar, the land of shaking; to hell, where are utter darkness, weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth; where a house is built for them, which denotes their continuance there; and which, being established on its own base,

shows their punishment shall forever remain; their worm never dies; their fire is not quenched; the smoke of it ascends for ever and ever; their destruction is an everlasting destruction.”

Now we read again in **Zechariah 5 (KJV):5** Then the angel that talked with me went forth, and said unto me, Lift up now thine eyes, and see what is this that goeth forth. 6 And I said, What is it? And he said, This is an ephah that goeth forth. He said moreover, This is their resemblance through all the earth.

The last part of verse 6 in Hebrew is literally the following, reading from right to left:

וַיֹּאמֶר זֹאת עֵינַם בְּכָל-הָאָרֶץ:
earth the all in eyes (is) this said he and

The word **זֹאת** (dzot - this) in Hebrew is feminine, and points to the word ephah, which in Hebrew is **אֵיפָה** (ephah) which is also feminine. So the implication is that this is her eyes, the eyes of the ephah, in all the earth.

Now we continue to read in **Zechariah 5 (KJV):7** And, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead: and this is a woman that sitteth in the midst of the ephah. 8 And he said, This is wickedness. And he cast it into the midst of the ephah; and he cast the weight of lead upon the mouth thereof.

The word “This” in verse 8 is again **זֹאת** (dzot - this) in Hebrew which is feminine. Now note that it is the angel who says “This is wickedness” in verse 8.

Now we continue to read in **Zechariah 5 (KJV):9** Then lifted I up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came out two women, and the wind was in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork: and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heaven. 10 Then said I to the angel that talked with me, Whither do these bear the ephah? 11 And he said unto me, To build it an house in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base.

So the stork-winged women build her, the woman that sits in the ephah, a house in the land of Shinar.

Conclusion

This scripture is a mystery. No such house has as yet been built in the land of Shinar. Zechariah prophesied between 538 B.C. and 509 B.C. So this prophecy could have been a warning to the Jews in Babylon to go home to Israel, and not to stay in Babylon, since Cyrus had given them permission to return to Israel. Things would not get better in the land of Shinar.

But this prophecy could also relate to Mystery, Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth, which is certainly Rome, and which seems to match the type, or similitude mentioned in Zechariah 5:5-11. And so there is a warning to us as well, as we read in **Revelation 18 (KJV):4** And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

This being the case, it does not seem necessary for Babylon to be rebuilt. God can fulfill the rest of the prophecy without rebuilding Babylon.

