

THE MYSTIC CITIES OF SCRIPTURE, ZION AND BABYLON.

THERE are two special Cities mentioned in Scripture, the one set up by God, called ZION, and the other set up by man instigated by the devil, called BABYLON. The latter an imitation, or counterfeit of the former, both in the spiritual understanding of the figure, as well as the practical or literal understanding of it.

ZION, with all its vicissitudes of prosperity and earthly glory in days long since passed away, as well as all the numerous judgments that have come upon her for her sins, in the shape of sieges by hostile armies no less than twenty-seven times, and the destruction more or less consequent thereupon, and though down-trodden by the Gentiles as it still is, and shall be until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled, yet for all this ZION is to be the special City of glory and honour and power in the earth; it will rise up from all its fiery trials and judgments, and be restored by the power of God, a city of truth, holiness and joy, before God for ever. History accords with the trials of the Believer now, and the calling of God on earth as seen in these days as well as in the times of the Apostle, as spoken of in *2 Corinthians* iv. 8, 9, a time of failure now, until that time of the manifestation of the Lord Himself, coming in power and judgment to set up His kingdom on earth.

Then will be seen the literal city, ZION, rebuilt and restored on earth, with a glory never yet witnessed, as well as the Spiritual City, the Bride of the Lamb, that Holy City, the New Jerusalem, with the Lamb of God in the midst, and all the saints of God in manifested glory in attendance. What a scene will this be! Christ revealed in power with all His enemies put under His feet—the reign of righteousness on earth.

BABYLON, on the other hand, is a city of lying, sin and wickedness, “the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird” (*Revelation* xviii. 2). The curse upon the literal city of BABYLON is seen in *Jeremiah* li. 64, and has long since been literally carried out, it is a city never to be rebuilt, but is destroyed before God for ever. But the spiritual city of BABYLON is still rampant over the earth, the devil is still the god of this world, but the time is shortly coming when this great spiritual city will be cast down for ever, as seen in *Revelation* xviii. 21, etc.