

Understanding Revelation – Topic 27

# **The drying up of the River Euphrates**

**When, why, how?**

**An exposition of Revelation Chapter 16:12**

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## Introduction



The Euphrates River, at more than 2700 km in length, is one of the largest rivers of western Asia. It emerges from the mountains of Armenia, flows southward into Syria, turns southeast into Iraq and finally empties into the Persian Gulf. This great river is mentioned in the book of Revelation in two different predictions: (1) the sixth trumpet of Revelation Chapter 9 and (2) the sixth plague of Revelation Chapter 16. In particular this river is connected with the seven last plagues that fall upon the earth after the close of probation and prior to the second coming of Christ.

***Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. Revelation 16:12***

The prophet John goes on to describe the powers that unite the world for the final conflict against God and his people.

*For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Revelation 16:14*

The tremendous climax in the conflict between good and evil involves the river Euphrates. It is therefore essential to understand what this river represents.

Some Bible students held the view that in Scripture a river represents the country through which it flows. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Euphrates flowed through the territory of the Ottoman Empire and so it was believed by some that the Euphrates represented the Ottoman Empire. However the Ottoman Empire has vanished, so this is no longer a valid application. Others have attempted to apply the Euphrates symbol to the Islamic religion. There is no Scriptural support for this assertion, nor is there any hint in Scripture that a river represents a religion.

Based on the assumption that a river represents a country, some might now conclude that the Euphrates represents Iraq. However when we allow Scripture to reveal what the river symbolises a very different conclusion is drawn.

## Context of the Euphrates River

### Significance of Babylon

The Bible reveals that the river Euphrates was the river of Babylon. Ancient Babylon is employed in the Book of Revelation as a type or picture of modern Babylon. The Euphrates is therefore a symbolic river connected with modern Babylon in the last days.

Babylon looms large in the book of Revelation.

*And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication". Revelation 14:8*

Babylon plays a major role in the final conflict. The seven last plagues fall on Babylon (Revelation 16:19). The harlot church is called *Babylon the Great* (Revelation 17:5). Babylon is also likened to a great city which is the enemy of God. Scripture is clear that in the last days Babylon is to dominate the world. Revelation Chapter 18 tells us how.

*For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury. Revelation 18:3*

This verse indicates that the world at large will support Babylon.

*In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow'. Revelation 18:7*

Modern Babylon is to sit as queen of the nations, just as ancient Babylon did.

### Babylon's composition

The Book of Revelation reveals who Babylon is by firstly informing us that she is comprised of three parts.

*Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. Revelation 16:19*

The three entities or powers which make up Babylon are symbolised as follows:

*And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. Revelation 16:13*

In a previous topic – *The three powers who will lead the world to Armageddon* - it has already been demonstrated that the dragon represents

*Kings, rulers and governors who have placed upon themselves the brand of antichrist ...*<sup>1</sup>

This means that political powers will form one of the three entities which make up Babylon.

The second component of Babylon is *the beast*. Revelation 13:1-10 reveals that the beast is the Papacy.<sup>2</sup> The third and final component of Babylon is *the false prophet* which represents apostate Protestantism.<sup>3</sup>

Here we see the three main aspects of spiritual Babylon which will lead the world against God in the last days. Scripture shows that not only do these three powers comprise Babylon, but also that their supporters will form a part of Babylon.

*...all the world marveled and followed after the beast. Revelation 13:3*

This passage indicates that the time will come when Babylon will gain control of all the peoples of the world.

*All who dwell upon the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life.... Revelation 13:8*

Ultimately all who are not faithful to Christ, all who do not *keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus*, will support Babylon.

### **Babylon as a description of the final apostasy**

There are three fundamental reasons why the final apostasy is called Babylon.

1. To hide the truth from those who do not appreciate it, so that only the sincere searcher will find it. One of the reasons Jesus spoke in parables was to hide the truth from those who did not appreciate truth.<sup>4</sup>
2. The spirit, philosophy, teachings and doctrines of modern Babylon are in principle the same as those of ancient Babylon.
3. Modern symbolic Babylon also has many of the other characteristics of ancient Babylon. At least fourteen parallels can be found in Scripture (see summary in Appendix A).

The Holy Spirit inspired the apostle John to cull from the Old Testament many expressions concerning ancient Babylon and apply them to modern Babylon. Therefore in order to understand the significance of the descriptions of spiritual Babylon found in Revelation we need to study them in conjunction with their types in the Old Testament.

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<sup>1</sup> E.G. White, *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, ed., 3rd ed., (Boise, ID.: Pacific Press Publishing Assn., 1962), 39.

<sup>2</sup> A.P. Cooke, *Antichrist 666*, (Sydney: Self-published, 1985).

<sup>3</sup> A.P. Cooke, *Three Powers and Armageddon*, (Sydney: Self-published, 1985).

<sup>4</sup> Mark 4:11-12.

## Type meets antitype

### Ancient Babylon and symbolic Babylon

#### Babylon as a world power

Ancient Babylon was a world power. After conquering the then-known world, Nebuchadnezzar declared:

*Is not this great Babylon that I have built.... Daniel 4:30*

In the book of Revelation the description *Babylon the great* is used four times, denoting the worldwide influence that this end time power will gain.<sup>5</sup>

#### Babylon's supremacy

In the Old Testament Babylon was called *the lady of kingdoms* (*Isaiah 47:5*) denoting that she was the best. She was supreme.

*'I shall be a lady for ever'. Isaiah 47:7*

Babylon's aim is to rule forever. This has always been the spirit of Babylon.

*I am, and there is no one else besides me; I shall not sit as a widow, Nor shall I know the loss of children'... Isaiah 47:8*

This portrays Babylon's intentions, and reveals her arrogance, pride and ambition. In Revelation the same picture is presented of modern Babylon. Little does the world dream of the aims of the apostate religious system that will be led by the Papacy. Little do people realise what is coming.

*'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.' Revelation 18:7*

In 1798 spiritual Babylon was widowed when the Papacy received the deadly wound.<sup>6</sup> She is determined to regain her husband and have her power restored. She will be illicitly united to the State again.

*The kings of the earth have committed fornication with her. Revelation 18:3*

There is to be another illicit union of church and state. Then Babylon will no longer be a widow.

## The Euphrates River

#### Many waters

*Oh you who dwell by many waters... Jeremiah 51:13*

The *many waters* referred to the Euphrates River. Babylon was situated on both sides of the river and canals were dug from the river which irrigated the fertile plains, making them one of the most productive gardens the world has ever known.

In Revelation spiritual Babylon is also pictured as dwelling on many waters.

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<sup>5</sup> Frequently in Scripture, the number *four* represents universality, or the whole world.

<sup>6</sup> A.P. Cooke, *Antichrist 666*.

*Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters". Revelation 17:1*

The Book of Revelation explains the meaning of these symbolic waters:

*Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues". Revelation 17:15*

*...all who dwell on the earth will worship (obey) him (the beast)... Revelation 13:8*

These passages indicate that the waters on which modern Babylon will sit are the numerous peoples all over the world who will support the extensive religious apostasy by giving their allegiance to Babylon.

The River Euphrates was the glory and protection of Babylon. Rollin's Ancient History states:

*Babylon reckoned the Euphrates alone was sufficient to render her impregnable.<sup>7</sup>*

Another author expands on this:

*Babylon...with its massive walls and its gates of brass, protected by the river Euphrates, and stocked with provisions in abundance, the voluptuous monarch felt safe and passed his time in mirth and revelry.<sup>8</sup>*

Just as the river Euphrates was the protection of ancient Babylon, so modern Babylon will find its protection and its glory in the symbolic Euphrates - the millions of people around the globe who are to give their support to her. All the nations, the kings or rulers of the earth, the merchants of the earth (Revelation 18:3), the world's financiers and the multinationals, etc will support modern Babylon. This will be her glory and her protection. We see here a sobering depiction of the tremendous organization and power that is arising around the globe.

### **The flooding of the River Euphrates**

In the original language the word *Euphrates* means *to break forth, to rush, rushing*.<sup>9</sup> This word was used of the Euphrates River because, when the snows melted on the mountains of Armenia, it gave rise to sudden flooding. The waters would overflow their banks and spread over the land in various parts of its course - particularly in the north of Israel. The Euphrates was appointed by God to be the northern boundary of Israel and in the times of Kings David and Solomon, Israel's territory reached to the Euphrates.<sup>10</sup>

The Old Testament prophets used the overflowing of the Euphrates to represent an invasion by enemy forces from the north into the land of Israel.

*Behold, waters rise out of the north, and shall be an overflowing flood; They shall overflow the land and all that is in it, the city and those who dwell within. Jeremiah 47:2*

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<sup>7</sup> Charles Rollin, *The Ancient History*, (New York: George Dearborn, 1836), 129.

<sup>8</sup> Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, (Mountain View, CA.: Pacific Press Publishing Assn., 1917), 523.

<sup>9</sup> s.v. "The New Complete Dictionary of Bible Words."

<sup>10</sup> Genesis 15:8; 1 Kings 4:21, 24.

Military invasions generally came from the north. Even though some invasions came from the east, they were forced to travel up the Euphrates River, because of the intractable desert, and then turn down from the north into Israel.

*Now therefore, behold, the Lord brings up over them the waters of the River, strong and mighty - The king of Assyria and all his glory; he will go up over all his channels and go over all his banks. Isaiah 8:7-8*

This was a prediction about the Assyrian King Sennacherib, who invaded the land of Israel and besieged Jerusalem, the capital of Judah. The invasion is likened to the overflowing of the many waters of the river - the Euphrates. The same symbolism is repeated

*Woe to the multitude of many people who make a noise like the roar of the seas, And to the rushing of nations that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters! <sup>13</sup>The nations will rush like the rushing of many waters; but God will rebuke them. Isaiah 17:12-13*

This was also a reference to the invasion of the Assyrians and alludes to the flooding of the Euphrates. In the book of Joshua, significantly, the Euphrates is referred to as *the flood*.

*And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Your fathers, ...dwelt on the other side of the flood (river) in old times; and they served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood (river) and led him throughout all the land of Canaan. Joshua 24:2-3*

*... choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood (river), or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. Joshua 24:14-15*

The term *flood* is used to represent an invasion, or attack, by hostile powers.<sup>11</sup>

In the book of Revelation the term *Euphrates* has a similar significance. The sixth trumpet prophecy of Revelation 9:14 predicts the loosing of the four angels who are bound in, or at, the great river Euphrates. This represents an invading hostile power that would overrun the empire of Eastern Rome like a flood. It represented the Turks who fulfilled all the details of the sixth trumpet.<sup>12</sup>

In the sixth plague prophecy of Revelation 16:12, the Euphrates has the same connotation. It represents an invasion or an attack by spiritual Babylon on spiritual Israel - the Church of God. In referring to the supporters of Babylon, the Revelator declares

*With whom the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries. Revelation 17:2*

Babylon's supporters will be deluded, intoxicated, by Babylon's doctrine and philosophy. As a result they will be manipulated and used to attack God's people. The Revelator supports this concept in other references:

*...the dragon...makes war on the remnant...who keep the commandments of God. Revelation 12:17*

*...the ten horns and the beast make war with the Lamb. Revelation 17:12-14*

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<sup>11</sup> Daniel 9:26; Revelation 12:15-16.

<sup>12</sup> See *Understanding Revelation*, Topic 14 V03, *From triumph to tragedy – the sixth trumpet prophecy*.



The two-horned beast causes all that *would not worship the image of the beast* to be killed (Revelation 13:15).

The *many waters* on which the whore sits, rise up in wrath against the saints.

### Drying up of the River Euphrates

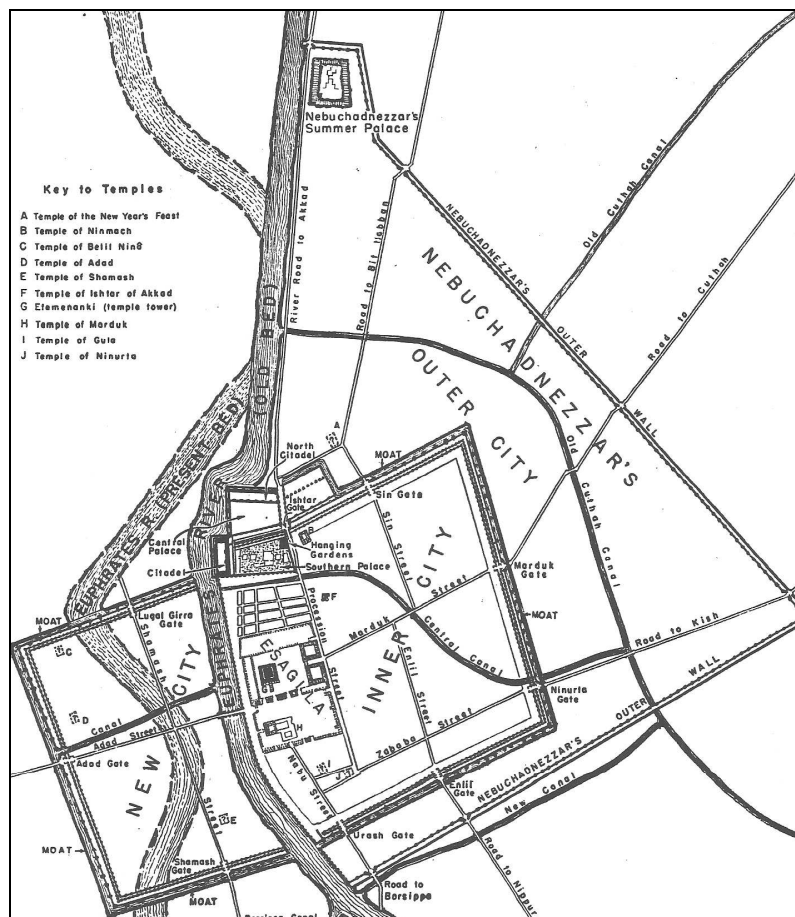
When ancient Babylon's oppression of Israel had exceeded what God would allow, He brought about her destruction. She was overthrown by the drying up of her waters - the Euphrates.

*A drought is against her waters, and they will be dried up. Jeremiah 50:38*

*Behold, I will plead your case and take vengeance for you. I will dry up her sea and make her springs dry. Jeremiah 51:36*

*...Who says to the deep, 'Be dry! And I will dry up your rivers'. Isaiah 44:27.*

These predictions were literally fulfilled by King Cyrus with his Medes and Persians in their conquest of Babylon.



**Babylon and its environs - 6th century BC<sup>13</sup>** Scale: 1 inch = 10 English miles

<sup>13</sup> Ekhard Unger, *Babylon: die Heilige Stadt*, Berlin and Leipzig: Walter de Gruyter & Co., 1931

When God overthrew ancient Babylon He dried up her waters. Cyrus cut a channel and turned the river Euphrates aside so that the waters flowing under the gates of Babylon ran low, enabling the Persian soldiers to enter under the gates and capture the city.

The author of the book *Prophets and Kings* wrote:

*Even while he and his nobles were drinking from the sacred vessels of Jehovah, and praising their gods of silver and of gold, the Medes and the Persians, having turned the Euphrates out of its channel, were marching into the heart of the unguarded city.*

*In the unexpected entry of the army of the Persian conqueror into the heart of the Babylonian capital by way of the channel of the river whose waters had been turned aside, and through the inner gates that in careless security had been left open and unprotected, the Jews had abundant evidence of the literal fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy concerning the sudden overthrow of their oppressors.<sup>14</sup>*

In the final conflict, when spiritual Babylon attempts to destroy the saints and the symbolic waters on which she sits overflow against them, God intervenes and dries up those symbolic waters. He turns away from Babylon all those who support her.

Revelation 17 describes this:

*And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. Revelation 17:16-17*

This removal of the support of the peoples all over the world from the dominant apostate religious system is represented by *the drying up of the Euphrates*. It is a remarkable reversal which will be achieved by God during the seven last plagues. The seven last plagues are designed to not only punish Babylon but also to expose her. The Papacy has been the most deceptive power ever known, and it is essential that its true character be revealed.

Babylon's exposure climaxes in the fifth plague - the plague of darkness. By that time the kingdom of the beast will be worldwide

*...all who dwell on the earth shall worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life.... Revelation 13:8*

God's people at this time have been under pursuit. They have fled to the wilderness, to the remote areas or to the mountains. They are on the verge of annihilation but at that moment God intervenes. The author of *The Great Controversy* describes this:

*When the protection of human laws shall be withdrawn from those who honor the law of God, there will be, in different lands, a simultaneous movement for their destruction. As the time appointed in the decree draws near, the people will conspire to root out the hated sect (Note that it is the people - the symbolic Euphrates - the supporters of Babylon who conspire). It will be determined to strike in one night a decisive blow, which shall utterly silence the voice of dissent and reproof. The people of God - some in prison cells, some hidden in solitary retreats in the forests and the mountains - still plead for divine protection, while in every quarter companies of armed men, urged on by hosts of evil angels, are*

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<sup>14</sup> E.G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, 531-532.

*preparing for the work of death. It is now, in the hour of utmost extremity, that the God of Israel will interpose for the deliverance of his chosen.... With shouts of triumph, jeering and imprecation, throngs of evil men are about to rush upon their prey (Euphrates means rushing), when lo, a dense blackness, deeper than the darkness of the night (fifth plague) falls upon the earth. Then a rainbow, shining with the glory from the throne of God, spans the heavens and seems to encircle each praying company. The angry multitudes are suddenly arrested. Their mocking cries die away. The objects of their murderous rage are forgotten. With fearful forebodings they gaze upon the symbol of God's covenant and long to be shielded from its overpowering brightness.<sup>15</sup>*

This will be a devastating experience. The millions of supporters of Babylon, convinced that Babylon is correct and that the dissenting remnant is entirely wrong, have determined that there is only one alternative: that is to annihilate them. They are now confronted with the shattering evidence that this small group of people - this remnant - is protected by God. Continuing...

*When the voice of God turns the captivity of His people, there is a terrible awakening of those who have lost all in the great conflict of life.... The world sees the very class whom they have mocked and derided and desired to exterminate, pass unharmed through pestilence, tempest, and earthquake. He who is to the transgressors of His law a devouring fire, is to His people a safe pavilion.<sup>16</sup>*

Imagine this scene and the startling reversal. In the fifth plague of extreme blackness a blinding rainbow envelopes each little group of praying saints. The supporters of Babylon are suddenly shocked into the realization that these despised, hated, distinct people are the chosen of God. This realization triggers the symbolic *drying up of the Euphrates*. This is how the *many waters* are diverted. This is the removal of the support of the populace from Babylon. It is God's answer to the attempt to destroy His loyal people; it is a signal intervention.

When the eyes of the multitude are opened and they realize that they have been deluded, they will turn upon their leaders.

*"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" says the LORD.... "I will attend to you for the evil of your doings," says the LORD. Jeremiah 23:1-2*

The majority of religious teachers today are hiding the truth of the Scriptures from their congregations and this will be even more pronounced in the future.

*For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of My people slightly, Saying, 'Peace, peace!' When there is no peace. Jeremiah 8:11*

*Because with lies you have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and you have strengthened the hands of the wicked, so that he does not turn from his wicked way to save his life. Ezekiel 13:22*

These leaders will see the tragic fruitage of their ministry impact on the multitudes which they have manipulated and deceived.

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<sup>15</sup> E.G. White, *The Great Controversy*, ed., (Mountain View, CA.: Pacific Press Publishing Assn., 1898), 635-636.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, 654.

*The minister who has sacrificed truth to gain the favor of men, now discerns the character and influence of his teachings....every act that led men to rest in a refuge of falsehood, has been scattering seed; and now, in the wretched, lost souls around him, he beholds the harvest.*<sup>17</sup>

Under such devastating exposure the unfaithful clergy, in awful remorse, confess their deceptions and while cringing at the feet of the saints, admit that the persecuted ones are God's true people.

*Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie - indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. Revelation 3:9*

*No language can express the longing which the disobedient and disloyal feel for that which they have lost forever - eternal life. Men whom the world has worshiped for their talents and eloquence now see these things in their true light. They realize what they have forfeited by transgression, and they fall at the feet of those whose fidelity they have despised and derided, and confess that God has loved them.*<sup>18</sup>

Here is a challenge and a reason to decide to follow the right path. Here is encouragement to be faithful to the *commandments of God and the faith of Jesus*. Shun the popular way, for it will lead to shattering disappointment and remorse. It is vital that we take the long view and understand where our path is leading us. The prophet warns:

*Wail, shepherds, and cry! Roll about in the ashes, you leaders of the flock! For the days of your slaughter and your dispersions are fulfilled; you shall fall like a precious vessel. And the shepherds will have no way to flee, nor the leaders of the flock to escape. Jeremiah 25:34-35*

*The priests who are leading on their flock to death are soon to be arrested in their dreadful career. The plagues of God are coming, but it will not be sufficient for the false shepherds to be tormented with one or two of these plagues. God's hand at that time will be stretched out still in wrath and justice and will not be brought to Himself again until His purposes are fully accomplished, and the hireling priests are led to worship at the feet of the saints, and to acknowledge that God has loved them because they held fast the truth and kept God's commandments.*<sup>19</sup>

The multitudes, witnessing the confession of their religious leaders and realizing that they have been deluded by them and robbed of eternal life, react with frightening violence.

*The people turned upon their ministers with bitter hate and reproached them, saying, "You have not warned us. You told us that all the world was to be converted, and cried, Peace, peace, to quiet every fear that was aroused. You have not told us of this hour; and those who warned us of it you declared to be fanatics and evil men, who would ruin us." But I saw that the ministers did not escape the wrath of God. Their suffering was tenfold greater than that of their people.*<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid., 654-655.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., 655.

<sup>19</sup> E.G. White, *Early Writings*, (Washington, DC.: Review and Herald Publishing Assn., 1882), 124.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid., 282.

Again:

*The people see that they have been deluded. They accuse one another of having led them to destruction; but all unite in heaping their bitterest condemnation upon the ministers. Unfaithful pastors have prophesied smooth things; they have led their hearers to make void the law of God and to persecute those who would keep it holy. Now, in their despair, these teachers confess before the world their work of deception. The multitudes are filled with fury. "We are lost!" they cry, "and you are the cause of our ruin;" and they turn upon the false shepherds. The very ones that once admired them most, will pronounce the most dreadful curses upon them. The very hands that once crowned them with laurels will be raised for their destruction. The swords which were to slay God's people are now employed to destroy their enemies. Everywhere there is strife and bloodshed.<sup>21</sup>*

*The work of destruction begins among those who have professed to be the spiritual guardians of the people. The false watchmen are the first to fall. There are none to pity or to spare.<sup>22</sup>*

This is the *drying up of the river Euphrates*. The prediction of the prophet Zechariah may also have its full application at this time:

*And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths. Zechariah 14:12*

*The false shepherds had been the signal objects of Jehovah's wrath. Their eyes had consumed away in their holes, and their tongues in their mouths, while they stood upon their feet.<sup>23</sup>*

This fearsome judgment will be fulfilled under the sixth and seventh plagues. Yet it is not the end. After the false clergy are destroyed, the tragic end of the supporters of Babylon is then portrayed.

*It shall come to pass in that day that a great panic from the LORD will be among them. Everyone will seize the hand of his neighbor, and raise his hand against his neighbor's hand. Zechariah 14-13*

The supporters of Babylon will turn on each other. This is understandable, given their fearful frustration and devastating disappointment. They have lost everything.

*Many of the wicked were greatly enraged as they suffered the effects of the plagues. It was a scene of fearful agony. Parents were bitterly reproaching their children, and children their parents, brothers their sisters, and sisters their brothers. Loud, wailing cries were heard in every direction, "It was you who kept me from receiving the truth which would have saved me from this awful hour."<sup>24</sup>*

Today, and in the future, loved ones, relatives and friends may be hindering people who desire to accept the truth of God. There will be terrible recriminations when the plagues come.

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<sup>21</sup> E.G. White, *The Great Controversy*, 655.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, 655.

<sup>23</sup> E.G. White, *Early Writings*, 289-290.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, 282.

*After the saints had been delivered by the voice of God, the wicked multitude turned their rage upon one another. The earth seemed to be deluged with blood and dead bodies were from one end of it to the other.*<sup>25</sup>

The term *Armageddon* means *mount of slaughter*. The scene depicted above is the exact fulfillment of Armageddon. It is not the clash of earthly armies but the terrible conflict, first against God's people, then against the false clergy bringing about their destruction. And finally it is the unsaved destroying each other in a worldwide frenzy.

Worldwide destruction and bloodshed is a tragic scenario, but it prepares the way for the coming of Christ. The purpose of the Euphrates being dried up was that *the way of the kings of the east might be prepared*. Topic 28 - *The Kings from the sunrising* – explains what this passage means.

When Christ finally appears to receive His people at the Second Advent, the Revelator declares:

*... the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse... Revelation 19:21*

This refers to the remaining unsaved. After the tremendous slaughter there are only a few left – a remnant. They are destroyed by the brightness of Christ's coming when He returns to the world (2 Thessalonians 2:8).

In the book of Revelation, therefore, we find two remnants. The first is the remnant of the woman's seed which keeps the commandments of God and has the testimony of Jesus. This remnant will be preserved during the plagues and translated at His appearing. The second remnant will be those who may have survived the plagues but will be destroyed at the Second Advent.

## Conclusion

Worldwide destruction and widespread bloodshed is a tragic outcome, but it prepares the way for the coming of Christ. The purpose of the Euphrates being dried up was that *the way of the kings of the east might be prepared*. Topic 28 - *The Kings from the sunrising* – explains what this passage means.

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<sup>25</sup> Ibid., 290.

## Appendix A – Scriptural parallels between the Two Babylons

Literal Babylon	Spiritual Babylon
Literal Babylon ruled the then known world. Daniel 4:30	Spiritual Babylon is to rule the world. Revelation 18:3, 17:2
Literal Babylon claimed to be The Lady of Kingdoms. <i>I shall be a lady for ever, I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children.</i> Isaiah 47:5-8	Spiritual Babylon will reach a similar position <i>...I sit a queen and shall see no sorrow.</i> Revelation 18:7
Literal Babylon was situated on the Euphrates river. <i>You dwell on many waters.</i> Jeremiah 51:13	Spiritual Babylon will be situated on the symbolic Euphrates. "...that sits on many waters." "The waters where the whore sits are peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues" Revelation 17:1,15
The literal river was literal Babylon's glory and protection. (See Rollin - bibliography)	The symbolic river - the peoples and nations of the world - will be Spiritual Babylon's glory and protection. Revelation 18:3
The literal Euphrates in flood was used to represent invasion by literal Babylon from the north, against literal Israel. Jeremiah 47:2	The symbolic Euphrates (or peoples) will rise in rage, like a flood and invade spiritual Israel. Revelation 12:13, 13:7, 15
In the downfall of literal Babylon, her literal waters were dried up. Jeremiah 50:38, 51:36	In the downfall of spiritual Babylon Her symbolic waters (or supporters) will be symbolically <i>dried up.</i> Zechariah 14:12-13
The drying up of her waters prepared the way for Cyrus and other kings from the east to invade literal Babylon.	This prepares the way for Jesus Christ, the symbolic Cyrus, and other kingly powers to invade this world - the realm of spiritual Babylon. Revelation 16:12
The name <i>Cyrus</i> means <i>The Sun</i> .	Cyrus represents Jesus, <i>The Sun of Righteousness</i>
Cyrus was called God's <i>anointed</i> or <i>messiah</i> . <i>Thus says the Lord to His anointed, to Cyrus.</i> Isaiah 44:1	Jesus was called <u>the Anointed</u> , <u>the Messiah</u> ... <i>We have found <u>the Messiah</u>... the Christ.</i> John 1:41
Cyrus was called God's shepherd. <i>That says of Cyrus, He is my shepherd.</i> Isaiah 43:28	Jesus is called <i>The Good, The Great</i> and <i>The Chief Shepherd.</i> John 10:14; Hebrews 13:22; I Peter 5:4
Cyrus conquered literal Babylon. Isaiah 45:1-3	Jesus will conquer spiritual Babylon. Revelation 17:14; 19:2
Cyrus delivered literal Israel from literal Babylon. Isaiah 45:1, 13	Jesus Christ will deliver spiritual Israel from Spiritual Babylon. Revelation 18:4, 8
Cyrus came from the east. Isaiah 41:2; 46:11	Jesus Christ comes the second time from the east to destroy spiritual Babylon. Matthew 24:27
Cyrus ordered the rebuilding of Jerusalem and restored Israel to the Promised Land. Isaiah 44:26, 28	Jesus builds New Jerusalem and restores spiritual Israel to the New Jerusalem. John 14:1-3; Revelation 21:1-3

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