Quarter Two: The Great Controversy Lesson 12—Earth's Closing Events Thursday: The Loud Cry June 20, 2024

- Last Week: "The Impending Conflict"
  - The end-time conflict over worship: Sabbath vs Sunday
    - The beasts of Rev 13 Papacy & Apostate Protestant
- This Week: "Earth's Closing Events"
  - The coming final crisis & how Christ's strength will guide us safely Home

**Memory Text:** "Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding." (Prov 23:23, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday**: Loyalty to God and His Word (Ryan)
  - Importance of knowing the Scriptures & obeying them in order to stand in the last great crisis
- 2. Monday: Sealed for Heaven (James)
  - The Sabbath as God's seal / also the HS sealing us for heaven
- 3. **Tuesday**: Whom Do We Worship? (John D)
  - Worshipping the Creator vs worshipping the beast
- 4. Wednesday: The Early and Latter Rain (Daniel)
  - The early rain (outpouring of HS at Pentecost); the coming latter rain
- 5. Thursday: The Loud Cry (Jill)
  - God's final call to a lost world: given with Holy Spirit power (latter rain)

## Thursday: The Loud Cry

Rev 18:1 – 4; Hab 2:14; Matt 24:14; Col 1:23; Matt 10:1; Matt 28:18 – 20;

- Preface:
  - Matt 24:14 "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."
  - $\circ~$  Hab 2:14 "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."
    - Context: Babylon, in all its power & splendor, is heading for destruction
      - Yet, there is a bright future for the world because this will all be over soon
    - The Loud Cry, clarion call of imminent destruction of Babylon & a call to come out, before it's too late
- The Loud Cry: Earth's Final Warning
  - Reiteration of the  $2^{nd}$  angels' message, uniting with the  $3^{rd}$  angels' message = the loud cry or the final warning given to the world
    - Imminent destruction of Babylon
      - Call to God's people to come out of Babylon, before it's too late

- The question of enforcing Sunday observance is being agitated, & the third angels' message (the loud cry) will produce an effect it has not before
- 4 Takeaway's from Rev 18 (Loud Cry)
  - Rev 18:1 "After these things I saw another **angel** coming down from heaven, having great **authority**, and the earth was illuminated with his glory."
    - Loud cry God's people giving His message to the world
      - Angel = God's messengers (like Rev 14)
      - "Earth illuminated with his glory"
        - Hab 2:14 "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."
    - Authority = Gk, *ex-oo-see* '-*ah* = power to act, authority
      - Often refers to Christ's triumph over the principalities & powers of hell
        - Same word as Matt 28:20 all power is given to Me in heaven & on earth and He sends His followers out with that same authority
    - Early rain fell & the gospel went like wildfire
      - Early Christian church Paul & Silas
        - Acts 17:6 "But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason & some brethren to the rulers of the city crying out,
          "These who have turned the upside down have come here, too."
        - Gospel preached to the then known world
          - Col 1:23 "...the gospel...which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister."
    - Latter rain to fall & the gospel will reach the world
      - GC, p. 611, 612 "The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close. . . .Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers."
    - Takeaway #1: The Holy Spirit empowers God's people to give this message
      - Earth is illuminated with his glory
        - God's people will give the loud cry only under His authority
        - Only with His Holy Spirit power
  - Rev 18:2 "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!"
    - Reiteration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> angels' message Babylon is fallen
    - Foul / unclean = same Gk word; means "unclean; impure"
      - Description is startling, because they claim to be Christian

- Babylon is the dwelling place of demons indicates the spiritualism rampant at the end times
- John used similar language to Isaiah & Jeremiah, describing the fall of ancient Babylon
  - Isa 21:9b "...Then he answered and said, 'Babylon is fallen, is fallen! And all the carved images of her gods He has broken to the ground.""
  - Isa 13:19, 20a "And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, will be as when God overthrew Sodom & Gomorrah. (20) It will never be inhabited, nor will it be settled from generation to generation..."
    - Babylon's fall is final
    - Next big event is Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> coming
- Takeaway #2: Babylon is unredeemable (except for the people)
  - 2 Pet 3:8 God is not willing that any should perish yet, the cup of Babylon's iniquity is full: there is no going back
  - In Rev 18, Babylon is arraigned b4 the Lord on 5 counts:
    - 1. Pride & arrogance
    - 2. Materialism & luxury
    - 3. Adultery (immorality)
    - 4. Deception (unbiblical doctrines & traditions)
    - 5. Persecution
  - It has reached its full cup of iniquity judgment is coming
- Rev 18:3 "For all the nations have drunk of the **wine** of the wrath of her **fornication**; the kings of the earth have committed **fornication** with her, and the **merchants** of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."
  - Babylon is judged & charged on religious, political & economic grounds
    - Religious Charges
      - $\circ$  Wine = error in doctrine
      - Intoxicating the people of the world with its corrupt teachings & doctrines
    - Political Charges
      - $\circ$  Fornication = union of church & state
      - Enticing the political powers to support the church for political and / or economic gain
    - Economic Charges
      - Made the merchants rich through its extravagant wealth & luxury
  - Takeaway #3: Babylon has seduced the whole world
    - Religious: Christians & even Protestants are swept away by papacy's teaching
    - Political: World leaders are in the church's pocket & do her bidding
    - Economic: Businessmen have bowed to the pressure

- Rev 18:4 "And I heard another voice from heaven saying, 'Come out of her, My people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues."
  - God has people in Babylon we are to call them out
    - Just like Lot was called out of Sodom
    - And His people were called out of ancient Babylon, in order to return to Jerusalem
      - Jer 51:45 "My people, go out of the midst of her! And let everyone deliver himself from the fierce anger of the Lord."
  - Why are God's people to come out of Babylon?
    - 1. To avoid sharing in her sins
      - If you partake of Babylon's sins, you share responsibility for the guilt
    - 2. To avoid partaking of her plagues
      - Judgment is coming
  - Takeaway #4: God extends a final opportunity for repentance, before judgment descends
    - Come out of her, My people
    - The love of God for His people
      - Hos 2:23b "...Then I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people,' and they shall say, 'You are my God!'"
- 4 takeaways from the Loud Cry (Rev 18)
  - #1: The Holy Spirit empowers God's people to give this message
  - #2: Babylon is unredeemable (except for the people)
  - #3: Babylon has seduced the whole world
  - o #4: God extends a final opportunity for repentance, before judgment descends