

'PERILOUS TIMES SHALL COME'

POSTMODERN WORLDVIEW CENTER STAGE AT PARIS OLYMPICS

The fierceness of the Paris Olympics went far beyond the athletic competitions. Social media exploded with arguments about the humanistic paganism displayed during the opening ceremony. What was ultimately on display for all the world to see was another step toward the one-world end times religion as God foretold in His Word.

A battle for truth is raging around the world. Fundamental to this conflict are questions like, “Who is the source of truth—myself or someone outside of me? Who gets to define truth?” As each individual answers these questions, they come face to face with their God (or god). If truth comes from Almighty God through the Bible, then He is the ultimate authority, but if truth is determined by each individual then they are placing themselves as the ultimate authority.

‘Worship’ Takes Center Stage

The opening ceremony at the Paris Olympics featured expressions of worship to the gods of this age. While this looked vastly different from the worship a Christian would see in church on a given Sunday, it was still worship, nonetheless.

The postmodern worldview celebrated at the Paris Olympic opening ceremonies espouses similar values and attitudes that the Bible says will be present during the end times. Passages like 2 Timothy 3:1-5 reveal the spiritual attitude of the last days. “This know also,

that in the last days perilous times shall come” (2 Tim. 3:1). Why will perilous times come? Verse 2 holds the answer: “For men shall be lovers of their own selves” (2 Tim. 3:2a). I consider this attitude to be the theme from which all the others listed in 2 Timothy 3:2-5 flow.

All those who are “lovers of their own selves” have become a god unto themselves. Thus, the object of worship becomes the self. The Olympic opening ceremonies celebrated the false god of self. The creeds of this age are self-centered slogans like, “live your truth; you define you; look within yourself to discover who you are.”

Romans 1:25 describes this generation well: “Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.”

When one pushes away from God’s truth and seeks to create their own version of truth, they have chosen to worship themselves instead of Almighty God. The consequences for changing the source of truth are dire, as Romans 1:26-32 unpacks. There are many similarities between this list in Romans 1 and the list in 2 Timothy 3:2-5, which shows Almighty God revealed thousands of years ago what the world would be like as the end-times approaches.

Romans 1:32 sums up those dire consequences by saying, “Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not

by Josh Davis



only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.” This verse is very convicting for today’s generation. Those who turn from God’s truth and create their own should realize that God’s justice demands death for sin. However, instead of turning away from their sin, they continue to celebrate it.

While the Olympics is supposed to be all fun and games, the revelation of the spirit of this age in the opening ceremony is nothing to celebrate. It reveals how truly lost in the darkness of sin this world is. Sadly, this postmodern world has preached its self-focused lies for so long that it has numbed many to God’s truth and the reality of eternity.

Who Is the Judge?

Today, telling someone that their “truth” is wrong in the eyes of Almighty God is viewed as judgmental. This cuts deep into the heart of postmodernists because saying someone is wrong is akin to saying they are not the highest authority over their lives. Bringing their “truth” into question blasphemes their god of self. Thus, the statement, “Don’t judge me,” carries much more spiritual weight than when a small child tells his mom, “You can’t tell me what to do.” It is bringing into question who the highest authority over our lives really is. That is why “Don’t judge me” is used so frequently and with such fierceness today.

At its core, this statement is filled with pride since it assumes the self is the final authority. It refuses to submit to any other external authority, such as Almighty God and His Word. Those stuck in this mindset do not think they need God’s salvation since they have deemed themselves worthy and holy in their own eyes.

This is the tragic spiritual blindness of this present age. If we never realize that we have sinned against a holy God and stand in need of His salvation, we will not see the Gospel as what it truly is—God’s Good News.

To open the eyes of the spiritually blind, Romans 1:20 says, “For the invisible things of him [God] from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”

Consider the vastness and fine-tuned complexity of all that exists. How could it have come into existence without a divine designer who decided to bring it all into existence? How could Olympic athletes have such precise mental and physical skills to be the best in the world in their events without all the components of the physical body working in harmony with each other? How could the brain have come about by purely unin-

telligent natural means?

Further, we all recognize deep down that there are some things that are just plain wrong. Russia was not allowed to compete in the 2024 Olympics because of its invasion of Ukraine and past anti-doping violations. Why is cheating wrong? Is it because the Olympic competition committee says it is? No, it is because we inherently know that it is not fair. But where did that conviction come from if it did not originate within the individual?

How can the Olympic competition committee be so judgmental against cheaters if each person gets to decide what is right and wrong in their own minds? This hypocrisy betrays the theme of their opening ceremony. How dare they judge athletes against an objective standard during their competitions! (I hope you catch my sarcastic tone.)

This is precisely why we have no excuse before Almighty God, according to Romans

1. He established the standard for morality and has written it upon our hearts.

When we constantly turn away from His truth and then turn to our own standard for what we call good, we dull our conscience to His Truth. The farther we go down this pathway, the more deadened our conscience becomes.

While our sinful, self-centered hearts crave to be our own judge and jury, Almighty God alone

is the just Judge of all people. But the beautiful truth of the Good News is that the just Judge willingly paid the penalty for the sins of the world (Rom. 5:6-8; 6:23). He offers that payment to all who will receive it today (Rom. 10:9, 13).

A proper understanding of Bible prophecy reveals the urgency of this Good News. The Olympic opening ceremony revealed just how desperately the world needs Jesus and just how quickly it is moving toward the biblical end-times scenario. This is the day to turn to Jesus by faith.



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Josh Davis is staff evangelist at Southwest Radio Ministries. He holds a Master of Divinity from Southern Evangelical Seminary and has served in pastoral ministry since 2007.

Babylon, the Book of Revelation and ...

by Larry
Spargimino,
Ph.D.



THIS PRESENT DARKNESS

In his book, *New Babylon Rising: The Emerging End Times World Order*, Dr. Ron Rhodes cites several significant facts about Babylon. While Jerusalem is the most-often-mentioned city in the Bible, Babylon is mentioned second most. Moreover, the book of Revelation contains 404 verses, 44 of which specifically deal with Babylon (p. 9).

Rhodes cites Dr. David Jeremiah: “The Bible could be termed a tale of two cities: Jerusalem and Babylon. Jerusalem, of course, is the capital city of God’s chosen nation... Babylon, on the other hand, is the city the Bible uses as a recurring symbol for the world’s evils—decadence, cruelty, abuse of power, and especially rebellion against God.”

Christians who do a little thinking—yes, there are Christians who think!—look at our nation and see the present darkness, and often wonder, “Is this the end? Where can we go from here? Can we descend any lower into pits of depravity and moral madness?”

Of course, thinking Christians go to the Bible in general, and the book of Revelation in particular. There we meet dragons, seven-headed monsters and warring angels. What does it all mean?

Rome or Babylon

While many prophetic researchers read the book of Revelation and see Rome as the enemy of God’s people, Tyler Gilreath, in *Gate of the Gods: Revelation, the Messiah, and the Second Coming of Babylon*, sees Rome

to be in a long line of puppets manipulated by puppeteering angels from the Tower of Babel. Gilreath believes Babylon the Great cannot be limited to Rome. Old Testament Babylon is what’s primarily in view. John adopts a Babylonian framework in the book of Revelation.

The impact of this insight is important. Revelation 17:5 describes Babylon as “Mother of Harlots,” meaning Babylon is the “source of” harlotry. This prohibits limiting the identity of this “Mother” to any one religion that is in common devotion to people today. All false religions stem from Babylon, which is exactly what Gilreath is claiming. There is no indication in Scripture that their “Mother” is Rome.

In Genesis 11:1-9, we are told that Babylon was where man first began to honor himself over God. It was the capital city of the first world ruler, Nimrod (Gen. 10:8-10), a name that expresses defiance and rebellion. It was the capital of Nebuchadnezzar, the king who destroyed the Jewish Temple in 586 B.C., and it was the capital city of the first of four Gentile world powers to rule over Jerusalem (Dan. 2).

In Genesis 10:10, we read, “And the beginning of his [Nimrod’s] kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.” This was Satan’s initial attempt to unite man against God through religion and human government. It had the three characteristics of a kingdom: (1) an

authorized ruler, Nimrod; (2) a specific realm, the Earth; (3) a strategic plan, the concentration of humanity in a specific location, in opposition to God’s desire that humanity would scatter.

Gilreath writes, “Babylon was the capital city of Babylonia and in the same neighborhood as the infamous and much older Tower of Babel. Babylon’s writing, religion, and deities are therefore inseparable from the Babel event. That John sees Old Testament Babylon as the harbinger of cosmic evil in Revelation is not figurative” (p. 91).

The Hebrew Prophets and Babylon

The prophets of Israel were not strangers to Babylon and Babylonian lore. As quoted from Gilreath on page 150, Isaiah 27:1 reads, “On that day Yahweh will punish with his cruel, great and strong sword Leviathan the fleeing serpent, and Leviathan, the twisting serpent, and he will kill the sea monster that is in the sea.”

Gilreath also cites an ancient Ugaritic text: “Though you smote Litan [Leviathan] the fleeing serpent, finished off the twisting serpent, the encircler with seven heads, you burned him up, and thus you brightened the heavens.”

The KJV for Isaiah 27:1 reads, “In that day the Lord with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent, and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea.”

I should also point out that Jeremiah 50:1-2 and 51:44 make reference to

Marduk, or Bel, Babylonian deities.

Clearly, the Old Testament was not written in a cultural vacuum. Old Testament covenants and ancient Near Eastern treaties have certain literary parallels, just as today the form of a letter is similar in many different places.

The Abrahamic Covenant ratification ceremony involving the cutting in half of animals was common in ancient Hittite treaties (Gen. 15). In the above scripture, Isaiah was not “getting his ideas from pagan sources” but simply using forms of communication common at that time. Similarities do not require us to reject the historical authenticity of the biblical accounts.

Idols, Demonic Entities & Satan’s Localized Throne

When we read a biblical passage that speaks of idols, we think of idols of wood and stone—inert, cold and dead. We might even want to purchase a carving of an idol and put it on the fireplace mantel. However, Psalm 106:36-39 tells us that idol worshippers were actually sacrificing to demons. The Apostle Paul tells us that worshipping in the presence of idols actually brings the worshipper into fellowship with demon spirits (1 Cor. 10:20). Idols can be localized dwellings for malevolent spirits. Pagans thought of idols as access points to a world of dark forces (“portals” to a parallel plane of reality).

In Revelation 2:13, the Lord Jesus revealed that the Christians in Pergamum lived where Satan’s “seat”/“throne” is. What is the particular reference? Perhaps the altar of Zeus, or maybe the temple of Asklepios. It was also a location known for Christian persecution. Antipas—meaning “against all”—was martyred here. Whatever the precise reference, Satan’s work and authority become especially manifest in certain areas. When we understand the book of Revelation’s Babylonian backstory, Revelation sheds light on spiritual warfare. It’s a book that opens our eyes to the real source of our national confusion.

In his latest book, *The Dragon’s Prophecy* (p. 38) Jonathan

Cahn writes, “The joining of the Enemy of God to the enemies of Israel goes back to ancient times.” He cites Jeremiah 51:34, “Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon...hath swallowed me up like a dragon...” The same word in the original used of Nebuchadnezzar appears in another prophecy directed against another of Israel’s ancient enemies, Pharaoh: “...I am against thee, Pharaoh... the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers...” (Ezek. 29:3).

Similar language is used of the persecution of the woman with child, “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan...” (Rev. 12:9).

The Babylonian Astrologers

The ancient Babylonians believed that the gods communicated with the Earth from the sky. The task of the astrologers was to learn the language of the heavens and translate it for the people.

In Revelation 6:1-8 we read of the opening of the four seals and the four horses, each with a different color (white, red, black and pale).

It is amazing that this corresponds with the colors associated with the Babylonian deities and in the same order: White (Marduk), Red (Nabu), Black (Ninurta), Pale (Nergal). Gilreath writes, “The colors of Revelation’s horses and the action taken by their riders [destruction] do, in fact, correlate to four corresponding planets, four demonic Babylonian gods, four cardinal directions, and four constellations” as described in the ancient Babylonian document *Tablet Stars of Heaven* (p. 106).

Tyler Gilreath, an avid Bible researcher, has accomplished a much-needed work in helping us understand “this present darkness.” It is dark and it manifests a degree of rebellion against God we have never seen before. The smell of the netherworld accompanies its unveiling.

Larry Spargimino, is Southwest Radio Ministries’ longtime host of Watchman on the Wall. He is also vice president of the ministry board of directors and pastors an Oklahoma City church.



‘And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan...’ — Rev. 12:9

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