

# “No Turning Around”

## For Believers



“Let there be Light” – Gen 1:3

### EXTRACT

For us to understand the Word of God, we must first acknowledge and believe whole heartedly that Satan is the thief – he is the father of lies who only comes to steal, kill and to destroy. BUT God gives life and that we might have it more abundantly! If you believe it is God who killed your spouse, son, daughter or allows it or is responsible for all your pain and sickness, you first need to make it right with God. Otherwise, you will not even believe anything else God is saying in his word!

Joh 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

When Adam & Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, the truth is that God sent them out of Eden to protect them from not eating from the tree of life (to keep the way of the tree of life Gen 3:24c). So God forbade them to enter the Garden of Eden.

***There is no return back for them, for their own good!***

After this incident, the children of Israel went into exile for 430 years and God called Moses to bring them out of Egypt into the promised land. At the Red Sea, the people started to mourn and fear came upon them and rebellion against Moses and God. Moses spoke to the people – “*Fear not and stand firm and see today the salvation of the Lord. For all the enemies your see today, you shall never see again!*”

*And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again (Ex 14:13). And the Lord said to Moses; The LORD said to Moses, “**Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward** (Ex 14:15).*

When Moses and the children of Israel obeyed God's commandment, they walked through the Red Sea on dry land and God Almighty defeated all their enemies. But God forbade them to turn back to Egypt forever.

***‘Do not go to Egypt.’*** Know for a certainty that I have warned you this day Jer 42:19b ESV

Next, we are dealing with Babylon where God's Word warned us, first to come out and secondly not to return back to it. The prophets describe Babylon as a city of **pride** and **idolatry**. Isaiah portraying Babylon as a woman, the queen of kingdoms.

*The LORD says to **Babylon**, "Sit in silence and darkness; no more will they call you the queen of nations! Isa 47:5*

Isaiah also referred to Babylon as the "**lover of pleasure**" (Isa 47:8). When we combine pleasure with pride and rebellion you end up with idolatry and henceforth the failure to recognize that the kingship of God does exist. After pride goes destruction (Ps 16:18) and God's Word is clear that He will destroy Babylon.

*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. Rev 14:8*

Jesus came and warned the people himself referring to the days of Lot before the Son of man is revealed. "**Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot**".

***Likewise** also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; 29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. 30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. 31 **In that day**, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. 32 **Remember Lot's wife**. Luke 17:28*

Jesus knew that many others would be just as attached to "**things**" as Lot's wife was. They would linger and then look back with longing heart upon those things which are forbidden. The message is clear my dear friend – come out of Babylon – come out of Sodom and Gomorrah – remember the days of Lot – "Do you remember Lot's wife?"

*Come out and I forbid you to Return – Do not Return back to your fallen stage into the Garden of Eden and eat from the tree of life – do not go back to your sinful nature, to Egypt and do not look back to all the falsely pleasures and temptations of Babylon!*

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# NO TURNING AROUND FOR THE BELIEVER

## FORBIDDEN TO ENTER?

There is something in the Bible from the beginning to the end that God constantly reminds us in one way or another not to turn around, look back or to enter into some places.

On the surface, it might look as if it is because of God's anger or wrath. But once we discover the true nature of God our perceptions change and we find ourselves a loving Father who desires are only to protect and to bless us – all for our own sake. I wish and pray that you can make one big mindset and believe today what God's Word is telling us – word for word and letter for letter! God is talking in John Chapter 10 about thieves and robbers and He is trying to make a point that Jesus is the door we need to walk through and enter to be saved!

All that ever came before me are **thieves and robbers**: but the sheep did not hear them. 9 **I am the door**: by me if any man **enter in**, he **shall be saved**, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. John 10:8 -9

Then He continues in saying the reason for His coming – so that you may have life, not just a normal life, but have it more abundantly.

I am come that they **might have life**, and that they might have **it more abundantly**. 11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. 12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. John 10:10b-12

As the opening statement of Jesus begins with – "*to be aware of thieves and robbers*", Jesus goes on saying : "*they come only to steal, kill and to destroy!*"

The **thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy**: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly. John 10:10



Immediately Jesus referred back to Himself and says that *“I am the one who gives life in abundance”*. From the beginning the devil was a murderer, a liar – actually, he is the father of all lies and deaths. It might sound as if you already know these scriptures, but you need to meditate on it and let it sink in your mind and start believing it. As many believers blame God when somebody dies and puts the blame on Him. So many relationships with God have been shipwrecked because we believe the lie. Satan is the one who kills and murders and not God and you need to start believing this truth today. This is what the scriptures are telling us.

Ye are of your father the devil, and the **lusts of your father** ye will do. He was a **murderer from the beginning**, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a **lie**, he speaketh of his own: for he is a **liar, and the father of it**. Joh 8:44

Why is this important and what does this have to do with “not turning back” or “forbidden to enter”? Well, if you do not believe that God is good and His intention is to give life to you and that you might have it more abundantly, then you will not believe whatever God is telling you next! *Take a few minutes – meditate on the above text and confess if you had any misperceptions of God or if you might still have any unhandled issues with you Heavenly Father.*

Now, let’s move on and start from the beginning in Genesis. The devil, the same one Jesus referred to in John, called in Genesis the **serpent** came to the woman, Eve. In the Garden of Eden, the devil chooses to come in the form of a serpent. **Why?** Gen 3 said because the serpent was more subtle than any other animal. Had Satan come to Eve in any other form, she might have recognized him. Still, today the devil is not coming with long horns on his head with a fork. No, he is still coming in the form of a serpent which is more subtle than any other beast.

Now the **serpent was more subtil than any beast** of the field which the LORD God had made. Gen 3:1a



Just look how subtle this snake came to Eve. He did not confront her, nor did he force her (*he knew by doing so he will lose her forever*). Also remember that Lucifer, before the fall and before he became Satan, was the most beautiful cherub, perfectly made from the beginning of creation, until iniquity was found in him and started to do evil.

“Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD: “You were the signet of **perfection, full of wisdom** and **perfect in beauty**. Ezek 28:12

You lived in Eden, the garden of God, and wore gems of every kind: rubies and diamonds; topaz, beryl, carnelian, and jasper; sapphires, emeralds, and garnets. You had ornaments of gold. They were made for you on the day you were created. 14 I put a terrifying angel there to guard you. You lived on my holy mountain and walked among sparkling gems. 15 Your conduct was **perfect** from the day you were **created until you began to do evil**. Ezek 28:13

So, Satan came in a most charming and subtle way to Eve and only asked a question, questioning what God already said (*can you now see where and why our opening statement – he just wants to implant a seed of unbelief and doubt in your mind*). And he said: *“Did God really say that you shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”*

And he said unto the woman, **Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?** Gen 3:1b

Yes, of course God did say that! But doubt came in Eve’s mind and when she saw that the tree was **GOOD** for food, it was **pleasant** to the eye and a **desire** also came and then she ate! She did not eat because the tree was bad – she ate because it was good. The lust of the flesh is still working in the same ways – we eat, because it looks good and pleasant and we desire to feed the flesh and then we eat and sin comes in.

And when the woman saw that the tree was **good for food**, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, **and did eat**, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. Gen 3:6



I believe this was not just a once off temptation, I believe Satan had come several times to Eve until the seed he had planted in her mind started to grow until it bore fruit and then she ate! What came next is also a surprise; God only asked them two question before man could answer Him:

**“Who told you?”** But before Adam or Eve could answer Him, He immediately followed up with the next question: **“Have you eaten?”**

And he said, **Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?** Gen 3:11

So, who told you it was God who kills your spouse, child, mother or father. Who told you it was God who allowed it? Who told you that you have cancer and it is going to kill you? As nobody took responsibility for this, and because of God's love – YES not because of his wrath or anger (*so many of us believed and or were told*), God send man out of the Garden of Eden.

**So he drove out the man** Gen 3:24a

He placed two Cherubims in front of the gates forbidden them (Adam & Eve) not to return back to the Garden of Eden. **Why?**

Gen 3:24b he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims,

I do not know about you, but as a child, we were told God was angry. Hence, with that image and perception we grow up and thought whenever we do wrong, God's anger and wrath will come upon us. *Who told you?* Somebody told you things about God and the devil and you grow up believing many lies.

**Who changed the truth of God into a lie** Rom 1:25a

send them **strong delusion**, that they **should believe a lie**: 2Th 2:11b

The truth is that God wants to protect Adam & Eve? Protect them from what? From the tree of life? **Why?**

**To keep the way of the tree of life. Gen 3:24c**



Had Adam & Eve eaten from the tree of life they and all their descendants would have lived under the curse without any atonement to be made for mankind. Adam & Eve would live in sin forever and ever. They would wish to die but could not die. Can you imagine disease comes upon you but you never die, you cannot die because you ate from the tree of life.

**So God forbade them to enter the Garden of Eden. There is no returning back for them, for their own good!!**

## THE RED SEA

After Adam & Eve had sinned in the Garden of Eden, God still ministered to them and believe it or not - also to Cain and Abel (*read carefully for yourself and you shall see how God intervened with them*). Because of the nature of mankind's sins, God decided to start over with Noah and destroyed the earth with the flood. Then God's new generation, Israel went into slavery. This was all part of the fulfillment of a prophecy given by God to Abram (before his name changed to Abraham). God made a covenant with Abram and told him that his seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs.

And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy **seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs**, and **shall serve them**; and **they shall afflict** them **four hundred years**; Gen 15:13

And these nations, God told Abram shall be judged by Him and they will come out of slavery after 430 years (*Exodus 12:40 Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years.*)

And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they **come out with great substance**. Gen 15:14



Abraham's only son with Sarah, Isaac, had a son called Jacob and the youngest son of Jacob, Joseph, is sold into slavery by his brothers and raised up to be 2nd in command next to Pharaoh in Egypt. The Israelites traveled to Egypt for food during a famine and ended up staying and living there. They prospered in wealth and population even more than the Egyptians. This means God must have blessed them, and He wouldn't have blessed them if He wasn't pleased with them. Can you see God's heart here? Notwithstanding the sinful nature of mankind, God's heart is that of giving life abundantly.

After Joseph and all his generation had died, a new Egyptian king came to power who never knew Joseph. Due to the Israelites' prosperity, the Egyptians enslaved them because they feared the Israelites would grow to be more powerful and overtake the Egyptians in their own land.

And Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation. And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them." That's why, when the Israelites "increased abundantly" and grew to be "exceeding mighty" that the Pharaoh came to *fear* the Israelite foreigners who were teeming within his own national borders." Ex 1:1-7

Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we: Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land." Ex 1:8

For some reason, although the people of Israel were "more and mightier," the more-powerful Israelites allowed themselves to be made into slaves. It wasn't a matter of the stronger oppressing the weaker; it was a matter of the weaker ruling over the stronger because the stronger permitted it.



Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses.<sup>12</sup> But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel.<sup>13</sup> And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour:<sup>14</sup> And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour." Ex 1:11

As the Israelites continued to grow in numbers and power, despite the oppression, the Pharaoh's slavery became a simmering genocide. In an attempt to reduce the military potential of Israel, the Pharaoh ordered the killing of male infants.

And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive? <sup>19</sup> And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them. <sup>20</sup> Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty. <sup>21</sup> And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses. <sup>22</sup> And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive." Ex 1:18

A baby was born and saved by the Pharaoh's daughter.

And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water. Ex 2:10

She called him Moses – "**drew him out of the water.**" Interesting that Jesus told Nicodemus: "Verily, I say to you, except a man be born of water he can't enter into the Kingdom of God!

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. John 3:5



This Moses grew up, killed one of the Egyptians and fled for his life where he looked after his father in law's flock for 40 years.

Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, *even* to Horeb. Ex 3:1

When the time was right, God called Moses to deliver his people from Egypt.

And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, **God called unto him** out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here *am* I. Ex 3:4

Then after several plagues God brought over Egypt, God finally told Moses that they, His children, Israel, must bring a lamb without blemish, a male of the first year, killed it and take the blood and strike it on both sides of the doorpost of your houses.

Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take *it* out from the sheep, or from the goats: :6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. 7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike *it* on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. Ex 12:5

When the last – tenth plague stroke the Egyptians and all the firstborn died (*Ex 12:29 And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle*), the Pharaoh gave permission to Moses and they came out of slavery as God promised to Abraham. ***This is all significant for us today.***

**All of this pointed to the ultimate sacrifice – Jesus the Lamb without any blemish – slaughtered for us, shedding of his blood as atonement for all of our sins.**

Egypt is a symbolic place of our sinful nature and it is always God's desire to bring us out of our own slavery and captivity as we shall see throughout this teaching.



Remember, that these people were enslaved for more than 430 years. They were slaves and probably worked 7 days a week and barely knew God's ways. You might attend a church service for more than 40, 50, 70 years – enslaved in religion – in such a way that you also hardly know God's way? ***How dare you say this to me?*** If this is what is coming up on the surface, then I am probably right and the Holy Spirit is showing you an area and will show you many other areas that God wants to deal with to bring you out of slavery.

Notwithstanding God's Word and promise to Israel that He is going to free them, the moment they stood in front of the Red Sea, FEAR entered them. Fear, my dear friend is not an emotion, but a spirit and when fear enters, unbelief and doubt also came and it will always try to withhold you entering into your promise land.

When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the **Egyptians were marching after them**, and they **feared greatly**. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. Ex 14:10 ESV

But God had not given you a spirit of fear, but of POWER, LOVE and a SOUND MIND

***For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 2 Tim 1:7***

If you do not deal with your FEARS immediately, it will always withhold you from a peaceful life. Take a few moments, and deal with the spirit of fear, declaring and decreeing right now in Jesus Name that I do not have a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind – speak to your mountain – Fear, in Jesus Name I command you to go right now – I fill myself with the Holy Spirit – Holy Spirit I welcome you into my life – Amen!

The spirit of fear will enlarge and pride, (*when you are just too prideful in acknowledging that the spirit of fear does exist in you*) the rebellion, will come and





soon you will disobey God's Word. And this is what happened with the children of Israel – they started to mourn before Moses (*and if you read the whole story in the wilderness you will see how the people rebelled against Moses and God time and time throughout their journey*) and their fear and pride spirit let them speak out words rebellion and unbelief: **“Leave us alone”**

They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? :12 Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: ‘**Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians**’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” Ex 14:11

Do I hear those words from you: **“Leave me alone?”**

Words like these confirm that you prefer to serve the old nature, the old man's sinful nature. This is what the children of Israel preferred – to stay in Egypt in slavery rather than to face some giants, destroy them in Jesus Name and enter into their promise land. Knowing this today, you will face some giants before you can face your promise land – Fear is one of them! So are pride, rebellion, and stubbornness.

God always knows what He is doing – just trust in Him, listen to the Holy Spirit and He will bring you into your promised land, but you must accept His promises with faith. And Moses spoke to the people – *“Fear not and stand firm and see today the salvation of the Lord. For all the enemies your see today, you shall never see again!”*

And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. Ex 14:13

Move forward – this is not the time to stand and mourn or to cry to God, nor to look back or to think of serving your old fleshly desires and sinful nature. Go Forward!



The LORD said to Moses, **“Why do you cry to me?** Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Ex 14:15

There was a reason why the enemy followed them! Do you know why? It is because to show the people who the great **“I am” is!** God was saying in Exodus 14 that I will harden Pharaoh's heart so he shall follow after you and I will destroy them and you will know that I am your LORD. Let your enemies follow you and see how God is destroying them by faith and you will walk into a new relationship with the Lord.

And **I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them;** and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD. And they did so. Exo 14:4

Be silent - the Lord will fight for you and He will defeat your enemies!

The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.” Exo 14:14

God gave Moses authority when He put a rod in Moses' hands (*as He gave us, who believe, also authority and power*), and God told Moses: “Take up your authority, stretch out your rod over the sea, divide the waters and walk through on dry ground.

Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. Ex 14:16

Instead of fear, take up your authority and power God gave to you and let your FAITH rise today and see how God is going to destroy all your enemies and your followers.

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.” 27 So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. 28 The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. Ex 14:26-28



You will walk free and see the great power of the Lord and you will believe in the Lord.

But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. 30 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. 31 **Israel saw the great power that the LORD** used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they **believed** in the LORD and in his servant Moses. Ex 14:29-31

Walking through the Red Sea on dry land was the **water baptism** of the children of Israel. And God closed the water behind them, forbidding them to turn back to Egypt forever.

'Do not go to Egypt.' Know for a certainty that I have warned you this day Jer 42:19b ESV

**Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help** Isa 31:1a

When we are baptized in water, we died with Christ (*as the old nature of the children of Israel had died in the Red Sea*) and Jesus disarmed our enemies (as He disarmed the enemies of the children of Israel).

Unless one is **born of water** and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. John 3:5b

having been **buried with him in baptism**, in which you were also **raised with him through faith** in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by **canceling the record of debt** that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He **disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him**. Col 2:12-15

***And we come out in victory – triumphing over our enemies!***



As for the children of Israel (*when they walked through the Red Sea – they were washed with pure water*), so are our hearts sprinkled clean from any guilt conscience and our bodies have been washed with pure water (after our baptism).

let us continue to come near with sincere hearts in the full assurance that faith provides, because our **hearts have been sprinkled clean from a guilty conscience**, and our bodies have been **washed with pure water**. Heb 10:22

***So God closes the Red Sea behind the children of Israel – He puts a boundary there for them never to return to Egypt again.***

## **FALSE PLEASURES OF BABYLON**

### **Babylon**

The word Babylon might have a different meaning to different readers. The first time the word Babylon appears in the Bible is in the book of Genesis, Chapter 10 and referred to Nimrod, a fearless hunter where his kingdom began in the region of Shinar with the cities of Babylon (Gen 10:10). Probably, it was also Nimrod who started building the tower of Babylon as in the very next chapter it refers to the city of Babylon.

Gen 11:9 Therefore is the name of it called **Babel**<sup>H894</sup>; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

#### **H894**

bâbel

*baw-bel'*

From H1101; **confusion**; **Babel** (that is, **Babylon**), including Babylonia and the Babylonian empire: - Babel, Babylon.





The Hebrew word for "confused" in verse 9 is *babal*, which sounds like *babel* (Babylon). The great evil of the tower builders is their sinful **pride** against the rule of God. This theme will reappear in the prophetic writings against the city. The prophets describe Babylon as a city of **pride** and **idolatry**. Isaiah portraying Babylon as a woman, the queen of kingdoms (Is 47:5), who should be tender and delicate but is not.

The LORD says to **Babylon**, "Sit in silence and darkness; no more will they call you the **queen of nations**! Isa 47:5

God gave his people over into her power, but rather than caring for them she has shown them no mercy. This is a result of her overweening pride, evidenced in her statement that "*I am, and there is none besides me*".

"Listen to this, you **lover of pleasure**, you that think you are safe and secure. You claim you are as great as God--- that there is no one else like you. You thought that you would never be a widow or suffer the loss of your children. Isa 47:8

Clearly so far we see that the term Babylon, notwithstanding the reference to a physical city in the Old Testament, it also has a deep spiritual meaning. As **pride** was the very first sin (*the reason for the fall of Lucifer*), it was again because of pride that people rebel against God after the flood. They decided to build a tower that will reach the heavens so God couldn't destroy them again. Instead, God came down, confused them by giving mankind different languages so they cannot succeed. In Isaiah 47 it refers also to Babylon as the **lover of pleasure**. When you combine pride and rebellion with pleasure (*loving pleasure more than anything else*) you end up with **idolatry** and henceforth the failure to recognize the kingship of God does not exist. But scriptures are clear on the topic of pride – after pride, destruction comes.

**Pride** goeth before **destruction**, and an **haughty spirit** before a fall. Pro 16:18

Because of Babylon's pride, she will be destroyed. Psalm 137 personifies Babylon as a woman who is doomed to destruction and whose infant children will be savagely killed.



O daughter of Babylon, doomed to be destroyed blessed shall he be who repays you with what you have done to us! Psalms 137:8

In the Book of Revelation, these themes culminate in the image of the whore of Babylon. As a result of this biblical imagery, Babylon has transcended its historical significance to become synonymous with sin and pride in Western art and literature. The dominant image of Babylon in Revelation is the city's personification of a rich woman, the "**mother of prostitutes**" (Rev 17:5). Babylon is a great city that rules over the earth.

And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "**Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations**." Rev 17:5

The people of God, however, will be delivered from the grasp of the prophetic Babylon just as Ezekiel foretold for the exiles held captive in the historic Babylon.

Keep in mind as you read further the spiritual significant of Babylon in today's life.

### **Do Not Look Back**

God called Abraham to start a nation with him – the Lord changed Abram's name to Abraham confirming God is making Abraham the ancestor of many nations!

Your name will no longer be Abram, but Abraham, because I am making you the ancestor of many nations. Gen 17:5

Even knowing that Abraham was very old (80 years) and not having any descendants, still, God confirms His promise with Abraham and gave him an indication of the scope of many nations! God said: "*I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is upon the sea shore!*"

That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies. Gen 22:17



That is how God is working – taking a man 80 years of age, not having any children yet, making a covenant with him and telling him you will be the father of many nations. What happens next is that we, throw the prophecy out of the door, not mixing it with faith and never see it come to pass. In this way, we kill the words of the prophets before they can even germinate. Instead, taking the prophecy, meditating on it and believing it until it comes to pass. Looking back at the words of God in this case, even after more than 6 000 years, we can confirm and acknowledge that God did *“multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is upon the sea shore!”*

Likewise, as God promised Abraham to be the father of many nations, God also promised Abraham a prosperous life. It doesn't matter what Abraham did – God's blessings always followed Abraham. After Abraham's brother (*Haran*) died, he looked after Haran's son, Lot. Both of them became so wealthy that their vast combined flocks and herds didn't have enough room to graze in such a restricted area, and they had to separate. Lot was given the choice of direction as the whole land stretched out before him. On one side lay the verdant hills with their lofty trees; the other led down into the crowded centers of commerce and trade. The materialistic appeal of the prosperous cities had an immediate impact on Lot, and the Bible records very simply that he *"pitched his tent toward Sodom"* (Genesis 13:12). The predictable pattern of the future tragedy was settled by that early decision to move near those wicked cities.

***Are you maybe pitching your tent toward wicked cities? Are you maybe slowly, but subtly revoking religion and choosing the false senses of financial securities? All with good intentions!***

Lot stands forth as a man of good intentions. Quite obviously he did not actually plan to take his family into the urban environment of sinful Sodom. He would only live in the vicinity, where he could take advantage of the economic opportunities of such a bustling trade capital. Very likely he made special mental reservations about letting



his family mingle with the degraded inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah. In fact, he had no idea at all of giving up his religion. His move was prompted by selfish concern over temporal advantages, and he had no intention of losing anything. I'm sure Lot did not feel at ease when he first settled among the evil citizens of that abominable place. Every day he heard news of the mushrooming crime rate. He must have been repulsed and even horrified by the vile jokes and obscene language. Then he had to watch with alarm the growing fascination with his family for the perverted lifestyle of their friends and associates. Finally, his daughters fell in love with worldly men and married them. Outside of the home, united with the enemies of God, they lost all faith in the ancestral religion of their childhood and youth. They began to look upon Lot as narrow and bigoted and soon expressed their extreme loathing of his half-hearted appeals to establish true worship in their homes. One compromise led to another until finally he must have become totally demoralized over the rebellion of his worldly family.

***Does this sound familiar? Can you associate Lot's situation with reality today?***

The society there was shameless, degenerate, and entirely sex-perversed. Lot's wife, not only moved into Sodom, but Sodom moved into her. She was the type who loved fine things, and the mad whirl of social activities fascinated her from the beginning. She was soon caught up in the excitement of party rounds of pleasure, and the evidence seems to indicate that she eventually shared much of the materialistic mindset of the Sodomites.

*How our wives do love fine things – become lovers of pleasure – pleasure parties that just go out of hand where everyone and everybody yields to all sort of fleshly lusts - making offerings and sacrifices in Malls - hoarding so many needless and unnecessarily goods?*

The situation got so bad in Sodom and Gomorrah that God couldn't take it anymore. So God informed Abraham that He is going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah.



And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great and because their sin is very grievous; 21 I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know. Gen 18:20-21

God also sent angels to Lot to warn him. Notice that even when Lot went to his sons in law they did not listen to him.

For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it. 14 And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law. Gen 19:13-14

What was the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah that was so severe that God couldn't face it? In Gen 19 it is clear that the men came to Lot's house when they saw the angels and told Lot to bring out the men so they could have sex with them. It was "homosexuality"

They called out to Lot and asked, "Where are the men who came to stay with you tonight? Bring them out to us!" **The men of Sodom wanted to have sex with them.**

#### Gen 19:5 GNB

**Ezekiel 16:49-50 declares**, "Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and did **detestable** things before me..." The Hebrew word translated "detestable" refers to something that is morally disgusting and is the exact same word used in Leviticus 18:22 that refers to homosexuality as an "abomination." Similarly, Jude 7 declares, "...Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to **sexual immorality and perversion.**" So, again, while homosexuality was not the only sin in which the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah indulged, it does appear to be the primary reason for the destruction of the cities.



These angels warned Lot and his family to escape for their lives and not to look back, neither to stay on the plain otherwise they will be consumed by the Lord.

And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed. Gen 19:17

Lot ran, his daughters close behind. "But his wife, from behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt" (Genesis 19:26). She lagged behind. She turned and watched the flaming sulfur fall from the sky, consuming everything she valued. Then it consumed her. The Hebrew for "**looked back**" means more than to glance over one's shoulder.

It means "**to regard, to consider, to pay attention to.**"

The Scriptures don't say whether her death was a punishment for valuing her old life so much that she **hesitated in obeying**, or if it was a simple consequence of her reluctance to leave her life quickly. **Either she identified too much with the city—**and joined it—or she **neglected to fully obey God's warning**, and she **died**.

*My dear friend – please do not hesitate to obey God's instruction today for your life. Come out and do not look back – move forward and do not give too much identity to the world- and religion systems. Neglecting God's warning will surely result in death.*

She was so reluctant to leave the fine appointments of her affluent Sodom home that she lingered. Her heart and life had been so bound to material things that she could hardly pull away from the accumulated treasures of those finely furnished rooms. With death at her heels, she lingered. With life and security awaiting her on the mountaintop, she lingered. What was wrong with the woman?

*She loved the world more than she loved God. She still believed the truth; she knew what she ought to do; she wanted to be saved—yet she lingered.*

*Are you of those who know all – all the truths but lingered? Then the message is for you – Stop being double-minded. Be single minded on God alone!*



**So God decided to protect his people against an abomination –  
“homosexuality” and He destroyed a whole city and clearly commanded  
them – “Do not look back”**

Those who obeyed – lived and those who disobeyed died!  
All for their own good

## NO TURNAROUND

Throughout our teaching up to this point, we can clearly see that when God wants to bring us out of our old sinful nature, He is serious that we do not return again. Do not let your past determine your future! God always wants us to move forward and not grabbing and holding on to the past. This story in the Old Testament about Lot and his family was so important that Jesus also referred back to the days of Sodom and Gomorrah in the New Testament. In Luke Chapter 17 Jesus was talking about the coming of the Kingdom and He was saying that man will look for the kingdom, look, here it is or there it is! But behold, for the Kingdom of God is in the midst of you (Luk 17:21). Then Jesus referred to the days of Noah, saying: “*and the flood came and destroys them*” (Luk 17:26-27). And then the Lord went on to say: “**Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot**”. That is probably the most dramatic, important illustration the Master ever used in a sermon. As we read the context, it is very obvious that the words were being applied to those living on this planet right now. “**In that day**” refers to the “**day when the Son of man is revealed**.”

**Likewise** also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; 29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. 30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. 31 **In that day**, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. 32 **Remember Lot's wife**. Luke 17:28-32



Why did Jesus say, “Remember Lot's wife?” Because He knew that many others would be just as attached to “**things**” as she was. They would linger and then look back with longing heart upon those things which are forbidden.

In the same way, none of you can be my **disciple unless he gives up all his possessions**.” Luke 14:33 ISV

These are very strong words from the Master. That is the price we must pay to be a disciple of God, otherwise we are double minded as He said: “

**No man can serve two masters:** for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Mat 6:24

When you serve two masters, you are double minded and the Word of God is clear that a double minded man is unstable in all his ways. Therefore, draw nearer day and night to God and He will draw nearer to you – purify your hearts you double-minded. Make up your mind who you want to serve, says the Lord.

A double **minded man is unstable** in all his ways. Jas 1:8

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and **purify your hearts**, ye **double minded**. Jas 4:8

Lot's wife became cold, careless, and disobedient. Finally, the judgments of God fell upon her, and she became a pillar of salt on the plains of Sodom. I gather that one of the most deadly perils for God's people in the last days will be to slowly slip away from the truth. Jesus warned that the loss of spiritual power takes place almost imperceptibly:

And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. Mat 24:12

As pressures of conformity and compromise crowd in, the faith gradually erodes and disappears. People lose their love for the truth by degrees. Little by little they lower the standards and compromise the faith until nothing remains except a dead, empty formalism. The angels visited Abraham and then Lot, warn them that God had



tolerated their fence-straddling long enough. They had reached the limits of their **double life**, so God faced them with an ultimatum: **get out or get in!** "This is it!" God said. "You can't be neutral any longer. Choose right now what you will do. Come all the way out, or stay there and perish. In the Old Testament, God used equivalent rhetoric language in calling for His vacillating people to get off the fence.

***If the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.*** 1Ki 18:21b

What a fantastic confrontation: a final call, a last-minute chance to slip from death to life! Does it sound familiar? If it doesn't, you had better look around again and see what's happening to the world. The same fiery fate which loomed over Sodom has been decreed for this wicked age as well. Jesus pointed to the parallel conditions between the two periods of history. After describing the excesses and indulgences of Lot's day, Jesus said;

***Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.*** Luk 17:30

Jesus is using the words "**even thus**" in Luk 17:30, indicating that today, before the Son of man is revealed, *similar moral and social problems as in those days of Lot* shall be on earth. The language of the Master seems to indicate that the whole sordid picture of a dying world was before Him. As in the days of Sodom, men would have just one last opportunity to say **Yes or No**; then it would be over. Some, like Lot's wife, will be so wedded to the world that they cannot let go in time. They will have to perish with the things which they loved more than they loved God. Others, like Lot, will arise just in time to choose quickly and decisively. Without a backward glance, they will move out in complete obedience to the will of God. This is the choice everyone faces.

What do modern church members know about the principle of self-denial and forsaking all? The book of Revelation foresaw the unholy mixture of Laodicean Christianity which would make God sick to the stomach. He said;

But because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, ***I am going to spit you out of my mouth!*** Rev 3:16 GNB



Those words are probably the most graphic that ever passed the lips of our Lord. He was addressing the subject of **hypocrisy** in the end times. Similar strong language was used by Jesus in describing the same condition among the **religious leaders** of His day. He called them hypocrites generation of vipers, and whited sepulchres. As the true witness of the Laodicean church, ***He calls upon this last-day religious remnant to repent.*** Just as those heavenly messengers laid down the ultimatum so long ago, we are also being called to leave it all or perish. There is no more time to be divided. Get off the fence, God says, and be either hot or cold. ***Come all the way out and live, or stay lukewarm and perish.*** There is no place for half-surrender in the church of the translation!

The story of Lot's wife is a dramatic illustration that the presence of one small act of wilful disobedience that can lead to an eternal loss. Any effort to reconcile God's love, character or righteousness with a tolerance for sin must end with miserable failure how is it with you today? In this final fragment of probationary time, have you renounced every competitor of Christ for first place in your heart? The story of Lot and his family proves that God will not long tolerate a double lifestyle on the part of His professed people. Those who are trying to live in two worlds must make a decision. God's Word declares that the friendship of the world is enmity with God.

Unfaithful people! Don't you know that to be the world's friend means to be God's enemy? ***If you want to be the world's friend, you make yourself God's enemy.*** Jas 4:4

***If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*** 1 John 2:15

Just as the angels pleaded with Lot and his family to make a total surrender, the Holy Spirit urges us the same kind of commitment today. The call is for separation and urgent action. Multitudes linger in the twilight zone of indecision while the fires of destruction are poised for the annihilation of this world. World lings and professed Christians alike are hearing the plea of God to turn loose. The door of probation is open for just a few moments more.



We're fortunate to receive similar warnings.

So **get rid of your old self**, which made you live as you used to---the old self that was being destroyed by its deceitful desires. 23 **Your hearts and minds must be made completely new**, 24 and you must **put on the new self**, which is created in God's likeness and reveals itself in the true life that is upright and holy. Eph 4:22 GNB

Similarly, willful, deliberate sin can lead to death.

1Jn 5:16 If you see a believer commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray to God, who will give that person life. This applies to those whose sins do not lead to death. **But there is sin which leads to death**, and I do not say that you should pray to God about that. GNB

Lot's wife wasn't able to accept that. What she chose to value in her heart led her to sin, which led to her death. The story of Lot's wife is a dramatic illustration that the presence of one small act of wilful disobedience can lead to an eternal loss. Any effort to reconcile God's love, character or righteousness with a tolerance for sin must end with miserable failure. The Bible isn't clear whether Lot's wife was covered in the salt that rained down with the brimstone or if her remains were dusted with a coating of salt later. But it is interesting that she is described as a "pillar." The Hebrew for "pillar" refers to a garrison or a deputy, that is, **something set to watch over something else**. The image of Lot's wife standing watch over the Dead Sea area—where to this day no life can exist—is a poignant reminder to us not to look back or turn back from the profession of faith we have made, but to follow Christ without hesitation and abide in His love (Luke 17:32).

To every soul there comes a golden last moment of decision before the door shuts. Will all be able to recognize that moment? Tragically, no. Some, with senses dulled by worldly compromise, will not even discern the final departure of God's messenger of salvation. The sins of Sodom are just as hypnotizing and appealing today as they were long ago. The same perverse practices have become more commonplace and popular than they ever were in the doomed city of the plains. Lot had no time to take anything with him. Neither do we. There must be a willingness to deny self and cut



away from the abominations of the flesh in every form. Our only hope is to move quickly in separating from the evil attachments of a corrupt society.

A loving Saviour stands behind the invitation, "**Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord.**" (2 Cor 6:17a)

### Elisha

One of the most incredible "no turnaround" stories in the Bible is when Elijah came to Elisha when he was busy plowing with 12 yokes of oxen. Elijah put his mantle upon Elisha. Plowing with 12 yokes of oxen, you belong to a family of considerable wealth.

So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and **cast his mantle upon him**. 1 Kings 19:19

Notice that Elijah did not mention anything to Elisha. But Elisha did not take this for granted – he ran after Elijah to ask him first to say goodbye to his parents before he could follow him. I wonder if Elisha was praying to the Lord for a ministry. Why did Elisha immediately see this mantle of Elijah as a calling? Maybe he asked God for a sign and was this mantle his sign to leave everything behind and follow the prophet, Elijah. Leave everything behind means a considerable financial loss to Elisha.

And he **left the oxen**, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and *then* I will follow thee. 1 Kings 19:20a

Elijah's reaction amazed me, for he walked on as if nothing had happened. Even when Elisha asked him to wait so he can first say goodbye to his parents, Elijah said to Elisha to go *back for what have I done to you?*

And he said unto him, **Go back again: for what have I done to thee?** 1 Kings 19:20b





But instead of staying in his quiet, peaceful and rural life with its financial security, Elisha gave everything up. He immediately went back, slew all the animal, using the yokes to make fire. Imagine what his father and mother would have said? I just wonder if there was any conflict in the house when Elisha told his parents he is going to slew the animals and walk away in full time ministry.

And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and *slew them*, and *boiled their flesh* with the instruments of the oxen, and **gave unto the people**, and they did eat. 1 Kings 19:21a

When God calls you, are you trying to keep a door open if something maybe not working out for you? Or are you destroying everything that's behind so you can move forward? Elisha, without any hesitation, arose and went after Elijah.

***Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him. 1 Kings 19:21b***

We see here the opposite of what Lot's wife did. Lot's wife was rescued from destruction, but just could not let go – but Elisha, without hesitation took everything he and his family owned and gave it away to the people with him. Elisha closed the door behind him and followed the Lord. Lot's wife just could not let go – looked back to her belongings and lost her life.

***We all have a choice – what will it be?***

## **TETELESTAI**

The secret of being able to resist and reject the appeal of a perverse, renegade society is to look at the cross of Jesus Christ. We might abhor the evil and desire deliverance, but there is only one source of strength to break the pattern of sin. Christ's substitutionary death at Calvary satisfied the penalty which transgression had placed against every living soul in the world. The broken law demanded death, and when Jesus suffered that penalty for every man on the cross, a glorious transaction was made. Legally, every lost soul was freed from the penalty of



disobedience. Again, in a legal sense, the whole world was redeemed through the atonement of the cross. The corporate guilt of Adam's descendants was canceled by the corporate justification accorded through the death of Jesus.

We can truthfully assure every sinner right now that his sentence of death has already been legally satisfied and executed upon his substitute, Jesus. What a fantastic truth! This means that God actually took the initiative in saving the man. He almost made it difficult to be lost by declaring emancipation from the slavery of sin for every person who would receive it. But please take note that something was done even for those who would not receive it. A corporate justification actually was made effective for the entire world, both good and evil. Through that universal justification, the curse of universal condemnation was erased, and Adam's children could be born without bearing the guilt of their father's sin (Romans 5:18).

But the most glorious consequence of the atonement is seen in the experience of the ones who claim personal justification through faith in His blood. Paul described it thus:

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, *to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past*, through the forbearance of God; 26 To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Rom 3:24-26

Here is clearly revealed a picture of individual acceptance of all those who claim Jesus as forgiver and justifier. What is accomplished for the ones who enter this intimate relationship of justification by faith? Are they merely delivered from the guilt of sin, or do they also receive deliverance from the sin itself? Paul answered that question.

But God forbid that I should glory, *save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ*, by whom *the world is crucified* unto me, and I unto the world. Gal 6:14



In this verse, we find that victory over the world system of evil is definitely tied to the atonement of the cross. No one has been delivered from sins of the flesh without receiving that deliverance as a gift through the merits of Christ's suffering and death. We are made dead to the world's appeal by looking into the face of our Substitute and Saviour. His agape love, revealed at the cross, melts the stubborn will and weans the heart away from every attraction the world can devise. That is how Jesus is "made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." (1 Corinthians 1:30). It is all on the cross. Look at it daily and remember Lot's wife that you may be saved from her terrible fate. On the cross, Jesus paid the full prize for our atonement and cried out: **"Tetelestai"** (John 19:30). In English it has been translated to three words: **"It is Finished"**

**When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar he said, It is finished:<sup>5055</sup> and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. John 19:30**

Looking at the Strong's the word Tetelestai - τελέω - teleō (pronouncing tel-eh'-o) it means;

- To end - That is complete
- Discharge all debt
- It has been accomplished
- To make an end
- Finished
- Paid

#### G5055

teleō

tel-eh'-o

From G5056; to *end*, that is, **complete**, *execute*, *conclude*, **discharge** (a debt): - **accomplish**, **make an end**, *expire*, *fill up*, **finish**, *go over*, **pay**, *perform*.

Everything still outstanding has now been **"PAID IN FULL"**

**Christ's RESURRECTION** is the **Father's "AMEN"** to His Son's declaration:

**"IT IS FINISHED."**



## COME OUT

The message is clear my dear friend – come out of Babylon – come out of Sodom and Gomorrah – remember the days of Lot – “Do you remember Lot’s wife?”

So shall it be in the days before the Son of man is revealed. As God sent angels to Abraham and Lot to warn them that He will destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, so is God warning us today that Babylon is fallen! Come out my dear friend – come out of her!

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. Rev 14:8

And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and **great Babylon came in remembrance before God**, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. Rev 16:19

**And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. Rev 17:5**

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. Rev 18:2

When we carefully look at the Word of God, we will see that Babylon represents the kingdom of satan and Zion represents the Kingdom of God. Babylon encompasses all of satan's evil ways to deceive mankind into believing his lies, while Zion is built on Truth – with Yeshua the Messiah as the chief cornerstone.

There is a **religious Babylon** (*Babylon*)

- out of which the Lord calls His saints, and

There is a **secular Babylon** (*Greater Babylon*),

- from where the world system conducts its business.



Without outright calling it Babylon and Zion, Paul clearly outlined the differences between the two in Galatians 5, when he wrote:

- *“the acts of the flesh are obvious: **sexual immorality, impurity, and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.** I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.*
- *But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.** Against such things, there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.** Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other”* (Gal. 5:19-26).

We must understand that Babylon represents all of Satan’s deception – both religious and secular

#### **Babylon is a system where the flesh rules your life.**

- The cornerstone of this kingdom is “**self**”: **self-centeredness, self-absorbed, self-willed, self-serving, and selfishness.**
- The **fruit** of this kingdom will be **pride, arrogance, vanity, control, domination, impatience, stubbornness, insensitivity, resentment, bitterness, anger, rebellion, anxiousness, complaining, judgment, negativity, manipulation, greed, lust, jealousy, faultfinding, dishonesty, deceitfulness and every wicked thing.** It always seeks to serve “self” first, and in this kingdom it is only about “**what is in it for me**”. It never serves, it only wants to take, take, take all the time.
- Even some **churches are built upon this principle**, because their **foundation** is only to **please themselves and they preach lukewarm messages to a congregation with itching ears.** Many churches today are just another system of **self-worship.** It is idolatrous, deceptive, and very dangerous. Please don’t misunderstand me – I am not saying *all* churches, but there is so much mixed seed



out there. Many ministries and churches sow good and bad seed at the same time. I am not excluding myself from this scrutiny – I have to look at my own ministry too and put my hand into my own bosom to see what kind of seeds I sow.

- Unfortunately, so many people quickly take offense at this message, and close their ears and their hearts from hearing it.
- **The fall of the Babylonian system** will be the most devastating to those of us who **depend upon the church system, or on the acceptance of people, for our significance, identity, validation, recognition, value and security.**

Standing aside, looking back to the situation of Lot and his wife, Jesus said: “*Remember Lot’s wife*” – the warning is for us who needs to leave behind all we know - Homes - Friends - More family - Business - earthly possessions and riches.

Who could do such a thing without a backward glance, without remorse, without a turn in remembrance and grief toward all she was now forced to forget? This is both understandable and wise: honoring our past and paying close attention to all that has gone before. We do well to look back at the story that is uniquely and powerfully our own; at where we’ve come from – and whom. But that very same reflection can easily become the tendency and temptation which **keep us from moving forward.** This is what Lot’s wife shows us in monumental ways. Lot’s wife calls us to set our sights on all **that is ahead**, to look toward the **new lands we’ve been promised**, to run-not-walk toward the future that is ours, and on the way, to cling tightly to the hand of the angels who know that full-tilt life awaits us when we have the courage to risk, to dare, to trust.

We’re comfortable with the way things are even if they are unhealthy and actually keep us from progressing, growing, and becoming stronger. It is seemingly far less disruptive to just do what we’ve always done (while hoping for different results) than the brave and bold work of changing, leaving, turning away, *not* turning back.

Lot’s wife calls us to honest reflection; to the brutal truth about where we currently “live.” And then she requires even more: **we must loosen our grip on all that’s**



***behind us and grasp tightly onto the hands of any and all Divine messengers who compel us to all that's ahead.***

My dearest friend – the time is up – for in one hour is the judgement come! Get out!

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.** Rev 18:10

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. Rev 18:21

**Do not hesitate anymore – Get Out – and do not Look back or Turn Around**

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### **SONG OF VICTORY**

There are many scriptures indicating the singing of a new song after victories. But to stay focused in the context of this story the most powerful song God showed me after a victory is the song of Moses. When God delivered the Israelites, Moses and the children of Israel sang a new song!

#### **The Song of Moses**

Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, **for he hath triumphed gloriously:** the horse and his rider hath he thrown **into the sea.** 2 The LORD *is* my strength and song, and he is **become my salvation:** he *is* my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him. Exo 15:1-2

Amazing how Moses and the children of Israel sing how God is their strength and he became their salvation. This is what God specialised in. Remember what happened



earlier in Chapter 14 at the Red Sea when they all feared and mourning that God delivered them from Egypt and that He will leave them in the wilderness to die. Then Moses said: ***“Fear not – stand firm – see the salvation”***

And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. Exo 14:13

And the very next moment, they all rejoiced and this time sing and give glory to God for their salvation! But the better news is still coming – John who wrote Revelation on the Island of Patmos saw a sea of glass and he saw all those who had gotten the victory over the beast and over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass and they sing:

#### ***“They sing the song of Moses”***

And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had **gotten the victory over the beast**, and **over his image**, and **over his mark**, *and* over the **number of his name**, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. 3 And they **sing the song of Moses** the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous *are* thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true *are* thy ways, thou King of saints. Rev 15:2

There is victory and a marvelous reward for those who overcome;

***The Beast - his Image – his Mark - his number of his Name***

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## TREE OF LIFE

In Genesis God forbid Adam & Eve to eat from the Tree of Life – has Adam & Eve eaten from the tree of life in their fallen stage, they would have life forever (Gen 3:22). So God protected man against his sinful nature not to live in that stage forever.

And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; **the tree of life also in the midst of the garden**, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Gen 2:9

And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, **lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:** Gen 3:22

So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, **to keep the way of the tree of life.** Gen 3:24

Knowing that He will send His Son, Jesus Christ making atonement for us – the ultimate sacrifice on Calvary – God's intention for mankind is to eat from the tree of life during our redeemed stage so we can live forever in His image and likeness! The tree of life is only for those who overcome!

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To **him that overcometh** will **I give to eat of the tree of life**, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. Rev 2:7

Those who overcome and had victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name (Rev 15:2). Those who overcome and had victory and they that do GOD's commandments have the right to the tree of life and may enter the gates to heaven, the new city – Jerusalem – Zion!

**Blessed are they that do his commandments**, that they may **have right to the tree of life**, and may **enter in through the gates into the city.** Rev 22:14



## RECEIVE JESUS AS YOUR SAVIOR

Choosing to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior is the most important decision you'll ever make! God's word promises,

*That if thou shalt **confess with thy mouth** the Lord Jesus, and shalt **believe in thine heart** that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is **made unto salvation.*** Rom 10:9-10

*For whosoever shall **call upon the name of the Lord** shall be **saved.*** Rom 10:13

If you believe with all your heart – if you have a conviction, full of joyful trust, that Jesus is the Messiah and accept Him as the authority of your salvation in the kingdom of God, giving Him your obedience, then – you may be baptized. (Acts 8:37)

By His grace, God has already done everything to provide salvation. Your part is simply to believe and receive.

### PRAY NOW OUT LOUD

*Jesus, I confess that You are my Lord and Savior. I believe in my heart that God raised You from the dead. By faith in Your word, I receive salvation now! Thank You for saving me .*

*The very moment you commit your life to Jesus Christ, the truth of His Word instantly comes to pass in your spirit. Now that you're born again, there's a brand-new you.*

## WATER BAPTISM

If you are not yet baptized (*immerse*) with water (*we are not referring to the sprinkling with water*) we strongly recommend doing so – it is scripturally according to the Word of God. Water baptism is the sign of your proclamation of salvation.



## RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

As His child, your loving heavenly Father wants to give you the supernatural power you need to live a new life.

*For every one that **asketh receiveth**; and he that **seeketh findeth**; and to him that **knocketh it shall be opened**. 11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? 12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly **Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?** Luk 11:10*

**All you have to do is ask, believe, and receive!**

### PRAY NOW OUT LOUD

*Father, I recognize my need for Your power to live a new life. Please fill me with Your Holy Spirit. By faith, I receive it right now. Thank you for baptizing me. Holy Spirit, You are welcome in my life.*

*Congratulations – now you're filled with God's supernatural power. Some syllables from a language you don't recognize will rise up from your heart to your mouth (1 Corinthians 14:14). As you speak them out loud by faith, you're releasing God's power from within and building yourself up in the spirit (1 Corinthians 14:4). You can do this whenever and wherever you like. It doesn't really matter whether you felt anything or not when you prayed to receive the Lord and His Spirit. If you believed in your heart that you received, then God's Word promises you did. "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (Mark 11:24).*

*Feel free to contact The Light Towers Ministries – we have much information to send to you for free. Make sure to get hold of the teaching of "baptism" – if not yet – go to somebody who can baptize you in water as a sign for your declaration of salvation.*

**Welcome to your new life!**



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*"I am the Bright Morning Star -  
Surely I come quickly"  
Rev 22:16, 20*