

Aiken SDA Church
November 31, 2020

SECOND ANGEL MESSAGE

Revelation 14:6

- *Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth – to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people -*

Revelation 14:7

- *Saying with a loud voice: “Fear God and give glory to Him for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.*

Revelation 14:8

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

The Great Controversy teams

- ⦿ the beast from the sea (13: 1-10),
- ⦿ the beast from the earth (13: 11-17),
- ⦿ three unclean spirits (16:13),
- ⦿ the prostitute woman sitting on the beast (17: 2-6, 18:2-9)
- ⦿ the pure woman of Rev 12 and her remnant
- ⦿ the 144000 (14: 1-5)

Enemy' side

God's side

Jesus the only way

- John 14:6 – Jesus said unto him, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me
- Acts 4:12 – Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.
- 1 Timothy 2:5 – For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus

- ◎ The term Babylon, derived from Babel, and signifying confusion, is applied in Scripture to the various forms of false or apostate religion.”

- ◎ E.G. White - Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 4, p. 232

- Elsewhere in the Old Testament, Babylon represents the religious system that stands in opposition to the religion of true God and tries to control the world. As such, it is portrayed as the traditional great enemy of God's people. The prophet Isaiah equates the king of Babylon with Lucifer (Isa 14:12-14) in other words Babylon's behavior and attitude toward God and His people become a symbol of Lucifer's behavior.

- Ranko Stefanovic - Revelation of Jesus Christ. Commentary on the Book of Revelation. 2nd Ed, p. 456

- *** Underline is supplied.

Revelation 17: 3

- ⦿ *v. 3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness; And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of name of blasphemies, having seven heads and ten horns.*
- ⦿ *v. 4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication,*
- ⦿ *v.5 And on her forehead a name was written:
“MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OT THE EARTH”*
- ⦿ *v.6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.*

Prophetic symbols

- Pure woman = true and faithful church - Jeremiah 6:2, 2Cor 11:2, Eph 5:23-27, Rev 14:4
- Corrupt woman = apostate church - Ezek 16:15-58, 23:2-21, or Hosea 2:5, 3:1
- Beast = Kingdom, government, political power - Dan 7:17, 23

◎ 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.

◎ E.G. White - The Spirit of Prophecy vol. 4, p. 232

- The character of the woman determines the character of the church represented, a chaste woman standing for a pure church, a vile woman for an impure, or apostate, church. The woman Babylon is herself a harlot, and the mother of daughters like herself. The circumstances, as well as the name itself, shows that Babylon is not limited to any single ecclesiastical body, but must be composed of many. It must take in all of a nature, and represent the entire corrupt, or apostate church of the earth.

- Uriah Smith – Daniel and the Revelation, p. 646

Revelation 14:8

- And another angel followed, saying:
“*Babylon is fallen, is fallen*, that great city, because she has made all nation drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

⦿ The repeated verb ‘fallen’ in Greek is an aorist announcing a future event. The futuristic use of the aorist in Hebrew prophecy is known as the prophetic perfect in which a future event is described with the past tense as if it is already occurred (cf. Isa. 21:9; Jer. 51:8; Rev. 10:7). Here in the text, the fall of end time Babylon to take place in the future is announced as if it is already occurred, thus underscoring the prophetic certainty of Babylon’s future demise.”

⦿ Ranko Stefanovic - Revelation of Jesus Christ. Commentary on the Book of Revelation. 2nd Ed, p. 456

Revelation 14:8

- And another angel followed, saying:
“Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, *because she has made all nation drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication*”
- You see what makes Babylon – Babylon, is what it does and what it stands for.

- ⦿ *Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inward they are ravening wolves,*
- ⦿ *Matthew 24:11, 24 And many false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many,[...] For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if were possible, they shall deceive the very elect,*
- ⦿ *Matthew 15:9 But in vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*

- ◎ The message of the second angel did not reach its complete fulfillment in 1844. The churches then experienced a moral fall in their refusal of the light of the advent message, but that fall was not complete. As they have continued to reject the special truths for this time they have fallen lower and lower. Not yet, however, can it be said that “Babylon is fallen, ... because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” Protestant churches are included in the solemn denunciation of the second angel. But the work of apostasy has not yet reached its culmination.

- ◎ E.G. White - From Here to Forever p. 241

- While we understand clearly that the messages of the first and second and third angels are messages that have their application today, we recognize also that in their initial proclamation the sounding of the first angel's message with its declaration that "the hour of God's judgment is come" is linked with the proclamation of the expected advent of Christ in the 1830's and early 1840's. The second angel's message had its initial sounding early in the summer of 1844 in the call to the Advent believers to come out of the nominal churches that had rejected the proclamation of the first angel's message. [...]

- [...] And while it is true that the second angel's message continues to be present truth, there was a climactic closing up of the immediately preceding second angel's message October 22, 1844. When the messages of the three angels come prominently before the world again just before the second advent of Christ, the angel of Revelation 18:1 joins in the proclamation of the second angel in the message that "Babylon is fallen." "Come out of her, my people."

- E.G. White - Early Writings p. 304