

## **Achan all Over: Come out of Babylon**

Our title today is; 'Achan all over: Come out of Babylon.' We are going to look at a story in the Bible that applies to us in the end of the world. We want to substantiate everything we are going to say from the Word of God.

"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." 1 Corinthians 10:11.

Those who are familiar with Mrs. White's writings know the principle is that all the ancient prophets spoke more for our day than for their day, so their words are in force for us.

ENSAMPLE: To exemplify; to show by example. So the Bible has told us, all these stories that happened in the past are for us to learn from at the end of the world.

Adventism today as well as the world are confused as to what 'Babylon' represents in the Bible, what it really is.

"The second angel's message of Revelation 14 was first preached in the summer of 1844, . . . GC 389

We know that there has to be a first angel that comes before the Second Angel;

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." Revelation 14:6, 7.

The First Angel's Message is about the Everlasting Gospel; it's also about the Judgment Hour. If you read the Spirit of Prophecy, the First Angel's Message is based on the prophetic periods. In order to know when the Judgment Hour has come, you have to understand the prophetic periods. So I will read from 'Early Writings' 260:

"Many look with horror at the course of the Jews in rejecting and crucifying Christ; and as they read the history of His shameful abuse, they think they love Him, and would not have denied Him as did Peter, or crucified Him as did the Jews. But God who reads the hearts of all, has brought to the test that love for Jesus which they professed to feel. All heaven watched with the deepest interest the reception of the first angel's message. But many who professed to love Jesus, and who shed tears as they read the story of the cross, derided the good news of His coming. Instead of receiving the message with gladness, they declared it to be a delusion. They hated those who loved His appearing and shut them out of the churches. Those who rejected the first message could not be benefited by the second; neither were they benefited by the midnight cry, which was to prepare them to enter with Jesus by faith into the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary."

This is a very solemn time, the Three Angel's Messages.

"I was shown three steps--the first, second, and third angels' messages. Said my accompanying angel, "Woe to him who shall move a block or stir a pin of these messages. The true understanding of these messages is of vital importance. The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received." Story of Redemption 385.

This is a testing process and those who are not willing to accept the First Angel's Message, will not be benefitted by the Second Angel's Message.

There are three tests. Praise the Lord, I believe I can say that those who have accepted the prophetic periods and the foundational teachings of Adventism have gone past the first test; but there is another test. Those that accepted the First Angel's Message were then confronted with another test; the Second Angel's Message.

This is where we are as a people; you can't give the Loud Cry of the Third Angel unless you can understand the First Angel's Message; and until you pass the test of the Second Angel's Message. This is where every one of us is going to be confronted with something.

"The second angel's message of Revelation 14 was first preached in the summer of 1844, and it then had a more direct application to the churches of the United States, where the warning of the judgment had been most widely proclaimed and most generally rejected, and where the declension in the churches had been most rapid. But the message of the second angel did not reach its complete fulfillment in 1844. **The churches then experienced a moral fall**, in consequence of their refusal of the light of the advent message; . . . GC88 389

When you reject the First Message, you reject the Second message and it leads to a moral fall.

". . . but that fall was not complete. As they have continued to reject the special truths for this time they have fallen lower and lower. Not yet, however, can it be said that "Babylon is fallen, ... because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." She has not yet made all nations do this. The spirit of world conforming and indifference to the testing truths for our time exists and has been gaining ground in churches of the Protestant faith in all the countries of Christendom; and these churches are included in the solemn and terrible denunciation of the second angel. But the work of apostasy has not yet reached its culmination."

The Bible declares that before the coming of the Lord, Satan will work "with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness;" and they that "received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved," will be left to receive "strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11. GC 389.

What is the fall of Babylon? It is a moral fall. It is a conforming to the world. If you want to understand what something is, you bring all the various quotes on any given subject together. We are going to look at some of these quotes and one in particular that expresses what Babylon is.

When Daniel and his friends entered into Babylon as captives, they were confronted with a series of tests. One of the tests they were confronted with was their diet. They purposed in their hearts that they would not defile themselves with the king's meat or wine. Babylon has something to do with our lifestyle; there is a way that God's people are to live, and a way that Babylon lives.

How many people are aware that very soon those who once stood under the banner of Three Angel's Messages and claimed to teach it and believe it, will take their ranks with the opposition? There is going to be a switch. How many are also aware that most of God's people are in the fallen churches, and these individuals are coming in to take up the truth, but a large class of those who profess the truth will go out into their ranks. This story is illustrated already in the Bible. Joshua 6:8-10:

"And it came to pass, when Joshua had spoken unto the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns passed on before the LORD, and blew with the trumpets: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them. And the armed men went before the priests that blew with the trumpets, and the rereward came after the ark, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets. And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout,

nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout.”

This shout, what do you think about that? That's the Loud Cry! Continuing verses 11-13.

“So the ark of the LORD compassed the city, going about it once: and they came into the camp, and lodged in the camp. And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. And seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually, and blew with the trumpets: and the armed men went before them; but the rereward came after the ark of the LORD, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets.”

And so on for six days.

“And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times. And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city.” Joshua 6:15, 16.

So after they go around the city seven times, and I am not trying to put words in the Bible that are not there, but you know what circle is; it is 360 degrees. When you have seven, 360 degree circles around the city, it equals 2520. In the Bible 2520 is used over and over again by God as a symbol and warning of judgment. At the end of the understanding of the seven times, they were to shout. This is from Patriarchs and Prophets, pg. 491.

“The vast army marched solemnly around the devoted walls. All was silent, save the measured tread of many feet, and the occasional sound of the trumpet, breaking the stillness of the early morning. . .

Can you envision this for a second? Listen to the march of the feet as the vast army marches around those walls. People are in the city feeling safe, because this is mighty Jericho. If you study history, you'll know that these cities were designed to withstand sieges for many years. They would have vast quantities of food, so they felt secure in those walls.

“The massive walls of solid stone seemed to defy the siege of men. The watchers on the walls looked on with rising fear, as, the first circuit ended, there followed a second, then a third, a fourth, a fifth, a sixth. What could be the object of these mysterious movements? What mighty event was impending? . .

“. . . They had not long to wait. As the seventh circuit was completed, the long procession paused, The trumpets, which for an interval had been silent, now broke forth in a blast that shook the very earth. The walls of solid stone, with their massive towers and battlements, tottered and heaved from their foundations, and with a crash fell in ruin to the earth. The inhabitants of Jericho were paralyzed with terror, and the hosts of Israel marched in and took possession of the city.” Patriarchs and Prophets, pg. 491.

Think about this; the Bible says that everything written aforetime is for us at the End of the World as an example. What happens here is after the understanding of the Seven Times. . . if there is a loud shout in the Bible, are not the prophets subject to the prophets? So the Loud Cry in the end of the world has to be the same as the Loud Cry at the beginning of the world. So the Loud Cry goes out when the towers of Jericho fall, not only were there towers but there were walls too.

“And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city. And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are

with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD. So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword. But Joshua had said unto the two men that had spied out the country, Go into the harlot's house, and bring out thence the woman, and all that she hath, as ye sware unto her."

Notice this:

"And the young men that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred, and left them without the camp of Israel. And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein: only the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of brass and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho." Joshua 6:16-25.

At the Loud Cry those that are faithful in Babylon will be brought out. That is what this story is illustrating. They had faith; they had heard the Word of the Lord before the Loud Cry. Then when the Loud Cry went out, they took their stand with God's people and they were brought out. Because of Rahab's faith, her whole kindred were saved; anyone who came into her house, into the house of the prostitute.

Ready for the other group, the group that goes out of Adventism? Remember God had given instruction, "Do not take anything, do not touch the accursed thing." Joshua 7:1.

"But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel."

Jesus came of the tribe of Judah. Rahab married into the tribe of Judah. It is family for family that's going to be swapped here. Joshua 7:2 and onward;

"And Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Bethaven, on the east side of Bethel, (the house of God) and spake unto them, saying, Go up and view the country. And the men went up and viewed Ai. 3 And they returned to Joshua, and said unto him, Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai; and make not all the people to labour thither; for they are but few. 4 So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai."

There is a lesson right there. They were over-confident.

5 "And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men: for they chased them from before the gate even unto Shebarim, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water. 6 And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads. 7 And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord GOD, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? would to God we

had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan! 8 O Lord, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies! 9 For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name?"

What is going on here? They had gone to the point of the seven times; they had gone through the first test. But when they came up to this next test and had touched the accursed thing, they stumbled. This brought judgement upon Israel.

10 "And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?

11 Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff. 12 Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.

13 Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you."

Guess what's getting ready to happen? A Judgment of the living; we've been saying the judgment of the living began after the towers fell at 9/11. This is what the Bible is saying here.

14 "In the morning therefore ye shall be brought according to your tribes: and it shall be, that the tribe which the LORD taketh shall come according to the families thereof; and the family which the LORD shall take shall come by households; and the household which the LORD shall take shall come man by man."

Do you see how this is? It is going tribe by tribe, household by household, and man by man.

15 "And it shall be, that he that is taken with the accursed thing shall be burnt with fire, he and all that he hath: because he hath transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he hath wrought folly in Israel. 16 So Joshua rose up early in the morning, and brought Israel by their tribes; and the tribe of Judah was taken: 17 And he brought the family of Judah; and he took the family of the Zarhites: and he brought the family of the Zarhites man by man; and Zabdi was taken:"

This is a thorough investigative judgment!

18 "And he brought his household man by man; and Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken. 19 And Joshua said unto Achan, My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me. 20 And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done:"

But guess what; when the lot falls upon you, it's too late! Every one of us is going to enter into the judgment.

21 "When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, . .

We are talking about, 'Achan all over—Come out of Babylon'. Are you telling me that Jericho was wearing Babylonian garments? Yes they were!

21 "When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it."

This Adventist saw a Babylonish garment, 200 shekels of silver and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels of weight and coveted them. Here's the thing; what was supposed to be done with the money? It was supposed to go to the Lord's work; but he coveted it, and hid it in the earth in the midst of his tent.

22 "So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, it was hid in his tent, and the silver under it."

Did anybody know that he had done this thing? No one except God knew it.

23 "And they took them out of the midst of the tent, and brought them unto Joshua, and unto all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD. 24 And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor. 25 And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones. 26 And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor, unto this day."

This here is a situation where this individual caused not only the loss of himself but his entire household. One household is saved from Jericho, and the other household is lost from Israel. And not only that, one action of one individual caused the defeat of the whole endeavor at Ai. We are commanded that we need to go forward into this battle.

In Vol. 4 of Spiritual Gifts we see an important vision. According to the Spirit of Prophecy, what does Babylon represent? It's the church joining the world; it is where worldliness and the church are the same. In other words, you look at the church and you look at the world, and you see no difference.

There is an illustration of a narrow path lifted up high above the world in Sister White's first vision. There is to be a marked difference between God's people and the world! The following vision given to Ellen White is called "the two ways". Here she is speaking to the church.

"At the Conference at Battle Creek, May 27, 1856, I was shown in vision some things that concern the church generally. The glory and majesty of God were made to pass before me. Said the angel, "He is terrible in his majesty, yet ye realize it not; terrible in his anger, yet ye offend him daily. Strive to enter in at the straight gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat; because straight is the gate and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." These roads I saw were distinct, separate, in opposite directions. One leads to eternal life; the other to death, eternal death. I saw the distinction in these roads, also the distinction between the companies traveling these roads. The roads are opposite; one is broad and smooth, the other is narrow and rugged. So the parties that travel these roads are opposite in character, in life, in dress, and conversation. 4b Spiritual Gifts 13.

"Those traveling in the narrow way are talking of the joy and happiness they will have at the end of the journey. Their countenances are often sad, yet often beam with holy, sacred joy. They do not dress like the company in the broad road, nor talk like them, nor act like them. A Pattern has been given them. A Man of sorrow and acquainted with grief opened that road for them, and traveled that road himself. His followers see his footsteps, and are comforted and cheered. He went through safely, so can they if they follow his footsteps. In the broad road all are occupied with their persons, their dress, and the pleasures

in the way. Hilarity and glee they freely indulge in, and think not of their journey's end, of the certain destruction at the end of the path. Every day they approach nearer their destruction, yet they madly rush on faster and faster. Oh, how dreadfully this looked to me!

"I saw many traveling in this broad road who had written upon them, "Dead to the world, The end of all things is at hand, Be ye also ready." They looked just like all the vain ones around them, except a shade of sadness which I noticed upon their countenances. Their conversation was just like the gay, thoughtless ones around them; but they would occasionally point to the letters on their garments with great satisfaction calling for the others to have the same upon theirs. They were in the broad way, yet they professed to be of that number who were traveling the narrow way. Those around them would say, "There is no distinction between us, We are all alike, We dress, and talk, and act alike." 4b Spiritual Gifts 14.

God's people are traveling down this broad way, but they are saying that they are in the narrow way; and they are pointing to the words on their garments that say, 'Dead to the world and the end of all things are at hand'. In other words, saying the end of time is coming, and we are dead to the world. But as they are trying to give out their profession, those around them in the world are saying, "There is no distinction between us; we are alike; we dress and talk and act alike."

We may be saying everything we need to say about telling people to come out of Babylon; but if we are wearing Babylonian garments ourselves, and partaking in Babylonian festivities ourselves, the world looks at us and says, "You have nothing to offer me. We look alike, we dress alike, we act alike, and we talk alike."

"Then I was pointed back to the years 1843 and 1844. There was a spirit of consecration then, that there is not now. What has come over the professed, peculiar people of God? I saw the conformity to the world, the unwillingness to suffer for the truth's sake. I saw a great lack of submission to the will of God. I was pointed back to the children of Israel after they left Egypt. God in mercy called them out from the Egyptians, that they might worship him without hindrance or restraint. He wrought for them in the way by miracles, he proved them, he tried them by bringing them into straight places. After the wonderful dealings of God, and their deliverance so many times, when tried or proved by God, they murmured. Their language was, "Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt." 4b Spiritual Gifts 15.

"I saw that many who profess to believe the truth for these last days, think it strange that the children of Israel murmured as they journeyed, and after the wonderful dealings of God to them, should be so ungrateful, and forget what God had done for them. Said the angel, "Ye have done worse than they." . .

Did you hear that? We are in worse situation than the world; Why? Because, to whom much is given, much is required, and we have been given the truth in the most glorious and bright light that has ever been seen in the history of this world.

"I saw that God had given his servants the truth so clear, so plain, that it cannot be resisted. Every where they go they have certain victory. The enemies cannot get round the convincing truth. Light has been shed so clear, that the servants of God can stand up any where and let truth, clear and connected, bear away the victory. This great blessing has not been realized and prized. If any trial arises, some begin to look back, and think they have a hard time. Some of the professed servants of God do not know what purifying trials are. They make trials sometimes for themselves, imagine trials, and are so easily discouraged, so easily hurt, self dignity is so quick to feel, that they injure themselves, injure others, and the cause. Satan magnifies and puts things into the mind that, if given way to, will destroy the usefulness and influence of such."

"I saw that some had felt tempted to take themselves from the work, to labor with their hands. I saw that if the hand of God should be taken from them, and they left subject to disease and death, then such would know what trouble is. It is a fearful thing to murmur against God. They do not bear in mind that the way they are traveling is a rugged, self-denying, self-crucifying way, and they must not expect every thing to move on as smoothly as though they were traveling in the broad road.

"I saw that some of the messengers are so easily discouraged, self is so quickly hurt, they imagine themselves slighted and injured when it is not so. They think their lot hard. Such realize not how they would feel should the sustaining hand of God be withdrawn, and they pass through anguish of soul. Their lot, they then would see, would be ten-fold harder than it was before, while they were employed in the labor of God, suffering trials and privations, yet withal having the approbation of God. Some that are laboring in the cause of God know not when they do have an easy time. They have had so few privations, have hardly known any thing of want or wearing labor, or burden of soul, that when they have an easy time, their lives almost entirely free from anguish of spirit, are favored of God, they know it not, and think their trials great. I saw that unless such have a spirit of self-sacrifice, and are ready to labor cheerfully, not sparing themselves, God will release them. He will not acknowledge them as his self-sacrificing servants; but will raise up those who will labor, not slothfully but in earnest, and will know when they have an easy time. God's servants must feel the burden of souls, and weep between the porch and the altar, and cry, "Spare thy people, Lord." 4b Spiritual Gifts 16.

We cannot go forth and call people out of Babylon if we have the Babylonian garments on, if we are eating the Babylonian food, if we have the treasure that should be going to the Lord buried in our tents, if we are not sacrificing. I am not preaching to you, I am speaking to myself too.

Do we want the diseases of the Egyptians upon us? We need to turn from the ways of this world, and enter into the straight path. We need to turn around. We need to get on the other road, the narrow road high above the world; it's a road that we must follow. We have to open the doors of our hearts in confession and repentance and allow God to remove everything out of our lives that will hinder His being able to bless us. Is there something that we are doing that will cause others to stumble?

Adventists have been given a message that can reach any group of people on earth. The Lord has set in motion series of things that if we would but follow, would open the doors of every heart on earth. But if we enter into worldliness, if we look like the world, act like the world, talk like the world, eat like the world, vacation like the world, spend our money like the world, save our money like the world, whatever it is, they will see it in us and say, "You don't have anything for me, I am looking for something special; I am looking for something sacred." We cannot call people out of Babylon into Babylon. We cannot go forward to give the Loud Cry message of the Third Angel unless we pass the Second Angel's test.