

The Power of the Fourth Angel

Revelation 18:1

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PART 1

The Power of the 4th Angel

- "God's people are to understand in regard to the angel who is to lighten the whole world with his glory, while he cries mightily, with a loud voice, 'Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen.'" {7BC 985}

The Power of the 4th Angel

- Who is this angel?
- What is his message?
- What "great power" does he possess?
- What is the glory that lightens the world?

The Power of the 4th Angel

- Revelation 18:1
 - "And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory."

When is this message to go forward?

Timing of The Angel

- God's people still in Babylon
 - Rev 18:4
- "These announcements, uniting with the third angel's message, constitute the final warning to be given to the inhabitants of the earth." GC 604
- Sometime After 1844
- Before Close of Probation

What is "Babylon"

- Babel = Confusion
 - Gen 10:10; 11:9
- "The term "Babylon" is derived from "Babel," and signifies confusion. It is employed in Scripture to designate the various forms of false or apostate religion.
- "In Revelation 17 Babylon is represented as a woman --a figure which is used in the Bible as the symbol of a church, a virtuous woman representing a pure church, a vile woman an apostate church." {GC 381.1}

What is "Babylon"

- Revelation 17
- Harlot sitting upon a Beast = "Babylon"
- Beast = Worldly Kingdoms (Dan 7)
- Woman + Beast = Church United with World
- Babylon = Church United with World

What is "Babylon"

- "In the Bible the sacred and enduring character of the relation that exists between Christ and His church is represented by the union of marriage." GC 382
- "The unfaithfulness of the church to Christ in permitting her confidence and affection to be turned from Him, and allowing the love of worldly things to occupy the soul, is likened to the violation of the marriage vow." GC 382

What is "Babylon"

- Israel Called a Harlot
 - Ezekiel 16:8, 13-15, 32; Jeremiah 3:20
 - Love of the World=Adultery
- "...language very similar is addressed to professed Christians who seek the friendship of the world above the favour of God. Says the apostle James: 'Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.'" {GC 382.1}

What is "Babylon"

- **Rom 7:1** Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?
- **Rom 7:2** For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to [*her*] husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of [*her*] husband.
- **Rom 7:3** So then if, while [*her*] husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

What is "Babylon"

- **Rom 7:4** Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become **dead to the law by the body of Christ**; that ye should be married to another, [*even*] to him who is raised from the dead, **that we should bring forth fruit unto God.**
- "By their fruits ye shall know them"
- Galatians 5:19 – 23
- "Dead to the law" means that the "old man" is no longer alive to the works that the law condemns! We know walk in the Spirit.

What is "Babylon"

- Rom 8:7 "Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."
- The problem with Christians and churches that "play the harlot" is they think they can unite with Christ while entertaining the friendship of the world in in their heart or church life. (1 John 2:15)
- James 4:4 "Friendship of the world is enmity with God" = "spiritual adultery"

What is "Babylon"

- "It was by departure from the Lord, and alliance with the heathen, that the Jewish church became a harlot; and Rome, corrupting herself in like manner by seeking the support of worldly powers, receives a like condemnation." {GC 382.2}
- Church United With World = Corruption

What is "Babylon"

- "Babylon is said to be "the mother of harlots." By her daughters must be symbolized
 - 1) churches that cling to her doctrines and traditions,
 - 2) 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." GC 382
- Pure Church Becomes Corrupt = "Babylon"

What is “Babylon”

- “Since this message [second angel’s] follows the warning of the judgment, it must be given in the last days; therefore it cannot refer to the Roman Church alone, for that church has been in a fallen condition for many centuries” GC 383
- Not Roman Church
- Must be Daughters

What is “Babylon”

- “Many of the Protestant churches are following Rome’s example of iniquitous connection with “the kings of the earth”--the state churches, by their relation to secular governments; and other denominations, by seeking the favor of the world. And the term “Babylon”--confusion--may be appropriately applied to these bodies...” GC 383
- “Babylon” = Fallen Protestant Churches
- Many of God’s People Still in Them

- Pure Church + Christ = Marriage
- Unfaithful Church + World = Harlot
- Pure Church Becomes Corrupt = “Babylon”
- Seeking Favour of World = “Babylon”

Final Warning--Rev 18

- "The second angel's message of Revelation 14 was first preached in the summer of 1844, and it then had a more direct application to the churches of the United States..."
- Fall of Protestant Churches in 1844
- Summer of 1844 = Separation

Final Warning--Rev 18

- Revelation 18:2-3
- Message is repeated
- "Not until this condition shall be reached, and the **union of the church with the world** shall be **fully accomplished** throughout Christendom, will the **fall of Babylon be complete**. The change is a progressive one, and the perfect fulfillment of Revelation 14:8 is yet future." {GC 389.3}
- First Published in **1888**

Final Warning--Rev 18

- "Revelation 18 points to the time when, as the result of **rejecting the threefold warning** of Revelation 14:6-12, **the church will have fully reached the condition foretold by the second angel**, and the **people of God still in Babylon will be called upon to separate from her communion**. This message is the **last** that will ever be given to the world; and it will accomplish its work." GC 390

Final Warning--Rev 18

- Christ Will Come for Pure Church
 - Without Spot or Blemish Eph 5:25-27
- Pure Church = Pure People
 - Eph 4:11-13
- Pure People = Pure Hearts
 - Matt 5:8
- Pure Hearts = No Sin
 - 1John 2:15-17
- God's Remnant People Separated from Sin and Sinners

Final Warning--Rev 18

- **Therefore a message is to go to the world, a final call to God's people to separate themselves from sin in the heart and in the life, to come out from the world and to unite fully with Christ.**
- **Everlasting Gospel Proclaimed in Power**

"Another Angel"

- "These angels are evidently symbolic; for the work assigned them is that of preaching the everlasting gospel to the people. But the preaching of the gospel has not been intrusted to literal angels; it has been committed unto men, who are responsible for this sacred trust placed in their hands. **Each of these three angels, therefore, symbolizes a body of religious teachers**, who are commissioned to make known to their fellow men the special truths which constitute the burden of these messages respectively." D&R 586 (old ed).

“Another Angel”

- "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." GC 604
- **A Movement** (?)

“Another Angel”

- **Movement**
- "A connected series of impulses, efforts, and actions, directed to a special end;"
Cassell's English Dictionary
- "the organized activity of a society."
Webster's
- "a body of beliefs"

“Another Angel”

- Note that this "angel" is "coming down from heaven."
- Therefore “angel” = a movement of people with a message from heaven

“Having Great Power”

- What is this Power?
- NEXT WEEK
- PART TWO
