



The Angel of Revelation 18

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In fact, we are warned many times by the servant of the Lord that many of God's people will not recognize or discern the latter rain that they will see in it something that will arouse their fears, something dangerous, and that they will brace themselves to resist it.

Let us examine carefully the context of Revelation 18. Here we find a description of the religious world when this angel descends. Let us first of all give careful attention to the condition of the religious world when the latter rain falls upon God's true followers:

"And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." Rev. 18:1-5.

"Babylon" is a term that designates the religious world. This message of the fall of Babylon is a repetition of the second angel's message which was sounded in the summer of 1844. At that

time, due to a rejection of the Advent Awakening, the churches in America, where the message was most widely proclaimed, experienced a moral fall. It was not a complete fall however. Since Christ entered the most holy place, the churches that have rejected the third angel's message have been growing worse and worse. Revelation 18 is an announcement of the complete moral fall of the religious bodies of Christendom. There are three specific things that focus the condition of Babylon at the time the angel descends:

I. At the time the angel descends with his message, it is said that Babylon is fallen because she "is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit." This is a declaration that through the acceptance of spiritualism the churches have become full of evil angels. The churches will be taken over by spiritualism through their participation in the great false revival that precedes the latter rain (see *Early Writings*, p. 261; *Great Controversy*, p. 464).

This false latter rain is brought to view in the thirteenth chapter of the Revelation:

"And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live." Rev. 13:13, 14.

Fire from heaven symbolizes an outpouring of spiritual power, often the Holy Spirit, as at Pentecost. But in this instance it is the counterfeit of the Holy Spirit. This is what spiritualism is in its ultimate deception. The wonderful miracles, thought to be the manifestation of divine power, are even "the spirits of devils working miracles." Rev. 16:14.

Apostate Protestantism leads out in bringing this fire from heaven. Apostate Protestantism is called "the false prophet"—that is, the false Elijah. Elijah of old called the priests of Baal up

to Mount Carmel and challenged them to bring down fire from heaven. They could not do it; but Elijah, the true prophet, called down the fire from heaven,

Here in the book of Revelation there is another Mount Carmel. This time it is "the false prophet" who brings the fire from heaven. The modern priests of Baal adopt the role of modern Elijah to counterfeit the work of the third angel's message—the true Elijah. What a great deception! And the religious bodies, accepting this false power, will see in this religious revival a grand movement for the conversion of the whole world and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium (see *Great Controversy*, pp. 588, 589).

This movement is already under way. When the religious bodies have fully accepted the delusion of spiritualism in the guise of the Holy Spirit, the angel from heaven descends, declaring that Babylon is completely fallen because she has become full of devils. This is a startling message indeed, being given just at the time when Babylon appears to be enjoying the signal blessing of heaven. Therefore it is very clear that the latter rain, represented by the angel of Revelation 18, comes after the false latter rain has saturated the religious bodies of Christendom.

2. Secondly, Babylon is declared to be completely fallen because "all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." Rev. 18:3. The false doctrine of Babylon makes the nations mad (Jer. 51:7). It leads to an illicit church-state union—spiritual fornication. The announcement of Revelation 18 points to the time when the church and the world have fully united throughout Christendom (see *Great Controversy*, p. 390). It is the false latter rain—the fire from heaven and the attending miracles—which leads to the formation of the church-state union in free America:

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make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live." Rev. 13:13, 14.

The beast and its image then unite to cause all men to worship the beast and receive its mark. It is therefore clear that the latter rain actually falls after church and state have united, as it is written, "For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

3. When the angel descends, God's people are called to forsake Babylon because "her sins have reached unto heaven." Rev. 18:5. This signifies total apostasy, the limit of iniquity. David had a preview of such a state when he declared, "It is time for Thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void Thy law." Ps. 119:126. The sins of the religious world reach unto heaven when the law of God is made void through the church-state union. Says the Spirit of Prophecy:

"The sins of the world will have reached unto heaven when the law of God is made void; when the Sabbath of the Lord is trampled in the dust, and men are compelled to accept in its stead an institution of the papacy through the strong hand of the law of the land."—*SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 977.

Therefore the angel of Revelation 18 (the latter rain) makes his descent after the false latter rain has filled the churches with devils, after church and state have united, and after the Sunday law has been enforced by oppressive law. He comes to lighten the earth with the glory of God at the darkest hour, when darkness covers the earth, and gross darkness the people (Isa. 60:2).

"To God's people it will be a night of trial, a night of weeping, a night of persecution for the truth's sake. But out of that night of darkness God's light will shine."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 414, 415.

