

APOSTOLIC INSTITUTE OF MINISTRY

MINISTERIAL TRAINING COURSE

Babylon the Great

Lesson One

READ: Gen. 10:8-10; Rev. 2:12-13; 17:1-18; 18:1-24; 19:1-3

THINK: The worship of the Babylonian trinity is the oldest religion still practiced, predating God's promise to Abraham by about 400 years, and predating the Mosaic Law by about 1000 years. In its history, it has had three headquarters cities. It occupied the first, Babylon, from its inception two generations after the flood, through the fall of the Babylonian Empire to the Medes and the Persians in 539 BC (Daniel 5:17-31), until the conquest of the Medo-Persian Empire by Alexander the Great, c. 334-330 BC.

It occupied its second headquarters city, Pergamos (now known as Berghama, Turkey), from that time until c. AD 312-320. At that time, the Babylonian religion moved itself to Rome, where it is still situated today.

Summarized, Babylon was approximately 2000 years in its namesake city of Babylon, approximately 650 years in Pergamos, and approximately 1670 years in Rome. This means that the Babylonian religion is over 4300 years old.

Babylon, religion and Empire, was founded by Nimrod, the great grandson of Noah. Together with his father, Cush, and his mother, Semiramis, he laid the foundation for the most evil religious system the world has ever known. God referred to the home of Babylon as Satan's seat and where Satan dwelleth (Rev. 2:12-13).

WRITE: What, in your opinion, was the motive of the Babylonian religious leaders in moving from Babylon to Pergamos, and from Pergamos to Rome? Why do you think it would be unnecessary for Babylon to relocate to another city in our day?

APOSTOLIC INSTITUTE OF MINISTRY

MINISTERIAL TRAINING COURSE

Babylon the Great

Lesson Two

READ: Gen. 10:1-8; 11:1-9

THINK: Noah's son Ham was the father of most of the peoples of Africa. He had four sons. The eldest was Cush (Hebrew: Ethiopia), followed by Mizraim (Hebrew: Egypt), Phut (non-Hebrew origin: Libya), and Canaan (former name of the area where Israel is now located).

Cush had six sons: Seba (non-Hebrew origin: Ethiopia), Havilah (Hebrew: Circular), Sabtah (meaning unknown), Raamah (Hebrew: Thunder), Sabtechah (meaning unknown), and Nimrod (Hebrew: He is in rebellion).

The sons of Cush settled primarily in Africa, with some descendants settling in Palestine and Mesopotamia (the area of modern day Iraq). Cush and Nimrod lived in Mesopotamia, and they are the ones who built the infamous Tower of Babel. Originally, Babel (Hebrew: Bav El) meant Gate of God. After the confounding of the languages, however, the word Bavel came to mean *confusion*. It is still the word for confusion in modern Hebrew. Our English word *babble* has the same origin. It has been suggested that our word *chaos* is also taken from ancient Babylon, being a corruption of the name Cush. (See I Cor. 14:33)

WRITE: Of the sons of Ham and Cush whose nations we are able to trace (Mizraim = Egypt, Phut = Libya, Seba = Ethiopia, etc.), did any turn out to be righteous? (For your answer, check I Kings 10:1-10; Acts 8:26-39; also Lesson 7 of the class Christianity Revisited. Keep in mind that Sheba and Abyssinia are also names for Ethiopia.)

APOSTOLIC INSTITUTE OF MINISTRY

MINISTERIAL TRAINING COURSE

Babylon the Great

Lesson Three

READ: Gen. 10:8-10; I Chron. 1:10; Eze. 8:12-14

THINK: Nimrod was the son of Cush and Semiramis. His Chaldean name was Tammuz, the exact meaning of which is unknown. Nimrod is Hebrew for "he is in rebellion." This was an appropriate name for him, because from the moment that he "began to be mighty on the earth," he rebelled against God. Nimrod was called a "mighty hunter before the Lord." But animals were not the prey of Nimrod. He was hunting for much larger game. His quarry was the souls of men.

Nimrod's mother is also referred to in ancient literature as his wife, suggesting an incestuous relationship, which may well be the basis for such myths as Oedipus.

When Nimrod grew up, he evidently left Babylon for a time, because his mother informed the Empire that he had died. An official period of mourning was declared, and all of Babylon wept for him. Upon his return, his mother informed the Empire of his "resurrection" from the dead." Babylon celebrated his resurrection with evergreen trees (symbols of renewed life) decorated with silver and gold (Jer. 10:3-4).

Nimrod provided Babylon with three holidays: First, his birthday, December 25th. Next, the day of his "death," a Friday. It was this day the women of Israel were observing in Ezekiel 8:14. And finally, the day of his "resurrection." All three events are still celebrated in a somewhat altered form today.

WRITE: What, in your opinion, did Satan hope to accomplish by creating this counterfeit of Christianity? How successful do you think he has been in attaining his goal?

APOSTOLIC INSTITUTE OF MINISTRY

MINISTERIAL TRAINING COURSE

Babylon the Great

Lesson Four

READ: Judges 2:13; 10:6; I Sam. 7:3-4; 12:10; 31:8-10; I Kings 11:5,33; II Kings 23:13; Jer. 7:18; 44:17-19;25

THINK: Semiramis, the wife of Cush and mother of Nimrod, has been known by many names and titles. Among her names are Ashtaroth, Ashtoreth, Asherah, and Astarte.

Nimrod was her firstborn, but apparently Cush had at least one other wife, since in the birth order of the sons of Cush, Nimrod was not the oldest. When Semiramis found herself pregnant with Nimrod, she and Cush had not yet had relations. Rather than admit that she had been with another man, she made the rather startling announcement that she was still a virgin, and that the pregnancy was miraculous.

Upon the birth of her son, she further declared that she, her husband, and her son together were god (singular). They were a "trinity," that is, three persons forming one god. She gave herself certain titles: Goddess of Liberty and Queen of Heaven. As the Goddess of Liberty, her "liberty" meant that she was free to use her body as she pleased (which she had already proven by becoming pregnant by someone other than her husband).

This sexual freedom, as well as her "miraculous" conception of Nimrod, caused her to be associated with fertility. A day was set aside to honor her, and it was celebrated with symbols of fertility, such as rabbits and eggs. This day was called Ish Tar, which is Chaldean for The Woman (in the sense of The Prostitute). Ish Tar became a popular name for Babylonian women. The only Jewish queen of the Babylonian Empire, originally known as Hadassah (Hebrew for Myrtle), was renamed Ish Tar (in English, Esther) by her husband, the king of Babylon. In modern English, Ish Tar is Easter, and the holiday is still celebrated with rabbits and eggs. (Note that according to scripture, Jesus rose from the dead at Passover, not Easter. The one reference to Easter found in some New Testaments is a mistranslation. It should say Passover. Further, Jesus died on a Wednesday afternoon, the day before a High Sabbath, not the weekly Sabbath. Good Friday was the commemoration of Nimrod's death, and was adopted by the church. They ignored

the fact that Jesus could not die on Friday and rise Sunday morning and still have been in the tomb three days and three nights as He said He would.)

WRITE: By counterfeiting a true virgin mother, Mary, with a false one, Semiramis, what do you think Satan was hoping to accomplish? Was he successful?

APOSTOLIC INSTITUTE OF MINISTRY

MINISTERIAL TRAINING COURSE

Babylon the Great

Lesson Five

READ: Symbols of Babylon (immediately follows this lesson)

THINK: Babylon invented the concept of one god in three persons. Polytheism (the worship of many gods) was still taboo at the time. It had only been a few generations since the flood, and everyone still knew that there was only one God. Therefore, the Babylonian trio proclaimed that they *were* that one God. They used many symbols and examples to try to explain the three-in-one concept. A triangle was the most common of the symbols used. It has three sides (or corners), yet is one figure. Often, the triangle was pictured with the all-seeing eye of Nimrod inside.

As people moved out to other parts of the world, the doctrines of Babylon were lost to some. And yet, certain elements, including a trinity, remained in several religious systems. Hinduism, in its ancient form, recognized a triune godhead. He was represented as three heads on one body, known as Eko Deva Trimurtti, that is, One God, Three Forms. In Japan, Buddha has, in the past, been similarly depicted, and was known as San Pao Fuh.

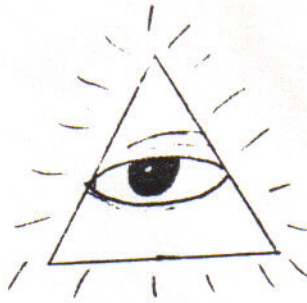
Christianity could not, at first, have worshiped the trinity in its original form of Father, Son and Virgin Mother. But a simple alteration to Father, Son and Holy Ghost made the trinitarian concept acceptable. So much so, that by the fourth century, Christianity was willing to accept two "trinities": The Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Ghost), and the Holy Family (Father, Son and Virgin Mother, that is, Joseph, Jesus and Mary). Although the Protestants later abandoned the worship of the original Babylonian trinity (the Holy Family), they retained the pseudo-Christian hybrid of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost as three persons in one God.

WRITE: Are the symbols of Babylon still in use today? If so, where have you seen some of them used?

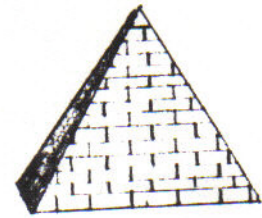
THE SYMBOLS OF BABYLON



A woman with a cup



A triangle with the All-Seeing eye of Nimrod



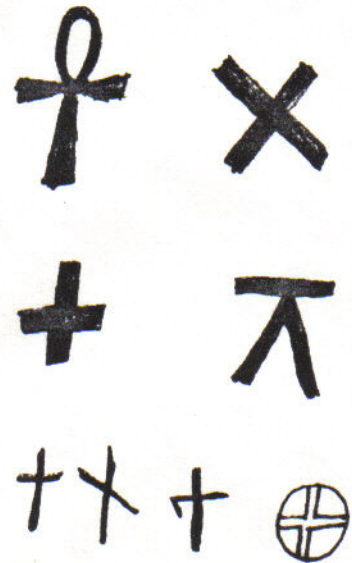
A pyramid



A woman with a spiked crown



A mother and child
(This picture from Ancient Babylon).



Various crosses-
derived from the ancient
letter "Tav", first letter
of the name "Tammuz"

APOSTOLIC INSTITUTE OF MINISTRY

MINISTERIAL TRAINING COURSE


Babylon the Great

Lesson Six

READ:

THINK: Many of the teachings of Babylon infiltrated the pagan religions of other nations. We have already seen that elements of trinitarianism can be found in ancient Hinduism and Buddhism, as well as modern Christianity.

The Madonna and Child concept also found a place in many of the world's religions, most notably Catholicism's preoccupation with Mary and the infant Jesus. It is common Catholic practice to pray to the "Baby Jesus" as though he were an entity separate from the adult Jesus.

In Egypt, Semiramis and the infant Nimrod were worshiped as Isis and Osiris (also called Horus). The all-seeing eye of Nimrod was known as the eye of Horus in Egypt, and was used as a symbol of the medical profession. The Egyptian form of the symbol survives today as the  symbol used to mean prescription.

In India, we see the mother called Isi, and her husband, Iswara, is often represented as an infant at her breast, again confirming the incestuous relationship that apparently existed between Semiramis and Nimrod. In Asia, the mother and child were called Cybele and Deoius. In Rome, they were Fortuna and Jupiter-puer, that is, the boy Jupiter.

In Greece, Semiramis was called Ceres, the Great Mother, and was pictured with a baby at her breast, or as Irene, goddess of peace, with the boy Plutus in her arms. Even in Tibet, China, and Japan, the Madonna has been found. In China, she is Shing Moo, the Holy Mother, pictured with a child in her arms, and an aura of glory, or a halo, around her.

The goddess Diana, patroness of ancient Ephesus, was quite different from the goddess Diana as she was worshiped in other places. Ordinarily, Diana was characterized as a virgin. But in Ephesus, she was a mother, the mother of the gods, and wore a crown that strongly resembled the Tower of Babel. She was also a goddess of fertility, with a large number of breasts. She is very plainly Semiramis.

WRITE: What does the appearance of Babylonian deities in widely separated areas tell us about the influence of the Babylonian religion in our world?

APOSTOLIC INSTITUTE OF MINISTRY

MINISTERIAL TRAINING COURSE

Babylon the Great

Lesson Seven

READ: II Thess. 2:7; Rev. 17:5-7

THINK: The trademark of the Babylonian religion has always been mystery. Any teaching of Babylon which did not make sense, or could not be understood, was explained away as a mystery. Mystery itself is not evil; Christianity also has mysteries. The difference is that Christianity's mysteries are revealed to the believer; Babylon's remain hidden. (For example, the mystery of godliness, that is, the teaching of Oneness, is explained in the very same verse that calls it a mystery: I Timothy 3:16.)

In Rev. 17:5, Mystery is included in the name of the woman who represents Babylon. (Note: Some translations, rather than including the word mystery in the woman's name, use the word as an adjective to describe the name. Since punctuation was not a part of the original text, just how the word was used in this verse is open to interpretation. However, given the fact that mystery was a Babylonian trademark, it is this instructor's belief that Mystery was part of the name of the woman.)

In modern day Babylon, that is, the Roman church, mystery is still the catch-all for unbiblical and inexplicable teachings. The Catholic rosary prayers are divided into five joyful mysteries, five sorrowful mysteries, and five glorious mysteries. Doctrines such as the trinity and transubstantiation are said to be mysteries. And in true Babylonian tradition, the church offers no clues to understanding these mysteries.

In II Thessalonians 2:7, we saw that the working of the antichrist was referred to as the mystery of iniquity. And why not? Has there ever been a religious system that was more anti Christ than Babylon? It's only fitting that this man, who will be a manifestation of pure evil, will follow in the mysterious footsteps of Babylon.

WRITE: Until the last few decades, Catholic churches were always dark inside, lit only by candles and a few stained glass windows. There was usually a faint, lingering smell of frankincense and myrrh. Silence was the rule, and even the slightest cough seemed to be amplified a thousand times. The combination of these things produced an air of mystery in the church. Certain parts of the mass were even referred to as secrets. In view of John 3:19, what would the preoccupation with dark, mysterious church buildings seem to indicate?

APOSTOLIC INSTITUTE OF MINISTRY

MINISTERIAL TRAINING COURSE

Babylon the Great

Lesson Eight

READ: The Symbols of Babylon (following Lesson Five)

THINK: In studying the Babylonian religion, the student may be tempted to think of Babylon as something distant and ancient, far removed from the American way of life. In truth, however, Babylon is an integral part of America.

Our founding fathers were members of various lodges, brotherhoods, and secret societies, many of which have roots in Babylon, and contain elements of pagan worship. Is it any wonder, then, that Babylon became a part of this nation? How much a part? Statues of Semiramis can be found all over the country. Look at "The Symbols of Babylon." Notice that one of the symbols of Babylon was a woman with a spiked crown. Does the crown look familiar? Of course: It's the Statue of Liberty. And what was one of Semiramis' titles? The Goddess of Liberty! Coincidence? Not at all. On top of the Capitol building in Washington, DC is a statue of a woman. What is the statue called? The Goddess of Liberty. Her likeness was also found regularly on many of our coins. (Remember the quarters and half dollars with the woman Liberty on them?)

Cush, in his Roman form of Mercury, was also on our dimes for a time. And what about Nimrod? In case you haven't picked up on it yet, take a one dollar bill, and compare the back of it to your handout. There are three Babylonian symbols: The pyramid, the triangle, and the all-seeing eye of Nimrod.

The Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor is more than just a statue of Semiramis. This statue is an open mockery of Jesus. Look at the comparisons: She wears a crown, the largest in the world. But Jesus is the King of kings. She holds a torch, and her full name is Liberty Enlightening The World. Compare John 1:1-9. Jesus is the Light of the world, not Semiramis. She is standing on broken chains, implying that she sets the captives free. We know from an earlier lesson that Satan does not set his captives free (Isaiah 14:17), and she, as his agent, would hardly do more. Again, it is Jesus who sets the captives free (Lk. 4:18-21). In plain terms, the Statue of Liberty is a fraud, and her "Liberty" is really only bondage to sin. Babylon has never offered anything more than bondage.

WRITE: Final exam for Babylon the Great follows this lesson.

APOSTOLIC INSTITUTE OF MINISTRY

MINISTERIAL TRAINING COURSE

Babylon the Great
Examination BTG-1

1. (T or F) The oldest religion still practiced is Judaism, which predates Babylon by 600 years.
2. The Babylonian religion has occupied three cities. One was Babylon. What were the other two?
3. Why did God say that Satan lived in Pergamos? (Rev. 2:12-13)
4. What did Bav El **originally** mean?
5. What did Nimrod hunt? (Gen. 10:9)
6. With what symbol of renewed life did Babylon celebrate the "resurrection" of Nimrod?
7. What three "Christian" holidays are of Babylonian origin?
8. On what date was Nimrod born?
9. Give two titles (not names) of Semiramis?
10. (T or F) Easter, Esther and Ish Tar all have the same meaning?

11. What does Ish Tar mean?
12. How did Semiramis explain her pregnancy?
13. Why was a trinity more acceptable to Babylon than a belief in three gods?
14. Where is the world's most famous statue of Semiramis?
15. Which part of Babylon's trinity used to be on a dime?
16. How was Ish Tar celebrated?
17. What was the "trademark" of Babylon?
18. How old (approximately) is the Babylonian religion?
19. What was the relationship between Noah and Nimrod?
20. Cush, Seba, and Sheba are all names for the same ancient nation. What do we call it today?

Student's name

Date