

The Three Angels' Call To Prayer

DAY 8 — THE FALL OF BABYLON AND PRAYER

"After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, 'Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!'" – Revelation 18:1, 2

The Second Angel's Message

The three angels' messages of Revelation 14 are specifically designed to prepare a people for the coming of Jesus. They reveal the plans of God and unmask the plans of the devil. The second angel's message gives this solemn warning: "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication" (Revelation 14:8). Just as ancient Babylon warred against God in rebellion against His commands, spiritual Babylon stands in rebellion against God. She passes around her "wine cup" of false doctrines to deceive millions. Ellen White describes Babylon this way: "The great sin charged against Babylon is that she 'made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.' This cup of intoxication which she presents to the world represents the false doctrines that she has accepted as the result of her unlawful connection with the great ones of the earth. Friendship with the world corrupts her faith, and in her turn she exerts a corrupting influence upon the world by teaching doctrines which are opposed to the plainest statements of Holy Writ" (*The Great Controversy*, p. 388). Fornication is an illicit union. Spiritual Babylon turns from her true lover, Jesus, and unites with the state or the political powers.

This union of church and state, as described in Revelation 17, leads to the enforcement of the mark of the beast. Babylon represents a religious system that distorts Scripture and is centered in human teachings. The second angel's message, combined with the prophecies of Revelation 17 and Revelation 18, reveals what is coming upon this earth as an overwhelming surprise. The apostate religious powers will unite with the political and economic forces to bring about unity at a time of worldwide crisis and calamity.

The second angel's message sounds an urgent appeal to prayer in at least three areas. First, it calls us to be faithful to Christ and His word. Compromise in our personal lives will only lead us in the final moments of Earth's history to unite with Babylon and war against the people of God.

Second, this message calls us to a faith that can stand the test of trial. The prophet of God earnestly appeals to us, "A storm is coming, relentless in its fury. Are we prepared to meet it? We need not say, The perils of the last days are soon to come upon us. Already they have come. We need now the sword of the Lord to cut to the very soul and marrow of fleshly lusts, appetites, and passions. Minds that have been given up to loose thought need to change. . . . The thoughts must be centered upon God" (*With God at Dawn*, p. 113).

Third, this message calls us to invite our friends into a deep relationship with Jesus and an understanding of Revelation's truths for this final hour. As we kneel to pray, let us pray for these specific things:

1. A clearer understanding of God's Word, a greater love for Jesus, and an uncompromising spirit.
2. A faith that can stand the test of trial.
3. The courage to witness to those around us.

Prayer Time (30-45 Minutes)

Praying God's Word – Revelation 14:8

"Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

"Babylon is Fallen"

Eternal Father, aside from Your Holy Word, there is nothing in this world that can be trusted to provide a firm and trustworthy foundation for life. Help us to build our lives by Your grace, through Your Spirit, upon Your Word alone.

"She Has Made All Nations Drink"

God, we are privileged to know You and to have an understanding of the truth through Your Word. We also recognize our responsibility because of that. Today we pray for the billions of people trapped in false religions. Help us to show them the truth about who You are and how much You love them and want them to come into the fullness of truth.

"The Wine of The Wrath of Her Fornication"

Jesus, we acknowledge that at times we have been distracted by the numerous illusions and temptations of Satan. Sometimes we stop looking to You and instead focus on self and selfish experiences. Please forgive us. Deliver us from giving in to our carnal nature, and establish in us the victory that only You can provide.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.

Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.

Guidance: Ask God to grant wisdom for current challenges and decisions.

Our Church: Pray for regional and world church needs (see separate sheet with requests).

Local Requests: Pray for current needs of church members, family, and neighbors.

Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: Let Your Heart Be Broken (#575); Once to Every Man and Nation (#606); We Know Not the Hour (#604); Softly and Tenderly (#287); Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus (#290); Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior (#569); Onward, Christian Soldiers (#612); Sound the Battle Cry (#614)