

GOD'S LAST CALL

In this, the second of three lessons based on the messages of the three angels in Revelation 14:6-12, we want to focus on just one verse of the passage, verse 8, which is concerned with "Babylon" being "fallen." This verse, coupled with Revelation 18:1-4, is the last call that God will ever give to sinners on this earth in order that they might inherit His eternal kingdom. After many, many calls to salvation and obedience throughout the Bible, God finally gives His last call. Thus, it is critical for us to understand the meaning, the time, and the relevance to us, of this second angel's message. Pause here, and re-read Revelation 14:6-12, and 18:1-4.

The three angels, in this last book of the Bible, follow John's picture of a worldwide apostasy in Revelation 13, in which Satan and the powers pictured struggle to gain the allegiance of all mankind. (Read Revelation 13:6-8, and 13:12,16,17.) No wonder that the first angel of Revelation 14:6,7 makes such a strong appeal to mankind to worship only the true God, the Creator of heavens and earth. Also remember from our last lesson that this appeal is placed in between a description of the redeemed (14:1-5), and our Lord's coming to harvest the redeemed (14:14-16), who will then worship only Him throughout eternity.

In connection with these things, and specifically the message of the second angel in Revelation 14:8, what does the term "Babylon" mean? What does it mean that she is "fallen?" And how does one "come out of her?"

1. We must begin with one other important aspect of the total scene of the last half of the book of Revelation. The three angels of chapter 14 also stand between the descriptions of two very different women in chapters 12 and 17. Read the two passages, and make a list of the contrasting descriptions which will help us to know that they each represent.

(a) The woman of Revelation 12:

(b) The woman of Revelation 17:1-6:

(These two women, and the "religion" they each represent, help us to see the opposites in the long struggle between Christ and Satan, between truth and error. It is the second woman and her daughters that the redeemed of Rev. 14:4 are not defiled with.)

2. The term "Babylon" as used in this last book of the Bible (Revelation 14:8; 17:5; 18:1-4) and in the setting of the final events on earth, is far removed in time from history's Babylon of thousands of years ago. However, the history of Babylon of old

will help us to understand more about the symbolic "Babylon" of Revelation. Note these points about history's Babylon:

- (a) It began with the tower of **Babel** in Genesis 11:1-9. There was **opposition to God**, and **confusion** resulted.
- (b) **Babel became Babylon**, ruled over by kings such as Hammurabi and Nebuchadnezzar at different periods of its history. Hammurabi proclaimed Babylon an "everlasting kingdom." which it was not, and Nebuchadnezzar (in Daniel 2) hoped for the same, but his kingdom of gold also ended.
- c) The key point is that, in the past, **Babylon** has always been connected with **people who were not following God**, and such always ended in **confusion**.

Thus, in the setting of the last days, God chose to apply this name to "religion" in which there was error, deception, opposition to God and truth. Bible terms like "**antichrist**" (1 John 4:3), the "**little horn**" (Daniel 7:25), the **beast powers** of Revelation 13, the **scarlet woman** of Revelation 17, all are connected with "**religion**" that is **not based on God's holy Word**. We call all such **apostasy**.

3. Take this understanding of Babylon back into the pronouncement of the second angel in Revelation 14:8. What two points does the angel emphasize?

- (a) _____
- (b) _____

(The world's great religious apostasies will finally come to the place where they are said to be "fallen." Today, could it be said that they are "falling"? The impure woman is deceiving both kings and common people with her wine of false doctrine.)

4. In connection with the climax, the culmination, of this worldwide, religious apostasy, the angel of Revelation 18:1-4 steps in.

- (a) How is his message described in verse 1? _____
- (b) How is the final apostasy described in verse 2? _____
- (c) How extensive will it be, in verse 3? _____
- (d) Who is called out of Babylon, in verse 4? _____
- (e) What will those who come out escape, according to verse 4? (Read Revelation 16 as you have time.) _____

5. God says: "Come out of Babylon, MY people." In the New Testament Greek, the word, "church," literally means "a calling out." Where does one go when he or she answers the call? Summarize these texts:

- (a) Matthew 11:28-30: _____
- (b) John 17:17: _____

6. What striking warning did Paul give in 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12?

(a) Why do people perish, according to verse 10? _____

(b) Why are they judged, according to verse 12? _____

7. The second angel adds his message to the first: Come away from every error, every deception, every un-Biblical teaching. Step out to follow all the truths of God's Word, become part of the church that is represented by the pure woman of Revelation 12.

The illustration below is an attempt to picture the truths of this study. The cross below the line represents people who truly believe in Jesus as their Saviour, those God pictures as "MY people." But with continual study of the Bible, they find themselves in a situation of believing in Christ, but surrounded by teachings that are not founded in the Scriptures. Fill in the blanks around the cross with religious teachings of today which are not Bible-based. This mixture of the "truth about Christ," and beliefs that Christ has not taught, brings confusion. Then, follow the arrow away from such a situation and fill in the blanks above the line with Bible teachings which continue to emphasize salvation through Christ, and walking in His steps--the experience of daily Christian maturity until at last we truly reflect His image. Can you say, "The time has come for me to follow Christ fully, for His Word has shown me what He means when He says, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life' (John 14:6).?"

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<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"><u>AntiChrist & Error</u></div>		<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">+</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>