

Obviously, the "fall" of spiritual Babylon takes in every departure from "the faith once delivered unto the saints" which has occurred in Christian history, some of which were traced when we studied the prophecy of the Seven Seals (Lesson 17). However, in the setting of the last days, this "fall" refers to the condition of **total apostasy** described in Rev. 18:2, when the professed Church of God surrenders completely to Satanic control, and becomes "the habitation of devils; the hold of every foul spirit; and the cage of every unclean and hateful bird".

4.—WHAT IS MEANT BY BABYLON'S "WINE"?

Babylon's "wine" symbolises the false doctrines and superstitions which she advocates, by means of which she intoxicates and seduces the inhabitants of the earth. Examples:

- Salvation by self-dependence, as opposed to salvation by God-dependence.
- The authority of the Church exalted above the authority of the Bible.
- The substitution of Sunday for the original Bible Sabbath.
- The natural immortality of the soul.
- Spiritism—so-called communication with the dead.
- The union of religion with political power.
- The employment of political means to serve religious ends.
- Religious laws, intolerance and persecution.

These unscriptural errors are as old as Babel—as old as Cain. They are threads from the fabric of every false religious system that has ever been.

5.—WHO ARE THE "DAUGHTERS" OF BABYLON?

Those religious organisations—of whatever name—which inherit the character and perpetuate the spirit of their "Mother". This applies also to those individuals who weakly tolerate or passively surrender to the doctrines and aims of modern Babylon.

This is a time for courageous heart-searching. As we consider the false doctrines listed above, we should ask: "Have I been unwittingly drinking the 'wine' of modern Babylon?"

If Jesus were with us today, He would not tolerate or compromise with these unscriptural evils. He would protest again: "Take these things hence, and make not My Father's house an house of merchandise" (John 2:16).

6.—WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO "COME OUT" OF BABYLON?

II Cor. 6:14-18: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers . . . Come out from among them and be ye separate."

"To come out" means to sever all connection with every unscriptural doctrine and practice. This separation is to be as complete and final as that of the immigrant who renounces his former citizenship; the bride who forsakes all rivals for her legal husband; the parachutist who leaps from his plane . . .

Acts 19:18, 19: The early Christians took God's call to "come out" so seriously that they burned the relics of their former apostasy. Does God ask any less of His people today?

7.—WHERE DO WE GO WHEN WE "COME OUT"?

Thank God, He does not leave us to wander aimlessly in a wilderness of confusion and doubt. He has provided a warm and inviting spiritual home for us—the fold of the Good Shepherd—the "Remnant Church" of Rev. 12:17.