

# It Might Be Today

## Building Babylon

Every week we bring you what we call a Prophecy Update. We show how news and trends in the world are corroborating centuries-old prophecies found in the Bible.

This week we focus on efforts underway to preserve, restore, and rebuild ancient Babylon.

Babylon was the most important city in the world for about 2,000 years in the past. The Bible tells us that she will be rebuilt and play a crucial role in the End Times. For example, the eighteenth chapter of the Revelation of Jesus Christ describes at length the city of Babylon existing in the Great Tribulation.

A lot of our thinking about Babylon being rebuilt comes from the fact that the Bible speaks of a sudden, complete, and cataclysmic destruction of the city which has never yet taken place historically.

Isaiah 13:19 & 20 says, "And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans' pride, will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It will never be inhabited, Nor will it be settled from generation to generation; Nor will the Arabian pitch tents there, Nor will the shepherds make their sheepfolds there."

In Jeremiah 51:62 you read,

Jeremiah 51:62 then you shall say, 'O Lord, You have spoken against this place to cut it off, so that none shall remain in it, neither man nor beast, but it shall be desolate forever.'

The context of Isaiah thirteen and Jeremiah fifty-one is "the day of the Lord," the most common Old Testament term for our more widely used term, the Tribulation.

Babylon has indeed been conquered in the past, but never has she been destroyed cataclysmically.

Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum declares, "the prophecies regarding the city of Babylon have never been fulfilled in the past, as any encyclopedia article on Babylon will make quite clear. In order for these prophecies to be fulfilled, it will require the rebuilding of the city of Babylon in the same general area."

With all that in mind, it was fascinating to come across a January 2 article posted by the NY Times titled, *A Triage to Save the Ruins of Babylon*.<sup>1</sup>

Excerpts:

The damage done to the ruins of ancient Babylon is visible from a small hilltop near the Tower of Babel, whose biblical importance is hard to envision from what is left of it today.

Across the horizon are guard towers, concertina wire and dirt-filled barriers among the palm trees; encroaching farms and concrete houses from this village and others; and the enormous palace that Saddam Hussein built in the 1980s atop the city where Nebuchadnezzar II ruled.

On the hillside during one of his many visits to the ruins, Jeff Allen, a conservationist working with the World Monuments Fund, said: "All this is unexcavated. There is great potential at this site. You could excavate the street plan of the entire city."

... for the first time since the American invasion in 2003, after years of neglect and violence, archaeologists and preservationists have once again begun working to protect and even restore parts of Babylon and other ancient ruins of Mesopotamia.

The World Monuments Fund, working with Iraq's State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, has drafted a... plan to combat any further deterioration of Babylon's mud-brick ruins and reverse some of the effects of time...

In November, the State Department announced a new \$2 million grant to begin work to preserve the site's most impressive surviving ruins. They include the foundation of the Ishtar Gate, built in the sixth century BC by Nebuchadnezzar's father, Nabopolassar, and adorned with brick reliefs of the Babylonian gods Marduk and Adad.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/03/arts/03babylon.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/03/arts/03babylon.html?_r=1)

Thousands of years ago the prophets, like Isaiah, saw Babylon rebuilt on its ancient site playing a key role in the Tribulation.

Thousands of years later efforts are underway to rebuild and restore Babylon.

Coincidence? Or fulfilled prophecy? *I say it's the latter!*

No prophecy needs to be fulfilled before Jesus can return to resurrect and rapture the church. It is an event that can occur imminently.

Are you rapture ready? If not, get ready and stay ready because ***ready or not, Jesus is coming!***