

Series: Looking At The Ending of Isaiah

Chapters 40-66



This seal bulla was discovered in 2018 in Jerusalem, it is possibly the Prophet Isaiah's.

As Christians we see the birth, death, resurrection and salvation provided in Jesus Christ clearly displayed in the text of Isaiah. Many Christians through out the ages have referred to Isaiah as “the Fifth Gospel”.

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But Isaiah has much to also say about the mission of the Messiah at the end of the age. This is especially true of the closing half of Isaiah.

In chapter 40 Isaiah has been disappointed by the failure of the righteous king Hezekiah who has compromised with Babylon and is unconcerned about the future impact of his decision on the nation of Judah.

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Isaiah lived through one of the most transformative times in world history. The mighty kingdoms of the Levant who were allied with Egypt fell one by one to the Assyrians, Egypt became a shell of its ancient glory. Only Judah remained an independent nation. Their sister state Northern Israel fell to the Assyrians in 722. God had spared King Hezekiah and Judah from this fate. But king Hezekiah disappointed Isaiah.

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One of the dangers we as Christians have is placing too much confidence in secular leaders or political movements. In the chapters following 40 Isaiah refocuses on the eternal purpose of the Messiah. Over these next few Sundays we will unpack some of these themes.

*“No
Longer
A Lady”
Isaiah
47:4-7 &
Revelation
17:1-6*



A colored engraving for Martin Luther's 1534 Bible edition. It is entitled "The Whore of Babylon". The woman wears the papal crown leaving no question of interpretation.

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Oct. 2, 2022

“No Longer A Lady”

Isaiah 47:4-7 & Revelation 17:1-6



A colored engraving for Martin Luther's 1534 Bible edition. It is entitled "The Whore of Babylon". The woman wears the papal crown leaving no question of interpretation.

In Isaiah 47, a character is introduced that will impact Christian thought for centuries. The defiled "virgin of Babylon" is no longer a lady. While this imagery is used by other Old Testament prophets it is in this chapter where it is most clearly stated.

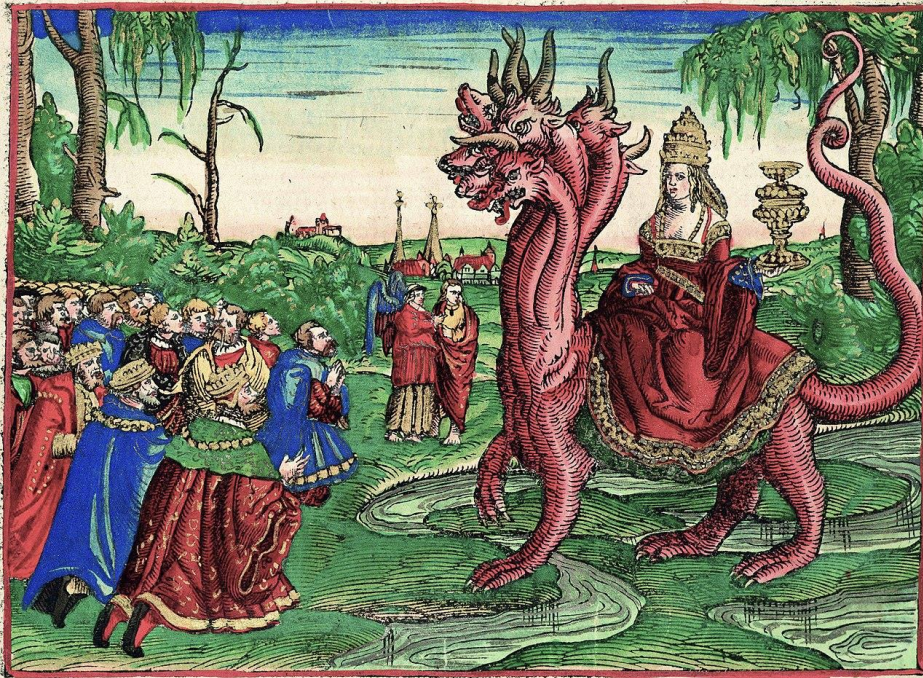
Isaiah 47:4-7 [ESV]

1 Come down and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon; sit on the ground without a throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans! For you shall no more be called tender and delicate. 2 Take the millstones and grind flour, put off your veil, strip off your robe, uncover your legs, pass through the rivers. 3 Your nakedness shall be uncovered, and your disgrace shall be seen. I will take vengeance, and I will spare no one.

4 Our Redeemer — the LORD of hosts is his name — is the Holy One of Israel. 5 Sit in silence, and go into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans; for you shall no more be called the mistress of kingdoms. 6 I was angry with my people; I profaned my heritage; I gave them into your hand; you showed them no mercy; on the aged you made your yoke exceedingly heavy. 7 You said, "I shall be mistress forever," so that you did not lay these things to heart or remember their end.

“No Longer A Lady”

Isaiah 47:4-7 & Revelation 17:1-6



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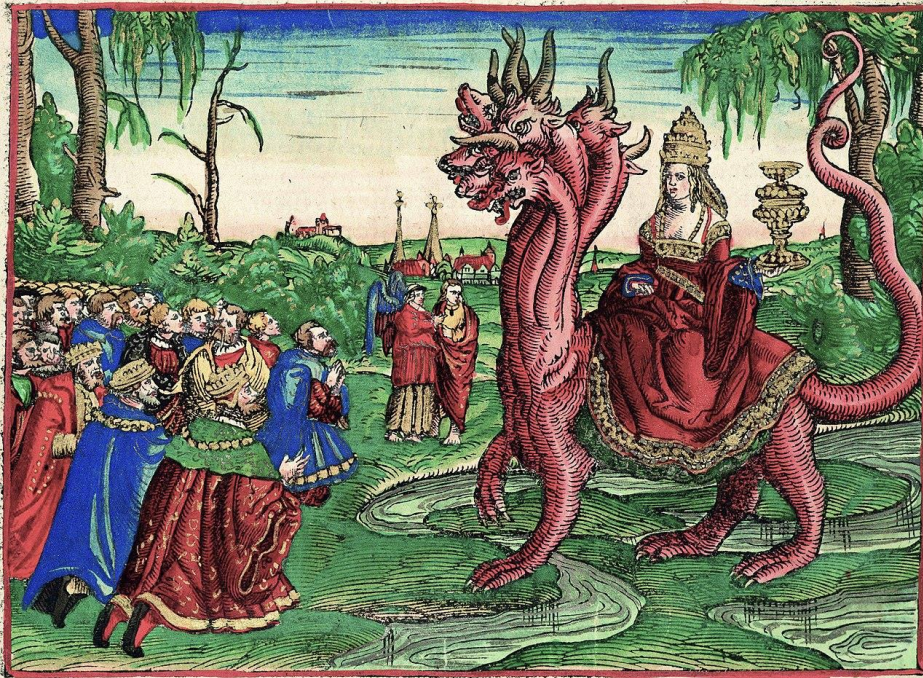
This became the model for the woes Jesus proclaims against Jerusalem and Peter and John identify with Roman culture. In Revelation 17:1-6 we meet the "Whore of Babylon". Christians throughout history have recklessly labeled other rival Christian organizations by use of this title. And that is unfortunate because we miss the point.

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“No Longer A Lady”

Isaiah 47:4-7 & Revelation 17:1-6



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In truth from Isaiah through to Revelation this image seems to relate the concept of that social structure that ultimately determines culture norms.

The Whore of Babylon starts out as a virgin that wishes to do good but ends up selling herself to gain her desires, power and adulation according to Isaiah.

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John 17:15-21 [ESV]

15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.



“No Longer A Lady”

Isaiah 47:4-7 & Revelation 17:1-6

Andrew Breitbart

revolutionized the way news is gathered and disseminated. He originally worked for the “Drudge Report” then helped to establish the “Huffington Post”. He struck off on his own in 2005 with Breitbart.com which became Breitbart News. He is famous for the Breitbart Doctrine - “Politics is downstream from culture.”

Andrew Breitbart [1969-2012]

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“No Longer A Lady”

Isaiah 47:4-7 & Revelation 17:1-6

This is the concept that politics is shaped by culture not the other way around and that culture is determined by the identity story we tell ourselves.

Augustine saw this as the struggle between the “City of God” and the City of Babylon”. We now summarize Jesus’ statement in John 17:15-21 as: We are in the World but not of the World.

Andrew Breitbart [1969-2012]
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Revelation 17:1-6 [ESV]

1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk."

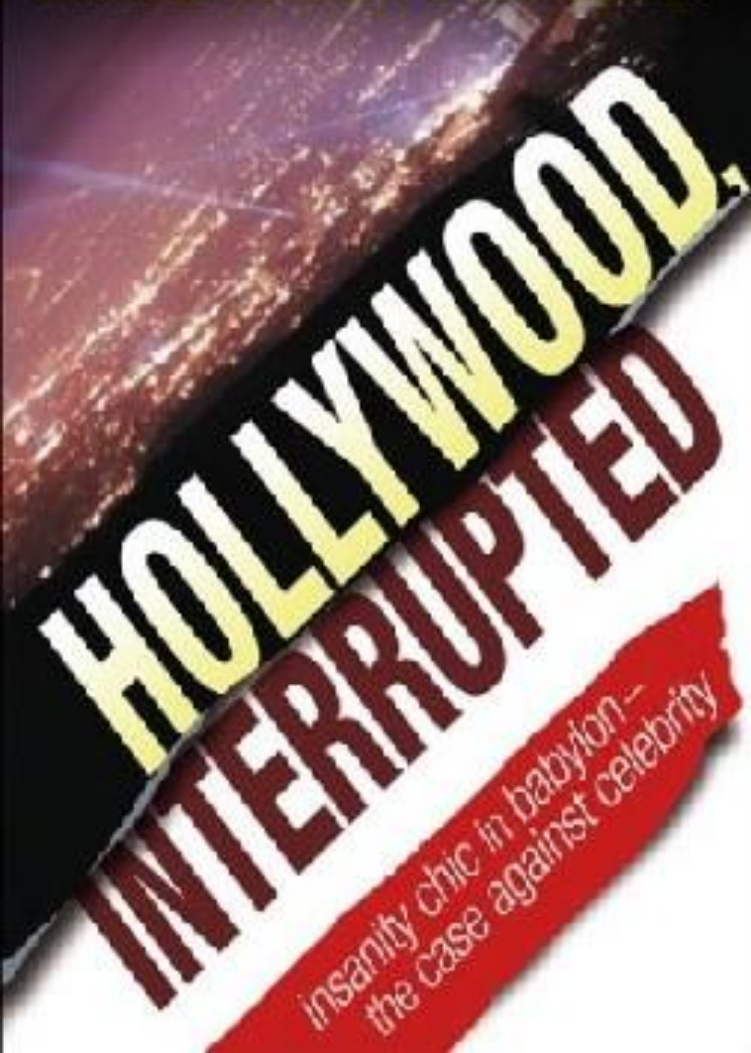
3 And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. 4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality.

Revelation 17:1-6 [ESV]

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

6 And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her, I marveled greatly.

ANDREW BREITBART & MARK EBNER



Andrew Breitbart and
Mark Ebner produced this
book in 2004
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“No Longer A Lady”

Isaiah 47:4-7 & Revelation 17:1-6

Andrew Breitbart and Mark Eber produced this best selling critique of Hollywood and the Entertainment industry values. The subtitle reflects perhaps the real message: “insanity chic in Babylon – the case against celebrity”. The world of Babylon is a world of self interest, unbridled desire and raw power.

Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar represent this deep divide.

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Daniel 2:31-35 [ESV]

31 "You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. 32 The head of this image was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. 34 As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.



“No Longer A Lady”

Isaiah 47:4-7 & Revelation 17:1-6

For Daniel the focus was on the kingdom and culture of God reflected in the coming Messiah which would make all human based cultures meaningless in comparison. They are all flawed because they humanity is flawed with sinfulness and our cultures lead to oppression and domination. The more materialistic the base of the culture the more oppressive.

Statue of Nebuchadnezzar by James Tissot

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“No Longer A Lady”

Isaiah 47:4-7 & Revelation 17:1-6

In an article in the the American Thinker on April 23, 2022 by Deborah C. Tyler, PhD. She challenges the Breitbart Doctrine not on its conclusion but on its beginning. She states that culture is downstream from religion. What people worship will determine their cultural values and that determines their politics.

Statue of Nebuchadnezzar by James Tissot

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Daniel 3:1-6 [ESV]

1 King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. 2 Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. 3 Then the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Daniel 3:1-6 [ESV]

4 And the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, 5 that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. 6 And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace."



“No Longer A Lady”

Isaiah 47:4-7 & Revelation 17:1-6

For Nebuchadnezzar, he was the head of gold...the best of all cultures. All should worship the genius of the state which his culture had produced. Such materialistic worship can not allow any Superior Power to which the Culture is accountable. The 3 Hebrew wisemen were infected with the Culture of Heaven, not the culture of this world.

Statue of Nebuchadnezzar by James Tissot

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Psalm 137:1-4 & 8 [ESV]

1 By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion.

2 On the willows there we hung up our lyres.

3 For there our captors required of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

4 How shall we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?

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

“No Longer A Lady” Isaiah 47:4-7 & Revelation 17:1-6



The Isaiah Scroll from the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The culture of the World entices people because it appears as something proper and noble but appeals to the baser nature.

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“No Longer A Lady” Isaiah 47:4-7 & Revelation 17:1-6

The Isaiah Scroll
from the Dead
Sea Scrolls.



For Christians need to remember that we are “in the world but not of the world”. Only cultures that are humble enough to recognize their own potential for violent self interest, unbridled desire and raw power will build safe-guards against them.

“No Longer A Lady” Isaiah 47:4-7 & Revelation 17:1-6

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The real spiritual battle going on in the world and in our own hearts is the battle between the culture of the “City of God” and the culture of the “City of Babylon”.