

THIRTEENTH PRINTING

# The Page



## Mystery Babylon

*—“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.*

Rev. 18:21.

This paper is published free as the Lord provides. May it be a guide to help us to the final goal and lead us to the day when under all the great eternal heavens there will be—

ORDER, INTERDEPENDENCE and UNITY

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The message *Mystery Babylon* contained in this booklet is one of the final messages of the Bible and is therefore of great importance. Three chapters of the book of Revelation, chapters 17, 18, and 19, are concerned almost entirely with the overthrow of the great harlot, *Mystery Babylon*, which sits astride all nations of the earth, holding their minds in captivity to her will.

This dread mystery has been steadily gaining power ever since Cain offered his unacceptable sacrifice to the Lord. It has grown to enormous proportions since the building of the Tower of Babel, from whence man-made organized religion takes its name, until now at the end of this age it is rising to its dizzyest heights of prestige and power. Soon through church unions hitherto undreamed of it will hold universal sway over the minds of men both physically and spiritually till none but the very elect remain unbowed before its awesome might. Nevertheless, at the moment it has reached its most terrifying heights, it will fall beneath the judgment of God never to rise again.

Each passing day more and more people are being sucked into its deceptive vortex, helpless victims of a system that usurps the throne of God and demands the worship of all who dwell on the earth. It is the dread antitype of Nebuchadnezzar's image of gold which every man in the realm of Babylon was forced to worship and which consigned to death all who refused to dance to its idolatrous tune and bow the knee to its menacing power.

We sincerely pray that you will read this book with earnest consideration, beseeching God for divine wisdom and spiritual understanding.

G.R.H.

*Mystery Babylon*

There are many mysteries spoken of in the Word of God. They are called mysteries because no other word would adequately describe them. We read of the mystery of godliness, the mystery of iniquity, the mystery of the translation of the saints in Christ, the mystery of the kingdom, and many others. Again we read of "Mystery, Babylon the Great, Mother of Harlots and abominations of the earth." It has always been a trait of human nature to want to delve in mysteries, but there are many mysteries which have scarcely ever been noticed. Indeed, it is completely impossible to fathom them in any degree except by the revelation of the Holy Spirit.

It is my purpose just now to write about that one great mystery which is called *Mystery Babylon*, but for the sake of making ourselves acquainted with the thought of mystery, let us consider briefly one or two of the other mysteries which perhaps are more readily understandable.

"Great is the mystery of godliness," wrote Paul. "God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels,

preached unto the Gentiles, received up into glory." There are many mysterious things about godliness that even godly men can never understand. What strange mysterious element is there to godliness that keeps a man pressing relentlessly on toward an invisible mark when both friend and foe tell him he is a fool to continue thus wasting his life and his time, when his manner of living brings him nothing but persecution, tribulation, loneliness, and friendlessness? The inner urge of godliness that makes him endure a cross, despise shame, go to prison or to the stake, scoff at tribulation, and count every loss to himself a gain for Christ is in itself nothing less than a fabulous *mystery*, a mystery that can never be explained in this world and scarcely in the world to come. The glory of this mystery is worthy to be written on pages of silver with ink of gold, but none of earth's philosophers could trace with a golden pen such sage, deathless truth as lies hidden in the "Mystery of Godliness." Only with the finger of God can such truth be written and then alone on pages not less worthy than the incorruptible heart. Great is the mystery that God was manifest in the flesh, that God was justified in the Spirit, that God was preached unto the Gentiles, and that God was received up into glory.

*The mystery of iniquity*

The mystery of iniquity, the mystery of lawlessness and rebellion—what a mystery it is! As you cannot explain the mystery of godliness, neither can you explain the mystery of ungodliness. Lawlessness has been in the hearts of men ever since the day in Eden's lovely garden when Adam fell. What is this mysterious thing that is called rebellion against God? Who on earth can understand or explain it? Why did Cain kill his brother? Why did Ishmael mock Isaac? Why was Joseph hated of his brethren? Why were the prophets slain, the Christ crucified, the apostles murdered, and the saints martyred? Why is it that four times in the annals of history bloody mysterious men—Pharaoh, Haman, Herod, and Hitler—arose on the world's gloomy horizon with a diabolic, barbaric, bloody plan to systematically destroy from the face of the earth the people God had chosen? What mysterious lawlessness is it that makes boys destroy the nests of beautiful song birds, or throw stones through the windows of vacant buildings, or scratch the paint on a new car, or a thousand other mischievous things? It is a lawlessness that has its root in mystery and none can explain the reason for it. How very often have delinquent young men and women, arraigned before a court, been asked to give their reason for committing some senseless crime, only to reply with a foolish look on their faces, and a ridiculous shrug of the shoulders in the senseless words, "I don't know." In that, indeed, they spoke the truth, for they themselves do not understand the strange working of the mystery of lawlessness within them.

*Mystery Babylon:*

Rev. 17:2-6. While the beloved John was exiled on lonely

Patmos, the very breath of the Spirit bore him forward over two thousand years of time to disclose before his wondering eyes the glories and the desolations that were to climax this age in which we live. John, who fell as one dead before the feet of Him who stood arrayed in resplendent glory in the midst of the seven candlesticks, now found himself standing in wonder and amazement before the great Mother of harlots and abominations of the earth. This mysterious woman is given the full and complete title of unrighteousness, *Mystery Babylon the Great, Mother of harlots and abominations of the earth.*

How great must have been the wonder of this man of God when his eyes beheld the great whore, sitting astride many waters. (The waters signify people: see Rev. 17:15). The kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. He was carried away in the Spirit into the wilderness, and saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in scarlet and purple colour, decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication. And upon her forehead was a name written; *Mystery, Babylon the Great, Mother of harlots and the abominations of the earth.* And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus; and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. Rev. 17:2-6.

#### *The Story of Babel:*

Gen. 11:1-9. Long, long ago when man was still young and the earth was one language and one speech, the people wandered into a plain in Shinar near the mouth of the Euphrates River. In this place was Ur of the Chaldees from which Abraham was later called (Gen. 11:31), and in which still later the mighty Kings Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus, and Darius were to reign in splendor in Babylon. Centuries previous to this Adam had basked in the glories of Eden in this same region of the rivers Euphrates and Hiddekel. What an historic region this was, indeed! Perhaps no other spot on earth has had more to do with the destinies of man than this region, and history with its types and shadows that had its cradle there will one day rock the earth as its mysteries unfold.

So the inhabitants of earth wandered to Shinar, the land near the Persian Gulf, and these people, lest they become dispersed from one another on the face of the earth, decided to build a city and a mighty tower that would reach to heaven. So with adobe brick baked and burned and slime for mortar they set about the impossible task of building a tower which would reach *right up to heaven itself.* With what zeal they set about their task and with what labor and travail they inched their weary way toward the skies! Poor little earth-bound man with his feeble trowel and unstable mortar will never reach

those realms immortal. Not by sweat of face and labor of hands can such glories be attained, but only through faith in blood incorruptible, speaking better things than that of Abel, can we rise on the omnipotent arm of the Spirit into the realms that are eternal.

It was in mercy that the gracious Father came down from His throne to see the work they were doing. (Gen. 11:5) Well did He know that the tower which they struggled to build that day was but the harbinger of many many more such similar and fruitless attempts through succeeding ages. Indeed, they would not build again with slime and brick, but with vast and varied means of self-righteousness would man in future years try to span the gulf between himself and God and seek to rise by his own effort from the lowly earth to the vaulted skies. And so God came down to see their work and what He saw displeased Him greatly. Therefore with one stroke He garbled and confused their language so that none understood the speech of his neighbor. Every man went about babbling sounds unintelligible to all but himself and his own family. All work was disrupted; everything was deranged. Discomposure, disturbance and de-organization reigned unchallenged. Disconcerted and perplexed people shuffled about amid the topsy-turvy insanity of the hour and sought with haste to scatter themselves abroad on the earth to free themselves from the demented and chaotic throng. When the confusion and disorder had died away and the whole of humanity was scattered abroad, God Himself gave the place a name—Babel (or Babbble)—a name that would fitly describe for all time the age-lasting confusion that would exist for the world of mankind who would henceforth try to bring unity and a way to the realms of God by the efforts of the carnal mind.

Here at Babel, which means confusion, we have the beginning of the great mystery of Babylon which is to follow through each succeeding generation, ever widening its scope of power and influence until it sits astride the whole earth, full of wealth and swaggering in drunkenness from the blood of the saints, still as religious as ever, still seeking to build a tower to heaven, but still the eternal mystery of confusion and disorder, the Mother of harlots and abominations of the whole earth. Here at Babel then began the idea of trusting in some visible work of man's hands to bring unity and oneness of speech.

#### *The Sin of Achan:*

Full forty years Israel had wandered in the wilderness, but at long last they had passed over Jordan and were now in the glorious land promised to Abraham in the long ago. The manna of the wilderness ceased as soon as they passed over Jordan and they rejoiced in the fruit of that wonderful land of promise. From here on they were to have a new Captain, *even the captain of the Lord of Hosts.* The directions for capturing the city of Jericho were simple, indeed, and without the loss of a man the city fell into their hands. Greatly did they rejoice over their

victory, and it was with joyful confidence that they sent a small army of men the day following to capture the little city of Ai. (Joshua 7) But their joy was short-lived, for the men of Ai came out and fought against them and beat them back, and thirty-six men of Israel fell before them. There was a reason for this defeat, and with what breath-taking interest is the story told in Joshua, chapter 7. "Israel hath sinned," said God, "and therefore cannot stand before their enemies." So lots were cast to find the sinner and Achan of the tribe of Judah was taken. And Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give I pray 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." And Achan answered Joshua and said, "Indeed, I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel and thus have I done: When among the spoils I saw a goodly Babylonish garment and two hundred shekels of silver and wedge of gold, I coveted them and took them, and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent."

So here it is so very soon! *A goodly Babylonish garment together with the other two things that always go with it—silver and gold.* Here is the garment of Babylon throwing confusion and disorder into the ranks of the people of God and making them lose the victory and flee before their enemies. Five times in this seventh chapter God spoke saying, "Israel hath sinned in the accursed thing." Verses 11, 12, 13, 15.

I must speak with the utmost solemnity here. I must invite all men to sober thought. Did you ever see it fail? The moment God begins a mighty work of grace and power and unity, someone begins to covet the Babylonish garment. He secrets it away into his tent to hide it there. The very thing that was to have been destroyed he secretly saves, and with it he starts to build *another tower, another language, and another nation* to add to the universal confusion and disorder that is manifest everywhere in the church. It is difference of language above everything else that makes the many nations of earth. It is literal Babylon that separates brother from brother and makes them more hateful than a foe. It is spiritual Babylon that separates Christian from Christian, destroying unity and dividing purpose and making all speak a different language. It is spiritual Babylon that divides the people of God, making them foreigners and strangers, none speaking intelligibly to the other.

Some years ago I learned with indelible thoroughness the great distress and confusion that comes from difference of language. We had driven into Paris at evening, just when the streets were thronging with people bent on getting home from work as quickly as possible. The broad ways buzzed with noisy cars and buses and the sidewalks thronged with pedestrians. I was a stranger and a foreigner in the city, a man of a different speech. I did not know where I wanted to go nor did I know how to get there. I could not speak French nor did I know how to

make myself understood. While thousands young and old waved and chatted, laughed and talked, asked their questions and received their answers, I might as well have been on Mars or the moon for all I could understand. While I contemplated my first move, I realized that even the color of a man's skin cannot divide him from his fellow man as hopelessly as the language he speaks or does not speak. There will always be divided nations as long as different language exists. There will always be denominations, sects, and confusion as long as men hide the accursed Babylonish garment in their tent. The denominational (sectarian) spirit that always seeks to build that which is visible and the Babylonish (Babel) spirit are one and the same thing.

In reading the story of Achan, how for his sin both he and all that appertained to him were stoned with stones and burned with fire until Israel was completely riddled of both the Babylonish garment and those that had a desire for it, one is reminded of the final destruction of that great system as recorded in Rev. 18:9. "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 fear of her torment saying, Alas, Alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city, for in one hour is thy judgment come."

I do not believe there is any way to explain, imagine, or understand the many ways this mystery of Babylon works. Even before the Apostles of Christ had gone to their eternal reward, the sectarian system had set in among the saints of the Lord and many people were wearing the Babylonish garment. They were becoming disciples of Paul, of Apollos, of Cephas, and of many others. The Babbler had begun and the mysterious harlot was raising her ugly head.

But the spirit of Babylon goes much deeper than sects and denominations. It is a mystery the spirit of which seems to be deep-rooted in the heart of man. It is like an octopus with many arms reaching in all directions. If it cannot catch you with one of its arms, it will enfold you with another. It is like a demon which, being cast out, will return with seven other demons more powerful and cunning than itself. You do not have to look for the spirit of Babylon in some great and powerful denomination; you will find it in your heart if you look close enough. Mystery, Babylon, is in the forehead.

If any man will follow God and walk in the glorious light of revelation and truth as it falls on his pathway, it will not be long before he finds himself at odds with his fellow Christians. You can follow this thought from the death of Abel at the gate of Eden to the present day. Follow the memoirs of the patriarchs, the prophets, the apostles, the reformers right down to our day and the story is always the same. You cannot walk with God and walk with men, too. It is impossible. When the

whale could not assimilate Jonah, it vomited him out. When the system, the sect, or denomination cannot assimilate and digest you and make you a part of itself, it will vomit you out as sure as God is in His heaven.

This is not the thing that frightens me, however. The thing that fills my heart with consternation is this: no sooner has the revelation of God delivered us from the power of Babylon than we begin to cast our eyes about us, and count noses to find out who is with us and who is against us, and what material we can find to build another tower of Babel. This in itself is the Babylonish, sectarian spirit reaching out another of its octopus-like arms to enfold us and bring us back to itself. We wake up to find we have not come to Mount Zion, the city of the living God, but have just wandered down another street in Babylon itself. We have changed one Babylonish garment for another and we are still part and parcel of the same devouring monster. To call ourselves undenominational is not enough. We must have the name of Babylon erased from our foreheads by the mind of Christ and a new name written there, even the name of the City of God.

You must have noticed that Mystery, Babylon, is described as the *mother of harlots*. Now it is only sound reasoning to say that, if a certain harlot is the *mother of harlots*, she must have a *number of daughters* all of whom are harlots like herself. When John saw this great mystery, Babylon, he saw her sitting on a scarlet coloured beast, having *seven heads and ten horns*. John stood and wondered with great admiration at what he saw till the angel spoke and asked, "Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath seven heads and ten horns." Rev. 17:4-7. Then in verse 9 he says, "And here is the mind that hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sitteth." As far as I know, there is only one city in the world situated on seven mountains and that city is Rome — Rome which in 316 A.D. made Christianity the state religion of the entire Roman Empire, and began to wed Christianity with paganism. Though many are loath to believe it, I do not believe anyone can successfully deny that all Protestant sects sprang originally from this one mother. Though this is all a great mystery, I declare these harlotish daughters are being born every day and the kings and priests of the earth are committing fornication with them. *A royal priesthood* is made up of kings and priests, and it is the kings and priests that are involved with this Babylonish woman and her daughters.

The call of the Lord today is, "*Come out of her my people, and be not partaker of her sins.*" But verily I say to you that you will need much more wisdom than the wisdom of man to be set free from this octopus that holds Christendom in its many entwining arms. The wisdom of man will praise God for its deliverance from one of the harlots of Babylon even while it is fondly embracing another. While men are praising

God for deliverance from one arm of the octopus, they are being enfolded by another, and while they rejoice that they have found their way out of the darkness of one of the streets of Babylon, they awaken to find they are walking down another.

Forgive me if I boast a little, for this boasting is not the kind that savors of pride, but rather brings great sadness to my heart. There may be many men in the world qualified to speak of these things, but few have been more qualified by experience than I both to see and discern the many ramifications of the Babylonish system. I was born into the system many years ago. I walked its streets and wore its garments before I ever knew Christ as my personal Saviour. The denomination was everything. It mattered little how men lived or whether they had any personal experience with God. The thing that mattered was whether or not you were a church-goer. You did not hide the Babylonish garment in your tent; you wore it with pride. Neither did you hide the talents of silver and the wedge of gold. The more you contributed to the organization the better Christian you were. Then one day I found Christ and my heart was filled with joy because of a love I had for Him. I wanted to be near Him and point other men to Him. He was to me the centre of all things and the most important person in all the universe. It was not long, however, before I saw that I was falling into another sect. They wanted me to speak their language and help to build their tower. Was I going to join them? Was I going to preach for them? Was I going to wear their garment? Was I going to be distinctly theirs? But God was leading me on, delivering me from the prisons of Babylon, opening the rusty gates, and leading me out into the broad ways of His grace divine.

Perhaps it was a miracle. I do not think it was chance. I learned that men could be baptised with the Holy Spirit. So I sought and found this blessed new experience in God, and joys flowed like a river as the Comforter came in. But here again the arms of another daughter of Babylon began to enfold me. Was I going to join their Church? Was I going to preach for them? Was I going to take out papers and credentials? This time I was persuaded, and I did, and for seventeen years thereafter I was a faithful slave of the organization, speaking its language and building its visible tower. But I was never fully satisfied, though I loved the work, I loved the people, and I loved the students of my old Bible School. Many dozens of them went out to minister far and wide and many found their way to distant and foreign lands. I am sure their rewards will be many, indeed.

All the while there was a longing for a freedom which I did not know, a relationship with God that I did not have. Many times I taught the people that some day God would send a revelation of truth, but the very denomination we had so faithfully built would not be able to receive it. When finally

that revelation did come, they were not able to receive it, and those of us who did receive were vomited like Jonah from the belly of the denominational whale, thrown up upon dry land, for we had sickened his stomach.

God does not leave you in a dry land for long if you are bound to be one with Him. Should my life be very long on earth, I shall never be able to forget the glory, the awe, the reverence, the holiness, and the power that came to our class room as we waited on God that glorious 13th of February, 1948, when God began to do a new thing that was destined for a time to shake the church system all over America. How we sang the songs of deliverance! How the praises of God echoed down the corridors of the soul and re-echoed among the battlements of heaven! Music of heavenly choirs of earth went sweeping up the sky steeples while angels stood at heaven's gates and swept their harps of gold. Day after day, month after month the celestial wonder continued. Heaven came down our souls to greet and glory crowned the merry seat. People came for thousands of miles to drink at the ever flowing fountain of life and it looked for a time as though the walls of Babylon were to be broken down and the whole church would come marching to Zion.

But the Babylonian captivity was not yet over. As I look sadly in retrospect now, I can see with clearness that the great and blessed move of God was not two years old before the sectarian spirit began to show its ugly head and men began to hide the Babylonish garment in their tents together with the *siber* and the *wedge of gold*. Much as we may despise the Babylonish garment, let me use this pun: The moment the gold gets its wedge in, we are on the way back to Babylon. It is true that we vociferously denied that we had become a sect. Oh, no! Not we! We had no name; we were not registered with the government as a sect and never would be. We had done away with many of the institutions that had characterized other sects. Gone were the Bible Schools. Gone were the church buildings. Gone were the hiring pastors. Gone were so many things that would have identified us with either the Mother of harlots or any of her daughters. The old Babylonish garment was well hidden deep beneath the earth of the tent, but it was there none the less, and the whole move was becoming more and more enfolded by another tentacle of the great octopus. Stricter and more rigid became the teaching and the discipline. There was to be no fellowship with anybody who was not within the confines of our ever narrowing circle. We were the true church. We were the elect. We stood on the foundation and all other men stood on sinking sand. No man must cast out a devil unless he followed us. No teaching was worth the time it took to tell it unless it originated with us. We were the most spiritual people in the world. We were going to reign in the kingdom and even now we were beginning to reign. We had the gifts of the Spirit, and we were going to "call the shots" in the tribulation.

We had been taught that we were journeying back through the churches of Revelation, journeying back from Laodicea to Ephesus. But we did not know that like Ephesus we had lost our first love, and must repent and do the first works over again. We did not remember that one of the dreadful marks of the Church of Ephesus was that it was characterized by *false apostles* (Rev. 2:2) who were not apostles at all, but liars. We did not know that through the years false apostles had crept in among us, men who were apostles in name only, who had never founded anything in their lives but were building on the foundation of others. We did not know that the doctrines and deeds of the Nicolaitanes (*which God hates* Rev. 2:6) were prevalent among us. The word Nicolaitanes is formed by two Greek words: *nikaos* which means to *conquer* and *laos* which means *the people* or the *lady*. This doctrine had reared its ugly head to the extent that the people had no voice in anything. The elders were no longer fathers, but men who were to carry out the will of those who were lords over the heritage of God. Everything was cut and dried and firmly enfolded in the arms of another of the harlot daughters of the Babylonian system. We boasted of the gifts of the Spirit, but what had become of them? Where were the healings? Where were the miracles? Where was the faith, the gift of languages, the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge? The only thing that was left was prophecy and it became a weariness to the flesh, flowing continually from the mind of man and scarcely ever having any fulfillment. Prophecy that has no fulfillment comes from one of two sources: from the mind of Satan or from the mind of man, but never from the mind of God. How often I have listened to people fumble for words as they prophesied thus giving the lie to their words having been inspired of God. How is the faithful city become a harlot! It was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers. Isa. 1:21.

I shall never cease to thank God that I was vomited out of the belly of this whale also, for we never know the depths to which we have sunk until we are able to view Babel at a distance. Then and then alone our heart gives thanks to God for deliverance from another of the harlot daughters of Babylon. My heart can sing with David, "My soul is escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowler, the net is broken and I am escaped." Nevertheless, one is scarcely delivered from his bondage until another arm of the Babylonian octopus lies waiting to enfold him again. Therefore we may well ask, "What are we to do?"

*What are we to do?*

The natural mind is ever seeking something visible and tangible. It loves to look around and say, "This and that belongs to me and I belong to it. *This* is in my circle, *that* does not belong." It loves to be able to count noses and number the people. It loves to be able to circumscribe a certain group

and say with evident pride, "This is the church. All who stand on this foundation are the church. All who do not are not the church." I often wondered why it was that God was so angry with His servant David, for his transgression in *numbering Israel*. I do not wonder about that any more. David wanted something he could see with his natural eyes; something he could circumscribe, something he could count as his, something he could depend upon for safety. He had forgotten that only God knew who were really his. He did not remember that God saveth not by many or few. The dreadful anger of God against his action brought destruction to many of those whom David had counted and great was the slaughter among the people of the Lord. 2 Sam. 24.

The hour has come for us to realize that only *the Lord* knoweth them that are His. Only the *the Lord* can gather the tares out of the wheat. Only *the Lord* can separate the sheep from the goats. Only *the Lord* can call His sheep by name and lead them out. Only *the Lord* can look into the four corners of the earth and call forth His elect. Who, then, am I to circumscribe anything? I must learn to know men not by what they say, what they believe, where they are, or least of all because they are members of a certain group, but by that strange witness that made Jesus say to Peter, "Thou art Peter," and by that same spiritual revelation that made Peter say to Jesus, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God". How often we have been shockingly disappointed in men! It was because we knew them only after the flesh and we did not know them after the Spirit. We accepted them because they were inside a certain circle and said they belonged to "the move". Yes, indeed, they may have been inside the circle and they may have been in the move, but where were they in God's eyes? That is the important question.

During the last few years I have become increasingly aware that many who appeared to be in the move were not in it, and many who appeared not to be in it were chosen and elect of God. Paul gave us the inside picture of a wonderful truth when he declared, "Henceforth we know no man after the flesh; yea, if we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we Him no more". If Samuel had gone by outward appearance, he would certainly have chosen one of the brothers of David rather than David to be king over Israel. Fine men of stature and character though they were, he rejected them all because he had no witness of the Spirit that they were the elect of God, but when David passed before him, he poured the oil upon him because the Spirit of God witnessed that this was one of the elect of the Lord whom He had chosen to kingship. Because this is a spiritual thing, it cannot really be explained in words; it must be spiritually discerned and understood. But of a truth I tell you that there is no other way on earth among men whereby we can escape the clutching arms of the harlot daughters of Babylon except to flee away from all that is visible and

natural and be joined eternally to that blessed company who are imbued with the mind of Christ. Oh, if only I could explain that to have the mind of Christ dwelling in you has nothing whatever to do with any sort of reformation, imitation, impersonation, representation, semblance, or copy. Rather it is death to the old and resurrection to the new. The mind that dwelt in Christ was the Father's mind, and the mind that we are to "let be in us" is the very same mind that dwelt in Him. There and there alone is the "body spirit". We will never escape from the multitudinous confusions of Babylon until the mind of Christ dwells in us and we are joined in spirit and in mind to those who have the spirit and mind of Christ. Physical and visible unions can never be real, much less permanent. That glorious company of Zion are those who have the Father's name in their foreheads.

#### *Personal association with Christ:*

Our personal association with the lovely and wonderful Jesus is the one and only thing that is important. Our association with visible towers no matter how strong, how high, or how numerous means nothing at all, but serves only to associate us with mystery, Babylon, the Mother of harlots and abominations of the earth. After years of association with the visible church and after a ministry of transcending greatness, the beloved Paul prayed from the depths of his soul, "That I may know Him." Let human voices repeat it. Let angels mighty in glory and strength shout it from the gates of Paradise—*our personal association with Jesus is the one thing of transcending importance.* As long as the age abides, no group of people will ever be found all of whom have God's name in their foreheads. Mystery, Babylon, will always be found among them. *Concentrate on your personal relationship to Him.* Know no man by the size of his stature or the multitude of his words. If we are not knit together in Spirit, we are not *one* at all.

Many years ago, before Christ became Lord of my life, I became a member of a secret order. They taught us secret signs and ways by which we were to identify ourselves to strangers who were also members of the same order. We had a sign which we could pass to a stranger which, when given, meant, "I am; are you?" If the stranger was a member of the same order, he returned a sign, which meant, "I am." This may well serve for the secret societies of the earth, but it is not by the flashing of secret signs that we know Christ or those who have His name in their foreheads. It is by an inner revelation to the heart that the glad answer is given, "I am."

How my heart thrilled with glory and praise as I read the blessed account in John 1:35-49. That passage must have been written as a definite example for all those who have made their personal relationship with Christ the object of supreme importance. It reads: Again the next day after John stood and two of His disciples; and looking upon Jesus as He walked, he

said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" And the two disciples heard him speak and they followed Jesus. It was not conversation, teaching, association, or study that forced the inspired words from the lips of John, but rather the same Spirit that made him leap in his mother's womb when once thirty years before the salutation of Mary had sounded in the ears of Elizabeth. And now in full-blown manhood this rough dweller of the wilderness, standing with girdle of skin and bearded face, thrills with the witness of the Son of God while his lips move with prophetic exactness, "Behold the Lamb of God." And the two disciples who stood by his side, feeling the same impelling witness, strode off to follow Jesus and be His disciples. "And Jesus turned, and saw them following." Not a word had He uttered and yet they followed. They followed not from outward persuasion but from a witness born from within. That is the personal association I mean. — one born of an inner light, an inner witness, a knowledge that He is the Son of God. Many a one has been taught the story of Jesus and can repeat from memory the account of His miracles, His death, His resurrection, and even speak of His coming again, who has never had an inner witness that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

"Then Jesus saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto Him, Rabbi, where dwellest Thou? He saith, Come and see, and they abode with Him that day." Though foxes have holes and birds have nests, where does this man dwell who has nowhere to lay His head? He dwells in God and God dwells in Him, and They abide in the hearts of men and women like you and me whose lips have uttered the exultant shout of the Spirit as He witnesses within, "Behold the Lamb of God."

One of the disciples who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, who went to seek for Peter and tell him of Jesus. Sing, O my soul, and shout, O ye heavens, for the inward assurance of his words to Peter. "We have found the Messiah". And he brought him to Jesus. Wonder of wonders, the Spirit witnesses again, for Peter is the man who in the face of the falacious misconception of the multitude declared, "Thou art the Christ; Thou art the Son of God". Jesus replied, "Flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto you, but My Father which is in heaven." Matt. 16:17.

"The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee and findeth Philip and saith unto him, "Follow Me!" Philip findeth Nathaniel and saith unto him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law and the prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph". And Nathaniel saith unto him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip saith unto him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathaniel coming and saith unto him, "Behold an Israelite, indeed, in whom is no guile." Nathaniel saith unto him, "Whence knowest Thou me?" Jesus answered and said unto him, "Before Philip called thee, when thou wast

under the fig tree, I saw thee." Nathaniel answered and saith, "Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God. Thou art the King of Israel."

The above passage deserves pages of explanation, but can you not see that it is filled with the spirit of revelation? Can you imagine your reaction should a stranger meet you on the street and command you to follow him as Jesus commanded Philip? It would need much more than a command to make me follow. It would need a revelation, and a revelation it was that made Philip leave all and follow this stranger. It was revelation that made him say they had found Him of whom Moses wrote, and it was the same inner witness that filled the tongue of Nathaniel with the eager words, "Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God; Thou art the King of Israel."

Your association with a system means nothing. Your association with Christ means *everything*. Your association with Jesus means order and eternal life. The Kingdom of God cometh not with observation. *It is only Babylon that can be observed.* The Kingdom of God is invisible to all fleshly eyes, but it is visible to the eyes of the Spirit.

*Babylon is to be destroyed:*

Since the hour man became separated from the glories of the invisible realm, he has sought to put his confidence in the visible realm. When man could no longer see God, he made gods out of wood and stone and bowed down to them. It mattered not that they could neither speak nor hear, nor see. He wanted something that he could see with his eyes of flesh, and of which he could say, "These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt." "According to the number of thy cities were thy gods, O Judah, and according to the number of streets of Jerusalem have ye set up altars to the shameful things, even altars to burn incense unto Baal." Jer. 11:13.

But the mystery of Babylon is more deep-seated than visible things like images, sects, and denominations. It is something that has become a *part of the mind*. The name, Mystery, Babylon, was written in the forehead of this woman that sat on many waters. Rev. 17. It was something in her mind and in her heart. It was her name. It was her constitution and make up. She could not think nor live without it. To have the name of God in the forehead is to have the mind of Christ. Therefore to have the name Mystery, Babylon, in the forehead is to have *The very mind of this mysterious system* that loves the visible and loves to point to some earthly thing and say, "This is the tower that leads to heaven."

Babel! Babel! Babel! This strange mysterious realm of confusion, multiplied languages, tongues, sects, denominations, organizations, ists, and isms has so thoroughly become part and parcel of the thinking of the whole Christian world that nothing makes sense without it. If you must go to the hospital, you are asked for the name of your denomination. If you join the army,

you are asked for the name of your denomination. If you mention religion, someone will ask you what denomination you adhere to.

John saw the great harlot sitting on *many waters*. Rev. 17:1. Then in verse 15 he said, "The waters which thou sawest where the whore sitteth are *peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues*." It only takes half an eye to see that this is a universal system that sits astride the whole earth. "For all nations have drunk of the wine of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies." Rev. 18:3.

This mysterious system is to be finally and irrevocably destroyed. In David's prophecy of the Babylonian captivity of Israel, Psa. 137, he says, "O daughter of Babylon who art to be *destroyed*." The destruction of the earthly system is sure, and has been in the heart of God Himself from the time of its beginning at Babel. Isaiah by prophetic vision also saw the destruction of this mysterious system. "For thus hath the Lord said unto me, Go, set a watchman; let him declare what he seeth.—And behold, there cometh a chariot and a couple of horsemen. And he answered and said, Babylon is fallen, and all the graven images of her gods hath he broken to the ground." Isa. 21:6,9. See Jer. 51:8. But the climactic of her fall comes in the vision of John. The great fall actually takes place at the moment of the sealing in the *foreheads* of the second one hundred and forty four thousand, elect and chosen out of the whole earth. When this glorious act is complete, then the system which has in its forehead (mind) *Mystery Babylon*, comes to a cataclysmic destruction. Rev. 14:8. See also verses 1-8. The importance of the destruction of Mystery Babylon is emphasized greatly by the fact that Revelation 17, 18, 19:1-6 are taken up with the fearful destruction of the system, the mourning of those who are part of it, and the rejoicing of the saints and the heavenly hosts. We must leave the perusal of these passages to you, the reader of this booklet.

#### *Rejoice over her my people:*

While the destruction of this great harlot system is the cause for dreadful weeping and remorse to those who loved her, Rev. 18:16-19, it is the time of jubilation for those who know nothing but a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. "Babylon is fallen," shout the prophets. "Babylon is fallen," cried mightily the angels. Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets, for God hath avenged you of her. "And after these things I heard a great voice of much people saying, Alleluia; Salvation and glory, and honor, and power unto the Lord our God; — For He hath judged the *great whore* which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of His servants at her hand. And again they said, Alleluia, and her smoke rose up forever and forever. And the

four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne saying, Amen, Alleluia. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and the voice of *many waters*, and as the voice of mighty thunderings saying, Alleluia, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Rev. 19:1-6. *And they shall see His face, and His name shall be in their foreheads.*

#### *Come out of her my people:*

There is no truth which concerns each one of us more vitally than the present truth regarding "Mystery Babylon". I have not written at length on this subject for the sake of condemning someone else or of heaping dispute on the heads of denominations and sects, calling them Babylon, disorder and confusion while at the same time trying to justify myself. Babylon as I see it today is not the same picture I saw ten or twelve years ago. Then I saw just the outward form of sectarianism. Now I see it as something far more deep-seated than that. Today I see it as *Mystery Babylon*, something that is written right in the forehead of all Christendom, something so deep-rooted and so deep-seated that Christians are unable to think except in terms of established orders, sects, denominations, creeds, assemblies, doctrines, meetings, communions, baptisms, programs, campaigns, preachers, missionaries, tracts, healings, gifts, personal work, radio and television programs, offerings, drives, invasions, publications, Sunday Schools, Bible schools, alms, church buildings, special numbers, special speakers, and etc., etc., etc. But after they have finished a whole lifetime of this feverish church activity, how many people are there who have ever taken time to wait on God long enough to hear Him speak and to have Him divulge *His will* to their seeking hearts? I tell you of a truth that any man or woman who will take time to wait on God in fasting and prayer, seeking God's mind and God's eternal will—that man will find himself drifting away from all these aforementioned things and from there on the *mind of Christ* will be his program, his quest, and his eternal joy.

Our Lord Jesus Christ painted a parabolic picture of our present Babylonish system when one day He summed it all up in these words: "Not every one that saith to Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth *the will of my Father* which is in heaven. *Mary will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name, and in Thy name cast out devils, and in Thy name done many wonderful works?* Then I will profess unto them, *I never knew you: Depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*" (Matt. 7:21-23). Just imagine that! After such a list of plausible works these people still do not know God and God does not know them. Is not this a perfect picture of the church system today? Men and women everywhere are absorbed in their Babylonish program, but the mind of Christ they possess not; the will of God they know not.

There is a very great error in the earth that is keeping men in the bondage of Babylon. Let me put it as clearly as I can in these words. It is abundantly evident to both Christian and non-Christian that the enormous, iniquitous, calamitous confusion of sects and activities by which the existing church is held in captivity is in truth *Mystery Babylon the great*. The confused sinner on the street will tell you so and the confused Christian in the system will admit it as well. *But* it is not enough for you to point to the system and call it Babylon. The important thing for you is to see by revelation that you, too, are bound and chained by that mysterious harlot, Babylon. Do you realize that the great holy man, Daniel, was once the *third ruler* of Babylon? The wonderful thing was that he knew he was in Babylon and his heart ached and longed for the time when he would return to beautiful Zion. Even when the decree was signed that no man should make any request of God or man but of the king only, Daniel went to his house and three times each day he raised his window toward Jerusalem and kneeled down and made request to God that he might be delivered from Babylon, its king, its system, and all that pertained to it, and that he might return to Jerusalem, that *free city* which is above and is the Mother of us all. (Dan. 6:10, Gal. 4:26).

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were also among the chief princes of Babylon, but they, too, realized where they were and would not bow down to the image of that system. They would gladly go to the burning fiery furnace rather than bow down their knees to the Babylonian image. Even while the great Nehemiah delivered the cup into the hand of the king, his heart was crying for Jerusalem because the gates of that city were burned with fire. (Neh. 1 and 2) and he requested of the king that he might return and rebuild them.

Now the thing that distresses me is this: Thousands of people who call the existing system Babylon still do not know that they are dwelling there themselves and that the name, *Mystery Babylon*, is in their minds. Few teachings I have ever been privileged to give have provoked more comment than the teaching regarding *Mystery Babylon*. Some of the comments and testimonies I have received were a great help and encouragement to me, but I am sad to say that others who were loud in their praise of the truth of the article immediately proceeded to tell of their association with the system in some form and this proved that they had missed the real import of the message and the truth it was to convey. That is the great error that is binding Christians to this system and keeping them away from the mind of Christ. With their *heads* they know it is Babylon, but they have never seen it with their hearts by a spiritual revelation. Once you see by a *revelation from God* what I am talking about, you will find yourself obliged to separate yourself from the Babylonish woman and be joined unto Christ in the

Spirit. It would do us all abundant good to meditate on these words, "He that is joined to a harlot is *one flesh*, but he that is joined to the Lord is *one spirit*." (1 Cor. 6:16). The harlot is the system and is of the flesh; the Lord is Christ, and union with Him is a union of the Spirit.

As soon as the truth of this revelation dawns upon you, you are immediately thrown into a turmoil of frantic wonder trying to imagine where you are going to find fellowship, where you will find a church home, what will your children do, what will you do for activity, what will happen to the sinners and to the heathen, and what about a thousand other questions that will fill your mind. But that, my friend, is because you have been married to the system so long that you cannot think in any terms but its terms. You have been joined by the carnal mind to this woman so long that you don't know how you can live without her. You are like a man who, after being married to a woman for many years, finds that his marriage is illegal. You have been joined to a harlot, but you must forsake her to be joined to Christ in the Spirit. After all the true church consists of those who are one with Him in the Spirit. In the world today there are approximately nine hundred and twenty-five million church members. Most of these dear people are married to the church and *have its name written in their foreheads*, but I gravely doubt if from Penecost until now, there have been one hundred and forty-four thousand who have been joined to Christ and have His name in their foreheads. Is it any wonder then that the angels of God cried to the saints, "*Come out of her, my people, and be not partaker of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven and God hath remembered her iniquities.*" (Rev. 18:4, 5). The whole system is doomed to destruction. As sure as God is in heaven, Babylon is going to fall. Nothing can be done to save her, redeem her, or help her. We must *come out of her* or we will receive her terrible judgments.

It is not against Christians themselves that the dreadful anathemas of the Book of Revelation are proclaimed, but against the harlotish system that has captivated our minds and made us bow in worship at its idolatrous shrine, binding us in slavery to a thousand activities demanding of us tithes of rue, anise, and cummin while forgetting judgment and truth. Christ is truth.

We have been spoiled through philosophy and vain deceit, the *traditions of men*, the rudiments of the world, and we have *forgotten Christ*. Please read Col. 2:8. The church system has *stolen our minds*, put its name in *our foreheads*, and made us think that *gain is godliness* and that to be devoted to the church makes one a man of God. We have got the whole thing backwards and there is nothing to do but forsake it and seek to be joined to Christ and Him alone. Let His mind dwell in you. *Let the other mind be erased and cleansed away by the blood*

of Jesus and purged by the eternal Spirit. You will discover a glorious thing when for the first time in your Christian life you find your ear deaf to the seductive voice of the harlot and her many daughters who have made all nations to drink of the wine of her fornication, and find your ear open to the eternal wisdom that flows from the lips of Jesus Christ saying, "This is the way; walk ye in it."

No one realizes better than I do that to teach these things is to cut away the very ground from beneath my feet, for it would seem to leave me without a church, without a congregation, and without a ministry; and I suppose it will leave you in the same predicament. But have we forgotten that "that which thou sowest is not quickened except it die?" Have we forgotten that the ministry of John the Baptist had to decrease so that the ministry of Christ could begin and increase? Have we forgotten that "except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone, but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit? Do we not know that the stinging breath of death is followed by the excellent glory of the resurrection just as surely as day follows night and spring unfolds her leaves of glory when the icy bitterness of winter's death is past? Why are we so fearful to obey God and come out from among it all and separate ourselves unto Him? One man who has partaken of the mind of Christ could do more to transform the world and bring in the kingdom than the combined efforts of all the carnal Christians on earth. The carnal mind can never bring in the kingdom because its ways are enmity against God.

I do not want to "hedge" nor "beat about the bush" in what I am saying, but I want to speak my earnest convictions with clarity and assurance. After months of meditation and separating myself unto God, putting my life and my frail ministry on the altar, I have come to the conclusion that to be joined to Christ in sonship demands our separation and divorce from every last vestige of the Babylonish church system. It should be abundantly clear that the true church is, after all, composed only of those who are joined in unity with Christ, and has nothing whatever to do with denominations, systems, sects, creeds, groups with a name, groups without a name, crowds, congregations, or anything else. Many Christians are inclined to point to Rome and call her Babylon. Others will go so far as to include apostate protestant denominations; others can see that even the so-called fundamentalists are actually snared also by the Babylonish system and they, too, have the name of Babylon on their foreheads. But this is not enough. We must go right down the line and include all groups large or small both with a name and without a name. Indeed, we must include any group or activity whatsoever about which our spiritual life has become centered.

What a universe of truth is contained in the words of Col. 2:8, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and

vain deceit after traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." Let us notice these statements one at a time. Beware lest any man spoil you. Spoil in this instance means to rob or plunder you. Spoil you of what? Why, they rob you of your personal, intimate wholehearted relationship to Jesus Christ. They rob you of His mind and plunder you of His blessed will so that you become taken up wholeheartedly with things, things, things, a thousand things, but your personal relationship with Him is forgotten in the feverish excitement of accomplishing these things for God. Tens of thousands of Christians have a less intimate relationship with Christ today than they had thirty or forty years ago when they first came to know Him. They have been spoiled; they have been robbed of even their first love because things, things, things that concern the existing church system have taken His place in their lives. Let us look still closer at this scripture. Let us ask a second question. We have noticed that we have been spoiled of our personal relationship with Him, but how are we robbed? What method is used by Satan to rob us so that we do not know Him? Paul gives us the answer by naming four things we have followed instead of Christ: philosophy, vain deceit, traditions of men, and the rudiments of the world.

Practically all sermons preached today are merely the philosophy of the preacher, and practically all the philosophy of the preacher is the tradition of men handed down from one generation to the next. These philosophies and traditions of the church become the established doctrines of the sect and men become so zealous in propounding them that they fail to seek His face, come to know His will, or be partakers of His glorious mind. Thus through a lifetime men go on preaching, propounding, contending, and arguing their traditions which have become their doctrines until they become like the Pharisees of old. They make the Word of God of no effect by their traditions. They become thoroughly spoiled and robbed of their vital association and relationship to Him.

I suppose tens of millions of sermons have been preached to show people how they ought to live, what they ought and ought not to do, what they should wear, what they should eat, where they should go, and just about everything that can be imagined. But there is a simple remedy for all this that is utterly contrary to the multitudinous traditions and the idle philosophies and teachings of our day. It is found in Psa. 119:2,3, "Blessed are they . . . that seek Him with the whole heart. They also do no iniquity; they walk in His ways." That is a simple answer to all godliness, for men who seek Him with all their hearts will never need to be told how to live righteously. They will do no iniquity and they will walk in His ways.

During the past years a desire has come into my heart that has filled me with longing to see a remnant of God's people in this, the end of the ages, put the Babylonish harlot away and

be joined to Christ in the Spirit and joined to Him alone. Everywhere I have advocated that even *small groups of people should drop their usual church meetings and spend the time in coming to know Him, partaking of His mind, seeking His will, and growing in Him.* Perhaps some have been greatly afraid that this course will give opportunity for an occasion to live after the flesh. No doubt it will in the lives of some, if that is where their treasure lies, for if a man is a spiritual goat, his goat nature will show up sooner or later and in my opinion the sooner the better. But if a man is a spiritual sheep, then he will follow Christ, for "*my sheep know my voice and they follow me and a stranger will they not follow.*" The traditions of the centuries have taught us to keep sheep and goats, wheat and tares together, but in the end of the age they will be separated.

Many of us have the false notion in our minds that by years of coddling, cajoling, persuading, training, and discipline we can transform a goat into a sheep. After many years of trying to do so you may think you have succeeded, but some day, just when you think you have him trained to be a gentle sheep, he will see his opportunity when your back is turned to show himself as much a goat as ever he was. Dogs return to their vomit because they are dogs, and sows because they are sows return to their wallowing in the mire. There is every evidence in the New Testament that at the end of the age these elements of good and bad, true and false, wheat and tares, sheep and goats are going to be divided one from the other. Nothing can stop this process. The lines are being drawn closer every day. The only thing we need decide is whether or not we are living in the end of the age. We would have to be very blind, indeed, not to know that we are in the last hours of this dispensation. Even the man on the street will tell you that the end is near, even at the doors. The nations of the world are *knowingly* speeding their own destruction, yet, while they know they are preparing their own dreadful doom, they are being impelled forward to their destruction by powers they cannot explain.

Some will be very quick to point out to me how unscriptural I am in advocating fewer church meetings and more communion with Christ. They will be quick to quote the scripture, "not forsaking the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another and so *much the more* as ye see the day (end) approaching." Now there are many things we should say about this:—Firstly, *there is only one true basis for assembling ourselves.* Our Saviour gave us this basis when He said, "*Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*" The vast majority assemble not in the name of the Lord but because of *tradition.* All their lives they have assembled at certain times and to them it would be sacrilege not to do so. Others assemble for the sake of *making proselytes* and others for the sake of

*furthering their particular doctrine.* If honest confession could be made, you would find that almost all are assembling in the name of their particular denomination whether they have a name or not, and most certainly all are assembling for the sake of *building up their particular work.* God commanded Israel to offer sacrifices, but when it became a form and a tradition, He afterwards told them that their sweet savors were a stink and that He would not accept their offerings. He said their solemn assemblies were iniquity and, when they lifted up their hands to praise the Lord, He hid His eyes from them; and when they made many prayers He would not hear them. (Isa. 1:15) What could be more direct than this statement? "Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto Me; the new moons and sabbaths, the *calling of assemblies,* I cannot away with; it is *iniquity, even the solemn meeting.*" (Isa. 1:13) Does not this description of Israel's gatherings and assemblies perfectly fit the existing church today? Read all of Isa. chapter 1. It is a perfect picture of our modern Babylon.

Yes, it is true that Paul told us to assemble ourselves, but he never imagined that the church would make a religion out of assembling themselves as Israel had done of old. Yet thus it is. We are continually drawing nigh to God with our lips, but our hearts are far away from God. We try to praise, but our minds are not on God. They are wandering over the face of the earth. They try to prophecy, but their prophecies are coming out of their own heads and find no fulfillment because God has not spoken.

I feel I have the mind of God when I say that it is perfectly right to forsake all such assembling. It is a weariness to the heart of God and He does not delight in it at all. With my whole heart I believe that once we have forsaken this Babylonish tradition and have given ourselves over to true unity with Christ, then and then only will God show us how to gather in the name of the Lord in spirit and in truth. When our minds are one with Him and all earthly program and tradition has vanished away and He takes His royal seat upon the throne of our hearts, then we will be able to assemble in His name. Any other kind of assembling is an abomination to the Lord. It is not His will; it is not His command; He has no delight in it. Why should we assemble for the sake of assembling? Why preach because it is the custom to do so? Why prophecy because it is expected in every meeting, or sing when there is no song from the Lord? This is confusion and disorder. But as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Let us make the mind of Christ our quest. Let us become one with the will of God, for that is the ground and the foundation of the kingdom. Let us divorce ourselves from the harlots of Babylon, for the angels of God with trumpet voices are proclaiming, "Come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins and that ye receive not of her plagues, for her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered

her iniquities." Rev. 18:4, 5. You are being asked to come out of a system in which there is *everything for the flesh* and nothing for the Spirit. Read the following list (Verses 12, 13) and be convinced. "The merchandise of gold and silver, and precious stones, and pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner of vessels and ivory, and cinnamon and odors, and ointments and frankincense and wine and oil, and fine wheat and flour, and beasts, and sheep and chariots, and slaves and souls of men." All this belongs to the visible and natural and *cannot enter into the realm of spirit.*

"And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean bird. 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."

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." Rev. 18:1-5.

Geo. R. Hawtin

### NOTICE

The booklet, "WHERE DO THEY WORSHIP WHO COME OUT OF BABYLON" is available upon request, and should be read with this volumn.