

recognizing that it is their God who sends them the life-saving message.



→ HOW DOES ONE HEED THE CALL TO “COME OUT OF BABYLON”?

Well it certainly does NOT mean you should sequester yourself in a hidey hole in the mountains.

This is a spiritual

message, and yet, to be “out of Babylon” would certainly mean living a visibly different kind of life compared to the popular world of today. The answer, you can see, is right there at the end of the third angel’s message, “... Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Rev. 14:12). THAT is being part of God’s kingdom and not Babylon’s.

Getting out of Babylon means rejecting its mindset and practices. We need to understand that you can be part of Babylon in your actions (thus having the mark in your hand) OR in your thoughts and beliefs (having the mark in your forehead) (Deut 11:18, 6:8, Ex. 13:9,16, Rev. 13:16).

And so it isn’t complicated. It’s only two things: keeping the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. In other words, exercise faith to let God change your thoughts, desires and habits, so that through Jesus’ power you can love God and your neighbor to truly keep His commandments. Babylon wants the opposite. She rationalizes away the commandments of God, and seeks to replace the faith of Jesus with faith in men and the cleverness, glory, power and works of men. Don’t fall for it! Come out of Babylon!

Come talk with us if you’d like to learn more, and to fill in the details. Or send us an email. There’s truly no charge and no obligation. ○●○



UPLIFT

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An Uplifting Message

What is it about those speed readouts posted at the edges of our small towns that are so annoying to some of us? Is it the flashing numbers with the message “Slow Down” underneath it or the few that don’t stop strobing until you hit 24.8 MPH? It may just be a universal human reaction to bristle when facing limits. Stop. Yield. Do Not Pass. No Left Turn. DANGER Bridge Out! Dead End; to name a few.

But these are great warnings! They keep us safe when we heed them, which is uplifting. Being alive and uninjured is great. Right? Our goal in this issue is to give an uplifting warning about the present and our future. We do not want to ride in silence as our world is being driven into the abyss. Our loving Saviour has given us warnings in His Word, along with everything we need to arrive safely at our destination with Him.

“He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler” (Psalm 91:4). ○●○



PLEASE JOIN US FOR CHURCH ON
DEC 25, 2021. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

UPLIFT



FARMINGTON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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Come Out of Babylon

○●○ Lyle Keeney

“Babylon the great is fallen... Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues” (Rev. 18:1-4).

But what is Babylon, am I in it, and what would it mean to get out?

It begins long ago, when the people on the Plain of Shinar wanted to make a name for themselves (Gen. 11:4), and gather the people together into a single culture, under a single system, so they built a city and the Tower of Babel. God intervened, dividing the people into different languages, peoples and nations, but ever since that time there have been people trying to undo what God did, and unite the world under one, universal system. That ancient city of Babylon became a mighty empire and is used in the book of Revelation as a symbol of another power that attempts to build an end-time universal system in defiance of God.

God has sent the world a warning about the end-time Babylon, which Adventists often talk about, called the “Three Angels’ Messages” from Revelation 14. They are messages relating specifically to the time just prior to the second coming of Christ. The first of those three angels is described thusly;

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters” (Rev. 14: 6-7).

There’s a lot of meaning there. For one thing, the gospel is said to be everlasting, meaning it does not change. It cannot be revised, modified, added

to, truncated, or “updated” because, like God, it is eternal. “**Fear**” in this context is often misunderstood. It means to respect, obey, revere and be in awe of God (*Ecc. 12:13, Ps. 112:1, Job 28:28, Ps. 89:7, Ps. 33:6-9*), and not in horror as some might interpret it (but then it would depend on one’s relationship with God, wouldn’t it). Fearing God and accepting the everlasting gospel into one’s life go hand-in-hand with giving God “**glory**”, or showing God’s character to others (*Ex. 33:18-19, Jn. 17:10,22-23, Jn. 7:18, 15:8, 2 Cor. 3:18, Matt. 5:16*). That first angel also defines God as the maker of heaven, the earth, the sea and the fountains of waters, and that’s important because it refers to the one Creator of all things, and no other— Some people worship other “gods”, or may even refer to a single “god” but mean someone else. And “the hour of his judgement is come”. That of course is as profound as it gets.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (Eph. 2:8).

THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL

is the exceedingly great news that salvation is **freely** available to everyone (a gift) by accepting (faith) the working of Jesus in the life (grace).

The second and third messages are as follows:

“And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is

poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation” (Rev. 14:8-10).

That’s a pretty serious warning, and so it would behoove us to understand the meaning of “Come out of Babylon”. But how do we make any sense of it, especially given the widely varying interpretations that have been offered over the centuries since it was written? For one thing, as always, we should let the Bible interpret the Bible, because most of this symbology is defined elsewhere in Scripture. First let’s unpack the prophetic language.

➔ WHAT IS BABYLON?

In Revelation, Babylon is represented as a powerful but wicked woman (*Rev. 17:3-5*). We know from the Bible that a “**woman**” is used as a symbol to represent a church (His professed people); a virtuous woman is a pure church and an unfaithful woman an apostate church (*Jer. 6:2, Hos. 2:19,*

Jer. 3:14, Is.

47:1, 2 Cor.

11:2, Eph. 5:23-32). “**Marriage**”

is used to represent the sacred relationship between Jesus and His church, joined by solemn covenant, so a harlot represents

a church that has broken its pledge to be God’s and His alone. The unfaithful woman of Revelation 17-18 (Babylon) is also a “**mother**”. She has daughters who are also harlots, revealing that symbolic Babylon is sadly made up of many churches that have forgotten their first love and wandered away from the truths Jesus gave them in favor of the wine of Babylon. At the same time, we are thankful that Revelation 12 depicts a pure and lovely woman and the remnant of her seed,

letting us know God also has faithful churches that are true to Him.

The unfaithfulness of Babylon produces intoxicating “**wine**”, referring to false doctrines, that is something you internalize and which influences your thinking (*Luke 5:37-39*).

“**Fornication**” is often referred to in the Bible as apostasy from God, or to cavorting (having “trysts” if you will) with false religions and false doctrines.

Thus, to “**drink of the wine of the wrath of [Babylon’s] fornication**” means,

literally, to internalize the doctrines of the wrath of apostasy (cheating)

against God, and to have your mindset, thinking, beliefs and behaviors changed accordingly.

The unfaithful woman, Babylon (apostate church), is represented as sitting on a beast. In Bible prophecy, a “**beast**” symbolizes a kingdom (*Dan. 7:17,23*). And so we’re being told about apostate churches directing the affairs or being in control of a kingdom/countries, creating a political system that intoxicates the world. Thus, those in Babylon accept or tolerate the apostate characters, traditions, mindsets, behaviors and beliefs of that system, a system whose direction is influenced (is ridden) by a false church, a church which is in turn being upheld and supported by that beast.

➔ WHAT IS THE BABYLON SYSTEM?

It is a worldly, rather than Godly, system, even though it often gives lip service to God. It uplifts the

wonders, aspirations and glory of man, his works and traditions, over the wonders and glory of God, His word, His works and His plan of salvation. Babylon upholds the laws and edicts of man above God’s “perfect law of liberty” (*James 1:25, 2:12*).

She seeks to bring the entire world together, in “peace and fraternity” and so on, into a single, ecumenical church-state system. It uses false promises of unity and glory, of peace and safety. It promises to deliver collective salvation of the world of man from one hand, while applying intimidation, pressure, threats, fear and co-

ercion from the other hand, thus reviving the authoritarian ecclesiastical power structure of the Middle Ages. In contrast, God gives us individual freedom of conscience and offers the gift of individual salvation that only the creator of the universe can give. Jesus Christ, our one and only hope, our King and Savior, has this to say about such structures;

“And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth” (Luke 22:25-27).

So it is that we may see in the world a total contrast between two systems;

One is gentle, long suffering,



non-coercive, loving, teaching for your benefit and not its own. It is willing to be humiliated, to suffer and die in your place to save you even though you’re clearly guilty. That’s the system of Christ. The other system would like to put itself in Christ’s place for its own benefit. It wants to receive the glory due to Him. Babylon tries to appear beautiful, spectacular, convincing, loving, and therefore is very compelling, even awesome. That’s the old whore’s game; she’s been at it for millennia, and she does it extremely well, such that the entire world is mesmerized by her elegance, beauty and power. “...and all the world wondered after the beast” (*Rev. 13:3*).

The Bible describes her as “**Mystery, Babylon**”, so we might expect that parts of her system are operating in secret and confederating deceptively. If you haven’t recognized it already, you will, because the Babylon System is the sociopolitical and religious system of the entire world, acting increasingly as one accord (“**one mind**” *Rev. 17:13*), which is today consolidating its power, getting ready for a final push to the finish line (a globally recognized, universal world system). This whole system is full of “**devils**” having become saturated with the dragon’s pagan philosophy and spiritualistic deceptions. “*Babylon... is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird*” (*Rev. 18:2*).

Of course, there is much more to this system that we haven’t delved into, including the “**kings of the earth**” who live in excessive luxury with her (*Rev. 17:2,18:9*) and the “**merchants**” who control every aspect of trade and are rich because of her (*Rev. 18*). It permeates the world with deeply entrenched tentacles of financial corruption, bribery and conspirings between corporations, politicians and religious leaders.

➔ WHO IS GOD CALLING?

Note that God says “come out of her, **my people**” (*Rev. 18:4*). Many, if not most, of God’s true followers are within Babylon and do not know it. But, God claims them as His people. They have been following Him, and will hear and heed the call,



Recipe and photo by Terrill Wagner

Cabbage Burgers

Cabbage is full of vitamins and minerals and is very rich in fiber. It has almost no fat and is low in calories. Working cabbage into your diet can improve digestion and overall health.

- **1 small head cabbage, shredded**
- **2 medium onions, cut into small strips**
- **19 oz. can Vege-Burger**
- **3 T. butter (Earth Balance)**
- **Salt**
- **Vegenaise**
- **Ketchup (optional)**
- **Buns**

Directions: Sauté onion in butter. Add burger, breaking up the pieces. Add cabbage and just enough water to help it steam. Sprinkle with salt. Cover and let cook until cabbage is softened. Put into a strainer, pressing the mixture down to help drain all the water out (save liquid for soup). Spread Vegenaise (and optional ketchup) onto both sides of a heated bun. Place mixture generously onto bun. This can be messy, but fun to eat. And it is delicious!