



SAVED TO SERVE

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REVELATION 18:

COME OUT OF HER, MY PEOPLE, PART 2

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will continue studying Revelation 18 and the call to come out of Babylon.
2. **Note:** Carefully read Revelation 18:1-3. Notice that this loud cry message exposes the sins of Babylon. Those who preach this message will declare that Babylon is fallen and will reveal to the world her sins. Read the following quotation from *The Great Controversy* to confirm.

“Thus the message of the third angel will be proclaimed. As the time comes for it to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them. The sins of Babylon will be laid open. The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power—all will be unmasked. By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. **Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these. In amazement they hear the testimony that Babylon is the church, fallen because of her errors and sins, because of her rejection of the truth sent to her from heaven. As the people go to their former teachers with the eager inquiry, Are these things so? the ministers present fables, prophesy smooth things, to soothe their fears and quiet the awakened conscience. But since many refuse to be satisfied with the mere authority of men and demand a plain “Thus saith the Lord,” the popular ministry, like the Pharisees of old, filled with anger as their authority is questioned, will denounce the message as of Satan and stir up the sin-loving multitudes to revile and persecute those who proclaim it.” {GC 606.2}**

3. **Note:** Let us now confirm from scripture that the message “Babylon is fallen” is linked to exposing her sins to the world.
4. What kingdom was Belshazzar the ruler of? Daniel 5:1, 7 _____
5. Which word, from God’s handwriting on the wall, was repeated twice? What does it mean? Daniel 5:25, 26

6. What sins led to the fall of ancient Babylon, which are connected to the fall of modern Babylon in these last days?
 - a) Daniel 5:1; Revelation 18:3 _____
 - b) Daniel 5:2; Revelation 18:9 _____
 - c) Daniel 5:4; Exodus 20:3-5 _____
7. What other sin caused the fall of ancient Babylon and will cause the fall of modern Babylon? Daniel 5:22-23; Revelation 18:7; Proverbs 6:16-17

8. Why is pride so dangerous? Whose spirit influences those who manifest pride? Proverbs 16:18; Isaiah 14:12-14

“God does not regard all sins as of equal magnitude; there are degrees of guilt in His estimation, as well as in that of man; but however trifling this or that wrong act may seem in the eyes of men, no sin is small in the sight of God. Man’s judgment is partial, imperfect; but God estimates all things as they really are. The drunkard is despised and is told that his sin will exclude him from heaven; while pride, selfishness, and covetousness too often go unrebuked. But these are sins that are especially offensive to God; for they are contrary to the benevolence of His character, to that unselfish love which is the very atmosphere of the unfallen universe. He who falls into some of the grosser sins may feel a sense of his shame and poverty and his need of the grace of Christ; but pride feels no need, and so it closes the heart against Christ and the infinite blessings He came to give.” {SC 30.1}

9. Besides the handwriting on the wall, how did God expose the sins of Belshazzar, king of Babylon? Daniel 5:17, 22-23

10. **Note:** Just as God used Daniel, a consecrated human messenger, to lay open the sins of Babylon and declare that it was fallen, so God will use consecrated messengers in these last days to expose sin. Not only will the sins of the world be exposed, but also cherished sins held by church members will be exposed to call people to repentance and warn them of the judgments of God. See Isaiah 58:1 and Ezekiel 3:18-19. We will further confirm this point from the book of Joshua.

“In every generation God has sent His servants to rebuke sin, both in the world and in the church. But the people desire smooth things spoken to them, and the pure, unvarnished truth is not acceptable. Many reformers, in entering upon their work, determined to exercise great prudence in attacking the sins of the church and the nation. They hoped, by the example of a pure Christian life, to lead the people back to the doctrines of the Bible. But the Spirit of God came upon them as it came upon Elijah, moving him to rebuke the sins of a wicked king and an apostate people; they could not refrain from preaching the plain utterances of the Bible—doctrines which they had been reluctant to present. They were impelled to zealously declare the truth and the danger which threatened souls. The words which the Lord gave them they uttered, fearless of consequences, and the people were compelled to hear the warning.” {GC 606.1}

11. What happened to the city of Jericho in Joshua 6:20, 26? _____

12. **Note:** The city of Jericho is known as a city of harlots. Rahab was a harlot and dwelt in that city (Joshua 6:1, 17). Babylon is also called a city of harlots (Revelation 17:5, 18). The fall of Jericho typifies the fall of Babylon in these last days.

13. What sins did Achan commit? What punishment did he and his family receive? Joshua 7:1, 20-21, 25

“Have you considered why it was that all who were connected with Achan were also subjects of the punishment of God? It was because they had not been trained and educated according to the directions given them in the great standard of the law of God. Achan's parents had educated their son in such a way that he felt free to disobey the word of the Lord. The principles inculcated in his life led him to deal with his children in such a way that they also were corrupted. Mind acts and reacts upon mind, and the punishment, which included the relations of Achan with himself, reveals the fact that all were involved in the transgression.” {CG 234.3}

14. **Note:** Achan represents many professed Christians today, even Seventh-day Adventists, who participate in and covet after the same sins of those in Babylon (i.e. their dress, lifestyle, pleasure, and more). Although they may not literally be a part of other fallen denominations or beliefs, by participating in the same sins, many of God's professed people will be lost because they are “lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God (2 Timothy 3:4).”

15. Instead of seeking after God, what are those in Babylon seeking after, to their own damnation? Revelation 18:16-17; Mark 4:18-19; Matthew 6:19-20

“Below this crown was another scepter, and upon this also was placed a crown, in the center of which were jewels, gold, and silver, reflecting some light. The inscription upon the crown was: “Earthly treasure. Riches is power. All who win me have honor and fame.” I saw a vast multitude rushing forward to obtain this crown. They were clamorous. Some in their eagerness seemed bereft of reason. They would thrust one another, crowding back those who were weaker than they, and trampling upon those who in their haste fell. Many eagerly seized hold of the treasures within the crown, and held them fast. The heads of some were as white as silver, and their faces were furrowed with care and anxiety. Their own relatives, bone of their bone, and flesh of their flesh, they regarded not; but, as appealing looks were turned to them, they held their treasures more firmly, as though fearful that in an unguarded moment they should lose a little, or be induced to divide with them. Their eager eyes would often fasten upon the earthly crown, and count and recount its treasures. Images of want and wretchedness appeared in that multitude, and looked wishfully at the treasures there, and turned hopelessly away as the stronger overpowered and drove back the weaker. Yet they could not give it up thus, but with a multitude of deformed, sickly, and aged, they sought to press their way to the earthly crown. Some died in seeking to reach it. Others fell just in the act of taking hold of it. Many had but just laid hold of it when they fell. Dead bodies strewed the ground, yet on rushed the multitude, trampling over the fallen and dead bodies of their companions. Everyone who reached the crown possessed a share in it, and was loudly applauded by an interested company standing around it.” {1T 347.2}

16. What will the mighty angel do to “that great city Babylon” according to Revelation 18:21?

17. What sin have those in Babylon committed which is the cause of this judgment? Luke 17:1-2; Revelation 18:13

18. **Note:** The sin of offending others in the faith and influencing them to reject the truth is also a sin that God's professed people must cease if they desire to be saved. Read the following quotation from *Christ's Object Lessons* for confirmation.

“But never should it be forgotten that influence is no less a power for evil. To lose one's own soul is a terrible thing; but to cause the loss of other souls is still more terrible. That our influence should be a savor of death unto death is a fearful thought; yet this is possible. Many who profess to gather with Christ are scattering from Him. This is why the church is so weak. Many indulge freely in criticism and accusing. By giving expression to suspicion, jealousy, and discontent, they yield themselves as instruments to Satan. Before they realize what they are doing, the adversary has through them accomplished his purpose. The impression of evil has been made, the shadow has been cast, the arrows of Satan have found their mark. Distrust, unbelief, and downright infidelity have fastened upon those who otherwise might have accepted Christ. Meanwhile the workers for Satan look complacently upon those whom they have driven to skepticism, and who are now hardened against reproof and entreaty. **They flatter themselves that in comparison with these souls they are virtuous and righteous. They do not realize that these sad wrecks of character are the work of their own unbridled tongues and rebellious hearts. It is through their influence that these tempted ones have fallen.” {COL 340.3}**

“Of all the sins that God will punish, none are more grievous in His sight than those that encourage others to do evil. God would have His servants prove their loyalty by faithfully rebuking transgression, however painful the act may be. Those who are honored with a divine commission are not to be weak, pliant time-servers. They are not to aim at self-exaltation, or to shun disagreeable duties, but to perform God's work with unswerving fidelity.” {PP 323.3}

19. Notice that Luke 17 is a continuation of Luke 16. What sin is referenced in Luke 16, which we all must flee in order to avoid the same judgment as Babylon? Luke 16:24-31 **Answer:** The sin of rejecting truth even though ample evidence to believe the truth is revealed.

“While God has given ample evidence for faith, He will never remove all excuse for unbelief. All who look for hooks to hang their doubts upon will find them. And those who refuse to accept and obey God's word until every objection has been removed, and there is no longer an opportunity for doubt, will never come to the light.” {GC 527.2}

20. Was the truth rejected in Jesus' time? What two groups of people rejected the truth? John 12:9, 35-37; 18:38

21. With Jesus' strength, what should be our response to hold fast our faith in Him? Hebrews 3:7-8; Mark 9:24; Luke 17:5

22. As we close, let us meditate upon the love of Jesus Christ, how much He has given for us, and how much we should give to Him - by reading the hymn, *“I Gave My Life for Thee.”*

I Gave My Life for Thee

I gave My life for thee,
My precious blood I shed,
That thou mightst ransomed be,
And quickened from the dead;
I gave, I gave My life for thee,
What hast thou done for Me?
I gave, I gave My life for thee,
What hast thou done for Me?

My Father's house of light,
My glory-circled throne
I left for earthly night,
For wanderings sad and lone;
I left, I left it all for thee,
Hast thou left aught for Me?
I left, I left it all for thee,
Hast thou left aught for Me?

I suffered much for thee,
More than thy tongue can tell,
Of bitterest agony,
To rescue thee from hell;
I've borne, I've borne it all for thee,
What hast thou borne for Me?
I've borne, I've borne it all for thee,
What hast thou borne for Me?

And I have brought to thee,
Down from My home above,
Salvation full and free,
My pardon and My love;
I bring, I bring rich gifts to thee,
What hast thou brought to Me?
I bring, I bring rich gifts to thee,
What hast thou brought to Me?