



Sherlock Holmes

Hercule Poirot

Morse and Lewis

Lord Peter Wimsey

Midsummer murders

NCIS, NSI, Law and Order

- all to do with crime, evil

- in the last chapter ... the villain is caught and justice is done!

Dorothy L. Sayers "the detective story is the most moral form of fiction - in the end evil is always punished"

And the real world??

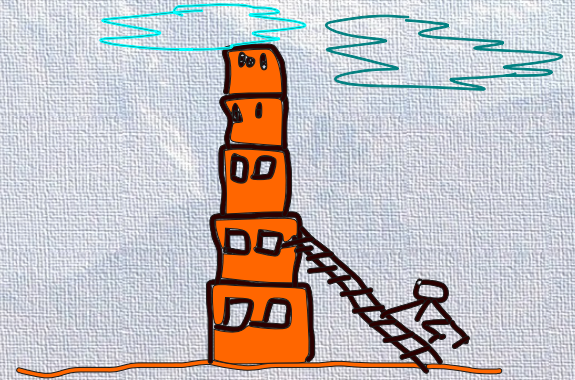
- We live in a confusing world.
- Evolution tells us it's all random chance.
- Experiences tell us it's beautiful, painful, inexplicable
- Conscience tells us that there is so much that is **wrong** ...
- Is there a finale? A final episode that puts it all right?
- God tells us - Babylon is doomed, Jerusalem will be comforted

Babylon is doomed, Jerusalem will be comforted

From last time & children's talk:

Babylon is the iconic City

- Human technology used to displace God
- N.B. wisdom has its value and uses (e.g. Daniel in Babylon)
- Arrogance, pride, defiance
- God is strongly against this
- (Revelation: "Fallen is Babylon the great")



Babylon is doomed, Jerusalem will be comforted

Outline of the text:

Chapter 13

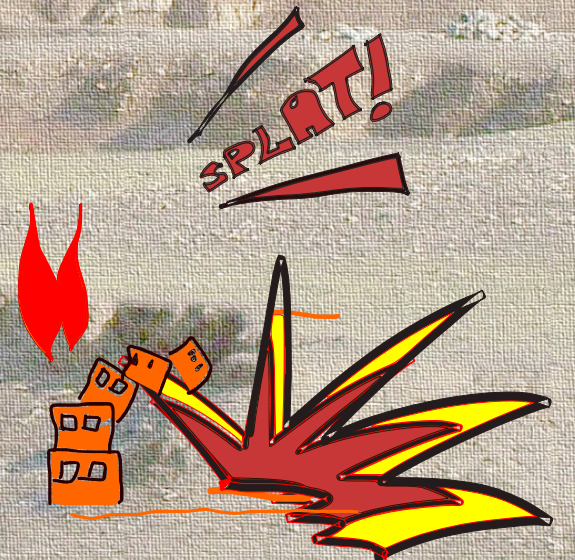
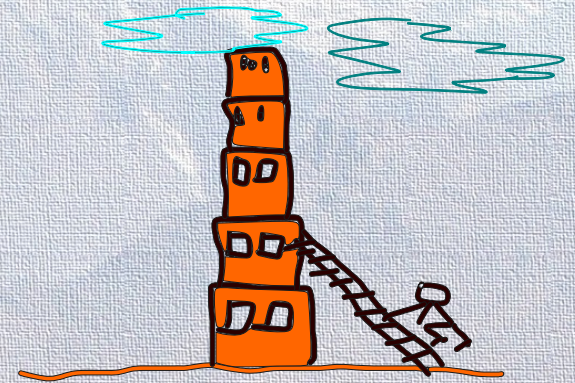
- A description of Babylon's downfall
- Beginning "an oracle" = a thing to lift up

Chapter 14:1,2

- "For" the LORD will have compassion on [his dear people]

Chapter 14:3-23

- A song describing Babylon's downfall
- A "taunt" - sarcasm / wonderment



Babylon is doomed, Jerusalem will be comforted

Let's walk through the text:

v.3:1 God calls Babylon's enemies to his wrath

v.4 LORD of hosts musters an army

v.9 the day of the LORD

v.10 wrath signified in cosmic terms (see Jesus
Matt24:29 - end of age of OT)

v.11 against arrogance and pride

v.14-16 signified in terms of ancient brutal warfare

v.17 the Medes cannot be bought off

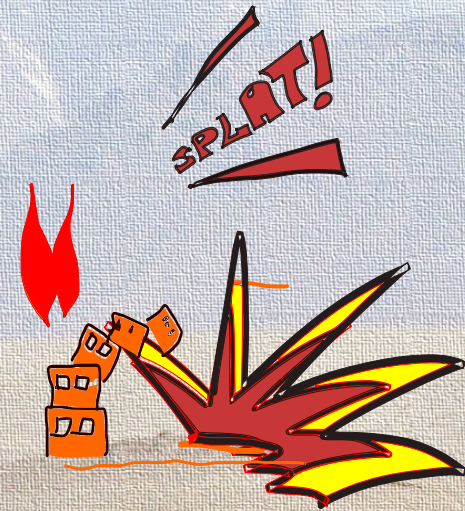
v.18 no mercy or compassion

v.19 such achievements, such flowering ... yet all in
defiance of God

v.20 un-humanising, depopulation, sub-human

=> Babylon is doomed

=>when the time comes... get out of Babylon!

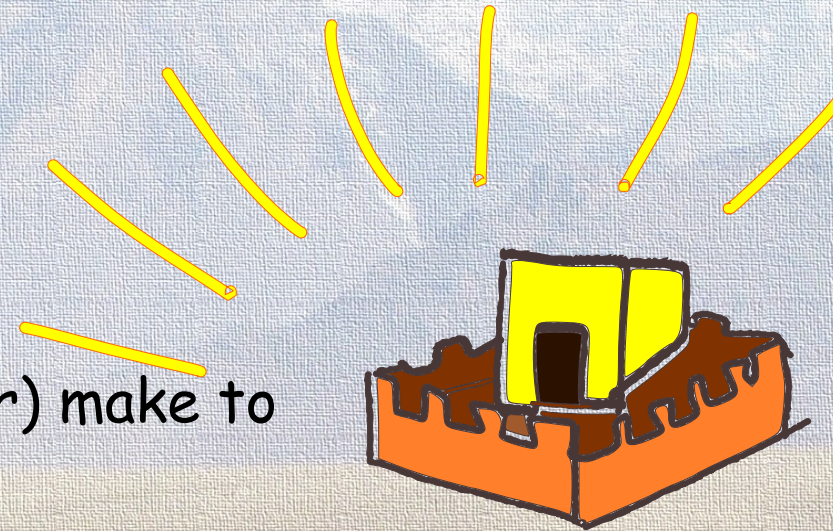


Babylon is doomed, Jerusalem will be comforted

Let's walk through the text:

14:1,2 FOR

- Jacob, Israel
- Compassion (rahum), choose (to favour) make to rest
- Add in the multiple nations
- Bring them to their place/home
- Nations are no longer their cruel masters, but willing servants
- v.3 rest from suffering
 - And from fear
 - And from sorrow
 - And from slavery
- ==> we shall be free, we shall be home
- ==> in the Lord Jesus, all will be well!



Babylon is doomed, Jerusalem will be comforted

Let's walk through the text:

14:3 a taunt

- How the oppressor has ceased!
- The trees (nations?) are at rest

The grave (Sheol) is moved

- Other kings are surprised
- You too are weak
- Maggots above and beneath

Compare your heights with your downfall

- Ascend to heaven ... down to the pit
- v.16 unbelievable humiliation
- v.18 rejected branch

N.B. the Babylon downfall has already happened to Assyria!



Babylon is doomed, Jerusalem will be
comforted

Is there a just end to the world?

Yes

Is it a good thing for Babylon to be
doomed?

Yes

Who will be comforted?

A: the people of God, poor in spirit,
mourn, the meek, hunger and thirst
for righteousness ...

What could be more important than to
belong to the city of God?

