

Sabbath School Lesson #12 – Babylon and Armageddon – 16-22 June 2018

Christ revealed to John the deceptive work of the harlot woman, which deceives the world, making all nations to drink of the wine of the wrath. John describes the harlot: “And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH” (Revelation 17:5).

Sunday: The Wine of Her Wrath – “The great sin charged against Babylon is that she ‘made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.’ This cup of intoxication which she presents to the world represents the false doctrines that she has accepted as the result of her unlawful connection with the great ones of the earth. Friendship with the world corrupts her faith, and in her turn she exerts a corrupting influence upon the world by teaching doctrines which are opposed to the plainest statements of Holy Writ” {GC 388.2}.

Monday: Babylon Is Fallen – “No longer have the hosts of evil power to keep the church captive; for ‘Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city,’ which hath ‘made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication;’ and to spiritual Israel is given the message, ‘Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.’ Verse 8; 18:4. As the captive exiles heeded the message, ‘Flee out of the midst of Babylon’ (Jeremiah 51:6), and were restored to the Land of Promise, so those who fear God today are heeding the message to withdraw from spiritual Babylon, and soon they are to stand as trophies of divine grace in the earth made new, the heavenly Canaan” {PK 715.1}.

Tuesday: Armageddon – The spirits of devils “gather them to the battle of that great day of God ... gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon” (Revelation 16:13-16). “The nations of the world are eager for conflict; but they are held in check by the angels. When this restraining power is removed, there will come a time of trouble and anguish. Deadly instruments of warfare will be invented. Vessels, with their living cargo, will be entombed in the great deep. All who have not the spirit of truth will unite under the leadership of satanic agencies. But they are to be kept under control till the time shall come for the great battle of Armageddon ... The battle of Armageddon will be fought, and that day must find none of us sleeping. Wide awake we must be” {Ellen White, Mar 257}.

Armageddon is Greek name of the place, derived from the Hebrew ‘Har Megiddo,’ meaning ‘Mount of Megiddo,’ but more of a ‘hill’ than a ‘mount.’ In Bible history, Megiddo was a place overlooking the plain in the tribe of Manasseh and a place of significant battles. First, it was at Megiddo where Barak and Deborah destroyed Sisera’s army (Judges 5). Second, it was at Megiddo that Pharaoh Necho slew Josiah (2 Chronicles 35:20-25; 2 Kings 23:29-30). The latter battle caused great lamentation in Judah. Pharaoh Necho matched his great armies and came through the land of Judah to attack the Assyrian stronghold of Carchemish. It was in God’s plan that the king of Egypt should do this, and when Josiah thought to arrest the progress of his army, Pharaoh-Necho sent him a warning message from God, saying that he was not come against Josiah, and had no desire to meet him in battle; “for God commanded me to make haste: forbear thee from meddling with God, who is with me, that He destroy thee not” (2 Chronicles 35:21). Notwithstanding this warning, Josiah persisted in his attempt to stop the king of Egypt, and was fatally wounded in the battle at Megiddo. There was great lamentation at his death in all Judah and Jerusalem.

The battle of Armageddon will be a physical battle between nations as was the ancient battles fought at Megiddo. The battle of Armageddon will not come by an unreasonable decree. It will be the natural outcome of the envy of the nations. All that now hinders it is the angels holding back the political strife, while God’s Spirit is striving to turn men from their own ways. When that Spirit is rejected, the crash will not be long delayed. The “King of the North” will play a part in leading up to the battle of Armageddon. The angel said of this move: “And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end and none shall help him” (Daniel 11:45).

Others assign the battle of Armageddon to a spiritual battle. But our spiritual battles goes on in our hearts, “for we do not wrestle against flesh and blood” (Ephesians 6:12). Angels fight is unseen battle, it is never described in terms like the battle of Armageddon. Angel Gabriel told Daniel, “I return to fight *with* the prince of Persia” (Daniel 10:20) – unseen battle *with* or alongside Persia to hold back devils influencing nations against Persia. That is what the angels holding the four winds also do; the spiritual war is not the battle of Armageddon. When angels let go the four winds, nations will fight each other in the battle of Armageddon. Those who spiritualise Armageddon also spiritualise Daniel 11:45 and ignore the conflicts in

the Middle East. Armageddon is a place where nations will gather to the final conflict in the Middle East after the move by the King of the North. And in this the king of the North is to come to his end, and none shall help him. "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book" (Daniel 12:1).

Wednesday: Armageddon and Mount Carmel: Part 1 – Whilst the battle of Megiddo was between nations, the testing at Mt Carmel concerned the apostasy of God's people. The type controversy at Mt Carmel between Elijah and priests of Baal is meeting anti-type – faithful Seventh-day Adventists are living their Mt Carmel experience before the latter rain. Why was rain withheld? If we understand the basics in types, we will be able to better understand them in anti-types. The Lord said to Elijah, "Go, shew thyself unto Ahab;" (1 Kings 18:1-2). It was not Elijah's choice to reveal himself to Ahab; it was the Lord's command. The anti-type Elijah message is brought to us (see two booklets: "*Greater Abominations*" and "*True God and His Son*") as Seventh-day Adventists, just before Christ comes, but we are responding as did wicked Ahab: "And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?" (1 Kings 18:17). Many reject the message and messenger from God. Ahab attributed withholding of rain to Elijah who was following God's directions. Type has long met anti-type; the leaders are rejecting the truth in the Father and Son message, for they are worshipping the trinity gods. It also happened in Christ's day, for the leaders rejected John and his message and killed Christ.

As the controversy of Baal worship continued, Elijah summoned Ahab to gather all Israel at "mount Carmel. And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word. Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men" (1 Kings 18:20-22).

Thursday: Armageddon and Mount Carmel: Part 2 – Before the battle of Armageddon comes, there is a Mt Carmel testing experience within the Seventh-day Adventist Church. When given the opportunity of choosing whom to serve, there was only silence. How is it with you today? When you see that the trinity doctrine deny the true Son of God and reject God as His Father, do you stand up for truth or sit silently in fear of our leaders who joined themselves to modern Jezebel? As for those who do allow God to use them as a voice of Elijah, do you, like Elijah, feel like you are the only one that has remained faithful to God? Have you ever felt like you were alone in this message? Where is the voice of the people? Like Israel of old, most are hung up between two opinions. Yes, to many of you who are reading this, it is the same with you today. You may be among most Seventh-day Adventists who say they believe in "the only true God, and Jesus Christ" (John 17:3), and yet accept the trinity doctrine that creates a third god out of the one "Spirit of God" or "the Spirit of Christ" (Romans 8:9). Our Fundamental Belief calls the Holy Spirit "God the Eternal Spirit" – a phrase that is not found in the Bible. The trinity separates the Spirit from God and makes it into a separate god – this provokes God to jealousy (for details, read the booklet: *Greater Abominations*). A belief in trinity gods is sin, for sin is transgression of the law (1 John 3:4), and the law says we should not have other gods (Exodus 20:3). Instead of the Holy Spirit being a personality of the Father, the trinity doctrine made it a god with its own individual personality and Being. To believe in the trinity is to worship other gods and it is sin.

Elijah prayed to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, and it rained (1 Kings 18:36-41). Let the Elijah pray. When God is worshiped as He really is, He will pour out His Spirit with power. The Elijah message is that the outpouring will occur on individuals who worship God in truth and Spirit. Ahab remained Baal worshipper after it rained; many Seventh-day Adventist leaders will remain trinity worshippers after the latter rain. After "a great rain," Ahab "rode, and went to Jezreel. And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done... Then Jezebel sent messengers to Elijah" (1 Kings 18:45-19:1-2). Although Ahab remained joined to Jezebel and Baal, he could not prevent the rain from pouring out on those who cried: "The LORD, He is the God; the LORD"! It also triggered a persecution from the worldly church (Jezebel). Thus it will be in our time. Leaders may reject the truth, but the latter rain will fall on those who reject the trinity gods and cry: "The LORD, He is the God"! Then the time of trouble such as never has been will commence (Daniel 12:1). Like Ahab, apostate leaders will be most efficient agents of Satan to accuse us before courts {GC 608.2} during the final crisis. It is time to proclaim the Elijah message, to turn hearts of Adventists to the true God.