

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.)?"

<u>Christ & Truth</u>			
4d. _____ _____ _____		+	_____ _____ _____ _____
<u>AntiChrist & Error</u>		+	_____ _____ _____ _____

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Notes for the Instructor

Purpose of lesson 27: This lesson issues the call to follow God's truth, to move away from the errors that have been uncovered in the past lessons of the series. It opens the way for a study of the true last-day church of God on earth, at which time an invitation will be made to join a new church home. This lesson, particularly with the careful completion of the illustration, will give "body" to the growing identity of what that church home should be. Teach this lesson gently so that those who have loved their church will see, not a condemnation of what they have done, but a new challenge to move in the direction of daily dawning, fuller light from their study of the Bible.

During the study itself: Work closely with your student in question 1. Help him to see the contrasts of pure or impure, clothed with the sun or the scarlet of the harlot, Christ-centered or blasphemer, persecuted or persecutor, in harmony with commandments or deceiver, "remnant" or "Babylon the Great." In connection with question 3, explain carefully "falling" or "fallen" in terms of time, and tie Rev. 17:2,4 to part (b). Emphasize in question 5(b) the importance of letting the Spirit guide into all truth (John 16:13) and accepting it as God reveals it.

Appeal: Question 7 is self-explanatory. But wait for the lesson on God's Remnant (lesson 29) before specifically identifying the church.

Illustration: The illustration is critical to the success of this lesson. It differs a bit from previous lessons in that it is tied only to question 7. Let the student help you in choosing words with which to fill it out--in light of the twenty-six previous lessons of the series. You may need to make soft suggestions to help him. Once the student sees what you are after, he will think of other truths to fill in the spaces. Complete the picture of error below the line first, then move up to contrast the truth.

<p>Christ & Truth</p>		<p>(Emphasize the Centrality of the Cross)</p>		
<p>4d. Come out of Her, My people</p>		<p>Everlasting Gospel True Prophets God – Creator God's Eternal Law 7th Day Sabbath</p>		<p>Immortality at Resurrection Visible 2nd Coming of Christ Personal Judgment 1000 years of Desolation Healthful Living</p>
<p>AntiChrist & Error</p>			<p>Gospel Attacked False Prophets Evolution Law Abolished Sabbath Changed</p>	<p>Immortality of the soul Secret Rapture Second Chance Everlasting Torment Moderation</p>

Introduction**Revelation 14:6-12**

Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—⁷saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

⁸And another angel followed, saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”

⁹Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *his* mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”

¹²Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

Revelation 18:1-4

¹After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. ²And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! ³For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.”

⁴And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.

Revelation 13:6-8

⁶Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. ⁷It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. ⁸All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Revelation 13:12, 16, 17

¹²And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

¹⁶He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, ¹⁷and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Revelation 14:1-5

¹Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred *and* forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. ²And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.

³They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred *and* forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.

⁴These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from *among* men, *being* firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

⁵And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Revelation 14:14-16

¹⁴Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat *One* like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. ¹⁵And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." ¹⁶So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

1a. Revelation 12

¹Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. ²Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

³And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ⁴His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. ⁵She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. ⁶Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

⁷And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

¹⁰Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. ¹²Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

¹³Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *Child*. ¹⁴But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. ¹⁵So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. ¹⁶But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. ¹⁷And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 17:1-6

¹Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, ²with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

³So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast *which was* full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. ⁴The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. ⁵And on her forehead a name was written:

MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT,
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

⁶I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

Answer:

Woman of Revelation 12: clothed with sun, stands on moon, garland of 12 stars on head, gives birth to a male child, flees into the wilderness, persecuted by the dragon, nourished in the wilderness.

Woman of Revelation 17: sits on many waters; makes earth drunk with the wine of her fornication; sits on a scarlet beast; arrayed in purple, scarlet, gold, precious stones, and pearls; holds a gold cup of abominations; has a name on her forehead "Babylon the Great, Mother of Harlots."

Revelation 14:4

⁴These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from *among* men, *being* firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

2. Revelation 14:8; 17:5; 18:1-4

⁸And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

Revelation 17:5

⁵And on her forehead a name *was* written:
MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT,
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Revelation 18:1-4

⁴And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.

2a. Genesis 11:1-9

¹Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. ²And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. ³Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake *them* thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. ⁴And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *is* in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." ⁵But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. ⁶And the Lord said, "Indeed the people *are* one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. ⁷Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." ⁸So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. ⁹Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

2b. Daniel 2

Additional Texts:**1 John 4:3**

³and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

Daniel 7:25

²⁵ He shall speak *pompous* words against the Most High,
Shall persecute the saints of the Most High,
And shall intend to change times and law.
Then *the saints* shall be given into his hand
For a time and times and half a time.

Revelation 13**Revelation 17****3a. Revelation 14:8**

⁸And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

Answer: Babylon is fallen

3b. Revelation 14:8

⁸And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

Answer: She (Babylon) has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

4a. Revelation 18:1

¹After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.

Answer: The angle's glory illuminates the whole earth.

4b. Revelation 18:2

²And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!"

Answer: Babylon is fallen and inhabited by demons, foul spirits, and unclean and hated birds.

4c. Revelation 18:3

³For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.”

Answers: All nations, the whole earth.

4d. Revelation 18:4

⁴And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.

Answers: God's people

4e. Revelation 18:4

⁴And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.

Answers: They (God's people) will escape the plagues.

5a. Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”

Answers: Come to Christ and receive rest.

5b. John 17:17

¹⁷Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Answers: God's Word is truth which sanctifies us or sets us apart for a holy use.

6. 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12

⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. ⁹The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹²that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Answers: a) They did not receive the love of the truth.

b) They did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in unrighteousness.