

Lucan: It's time to begin; Bro. David, will you please offer an opening prayer?

Zahakiel: Almighty and loving Father in Heaven, we give you thanks for the many blessings you have given your people throughout the week. We thank you for inviting us to draw near to you during these sacred hours, to fellowship with one another in the unity of your Holy Spirit. Bless us with light from your Throne through your servant as we stand before you, for we ask it in Yahshua's holy name. Amen.

Barb: Amen

Pastor Chick: Amen

Adriel777: Amen

Lucan: Amen

Naraiel: Amen

daphna dee: Amen

gadriel: Amen

Elyna: Amen

Lucan: This past week, Bro. David and myself have been engaged in a few online discussions on a Seventh-day Adventist Facebook group. One of the questions we were both posed there was whether it could be shown that the Adventist church becomes Babylon from the Scriptures, and whether another church after them could be shown from the same. While we have the benefit of both Mrs. White's writings and the works of Adventist founders who were diligent students of prophecy and its principles, there is value in establishing the fall of a church from Scripture, and that alone. As Protestants – a people fully dedicated to the separation of church and state, and the principle of "sola scriptura" in matters of faith – this is a requirement, not only for evangelism but for personal conviction.

Because the term "Babylon" itself has little application outside of Revelation 18 in this context, the concept may be taken more broadly for our purposes tonight. Truthfully, "Babylon" is not the largest question at issue; Babylon is a condition that can be repented of, and from which healing can be effective. It is "Babylon fallen" that is the dread condition, marking the final separation and calling out of God's people. The only reason that the term "Babylon" becomes a focal point in certain discussions is that Seventh-day Adventists, and they alone, know what that term means. Seventh-day Adventists, and they alone, can "listen with amazement" as Mrs. White says, when the pronouncement is boldly made that the church is Babylon, fallen because of her errors and sins, and the rejection of the truth sent to her from heaven.

It is worth noting that even Seventh-day Adventists have difficulty with understanding Revelation 18, for much the same reason that Israel had difficulty understanding the prophecies of the old covenant:

"But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which [vail] is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart." (2 Corinthians 3:14, 15)

What I would like to do tonight is to share some verses and passages that speak to this and similar questions. We know how churches fall; we know what it means when they do, and how to respond, as each CSDA has already taken the steps necessary in response. What we will be looking instead at tonight are some Scriptures that speak not of the basic principles, but some of the specific applications of this message:

"After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. 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! "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." 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. "For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities." (Revelation 18:1-5, NKJV)(LMK)

Zahakiel: Finished

Pastor Chick: F

Adriel777: F

Peter_Jr_18: F

daphna dee: F

Barb: F

Elyna: F

Lucan: We may note that the word "prison" is in the NKJV, where "hold" or "haunt" appears in the KJV and most other translations. While all are valid, "prison" is what the Greek word is translated as the vast majority of times, with "guard" being the next most common. The essential idea is that these unclean spirits are there, unable or unwilling to leave. Where do we find unclean spirits unable to be removed, and for what reason?

"Then came the disciples to Yahshua apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Yahshua said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." (Matthew 17:19-20)

Such it is for a house that has rejected the first angel's message.

Speaking of houses, we may also note that "foul spirit" is elsewhere translated as "unclean spirit" in the majority of cases. Unclean spirits are trapped in this place, which "has become" the home of demons. How does this take place?

"When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth [it] empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and

dwell there: and the last [state] of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation." (Matthew 12:43-45) (LMK)

Barb: F

Adriel777: F

Pastor Chick: F

Zahakiel: Finished

daphna dee: F

Peter_Jr_18: F

Elyna: F

Lucan: It is worth noting that seven other wicked spirits take up residence in this house, whereas of Christ, we find the following:

"And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth." (Revelation 5:6)

The seven spirits of God are sent out into all the earth, whereas the seven spirits that return to the man that has not lived up to the light he is given "enter in and dwell there." God's Spirit reaches out; unclean spirits become "imprisoned," making their abode in the place that has failed to become the abode of Christ, instead letting it set "empty, and swept, and garnished." At last, the message rots, the message of the three angels becoming "unclean birds" that are caged up.

A swept and garnished home is one that is well taken care of; there is no clutter, no dirt. It has been cleaned; it has been sanctified, such as it is. The errors and the falsehoods have been forsaken, the law has been kept in letter, yet where is the Spirit of righteousness? It is lacking; the house "is empty," and that which was meant to be the house of God becomes the house of devils. Those who had great light fall to even greater depths than had they never been exposed; "seven spirits more wicked than" the one that was cast out come in. "Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation."

Many when hearing this message rightly ask, "What light has been rejected?"

While 1 Corinthians 6 is perhaps the most direct, beginning with the words "Dare any of you" do the very thing the General Conference is doing by using civil persecution, let us look at a second witness among many others:

"But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite [his] fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for [him], and in an hour that he is not

aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint [him] his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matthew 24:48-51)

The belief that the Lord's coming is delayed is what leads the wicked servant to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken. That the Adventist church has eaten and drank with those churches drunk on false doctrines needs little establishing; that they have begun to smite their fellow servants is beyond question. What of belief in delay? No one who believes Christ's return is imminent has their eyes on the things of the earth.

When the Protestant churches rejected the Advent message, they did so for love of the world and the favor they enjoyed in it, "having a name that thou livest, but art dead." No one whose eyes is not on the things of the earth will seek to avenge or protect themselves outside of Yahweh's strength, for as "Yahshua answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." (John 18:36)

It is only when Christians mistakenly come to believe that Christ's kingdom is of this world that they resort to force in defending what they take to be its interests. [5BC 527]It is only when Christians fail to look to Yahshua in heaven, ministering as the High Priest of His people, that they mistakenly come to believe that Christ's kingdom is of this world.

"And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that [be] with us [are] more than they that [be] with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, Yahweh, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And Yahweh opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain [was] full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha." (2 Kings 6:15-17) (LMK)

Pastor Chick: F

daphna dee: F

Barb: F

Adriel777: F

Elyna: F

Zahakiel: Finished.

Lucan: This is the response of those whose "eyes are open that they may see," who have purchased the eyesalve and repented from Laodicea. It is the response of Christ:

"Then said Yahshua unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matthew 26:52, 53)

It is the message of Revelation, which warns before the image and mark of the beast are described, "If any man have an ear, let him hear. He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints." (Revelation 13:9, 10)

Just as Peter looked to the waves of the sea rather than Yahshua, the faithless look to the movements of the world – its multitudes, nations, peoples, and tongues – rather than to Christ. What can be the sure consequence except drowning, unless they repent and ask to be saved? Of those who do not repent, it is written, "And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast [it] into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all." (Revelation 18:21)

Many when hearing this message wrongly ask, "How can there be another remnant after this one? Regardless of what wrongs are done, we are the church." I say "wrongly ask" because this spirit has no basis in Scripture.

When the devout Jews in Acts 2 learned their leaders had crucified the Lord on their behalf, they did not ask, "Men and brethren, how can Israel fall? Surely we just need to reform the Sanhedrin, God will sort out the leaders." No; those devout Jews repented, and asked to be saved. They did the very thing Peter did on the waves, and avoided the fate of their great city.

Yet even here Christ gives no room for excuse; what does He say of remnants that abuse the servants of Yahweh?

"And the remnant took his servants, and entreated [them] spitefully, and slew [them]. But when the king heard [thereof], he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city." (Matthew 22:6, 7)

The city of the remnant was burned up – what is this reminiscent of?

"And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come." (Revelation 18:9, 10)

Let us hear the end of the matter:

"Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. And they caught him, and cast [him] out of the vineyard, and slew [him]. When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out [his] vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof." (Matthew 21:33-43)(LMK)

Barb: F

Pastor Chick: F

Adriel777: F

Zahakiel: Finished

Peter_Jr_18: F

daphna dee: F

Elyna: F

Lucan: God will continue to work on this principle in every branch of His work, and in every age, for "For I am Yahweh, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." (Malachi 3:6)

And again, "Yahshua Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." (Hebrews 13:8)

It is Yahshua that says, whether to Israel through Jeremiah, directly to Peter and the apostolic church, or to Seventh-day Adventists through Ellen White, "the gates of hell shall not prevail against my Church." It is Christ, who changes not, that declares that Church to be taken away and given to another nation when the keepers prove to be murderers. Any who hates their brother is a murderer; any who persecutes their brother hates him. Those who persecute do not know love, and love is the fulfilling of the law.

"Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left [us] of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that

heard [it]. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world." (Hebrews 4:1-3)

Lucan: Are there any questions or comments?

Zahakiel: C

Lucan: Go ahead

Zahakiel: Thank you for the study, and for beginning with the quote from Revelation 18, and ending with the Gospel. I want to make a similar connection. Specifically, I want to make a comment on something Bro. Luke made at the beginning of the study, with regard to the word translated as "hold," and well understood to be a "prison." The passage in Revelation 18 tells us that this fallen Church has become a prison of unclean and hateful birds. Perhaps we might want to consider the reason why the Church is called a prison, preventing these birds from escaping. Luke has said that the birds are unable or unwilling to leave. I think this may be worth some additional consideration. When we look in the Bible for something that is "unclean," this does not mean it is evil. The birds themselves, the messages themselves, are not evil OF themselves. If they were evil, they would want to stay in a defiled place, but it is written that they are "caged." They have become corrupted because they are trapped when they should be free. When a woman has her "time of the month," to use a sensitive analogy that is meaningful to CSDAs who understand the significance of the New Moon, the blood that leaves her and makes her corrupt is blood and tissue that was intended by nature to bring forth new life - but for one reason or another has not been fertilized. The breath of life has not come into the tissue, and so it is wasted, and becomes corrupt, defiling the woman's body for intimacy for a time. In just the same way, the state of the SDA Church is not one of "evil" that we may look at them and say, "Look at the wickedness they are doing." As a corporately accountable organization this is a true judgment, but for individuals the fact is, most SDAs do not know what has become of them... And yes, they have fallen short of the Victory in most cases, but this specific thing does not make them worse than other Churches, except for this: that they had the light and did not take it up. What makes them the cage of unclean and hateful birds is that they HAVE birds, they have messengers that would be genuine, and these messengers were intended to go out into the world and herald the return of Christ. But because they did not progress in light, because they chose the easy path and bowed the knee to Caesar, accepting his visible sword over Christ's invisible staff of leadership, their message became corrupt. This leaves them as a sad place, and for pity's sake, for agape, we ought not to think of them as anything but our brethren who are like those birds, designed to fly out and teach the Gospel, but trapped, corrupted...evil by association, yes, and subject to judgment, yes... but worthy of our time, talents, and every effort, to reach them and show them the way to life, light, and freedom. Let this mind be in you as it was in Christ Yahshua, who said of those who nailed Him to the Cross,

"Forgive them, Father, because they do not realize what they are doing." Let this thought be in us when we think, "Should I speak to this person about the Gospel?" This thought shall answer the question... so that each individual Adventist will have the chance to see, to "realize what they are doing," and then choose what destiny they shall inhabit for eternity. End.

Adriel777: Amen

Lucan: Thanks for those insights.... Regarding the birds, I agree with what you've said regarding the cage, and the uncleanness. That would warrant looking at "hateful" more closely... That is translated as "hated" in other translations. The question becomes, hated by who? Presumably, by those caging them... The word for "hated" here is "miseo," which we know from Luke 14:26 to also mean "love less..." The message of the angels was loved less than the world, and caged til they became unclean. You mentioned "evil" and "wickedness..." I am reminded of Israel at the time of Yahshua. By all accounts, they were a righteous nation, keeping the law and the prophets in pure doctrine. But, they did not produce the fruit they were designed to produce. Whether as a fig tree or a vineyard (Isaiah 52:1-7), that is the charge Yahshua levelled against them when He appeared. I ended the study with a passage from Hebrews. While it does focus on the gospel, it also speaks of the need to watch, lest we also should fail to enter into that rest. Apostasy is unlikely to be the temptation for CSDAs so close to the end. But to "love less" the message and work of the angels. That is a temptation that has felled more visibly blessed peoples than we, and one we ought to watch for carefully. <End.>

Adriel777: C/Q

Lucan: Go ahead

Zahakiel: Amen

Adriel777: Thank- you for this study. We have some readers who are not Adventist. Does anyone have a couple studies in mind that a link could be shared to explain the "drunkenness"? End.

Lucan: I am unsure how useful this study will be for non-Adventists, all things considered...

Adriel777: Q

Lucan: I think there are online versions of Daniel and the Revelation that would explain the concept of "wine" and "drunkenness" in Revelation. I suppose if I were to consider a study to link, it would be Pastor's video series on Revelation 18. Go ahead.

Adriel777: So should I not post this one to the CSDA ministry page? End.

Zahakiel: A

Lucan: Go ahead

Zahakiel: Well, people are there to study CSDA doctrines, so I think it should go there like all the others. I am not sure how many non SDAs or those who don't know anything about Adventism read through those studies. I know we have a few new folks there, but frankly, I would rather have them read a study that caused them a lot of questions, than not read one at all. 😊 End.

Pastor Chick: C

Adriel777: Ok

Lucan: I agree. I would hope that the study would raise questions, enough that they would be asked. Go ahead.

Pastor Chick: It is beneficial to remember that the SOP teaches us that the three angels are the people of God who declare the message as the certain sound of the trumpet. Doctrines, pure as they might be, declared without the Spirit's power is dry as the bones of Gilboa just full of death which is hated by all living beings. Those trapped in the cages of SDA are there resolutely because of blindness and carelessness. This concept might be developed a bit more for additional light. END

Lucan: Are there any further comments? If not, I'll ask Pastor to offer a closing prayer.

Pastor Chick: Dear Father in Heaven. We are blessed to be flying in the midst of Heaven declaring the everlasting Gospel to the inhabitants of the earth. Thank You for giving us the Sabbath as an oasis in the darkness of this wicked generation. In Yahshua's holy name, Amen.

Elyna: Amen.

Adriel777: Amen

Lucan: Amen

Barb: Amen

Peter_Jr_18: Amen.

daphna dee: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen.