

## Towers ministry – short reads

“Short reads” look at specific parts of the intercessory life within the towers. They are just four or five pages long designed to cover one issue.

# Babylon

During one of my times of intercession I came to a huge stronghold. I remembered that Satan copies everything of the Lord. Jerusalem is the Lord’s inviolate stronghold. Satan has his although is not inviolate. It is and always has been Babylon. Towers intercessors need to be aware of this dangerous stronghold.

## Babylon - the spiritual reality

The Old Testament period saw the rise of Babylon, an evil copy of Jerusalem. One was the throne of David, and the place where God had chosen to put his light. The other was Satan’s throne, an evil and dark place, determined to destroy the people of God, and raise a throne for the evil dark powers.

In the New Testament times, the physical place of Babylon no longer existed. But as a spiritual evil reality, its power was very prominent, aggressive and committed to the same programme as Babylon of old. It wanted to dominate, to destroy God’s kingdom, and to rule as God.

These truths are seen at their clearest in the Book of Revelation. In Chapter 13, the purposes and plans of Babylon are explained in the vision of the two beasts.

### The Beast out of the sea (Rev 13: 1-10)

**The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast. People worshipped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?”**

**The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months. It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. It was given power to wage war against God’s holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.**

**All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.**

This evil manifestation has a very clear aim and purpose:-

- \* To steal the position of Jesus. The Bible teaches that Jesus has authority over all things (Philippians 2:11) yet - **"The dragon gave the beast his power, and his throne and great authority."** (13:2)
- \* To claim resurrection, the very heart of the ministry of Jesus - **"One of the heads of the beast seemed to have a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed."** (13:3)
- \* To capture the hearts of all men by deception, instead of by love - **"The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. Men worshipped the beast and asked - 'Who is like the beast?'"** (13:4)
- \* Not to honour but to attack God - **"The beast was given a mouth to utter blasphemies...he opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name."** (13:5-6)

### **The Beast out of the earth. (13:11-18)**

**Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth.**

**It ordered them to set up an image in honour of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.**

The second manifestation makes the evil intentions of Babylon even clearer. Jesus taught creation to honour God, out of love and thanksgiving. The beast **"ordered them to set up an image in honour of the beast who was wounded with the sword yet lived ... He also forced everyone to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast, or the number of his name."** (13:14)

The beasts had, and still have, only a single aim - the Babylon aim to rule as God. To do this, they either fooled or destroyed God's people and fooled or enslaved all the rest. They copied the signs and characteristics of Jesus - they claimed authority, they claimed resurrection, they performed miracles, they astonished the people. Unlike Jesus, they showed their real plans by blaspheming God, His ways, His laws and His dwelling.

Their ultimate goal was to destroy all that God had made, to pull God down, and to be God. In this capacity they would reign with terror, dominate and subdue the human spirit, breaking the beauty of creation in all people, and cast chains of sorrow and destruction over them.

## **The heavenly finale**

Ultimately, the spiritual Babylon is as doomed as the physical one was -

**“Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea and said - ‘With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again.’”** (Revelation 18:21)

The physical city of Babylon became the focus of dark forces, committed to the destruction of God's people. It made great progress, but ultimately failed. The spiritual Babylon, equally full of dark forces, continues to make war on all that belongs to God. In the heavenly places, Babylon is broken by the blood of Jesus. Its defeat is clear for all to see, and its doom already decided. It has lost. It will one day have to acknowledge before God and the Lord Jesus its utter defeat. Then it will be delivered out of spiritual existence forever.

**“After this I saw another angel, coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendour. With a mighty voice he shouted: ‘Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!’”** (Revelation 18: 1-2)

**“Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea and said: ‘with such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again.’”** (Revelation 18:21)

## **The work of Babylon today**

Why should towers intercessors need to know these things? The victory of Jesus is assured. Satan is broken. One day Jesus will return. Isn't that enough?

**The spiritual Babylon may be defeated, but it is still a very dangerous place, even in defeat.** The dark powers which inhabited the earthly Babylon still inhabit the spiritual Babylon and have not changed their intent nor their methods. Still today they want to be God, to destroy God's people, and to put God's creation in bondage.

Their methods haven't changed much.

\* They work mostly in the dark, because that is what Satan prefers, being a creature of the darkness – Jesus said - **“But this is your hour – when darkness reigns.”** (Luke 22:53) This is why it is so essential that towers intercessors have no dealings with darkness – no occult practice, no criminal dealings, no deceit, lies or evil. These things give Babylon a space in which to work.

\* They work by deceit and trickery. Nothing they say is truth, yet they can make it appear so. **“I will give you all their (the kingdoms of the world) authority and splendour, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to.”** (Luke 4:6) Towers intercessors must stay alert.

\* They try to copy the things of God, so that God’s people cannot tell the difference between false spirits and true ones; (1 John 4:1) between false preachers and true ones; (Matthew 7:15) between false practices and true ones. (2 Corinthians 11:14) This last verse from St Paul to the Corinthians is very illuminating of the ways of Babylon: **“Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.”**

\* They work with reason and common sense. These attributes often work against the thing of the Spirit.

\* They sow seeds of discord between Christians, knowing that this will weaken the body. (I Corinthians 1:10-17)

\* Towers intercessors must be ever watchful - **“Your enemy the devil prowls round like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith.”** (1 Peter 5:8-9)

\* They work in the human mind, raising people up in their own thinking, and weakening dependence on the Bible.

\* They work with the weaknesses of human nature - sexuality, greed and power. They use these to damage people, Churches, families and Nations.

\* They infiltrate and gain political, financial and economic power. From this position, they can make it difficult for true religion to grow.

\* They have a world view. The Bible teaches us this in the Temptation stories, where we read **“Again the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world, and their splendour. ‘All this I will give you,’ he said, ‘if you will bow down and worship me.’”** (Matthew 4: 8-9)

## What can intercessors do?

### Roots

Search out the roots of Babylon - in our own personal life, in the locality, in the Church, in village, city and nation. Intercessors have to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the works of Babylon. Jesus said that nothing which is hidden will not be made known. (Luke 8:17) He will reveal.

## **Bind the strong man**

Intercessors must learn to bind Babylon. Jesus taught - **“When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armour in which the man trusted, and divides up the spoils.”** (Luke 11:21-22)

The stronger man has come. Jesus can and does bind the evil of Babylon. It is the intercessor's task to seek out and bind that which needs to be bound. This is a tough task, and a long struggle. However, the more Babylon is bound, the more weak it becomes.

## **Intercede - Blood of Jesus**

Nothing is stronger than the blood of Jesus. It reminds the enemy of his total and irreversible defeat at Calvary. (Romans 5:9) How do intercessors do this? By regularly reading the passion, death and resurrection story of Jesus. Every time Babylon hears this story, it knows that it cannot resist the blood of Jesus. Make a habit of reading this story out loud whenever you can.

## **Spiritual weapons of Ephesians 6:10-18**

**“Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the Gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”** (Ephesians 6:14-17)

**Belt of truth** (verse 14). This is easy to understand, since Satan is said to be the “father of lies”. Deception is high on the list of things God considers to be an abomination. So Intercessors put on truth for their own sanctification and deliverance.

**Breastplate of righteousness.** A breastplate shielded a warrior's vital organs from blows that would otherwise be fatal. Intercessors put on the righteousness of Christ, received by faith, which guards hearts against the accusations and charges of Satan and secures the innermost being from his attacks.

**Feet.** In warfare, sometimes an enemy places dangerous obstacle in the path of advancing soldiers. Intercessors need to advance into Satan's territory with the message of grace as a secure foundation.

**The shield of faith.** Faith in the Lord is like a shield, precious, solid, and substantial.

**The helmet of salvation.** The helmet is protection for the head. The head is the seat of the mind, where the truths of faith are held.

**The sword of the Spirit.** While all the other pieces of spiritual armour are defensive in nature, this one is the only offensive weapon in the armour of God. It speaks of the holiness and power of the Word of God

## **Fight**

Victory will not be made a reality until God's intercessors rise up in spiritual power, and break the strong places of Babylon -

**"They overcame him by the blood of the lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."** (Revelation 12:11)