



Jeremiah 51:7 – The Wine of Babylon

*Babylon has been a golden cup in the hand of the LORD,
Intoxicating all the earth.
The nations have drunk of her wine; Therefore the nations are going mad.*

Jeremiah 51:7 answers two questions some people have today. The questions are: “How can anyone in their right mind agree with much of the LGBT rhetoric today?” and “How is it possible for someone who claims to be a Christian to think of Donald Trump as a good example of a Christian Leader?” The answer given in this verse states that they are drunk with the wine of Babylon, and are going mad. That is how.

The first thing to notice about this verse is that the cup is in God’s hand. He is giving them the wine. Just as He hardened Pharaoh’s heart, He is now using Babylon to “intoxicate” the nations to the point of madness. Another key verse to understanding this is Romans 1:18-32:

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. ²¹ For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. ²⁵ For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

²⁶ For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, ²⁷ and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

²⁸ And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; ³² and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

The current situation began quite a long time ago, in the Enlightenment, when we decided we knew better than God regarding life and how to live it and understand it. (Ultimately, it began in the Garden of Eden and has carried on ever since, but the currently trending expression got its kickstart in the Enlightenment.) Professing to be wise, we became fools and began to believe lies as our “foolish heart was darkened”. This culminated with the eventual worldwide acceptance of Darwinian Evolution as a replacement theory for God, creation, origin of species, etc. The wholesale embracing of the religion of Darwinism eventually led to modern paganism – the worshipping of created things rather than the Creator. The modern pagan has many false gods to choose from – money, power, sex, possessions, environmentalism, mother earth, self, etc. – it is a very long list. (For more on this see Tim Keller’s book [Counterfeit Gods](#).) Of the many idols though, the false god that really seems to be the driver is the sex god. And this is confirmed in the Romans passage starting in verse 24. A quick study of the lives of many famous atheists also confirms this, as many of them were driven to atheism by their sexual compulsion and worship of this false god.

As God “gave us over to the lusts of our hearts” we see verse 24 being played out in early pagan America in the sexual revolution that was well under way in the 60’s and 70’s and really came out into the culture during those decades. We made child sacrifice legal (abortion) in order to honor this false god and make offerings of our children, just as the ancient pagans worshipped Molech in similar fashion by sacrificing their children to this pagan deity. We also freed ourselves of the restraints of marriage, making no-fault divorce the law of the land so that we could freely worship and follow the sex god as we pleased, having sex with whom we pleased. We also kicked God’s Ten Commandments to the curb, removing them from the walls of our schoolrooms and public institutions during these decades. Opposing public prayer to God, Christmas, Easter, and other Judeo-Christian practices, God and Christianity came under attack and have been systematically removed from American public life to the degree possible since this revolution began, in an attempt to “suppress the truth about Him” as verse 18 says. Marriages by the millions ended in divorce, and pregnancies by the millions ended in abortion. Yet we still denied God, denied the truth of His word, denied the fact that He is the Creator and Sustainer of life.

Continuing to deny and suppress the truth about God, we are again given over by Him to the next step down, “degrading passions” as stated in verses 26 and 27 of Romans 1. This LGBT aspect of the sexual revolution began in the 70’s and 80’s and appears to be in full bloom now in the second decade of the 21st century. This phase perhaps has reached its pinnacle in the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to call the union of two same sex partners “marriage”, which is insane, and in the rampant gender confusion that is leading many young people to deny the factual reality of the gender they were born with, deciding to convert to the opposite gender using medicines and surgical procedures – also insane. The “madness” described in Jeremiah 51 is becoming more apparent and even easier to see, particularly when one listens to some of the LGBT rhetoric that is being circulated currently.

As we continue down this pagan road, the final stage is now upon us, namely the list of 21 sinful behaviors listed in verses 28 thru 32 of Romans chapter 1. As a culture we are now completely denying God and everything about Him: His word of truth (the Bible), His ways (the Ten Commandments), His Son (Jesus), His Creation (replaced by Darwinian Evolutionism), His creation of us (denying that He made us male or female), etc. Lying (deceit) is now becoming more commonplace behavior, almost expected in many cases – just watch any of the new TV shows or read the news (the Wells Fargo incident where the employees created false accounts for millions of their customers is an example of this), or simply listen to our current president speak (Trump). Murder is becoming more prevalent, with active shooters plaguing schools, movie theaters, restaurants, etc. As we move further into this last phase, we will see this list of 21 “improper” sinful behaviors becoming more and more commonplace in our culture. Which brings us back to Jeremiah 51.

Watching the recent aspects of this unfold over the course of my life, and thinking about the parts of this that happened before my time, I have asked “Why”. Why is this happening? How is it possible that so many people have appeared to have simultaneously lost their minds? It is like living in the children’s story titled “The Emperor’s New Clothes” (available online [here](#)). I have been asking myself how is it possible for almost an entire nation of people to go mad at the same time, believing that the “Emperor’s new clothes exist” so to speak (that it is okay for someone to decide to change their gender on a whim, denying that God made them a boy or a girl, for example). Take evolution - to me, it is clearly apparent that Darwinian Evolution (macro-evolution) is impossible. A rudimentary knowledge of biology and just the smallest amount of thought makes it clear that it is completely impossible for life as we know it to have occurred all by itself randomly. Just looking at the fur patterns and whiskers on a common house cat, much less the complexity of a cell, DNA, organs, tissues, skeletons, etc., is enough to realize the madness of believing in Darwinian Evolution. Divorce is terrible, and destroys the lives of children. Abortion is killing babies. The LGBT lifestyle is a terrible choice, increasing a person’s risk factors for disease, suicide, etc., and it rarely leads to happiness. While divorce is terrible for children, gay marriage is even worse. Google any of these things to see for yourself. Our culture is going mad, denying not just God and His word, but denying provable facts now. Even our own president makes up facts in each of his speeches - the current total as of today being 1,566 false claims, an average of 3.3 false claims per day since he has been in office (per a [news article by Daniel Dale, May 14, 2018](#)). So the first thing to note regarding Jeremiah 51:7 is that God is holding the cup that contains the wine that is doing this.

The second thing to note, from Romans 1, is that He is doing this in response to unbelief and suppression of the truth about Him. As we say over time, as a culture, “we don’t want you”, to God, and He says over time, “okay, I will leave you to your own devices - have another sip of your Babylonian wine”. If we do not repent as a nation and acknowledge God’s existence, that He is the Creator and Sustainer of life, we will continue down this road until we are completely pagan and resemble Sodom and Gomorrah, returning to a level of evil that has not been seen since the days of

Noah, perhaps. The course correction, if we choose it, is simple. It is to turn to God in faith, and acknowledge His existence and His truth. This would include putting the Ten Commandments back on the walls of every classroom in America, and teaching them to our children. This would ultimately lead to a massive reduction in adultery and divorce, abortion, etc. The fix is easy: God – acknowledge and believe in Him; and His word (the Bible) – believe it, teach it, and live by it. The choice is ours to make.

The third thing to note in Jeremiah 51:7 is that drinking the wine causes madness eventually. This was the key for me that unlocked the answer this verse has brought to the table, namely, the how and why of my two questions: “How can anyone in their right mind agree with much of the LGBT rhetoric today?” and “How is it possible for someone who claims to be a Christian to think of Donald Trump as a good example of a Christian leader?”. Romans 1 deals with the first question, regarding the madness of the culture. Revelation 18:1-5 reveals the answer to the second question:

After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory. ² And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird. ³ For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality.”

⁴ I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues; ⁵ for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

In verse 4 of Revelation 18 we read “come out of her, my people” regarding Babylon. This is being addressed to God’s people, Christians and Jews, and He is saying to us, to come out of her, which implies we are in Babylon, drinking the wine and going mad as well. But our madness expresses itself differently than it does in an unbeliever. We quit living by the guidelines given to us in God’s word differently. We hold to a form of godliness, but deny its power (2 Timothy 3:5). We have quit living out the Sermon on the Mount. Some people even go so far as to say Donald is “their hero and their champion” - this about a man who was caught on an open microphone discussing how he loves how he can sexually grope women whenever he wants to, a man who has been married three times and is currently dealing with the fact that he cheated on his current wife with a porn star, paying her off so she will keep quiet. For Christians to openly identify, support, brag about, gush over, and carry on about Trump is just not right, and it may even be sinful. (For starters it causes unbelievers to decide they can never be a Christian.) How on earth can a professing follower of Jesus Christ think that Donald Trump is the poster boy for a Christian President? Somehow many do. I have heard it over and over from my fellow believers. How can we possibly identify Christ and His church with Donald Trump? I will tell you how – we have been drinking the Babylonian wine as well, and we need

to “come out of her, my people”, and stop drinking the Babylonian wine. We too, are going mad, just in a different direction.

This brings us to the fourth thing in this verse, namely that even Christians are drinking this Babylonian wine, and need to repent. We must turn to God, set aside our idols and false gods, whatever they may be, and return to God’s truth. If we do not, God says that we will be swept away in her judgment as well. If you call yourself a Christian, and you are soft on any of the Romans 1 items (like maybe you believe in Darwinian Evolution or think there is nothing wrong with divorce, abortion, or the LGBT stuff), then you have definitely been drinking the Babylonian wine and need to stop immediately before you go completely mad and receive God’s judgment. Another way that you can know that you are intoxicated by the wine of Babylon is that you think Trump is a great example of a Christian leader. I know these are going to be hard words for many of my fellow followers of Christ to swallow, but I am telling you, if you like Trump and think he is a good example of a Christian leader, you are drunk and are going mad, just like the culture is going mad in the other direction. Repent. Repent now, before it is too late, and you are swept away in God’s judgment of the current expression of Babylon the harlot, who “sits upon many waters and makes the nations drunk with her immorality”.

When we read the passage about “come out of her my people”, we usually talk about leaving a city, or a country, etc. And that ultimately may be the case some day, when the book of Revelation is finally played out on planet earth leading up to Jesus’ second coming. But right now, it appears that the verse is also talking about coming out of the delusion, the intoxication, the idolatry, the nationalism, the love of money, the love of our pet political issues, etc. – these things are the symptoms of the immorality and adultery that is associated with Babylon the harlot, the mother of all false religions. God’s word is telling us to come out of the Babylonian ideology, nationalism and the worship of false gods, and return to Him in pure undefiled religion, worshipping Him in Spirit and in truth. God is calling us to live out the Sermon on the Mount, to live out the Beatitudes, to focus on prayer, evangelism, and discipleship, to carry out the Great Commission of Matthew 28, to live out the book of John, to live by the Ten Commandments, to love God and love one another.

Pastor and teacher Stephen Armstrong (vbvmi.org and vbvf.org) gives an example in his teaching on Romans (podcast 12C) that illustrates this well. He imagines that someone has a nativity scene in their front yard, and one of their neighbors comes to their house and asks them to take it down because it bothers or offends them. One response he discusses would be to say no to the neighbor, and talk about how it is my right to put up a nativity scene if I want to, and refuse to take it down. But another response that he discusses, the correct response, is to say to that neighbor, “Sure, I’ll take it down. I had no idea that it would be offensive to you. I am so sorry. Why don’t you come in and have a cup of coffee, and afterwards we can take it down together”. The idea is that we are here to be Christ’s witnesses, not to fight for our rights, not to fight for Jesus. We are here to build relationships with people and be God’s witness in their life, loving them into the kingdom rather than

fighting with them. He goes on to discuss that there are times that it might be correct to oppose the neighbor, but in many cases the correct response is love and empathy for the lost, putting them and their needs first, putting our witness to them above our personal agendas.

We see this also when the soldiers literally came to take Jesus away to His death. Peter fought to save Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, and Jesus told Peter no. The Apostles were to be Christ's witnesses, not his warriors. Similarly, we are not to politically fight to save Jesus from being removed from the public square and the schools, but we are to be His witnesses and call people to salvation in His name, baptizing them and making disciples. I still contend that if the church had taken all of the money, effort, and energy put into fighting political battles and building gymnasiums and such, and rather put it into prayer, evangelism, and discipleship, I would not be writing this paper. It would not be necessary, because America would still be filled with God fearing people who basically live by His guidelines as given to us in His word. The question today is if we Christians are going to continue down the path we are on, which leads to receiving the judgment Babylon is going to receive, or are we going to heed God's warning to "come out of her my people" and escape the coming judgment. (by the way, interestingly, Romans chapter 2 starts out talking about God's judgment) The choice is ours to make. I pray we will choose wisely, identifying in what way we are drinking the wine of Babylon, if we are, and stop drinking it, repenting of our idolatry, and returning to the true worship of God and Him alone.

There were many born again Christians in Germany in the 1930's and 40's, and many of them eventually found themselves in a foxhole defending Hitler against the Allies, or worse. Sure, there were a handful like Bonhoeffer that had the clarity of vision to see what was going on, and the courage to do something about it, and many of them lost their lives. But a large percentage of them ended up drunk on the Babylonian wine of Jeremiah 51:7, going along with their nation into the madness of Nazi Germany. Before they realized what was going on they found themselves in foxholes, tanks, and airplanes defending the third Reich. They ended up operating the death camps, running the death trains, building the Jewish ghettos, committing mass murder in eastern Europe, etc. The solution for unbelievers to escape the intoxication of the wine is simple – turn to God. But for believers, the solution is a bit tougher – we must let go of our personal agendas, biases and prejudices, and live for the kingdom of God, live to be Jesus' witnesses here on earth. We are not here to fight for Trump or nativity scenes, we are here to share Christ with a lost and dying world, to reach the people around us with the gospel, to pray for, evangelize, and disciple those around us. Christians can be affected by the wine of Babylon mentioned in Jeremiah 51:7, becoming mad as well. If Trump is "your guy", I would contend that you may be drunk with the wine already. Jeremiah 51:7 is a wake-up call to all of us, believer and unbeliever alike. It is a warning. Will we heed it?

Wherever you fall in this, whether you are a Romans 1 person, or a Revelation 18 person, I pray the following:

God Almighty, Creator and Sustainer of life, our Father in heaven, grant us Your grace and knowledge. Bring us a revelation of Jesus Christ so that our life will be changed forever. We call upon You in the name of Jesus and ask that You will save us from our sins, and from the intoxicating wine of the culture. We confess that we have drunk of this wine, and it has affected us, and we ask for forgiveness and deliverance from it. We pray that You will empty the cabinets of our life of the intoxicating wine of Babylon. We commit to You that we will go cold turkey and quit drinking that wine right now, today, and that we will never return to it. In its place God, please fill us with Your Holy Spirit, and deliver us forever from sin's grip on our life. We pray that You will give us a hunger for Your word, the Bible, and a thirst for prayer, and that we will meet with You regularly in Your word and in prayer. Transform us by the renewing of our mind. In regards to others, give us a love for and a renewed vision and desire for prayer, evangelism and discipleship. We ask that the love of Jesus Christ will so permeate our life that people are drawn to You simply by our presence. May God make it so in our life today. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.