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The Three Battlegrounds by Francis Frangipane

Chapter 22 - God will Judge Your Judgment (Part 1)

The spirit of Babylon is the spirit of compromise with the world. Wherever there is compromise in our hearts with the devil, that compromise places us on the back of a beast that ultimately seeks our destruction.

Identifying the Spirit of Babylon

The spirit of Babylon has been in the earth since civilization began. It is essential to understand this spirit if we desire to walk in God's kingdom without compromise, for the spirit of Babylon epitomizes self-exaltation, and self-exaltation is the source of compromise.

Originally, Babylon was more than a wealthy, glamorous city; it was primarily a religious city. To understand this gives us great insight into the nature of this enemy. Genesis 11:4 tells us that the common intent of its people was to build for themselves a city, "and a tower whose top will reach into heaven." More than their advanced skills in art and warfare, their pride was in their religion. When the Lord confused their tongues and scattered them across the earth, the spirit of Babylon spread throughout the world, and the desire to "reach into heaven" through man-made religions proliferated in every nation.

We also see in this spirit the ambition to "make for ourselves a name." As a result, this influence now permeates our human nature. Thus, Solomon observed, "every labor and every skill which is done is the result of rivalry between a man and his neighbor" (Ecclesiastes 4:4). Rivalry and the desire to make for oneself a name still compose the nature of the spirit of Babylon.

One last thing about the origins of Babylon: the Scripture says the people journeyed east to the land of Shinar and "settled there" (Genesis 11:2). Any time a church stops pressing on and begins to "settle down," expect something Babylonian in nature to arise.

The influence of Babylonian philosophy is also seen in the book of Daniel. You will remember it was Babylon that conquered the Hebrews and carried them off into captivity. There Daniel was raised up to sit with the Chaldean wise men and conjurers who counseled King Nebuchadnezzar. We see this spirit in the thinking of the Babylonian priests when they were required to know what only the Almighty knew. they said, "The thing which the king demands

is difficult, and there is no one else who could declare it to the king except gods, whose dwelling place is not with mortal flesh” (Daniel 2:11).

We can recognize the influence of Babylon in any people or church that offers lip service to a God far off, a deity whose dwelling place is not with men. In contrast, Jesus is our Emmanuel, “God with us.” The very essence of true Christianity is Christ in us, the hope of glory. You can discern the spirit of Babylon in a church that honors God in heaven without having any relationship with Him on earth.

Babylon Will Be Destroyed

The spirit of Babylon is all around us, both in our society in general and in the Christian church in particular. In the book of Revelation we see those who have compromised with this spirit. They are seen as “a woman sitting on a scarlet beast” (Revelation 17:3). Upon her forehead a name was written, “Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots” (v.5).

To discern the spirit of Babylon, look first for pride: “Let us make for ourselves a name” (Genesis 11:4). Then, look for worldliness: “the woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls” (Revelation 17:4). Finally, where people are drunk with lusts for pleasure, you will see “in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality” (v. 4).

The command of God is, “Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues” (Revelation 18:4).

When we are called out of Babylon, it is a call into Christlikeness. In this hour God is certainly calling the church to enter into meekness, moderation, and purity of heart. The Holy Spirit has been judging and cleansing the Babylonian strongholds from the church. Indeed, the sins of Babylon will soon be fulfilled by plagues, which even now are falling upon her. In His mercy, God calls us out of this evil.

The Revelation of John continues, “The beast... will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire” (Revelation 17:16). Anytime we decide to coexist with the devil, it leaves us desolate and naked, suffering in unquenchable fire. This warning must be heard by each of us as individuals. In the sanctuary of our hearts, we must decide we are not going to compromise with Babylon in any way.