

## GOD'S FINAL CALL — "COME OUT OF BABYLON!"

**Introduction** When we studied **God's Last Warning Message** in Rev. 14:6-11 (Lesson 29), we noticed that the second angel made a strange announcement:

**Rev. 14:8:** "Babylon is fallen, is fallen."

This same announcement is repeated with greater urgency, power and fullness in Revelation 18:

**Rev. 18:1-4:** "Babylon the great is fallen . . . Come out of her, My people."

To whom is this Divine call, "Come out of Babylon", addressed? Does it have any special meaning for us today? Let us open the Bible and see.

### **Discussion** 1.—WHEN IS THIS ANNOUNCEMENT DUE?

From our reading of Revelation 14 we have learned that the announcement: "Babylon is fallen" is part of the great threefold message which goes out to the world just before Jesus comes.

*(See Chart No. 38—The Three Angels' Messages)*

From a study of Rev. 18:4 it is also evident that this announcement is made just before the outpouring of the Seven Last Plagues.

### 2.—WHAT IS THE MEANING OF "BABYLON" IN THE CHRISTIAN AGE?

#### (a) Clues from the Old Testament

The Old Testament has been called: "A Tale of Two Cities"—Jerusalem and Babylon. Both appear early in the book of Genesis, and both stand in sharp contrast throughout the whole of the Old Testament period. These two cities represent principles that are eternally at war.

| JERUSALEM  | BABYLON   |
|--|---|
| <i>The home of true, God-given religion</i>                    | <i>The melting-pot of false, man-made religions</i>                 |
| <i>Represents the principle of salvation by GOD-DEPENDENCE</i> | <i>Represents the principle of salvation by SELF-DEPENDENCE</i>     |
| <i>The earthly dwelling-place of God and His people</i>        | <i>The traditional enemy of God and His people</i>                  |
| <i>Religion kept separate from worldly alliances</i>           | <i>Religion allied with political power</i>                         |
| <i>Fountain or "MOTHER" of all later unfoldings of truth</i>   | <i>Fountain or "MOTHER" of all later manifestations of apostasy</i> |

#### (b) Clues from the New Testament

The plainest clues are given in Revelation 17, where the "Babylon" of the New Testament era is pictured as a "woman" and "a city".

*(See Chart No. 45—The Woman on the Scarlet Beast)*  
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