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“HOW TO THRIVE IN BABYLON”

For the sake of time, I will briefly discuss Babylon. The city of Babylon was first mentioned in Genesis chapter 10 and then again in Genesis chapter 11 in connection with the Tower of Babel. Also, in this chapter the city of Babylon got its reputation as the city of rebellion against God. It was the personification of all evil in the eyes of the angels. As a matter of fact, the book of Revelations tells us that when Jesus returns, the angels cry out, “Fallen, Fallen is Babylon. She has become a dwelling place for demons...” Out of all the places the angels could have called out, they called out Babylon. That’s because in all history, Babylon is considered the most wicked.

Today’s culture can be described as chaotic, self-absorbed, violent and Godless. Let me explain why..... We live in a world that so openly rebels against God. Right is wrong and wrong is right. The standards of the word of God have been drastically lowered to justify our sin. The enemy’s mission to steal, kill and destroy is greater than ever.

- He is killing people physically and spiritually. We have seen over the years an increase in terrorist attacks, police murdering our young boys, our young boys murdering each other. We’ve witnessed people closest to us who were once so on fire for Christ, lose their way in God, and resort back to the ways of Babylon.
- Satan is controlling and manipulating our society through the media, music and reality TV, to the point where we now have gospel artists collaborating with secular artists even though they have blatantly mocked and disrespected Christians and Jesus Christ himself. **An example of that is Kirk Franklin working with Kanye West and Tasha Cobbs with Nicki Minaj.....** Then we have these other Babylonians better known as reality show stars and so called “public figures” which are the worst examples ever. Women are dressing in little to no clothes, fighting,

sleeping with multiple men, bragging about being “side chicks” and for anybody who doesn’t know what a side chick is, it’s a woman who has continuous relations with another woman’s man or husband. They even have a TV show in the making called side chicks of Charlotte. **Only in Babylon.** Men are also having relations with multiple women, disrespecting woman and constantly calling them out their name. Our men are not taking on the role as being “the head” as God originally planned for them to do. They are not seeking their full potential..... This is who our young people are being raised by, Babylonian women and men with no self-worth and no fear of God.

- He has pushed the homosexual and transgender agenda so far in our faces and manipulating people to think it’s normal. I personally take offense to this because then you’re telling me that my God has made mistakes. **I do not and will not receive that! My God does not make mistakes.....** But check out what else happens in Babylon, these agendas have produced churches which are led by men Pastors and First Gentlemen and it is actually being embraced. Only in Babylon, can prayer be taken out of schools and now in some schools they have open conversations with students about homosexuality and transgender as early as kindergarten..... There’s currently legislation in congress fighting to remove the men and women labels from the bathrooms and make it accessible to transgenders. **Lord, help us thrive in Babylon!**
- James 4:4 says, “You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” Conforming to the ways of the world makes us an enemy of God. That’s scary! For a second, just think about being an enemy of God..... That’s why compromising is so dangerous. We must stand firm on God’s word and not just stand but live according to His word. We called to be different, set apart, come out from among them, and be the light in such a dark world.
- What’s even more heartbreaking is that the enemy has come into the church and sown seeds of discord amongst God’s people. Those seeds when watered grow into hate, bitterness, jealousy, division, etc. Now the body of Christ has grown cold towards each other. Putting more effort in fighting each other than coming together through Jesus Christ in prayer and unity and fighting the real enemy which is Satan. The bible says in Romans chapter 16 to stay away from these people who cause discord for they are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites.

These are just some examples of this dark evil world we live in, the modern day Babylon. So the question is, “How do we thrive in Babylon while still keeping our faith in tact?”

I believe I have found the answer..... “If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, seek my face and turn from their wicked ways. Then will I hear from heaven, forgive their sins and will heal their land.”

There are 4 key things in this scripture that you have to do to help you thrive in Babylon.....

IF MY PEOPLE, WHICH ARE CALLED BY MY NAME.....

1. SHALL HUMBLE THEMSELVES.....

- Humility is one of the most powerful traits we can have to honor God and influence the culture around us. In my 33 years of living, these past four years have taught me so much about humility. Letting God be head of my life and completely trusting Him. I've learned that humility is loving your enemies, forgiving those who have wronged you and not seeking revenge. James 4:10, "Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will lift you up."

2. AND PRAY.....

- Matthew 26:41 says, "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Babylon is full of temptation. Drugs, alcohol, sexual desires, witchcraft, money, greed and that's just to name a few. Prayer is our lifeline, it will keep you focused and on that narrow road that many don't take. More prayer, more power and you need power to keep thriving in Babylon.

3. SEEK MY FACE.....

- I have a question for the parents..... If a child of yours goes missing, am I correct when I say that you will go to no end seeking that child until you find them? It won't matter how many days, nights or even years it takes to find your child. That's exactly what God wants from us. He wants to be sought out. As we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us. What happens in the seeking process is you can hear and understand God and His ways. The more you seek God, the less you seek Babylon.

4. AND TURN FROM YOUR WICKED WAYS.....

- Repent, brothers and sisters. Turn from your sinful ways. Get rid of those selfish desires, and don't get caught up in Satan's seductions. Galatians 5:19-21, "When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hostility, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, division, ²¹envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God." Let's be real, we all sin and fall short, we have all have taken a walk back to Babylon, but the key is to not stay there. The book of Proverbs says that the righteous man falls seven times but he gets back up. Repent, get up, dust yourself off, and keep thriving in Babylon.

We have to leave Babylon and never look back, but keep look forward to a place where the book of Revelation tells us that there is no need for the sun or the moon because the glory of God will be the light. A place where the whole city is made of pure gold. God will wipe away all tears from our eyes, and there will be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain. We will reunite with our loved ones we lost along the way. We will get to see Jesus!