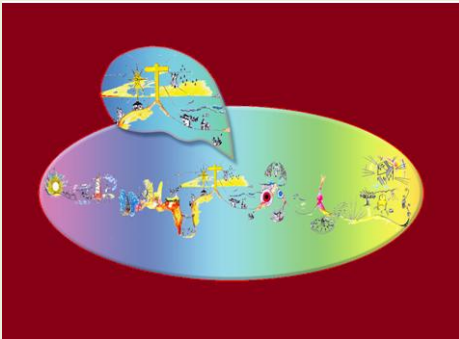


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We believe in one GOD, in three persons; FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT. We regard the Bible (both Hebrew Bible and New Testament) as the only infallible authoritative WORD OF GOD.

HULDAH MINISTRY aims to return to the Word Of God, founded on Hebrew background and to interpret it from Hebraic perspective, acknowledging that Jesus is a Jew and the Jewish-ness of His teaching as a continuation from the Hebrew Bible. The Ministry also aims to put His teaching into practice, to have a closer relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ, and to regularly have a Christian fellowship so that this-worldly kingdom of God will materialise in the midst of the followers of Jesus here and now, as well as earnestly seeking Christ's Return to establish the otherworldly Kingdom of God on earth.

All activities are free of charge and no obligation whatever. Just enjoy our fellowship!

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HULDAH MINISTRY

LETTER TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

【GOD'S END-TIME PURPOSE IN DEALING WITH THE KINGDOMS OF THIS WORLD】

This is the word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning Elam, early in the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah: This is what the LORD Almighty says: "See, I will break the bow of Elam, the mainstay of their might. I will bring against Elam the four winds from the four quarters of the heavens; I will scatter them to the four winds, and there will not be a nation where Elam's exiles do not go. I will shatter Elam before their foes, before those who seek their lives; I will bring disaster upon them, even my fierce anger," declares the LORD. I will pursue them with the sword until I have made an end of them. I will set my throne in Elam and destroy her king and officials," declares the LORD. "Yet I will restore the fortunes of Elam in days to come," declares the LORD.

JEREMIAH 49:34-39.

This is the word the LORD spoke through Jeremiah the prophet concerning Babylon and the land of the Babylonians: "...Babylon will be captured; Bell will be put to shame, Marduk filled with terror...

She will be the least of the nations—a wilderness, a dry land, a desert. Because of the LORD's anger she will not be inhabited but will be completely desolate. All who pass Babylon will be horrified and scoff because of all her wounds...

"Flee from Babylon! Run for your lives! Do not be destroyed because of her sins. It is time for the LORD's vengeance; he will pay her what she deserves. Babylon was a gold cup in the LORD's hand; she made the whole earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; therefore they have now gone mad. Babylon will

suddenly fall and be broken. Wail over her! Get balm for her pain; perhaps she can be healed...

“Come out of her, my people! Run for your lives! Run from the fierce anger of the LORD.....Jeremiah had written on a scroll about all the disasters that would come upon Babylon—all that had been recorded concerning Babylon. He said to Seraiah, “When you get to Babylon, see that you read all these words aloud. Then say, ‘O LORD, you have said you will destroy this place, so that neither man nor animal will live in it; it will be desolate for ever.’ When you finish reading this scroll, tie a stone to it and throw it into the Euphrates. Then say, ‘So will Babylon sink to rise no more because of the disaster I will bring upon her. And her people will fall.’”

JEREMIAH 50 & 51.

The prophecies concerning Elam and Babylon quoted above are ones that are regarded as not yet fulfilled in its entirety. *‘Elam’*, the land north-east of the lower Tigris Valley is today a part of Iran (the northern end of the Persian Gulf), which was bordered with the ancient Babylonian Empire. Prophet Jeremiah spoke a series of prophecies against the nations in this context, beginning with Egypt and ending with Babylon. The Lord declared a severe judgment against Elam, in that their military strength would be destroyed, the people would be driven off the land and be scattered into the world, and He will set His throne there after sweeping away her king and officials. Historically, Elam participated in many attacks on Jerusalem, assisting the Babylonians at the fall of Jerusalem. Thus, Elam has been an enemy of Israel, and continues to be so today, aiming to destroy Israel and capture Jerusalem. Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who provoked international condemnation in 2005 when he said that Israel should be eliminated from the map of the Middle East and transferred to Europe or North America, again on 25th August this year declared that Iran was determined to eradicate Israel according to ISNA news. It reported that Ahmadinejad had said in an interview with a Lebanese television network: ‘Iran believes that whoever is for humanity should also be for eradicating the Zionist regime (Israel) as a symbol of suppression and discrimination.’ In the interview with the Al-Manar network, he said: ‘Iran follows this issue (the eradication of Israel) with determination and decisiveness and will never ever withdraw from this standpoint and policy’.

From September onwards this year, it has been speculated that Israel may launch a preemptive strike against Iran’s nuclear facilities. In the beginning of November, Israel’s largest newspaper “Yediot Ahronot” asserted that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Ehud Barak had already determined the necessity of a strike on Iran before it could build a nuclear bomb. Western intelligence officials are said to believe that Iran may still be two years away from fielding operational warheads. On 2nd November, British newspaper “The Guardian” also supported this assertion by reporting that the British military is accelerating preparations to take part in a US-led strike on Iran. After years of diplomatic efforts, there seems to be no alternative to the use of military intervention as a means of halting Iran’s nuclear program. If this choice is put into practice, it would be a recurrence of Israel’s attacks against Iraq in 1981 and against Syria in 2007. Needless to say, it would not go without a severe retaliation and considerable disasters. However, Israel and U.S. are still making all possible efforts of trying diplomatic means and worldwide campaigns such as isolating Iran by banning the purchase of her crude oil are underway. According to some information concerning the location of Iran’s nuclear reactor site, a nuclear reactor built for the purpose of destroying Israel sits in ancient *‘Elam’*. It is also said to be located in a high earthquake zone, which means that if an earthquake strikes, it would be destroyed and radiation will be spread throughout the area. Some argue that this event may fulfill the passage in Jeremiah which describes the scattering of people in Elam *‘to the four winds’*. According to Frank DiMora, Elam is the territory of Shiite Muslims who want to conquer the world for Allah, and he argues that Islam will be broken and the nation that wanted the ‘Mahdi’ (the prophesied redeemer of Islam coming before the Day of Judgment in Islamic eschatology) to conquer the world will be put under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jeremiah's passage clearly promises Elam's restoration: *'Yet I will restore the fortunes of Elam in days to come'*. Although one may argue that the fact that Elamites were among the God-fearing Jews from every nation on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit filled Christ's disciples in the upper room in Jerusalem, was a fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy, its final fulfillment may only be brought about during the reign of Christ in His millennium kingdom.

Jeremiah's prophecy concerning Babylon is also regarded as not having been fulfilled yet. Both prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah spend two chapters to illustrate the catastrophic destruction of Babylon. They depict her final state as uninhabitable to the degree that even the building materials could never be reused. But this never happened in her history, and in fact, the late-president Saddam Hussein began rebuilding Babylon. Frank DiMora puts it: 'Concerning modern day Babylon, it is likely that such impressive wealth and commercial influence as described in Revelation would be acquired primarily during the period of seemingly peace and prosperity, this can happen in two ways. First, we could see Iraq stabilize as a new government takes over and allows for the nation to begin the rebuilding from its war just prior to the rapture of the Church. Second, it could also be that when the rapture of the church takes place, and the antichrist takes over the world the world will go through a short period of what appears to be a time of peace. I say this based on Daniel 8:25 where we are told the following concerning this rise of the Antichrist. "And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand' (frankdimora.typepad.com).

Revelation chapters 17 and 18 also illustrate Babylon's utter destruction. According to all these prophetic descriptions, Babylon is still destined to rise again to be finally destroyed. On the other hand, Babylon is depicted as the mother of every heathen system in the Scripture. Everything in rebellion against God had its roots in Babylon. After the world began with a single language "Hebrew", the first dictator Nimrod, meaning "We will rebel", had a godless confederacy and built "Bab-El, Babylon", that is, "Tower to Heaven" on the plain of *'Shinar'* (Ge.11). In the Scripture Jerusalem represents the city of God, while Babylon, the city of man. The Tower of Babel was a symbol of Nimrod's rebellion against God. But God disrupted the coalition of rebels by causing confusion of tongues among them. Since then, the rebellious legacy of Babylon has remained as the traditions of idol and nature worship, astrology, cultic rites, and occult practices among people worldwide. The city was first founded by Nimrod. The false worship of the celestial system and heavenly things gave birth to "astrology", where what God originally gave to man as pictorial revelations in the heavens of His salvific plans for man were distorted and corrupted to be the Zodiac, the constellations for divination. In traditions, Nimrod married Simeromith, and she supernaturally bore a son, Tamaz. He was worshipped as a sun-god. Tamaz was considered to die at the "winter solstice", that is, the time of the year when the day is the shortest and the night is the longest. Since then people have held a ceremony to bring him (the dead sun-god) back to life in the following way: They burnt a "Yule" log which meant 'infant' in Chaldea during the night of the ceremony and the next morning they took a trimmed tree in the house to celebrate the rebirth of Tamaz. They held the ceremony annually around the winter solstice, and this concept has developed into the idea of a Christmas tree. Tamaz appears as *'Tammuz'* in the Scripture where Prophet Ezekiel was taken to Jerusalem in visions of God to see how an abominable idolatry was secretly being observed by the leaders of the house of Israel. The women of Jerusalem were bewailing him, their Babylonian fertility god *'Tammuz'* dying, believing that owing to it, the annual vegetation failed (Ezekiel 8).

When Babylon was destroyed by Persia the religious system was transferred to a Persian city, Pergamus, whose name appears as *'Pergamum'*, modern Bergama in Re.2:12-17 and *'where Satan has his throne'*. After the Persians were conquered by the Greeks and consequently by the Romans, the entire system moved to Roma and further developed. The Roman leaders took on the Babylonian high priests' titles, and all the pagan idols that were worshipped by the

Babylonians adopted Latin names and remained, retaining the same characteristics. When Roman Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity in 312CE, he appointed Christianity as the state religion. Christianity became fashionable, but previously held pagan rituals were simply adapted and renamed and settled in as church tradition. One such ritual was the “Saturnalia”, a so-called harvest festival and it was celebrated on the 25th December. Therefore, if we cannot substantiate some of the Christian traditions we practise today in the Scripture, there are good chances that they can be found in the ancient book of Babylonian rites and mysteries (*‘The Christmas Story’*, Koinonia House, consulted).

The historical fall of Babylon should not be confused with the destruction of Babylon as prophesied in the Bible. When Babylon was destroyed in 539BCE by Cyrus the great, it was taken over without a battle and after that, Babylon served as a secondary capital of the Persian Empire for two centuries. Later, Greek king Alexander the Great made Babylon his capital. The two chapters of Jeremiah quoted in the beginning and Revelation 17 & 18 reveal God’s end-time purpose in dealing with the kingdoms of this world. Jeremiah informed His people about His requirement that for a season they had to submit to Babylon and during that time they had to trust in Him, who would deal with Babylon according to His plans and His perfect timings. Babylonians would be allowed to have their day of triumph and yet, the day of the Lord would undoubtedly come when God takes down the rebellious and bring peace and justice to the world. Jeremiah revealed God’s determination in overthrowing Babylon in the end after using her as His instrument to discipline His own people. Her wickedness, arrogance, mercilessness in plundering the land, and her way of inflicting terrible cruelties and humiliation to people of Israel and Judah cannot go unpunished. God never approved of their methods. Having witnessed the exile and suffering of God’s people, even the enemies realised that Israel was guilty and that it was their God that allowed judgment to come upon them because of their sin against Him: ***‘Whoever found them devoured them; their enemies said, “We are not guilty, for they sinned against the LORD, their true pasture, the LORD, the hope of their fathers’***. Even their enemies acknowledged that God alone was the true hope of Israel, but they continued to abandon Him. However, God also has plans for the future of each individual. When the time came, God urged the exiles to leave Babylon because the day of the Lord was near. The people of Israel were urged to run for their lives: ***‘Come out of her, my people! Run for your lives! Run from the fierce anger of the LORD’***. Otherwise, the destruction befalling Babylon would come upon them as well. The whole world, including Israel, was attracted by Babylon’s golden cup but it was fool’s gold, which only led them to destruction. When God’s people humble themselves, recognising their plight and cry out to Him, God would be ready to accept and deliver them from the bondage of sin. He would heal their wounds and restore them to the land that was promised to their forefathers.

God has chosen Israel to be in a special relationship with Him for a far greater purpose than we can fathom: He would reveal Himself to the nations through her and also, He would save all nations who believed in Him through her. This is the reason why Babylon (symbolising the world) hates God and His highly privileged people Israel. The Babylonian idol gods represented greed, self-ambition, selfishness, lust, injustice, violence and pride, sharply contrasting with the only true God, God of Israel. The former’s sense of value diametrically conflicts with that of God’s kingdom which is beautifully characterized by love, mercy, just, self-sacrifice, peace, humility and self-denial. Revelation 17 and 18 elaborate how much Babylon, the symbol of world power, intoxicated the world and that it must fall. Indeed, the physical destruction of the ancient city of Babylon took place but the city symbolising the wicked world system, opposing God’s salvific plans for all nations still stands today, awaiting God’s final curse: ***‘So will Babylon sink to rise no more because of the disaster I will bring upon her’***.

**We hope all the blessings and peace of this special Season
Will light up your life with Faith, Hope and Love.
Wherever and Whoever we are,
JESUS CHRIST is God’s Gift for us!**

