



Preparation for the End Time Lesson 12 2Q 2018 Babylon and Armageddon

SABBATH

Read memory text: “On her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH” (Rev 17:5 NKJV)

What does this mean?

Is it speaking of Iraq or is Babylon symbolic of something else?

It is local to the Middle East or worldwide?

What does abomination mean? Something vile, disgusting, reprehensible, shameful, what, in Bible terms, would fit this description?

What is this power described as doing? Is it working for God or opposing God? Could we say this power wars against God?

What kind of war? Is the war a physical one?

What is Satan’s goal in the war? Is Satan’s goal to physically destroy righteous people, knowing that they will be raised to everlasting life—or is Satan’s goal to corrupt the hearts, minds and characters of righteous people?

What is more abominable to kill an innocent child in their innocence or to turn an innocent child into a perpetrator and lover of violence, evil and sin?

Now, what would be more abominable than turning God’s children into enemies of God? Doing it is such a way that the evil-doers believe they are carrying out God’s will, thus not only corrupting their own character, but grossly misrepresenting God, leading more and more to either accept this lie about God or reject God and in either case have their characters also corrupted by the principles of fear and selfishness.

Now, with this description in mind, can you specify or demarcate the attributes that make a clear distinction between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan—and once we do this we will apply it and see if we can identify what is the most horrible abomination in the world today.



God's Kingdom	Satan's Kingdom
Values truth and thinking	Devalues truth and thinking
Emanates from and brings forth more Love	Emanates from and brings forth more selfishness
Based on Design law	Based on Imposed law
Worship freedom	Worship enforcement
God as source of salvation	God as source of destruction
Jesus is God's agency to heal His creation	Jesus is man's advocate to remove God's wrath
God's justice is saving and healing	God's justice is inflicting punishment
Leads to order and peace	Leads to chaos and violence
Leads to unity	Leads to fragmentation

With this in mind can you identify systems that promote God's methods versus Satan's methods and what the abomination then is? What is the harlot and her prostitute daughters?

Revelation 17:5 from *The Remedy*:

The title written on her forehead, descriptive of her character and methods, was:
Mysterious BABYLON THE GREAT—the confusing system of religious tradition, fable and falsehood that obscures the truth about God; THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES—the many diverse religious sects who sell their virtue for earthly advantage and seduce others into their bed of lies about God; THE ABOMINATION OF THE EARTH.

Do we see the religions of the world more consistently promoting the truth about God, or corrupted with the wine—false teachings—of Babylon?

What might that look like?

SUNDAY

The title for Sunday's lesson is "The Wine of Her Wrath" referring to Babylon. To what is this referring?

What does wine do? What impact does wine have on the mind, on the reasoning ability, on the ability to discern, comprehend, self-govern, make critical decisions?

So, what does Babylon distribute that has the effect of damaging the mind, undermining reasoning ability, impairing discernment, comprehension, self-governance and critical decision making?

Lies about God, false theologies, distortions in beliefs that are contradictory and incite fear and doubt.



Examples:

- God is love but will burn you in hell forever if you don't love Him—this idea violates the law of liberty and this is inconsistent with reality. The only way to believe it is to not reason, not think, thus people actively choose to say things like: “I take that on faith” or “God’s ways are a mystery but it must be love.”
 - It would be like saying: “The best health comes from drinking cyanide” or “Love grows strongest by torture.”
 - From the book *Christian Education*: “Satan has ascribed to God all the evils to which flesh is heir. **He has represented him as a God who delights in the sufferings of his creatures, who is revengeful and implacable.** It was Satan who originated the doctrine of eternal torment as a punishment for sin, because in this way he could lead men into infidelity and rebellion, distract souls, and **dethrone the human reason.**” {CE 73.2}
- God loved the world so much He sent Jesus and then killed Jesus because if He didn't He would have killed us for our sins.
- Relics, which are artifacts from the saints of the past, are useful in helping our prayers and requests ascend to God.
- God records your sins in a book and if you don't apply Jesus' blood to that book then God will find that record of your sin and torture and kill you
- Jesus is in a building in heaven and as we pray He lifts a censor and burns incense and presents our prayers to His Father for us.

Do you see how false beliefs lead to confusion, loss of wisdom, dethrones reason, leads to beastly behaviors in which people in the name of God will imprison and kill each other?

MONDAY

Read second paragraph, “The second angel’s message....” Revelation 17 goes on to describe this fallen religious system, and then in chapter 18 the three angels’ messages are to be given again.

In Revelation 14 the three angels’ messages were presented initially, which began in the 19th Century with the call for people to leave the fallen system of Babylon, but after that call the imposed law lies infected the group called to take this last day message to the world—so in Revelation 18 the Bible teaches that the message must be given again to a new generation, to our generation. This is the beginning of Revelation 18 from *The Remedy*:

After this, I saw another messenger coming down from heaven—symbolizing the Godly origin of his message. He had the great authority and power of truth, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor.²With a voice reverberating throughout the earth, he shouted: “Babylon the Great is a fallen system of religious tradition, fable, and falsehood distorting the truth about God! Every demonic distortion about God, every evil attitude toward God,



and all filthy and destructive heart-motives find their home with her,³ for she intoxicates the world with her pagan views of God, maddening them with her adulterous idea that God coerces and must inflict punishment if not properly appeased. Earth's leaders corrupt themselves with her by practicing her methods, and people not anchored in God's kingdom of love, and those who wander from philosophy to philosophy, fill their minds with her smorgasbord of lies."

⁴Then I heard another voice calling from heaven, saying: "Come out of her, my people! Leave that confusing mess of evil thinking so that you will not share in her spiritual sickness and rebellion, and so that you will not receive the suffering she has chosen;⁵ for her violations of God's design for life have piled up to heaven, and God diagnoses her condition accurately.⁶ She will reap what she has sown: all that she has done will come back on her—with double intensity—from her own evil condition.

Do we find that the fallen system of Babylon, confused by its acceptance of the lie that God's law is imposed and the subsequent multiplicity of various doctrines, rules, arguments, and its punishing god has infected all the world?

- Every Christian group is infected with this view
- Agnostics and evolutionists tasted the idea of such an irrational god and rejected God altogether
- Islam and Judaism worship the same imperial god, the source of punishment upon their enemies
- All pagan religions have gods that require some payment, sacrifice, work, appeasement to induce them to bless
- Yes, the entire world is drunk on this wine—this lie about God's law and thus about God

What happens in a person who operates upon the lie that God's law is like human law, imposed rules which we must obey, and disobedience is bad deeds that get recorded, and one day unconfessed and unforgiven sins God will punish?

Does something different happen in a person who views God as their loving Savior and realizes that His law is the protocols upon which life is built and God is diligently seeking to heal them from sin?

Consider this quote from a book *Steps to Christ*:

There are those who profess to serve God, while **they rely upon their own efforts to obey His law**, to form a right character, and secure salvation. **Their hearts are not moved by any deep sense of the love of Christ, but they seek to perform the duties of the Christian life as that which God requires of them in order to gain heaven.** [What kind of a law construct leads to such living? This is imposed law, this is penal substitutionary theology.] **Such religion is worth nothing.** [Why? Because it doesn't heal, it gives a false legal security. What is necessary?] **When Christ dwells in the heart, the soul will be so filled with His love**, with the joy of communion with Him, that it will cleave to Him; and in the

contemplation of Him, self will be forgotten. **Love to Christ will be the spring of action.** [Notice this is internal healing, transforming, recreating, cleansing—not a legal process. This is design law!] Those who feel the constraining love of God, do not ask how little may be given to meet the requirements of God; they do not ask for the lowest standard, but aim at perfect conformity to the will of their Redeemer. With earnest desire they yield all and manifest an interest proportionate to the value of the object which they seek. **A profession of Christ without this deep love is mere talk, dry formality, and heavy drudgery.** {SC 44.2}

Is there a need for a clarifying message to go forward?

What is the message that is to go forward today and in what way is it different than the way it was presented over 100 years ago?

As a people, we have preached the law until we are as dry as the hills of Gilboa that had neither dew nor rain. We must preach Christ in the law, and there will be sap and nourishment in the preaching that will be as food to the famishing flock of God. {RH, March 11, 1890 par. 13}

How did the message go forward over a 100 years ago? Through the legal law view—arguing the law itself, through an imposed view of law. God gave a law, He gave this law, not that law, you aren't keeping the right day, or baptized in the right way, and therefore God is keeping a record, and when He returns He will punish those who haven't kept the right law.

What would it mean to present Christ in the law?

- Would we present the truth by presenting Christ as our legal payment for our sins—is that what it means? No! That perpetuates the law lie
- Christ in the law is Christ as the living embodiment of the law. God's law is the law of love. The law of love is a living law, it cannot be fully understood or seen written on stone. Jesus lived the law because God's law is the protocol for life.
- Thus the message today is to be given differently, it is the message of Revelation 18—Babylon is the fallen system of imposed law, leave her and return to worship Him who made the heavens... worship the Designer, reject the dictator views of God. This means we must reject the penal substitutionary theologies which are founded on this lie and have made the lie a bedrock of our Christian institutions!

Read last two paragraphs, “Whether that perfect fulfillment...” Is this the final message, the message to call people out of Babylon, the confused system of imposed law with a punishing God from whom we need to be protected, OR is this evidence of the infection? This idea is a distortion of truth from which the message of Rev 18 is to call people out!



Let's examine what is described here:

- Babylon will face judgment—from whom? From God
- What is implied will happen as a result? That God will punish
- For what will there be punishment? According to the lesson, “everyone will have to answer for their deeds”
- Christians have a source of comfort—what is it? An intercessor in the judgment. What is the lesson suggesting the intercessor will do? Protect us from what God would do to us if the intercessor wasn't there.

If you think my conclusions about what is described is misrepresenting the lesson, the bottom pink section of this page states: “How can you take comfort in the promise that all the injustice and iniquity that seems to go unpunished now will face one day final retribution by God?”

Do you hear that? We are to be comforted in the knowledge that if we have a child who has fallen into addictions, pornography, alcoholism, stealing, or simply rejected God for the good times of the world, then one day we can rejoice to stand on the walls of the New Jerusalem and watch God torture our child with the utmost pain only an infinite being could inflict and then kill them. Are you not comforted?

Let me put this plainly:

- This is the wine of Babylon. This idea, this concept, that we must be protected from God is a lie.
- The idea that God's law requires God to inflict punishment is a lie. It is Satan's lie from the beginning in heaven and it has infected all humanity; it is the basis of paganism.
- It is the reason for the rejection of God and evolutionism.
- It is the basis of Penal Substitution Theology which is a lie, and it is this distortion about God from which the message of the Three Angels is to free people.

TUESDAY

When you hear the Battle of Armageddon, what comes to mind?

How is it most frequently taught?

What is the truth about the Battle of Armageddon, to what is it referring?

The lesson states in paragraph 3, “Scripture presents Armageddon as the ultimate climax—not between squabbling nations, but between the two sides of the cosmic controversy. It's a religious struggle, not economic or political, however much economic and political factors might come into play.”

The lesson asks us to read Revelation 16:12-16:



From the NIV1984:

The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. ¹³ Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. ¹⁴ They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.

¹⁵ "Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed."

¹⁶ Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

What does this mean? What kind of battle is being described?

From *The Remedy*:

¹² The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates—symbolizing the withdrawing of God's forces of righteousness as a shield against the kings from the East symbolic of the corrupting powers of mysticism. ¹³ I saw three spirits whose minds had not been cleansed of the lies about God. They looked like frogs catching their prey with their lying tongues. They came telling the lies of mysticism and spiritualism from the dragon, the lies of coercion and force from the beast, and the lies of pagan appeasement theology from the false prophet. ¹⁴ They are the spiritual movements of fallen angels—demons who perform miracles and go to the rulers of the world to unite them in war against the truth about God and his methods of love, on the great day of God Almighty.

¹⁵ "Understand this: To the unhealed, my coming will be unexpected—like that of a thief. But the healed, who have guarded their hearts and kept their characters pure, will be happy at my coming and will not be shamed by the exposure of an unhealed character."

¹⁶ Then the demonic forces united the nations together in their opposition to God and his methods of love, bringing them to what is known in Hebrew as Harmageddon, or The Mount of Assembly,—the mountain where God rules.

Do you agree?

There are four primary distortions being taught about God in this final battle for the minds and hearts of people on earth:

- Mysticism—there is no intelligent God with His own identity and individuality, but a cosmic force that requires both good and evil to exist together for all eternity to provide balance. And we have the power to access the force for either good or evil.
- Spiritualism—you cannot die and the dead continue to exist in a conscious not physical form carrying out both good and evil
- Imperialism—Justice is the use of power to coerce, force and punish those who disobey
- Penal Substitution Theologies (which manifest in most pagan religions): God is the source of

inflicted punishments and will punish you unless He is offered the blood of an innocent human sacrifice to propitiate His wrath.

Do you see the infection, the lies, the war going on for your heart and mine?

Now, with this in mind let's jump back and read the third paragraph in Monday's lesson which is a quote from the book *The Great Controversy*:

“The Bible declares that before the coming of the Lord, Satan will work ‘with all the power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness;’ and they that ‘receive not the love of the truth, that they might be saved,’ will be left to receive ‘strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.’ 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11. 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.” 1888

What would the union of the church with the world look like? Would it not be the acceptance of the world's methods, the world's understanding of law i.e. imposed rules and teaching that God functions like the governments of the world? Would it not be the very ideas we have exposed as the basis of Penal Substitution Theology a god who requires a blood payment or he will use his power to torture and kill—and it is taught such behavior to exact vengeance and retribution is justice?

WEDNESDAY

Read first paragraph, “What, thought, is the great...” What was the problem at Carmel? Was it they were not religious? Or was it that they accepted a false version of God?

What of this quote?

Thousands have a false conception of God and His attributes. They are as verily serving a false god as were the servants of Baal. Are we worshiping the true God as He is revealed in His Word, in Christ, in nature, or are we adoring some philosophical idol enshrined in His place? God is a God of truth. Justice and mercy are the attributes of His throne. He is a God of love, of pity and tender compassion. Thus He is represented in His Son, our Saviour. He is a God of patience and long-suffering. If such is the being whom we adore and to whose character we are seeking to assimilate, we are worshiping the true God. {FLB 59.8}

The lesson rightly connects Armageddon with Mount Carmel, let's review the historic roots and show these connections and the problem today:

The chief god of ancient Babylon was Marduk. This description of Marduk is from the Encyclopedia Britannica:



Originally, he seems to have been a god of thunderstorms. A poem, known as Enuma elish and dating from the reign of Nebuchadrezzar I (1119–1098 BCE), relates Marduk's rise to such preeminence that he was the god of 50 names, each one that of a deity or of a divine attribute. After conquering the monster of primeval chaos, Tiamat, he became Lord of the Gods of Heaven and Earth. All nature, including humanity, owed its existence to him; the destiny of kingdoms and subjects was in his hands...

Marduk's star was Jupiter, and his sacred animals were horses, dogs, and especially the so-called dragon with forked tongue, representations of which adorn his city's walls. On the oldest monuments Marduk is represented holding a triangular spade or hoe, interpreted as an emblem of fertility and vegetation. He is also pictured walking or in his war chariot. Typically, his tunic is adorned with stars; in his hand is a sceptre, and he carries a bow, spear, net, or thunderbolt. Kings of Assyria and Persia also honoured Marduk... in inscriptions and rebuilt many of their temples.

Marduk was later known as Bel, a name derived from the Semitic word baal, or "lord." Bel had all the attributes of Marduk, and his status and cult were much the same....
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Marduk>

What were the attributes of Marduk:

- Creator and supreme god
- He was the god of weather
- He was dragon-like and had a forked tongue—symbolic of a liar?
- He was the god of fertility

And, Marduk became known as Baal, and it was Baal who was being worshipped by Israel at the time of Elijah. Who was Baal?

Baal was the son of El (i.e. El-ohim or El-Shaddai). He was the god of weather. Often called, 'Almighty' and "Lord of the Earth." Baal was the god who brought rain, thunder, lightening, who fertilized the earth, controlled the sun and brought the harvest.

Baal fought the great serpent leviathan as well as battled against Mot, the god of death. And most amazing of all, it was taught that Baal died in his battle with Mot and rose from the dead to bring life to earth.

So what was the problem with worshipping a god who was the "husband and protector of Israel," the son of El, who controlled the weather, who brought rain, sunshine, and fertility, who blessed with full harvest, who warred against the great serpent and death, who died and was resurrected to bring us life? What was wrong with this god?

Baal required appeasement—Baal required something be offered him in order to appease wrath, prevent punishment and engender blessings.



Baal became:

- Zeus to the Greeks
- Jupiter to the Romans—remember Marduk’s star was Jupiter
- Thor to the Norse people
- Jesus Christ to all those who worship a god that like Baal requires appeasement, payment, propitiation of a human sacrifice in order not to kill

This is why God prophesied through Malachi that before the second coming of Christ the prophet Elijah must come again. Why? Just like Elijah confronted Baal worship millennia ago, so too the people of God today, must confront Baal worship and call people to choose between two versions of God.

Read last paragraph, “In many ways...” What does it mean to forsake God’s law today?

What does it mean to worship Him who made the heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water?

This is contrasting those who worship the god who imposes law (Baal) versus the Creator God whose law is design protocols (Yahweh).

THURSDAY

Prior to the confrontation at Carmel there had been no rain for 3.5 years, according to Revelation how long does the beastly system have power? 3.5 years, and what would no rain symbolically represent?

Could it represent that when we worship, believe, present, teach the false penal view of God that the latter rain of the Holy Spirit doesn’t fall?

And in Elijah’s day as soon as the people rejected the Baal version of God and accepted the true God what happened? The rain came—could it be that when we as Christians reject the Penal Substitutionary dictator view of God and accept the true view of our Designer view of God and His law that the latter rain will fall?

FRIDAY

Read and discuss the questions

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NEW TV PROGRAM: Each Tuesday watch our new TV Program—**The Dr. Tim Jennings Show on WBTN.TV Network.** God to TimJenningsMD.com for more info.

New Video Blogs—If you don't follow us on Facebook, then be sure to visit our website we are posting new blogs again, the go up every Thursday.

June 16, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be doing a one day seminar at Folsom Women's Prison in California.

September 14,15, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be Keynote Speaker at Crossroads Community Church in Georgetown, Delaware.

September 27-29, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Mega National Conference of the American Association of Christian Counselors in Dallas, TX

September 30-Oct 2, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at NAD of SDA Mental Health Education retreat for pastors at Kettering, OH.

October 20, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be doing a seminar at Camelback SDA church, in Phoenix, AZ.

November 9,10 2018: Dr. Jennings will be doing two presentations at Houston, TX, in conjunction with the AACC

In partnership with Come and Reason Ministries and Hixson United Methodist Church
Mental Health Matters
Community Gatherings for Help, Hope and Healing

The Aging Brain Thursday, August 13, 2018

What happens to the brain as we age? This presentation will examine the evidence-based lifestyle and non-pharmacological interventions which will protect your brain and diminish your risk of dementia. Dr. Jennings brand new book, *The Aging Brain*, will be available.

Fix for Failing Families Thursday, September 13, 2018

Families are under attack, more than 50% of marriages end in divorce, in the U.S. almost 900,000 children are victims of abuse each year, and 77% of childhood deaths are caused by one or both parents. Discover principles and practice to bring healing to your family.

The Science of Belief Thursday, October 12, 2018

In this seminar we will examine the science of belief and demonstrate how modern quantum understanding provides a scientific basis for the impact belief, including prayer, has on our physical health and can even impact the physical world around us.

Guilt Resolution Thursday, November 8, 2018

Do you struggle with guilt? Discover the difference between legitimate and illegitimate guilt and how to resolve each and how to prevent people from manipulating you with guilt.

The God-Shaped Brain, Thursday, December 13, 2018

Our brains are in a constant state of flux. Moment by moment new connections are forming, idle tracks are being pruned back and brain circuits are changing. Discover how our beliefs change our brain wiring, our physical health, and even which genes are turned on or turned off. Do your beliefs matter – more than you ever knew!