

Sabbath School Lesson #9 – A City Called Confusion – 20-26 May 2023

Christ is sealing His people, making them ready now for His second coming, when He returns as King of Kings. “These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for He is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful” (Revelation 17:14). Here we are carried into the future to the time of the great and final battle; for at this time the Lamb has assumed the title of King of kings and Lord of lords, which He does not do till His second coming. Thus, we read in chapter 19:11-16: “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself. And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, King Of Kings, And Lord Of Lords.”

Sunday: Two Contrasting Systems – Considering the contrasting systems, the bride in Revelation 12 and the harlot in Revelation 17, how can we remain faithful and avoid being negatively influenced by the harlot system? The Lesson writer says, “Both leaders and the common people alike have been negatively influenced by this power. What’s our only protection? (Read Eph. 6:10–18.)” We need to consider in what ways has the harlot already negatively influenced both leaders and common people within our Seventh-day Adventist Church, and by the grace of God, seek to individually cut loose from her negative influence.

Monday: The Wine of the Wrath – The Lesson writer asks a good question: What role do those who proclaim the three angels’ messages have in being used by God to call “My people,” His people, out of Babylon? Of this wine of the wrath, we read: “For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies” Revelation 18:3). Babylon is busy seeking to unite with civil powers to enforce the mark of the beast via Sunday Law. The Bible warns against the worship of the beast. This warning against the worship of the beast, which is the union of any professed Protestants with the civil power, is the proclamation of the Gospel, because religious legislation is the deadly enemy of the Gospel. It is the denial of Christ as the power of God. It is the denial of God as the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and as the Creator, by that same power, of men in Christ to do His will. Therefore as we see growing movement towards state legislating Sunday Law in honour of the Papacy, the voices of all who would have the Gospel of Christ preserved in its purity must be raised in warning. This is our role, to spread the warning message. It is to present Christ as the power of God, and the righteousness of God by faith of Christ as the only righteousness which will cover men from the wrath. Who will heed it, and say, “In the Lord have I righteousness and strength;” “In the Lord shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory” (Isaiah 45:24-25).

Tuesday: Mystery, Babylon the Great – Another good question is asked by the Lesson writer: How can we protect ourselves from the subtle influences of Babylon, such as the tendency, easy as it is, to depend upon ourselves and not wholly upon God? If we sincerely love the truth, search for the truth as for the hidden treasure, and are willing to follow the truth wherever it leads us, God will help us to have a mind that is able to discern the deep things of God. Spiritual things are spiritually discerned, and only the mind that is cleansed by the sanctification of the Spirit can discern heavenly things. The Scriptures, given by inspiration of God, are “profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Let us go to the Word of God for guidance. Let us seek for a “Thus saith the Lord.” Let us take the Word of God as it reads. Let us allow the Spirit of Christ to work in us, and let us not try to work His Spirit. The work in us and through us will

be accomplished by Christ in us and working through us. The Lord says that His kingdom is to be established in the earth “not by might, nor by power,” but by His Spirit (Zechariah 4:6).

Wednesday: A Call to Commitment – In which way could we say that the three angels’ messages are a call to commitment? It is a call to commitment to the love of Christ. He stands at the door of our heart knocking and seeking to come in, and if we really love Christ, we will open our hearts to receive Him, He will then work in us to will and to do His will. If we are committed to that relationship, we will give Him full sway of our lives. That relationship will continue to eternity when Christ returns. The gospel is to nurture that commitment and prepare us for eternity with our lovely Jesus Christ. To those who heed this commitment call, the beloved apostle was told by the heavenly messenger, “These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple: and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes” (Revelation 7:14-17). If we heed the call, we will wash our robes of character and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. We must not follow the multitude to do evil. Stand for the truth even if heaven falls, be earnest, firm, decided, and persevering if you are to overcome and have on the white robe of Christ's righteousness. If we really love Christ, we will abide in Him now and we shall see Him and live with our lovely Jesus for eternity. We should not allow the influence of Babylon to shape our character. Let us be committed to shun the world. Let us seek the character of Christ, to be a partaker of the Divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world through lust. “Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (James 4:4). The signs of the second coming of Christ are seen everywhere and if we do not right now heed the call to commitment, then precious hours of probation will pass without our characters being sanctified to reflect Christ in us the hope of glory. Soon, the destiny of every soul will be fixed: “He which is filthy, let him be filthy still and he that is holy, let him be holy still.” Let us be committed, and await the approval and the blessed “well done” when the Lord comes.

Thursday: Babylon: The Center of Idolatry – In what ways does the issues of the idolatry of spiritual Babylon go deeper than just bowing before images of wood and stone? Remember that idolatry begins in the heart. Ezekiel says so in Ezekiel 14:3 “Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumbling block of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them?” Idolatry begins in the heart, begins in the mind, and a false understanding or conception of God is idolatry. “Are we worshippers of Jehovah, or of Baal? Of the living God, or of idols?” {5T 173.3} “No outward shrines may be visible; there may be no image for the eye to rest upon, yet we may be practicing idolatry. It is as easy to make an idol of cherished ideas or objects as to fashion gods of wood or stone. 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 worshipping 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?” {5T 173.4}. The true God is the Father (John 17:3), and we see it here very clearly that it is the Father who is revealed in His word, in Christ, and in nature. Are we worshipping mysterious gods that we cannot find in the Bible or are we worshipping something else, which she called a philosophical idol enshrined in His place. This philosophical idol is the inexplicable trinity concept that was after the death of our pioneers enshrined in our Fundamental Beliefs. Lest we forget, our pioneers rejected the trinity and did not include the trinity in our historical Fundamental Principles (last stated in Review and Herald, 22 August 1912, Par 4), and in 1980 the trinity was accepted as a Fundamental Belief in fulfillment of this 1904 prophecy: “The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith... The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error” {1 SM 204.2}. Are you worshipping the true God or the trinity gods?