

Ezekiel 16

March 24, 2024.

Last Week.

Last time I was here we reviewed the big picture of where we are in our study of the last days. A handout was given listing the significant events which occurred during the last days. Many of those events we have connected to Old Testament prophecies of the actual event. We did not finish our review of that list, but I encourage you to try to be familiar with these events and their relationship to Old Testament prophecies. It has been my experience that being aware of prophetic themes that are repeated over and over in the Old Testament prophets; and connecting those prophetic themes to actual events which occurred during the transition period make the reading of the Old Testament prophets much more interesting and understandable.

Overview of Ezekiel.

As we continue to study the book of Ezekiel, I hope you will keep in mind the overall outline of the book of Ezekiel. Chapter one is a prophecy of the gospel going into all the world in the first century from Pentecost until the 70 AD destruction of Jerusalem. Chapter 2 and 3 are about Ezekiel's commissioning. Chapters 4 through 24 are all giving a prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem in the Roman/Jewish war between 67AD and 70AD. Chapters 25 through 39 are all about the destruction of the Gentile nations. Chapters 40 through 48 are a prophetic description of the church and kingdom of God.

Ezekiel Parallels Revelation.

In our study of Ezekiel, we are attempting to show that Ezekiel runs a close parallel to the book of Revelation. Because of this, some see Ezekiel as the seedbed for the book of Revelation. Both books follow the same basic structure and both are prophetic of the same period of time. The prophecies in Revelation follow the same chronological order as the prophecies in Ezekiel. See the handout that shows these parallels.

Continue in Ezekiel 16.

We have been studying under the broad heading of the "last days". Under that heading we are studying the book of Ezekiel, and we are in the middle of chapter 16, which is in the middle of the section which is a prophecy of the 70AD destruction of Jerusalem. Ezekiel 16 portrays old Jerusalem as a harlot. We have been attempting to show that the harlot in Ezekiel 16 is the same city as the harlot in Revelation 17 and 18. We will go back to where we were in our comparison of the harlot in Ezekiel 16 to the harlot in Revelation 17 & 18.

Babylon In Revelation is Pre 70AD Jerusalem.

We know the harlot in Ezekiel 16 is old Jerusalem because this is plainly stated, but the harlot in Revelation 17 & 18 is called Babylon. I have confidence that Babylon in Revelation is a code name for old Jerusalem. Your view of Revelation whether a past or future fulfillment hinges on the identity of Babylon. There are numerous reasons I believe Babylon is pre 70AD Jerusalem, but I don't want to go

back over all those things we have previously covered. I gave you a handout on that. However, please be reminded of these points. Chapters 6 through 18 of Revelation are about the destruction of a city. That city is identified in chapter 11 as the city, "where also our Lord was crucified". Also, please be reminded that also in chapter 11 the temple is still standing, which also gives Revelation a pre 70AD date. In addition, the city that replaces the city that is being destroyed is called the New Jerusalem. It is logical that the city being destroyed is the old Jerusalem. The expression "Babylon is fallen" in Revelation 14 and 18 is the climax, the conclusion, and the result of the prophecies in chapters 6 through 18. There is no evidence of switching from the city "where also our Lord was crucified", to ancient Rome or some mythical city out in the future.

Unless we do the work of becoming familiar with the scripture, it is simply a matter of who we chose to believe. We are admonished in scripture to "buy the truth". Part of buying the truth is the work of becoming familiar. Please don't just accept what I say.

More Evidence That Babylon is Old Jerusalem.

Blood of Prophets and Saints is Found in Babylon.

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

Since we have gone this far in offering evidence that Babylon of Revelation is old Jerusalem, we would like to give two more pieces of evidence on this point. The first point has to do with the fact that Jerusalem had been the chief persecutor of the prophets and of righteous men. She had been that persecutor for centuries. To lay the background to Jerusalem being the persecutor of prophets and saints, I would like to begin reading in Revelation 18 verse 20. Keep in mind that chapters 17 and 18 up to this point are about the harlot which is called Babylon. In verses 20 through 23 there is great rejoicing over the fact that the city has fallen. As we read notice the expression "no more at all" is found five times and "any more" is found one time. We all know what "no more" means, and "at all" means there are no exceptions. We have discussed whether the sacrificial system of the old covenant would be established again. It seems to be emphasized in this passage that old Jerusalem would never again be the authorized place of worshiping God. The place of worship is the New Jerusalem.

In verse 24 of Revelation 18 we are given an addition piece of information about this harlot, this Babylon that has fallen. *And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.* We have seen movies of the Romans persecuting Christians. Because of these movies, when we hear about persecution we think of ancient Rome. It appears to me that Rome was not particularly concerned about Christians during the early part of the Apostolic period. They didn't mind one more religion. Rome under Nero did persecute Christians, but this began not long before the end. Those persecutions occurred between 64 and 66AD. It was actually old Jerusalem that had persecuted prophets from many years. It was the Jews that felt threatened by Christians. The Jews used the Romans to help carry out their persecution of Christians.

Who do the scriptures say was the persecutor of the prophets and also persecutor of saints. Read Matthew 23:34-37. Jesus is the speaker in these verses. He speaks of persecutions that they will carry out in the near future, and He tells them that the blood from Abel to Zacharias would be avenged on them. It is very significant that in verse 36 he tells them that this will occur during their generation. He

goes on in verse 37 to identify Jerusalem as the killer of the prophets. If Jesus designated Jerusalem as the killer of the prophets, why would the blood of the prophets and of the saints and of all that were slain upon the earth be found in ancient Rome or in any other city whether real or imaginary? If Jesus said all the blood from Abel to Zacharius would fall on Old Jerusalem, why would the blood of the prophets and of the saints and of all that were slain upon the earth be found in ancient Rome or in any other city whether real or imaginary? Babylon in Revelation is old Jerusalem.

The Marriage of the Lamb Occurs Shortly After the Destruction of Babylon.

Read Revelation 19:1-7. These verses record the great rejoicing there was in heaven over the fact that Babylon has fallen. Verse 2 records that in the destruction of the harlot God had avenged the blood of His servants. In Revelation 6:10 those that were slain for the word of God ask how long before God will avenge their blood, and they were told to rest for a "little season". A little season would not allow for two or three thousand years. If the destruction of the harlot, avenged the blood of the martyrs, then the destruction of the harlot had to occur in the first century, which further confirms that the harlot is old Jerusalem.

The reading of Revelation 19:1-7 confirms to us that the marriage of the Lamb comes soon after the destruction of the harlot. It would be awkward to place the marriage of the Lamb otherwise. Comparing the marriage in Revelation 19 to the same marriage in the parable recorded in Matthew 22:1-14 supports the marriage coming soon after the destruction of the harlot. The city that is burned in Matthew 22:7 is old Jerusalem. The marriage is shortly after old Jerusalem is burned. This comparison also adds evidence that the harlot in Revelation 17 and 18 is old Jerusalem.

A similar comparison can be made in the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25:1-13.