

God's Final Message

Second Angel's Message

The New King James Version is used, unless otherwise quoted.

Second Angel's Message:

Rev 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."

Note:

This Second Angel's message is the counterpart of the First Angel's message. If the First Angel's message is a call to worship the True God, then the Second Angel's message is a call to reject all that is opposed to the worship of the true God, and all that seeks to counterfeit that true worship.

1. **Babylon.** The word 'Babylon' comes from 'Babel' which means *confusion* (see Gen. 11:9). In the Bible it is used to refer to various forms of false or apostate religion. To get a clearer picture of Babylon, we need to go to Rev 17:1-6:

- a) A **woman** in Bible prophecy represents God's people, **His church**:

Jer. 3:14 – "'Return, O backsliding children,' says the LORD; 'for **I am _____ to you.** I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion...'

Hosea 2:19 – "I will _____ you to Me forever; yes, I will **betroth** you to Me in righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness and mercy."

Isa. 54: 5-6 – "⁵For your Maker is your _____, the LORD of hosts is His name ... ⁶For the LORD has called you like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, like a youthful wife when you were refused," says your God.

2 Cor. 11:2 – "For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have _____ **you to one** _____, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."

- b) A **prostitute** (an unfaithful woman, is a symbol of an **unfaithful church**). See the connection between adultery and unfaithfulness in:

Isa. 57:3, 7, 8 – "³But come here, you sons of the sorceress, you **offspring of the _____ and the _____!** ... ⁷ "On a lofty and high mountain you have set your bed; even there you went up to offer sacrifice. ⁸ Also behind the doors and their posts you have set up your remembrance; for you have uncovered yourself to those other than Me, and have gone up to them; you have enlarged your bed and made a covenant with them; you have loved their bed, where you saw their nudity."

Eze. 16:15, 26-29 – "¹⁵But you trusted in your own beauty, **played the _____** because of your fame, and poured out your harlotry on everyone passing by who would have it... ²⁶You also **committed harlotry** with the Egyptians, your very fleshly neighbors, and increased your **acts of**

harlotry to provoke Me to anger....²⁸ You also played the harlot with the Assyrians, because you were insatiable; indeed you played the harlot with them and still were not satisfied.²⁹ Moreover you multiplied your **acts of harlotry** as far as the land of the trader, Chaldea; and even then you were not satisfied.”

James 4:4 - “**Adulterers and adulteresses!** Do you not know that **friendship with the world is enmity with God**? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

- c) She sits on a scarlet **beast**

Dan. 7:17 – “The four great **beasts** are four _____ that will rise from the earth.” (NIV)

A beast stands for a nation / political power / religio-political power. So Babylon (a false religious power), will join with secular, political powers, to form a **union of church and state**. Furthermore, the fact that she is sitting on the beast means that she has dominion and control over them, just like a rider who sits on a horse controls the beast.

- d) Commits adultery with the kings of the earth (this again refers to the fact that she forms **illicit alliances with political** powers of the world to further her wicked designs – see Eze. 16:26-29 above)
- e) She sits on many waters (Babylon exercises extensive **dominion**)

Rev. 17:15 – “Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are **peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.**”

- f) She is called the **mother** of harlots, signifying that she has daughters who act like her.

Rev. 17:5 – “And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE _____ OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH”

Babylon’s daughters are those religious entities (churches) that are willing, just like her, to sacrifice truth and to **follow man-made traditions** instead of God’s Word.

- g) She is also called the **mother of abominations** (Rev. 17:5). Some examples of abominations (also translated as ‘detestable things’) in the Bible are:

Image worship

Deut. 7:25, 26 – “²⁵ You shall burn the _____ of their gods with fire; you shall not covet the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, lest you be snared by it; for it is an **abomination** to the LORD your God. ²⁶ Nor shall you bring an abomination into your house, lest you be doomed to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest it and utterly abhor it, for it is an accursed thing.”

Communication with the dead

Deut. 18:9-11 - ⁹“When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the **abominations** of those nations. ¹⁰There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who **practices witchcraft** or a **soothsayer**, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, ¹¹or one who **conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist**, or one who _____ .”

Refusing to listen to God’s law

Prov 28:9 – “One who **turns away his ear from hearing the _____**, even his prayer is an _____.”

Spiritual adultery

Eze 23:36-37 – “The LORD also said to me: “Son of man, will you judge Oholah and Oholibah? Then declare to them their **abominations**. ³⁷For they have committed adultery, and blood *is* on their hands. They have **committed adultery with their IDOLS**, and even sacrificed their sons whom they bore to Me, passing them through the fire, to devour them.”

Shedding innocent blood

Eze. 22:2-3 - ²“Now, son of man, will you judge, will you judge the bloody city? Yes, show her all her **abominations!** ³Then say, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “**The city _____ in her own midst**, that her time may come; and she makes idols within herself to defile herself.”’

Sun worship

Eze. 8:15-16 – ¹⁵Then He said to me, “Have you seen this, O son of man? Turn again, you will see greater **abominations** than these.” ¹⁶So He brought me into the inner court of the LORD’s house; and there, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the LORD and their faces toward the east, and they were _____ **toward the east.**”

h) Is drunk with the blood of the saints (i.e. she is a persecuting power)

Rev. 17:6 – “I saw the woman, drunk with the **blood of the saints** and with the _____ **of the _____** of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.”

i) Dressed in purple, scarlet, gold, precious stones, pearls (purple and scarlet are colours of royalty)

Dan. 5:29 – “Then Belshazzar gave the command, and they clothed Daniel with _____ and put a chain of gold around his neck, and made a

proclamation concerning him that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.”

Matt 27:28 – “And they stripped Him and put a _____ robe on Him.”

Here they mocked Jesus as a king by dressing him in scarlet, putting a reed in His hand (as a mock sceptre) and a crown of thorns on His head. Even though it says they put a *scarlet* robe on Him in this passage, in Mark 15:17, it says it was *purple*. Certain shades of ancient scarlet and purple blended so well that two observers could easily use the two terms in describing the same colour.

Thus this power sees itself as royalty, and even calls herself ‘queen’ [i.e. of the church] (see Rev. 18:7). The precious stones indicate her magnificence and wealth.

Identifying Babylon

There is only one power that historically matches the biblical description of Babylon, viz., the Roman Papacy. This will become much clearer in our next study, the *Third Angel’s Message – Part 1*.

Babylon is a symbol of false, confusing religion as championed by the Papacy (the mother), together with her daughters (those churches that follow her example of sacrificing truth and God’s approval).

The Papacy, as mother, historically fulfils this portrayal of Babylon since she is a religio-political power, has formed political alliances with nations, controlled the kings of the earth, had extensive dominion in Europe during its supremacy, has cruelly persecuted Christ’s followers, is clothed with magnificence and wealth, and teaches false, abominable doctrines and traditions (like image worship, disobedience to God’s law, etc.).

Babylon’s daughters, can only refer to apostate Protestant churches, since that is where many of God’s children will be called out of (Rev. 18:2-9). These churches have imitated the Papacy’s example by disobeying God’s word, following man-made traditions, and forming unholy alliances with secular powers.

At the end of time, the Papacy will form part of a global threefold union that will constitute end-time Babylon. This will be unpacked in a future study. When this final union takes place, Babylon’s fall will be complete. God is currently calling His faithful children out of Babylon’s false system of religion, and will raise this call to a crescendo when end-time Babylon is set up (see Rev 18:2-9).

2. **Fallen, fallen** - Although Babylon’s complete fallen state is to take place in the future, it is written as if it had already occurred, indicating the certainty of Babylon’s fall. Babylon ultimately falls because her kingdom has as its foundation lies and deception. Because lies are not self-sustaining, Jesus, Who is “the Way, the Truth and the Life” conquers in the end!

3. **Wine** – A symbol of teachings / doctrines

Luke 5:37 – “And **no one puts new _____ into old _____**; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined.”

Jesus warns his hearers about being careful to put new teachings in old traditions or systems of thinking. Wine confuses the mind; in the same way Babylon’s apostate teachings confuse the mind, and lead to unfaithfulness.

The only way to ensure we don’t drink of Babylon’s wine is to stick to the Bible, God’s standard of truth (John 17:17)! Be a ‘Berean’ and carefully evaluate whatever people say in the light of Scripture (see Acts 17:11)! If it does not match up, you may be drinking Babylon’s wine! *We will unpack more of Babylon’s wine in a future lesson.*

4. **Wrath of her fornication**

In other words, by drinking Babylon’s wine of fornication, i.e. by accepting her teachings of spiritual unfaithfulness (‘fornication’), people will incur God’s wine of wrath (See Rev. 14:9-10).

Paraphrase of the Second Angel:

I saw human messengers sharing a second message: Babylon, the city that stands opposed to God and His people, is sure to fall. She historically represents the Papacy and apostate Protestant churches. At the end of time however, the Papacy, will join up with two key ‘strategic partners’ and rise to world dominance. She will make nations confused with her false doctrines and those who obey her teachings will surely incur God’s wrath.

Personal Reflection

- I do not want to be deceived by false religion but desire to follow truth, no matter what the cost
- I accept Jesus into my life / recommit my life to Jesus

What personally stood out for me in this lesson:
