

Cat.7 # 9 Cities rule nations

By Pieter Bos

The city by definition and by design rules nations.

London, Paris and Berlin used to rule Europe. Washington and Moscow ruled the world. New York, Frankfurt and Tokyo rule the world financially. Los Angeles rules the entertainment world. In any nation the fringe provinces loath the capital city's rule.

It amazed me that none of the city historians I studied, tries to define what city is. They all discuss the cultural influence and political power of the city, but even the great Lewis Mumford in: "The City in History" does not even try to define what city is.

When I was a city planner I ran into a statement concerning Abraham who, after experiencing the cities of Ur and Haran and the cities of Egypt, was "looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder was God" (Heb. 11:10). Abraham was comparing cities! I was elated, realizing: "God was in the profession before me; I could, as Abraham, learn from him!"

"The City as Beautiful as She Could Be" (<http://www.servingthenations.org/nl/articles/the-city-as-beautiful-as-she-could-be>) is one of my steps working on this.

About Jerusalem: "The Lord will extend your mighty sceptre from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies" (Ps 110:2). "The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem." (Isa 2:3).

About Babylon: "Virgin Daughter Babylon ... queen of kingdoms ..." (Isa 47: 1,8). "The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth" (Rev 17:18); and in the lament over this city: "... O great city, O Babylon, city of power!... By your magic spell all the nations were led..." (Rev 18: 9,23).

About Tyre: "Tyre... became the market-place of the nations... Tyre, the bestower of crowns, ... her trade with all the kingdoms on the face of the earth" (Isa 23:3,8,17).

The city is a corporate person, a "Virgin Daughter", a Grand Old Lady, attractive for many, frightening and alluring for others. The triplet individual-national-international is applied into: individual-national-city. The city is by definition and by design international, interracial and intercultural. Our nation, race and culture are like our corporate mothers, and the city is the same but on a grander scale... to rule them all.

That makes the city exciting, intriguing and enticing at the same time, so challenging and overwhelming. That's why strategists, of all times and kinds, go for the city. That's why the church is more than a family or a community shelter; it is designed to be a spiritual city. That's why either "the cities of the nations collapse..." (Rev 16:19) or the city will be a sign to the nations (Isa 2:2-4), even a Bride to the Son of God.
