A book that goes along with this Three Angels' Messages series is *The Loud Cry,* which can be obtained by:

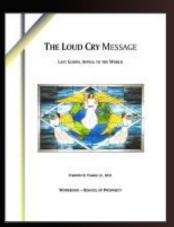
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We now continue our studies on:

The Three Angels' Messages

Prophecy Research Initiative presents

The
Three Angels'
Messages

Revelation 14

Franklin S. Fowler Jr., M.D.

Lesson Two – Revelation 14



Since these angels' messages are numbered, the call of the second angel must follow the onset of:

- A global appeal to honor and give glory to the Creator God
- 2. The final spread of the gospel, initiated by the 144,000
- 3. The timing announcement that the "Hour of God's judgment has started!"
- 4. The appeal to everyone to honor the true seventh-day Sabbath

That <u>144,000 mission</u> is portrayed in the prophecy of the Seven Seals of Revelation 6. There, <u>when</u> the first four seals of the "Scroll of Destiny" are broken open by Jesus the Lamb, <u>four horses appear</u>.

Horses represent people in apocalyptic prophecy, especially on a *battle mission*. (Isa. 63:13, Zech. 10:3, Joel 2:1-4)

The first horse was pure white, with rider Jesus. It went out "conquering and to conquer." That "white horse" is the first group of individuals who enter earth's final battle scene – the 144,000.

John notes: "These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.... being firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb." (Rev. 14:4)

Expositor White understood the importance of the messenger and that sequence:

"Men and women, enlightened by the Spirit of God, and sanctified through the truth, proclaim the three messages in their order." (2SM 387)

From the message of the first angel, God now asks that another message be preached. The world needs to hear more of "God's thinking."

The weight of evidence suggests that <u>by</u> <u>now</u> laws enforcing a worship day have been passed AND persecution of God's people has begun. (Dan. 11 and 12)

This, now, is what God wants the world to hear, following that first angel:



"And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." (Rev. 14:8)

Though the judgment of the living has begun, God is asking His witnesses to announce that the <u>destiny of some "group</u>," called "Babylon," <u>has already</u> been pronounced. Babylon has been judged!

That's a "heavy!" It is imperative that we know exactly what this is saying!

"Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city." (Rev. 14:8)

To make this <u>announcement</u> and <u>warning</u>, we must first explore what "Babylon" means. It has to be so clearly defined for God's witnesses that they can present it as an understandable and convicting message to the world.

Since this is the first time the word "Babylon" is noted in the New Testament, our study must begin by looking back into ancient history and the Old Testament.



After God dispersed the people from finishing this "city tower," a large segment, called the Acadians, scattered throughout the Mesopotamian plains. One city that they established was named Babil, later identified by the Hebrews as Babel, then Babylon.

The Euphrates and Tigris rivers drained into this fertile area. It was also where the city of Ur was built – Abraham's original home.



Babylon would rise and become one of the largest cities in the world under Hammurabi, who ruled for 42 years (1792–1750 B.C.). His "legal codes" were archeological finds, which have influenced legal thinking even to this day!

After Hammurabi's death, the <u>ancient</u>
Babylonian Empire crumbled. The great
Assyrian Empire later emerged. It wouldn't
be for a thousand years from that "first
Babylon" that Nabopolassar in 612 B.C.
would re-establish that great city and empire.



Nabopolassar's son,
Nebuchadnezzar II (604–561
B.C.) (king during Daniel's time), made Babylon into one of the wonders of the ancient world.

God used this king to accomplish His will regarding the apostasy of Judah:

"And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him." (Jer. 27:6) Babylon (the "head of gold," the "lion" of Daniel 7), by God's direction, brought the Israelites to that Mesopotamian valley and kept them there for 70 years. (Fulfilling Jer. 25:11 and 29:10)

There's a sequel to this, however, that ties to the three angels' messages. Isaiah had long before portrayed that judgment would eventually come to Babylon! (Isa. 13:1 – 14:23)

"And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah." (Isa. 13:19)

Why would the empire that was ruled by God's servant also be noted in prophecy as a kingdom that would be destroyed?

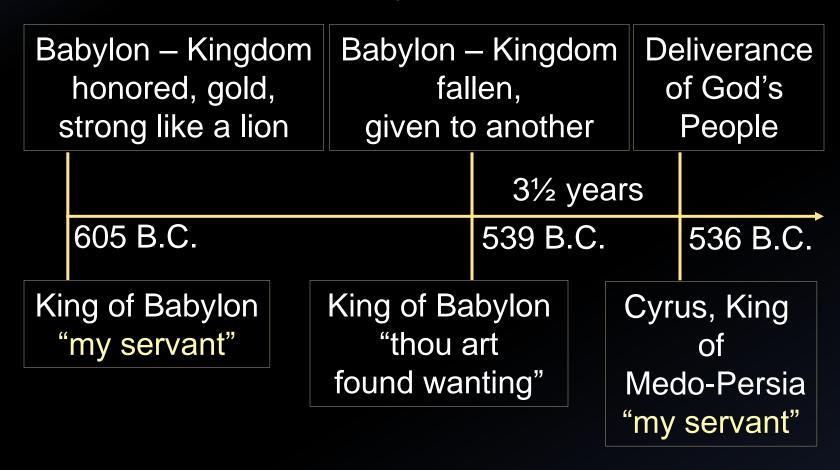
Belshazzar, son of Nabonidus, last king of the



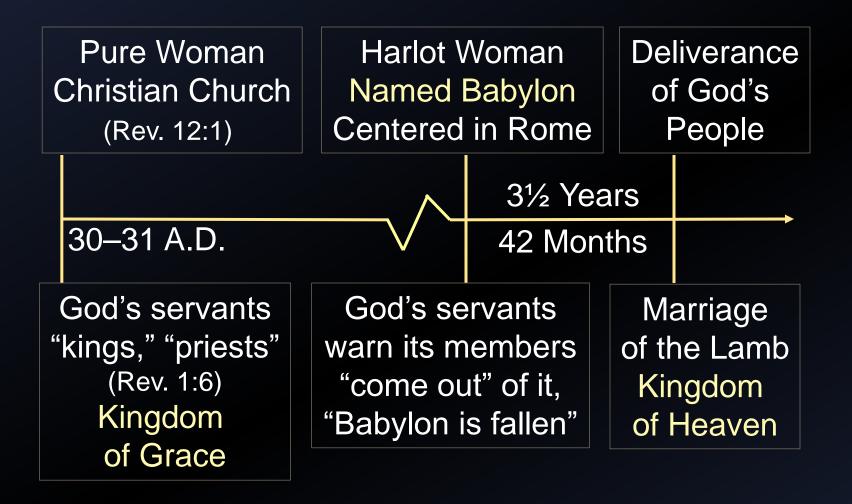
Babylonian Empire, rebelled against God by using the sacred vessels from Solomon's temple in a drunken orgy and feast.

That night Babylon was judged: "God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it....
Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.... Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians." (Dan. 5:26-28)

God then planned to use "Babylon" as a prophetic metaphor for what finally occurs in end-time apostasy from His will!



In an end-time allusion:



"Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city." (Rev. 14:8)

Babylon – literal "great city" – Hammurabi Babylon – literal "great city" – Nebuchadnezzar

Jerusalem – symbolic apostate "great city" – fallen at the Cross (Matt. 21:43, 23:37-38)

Babylon – symbolic apostate "great city" – depicted as a harlot woman (Rev. 17)

Before that "harlot prophecy," God said that Babylon would be made up of three parts!

During the 7th vial judgment, or sometimes called the 7th plague, comes this thought:

"And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath."

(Rev. 16:19)

The "great city" we now know is Babylon. It has been made up of "three parts." They all must be in "apostasy!"

God told us who those three "apostate" <u>parts</u> were in several areas of this apocalyptic prophecy:

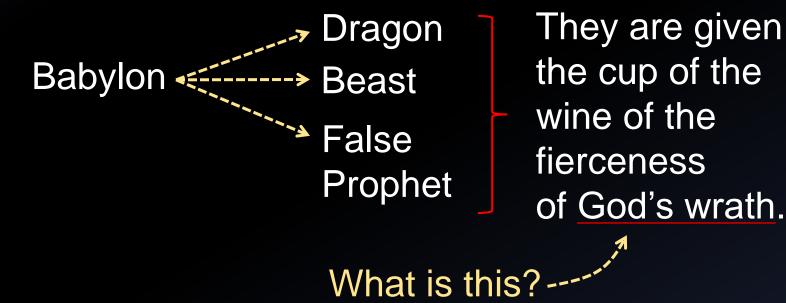
Chapters 12 and 13: The dragon, the sea beast and the earth beast are introduced. Collectively, scholars have referred to these three as a "false trinity." That "dragon" is that "old serpent," the "devil" and "Satan." (12:9)

Chapters 15 and 16: The "dragon" is now associated with the "beast" (the one from the sea) and the "false prophet" (the beast from the earth).

Collectively, Babylon is a false trinity:

Dragon – Satan Beast False Prophet

At the 7th vial plague:



To analyze the *cup of wine of God's wrath,* we must first look more deeply at the <u>horrors</u> of "Babylon." Incredible insight comes from a "harlot woman" in the prophecy of Revelation 17. Her name? "Babylon!"

She, too, has a "cup of wine" – but it is filled with abominations.

But first – let's look at what a "woman" symbolizes in prophecy:

"For I [God the Father] am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one <u>husband</u> [Jesus Christ], that I may present you as a <u>chaste</u> <u>virgin</u> [pure woman] to Christ." (II Cor. 11:2)

This is an allusion to that end-time group of 144,000 individuals!

Representative of God's <u>pure church</u> or <u>body of believers</u>.

"Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations, ... But as a wife that committeth adultery, which taketh strangers instead of her husband! ... Wherefore, O harlot, hear the word of the LORD: ... And I will judge thee, as women that break wedlock and shed blood are judged; and I will give thee blood in fury and jealousy." (Eze. 16:2, 32, 35, 38)

A "woman" is depicted in numerous places as God's church, His people or His spouse.

But, when in <u>apostasy</u>, God refers to "her" or that "church" as a "harlot," who will face judgment.

That "harlot woman," presented in Revelation 17, gives us, therefore, many additional clues regarding "Babylon." She:

- Is on "waters" (17:1)
- Meaning she rules the world (17:15)
- Has a kingdom by riding on a beast (17:3)
- Sits on "seven hills"— city of Rome (17:9)
- Is "mother" of other apostate churches (17:5)
- Her name is "Babylon" (17:5)

There is no church that matches this except Roman Catholicism in Rome, with a "kingdom" called the Vatican State! The beast, upon which this harlot is riding, has ten horns, which represent ten earthly powers. They will share power with the harlot and the beast for a "short time."

In Revelation 17 those ten horns have <u>no crowns</u> or kingdoms. In Revelation 13 they <u>have crowns</u>.

From this tie alone we can see that the "sea beast," or later referred to as the "beast," represents the Roman Catholic Church with its Vatican State, bonding with ten earthly powers right at the end.

"Babylon," this harlot, is THE Babylon we are to warn the world about. She shares the "wine" in her cup with the kings of the world and the inhabitants of the earth. (vs 2)



They imbibed so much of this "wine" that prophecy notes they were "drunk" with it. Their minds were so numb, they didn't perceive what this harlot was really doing.

That wine is her "illicit doctrines," which the Bible calls the "wine of her fornication."

"The great sin charged against Babylon is that she 'made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.' This cup of intoxication which she presents to the world represents the false doctrines that she has accepted.... and in her turn she exerts a corrupting influence upon the world by teaching doctrines which are opposed to the plainest statements of Holy Writ." (GC 388)

Though this harlot symbol represents the Rome-based papacy, she is represented also by those three religious powers to make up Babylon, all working together.

Collectively, Babylon is now seen as:

Dragon – Satan, representing spiritualism

Beast – Roman Catholic Church

False Prophet – all those churches bonding

with and supporting Rome

Can we deepen our grasp of this "false prophet?"

This is the same as the "earth beast" in Revelation 13, which provides <u>civil power</u> or <u>persecuting power</u> for the papal sea beast.

The "false prophet" relates to the harlot's "daughters." They are just like she is!

How did such a "link" begin?

On October 13, 1962, Pope John the XXIII received a large delegation of non-Catholic religious leaders from around the world to be "part of" Vatican II. The majority? Protestants of many persuasions. Last-day ecumenism had begun! Babylon's "parts" were being "put together."







"The wide diversity of beliefs held by the various Protestant churches is regarded by many as decisive proof that efforts to secure unity will never succeed. But there has been for years, in churches of the Protestant faith, a strong and growing sentiment in favor of a union based upon common points of doctrine. To secure such a union, subjects upon which all are not agreed - however important they might be from a Bible standpoint – must be set aside." (GC 444)



Later, as Pope Benedict XVI took the reigns of power over the Roman Catholic Church in 2005, the Vatican reported that his "primary commitment" was the work of promoting full and visible

unity among Christians separated in various churches. (Zenit.org, April 20, 2005)

He, too, wanted the "separated brethren" to "come home."

How would he attempt to achieve that?

He quickly began to push the ecumenical plans laid out by Pope John Paul II in three areas:

- 1. Accelerate dialogue with other denominations and confessions
- Quickly sign accords where agreement and unity can be recognized on social or doctrinal points (such as "Evangelicals and Catholics Together" 1994)
- 3. AND push for "Purification of Memory"

What does *Purification of Memory* mean?

"Forget the past" and all the atrocities committed by the Roman Catholic Church. We have a new beginning, a future, that all must build upon together.

This must be a "concrete gesture" that "penetrates spirits and moves consciences, leading each one to that interior conversion that is the assumption of all progress on the path of ecumenism." (Zenit.org, April 20, 2005)

So Christ's commission, "that they may be one," might be fulfilled!

Forget that we tortured and murdered millions, so we can be "one," "friends" and "unified."

Their campaign is working:



Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, met Pope Benedict XVI in

Vatican City. One third of Anglicans later joined the Roman Catholic Church!

Pope Benedict XVI and Russian Orthodox Kiril





160 Israeli Rabbis met Pope John Paul II – then Benedict followed up



These have purified their memories:



1999 Pope John Paul II kissed the Koran at the Vatican.

Pope Benedict prays with the grand mufti of Istanbul in the Blue Mosque November 2006





On Oct. 31, 1999, representatives of the Roman Catholic Church and the Lutheran World

Federation met together to <u>sign</u> the *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification*. The two church bodies together "confessed" a "joint statement" of understanding that would have made Martin Luther horrified. The Methodist Church soon adopted this "decree."

BUT: Issues remain on the full meaning of justification. This agreement was a celebration of appearances.

Collectively, Babylon is the false trinity:

Dragon – Satan

Beast – Roman Catholic Church

False Prophet – is mainly Protestantism
in its growing apostasy

The memory of the past Christian sacrifices of lives lost and millions tortured has reached the heights of satanic denial.

Truly, within this terrible apostasy, the "memory" is being "purified!"

"Our land is in jeopardy. The time is drawing on when its legislators shall so abjure the principles of Protestantism as to give countenance to Romish apostasy. The people for whom God has so marvelously wrought, strengthening them to throw off the galling yoke of popery, will, by a national act, give vigor to the corrupt faith of Rome, and thus arouse the tyranny which only waits for a touch to start again into cruelty and despotism." (ST, July 4, 1899)

"The spirit of world conforming and indifference to the testing truths for our time exists and has been gaining ground in churches of the Protestant faith in all the countries of Christendom; and these churches are included in the solemn and terrible denunciation of the second angel." (GC 389)

They have joined in as part of "Babylon."

Babylon, in summary, is apostasy from the purity of the Christian faith. It has veered so far from the "original truth" that the Bible depicts it as being empowered by Satan!

"the dragon gave him his power" (Rev. 13:3)

End-time depiction of "fallen, fallen:"

Protestant Reformation Break from Catholicism Protestants
apostatize
Join again with
Catholicism
Called "Babylon"

Deliverance of God's people to:

1517-1525 A.D.

3½ Years*

God's servant
Martin Luther
appealed to
return to
Biblical truths

God's servants 144,000 warn all Christians "come out of her" "Babylon is fallen" King Jesus'
Kingdom
of
Heaven

*See Daniel 9 Study

The Babylonian message continues:

"Babylon is fallen, is fallen" (14:8)

This cry is to be repeated shortly thereafter (in 2½ to 3 years). At that time our message is to become more graphic!

"And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." (Rev. 18:2)

What have these Christian churches *fallen* so dramatically from? What abominable beliefs or actions have they obtained from the devil and then given to the world?

From the context, we know that they have broken away from the sacred themes of the first angel's message!!!

The First Angel's Message – Summary:

- 1. Revering and knowing God
- 2. Giving Him glory in everything
- 3. Having the everlasting gospel
- 4. Knowing the urgency of the gospel message
- 5. Being willing to go anywhere in the world to preach
- 6. Knowing the urgency and meaning of the judgment of the living
- 7. Having a total loyalty to the Sabbath

But what was that "wine" in the harlot's golden cup that God called "abominations?"

The rest of the second angel's message notes:

"because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." (Rev. 14:8)

The papacy, with her other "two partners," will have <u>power</u> to force her illicit doctrines onto the world.

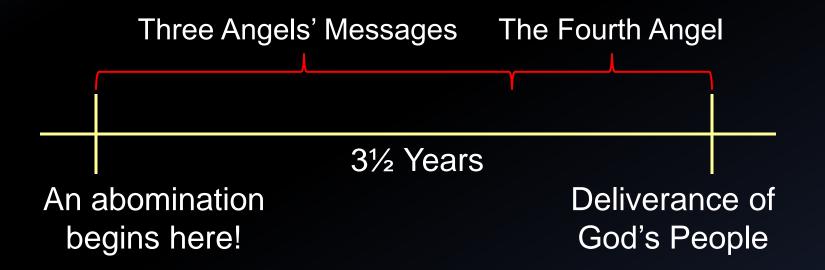
Then the fourth angel also adds this:

"For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her ... For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.... How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow." (Rev. 18:3, 5, 7)

This is the imagery of the "harlot" named Babylon – that three-fold union of power.

Then God's people cry out in warning against this haughty "anti-Christian" power:

"Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." (Rev. 18:4)



Jesus urged us to *study out* the details of the sin that would be pivotal at the very end.

"When ye therefore <u>shall see</u> the <u>abomination</u> <u>of desolation</u>, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place ... flee." (Matt. 24:15-16)

Daniel alludes to this "abomination of desolation" in several places.

The premier link is to Daniel 12:11:



"And from the time that the daily [sacrifice] shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days."

The word "abomination" is <u>God's label</u> of a <u>sin</u> that He hates. This sin was defined earlier in Daniel 8. There, it was translated as a "transgression" that would lead to desolation.

The Hebrew word for that sin or transgression is *be-pesha* (the transgression). With the article present, it is a very specific issue.

Throughout the O.T. it refers to rebellion against God's: law, authority and covenant.



"Be-pesha" summarizes, in many ways, the "honor" and "glory" due God, the wonders of the "restoration gospel" and a pivotal judgment issue at the end:

All the issues in the first angel's message are embodied in the Sabbath. Over and over God is making it clear, through Daniel, that rebellion against His sacred day would lead to desolation.

Within that fourth Commandment we can see:

- God's authority. <u>Plus</u> the <u>reason</u> He should be worshiped and given glory and honor. He is the Creator of all!
- 2. That Sabbath is embodied in a law called the Decalogue. All judicial acts of God such as the Judgment of the Living are based on the standards of that law.
- 3. Amazing is the discovery that the Sabbath acts as a "perpetual covenant," heaven's promise to "bond" with His loyal people forever. (Ex. 31:16)

The <u>sins</u> of Babylon are compounded when it forces others to follow its rebellion. This is addressed also in Daniel:

"the abomination that maketh desolate is set up" (Dan. 12:11)

There is not only a detestable issue that the "king of the north" (Babylon) promotes, but it makes a <u>law</u>, forcing others to follow its <u>sin</u>. It is "set up."

That collective power tries, through legal means, to make the world follow its horrors.

We already know from Revelation 13, 14, 16 and 17 that God will react with wrath against this rebellion. That will be described in great detail in the third angel's message.

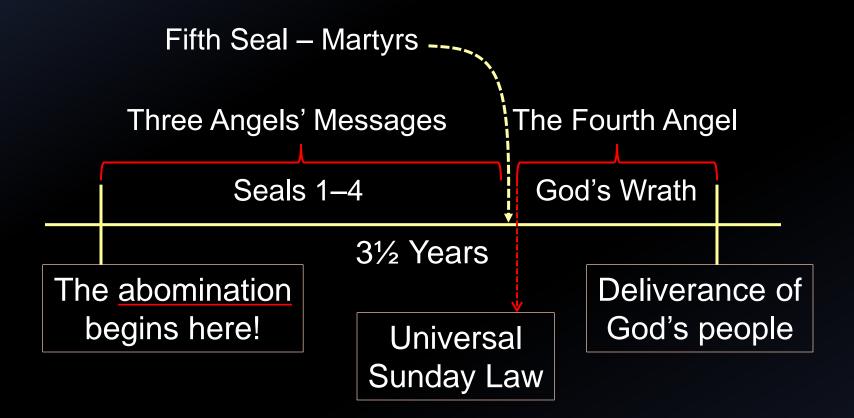
Expositor White noted with deep insight:

"The substitution of the laws of men for the law of God, the exaltation, by merely human authority, of Sunday in place of the Bible Sabbath, is the last act in the drama. When this substitution becomes universal, God will reveal Himself. He will arise in His majesty to shake terribly the earth." (7T 141)

There is much more we know about this rebellion, and "how" and "when" God will react to it.

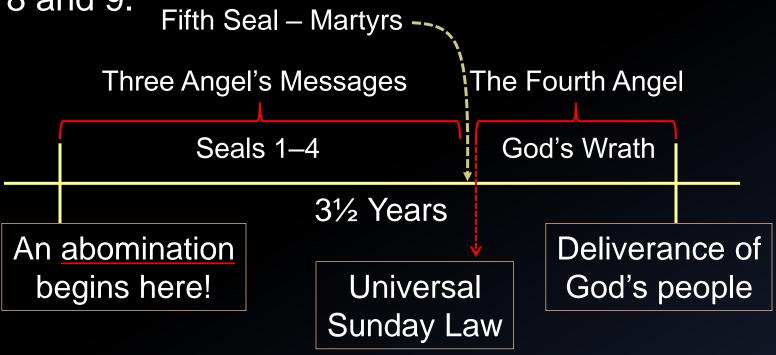
"When the fifth seal was opened, John the Revelator in vision saw beneath the altar the company that were slain for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. After this came the scenes described in the eighteenth of Revelation, when those who are faithful and true are called out from Babylon.

[Revelation 18:1-5 quoted.]" (20MR 14)

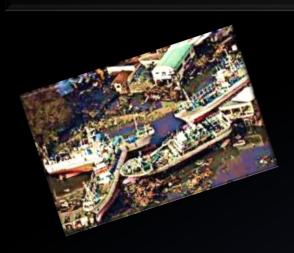


"Revelation 18 points to the time when, as the result of rejecting the threefold warning of Revelation 14:6-12, the church will have fully reached the condition foretold by the second angel, and the people of God still in Babylon will be called upon to separate from her communion. This message is the last that will ever be given to the world; and it will accomplish its work." (GC 390)

There is much more to what occurs when this final message is going as a "loud cry." This is the time when God begins His "strange act" of Isaiah 28:21, His "indignation" of Daniel 8:19 and the first four Trumpets of destruction in Revelation 8 and 9.



"What terrible scenes will take place when the Lord shall arise to shake terribly the earth! Then the words of Revelation 18:1-3 will be fulfilled. The whole of the eighteenth chapter of Revelation is a warning of what is coming on the earth.... Scenes will take place the fearfulness of which we can not imagine." (RH, July 5, 1906)







Miss Babylon "made all nations drink" of the "wine" of her deceptive doctrines. This means that she will have had "coercive power over the inhabitants" of the earth (Thomas 207). That again parallels Daniel 12, where the "abomination ... is set up." God calls this "fornication" with the world.

Robert Thomas, in his two-volume series on the book of Revelation, notes this: "The wine of Babylon is a symbol for not only sexual licentiousness but every kind of excess that expresses unfaithfulness to God." (p. 207) Satan blinded the eyes of the Jews relating to the first advent prophecies. When Christ came, the religious leaders rejected Him. (PK 686-687) They assumed the Messiah would set up an earthly kingdom.

Today, multitudes, with their "Christian" leaders, are expecting exactly the same thing. (DA 509) A temporal dominion is so ingrained in the evangelical world that a whole system of beliefs surrounds what is now called "dominion theology." It is anticipated that Christianity will eventually control civil society.

This <u>concept</u> is driving the <u>religious right</u>, the <u>tea party</u> and some recent presidential candidates. It is being dubbed among some political operatives as:

"the biggest international religious movement"

http://www.abovetopsecret.com/forum/thread736995/pg1

Such thinking always leads to religious tyranny – amazingly predicted in the apocalyptic prophecies of Revelation 13–18. At issue is more than a moral outcry.

Controlling the "behavior" of society becomes their passion.

This is another Babylonian issue that alters how these three angels' messages will be fulfilled. It will lead to:

A "religious awakening" that will claim a false Sabbath, will minimize God's law, then interpret the "mark of the beast" incorrectly, and finally welcome an "earthly Christ" (Satan), who will sympathize with these views!

Clarity in understanding the first angel's message, with Second-Coming imagery later in the chapter, is the remnant's imperative!

God's people will soon begin to warn the world to "come out of Babylon."

God forced the people to leave the tower of Babel because of apostasy.

God brought a forced end to Belshazzar's Babylon because of apostasy.

Jesus cursed the Jewish nation, which Jerusalem personified, because of apostasy.

God warns the Christian world to leave the churches that <u>He calls "Babylon</u>," which identify with these false doctrines.

That will be an incredible "last chance" warning before Babylon comes to its end. (Rev. 16:19)

God's people are called to bring this "last chance" message to planet earth.

Because the "hour of his judgment is come," its outcome is prophesied – desolation:

"to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath" (Rev. 16:19)



For God's people, this promise is given:

"These [the false trinity – Babylon] shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful." (Rev. 17:14)

The End

Next lesson:

Angel Three: Commissioned to Announce God's Wrath!



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