Dear Culture Contrarians:

The use of drugs by those in authority is not a new concept. The Egyptian magicians of Egypt (Ex. 7:22, 7:11, 8:18) are said to use some sort of secret elements not commonly known. I came across these Old Testament references while studying Greek terms that all have to do with drugs, and the mixing of drugs: pharmakeia, pharmakeus, pharmakos, and pharmakon. Xenophon (c. 428 B.C.) uses pharmakeia to describe someone who administers drugs. It may be that the magical, or sorcery aspect of these terms are actually secondary in that the effect of certain drugs has an inexplicable effect on a person. Magical incantations with drugs would fit the range of meanings in the New Testament.

My interest here is in the final global development of the administration of drugs to population groups, and is it possible that we are witnessing something similar in our own time?

Here are the references to the above transliterated terms: Gal. 5:20, Rev. 9:21, 18:23, 21:8, and 22:15. These references are all found in the plural form except 18:23. The preparing and giving of drugs fits well with the grocery lists of Gal. 5:20 and Rev. 9:21, but 18:23 seems to stand alone as an indictment of future Babylon. In a two-chapter (46-47) condemnation of Babylon, the Hebrew equivalent of drugs is found (Isaiah 47:9 and 47:11); so this judgement of the future sin of Babylon is also included by the Hebrew Prophets and not just John in Revelation.

In Revelation 17 “Babylon” refers to a global religion located in Rome whom the kings of the earth hate. In Revelation 18 “Babylon” refers to the future global empire whom the kings love. This city will be greater than Hong Kong, New York, or any other massive trade city. It will be the first of two headquarters for the Anti-Christ (the second is Jerusalem, after Babylon’s destruction). Revelation 18 is the recounting of the kings’ and merchants’ mourning over the city’s destruction. Rev. 18:23c-24 are given as the justification for such a conclusive destruction of this evil city. There are two stated reasons and an afterthought: 1. The merchants of the earth were the greatest magnates. Merchants ought to buy and sell things that people need, not rule over the ones needing what they are selling. We see in our own day the dangers of allowing merchants (i.e. Facebook, Twitter) to set the standards for the culture; 2. By your drug all the nations were misled. “Your” is singular and refers not to the merchants, but to Babylon. Babylon uses a drug (singular) to deceive all of the nations. This will be a global, intentional deception that allows Babylon to control the world.

Chapter 18 ends with an afterthought: “also in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.” Babylon (the Anti-Christ) will govern the world through his merchants and a drug. He will also execute anyone who stands in his way.

Since this is the direction history is headed, we should be obstinate deplorables.

My love to you all,

*Dr. Marvin J. Effa*