

FLEE FROM BABYLON

LET JERUZALEM ARISE IN YOUR HEART

Wim Verwoerd

First of all I want to express how grateful I am to God, Who made it possible for me to write this book, and to get it translated. I am also very thankful for those people who helped me and supported me in this endeavor. Without their assistance, none of this would have been possible.

For further information or questions with reference to this book you can visit the website www.fleefrombabylon.com

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“Come out of her, my people,
lest you take part in her sins,
lest you share in her plagues.”
(Revelation 18:4)

“Go out of the midst of her, my people!
Let every man save his life from the fierce anger of the LORD!”
(Jeremiah 51:45)

“Remember the LORD from afar,
and let Jerusalem come into your mind.”
(Jeremiah 51:50b)

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Preface to the English edition

“Flee from Babylon” has been available in Dutch for nearly three years under the title “Weg uit Babylon”. Upon the recommendation of friends the initiative has been taken to translate the book into English. We are convinced that the message this book brings from God’s Word is not only for the Dutch, but is also a matter of life and death for Europeans, Canadians and Americans.

The Lord led us to find Dayle Schechter, a legal translator born in America and living in Amsterdam. She was willing to translate the book. We are especially thankful for the many hours, days and weeks that she devoted to the translation. She has carried out her assignment diligently and conscientiously. It was encouraging to notice that the gravity and the content of the message of the book touched her even as she read and translated it. All honor be to God.

We are also very grateful for the proofreader, Marten Vogelaar, for his perseverance in checking the entire book, word by word and sentence by sentence. May the Lord very richly reward both of you.

The book has no commercial purpose whatsoever. Any income it generates is used only to advertise and distribute the book.

I can easily imagine that as a resident of the USA, Canada or Great Britain you have not exactly been waiting around for a book to appear from the Netherlands. Yet I want to earnestly urge you to read the book. For you see, I believe that it is a message from God – and a message for the very time in which we are now living. I long to have every believer examine the message in this book, regardless of their church affiliation. May each then carry this message forward in their own life and in their own surroundings.

In order to give you an idea right now of the seriousness of the

message, we call to memory the book by the late David Wilkerson, "Set the Trumpet to Thy mouth". This book which appeared in English in 1985 contained a prophetic message. Immediately in the first chapter the reader is confronted in plain terms: "America will be destroyed". Wilkerson was convinced that America would be struck by the judgment of fire that will, according to Revelation 8, strike one third of the world's population. He was convinced of this due to the corruption of American society and the adulterous church system. Yet for the victorious there is escape from this judgment by fire.

The message of "Flee from Babylon" is the same message, but confirms Wilkerson's prophetic message by specific reference to the written Word of God. The prophetic Word, indeed the very words of Jesus in the Gospels and the book Revelation, show that Babylon refers to the western world. It is over this Babylon that the judgment will come. Do not assume that you will be able to avoid this judgment by being secretly caught up (raptured) to heaven. The Bible does not teach of any resurrection or of people being caught up any time before the presence of the glorified Jesus here on earth, which is clearly shown in chapter nine of this book. I make this urgent request: search the Bible honestly and prayerfully to learn what it has to say about the end times. In doing so Appendix I is of considerable value.

"Flee from Babylon" bears the subtitle: "Let Jerusalem arise in your heart". The return and the restoration of Israel will increasingly define the course of world history. The Kingdom of God is at the door, with Jerusalem at its center. And it is then in Jerusalem that the throne of David stands and on which Jesus Christ shall be seated. All of which is also addressed in this book, primarily in chapters two, eight and ten. A glorious future is assured. Yet whether you will be there for it also depends on your desire to prepare yourself and your desire to obey the instructions in the message that Jesus Christ brought in the Bible, and that we pass on to you in this book.

"Flee from the midst of Babylon, let every man save his life! Be not cut off in her punishment, for this is the time of the LORD's vengeance, the requital he is rendering her." (Jeremiah 51:6)

Wim Verwoerd

Translator's Note to the English Edition

The original text, from which this book has been translated, was written in Dutch. Translators' notes normally address aspects of a text that raise technical translation issues and how such issues may have been approached, including for example: explanations about what choices have been made structurally as regards certain frequently-occurring terms.

In general this book did not present many such issues. Nevertheless, questions arose from time to time as a result of the fact that an English-speaking audience would be unlikely to have much grasp of the history of the Netherlands or familiarity with historic Dutch authors and Bible commentaries that are well known in the Netherlands and Flemish-speaking parts of Belgium.

And as a result, some of the events, such as the German Nazi Occupation of the Netherlands during WWII, and the works of writers such as Johannes de Heer, are mentioned in this book and may require that the reader consider for a moment and even look further into some things that are not already part of their general base of knowledge.

Whatever may be the additional challenges presented by this book, it is well worth rising to meet that challenge, for what is presented here is the work of an erudite Dutch pastor arising out of a tradition that looks at the prophetic messages found in the Word of God in a different light, a tradition that takes these messages perhaps more seriously than they have been taken in other traditions.

The prophets of the Bible were often exposed to experiences for which they had no adequate words. They were at times challenged

to write, in their own inadequate words, about things for which they had only some approximate expression available. We are all, perhaps, familiar with how impossible it is to adequately express what we may remember of events that took place in our dreams. And yet, it is often by means of dreams and visions that the prophets and kings and prominent people in the Bible were addressed by God. And it is the record of their attempts to translate what they experienced into some form of language that has presented us with much of what we now have in the various books that make up the Bible.

As I see it, the value of this book lies in the manner in which the author is able to reveal a unity in the messages of various prophets, rendering them internally consistent, giving them a coherence that is very worth considering. There is a new and different way of understanding the Bible at stake here. Even if you do not agree with what is written, it is worth considering the way that the prophetic word is handled. There is a way that this book contains an inspiring and encouraging message from the Bible about the restoration that God intends for His creation, and what He intends to do during the times in which we are now living.

This book exhorts us to read the Bible with a new and different understanding, and to take seriously certain passages that had perhaps previously been merely “flyover territory”, the parts that you just read over and set aside because they made no sense, or because you could not fit them into any coherent context. This book urges us to let the Bible indeed become what it is intended to be for us: a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. But it can only be that if we read it, and take it seriously.

I used to wonder about the things Jesus said to his disciples in Mark 4:10,11: *“And when He was alone, those who were about Him with the twelve asked him concerning the parables. And He said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables.”*

Jesus, the Word made Flesh who dwelt among us, continues to reveal more, to reveal himself and Gods plan for the restoration of Creation only to those who commit themselves, dedicating themselves to Him,

investing their time in seeking Him, pursuing relationship with Him through becoming ever more familiar with The Word, and investing in that relationship in a posture of obedience. Such obedience and devotion comes with the promise, "A people who know their God will do exploits".

May the reader prepare to have some of his long-held beliefs about the Bible be challenged. Hold all things up against what is actually stated in the Bible. Consider that many a church doctrine is without basis in the Bible. Many, for instance, should first read the section in the Appendix that pertains to a prevalent view about the identity of the anti-christ. Without realizing it, what many people hold to be true is actually a doctrine that cannot be found in the Bible. To uncritically hold such an unbiblical view is likely to impede acceptance and understanding of essential truths. May the Holy Spirit indeed do what Jesus promised the Spirit of God would do: lead you into all truth.

Dayle Schechter

Preface

Is there still any hope of restoration of the church before the Lord Jesus returns? The church of the Lord Jesus is divided to the very core, but who is doing anything about it? Are we satisfied with this situation? Who still believes in an all-encompassing breakthrough that would unify the church once again? Every effort to unify the church in the Netherlands, Western Europe and the United States has failed. In fact, unity does not arise by striving for one world church in which the Truth no longer really matters. Nor does it emerge from staying where you are, just hoping that ultimately everyone will agree with you and your church.

I am convinced that there are only two ways that unity will come. These are the two ways that the Lord Jesus gave us. The first is that the Lord Jesus wants to bring His Church together by blowing a clarion call:

“Wake up everybody! You are in great danger!” In doing so Jesus addresses everyone without regard to the church of which they happen to be a member. This book accepts and explains the message of alarm from the Head of the church. The common danger in which we find ourselves must indeed bring us together. Just as in times of high water when storm the call goes out: “The dikes are about to give way, come to the dikes to protect them!” that will be heeded by everyone living below sea level. It is the common danger that causes people to forget all their differences and feuds. Standing guard together unifies! May you thus obey the call that Jesus sent forth when He sat on the Mount of Olives and spoke about our time.

Sharing a common sense of hope is the second way to put an end to divisiveness. Hope not only brings life, it also causes us to work together. The judgment of fire, as prophesied, will undoubtedly come

upon the earth, to be followed by the Kingdom of God. Only a clear prospect of the King and His Kingdom gives rise to a strong desire for these. And a strong desire for Him will also unify us. The hope makes us strive to be ready for the coming of the King. Who can then still keep busying themselves with their own dogma and insights? Only God's will and His truth can remain. All human fads and fancies, hair-splitting and traditions that have rusted into place disappear like snow on a sunny day when we focus on the future as it is sketched out in God's Word. Hope is the second thing that can reestablish unity in the church. This book passes on the hope that can unify us once more.

John says:

"And every one who thus hopes in him (to see Him when He is revealed by his return; inserted by author.) purifies himself as He is pure." (1 John 3:3)

The book you now hold seeks to prepare you for the coming events. It is God who reveals what the church needs. Your job, and mine, is to take the revealed Word very seriously. God's Word is the truth.

I have tried to write this book with the insight that God gave me in Jesus' direct message in relation to His return and His Kingdom. Read the book with an open heart. It is my desire that you would test this book against the Word of God and that you receive it in the same spirit in which the people of Berea received the words spoken by Paul. It says of them that after hearing him speak:

"they received the word with all eagerness, examining the scriptures daily to see if these things were so." (Acts 17:11b)

Do also as the Jews in Berea: search the scriptures daily and be prepared to change your thinking when that is necessary.

Usually it is also good to know some history, because how else can you know whether prophecy has been fulfilled? So, in addition to searching the scriptures, search history as well.

My prayer is that this book will put an end to all the confusion there is about the end times, with so many different visions.

I have made thankful use of the knowledge of others and, above all, of the insight that believers had in the past. Our faith-filled ancestors

have, for example, had a great deal of insight into the identity of the antichrist.

Although some translations of the Word are a closer approximation of the original source text, sometimes the language is rather antiquated. This is why I have chosen to use mainly the Revised Standard Version of the Bible in English.

Especially for young people this version has made the Bible easier to understand. Unless otherwise indicated, all references to Bible texts are taken from this version.

My desire and prayer is that this book will give you more insight into God's all-encompassing plan of salvation. And that you would also see connections between the cautionary words Jesus proclaimed sitting on the Mount of Olives, and the restoration of Israel according to the prophets, together with what is written in the book of Revelation. "May the Lord our Father give that you will be lead by the Holy Spirit while reading, considering and digesting the substance of this book, in the Name of our Lord Jesus."

Nieuw-Lekkerland, the Netherlands

February 2012

Wim Verwoerd

Chapter 1

Run for your life

Introduction

You often hear the believer say: “The return of our Lord Jesus is closer than ever!” And in fact, if we look at the signs, many things point to that: natural disasters, economic crises, so much godlessness, and the conflict over Israel and Jerusalem. Jesus compares the time prior to his return to the time of Noah and Lot: two men who lived as righteous people in a godless world; two men who were there when God executed heavy judgment on the earth. Both men heard the voice of God instructing them to flee and leave everything behind. Both obeyed and were thus saved from the judgments, together with their families.

Jesus cites these men as examples for us, believers, when He talks about the time before He returns. Once again a judgment (of fire) will strike the earth as a preparation for the return of the Lord Jesus. This time is now before us, at the door. But fortunately we, as believers, who have been saved by our Lord Jesus, need not worry about our bodily salvation, and need not be ready to flee ...

Or do we??

Having to flee disaster

Consider this scenario. You have lived for years the way you wish, in a lovely house with your own land. You really feel at home. You have built up a business and the children attend a good school. You are deeply rooted in the place where you live because your ancestors also always lived here. The surroundings have become a part of you. And then that alarming message comes: “Run for your lives! Leave everything behind! You can only take what you are wearing and what you have in your hands. No time to change your clothes, let alone