

THROUGHOUT HISTORY, SEPARATION FROM APOSTASY HAS ALWAYS BEEN NECESSARY TO KEEP THE CHURCH PURE:

The following article was taken from 1896 First Quarter Sabbath School Lesson:

BABYLON THE GREAT- 16. **What follows her unlawful union with the governments of earth?** Ans.- The **fall of Babylon**. Rev. 14:8 SEE NOTE...

NOTE. The second angel **speaks of the professed people of God not as individuals, but as a body— Babylon**—which has fallen, because of fornication with the world. **The message comes to individuals, but of Babylon**. This is the last part of, the three-fold fall of Babylon. (1) When the **early church** departed from God and imbibed **pagan errors, she became Babylon** When she **united with the state, she fell** and, as an organization, **was the body of Christ no longer**. While the **Reformation churches** held fast to the word, Christ was with them. **Then** they crystallized their various errors into **creeds** and endeavored thus to confine God's word, **they made themselves daughters of Babylon**. When some of them **united with the state, they fell**, and God had to use other people, **called out** of Babylon to carry forward His work. **Now [in 1896]** among these very churches which **came out** of **the second Babylon**, confusion reigns; and now **[in 1896]** **great Babylon**, including later **daughters**, is in adulterous union with the kings of earth, and is endeavoring to make that union stronger. **God calls no church Babylon which holds to His word, and follows the light that shines from it, even though there are in its membership many who do not know Christ** **When the controlling influence of a church is downward, it erects some other standard besides God's word...It has ever been true that a backslidden body, one that has turned from God's word to men, from God's power to the state, was never reformed in itself**. Invariably God's message has **called out those from** the **fallen church** who would do His will and preach His gospel. (2) **Israel** went down to Egypt for help, and their captivity and loss of power followed. **Out of** the captives God gathered a faithful band to do His work. (3) **The Jewish church failed**, and God **called out** the apostolic church to do His bidding. (4) **The Roman Church failed**, and **out of it** God called the churches of the **Reformation**. (5) **Some of these churches failed** to advance, and God **called out** others to bear His gospel to the world such as the **Baptist, Methodist, Congregationalist, Disciple, Adventists**. (6) **His last 'called-out' people will know no standard but His word, no power but His Spirit**." First Quarter, Lesson IX & X, February 29 & March 7, 1896, p. 33, 35-36 (**highlighted numbers added by compiler; italicized articles in the original**)

Pioneers understood this to be in the **future** from 1896. There **will be** another calling out.

SEPARATION NECESSARY. Please note Sister White's comments in reference to the **6 time periods** mentioned from the above Sabbath School Lesson:

(1) **Early church**

"**By faith** Abraham, when he was **called to go out** into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, **obeyed**; and he went out, not knowing whither he went." Hebrews 11:8.... {DG 26.1}

After a long and severe conflict, the faithful few decided to dissolve all union with the apostate church if she still refused to free herself from falsehood and idolatry. They saw that separation was an absolute necessity if they would obey the word of God. They dared not tolerate errors fatal to their own souls,

and set an example which would imperil the faith of their children and children's children. To secure peace and unity they were ready to make any concession consistent with fidelity to God; but they felt that even peace would be too dearly purchased at the sacrifice of principle. If unity could be secured only by the compromise of truth and righteousness, then let there be difference, and even war.

Well would it be for the church and the world if the principles that actuated those steadfast souls were revived in the hearts of God's professed people. There is an alarming indifference in regard to the doctrines which are the pillars of the Christian faith. The opinion is gaining ground, that, after all, these are not of vital importance. **This degeneracy is strengthening the hands of the agents of Satan, so that false theories and fatal delusions which the faithful in ages past imperiled their lives to resist and expose, are now regarded with favor by thousands who claim to be followers of Christ.** {4SP 46.2} {GC 45.3} {GC88 45.2}

(2) **Israel** *Satan's snares are laid for us as verily as they were laid for the children of Israel just prior to their entrance into the land of Canaan.* **We are repeating the history of that people.** {5T 160.2}

And because the children of Israel went down into Egypt, they lost the knowledge of God. Moses went to bring them out with a strong arm, and the Lord told Moses to say, "I am sent unto thee. **Let my son go** that he may serve me." (See Exodus 4:23.) {1SAT 233.3}

As a nation the children of Israel failed of receiving the benefits that God desired to give them. They did not appreciate His purpose or co-operate in its execution. But though individuals and peoples may thus separate themselves from Him, **His purpose for those who trust Him is unchanged.** "Whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever." Ecclesiastes 3:14. {Ed 50.2}

To the church of today God has given the care of his vineyard. **The workers of today are called to do the work that Israel failed of doing.** The salvation of God must be made known to all the people living on the face of the earth. God's glory is to be revealed, his word established, and Christ's kingdom set up to give deliverance to the world. His followers are now to arise and shine. {RH January 25, 1906, par. 8}

(3) **Jewish church** *So, I saw, that those who had no experience in the **first and second angels' messages** must receive them from those who had an experience, and followed down through the messages. **As Jesus was crucified, so I saw that these messages have been crucified.** And as the disciples declared that there was salvation in no other name under heaven, given among men; so, also, should **the servants of God faithfully and fearlessly declare that those who embrace but a part of the truths connected with the third message must gladly embrace the first, second and third messages as God has given them, or have no part nor lot in the matter.** {1SG 75.1}*

Come out from among them 2 Cor 6:17; Rev 18:4

"As the light and life of men was rejected by the ecclesiastical authorities in the days of Christ, so it has been rejected in every succeeding generation. **Again and again the history of Christ's withdrawal from Judea has been repeated.** When the Reformers preached the word of God, they had no thought of separating themselves from the established church; but **the religious leaders** would not tolerate the light, and those that bore it **were forced to seek another class,** who were longing for the truth. In our day few of the professed followers of the Reformers are actuated by their spirit. **Few are listening for the voice of God,** and ready to accept truth in whatever guise it may be presented. **Often those who follow in the**

steps of the Reformers are forced to turn away from the churches they love, in order to declare the plain teaching of the word of God. And many times those who are seeking for light are by the same teaching **obliged to leave the church of their fathers, that they may render obedience.**” {DA 231-232} 1898

The Sanhedrin had rejected Christ’s message and was bent upon His death; **therefore Jesus departed from Jerusalem, from the priests, the temple, the religious leaders, the people who had been instructed in the law, and turned to another class to proclaim His message,** and to gather out those who should carry the gospel to all nations. {DA 232.1}

The hour of grace and reprieve was fast passing; the cup of God’s long-deferred wrath was almost full. The cloud of wrath that had been gathering through ages of apostasy and rebellion, was about to burst upon a guilty people, and **He who alone could save them from their impending fate had been slighted, abused, rejected, and was soon to be crucified. When Christ should hang on Calvary’s cross, Israel’s day as a nation favored and blessed of God would be ended.** The loss of even one soul is a calamity in comparison with which the gain of a world sinks into insignificance; but as Christ looked upon Jerusalem, the doom of a whole city, a whole nation, was before him; that city, **that nation which had once been the chosen of God,—his peculiar treasure.**{4SP 20.2}

Because of her sins, wrath had been denounced against Jerusalem, and her stubborn unbelief rendered her doom certain. {4SP 27.1}

When the warning sign should be seen, judgment was to follow so quickly that **those who would escape must make no delay.** He who chanced to be upon the housetop must not go down through his house into the street; but **he must speed his way from roof to roof until he reach the city wall, and be saved** “so as by fire.” Those who were working in the fields or vineyards must not take time to return for the outer garment laid aside while they should be toiling in the heat of the day. **They must not hesitate a moment, lest they be involved in the general destruction.** {4SP 26.2}

The leaders of the opposing factions at times united to plunder and torture their wretched victims, and again they fell upon each other’s forces, and slaughtered without mercy. Even the sanctity of the temple could not restrain their horrible ferocity. The worshipers were stricken down before the altar, and the sanctuary was polluted with the bodies of the slain. **Yet in their blind and blasphemous presumption the instigators of this hellish work publicly declared that they had no fear that Jerusalem would be destroyed, for it was God’s own city. To establish their power more firmly, they bribed false prophets to proclaim, even when Roman legions were besieging the temple, that the people were to wait for deliverance from God. To the last, multitudes held fast to the belief that the Most High would interpose for the defeat of their adversaries. But Israel had spurned the divine protection, and now she had no defense. Unhappy Jerusalem!** rent by internal dissensions, the blood of her children, slain by one another’s hands, crimsoning her streets, while **alien armies beat down her fortifications** and slew her men of war! {4SP 30.1}

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Islam in last days??

WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE WHO GAVE THE WARNING MESSAGE, BUT STAYED IN THE APOSTATE CITY (JEWISH CHURCH)?

For **seven years** a man continued to go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, declaring the woes that were to come upon the city. By day and by night he chanted the wild dirge, “**A voice from the east; a voice from the west; a voice from the four winds; a voice against Jerusalem and the temple; a voice against the bridegroom and the bride; and a voice against all the people.**” This strange being was imprisoned and scourged; but no complaint escaped his lips. To insult and abuse he answered only, “Woe to Jerusalem! woe, woe to the inhabitants thereof!” His warning cry ceased not until he was slain in the siege he had foretold. {4SP 31.3}

“Ichabod!”—the glory is departed. {4SP 34.1}

The Saviour’s prophecy concerning the visitation of judgments upon Jerusalem is to have another fulfillment, of which that terrible scene was but a faint shadow. The second advent of the Son of God is foretold by lips which make no mistake: “Then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” [Matthew 24:30, 31.] Then shall they that obey not the gospel be consumed with the spirit of his mouth, and destroyed with the brightness of his coming. [2 Thessalonians 2:8.] {4SP 37.1}

Let men beware lest they neglect the lesson conveyed to them in the words of Christ. He has declared that he will come the second time, to gather his faithful ones to himself, and to take vengeance on them that reject his mercy. As he warned his disciples of Jerusalem’s destruction, giving them a sign of the approaching ruin that they might make their escape, so he has warned his people of the day of final destruction, and given them signs of its approach, that all who will may flee from the wrath to come. Those who behold the promised signs are to “know that it is near, even at the door.” “Watch ye therefore,” are his words of admonition. “If thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief.” {4SP 38.1}

A COMMAND: Rev 18:4 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. 18:5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

(4) Roman Church

Thus the Waldenses witnessed for God, centuries before the birth of Luther. {4SP 84.2}

They demanded not only that Sunday be hallowed, but that the Sabbath be profaned; and they denounced in the strongest language those who dared to show it honor. It was only by fleeing from the power of Rome that any could obey God’s law in peace. {4SP 69.2}

They declared the Church of Rome to be the apostate Babylon of the Apocalypse, and at the peril of their lives they stood up to resist her corruptions. While, under the pressure of long-continued persecution, some compromised their faith, little by little yielding its distinctive principles, others held fast the truth. Through ages of darkness and apostasy, there were Waldenses who denied the supremacy of Rome, who rejected image worship as idolatry, and who kept the true Sabbath. Under the fiercest

tempests of opposition they maintained their faith. Though gashed by the Savoyard spear, and scorched by the Romish fagot, **they stood unflinchingly for God's word and his honor. They would not yield one iota of the truth.** {4SP 70.1}

Yet it was not without a terrible struggle with himself that Luther decided upon a final separation from the church. It was about this time that he wrote: "I feel more and more every day how difficult it is to lay aside the scruples which one has imbibed in childhood. Oh, how much pain it has caused me, though I had the Scriptures on my side, to justify it to myself that I should dare to make a stand alone against the pope, and hold him forth as antichrist! What have the tribulations of my heart not been! How many times have I not asked myself with bitterness that question which was so frequent on the lips of the papists: 'Art thou alone wise? Can everyone else be mistaken? How will it be, if, after all, it is thyself who art wrong, and who art involving in thy error so many souls, who will then be eternally damned?' 'Twas so I fought with myself and with Satan, till Christ, by His own infallible word, fortified my heart against these doubts."—Martyn, pages 372, 373. {GC 143.1} {GC88 143.1}

The term **Babylon**, derived from **Babel**, and signifying confusion, is applied in Scripture to the various forms of **false or apostate religion**. But **the message announcing the fall of Babylon must apply to some religious body that was once pure**, and **has become corrupt**. It cannot be the **Romish Church** which is here meant; for **that church has been in a fallen condition for many centuries**. But how appropriate the figure as applied to the **Protestant churches**, all professing to derive their doctrines from the Bible, yet divided into almost innumerable sects. **The unity for which Christ prayed does not exist**. Instead of one Lord, one faith, one baptism, there are numberless conflicting creeds and theories. Religious faith appears so confused and discordant that the world know not what to believe as truth. **God is not in all this; it is the work of man,—the work of Satan.** {4SP 232.2}

(5) Reformation

John Wycliffe was the herald of reform, not for England alone, but for all Christendom. He was the progenitor of the **Puritans**; his era was an oasis in the desert. {4SP 86.1}

It was through the writings of Wycliffe that **John Huss of Bohemia was led to renounce many of the errors of Romanism**, and to enter upon the work of reform. Like Wycliffe, Huss was a noble Christian, a man of learning and of unswerving devotion to the truth. His appeals to the Scriptures and his bold denunciations of the scandalous and immoral lives of the clergy, awakened wide-spread interest, and thousands gladly accepted a purer faith. This excited the ire of pope and prelates, priests and friars, and Huss was summoned to appear before the Council of Constance to answer to the charge of heresy. {4SP 90.2 }

Notwithstanding the rage of persecution, **a calm, devout, earnest, patient protest against the prevailing corruption of religious faith continued to be uttered after the death of Wycliffe**. Like the believers in apostolic days, **many freely sacrificed their worldly possessions** for the cause of Christ. Those who were permitted to dwell in their homes, gladly received their brethren **who had been banished from home and kindred**. When they too **were driven forth**, they accepted the lot of the outcast, and rejoiced that they were permitted to suffer for the truths sake. {4SP 92.2}

Under **Luther** began the **Reformation in Germany**; **Calvin** preached the gospel in **France**, **Zwingle** in **Switzerland**. The world was awakened from the slumber of ages, as from land to land were sounded the magic words, "Religious Liberty." {4SP 93.2}

In the days of the Reformation, the gentle and pious Melancthon declared, "There is no other church than the assembly of those who have the word of God, and who are purified by it." **Adventists, seeing that the churches rejected the testimony of God's word, could no longer regard them as constituting the church of Christ, "the pillar and ground of the truth;" and as the message, "Babylon is fallen," began to be proclaimed, they felt themselves justified in separating from their former connection.** {4SP 237.2}

William Miller (America)- As his work tended to build up the churches, it was for a time regarded with favor. **But as ministers and religious leaders decided against the Advent doctrine, and desired to suppress all agitation of the subject, they not only opposed it from the pulpit, but denied their members the privilege of attending preaching upon the second advent, or even of speaking of their hope in the social meetings of the church. Thus the believers found themselves in a position of great trial and perplexity. They loved their churches, and were loth to separate from them; but as they saw the testimony of God's Word suppressed, and their right to investigate the prophecies denied, they felt that loyalty to God forbade them to submit. Those who sought to shut out the testimony of God's Word they could not regard as constituting the church of Christ, "the pillar and ground of the truth." Hence they felt themselves justified in separating from their former connection. In the summer of 1844 about fifty thousand withdrew from the churches.** {GC88 375.3} {GC 376.1}

(6) **His last 'called-out' people** *This is future (from the time it was written in 1896) under the proclamation of the three angel's messages. There will be a calling out of ALL churches, including the Seventh-day Adventist corporate Conference Church system.*

There was **a coming out, a decided separation from the wicked**, an escape for life. So it was in the days of Noah; so with Lot; **so with the disciples prior to the destruction of Jerusalem; and so it will be in the last days. Again** the voice of God is heard in a **message of warning, bidding His people separate themselves** from the prevailing iniquity. {PP 166.4}

I saw that God has honest children among the **nominal Adventists** and the **fallen churches**, and **before the plagues shall be poured out**, ministers and people **will be called out** from these churches and will gladly receive the truth. Satan knows this; and **before the loud cry of the third angel is given, he raises an excitement in these religious bodies, that those who have rejected the truth may think that God is with them. He hopes to deceive the honest and lead them to think that God is still working for the churches.** But the light will shine, and **all who are honest will leave the fallen churches, and take their stand with the remnant.** {EW 261} 1882

At the proclamation of the first angel's message, the people of God were in Babylon; and many true Christians are still to be found in her communion. Not a few who have never seen the special truths for this time are dissatisfied with their present position, and are longing for clearer light. They look in vain for the image of Christ in the church. **As the churches depart more and more widely from the truth, and ally themselves more closely with the world, the time will come when those who fear and honor God can no longer remain in connection with them.** Those that "believed not the truth, but had pleasure in

unrighteousness,” will be left to receive “strong delusion,” and to “believe a lie.” [2 Thessalonians 2:11, 12.] Then the spirit of persecution will again be revealed. But the light of truth will shine upon all whose hearts are open to receive it, and **all the children of the Lord still in Babylon, will heed the call. “Come out of her, my people.** {4SP 239-40} 1884

The state of **corruption and apostasy** that in the last days would exist **in the religious world**, was presented to the prophet John in the vision of Babylon, **“that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.”** Revelation 17:18. **Before its destruction the call is to be given from heaven, “Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”** Revelation 18:4. **As in the days of Noah and Lot, there must be a marked separation from sin and sinners. There can be no compromise between God and the world,** no turning back to secure earthly treasures. “Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” Matthew 6:24. Like the dwellers in the vale of Siddim, the people are dreaming of prosperity and peace. **“Escape for thy life,”** is the warning from the angels of God; but **other voices are heard saying, “Be not excited; there is no cause for alarm.” The multitudes cry, “Peace and safety,”** while Heaven declares that swift destruction is about to come upon the transgressor. **On the night prior to their destruction, the cities of the plain rioted in pleasure and derided the fears and warnings of the messenger of God; but those scoffers perished in the flames; that very night the door of mercy was forever closed to the wicked, careless inhabitants of Sodom. God will not always be mocked; He will not long be trifled with.** “Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and **He shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.”** Isaiah 13:9. The great mass of the world will reject God’s mercy, and will be overwhelmed in swift and irretrievable ruin. But **those who heed the warning shall dwell “in the secret place of the Most High,” and “abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”** His truth shall be their shield and buckler. **For them is the promise, “With long life will I satisfy him, and show him My salvation.”** Psalm 91:1, 4, 16. –*Patriarchs and Prophets p 167.1 & 2 1890*

*Wherefore **come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean [thing]; and I will receive you,** (marginal cross reference, takes you to Rev 18:4)*

And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

2 Cor 6:17, 18

Of those who are constantly working to undermine faith in the message God is sending to His people, I am instructed to say, ‘Come out from among them, and be ye separate’ [2 Corinthians 6:17] Come into light, brethren, and lead others to the Way, the Truth, and the Life. **Those who in faith accept the leadings of the Spirit of God will see where their dangers lie, and will make decided moves in the right direction.** –*Review and Herald, vol 5, p 435 (July 23, 1908)*

Even though you may not be able to speak a word to those who are working on wrong principles, leave them. Your withdrawal and silence may do more than words. Nehemiah refused to associate with those who were untrue to principle, and he would not permit his workmen to associate with them. The love and fear of God were his safeguard-Dare to be a Daniel, **Dare to stand alone.** Thus as did Moses, you will endure the seeing of Him who is invisible. **But a cowardly and silent reserve**

before evil associates, while you listen to their devices makes you one with them. Come out from among them and be separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” Review & Herald Vol. 4, p. 42. 1899

If you are unequally yoked together with unbelievers [not showing their faith by their works—James.] **Come out from among them and be ye separate, and you shall be a son or a daughter of the Lord Almighty.**— *Voice of Truth*, Vol. , 1844. The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald Jan, 6 1853

Many professed Christians are well represented by the vine that is trailing upon the ground, and entwining its tendrils about the roots and rubbish that lie in its path. **To all such the message comes, “Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”** There are conditions to meet if we would be blessed and honored by God. **We are to separate from the world, and refuse to touch those things that will separate our affections from God.** God has the first and highest claims upon his people. Set your affections upon him and upon heavenly things. **Your tendrils must be severed from everything earthly. You are exhorted to touch not the unclean thing; for in touching this, you will yourself become unclean. It is impossible for you to unite with those who are corrupt, and still remain pure.** “What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial?” **God and Christ and the heavenly host would have man know that if he unites with the corrupt, he will become corrupt.** Ample provision has been made that we may be raised from the lowlands of earth, and have our affections fastened upon God and upon heavenly things. {RH, January 2, 1900 par. 5}

Eph 5:11 And **have no fellowship** with the unfruitful works of darkness, **but rather reprove [them].**

The word **“fellowship”** means **participation, partnership.** God employs the strongest figures to show that **there should be no union between worldly parties and those who are seeking the righteousness of Christ.** What communion can there be between light and darkness, truth and unrighteousness? None whatever. Light represents righteousness; darkness, unrighteousness. **Christians have come out of darkness into the light. They have put on Christ, and they wear the badge of truth and obedience.** They are governed by the elevated and holy principles which Christ expressed in His life.... {GW 392.3} *quoted word in the original*

I am instructed to say that we must do all we possibly can for these **deceived ones.** Their minds must be freed from the delusions of the enemy, and **if we fail in our efforts to save these erring ones, we must “come out from among them” and be separate**”.—Ms 106, 1905, p. 8. (“A Plea for Loyalty,” November 20, 1905.) {7MR 190.1}

In the representations the Lord has given me, I have seen those who follow their own desires, misrepresenting the truth, oppressing their brethren, and placing difficulties before them. Characters are now being developed, and men are taking sides, some on the side of the Lord Jesus Christ, some on the side of Satan and his angels. The Lord calls for all who will be true and obedient to His law to **come out**

of and away from all connection with those who placed themselves on the side of the enemy.”

–Letter 256, August 1, 1906 & Last Day Events from the Letters and Manuscripts of E.G. White, p 94 & This Day With God, p 222

There are **few** really consecrated men **among us**, **few** who have fought and conquered in the battle with self. **Real conversion is a decided change of feelings and motives; it is a virtual taking leave of worldly connections, a hastening from their spiritual atmosphere, a withdrawing from the controlling power of their thoughts, opinions, and influences.** The **separation** causes pain and bitterness to both parties. It is the variance which Christ declares that He came to bring. But the converted will feel a continual longing desire that their friends shall forsake all for Christ, knowing that, unless they do, **there will be a final and eternal separation.** {5T 82.5} 1882

At Oswego, New York, September 7, 1850, the Lord showed me that a great work must be done for His people before they could stand in the battle in the **day of the Lord**. I was pointed to **those who claim to be Adventists**, but who **reject the present truth**, and saw that they were crumbling and that the hand of the Lord was in their midst to **divide and scatter** them now **in the gathering time**, so that the precious jewels among them, who have formerly been deceived, may have their eyes opened to see their true state. And now when the truth is presented to them by the Lord’s messengers, they are prepared to listen, and see its beauty and harmony, and to **leave their former associates and errors**, embrace the precious truth and stand where they can define their position. -*Early Writings* 69.2 1882

The light that was shed upon the waiting ones penetrated everywhere, and **those in the churches who had any light**, who had not heard and rejected the three messages, **obeyed the call and left the fallen churches.** Many had come to years of accountability since these messages had been given, and the light shone upon them, and they were privileged to choose life or death. Some chose life and took their stand with those who were looking for their Lord and keeping all His commandments. The third message was to do its work; all were to be tested upon it, and **the precious ones were to be called out from the religious bodies.** A compelling power moved the honest, while the manifestation of the power of God brought a fear and restraint upon their unbelieving relatives and friends so that they dared not, neither had they the power to, hinder those who felt the work of the Spirit of God upon them. {EW 278.1}

The question may be asked, Are we to have no union whatever with the world? The word of the Lord is to be our guide. **Any connection with infidels and unbelievers which would identify us with them is forbidden by the word.** We are to **come out** from them and be separate. **In no case are we to link ourselves with them in their plans or work.** But we are not to live reclusive lives. We are to do worldlings all the good we possibly can. Christ has given us an example of this. When invited to eat with publicans and sinners, He did not refuse; for in no other way than by mingling with them could He reach this class. But on every occasion He gave them talents of words and influence. He opened up themes of conversation which brought things of eternal interest to their minds. And this Teacher enjoins us, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” On the temperance question take your position without wavering. Be as firm as a rock. **Be not partakers of other men’s sins.** Acts of dishonesty in business deal, with believers or unbelievers, should be reprov’d; and **if they give no evidence of reformation, come out from among them and be separate.** {FE 482.2}

God calls to His people, saying, **“Come out from among them, and be ye separate.”** He asks that the love which He has shown for them may be **reciprocated** and revealed by willing obedience to His commandments. **His children are to separate themselves from politics, from any alliance with**

unbelievers. They are not to link their interests with the interests of the world. **“Give proof of your allegiance to Me” He says, “by standing as My chosen heritage, as a people zealous of good works.”** Do not take part in political strife. **Separate from the world,** and refrain from bringing into the church or school ideas that will lead to contention or disorder. Dissension is the moral poison taken into the system by human beings who are selfish. God wants His servants to have clear perceptions, true and noble dignity, that their influence may demonstrate the power of truth. The Christian life is not to be a haphazard, emotional life. True **Christian influence, exerted for the accomplishment of the work God has appointed, is a precious agency, and it must not be united with politics, or bound up in a confederacy with unbelievers.** God is to be the center of attraction. **Every mind that is worked by the Holy Spirit will be satisfied with Him.** {FE 483.2}

God’s work is to be carried forward with power. **We need the baptism of the Holy Spirit.** **We need to understand that God will add to the ranks of His people men of ability and influence who are to act their part in warning the world.** **Not all in the world are lawless and sinful. God has many thousands who have not bowed the knee to Baal.** There are God-fearing men and women in the fallen churches. If this were not so, we would not be given the message to bear: “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen.” **“Come out** of her, My people.” [Revelation 18:2, 4.] Many of the honest in heart are gasping for a breath of life from heaven. They will recognize the gospel when it is brought to them in the beauty and simplicity with which it is presented in God’s word.... {GW 346.3}

Babylon is said to be “the *mother* of harlots.” **By her daughters must be symbolized churches that cling to her doctrines and traditions,** and follow her example of sacrificing the truth and the approval of God, in order to form an unlawful alliance with the world. **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 days, therefore **it cannot refer to the Romish Church,** for that church **has been** in a fallen condition for many centuries. Furthermore, in the eighteenth chapter of the Revelation, in a message which is yet future, **the people of God are called upon to come out of Babylon. According to this scripture, many of God’s people must still be in Babylon. And in what religious bodies are the greater part of the followers of Christ now to be found? Without doubt, in the various churches professing the Protestant faith. At the time of their rise, these churches took a noble stand for God and the truth, and his blessing was with them.** Even the unbelieving world was constrained to acknowledge the beneficent results that followed an acceptance of the principles of the gospel. In the words of the prophet to Israel, “Thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty; for it was perfect through my comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord God.” **But they fell by the same desire which was the curse and ruin of Israel,—the desire of imitating the practices and courting the friendship of the ungodly.** “Thou didst trust in thine own beauty, **and playedst the harlot** because of thy renown.” {GC88 382.3}

The world is given up to self-indulgence. “The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life,” control the masses of the people. **But Christ’s followers have a holier calling. “Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean.”** In the light of God’s Word we are justified in declaring that sanctification cannot be genuine which does not work this utter renunciation of the sinful pursuits and gratifications of the world. {GC88 475.2}

To those who comply with the conditions, Come out from among them, and be ye separate, and touch not the unclean, God’s promise is, “I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you,

and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” [2 Corinthians 6:17, 18.] It is the privilege and the duty of every Christian to have a rich and abundant experience in the things of God. “I am the light of the world,” said Jesus. “He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” [John 8:12.] “The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.” [Proverbs 4:18.] **Every step of faith and obedience brings the soul into closer connection with the Light of the world, in whom “there is no darkness at all.”** The bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness shine upon the servants of God, and they are to reflect his rays. As the stars tell us that there is a great light in Heaven with whose glory they are made bright, so Christians are to make it manifest that there is a God on the throne of the universe whose character is worthy of praise and imitation. **The graces of his Spirit, the purity and holiness of his character, will be manifest in his witnesses.** {GC88 475.3}

The baleful influence of sin poisons the life of the soul. **Our only safety is in separation from those who live in its darkness.** The Lord has enjoined upon us to **come out from among them and be separate,** and to touch not the unclean thing, and He will receive us and will be a Father unto us, and we shall be His sons and daughters. If we wish to be adopted into the family of God, to become children of the heavenly King, **we must comply with His conditions; we must come out from the world and stand as a peculiar people before the Lord, obeying His precepts and serving Him.** {4T 109.4}

ARE YOU WILLING TO ACT (PREPARE) TO STAND FOR TRUTH?

MANY QUOTES HAVE BEEN CITED ABOVE (AND THERE ARE MORE) REGARDING THE WARNING GIVEN TO GOD’S PEOPLE. THOSE WHO HAVE READ EXTENSIVELY OF SISTER WHITE’S WRITINGS, KNOW THAT SHE SPEAKS FREQUENTLY UPON THIS SUBJECT, GIVING REPEATED ADMONITIONS AND WARNINGS REGARDING APOSTASY IN THE CHURCH.

WHEN CRYING ALOUD AND SHOWING THE HOUSE OF JACOB THEIR SINS, **HAVE YOU BEEN ACCUSED OF CONTINUALLY BEING NEGATIVE, ONLY POINTING OUT THE SINS OF THE CHURCH WHEN "LOVE" SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED MORE? IF SO, YOU ARE IN GOOD COMPANY-- SISTER WHITE HERSELF ADMITS OF CONTINUALLY CONDEMNING WRONG AND REPROVING SIN AND BEING CRITICIZED FOR SO DOING! THEY WANTED SMOOTH PREACHING!**

Those who **will not act** when the Lord calls upon them, but who wait for more certain evidence and more favorable opportunities, will walk in darkness, for the light will be withdrawn. **The evidence given one day, if rejected, may never be repeated.** {3T 258.3}

Many are tempted in regard to our work and are calling it in question. Some, in their tempted condition, charge the difficulties and perplexities of the people of God to the testimonies of reproof that we have given them. **They think the trouble is with the ones who bear the message of warning, who point out the sins of the people and correct their errors.** Many are deceived by the adversary of souls. **They think that the labors of Brother and Sister White would be acceptable if they were not continually condemning wrong and reprovng sin. I was shown that God has laid this work upon us, and when we are hindered from meeting with His people and from bearing our testimony and counteracting the surmisings and jealousies of the unconsecrated, then Satan presses in his temptations very strongly.** Those who have been ever on the questioning, doubting side feel at liberty to suggest their doubts and to insinuate their unbelief. Some have sanctimonious and apparently conscientious and very pious

doubts, which they cautiously drop, but which have tenfold more power to strengthen those who are wrong, and to lessen our influence and weaken the confidence of God's people in our work, than if they came out more frankly. These poor souls, I saw, were deceived by Satan. They flatter themselves that they are all right, that they are in favor with God and are rich in spiritual discernment, when they are poor, blind, and wretched. They are doing the work of Satan, but think they have a zeal for God. {3T 258.4}

DWELLING ONLY UPON LOVE OF GOD

That religion which makes of sin a light matter, **dwelling upon the love of God to the sinner regardless of his actions,** only encourages the sinner to believe that God will receive him while he continues in that which he knows to be sin. This is what some are doing who profess to believe present truth. **The truth is kept apart from the life, and that is the reason it has no power to convict and convert the soul.** {5T 540.2}

Words from our Pioneers

This then is the true Church of God. Now, what are the principal agents in oppressing and injuring this Church? We answer, all those sects, **whether Roman Catholics or Protestants, that go to work to divide and bring in —confusion to the oneness of the Church.** And how is this done? It is done by the manufacturing of **creeds, whether written or oral, and endeavoring to organize a party;** the **test of fellowship being** now, not love to God and each other, but **assent to these creeds.** (pg1) ... because **their creeds differ;** and hence —confusion or **Babylon is truly their name.** Surely we need have no great difficulty in deciding **where Babylon is, or what it is.** It is the **old mother and all her children;** who are known by the family likeness **a domineering, lordly spirit, a spirit to suppress a free search after truth, and a free expression of our conviction of what is truth.** Every one of us shall give account of HIMSELF to God,|| (Rom. Xiv. 13.) **We have no right to let any men, or body of men, thus lord it over us. And to remain,** it appears to me, **in such an organized body, is to remain in Babylon.** (pg2)... Well, say some, —if they will turn us out, let them do it; we will stay with them until we are turned out.—**But, does God say, stay in here till you are turned out! NO. He says—Come out of her my people. Come out of this —confusion, this Babylon.**

But it will be asked, —Where shall we go if we come out? **Go to the Lord. Trust in Him. —Wait for his Son from heaven. Take care that you do not seek to manufacture another church. No church can be organized by man's invention but what it becomes Babylon the moment it is organized.** (pg 4) *New York, The Midnight Cry Feb. 1844 George Storrs.*

Portions quoted below from The Advent Review Volume 1, Entitled: Extracts Relating to the Churches, and Church Organization {August 1850 JWe, ADRE 22.6-23.7}:

"While Israel obeyed God, He defended and blessed them; but when they desired a king like the surrounding nations, and said, "Give us a king, God departed from them, or suffered them to follow their own wisdom: and the result was, a yoke was laid upon their necks by their: king, who was given to them 'in wrath and taken away in anger.'

"While the primitive church stood upon the foundation laid by Christ, obeyed His law, and followed Him, they were humble, prosperous and happy.

"But when they began to lay other foundations, adopt other laws, and follow other leaders, the glory departed from them: they committed fornication **with the kings of the earth**, and soon constituted the 'mother' whom John saw seated on the scarlet coloured beast, drunk with the blood of the saints.

"While the seceding sects were young, humble, and submitted to Christ and His word, they were blessed, and proved a blessing to The Church and the world.

"But when they patterned after the "mother of harlots", they, like her, "committed fornication", and became identified with mystery Babylon, that great city which reigneth over the kings of the earth of the earth.

"From this fallen city, brethren, we have fled, in obedience to the command, "Come out of her". Let us not go back to her polluted temples, nor build one of our own after any of her patterns.

"Obey Christ and His word, and you have nothing to fear. But if you depart from Him, like the examples before us, He will cast us off forever."

"Finally, we object to the doings of the Albany Conference, because the proceedings as a whole, look like forming a new sect, under a sectarian name, instead of coming to the order of the New Testament, under the name there given to the true Church.

"It looks like laying plans of our own devising, when we have in our possession the perfect economy of the Lord, by which we should be guided, and when we profess to be looking for His coming every hour.

"Can we for one moment suppose it is a time now to be fixing up a creed for years, or even months, to come? Is this our faith? O I cannot, I cannot - I must not,

"What! The advent people have a creed?"

"What! The advent people organize into a sect?"

"O, brethren, do let us be consistent.

"Did not our enemies tell us that after the time passed - if it did pass - we should organize into a sect?"

What did we answer them?

"You who are disposed to organize and have a creed, answer it. "Let us remember three things, and overcome them.

1. The beast.
2. His mark.
3. The number of his name.

"Here is the patience and faith of the saints. Let the Gentile princes exercise their dictation; but let us not be so." - *Advent Review, 1850; (published by Hiram Edson, David Arnold, Geo. W. Holt, Samuel W. Rhodes, and James White; article from which the above is taken signed with the initial "W".)*

**"COME OUT OF HER, MY PEOPLE" - A SERMON, BY C. FITCH.
ROCHESTER, N. Y. J. V. HIMES, 17 ARCADE E. SHEPARD'S PRESS.
1843.**

[Rev 18:1-5; 18:21; 14:6-20 quoted] **1. WHAT IS BABYLON? It is Antichrist:** all those to whom Christ will say, at his appearing, "Those mine enemies who would not that I should reign over them, bring hither and slay them before me." It is every thing belonging to the vine of the earth, which, at the appearance of one like the Son of man on a white cloud, is to be reaped, and cast into the great wine-press of the wrath of God. {1843 CF, CHMP 5.1} ... AND THIS IS THAT **SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST** whereof ye have heard that it should come, and even now already is it in the world." 2 John 7: "For many deceivers are entered into the world **who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. THIS IS A DECEIVER AND AN ANTI-CHRIST.**" {1843 CF, CHMP 5.2}... **To confess with the lips that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, and yet to be opposed in heart and life to the objects for which he came, is certainly to be Antichrist**.... whoever is opposed to the **PERSONAL REIGN** of Jesus Christ over this world on David's throne, is **ANTICHRIST; for though he may**

admit that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, he is opposed to the object for which he came, and therefore must be Antichrist; for "the kingdoms of this world must become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever." {1843 CF, CHMP 8.1}... We have therefore only to inquire who is OPPOSED TO THE PERSONAL REIGN OF CHRIST ON DAVID'S THRONE, in order to ascertain **who is ANTICHRIST, or who is IN BABYLON**, to be destroyed when Christ shall appear in the clouds of heaven, to establish his kingdom. Who, then, is opposed to the personal reign of Christ on David's throne? {1843 CF, CHMP 9.1}... **1st. THE ENTIRE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.**{1843 CF, CHMP 9.2}**2nd.** Is THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, ONLY OPPOSED TO THE PERSONAL REIGN OF CHRIST? **What shall we say of Protestant Christendom in this respect?** Among all the sects into which the Protestant church is divided, where is one that is not decidedly hostile to the Bible truth that Christ has been raised up to sit personally on David's throne? ... CHMP 10.2}... 2 Tim. iv, 3,) "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears, and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned to fables." **This is at present true of all sects in Protestant Christendom.** CHMP 10.2}The practical motto in this day is, **by their creeds** ye shall know them. CHMP 10.2}...To such an extent has the love of this present world abounded, in the hearts of those who say they are Christ's, that nothing is so unwelcome to the mass of them as to tell them that their Savior, whom they profess to regard as their best friend, is soon coming to take his people to be with him. {1843 CF, CHMP 10.2}

II. WHAT ARE WE TO UNDERSTAND BY THE FALL OF BABYLON? This is fully expressed in Scripture language: [Rev 18:2 quoted]... But how is it with Protestant Christendom. **How is she occupied?** Is she not engaged, for her own aggrandizement, in every species of merchandise ascribed to Babylon, even to slaves and the souls of men? The **spirit of oppression reigns**, in greater or less portions of the leading sects, unrebuked; and a man may sell or buy his fellow-man, and then sit at the communion table, or even minister at the altar of God, and by the mass of Protestant Christendom go unreprieved. **Lust for power** is seen among all the sects, and **lust for gold** is practically regarded by the multitude of Christ's professed disciples as a virtue, and they may **resort to any means** for acquiring wealth which does not amount to positive transgression of human law, and **yet stand in the church as accredited members.** {1843 CF, CHMP 16.1}

III. WHAT IS IT FOR GOD'S PEOPLE TO COME OUT OF BABYLON? [Rev 18:4 quoted] {1843 CF, CHMP 18.1} ...But I do say, if you are a Christian, come out of Babylon! **If you intend to be found a Christian when Christ appears, come out of Babylon, and come out Now! Throw away that miserable medley of ridiculous spiritualizing nonsense with which multitudes have so long been making the word of God of none effect, and dare to believe the Bible.**{1843 CF, CHMP 19.1} (*all words in CAPS are in the original*)

We are in danger of becoming a sister to fallen Babylon, of allowing our churches to become corrupted, and filled with every foul spirit, a cage for every unclean and hateful bird;... {21MR380.1} Written September 6, 1886

HAVE WE BECOME A SISTER TO FALLEN BABYLON (APOSTATE PROTESTANTISM)? IF SO, THEN THAT AUTOMATICALLY MAKES US A DAUGHTER OF THE MOTHER!

When **Jerusalem was divorced from God** it was because of her sins. She **fell** from an exalted height that Tyre and Sidon had never reached. **And when an angel falls he becomes a fiend.** The depth of our ruin is measured by the exalted light to which God has raised us in His great goodness and unspeakable mercy. Oh, what privileges are granted to us as a people! And **if God spared not His people that He loved, because they refused to walk in the light, how can He spare the people whom He has blessed with the**

light of heaven in having opened to them the most exalted truth ever entrusted to mortal man to give to the world? [Manuscript releases 12, pp. 319,320] 1886

Of those who boast of their light, and yet fail to walk in it, Christ says, “But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. And thou, **Capernaum [Seventh-day Adventists, who have had great light]**, which art exalted unto heaven **[in point of privilege]**, **shalt be brought down to hell**: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.” At that time Jesus answered and said, “**I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent [in their own estimation]**, and hast revealed them unto babes. Matt 11:22-25 **[Bracketed material added by Sister White]** {RH, August 1, 1893}

The voice from Battle Creek, which has been regarded as authority in counseling how the work should be done, is no longer the voice of God.—Manuscript Releases 17:185 (1896). {LDE 50.2}

Babylon is Fallen

1. Hail the day so long expected,
Hail, the year of full release,
Zion's walls are now erected,
And her watchmen publish peace,
In all countries and dominions
Hear the trumpet loudly roar.

Refrain

Babylon is fallen, is fallen, is fallen,
Babylon is fallen to rise no more.

2. Come my people and forsake her,
Cast away your slavish fears,
Hear the voice from heav'n proclaiming,
It's the end of all her years.
Raise your voices, she is fallen,
Lift your banners up on high.

Refrain

3. Now her plagues are surely coming,
And her merchants all shall mourn,
All their merchandise shall fail them,
With the fire it shall burn,
Cry aloud now, kings and nobles,
Priest and people, rich and poor.

Refrain

4. Blow the trumpet in Mount Zion,
Christ will come the second time,
Ruling with a rod of iron,
All who now His foes combine.
Babel's garments we've rejected,
And her mark of slavery.

Hymns, for God's Peculiar People by James White, 1849

Compiled 5/14/19; updated 4/30/20 by M Harris