

THE SECOND ANGEL'S MESSAGE

God's Last Message To Humanity, Part Two

IN REVELATION 14:6-12 WE HAVE GOD'S LAST MESSAGE to man, called the Three Angel's Messages. We know this is the final message because following its proclamation John was shown the "harvest of the earth" at the second coming of Christ. In this study we will explore the contents of the Second Angel's Message and the time of the Judgment spoken of in the First Angel's Message.

Background To Babylon

In **Genesis 11:1-9** we read the history of Babylon's origins and learn the basic ideas upon which Babylon was and still is founded. First we notice that Babylon was initiated on the premise of self-exaltation, which was the same actuating spirit involved in the Fall of Lucifer and in the Fall of humanity (Isa. 14:12-15; Gen. 3:5). In order to retard the growth of this self-exalting aspiration, God intervened to confuse their languages. Scripture then says, "Therefore its name is called Babel," which means confusion. From then on Babylon came to indicate spiritual or theological confusion, distortion and falsehood. Later in biblical history we encounter the spirit and theology of Babylon at the height of its expression in the book of Daniel. In **Daniel 1-3** King Nebuchadnezzar exemplifies what Babylon stands for: (1) The exaltation, deification and worship of man; and (2) the enforcement of worship or the use of force to secure religious compliance. With this background, in the book of Revelation Babylon is used to symbolize false religious systems that disseminate theological confusion by mingling Paganism with Christianity and utilize force in God's name.

The Fall of Babylon

Revelation 14:6-7—⁶ Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—⁷ saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

Revelation 14:8—⁸ And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

Revelation 18:1-8—¹ After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. 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! 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." 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. ⁵ For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. ⁶ Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. ⁷ In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.' ⁸ Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.

NOTE: False doctrines that have their historic origins in Paganism and have been imported into Christianity by Catholicism are these: (1) all forms of human merit in salvation, also known as salvation by works; (2) the exaltation of man to the position of God, claiming authority over God's word, His law and His people; (3) confessing sins to a human priest and their claimed power to absolve sins; (4) penance, which is any list of works prescribed by the priest as punishment for one's sins and/or for building up merit for salvation or for getting time off in purgatory; (5) indulgences, the idea that human good deeds or the giving of money to the church has merit with God to lessen one's time or that of a loved one in the tortures of purgatory; (6) the veneration and mediation of Mary and the Saints and offering prayers to them; (7) the Mass and its claim of Transubstantiation, the idea that Jesus is literally present in the wafer host and the wine and is crucified over and over again therein; (8) Sunday sacredness as the day of worship in place of God's holy Sabbath day; (9) the union of church and state to enforce religious laws; (10) purgatory and eternal torment. These are some of the false teachings that constitute the "wine of Babylon."

The Time of The Judgment

Daniel 7:9-11, 22—⁹ I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; ¹⁰ a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. ¹¹ I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame... ²¹ I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, ²² until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.

What is the verdict in the judgment on the antichrist? _____.

What is the verdict in the judgment on God's people? _____.

After seeing the terrible work of the "little horn" (the Antichrist), Daniel was then shown that the time would come when this powerful system would be condemned and destroyed while the people of God are vindicated. This is called the judgment. Then Daniel was given a time prophecy that pinpointed the time in history when the judgment would occur, in **Daniel 8:11-14 and 9:24-27**. Daniel is allowed to overhear a conversation between two angels in which one angel asked the other, "How long will the vision be?", referring back to the vision that revealed the activities of the antichrist. In other words, how long will the antichrist continue its deceptive and destructive career? The other angel responds, "For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed." Later on the angel returns to Daniel and says, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand" (9:22). Then the angel proceeds to explain and breakdown the 2300 day prophecy into segments that pinpoint the time when Jesus would be anointed as Messiah, the time of His crucifixion, the time when the gospel would begin going to the gentile world, and the time when the judgment of mankind would begin (see related time prophecy chart).

NOTE: In Bible prophecy a day equals a year. See Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34.

What year did the prophecy foretell that Jesus would begin His ministry as the Messiah? _____.

What year did it foretell He would be crucified? _____.

What year did it foretell that probation would close for Israel as a nation? _____.

And what year did the prophecy foretell would begin the judgment period of human history? _____.

The Judgment and The Cleansing of the Sanctuary

Daniel 7:9-12 and 8:14 equates the judgment with the cleansing of the sanctuary. This biblical correlation is made because the cleansing of the sanctuary was the annual event of Israel's symbolic sanctuary service. It constituted the final reckoning for all sin, and was called Yom _____, the Day of _____ or the Day _____ (see **Leviticus 16**). This yearly ceremony pointed forward to the final judgment of all mankind, in which all who are united in Babylon against God and His truth will be judged eternally lost and those who are deemed faithful to God and His truth and judged with a verdict of vindication and all their record of sin forever eradicated.

What is the catalyst that causes the eventual Fall of Babylon? _____.

"Behold Your God"—Isaiah 40:9

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All Scripture References are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted.