

# THE ANGEL'S CRY

## BABYLON IS FALLEN

"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 of every unclean and hateful bird"  
-- Revelation 18:1-2.

The first question that we must ask from this passage of scripture is, Who is this "Babylon the Great?"

To get a picture of who she is, let's first refer back to the Babylon mentioned in the Old Testament in the book of Daniel. There we see a kingdom that conquered Israel and took its inhabitants captive.

We also see that this first Babylon set up a golden idol to which everyone was commanded to bow down and worship when the instruments were played.

"Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was three score cubits and the breadth was six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon." Daniel 3:1 "...Then a herald cried aloud, to you it is commanded, O people, nations and languages, that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, ...., dulcimer and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up."

And who falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast in to the midst of a burning fiery furnace." Daniel 3:4-6 So we can immediately see that Babylon represents false religion and the worship of idols.

Later in the story in Daniel we see that Shadrack, Meshack, and Abendego refused to bow down to the Golden idol and suffered the consequences of being thrown into the fire. Yet, God preserved them for there was one like the sun man in the midst of the fire with them to cool the flames.

Babylon now is not a geographical city or place or kingdom in Persia but rather is a religious system of worship that calls for people to bow down to statues and to its leader.

The warning to us is that it is fallen and has become the habitation or dwelling place of devils. Since we want no part of dwelling where devils dwell, we want no part of Babylon!

## FALLEN FROM WHERE?

"It is fallen."

Fallen from where?

Where was this religious institution before it was fallen?

Since it is now become the habitation of devils and is the hold of every ...spirit and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird, it is obviously joined to Satan and his followers.

Just as Satan fell from heaven due to his pride and rebellion, so has this religious institution fallen because of such sins. Just as Satan is a liar and a murderer, so this religious institution has become.

In fact, before it became the fallen religious institution that it is, it was once an organism that was close to God.

From where is it fallen? It is fallen from its place with God. The sad thing though is that there are people of God who do not yet realize its fallen nature. Therefore they are still a part of her.

"All nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication..."

Wine speaks of the intoxication that the nations have had with the power of this religious institution.

Yet the wrath speaks of the anger and the punishment that she has given out both to individuals from various nations and the crusades against various nations.

Fornication, coming from the Greek word porneia, implies intimacy or idolatry. With this religious institution, both are true. She has been intimate with Kings in lending her power and prestige to them, and she has been idolatrous in that she has exalted her own doctrines above that of God's word.

God's word clearly says in Matthew 23:9, "Call no man father." She is in obvious and direct violation of this directive from Jesus Christ, our master and Lord, insists that her representatives be called "Father."

The second of the ten commandments says, "Thou shalt not make any graven image of anything that is in the heavens above or in the earth beneath or in the waters beneath the earth, to bow down thereto or worship."

Nevertheless, she has produced statutes of angels and men and women and even fake images of Jesus Christ himself and taught and even required God's people to bow down and pray before these idols.

The Bible says that there would come a time when among other things marriage would be denied. This religious institution through decree and through its tradition has prevented and denied certain types of marriages of which scripturally God approves.

She has indeed fallen from her position with God and has become this fallen religious institution which harms the souls of God's people.

This is why the warning is going forth for God's people to come out of her.

"COME OUT OF HER MY PEOPLE"

"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." Revelation 18:4.

The fact that he says to come out means that there are some of God's people in her. Therefore, until a certain time there will be people in the religious system who belong to God.

Nevertheless, it says they must come out that they be not partakers of her sins.

To remain in the institution is to be required to be involved in sins against God. Yet it will be difficult for many to come out because they are bound by traditions, and they are bound to the demons behind the traditions and statutes that desire the worship of man as they cleverly and invisibly stand on above or front of the statutes to whom the people bow down.

Here evil spirits want to hurt mankind. They have, therefore, seen to it that the institution requires that most of its male leaders can never marry which is in direct contrast to what Scripture teaches. Many of these have then been pushed by spirits of lust to molest little boys who have been in their charge.

These evil spirits have also seen to it that millions of women never have the opportunity to marry! Their false doctrines have brainwashed the people in her to believe a lie! The lie has been spread past her and into her daughters as well.

This religious institution is called the great whore (see Rev.17.1) And she is called the mother of harlots. As people become aware of how wicked she is, they will begin to come out.

The prophetic voice is now going forth to God's people who remain in her.

"Come out of her my people." "...Lest ye be partakers of her plagues." When she is punished those that remain in her will be punished as well.

Even now those in her generally are stunted in their spiritual growth and limited in their understanding of the truth of God and what He has for his people.

If you find that you are in Her, then come out! If your friends or relatives are in her, then warn them that they must come out. If you are not yet able to show scripturally the error of her ways, then learn to do so.

The spiritual well being and in some cases even the salvation of the souls of some will be dependent on their hearing this cry of the angel, "Come out of her my people."

Those that fail to come out will miss the voice of the Bridegroom (Jesus) and the Bride (His elect company of people) for they will no longer be heard within her.

## THE VOICE OF THE BRIDE GROOM

"The voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee."

Jesus Christ is the bridegroom. The wise virgins are his bride. (See Matthew 25:1-13) and Revelation 18:23) If the voice of the Bridegroom is no longer heard within this religious institution, then it must be either because he is not speaking to her or because no one within her is able to hear.

Jesus speaks through the Holy Spirit and leads those who are obedient servants.

In Romans 6:16 we read "Know ye not my brethren, to whom ye yield yourselves servant to obey, his servants ye are to whom you obey, whether of sin unto death or obedience unto righteousness."

As we obey God we draw closer to Him and we hear him more clearly. Those that disobey the Lord backslide away from him and have more difficulty in hearing.

Those that stand with a religious institution that has persecuted the righteous, murdered those that would bring the word of God to the people in a language they could understand, and tortured many unjustly in the inquisitions, are aligning themselves with a malevolent organization that is moved by the spirit of anti-Christ.

All the while she pretends to be the only one spokesman for Christ. She no longer hears because the bridegroom no longer speaks to her. She has been given over to a reprobate mind. Those who choose to remain aligned with her will also cease to hear the voice of the Bridegroom.

Hence there is the stern warning, "Come out of her my people."

When this word is spoken to the heart of the individual and he fails to respond, he begins to become dull of hearing.

The ability to hear the master speak diminishes till one becomes spiritually deaf.

God is seen now sending forth prophetic messengers proclaiming this word, "Come out of her my people."

In the Lord's compassion he is using every means both natural and supernatural to communicate with those with any degree of hearing left to come out and not be partakers of her sins and her plagues.

One must love the Master more than any religious institution.

Hear the angel's cry!

## THE VOICE OF THE BRIDE

The Bride has her own voice, and it will not be heard within this religious institution either.

Why?

Because she, the Bride, the true church, has heard the angel's cry and has come out of the religious institution that claims to be the church but is not!

The true church is a virgin. She is a spiritual virgin who has made herself ready and therefore qualifies to be the bride of Christ. (See Revelation 19:7 And II Corinthians 11:2) The woman is a Great Whore who sits on the beast. (See Revelation 17:3) Although there are believers who remain in the Great Whore they cannot be part of the bride unless they come out. They also endanger their spiritual and physical well being if they stay in the religious institutions that are part of the whore or a part of her daughters.

In II Timothy 2:20 we read:

"For in a Great house."

Notice we are talking of those that are in the house. This means those that are in the Lord's house in the sense of being saved.

"There are vessels of gold and silver and also of wood and earth."

Some to honor, some to dishonor.

If a man purge himself from these..."

What is these?

Go back to verse 19.

Iniquity.

What is iniquity?

Sin, disobedience to God. "If" (notice the contingency) "If" a man purge himself from these he shall be a vessel unto honor. Sanctified, meet for the Master's use.

The bride has been sanctified, for she wears a linen garment (See Revelation 19:8) This linen garment is the righteousness of the Saints.

The great whore and her daughters will have no such garment.

Remember that those without a wedding garment cannot be part of the wedding feast. (See Matthew 22:11-14).

The voice of the Bride will no longer be heard in her because she (the Bride) desires such a wedding garment.

## THE WEDDING FEAST

Matthew 22:1-14:

"And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, 'The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, and went forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.

But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: 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. Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.

And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment. And he saith unto him Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen.'

We see in this parable three groups of people. First there is the group that the King destroys for rejecting and killing his Son. Second there are those invited to the wedding feast with a wedding garment and then there are those that have no wedding garment. Those that are destroyed depict those that are lost and will be destroyed in hell.

Those that have a wedding garment represent those that are a part of "the bride."

But the one without a wedding garment is neither invited to be in the wedding, but, nor is he lost!

What happens to him? He is cast out.

Many people think he is lost because they can only see being out or being in.

But NO!

He is not lost as in going to hell! He is not one of those that the king destroys. He merely represents those that fail to become a part of God's "elect" company.

This elect company is called by many names, but one of them is "The Bride." Another name for God's elect is "Good and faithful servant." Remember that salvation is free, but rewards must be earned.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves. It is a gift of God not of works lest any man should boast."

Ephesians 2:8,9

And yet I Corinthians 3:13, 14 says every man shall be rewarded according to his works. I Corinthians 3:11-15:

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a

reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire."

Notice that "he shall suffer loss yet he himself shall be saved..." There will be those that are saved who are not a part of the wedding feast. It is because they have no wedding garment. They have no wedding garment because their works are burned. Their works are burned because they are dead works. In other words, their works are not for God being led by the Spirit of God. They are servants but they are considered wicked and slothful servants. They fail to qualify for the title "Good and faithful servant." Only those His people that hear the angel's cry and that "come out of her" will qualify to be called Good and faithful servants.

## GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

Matthew 25:14-30

One of the other titles given to the elect of God besides being called the Bride, is "Good and faithful servant."

We can see from the passage of Scripture that the primary determining aspect in this context is what they do with the talents (money and resources) that the Master has given them.

The principle is to use that which God has given us to produce more. If we do this, we can be considered good and faithful. The other alternative is to hide that which we have been given and to not use it to produce more. In this case, of course, one would be considered a wicked and slothful servant.

The problem with belonging to certain religious institutions is that they restrict what we can or cannot believe and practice and thus hindering what growth and increase that might otherwise be gained.

We must remember that both the Great Whore and her daughters have a propensity of exalting their own traditions above the word of God and thus teaching their adherents to stunt the growth, achievement and fruit that they might otherwise have.

Being yoked to the beast which is given its power by Satan, the Great Whore works to prevent its people from becoming all that God desires. Thus the angel's cry includes the command "Come out of her my people."

## THE WHORE WITHIN

Not only must we come out of Babylon the Great harlot but we must also get Babylon out of us.

There are those who have left the religious institution in as much as they no longer go to its buildings and mausoleums and meeting places but yet they have absorbed so much of what she teaches her captive prisoners that they are still not free of her.

To be free, we must continue in God's word.

Jesus said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed and you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

Even having left the institution we must hold up each religious practice and sacrament to the Light of the Word of God. Then we must prove all things and hold fast to that which is good.

Believers must be like the Bereans who the Bible speaks of in Acts Chapter 17.

It says that "these were much more noble than the Thessalonians in that they received the word of God with all readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily to see if it was so."

Unfortunately, most believers leave the studying of the word to paid professionals and instead of studying for themselves. Consequently, they cannot refute the doctrine or counter weak arguments that lead to false assumptions about the nature of God or what he requires of His people.

The Bible teaches us in II Timothy 2:15 that all must "study to show yourselves approved unto God, workmen that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth."

This point cannot be overemphasized. We must study God's word and bring our beliefs and actions in line with his nature and purpose for us.

Failure to do this may mean that we have come out of Babylon but Babylon remains in our hearts. One might take his false beliefs and ideas right along with him.

In the western world many mistakes are made and our marriages fail because they return to Babylon in their hearts. They return to her who says, "I sit a queen and am no widow and shall see no sorrow."

## A SITTING QUEEN

Notice that she says she is a sitting queen. This means that she is sitting on the throne. She is ruling. She is in charge. Yet notice also that she is no widow. This means that her husband is alive and yet she is ruling even over him.

She is manifesting what is sometimes called the "Jezebel spirit" where the woman seeks to rule over her husband.

It is very obvious that this is true for this religious institution for she has long rebelled against Jesus Christ and gone after her own way. She goes on to say, "I will see no sorrow." In other words, in her arrogance she thinks that there will be no punishment for her usurping her husband's power and authority.

Just as this is true in the natural realms, especially in the western world where wives seek to be equal to or greater than their husbands and seek to and do take control of the household and family, so it is true of this Great Whore.

God is calling those that will hear to come out of her and to not be reflective of her errors.

Households must be returned to proper order. Men must be men and rule their own households.

As it says in I Timothy 3:5 "If a man cannot rule his own household, how shall he take care of the church of God?"

Ephesians 5:22-24 shows what the proper order must be on the personal plane and the corporate or church plane.

But just as Lucifer has rebelled against the authority over him, so has this fallen religious institution, that calls itself church, fallen and will no longer allow Jesus Christ to truly rule over it.

In Revelation 17:3 We see that this Great Whore is riding the Beast. This also happens on both levels.

## RIDING THE BEAST

Revelation 17:

The beast is described in Revelation 13:1,2 "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority."

The mouth of a lion is indicative of its ability to roar. That is the ability to make itself heard and to instill fear. The feet of a bear speaks of its size and its ability to trample on whatever gets in its way. The spots of a leopard speaks of its sinful nature (see Jeremiah 13:23). The seven heads and ten horns may be reflective of The Group of Seven Nations which a few years ago included the United States, Canada, England, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan.

These were considered the seven most economically powerful nations on the planet. An eighth has been added which is Russia. Representatives of two other entities are invited. One is the financial community which represented by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and the last or tenth representative is from the Vatican.

Could this unholy trinity of government, economic powers, and the Greatest Religious institution be the beast of Revelation 13:1?

Is it the one who is given its power by the dragon who is described as Satan in Revelation 12?

Yet the Great Whore in Revelation 17 rules the beast. She is in a controlling position. She is deferred to by governments. She will also get a free ride as long as she will compromise with government. The whore is intimate with the government. She refers to the government to gain financial favors. In this symbiotic relationship the governments then pass laws enforcing the traditions and sins of the whore.

No wonder we hear the urgent cry to "come out of her my people!"

We must come out and not be a part of this harlot religious institution, but we must also not be a part of her daughters who are also harlots!

Let us hear the angel's cry!

\*for more in depth study on the Beast read the book The Mark of the Beast vs. The Mind of Christ.

## THE HARLOT DAUGHTERS

Once one has recognized who the Great Whore is and has come out of this mother of harlots, we might think he is safe.

But wait!

One must who come out of her Daughters as well. Why?

The answer is because the church her daughters come out of her and even corrected certain of her false doctrines, they have over time followed her nature of fornication and have become intimate with the church. They too have now compromised for government favors. They too have become intimate with the governmental and financial institutions of this world. In their desire to be respectable and to avoid persecution, the daughters have become harlots as well, and in many respects favor their mother.

These brand name denominations seem to offer respectability and safety. Nevertheless, God never said there should even be denominations. By definition a denomination is a division. It can usually be recognized by a common doctrine that all its adherents must believe, a common name for which all of its satellite religious institutions must call themselves, and an earthly headquarters which dispenses the rules and regulations of its satellite member institutions and the individuals within them.

In I Corinthians 3:1-6 one can read

"And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase."

Notice that they are about to divide over who they are following. Some were probably saying "we follow Paul because he has deep revelations." Others might have said, "Well, we follow Peter because Jesus himself gave him the keys to the kingdom!"

Still others might have said "well, when Apollo preaches the benches even shake, so we know he has the anointing!"

They were about to form the first denominations. Perhaps they would have been called the Paulites, the Peterites, and the Apollosites. Yet Paul told them that they were all babies in the Lord because they were filled with carnality which expressed itself in envy, strife, and division.

We are to follow Jesus Christ not denominational systems which will only have one part of the total truth that Jesus can give.

Besides that the leaders of the harlot daughters will no doubt ride the beast and encourage its adherents to do so as well.

How often have we heard, "Well, I can't give unless I can get a tax deduction."

They want to have favors from the government. They want to offer a sacrifice that costs them nothing.

David, the King of Israel, on the other hand said, "Neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD by God of that which doth cost me nothing." See II Samuel 24:24.

If we are to hear the angel's cry about Babylon the Great Harlot who is fallen, is fallen and we are to come out of her and out of her

daughters. We must be willing to suffer in the wilderness before qualifying to be the Bride who enters the Promised Land.

## SUFFERING IN THE WILDERNESS

Israel was called out of Egypt. Believers are called out of the world. Then believers who find themselves in Babylon the Great Harlot are called out of her.

The church by definition is a "called out" assembly.

That part of the church that will be the "bride of Christ" will be called out of both the world and out of Babylon. For we see that there comes a time when the voice of the Bride and the voice of the Bride Groom will no longer be heard within her.

When we come out of the whore and her church daughters, we, like Israel, go into the wilderness. Israel's wilderness was natural. Ours is spiritual.

The wilderness by contrast to the city is sparsely populated. Most people will remain in Egypt.

More people will remain in Babylon, the Great Whore of a religious institution, than will come out. There is security and prestige in belonging to the whore. By contrast, there is ridicule and disdain for those who flee into the wilderness.

"Why are you out there with such meager provisions," others might say, "when you could be with us enjoying the pomp and ceremony and prestige of being a part of the more well accepted religious crowds.

But no, we have heard the voice of the Master through the angel's cry.

"Come out of her my people." We must be obedient. We must come out.

Just as Lot and his family were called out of Sodom and Gomorrah, we must hasten to leave and are warned through the example left by Lot's wife not to look back. When she looked back, apparently longing for her "beloved" city, she turned into a pillar of salt.

We would rather be servants in the house of the Lord than to be princes or princesses in the palace of the wicked.

We would rather suffer in the wilderness without complaint than to remain in splendor and comfort in the whore city and experience its destruction along with her.

We also come to understand that only by coming out and remaining out can we hope to be an example to others and be able to lead them out as well.

We come out, we leave the city, and we go through our wilderness, but we are bound for the promised land.

## THE PROMISED LAND

Our goal is the promised land. What is the promised land?

Is it just going to heaven?

NO!

If we are saved, that is born again, we get to miss hell and make the outer court of heaven.

The Great Whore and her daughters generally give the impression that this is all there is.

Yet God's word teaches us that there is much, much more than that.

There is an outer court of heaven, then there is a higher realm which is called the Holy Place of Heaven, and finally there is the Highest Level which is called the Holy of Holies.

Reaching the Holy of Holies which is qualifying for the Bride of Christ is the Promised Land.

How can we reach this Promised Land? The children of Israel and their trek from Egypt to the promised land is a type and an example to us. Yet, please note that it is not every Israelite that is our example but two in particular. They are Joshua and Caleb.

The first step is to receive the blood of the Lamb. Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God. See John 1:29. Second, we eat of the lamb. Jesus said except you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood you have no life in you. (see John 6:53).

He said, "The words I speak unto you they are spirit and they are life." (John 6:63). Leviticus 17:1 says "the life of the flesh is in the blood."

So blood = life = word. When we receive his word we drink of his blood.

Jesus said my flesh is meat indeed John 6:55. Yet he also said "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me." John 4:34. So flesh = meat = doing the will. Therefore when Jesus said "except you eat my flesh and drink my blood you have no life in you." He is saying we must receive his word and obey him.

The children of Israel received the blood over their door posts and the two side posts and they ate the lamb without spot nor blemish in their home. They turned their back on Egypt and left.

The first major obstacle they crossed was the Red Sea. The scripture indicates that this was a type of baptism. (see I Corinthians 10:2).

We must in obedience be immersed in water after we repent and believe in Jesus for ourselves.

The children follow the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night.

This was a type of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. (again see I Corinthians 10:2). Even so, many that had come out of Egypt failed in the wilderness. Many that believe in Jesus, because of their attachment to the world or their attachment to the religious whore systems which are intimate with the world, fail to go on with God. In the wilderness there were those that claimed they were equal to Moses and Aaron (see Numbers chapter 16).

The Great Harlot religious institution claims that her tradition is equal to the word of God.

Moses (who is a pre-figuring type of Jesus) said come out from among them. Those that did not come out were destroyed and went down alive into the pit.

We should therefore see the necessity of our coming out from amongst Babylon the Great Harlot.

When Moses first sent twelve spies in to spy out the land, only Joshua and Caleb had enough faith to come back with a good report.

We must grow in faith to believe God to qualify to enter the promised land.

Even Moses failed to qualify to enter in because of a disobedience to God's command.

We must come to the point that Jesus came to in the Garden of Gethsemane where we say, "...nevertheless, not my will, but thy will be done."

When we come to the place in faith and obedience that we are constantly seeking God's will, despite the fact that it will separate us from those we love, and despite the fact that it may be painful, then we are qualified to enter the promised land.

We must come to a point that we can say like Paul the apostle, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith, henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the righteous Judge shall give me in that day."

## FIGHTING A GOOD FIGHT

Paul, the apostle said, "I have fought a good fight.." What does that mean?

He was not speaking of a physical fight but rather a spiritual one. To achieve the rank that God desires for us to achieve we must engage in the battle. To engage in the battle we must progress beyond the baby stages.

When the children of Israel were in the wilderness, the men were counted old enough to fight when they reached twenty years old. A baby or a little child was not ready to fight. The Harlot religious institution as well as her harlot daughter religious institutions all have a tendency to keep believers at very baby stages. Rarely is there one that grows past the milk. Thus as one is in Babylon the great harlot or in her daughters, then the chances of real maturity diminish. This is one of the reasons the cry is heard to "come out of her my people."

The voice of the Bridegroom will no longer be heard within her because Jesus Christ himself has at that point given up on this reprobate! The voice of the bride will not be heard within her because to be the bride implies maturity.

Those apostles and prophets down through the ages that have tried to warn her, have been persecuted and killed!

This is why the word goes forth, "Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her!"

Revelation 18:20.

We must mature in order to fight! We must leave her in order to mature! Our fight is not with flesh and blood. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, and powers and rulers and spiritual wickedness in high places." See Ephesians 6:12.

We see here a hierarchy of four levels of evil fallen angels and wicked spirits.

The highest level are prince level spirits. These are giant fallen angels who act as generals in Satan's army and usually rule of a territory.

Secondly there are "powers." These are not as mighty and powerful as the princes and yet much more powerful than any of the others.

Third there are the ruling spirits. These rule over the wicked spirits which are the weakest of them all.

And yet many believers, being babes are easily defeated by the weakest of imp-like spirits.

These are the spirits that make it easy not to get out of bed and go to church. These are the ones that accuse the leadership and give excuses why one should pull away from fellowship with the true church. These are the ones that attempt to prevent one from hearing the voice of the angel's cry to come out of her my people.

One cannot say he has fought a good fight if he is being defeated by these little devils.

One can never finish one's course without defeating these spirits and the ones of higher rank with even more power!

To defeat the enemy in this way one must know his weapons and use them!

## THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE

"...The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but they are mighty unto God to the pulling down of strongholds, casting down imagination and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. Taking every thought captive to the obedience of Jesus Christ." II Corinthians 10:4-6.

To qualify for the crown of glory as Paul, the apostle, did, we must understand how to fight our unseen enemy.

We must learn to see beyond the natural realm and into the spiritual. We must understand that there is a very real enemy that is invisible to the natural eye with a very real intent to steal from us, kill us, and destroy us. We must understand the reality of Satan and his hordes of fallen angels and demonic spirits and how we can effectively fight them. Since natural or carnal weapons have no effect against them, we must learn how to take up and use our spiritual weapons.

Some of these are praise, prayer with understanding, prayer in the Spirit (without understanding), faith, the Blood of the Lamb, and the word of our testimony.

It is only as we dig down deep and plant roots in the word of God that these things will be real weapons for our use in times of trouble.

Our adeptness at using a particular weapons increases as we have experience with them. God has conveniently arranged that we have the opportunity to use these weapons against the minor imp like wicked spirits before allowing us to go on and use them against the stronger and more difficult ruling spirits.

Once again He allows us to gain experience against these before moving on and up to the yet stronger "Power" spirits.

If we can only defeat these powerful spirits we can qualify to become part of the army that goes against the Prince level spirits, which are the huge generals in the ranking hierarchy.

In the process of this "training" one will often win some battles and lose others. Nevertheless, as the Scripture says, "For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again . . ." Proverbs 24:16.

It is only by getting back up and continuing to fight that one can eventually say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course."

## FINISHING OUR COURSE

"I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course... Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the righteous judge shall give me in that day.

And not to me only but to all them that love his appearance."

If we love the Lord we will hear his commandments (See John 14:15) If we continually keep his commandments to us, both written and spoken, we will find ourselves working in the "course" he has chosen for us.

This does not necessarily mean that we will be sent off to some foreign land as a missionary. Although, for some it might.

It does mean though that we grow in obedience and faith to a point where we are willing to say, "Not my will but Thy will be done."

As we do this, some will be like Epaphroditus who was at one time the primary supporter of Paul, the apostle.

Paul could not have done his work as effectively as he did without an Epaphroditus working to support him.

Some will be called to function as prophets in the church. Some will function as evangelists. Others will do their jobs as shepherds among God's people or as teachers. Others will function as ministers in helping and hospitality.

God has a "course" for each person in the church.

Unfortunately, many never find their course.

If one fails to heed the angel's cry about "Babylon the Great Harlot," who is fallen and then fails to "come out of her", then there is a great likelihood that he will miss the course that God has chosen for him.

If one misses the course altogether, then he or she can never finish it.

Without finishing the course, which we do because we love Him and His appearing, we can not receive the Crown of Glory of which Paul speaks.

If one only understood the magnificent power and authority behind the Crown of Glory, one would not hesitate to seek to fulfill his course.

Nevertheless, to begin, let us heed the angel's cry:

"Come out of her my people"!

The End