



## 28. God's Loving Call to Come Out of "Babylon"

Jesus is becoming more and more unpopular today. Many nations are proclaiming they are "post-Christian". Many churches are sacrificing principle to keep their congregations feeling "comfortable". Those who stand fast to principle are being criticized by media and the courts, as well as political and business lobby's. It's getting harder to be a voice for foundational Biblical standards. It is getting difficult to enjoy our liberty of conscience; to choose our faith as God impresses us through His Word.

Christian practice is being touted more as an emotional experience or feeling, rather than a set of core beliefs to be adopted into, and lived out in one's personal, family, social, and professional life. Thus the testimony of a faithful Christian walk is becoming more shallow, and losing its impact on the world as a witness to the life-changing influence of Christ. Politics is becoming a part of the backbone of what real religion is, diminishing the purity of Christianity to a part of a greater world effort toward religious inclusiveness, where everything and anything is acceptable in the eyes of God as long as we are happy.

What is happening all around us? Many sincere Christians today are hoping to reverse this trend by praying for the long-awaited baptism of the Holy Spirit. The anticipation of this event is of tremendous interest to all.

### The Best Time to Live is Now!

1. What did the prophet Joel promise will come in the last days? Acts 2:16-18.

ANSWER: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my \_\_\_\_\_ upon \_\_\_\_\_: and your sons and daughters shall \_\_\_\_\_, and your young men shall \_\_\_\_\_, and your old men \_\_\_\_\_." "... I will pour out in those days of my \_\_\_\_\_; and they shall \_\_\_\_\_."

Many religious movements recognize that the Second Coming is near. Many see a day in the near future as the end.

2. Will everybody have a chance to hear the gospel before the end? Matthew 24:14; Habakkuk 2:14.

ANSWER: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be \_\_\_\_\_ in all the \_\_\_\_\_ for a witness unto \_\_\_\_\_; and then shall the end come."

3. Do you think Jesus foresaw the rise of a counterfeit movement in our days? Matthew 24:4, 5, 11, 12, 24.

ANSWER: "... Many shall come in my name, saying, \_\_\_\_\_; and shall \_\_\_\_\_ many."

4. What kind of "Jesus" will a false revival present? 1 John 4:1-3.

ANSWER: They will not "confess," that is, understand that Jesus is truly "come \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_."

This raises the solemn question: "Is the 'Christ' the world believes in today the real one?" The popular "Jesus" is one who did not conquer sin. At the other extreme the traditional "establishment" religionist says Christ could not have sinned and therefore could not be tempted as we are. Whichever way one looks at it, their Christ did not conquer sin in our human nature. Unless we understand John's words, we are in danger of joining the crowds who say "Lord, Lord!" but don't know Him.

5. What kind of spirit will control the popular religious movements of the last days? Revelation 18:1-3.

ANSWER: "Babylon the great is \_\_\_\_\_, is \_\_\_\_\_, and is become the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, and the hold of every \_\_\_\_\_."

Babylon means confusion, and is a symbol of the churches that, before their fall, enjoyed the true Holy Spirit's presence, but by rejecting truth, they are "fallen." Babylon is not only one church--she is a "mother" with "daughters" (see Revelation 17:1-5). A woman in prophecy is a symbol of a church (2 Corinthians 11:2; Jeremiah 6:2; Revelation 12:1, 17). A pure woman represents the true church; and a fallen one, the church without the Holy Spirit. This prophecy in Revelation points to a time when the churches who refuse to accept the truth of God's word become so deceived that they will accept a counterfeit "holy spirit" and become the "habitation of devils" while they sincerely imagine they are receiving the Holy Ghost. We must know the truth!

6. When did it happen that many religious people once went to "church" in vain? Matthew 23:37, 38.

ANSWER: Jesus said to those who rejected Him, "... Your house \_\_\_\_\_ unto you \_\_\_\_\_."

7. What is the heart of the first angel's message? How widely is this message to be preached? Revelation 14:6, 7.

ANSWER: This "angel" has "the everlasting \_\_\_\_\_ to preach ... to every \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_."

This is God's last message to the world. It is not a new message -- it is everlasting and is the same gospel that Jesus taught. It is a recovery of the original message which God has always wanted the whole world to hear.

8. Note that this message calls on people to worship the Lord as the Creator of heaven and earth (verse 7). If you make Him Lord of your life, and truly accept Him as Creator, what obedience will you give to the Lord? Compare Revelation 14:7 with Exodus 20:8-11.

ANSWER: "Give \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_."

9. Many will turn to the Lord in the last days. What will "every one" of them do? Isaiah 56:1-7.

ANSWER: If we "lay hold" on salvation, we will "\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ it. ... Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the Lord, ... and to love the name of the Lord, ... every one that \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ it. ..."

10. When a church knows truth and yet clings to the "commandments of men," how does God look upon their worship? Matthew 15:9.

ANSWER: "But \_\_\_\_\_ they do worship me. ... "

11. What does the Lord say has really happened to any such church? Revelation 14:8 (this is the second angel's message).

ANSWER: "Babylon is \_\_\_\_\_, is \_\_\_\_\_, that great \_\_\_\_\_, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

When Christ said to the unbelieving Jews, "Your house is left unto you desolate," His Holy Spirit left. When the true Holy Spirit moves out because of the disobedience of ministers and people, a false "holy spirit" moves in. Eventually Revelation 18:1, 2 will be completely fulfilled. The entire gospel will be counterfeited, and people will imagine they are saved when in reality they are preparing to accept "the mark of the beast." Opposition to God's law becomes opposition to Christ Himself.

12. There are many sincere people in Babylon who do not yet see the truth clearly. "The times of ignorance God winked at" (Acts 17:30). But when a person knows and continues to disregard the truth, what is his true relationship to the Lord? Proverbs 28:9.

ANSWER: "He that \_\_\_\_\_ his ear from hearing the \_\_\_\_\_, even his prayer shall be \_\_\_\_\_."

13. Where is Jesus today, and what is He doing? Here are four Scripture texts--Hebrews 8:1, 2 and 7:25; Revelation 11:19; Revelation 14:12 (the fruitage of the "three angels' messages").

ANSWER: Christ is in the last phase of His ministry as High Priest, symbolized by the "temple" being "opened" where the "ark of His testament" is seen. Those who follow Jesus by faith "... keep the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."

According to the book of Hebrews, the only way one can come to Jesus truly is to come to Him as High Priest, where He "saves to the uttermost." In other words, He never does a job halfway. We must give to Him all of our life. He must be permitted to cleanse every trace of selfishness and disobedience from our hearts. True love is not simply a feeling or excitement, but fulfilling the law in a truly changed lifestyle. This includes keeping the Sabbath. Thus a genuine revival that will prepare a people for Jesus' coming will include Sabbath-keeping.

14. As you see the issues shaping up for the final conflict between Christ and Satan, is the Holy Spirit drawing you and encouraging you to stand with Christ, and be loyal to Him? John 6:37, 40, 44, 45.

ANSWER: (a) "All that the Father giveth Me shall \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (b) "Everyone which \_\_\_\_\_ the Son, and \_\_\_\_\_ on Him, may have \_\_\_\_\_ (c) "No man can come to \_\_\_\_\_, except the Father which hath sent Me \_\_\_\_\_: ..." (d) "And they shall be \_\_\_\_\_ of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the \_\_\_\_\_, cometh \_\_\_\_\_."

Jesus promised: "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, who will stay with you forever. He is the [Holy] Spirit, who reveals the truth about God. The world cannot receive Him, because it cannot see Him or know Him. But you know Him because He remains with you and is in you" (John 14:16, 17, GNB). He constantly reminds you of what you need to know, and shows you the right path. He is as patient with you as if you were the only person on earth. "The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you" (John 14:26, GNB). If you give the Holy Spirit your will and make your choice to walk in His way, you cannot be overcome by the evil one. The reason is simple enough: the Holy Spirit is stronger than the flesh (see Galatians 5:16, 17). The constraint of the love of Christ makes all the allurements of the world seem as pale as a street light in comparison with the pure brilliance of the sun.

15. Does your heart say, "Thank You Lord, for saving my soul, and for guiding me into all truth"? \_\_\_\_\_.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7 "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

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