

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.”
 - 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 2nd angels’ message, uniting with the 3rd 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

- 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’ 2nd 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
 - Wine = error in doctrine
 - Intoxicating the people of the world with its corrupt teachings & doctrines
 - Political Charges
 - 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
 - #4: God extends a final opportunity for repentance, before judgment descends