

Presentation-10 Babylon is fallen, is fallen

*The second Angel's message is addressed to those religious organizations where God's people can mainly be found.

Revelation 14:8 states **"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."**

***The instrument which God saw fit to use in the closing work of the everlasting gospel is the First Angels' Message. The preaching of this first message in 1844 drew a dividing line among the professed followers of the Lord. Those who longed for a higher spiritual development drank of the pure water of life, as given by the first angel.**

The Protestant churches were still clinging to many papal errors and superstitions. The power of the everlasting gospel was impaired in their hands. To correct these evils the doctrine of the second coming of Christ was introduced and proclaimed with power through the Millerites in 1844. The protestant churches could accept God's light and truth as declared in the first message and advanced to a higher spiritual attainment or they could reject it and experience a moral fall. Had they received it they would have been quickened by it into new life. Instead they rejected it and suffered the consequences spiritually.

***Sadly the protestant churches showed they had lost their love for Christ by disregarding the message of His return. To them the angel pronounced the words, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen."**

In the hands of the fallen protestant churches a golden cup was filled with the wine of fornication. ***When the time passed in 1844 instead of offering the life-giving drink from the fountain of life, the protestant churches closed their doors against the everlasting Gospel. Ministers gave their flocks to drink of the wine of fornication. A mixture of truth and error, like any intoxicant, benumbs the sensibilities, and caused those who drink it to turn away from the word of God which alone could revive them.**

***The protestant churches of that time experienced a moral fall, because they refused the light of the advent message; but that fall was not completed yet. As they have continued to reject the special truths for this time, they have fallen lower and lower. But the work of apostasy has not yet reached its culmination and will continue unabated in these last days.**

***Sister White confirmed in Early Writings p237.2 "As the churches refused to receive the first angel's message, they rejected the light from heaven and fell from the favor of God. They trusted to their own strength, and by opposing the first message placed themselves where they could not see the light of the second angel's message. But the beloved of God, who were oppressed, accepted the message, "Babylon is fallen," and left the churches."**

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***Babylon, both literal and mystical is the traditional enemy of God's truth and people. The name is symbolic of all apostate religious organizations and their leadership, from antiquity down to the close of time.** Therefore, there is a need to view the moral fall of Babylon as progressive and cumulative, ultimately resulting in her final destruction.

***Progressively, the history of Babylon through the ages, from Nimrod's Babel to Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon, Medo-Persian, Greece, pagan Rome, and papal Rome is the story of the great controversy between Christ and His holy angels and Lucifer and his evil angels;** which begun in heaven, continued on earth, and will end only when the stone cut out without hands from the mountain shall fill the whole earth.

***Satan planned to establish a kingdom on earth the glory of which will rival and excel the glory of the kingdom of God in heaven.** He chose the plains of Shinar. The spirit of self-exaltation, born of Lucifer himself, took possession of the men of the valley of the Euphrates, and they openly defied their Creator. It was Lucifer's design to counterfeit the plan of God. The earthly city was patterned after the heavenly. The Euphrates flowed through it as did the river of God through Paradise.

The government was an absolute monarchy; a man occupied the throne, and as it grew, every knee of earth shall bow to its king. **In the earthly kingdom tyranny rules supreme and replaced love which is the very essence in the heavenly kingdom.**

***In Babylonian language the name Babel, or Babylon meant "gate of the gods,"** By a play on words the Hebrew linked the name of the city Babel with the Hebrew verb balal meaning "to confuse."*

Genesis 11:9 "Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth"

***Babylon was founded by Nimrod. Gen 10:8-10 states "And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD. 10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel"**

From the very beginning the city was emblematic of disbelief in the one true God and defiance of His Will, and its tower a monument to apostasy, a citadel of rebellion against God.

*** Gen 11:4 states "...let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name..."** This high tower would give the inhabitants of the city the desired

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feeling of security. Such a citadel would protect them against attack, and enable them to escape another future flood, although God had promised would never again take place. The desire for renown was apparently one of the impelling motives for building the tower, and pride in such a structure would tend to maintain unity in the accomplishment of their other unsanctified schemes. According to the divine purpose, men were to have preserved unity through the bond of true religion. **When idolatry and polytheism broke this inner spiritual bond, they lost not only unity of religion but also the spirit of brotherhood. A project such as the tower, to preserve by outward means the inward unity which had been lost, could never succeed.**

***Sister White provided more details in PP p. 123.1 "The men of Babel had determined to establish a government that should be independent of God. There were some among them, however, who feared the Lord, but who had been deceived by the pretensions of the ungodly and drawn into their schemes. For the sake of these faithful ones the Lord delayed His judgments and gave the people time to reveal their true character. As this was developed, the sons of God labored to turn them from their purpose; but the people were fully united in their Heaven-daring undertaking.**

***Had they gone on unchecked, they would have demoralized the world in its infancy. Their confederacy was founded in rebellion; a kingdom established for self-exaltation, but in which God was to have no rule or honor. Had this confederacy been permitted, a mighty power would have borne sway to banish righteousness - and with it peace, happiness, and security - from the earth. For the divine statutes, which are "holy and just and good", men were endeavoring to substitute laws to suit the purpose of their own selfish and cruel hearts"**

For this reason God saw fit to destroy the tower and to scatter its builders.

***When Nebuchadnezzar II rebuilt Babylon it became one of the wonders of the ancient world. His plan to make his kingdom universal and eternal was a success in that this Babylonian Empire surpassed its predecessors in splendor and power. The beauty and power of the kingdom were increased by him in every possible way, until it was spoken of everywhere as "Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency" as recorded in Isaiah 13:19. However, in a dramatic series of events God humbled Nebuchadnezzar and secured the submission of his will. But his successors refused to humble themselves before God and eventually the kingdom was weighed in the balances of heaven, and found wanting.**

So strong and self-confident were the Chaldeans that they acknowledged no power but their own, crediting their grand attainments to their own abilities. **But the kingdom of Babylon committed the unpardonable sin, imputing the power of the Spirit of God to the gods of the heathen, and by this act the lion was shorn of its strength, the wings were plucked, and a man's heart was given to it.**

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This is also an object lesson to many. In the same way men today commit the unpardonable sin, by attributing the work of the Spirit of God to the work of a false god in the trinity.

***Jeremiah saw Babylon at the height of its power also predicted that its overthrow would be like that of Sodom and Gomorrah. Its destruction would be absolute, it would never be rebuilt.**

Jeremiah 50:40 "As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour cities thereof, saith the LORD; so shall no man abide there, neither shall any son of man dwell therein"

Jeremiah 51:64 ...Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her..."

Ever since the fall of Nebuchadnezzar's ancient Babylon Satan has sought, through one world power after another, to control the world, and would probably have succeeded had it not been for repeated instances of divine intervention.

***But Rome the fourth kingdom was "diverse from all the others." She possesses all the combined cruel characteristics of Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece, as represented by the figures of the leopard, the bear, and the lion. Revelation 13:2 states "And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority"**

As the plans of the arch-enemy had failed to succeed in the history of the kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece, Satan now attempted with redoubled vigor to thwart the plans of God. He chose for this purpose the seven-hilled city.

***In Rome was united the false system of the religion of ancient Babylon, the governmental tyranny of Medo-Persia, and the mixture of good and evil in the intellectual culture of Greece. Ancient Babylon enslaved the bodies of God's people and sought to make men drunk with idolatry. Satan working through Medo-Persia made laws to slay those who were faithful to their God.**

***Through the teachings of Greece Satan had so fascinated man with the powers of his own mind that by their works of righteousness and philosophies of their own conjecturing, men were led to forget any higher power than that which he himself possessed. Greece decidedly captured men's minds, and enslaved them to her ideas. She ever so quietly and surely, wound her tendrils around God's people stifling them, that their slavery was far worse than their earlier Egyptian or Babylonian bondage. So in Rome was embodied the strength of all previous nations. What wonder that it was a terrible and dreadful nation, and that except the time of its supremacy should be shortened there should be none left to witness for God's truth.**

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***In the ebb and flow of history, Rome gradually started to decline into ruin; her cities were been sacked, her government broken. As from the decaying log of the marsh the mushroom imperceptibly springs up in a night, gaining its life from the decay, so there arose in the Roman Empire a power which was nourished by this national decay. This power was the little horn power of Daniel chapters 7 & 8 known as the papacy.**

As stated earlier, satan through Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome attempted the overthrow of God's truth, but there was a constantly increasing grandeur in place of defeat.

Outward pressure, though tried again and again, had proved unavailing in stamping out God's truth. In Nebuchadnezzar's fiery furnace was seen the form of a fourth, the only begotten son of God. From the lions' den came forth a Prime Minister, Daniel. From Joseph's new sepulcher arose a conqueror, Jesus Christ the Righteous.

***A new plan was devised by Satan. If paganism could be placed in the heart, while Christian principles were acknowledged outwardly, the overthrow would be certain; for apostasy and destruction works from within outwards.**

Behind this activity Satan was seeking to exterminate the true church of God. When he found that his efforts to annihilate the followers of Christ through persecution proved unavailing, he altered his tactics and sought to lure the church away from Christ through the establishment of a vast counterfeit religious system. **Instead of working directly through paganism the dragon now worked behind the facade of a professedly Christian organization, the papacy, hoping thereby to disguise his identity.**

The power succeeding the Roman Empire is clearly papal Rome. **"Out of the ruins of political Rome, arose the great and supposedly moral Empire in the 'giant form' of the Roman Church"**

Into this church, although noted for its early purity, insidiously crept the life of paganism. While camouflaged and sheltered in Christian garment it is the serpent, the old dragon.

Paganism on the throne had been cruel enough, but when those pagan principles which had lived since the days of Babylon took the name and outward form of Christianity, the power which bore sway was even more cruel. Not only would the little horn blaspheme against the Most High, but it would "presume to change the appointed times and the law;" through substituting the holy Sabbath of the fourth commandment with the unholy Sunday sabbath, by the changing of the Decalogue, and in its opposition to the Most High would set itself up as being equal with God.

***Daniel 7:25 states "And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws..."**

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*Ecclesiastical literature is replete with exhibits of the arrogant, blasphemous claims of the papacy.

(Extract from "Papa II," Prompta Bibliotheca, Vol. VI, pp. 25–29):

"The Pope is of so great dignity and so exalted that he is not a mere man, but as it were God, and the vicar of God ..."

"The Pope is crowned with a triple crown, as king of heaven and of earth and of the lower regions ..."

"The Pope is as it were God on earth, sole sovereign of the faithful of Christ, chief of kings, having plenitude of power, to whom has been intrusted by the omnipotent God, direction not only of the earthly but also of the heavenly kingdom ..."

*** "The Pope is of so great authority and power that he can modify, explain, or interpret even divine laws ..."**

"The Pope can modify divine law, since his power is not of man but of God, and he acts as vicerent of God upon earth with most ample power of binding and loosing his sheep"

Undoubtedly satan's nearly successful attempt to subvert the church has been through the papal apostasy of the Middle ages, especially in the 1260 years of papal persecution of God's faithful servants. But God intervened to prevent the success of each subsequent threat to the ultimate accomplishment of His purposes. *However, near the end of time Satan will be permitted to briefly achieve what appears to be success through the three fold union of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet.

Rev 16:13,14 "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty"

In the last days, the second angel's message on the fall of Babylon finds its fulfillment in the departure of Protestantism at large from the purity and simplicity of the gospel.

***Sister White in GC p382.1 confirmed this point "The message of Revelation 14, announcing the fall of Babylon must apply to religious bodies that were once pure and have become corrupt. Since this message follows the warning of the judgment, it must be given in the last**

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days; therefore it cannot refer to the Roman Church alone, for that church has been in a fallen condition for many centuries”

The second angel’s message will have increasing relevance as the end draws near, and will meet its complete fulfillment with the union of the various religious elements under the leadership of Satan. The second angel gives the warning that destruction hangs over those who claim to be representatives of God on earth, but do not love His appearing. The message of Rev 18:2 - 4 announces the complete downfall of Babylon and calls upon God’s people who are scattered throughout the various religious bodies comprising Babylon, to separate from them.

***The Apostle Paul’s appeal to God’s people to separate from the world and from mystical Babylon as represented by the various religious bodies comprising Babylon is as stated in 2 Cor 6:17,18 “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty”**

***The Apostle John was shown in symbolic vision mystical Babylon in the closing scene of this world’s history. John was given a complete and startling account of her crimes which filled him with utter astonishment.**

Her crimes would include seducing world leaders into illicit union with her to further her own sinister agenda. Exercising direct control and oppression over men as recorded in Rev 17:1 “... the great whore that sitteth upon many waters”. Deceiving the world with her false political policy and caused them to become her accomplices in her evil plot as recorded in Rev 17:2 “With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication” and finally persecuting and murdering God’s faithful servants who refused to submit to her ambition to rule the world.

Rev 17:3-6 states “3 and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns” 4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: 5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. 6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus”

“Babylon the great” here represents the three fold union of paganism, the papacy, and apostate Protestantism in the last-days of this world’s history; with the beast representing political power and the woman religious power.

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The "harlot" is represented here as directing the policies of civil government as she "... sit upon a scarlet coloured beast..." It has ever been the character of apostate Christianity to attempt a union of church and state, in order to consolidate religious control over public policy.

The color of this beast shows that it is the epitome of evil, even as the names of blasphemy with which it is covered indicate that it stands in opposition to God. The beast itself may be identified as political agencies in all ages that have submitted to Satan's control.

During the 1260 years of tyranny, the Roman church claimed that it never took the life of a single individual. The church merely decided who were identified as heretics, at least so they argued, and it was the state which executed the judgment. The beast ridden by the woman who holds the reins of control over them cannot do otherwise than carry out her will.

***Repetition lends emphasis to the message "Babylon is fallen is fallen." The message "is fallen, is fallen," is twice repeated. The repetition is to emphasize the certainty of the events indicated and the urgency of taking measures to meet the emergency, even as Pharaoh's dream was twice repeated to warn him and his subjects of the devastating events to come.**

Genesis 41:32 states "And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass." In the same way, God has pronounced the two phases of Babylon's fall, that is firstly her moral fall from God's truth and secondly her physical destruction, so God will shortly bring it to pass.

God has given warning, and those who desire life, will heed the call, and separate themselves. This message will also swell into a loud cry just before the universal close of probation. Those who hear to-day will obey to-day; others may be snatched from the burning as Lot and his family was hurried out of Sodom. But sadly the effect of drinking the wine of fornication will be to deaden the spiritual senses until, like the physical drunkard; there will be no possibility of returning. Then as a drunkard it will be the sad end.

***Sister White in GC p388.2 wrote "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 as the result of her unlawful connection with the great ones of the earth"**

***Continuing in GC 388.2 she wrote "Rome withheld the Bible from the people and required all men to accept her teachings in its place. It was the work of the Reformation to restore to men the word of God; but is it not too true that in the churches of our time men are taught to rest their faith upon their creed and the teachings of their church rather than on the Scriptures?"**

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Today, as the second angel's message continues to be proclaimed, almost the whole of Christendom through creed-power, willingly or in a state of being deceived, inadvertently or willfully rejected the one true God message by continuing with their submission to the false trinity.

When Babylon the Great is drunk with power and earthly glory, when her sinful ambitions are all realized, when "all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her," then in her hour of triumph shall be heard once again * a voice from heaven declaring as recorded in **Revelation 18:4-6** "**And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. 5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. 6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double**"

In the message of the second angel we learn that close to the end of this world's history, to all outward appearance mystical Babylon is prospering greatly. All nations are serving her. Her triumph seems assured. Opposition seems hopeless. Yet God's servants are to declare aloud, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen." It is when Babylon triumphs that she falls. Just as in her hour of prosperity and glory, ancient Babylon failed to consider the result of her evil course and her arrogant pride.

*This point is well documented in **Isaiah 47:9** "**But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood...**" The papacy together with her daughters as represented by apostate Protestantism shall God destroy together suddenly.

Rev 18:21 "**And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.**" With one tremendous throw of the mighty angel the millstone is hurled into the depths of the sea. With finality shall mystical Babylon sink into oblivion, never more would she, like a great millstone, produce the wine of the wrath of her fornication to deceive the world.

*We should never be discouraged when evil seems to be victorious. As given in **Psalms 92:7** "**When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; it is that they shall be destroyed for ever**"

So God's servants are to declare boldly, notwithstanding all, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen." It was when Babylon fell that Israel went free. Babylon is fallen: therefore it has no power to hold its captives.

That there are prisoners still in Babylon is clear from Rev. 18:4, where the Lord calls upon His people to come out of her and escape her fate.

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***Sister White in GC p604 wrote "But God still has a people in Babylon; and before the visitation of His judgments these faithful ones must be called out, that they partake not of her sins and "receive not of her plagues." Hence the movement symbolized by the angel coming down from heaven, lightening the earth with his glory and crying mightily with a strong voice, announcing the sins of Babylon. In connection with his message the call is heard: "Come out of her, My people."**

Satan has no power over them. It is Christ who holds the keys of death and the grave. The power of Satan is his power to deceive, the power of blinding the eyes, the power of darkness, but the man who walks in the light submitting to God will not be in darkness, and satan will not have power over him.

The message of the second angel goes with the everlasting Gospel, to set men perfectly free from Satan's power. It means entire deliverance from every yoke of bondage. It means having power over all the power of the enemy. Satan has bound many, as he bound the woman who was bowed down by a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years as described in Luke 13:16, but this message will give deliverance from all such bondage to all who will take it by faith.

While Satan appears to be triumphing in the earth, while the apostate churches unite with the world and all its leaders in rejecting the law of God and denying the faith of Christ, and the one true God of the Bible, believers will with gladness and confidence declare the glad tidings that Babylon is fallen. Many a captive will hear the message and go free.

*Take home message

Prophecy is history foretold in advance, and history is prophecy fulfilled in God's time. When both history and prophecy are in harmony we are assured of the infallibility of God's word. From the sad history of literal Babylon, and the equally sad fate of the Harlot and her Daughters in future, we know we are in the last-days and closer than we can imagine to the close of this world's history.

***The special providence of God over those who are faithful to Him is brought out in clear contrast to the sad inevitable fate of those who ignore his guiding hand and remain in spiritual darkness.**

God's Truth brings life but the least perversion of truth, as in the spurious Sunday Sabbath and the false trinity dogma, no matter how slight, brings eternal death.

Proverbs 14:12 and 16:25 state "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death"

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We earnestly desire that even the skeptic may not cast this presentation aside; but that he may give it a careful rendering, and while tracing the fulfilled prophecies in the history of the world, learn to prize the rare gems of truth outlined in the Word of God.

The force of God's truth is equally applicable, be it in the history of the rise and fall of nations or in the life of every individual being.