



## Things to Review:

1. Babylon is a symbol of the great apostasy of the last days.
2. What ancient Babylon did to God's people in Daniel's day.
3. The issue in the seal of God and the mark of the beast—between Sabbath and Sunday.
4. The United States as the lamb-like beast of Revelation 13 that performs signs and miracles.
5. The need of having a deep personal relationship with Christ in order to make it through the trying, deceptive times of the last days.

## Purpose of This Lesson:

One of the major foundations you have laid throughout the entire series is that there has been a major deceptive apostasy from truth. In this lesson you will clearly identify this apostasy.

You will be describing its beginning and its gradual development until it reached the status of mighty Babylon the great. The purpose of this lesson is to help the student see that he needs to get out of Babylon.

Babylon is beyond reformation, it has come under the total condemnation of God, and God sends a message today for His people to get out of Babylon. This is a very strong lesson, one that will need to be presented with tact and love, and yet it is critical in helping people to begin to see the need of being a part of a church that is not a part of Babylon.

Another area that you will be exploring with your students in this lesson will be the question of speaking in tongues. The charismatic, Pentecostal movement of today has become a major threat to the truth of God. It is the premise of this lesson that tongues-speaking and much of the miracle-working powers that are taking place in our world today are linked to spiritualistic phenomena and are therefore a form of spiritualism.

You will need to handle this section of the lesson carefully in order not to alienate people. Yet at the same time, you cannot bypass this, for people

## LESSON 25 BABYLON THE GREAT Answer Key

1. Babel
2. Scatter
3. Besieged
4. Praised
5. Astrologers, sorcerers
6. Whore
7. MOTHER, HARLOTS
8. Blasphemy
9. Blood, blood
10. Fornication, drunk'
11. Devils, foul
12. Three
13. MOTHER
14. a. blasphemy b. saints c. worshipped
15. HARLOTS
16. Earth, first
17. Devils, foul
18. Wonders, fire
19. Miracles
20. Fire
21. Seven, spirits
22. Ghost
23. Miracles
24. Fire, Holy, Ghost
25. Fallen
26. Out, my

one time used the churches that compose Babylon and His Spirit worked through them. But as these churches compromised the truth of God and mixed paganism with their doctrines, Babylon entered a fallen condition. God could no longer work through her.

## Question 26

This is your appeal. Babylon is beyond repair. Some people feel they can stay in Babylon and reform it. Scripture says they need to get out.

Because of the fact that this final threefold union is formed, there is no more redeeming value in Babylon. The only course for the people of God is to get out of it quickly.

Be sure to make a strong appeal at this point for your students to heed the call of Revelation to get out of Babylon.

## Response Questions:

1. If it is clear to you that modern spiritual Babylon is composed of three powers—Romanism, apostate Protestantism and spiritualism—put a check mark in Box #1.
2. If it is your desire to heed the call of Revelation 18:4 to come out of Babylon and become a part of God's faithful people who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, place a check mark in Box #2.

**NOTE:** Please note that Question 2 is general. You are not specifically asking your students to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church. That will be done in Lesson 26. What you are asking here is that your students make a decision to get out of Babylon and become a part of the people of God in the last days. However, the implications of this question are extremely important in helping people to prepare to make the decision that you will be asking them to make in Lesson 26.

who have been deceived by it must be called out of these Babylonian teachings. It is not so much what you say, but how you say it that will determine whether your students will stay with you through this and make decisions, or whether they will turn and walk the other way. Pray much before making this presentation, and ask God to give you His Spirit to melt hearts as they hear this strong message.

At the end of this lesson you will be asking your students to make a decision to come out of Babylon and be a part of a people who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This lesson will not identify these people—Lesson 26 will do that. However, in this lesson we want them to begin thinking about being part of a people who are faithful and loyal to God in the final crisis.

## Questions 1 & 2

These first two questions are placed in the lesson to give a historical perspective of the origin of ancient Babylon. The points that we will try to raise through this lesson are the characteristics of ancient Babylon and how they have manifested themselves throughout history.

The point to emphasize in these two questions is that the first characteristic of Babylon is its defiance and rebellion toward God.

## Question 3

The emphasis here should be on the fact that ancient Babylon was a persecuting power.

## Question 4

The point here is that Babylon is a power that mixes truth with error, pagan practices with Christian belief. Thus the wine of Babylon is its false doctrines that it purports to be the truth. However, Babylon does not perceive this, because it says Babylon is drunk with her own wine. Therefore she does not see clearly and does not realize that what she

teaches for truth is virtually error.

### Question 5

Do not spend a lot of time on this question, but make certain that your students catch the key point that Babylon was a spiritualistic power that used spiritualism in its attempt to deceive people; that the purpose of the magicians, astrologers, the sorcerers and the Chaldeans was to give credence to the divine character of Babylon.

Please take time to review these four main characteristics of ancient Babylon. As we examine modern Babylon we will want to see how these four characteristics reappear.

### Questions 6 & 7

These two questions introduce modern Babylon.

Before moving into a discussion of modern Babylon it would be well to remind your students that when the book of Revelation refers to Babylon it no longer refers to ancient Babylon that sat on the Euphrates River.

Ancient Babylon ended when Cyrus destroyed the ancient city of Babylon in the time of Belshazzar. It has never been rebuilt and never will be.

The New Testament writers no longer refer to Babylon as a literal city; instead, ancient Babylon becomes a symbol of the apostate powers arrayed against God's people in the last days. Thus modern Babylon as introduced at this point in the lesson refers to a power that has the same characteristics as ancient Babylon.

### Question 8

This question reinforces the fact that Babylon meets the first characteristic of ancient Babylon. It also is rebellious, defiant and blasphemous.

Discuss the tongues issue and the part it will play in last-day events. Items in the Exhibit that you will want to be certain to cover:

1. There is a genuine gift of tongues.
2. The purpose of the original gift of tongues—to enable the disciples to speak in the languages of the people so that they could communicate the gospel to them.
3. The fact that no one receives all the gifts—a person does not have to have the gift of tongues in order to be baptized with the Spirit.
4. The superiority of the fruits of the Spirit over the gifts of the Spirit.
5. The need for all the gifts to be manifested in the church, not just one.
6. The fact that the gift of tongues is to be used for the unbelievers, not used in the church for believers.
7. The gift of tongues, with its accompanying miracles, signs and wonders, is the power that links Protestants and Catholics together.

Pay particular attention to the section of the exhibit that shows the origin of the tongues movement in Catholicism, especially the quotations that show the similarity between the tongues speaker, the spiritualist medium and the faith healer. You will also want to give good emphasis to the quotations from James Beshires that implicates Satanic activity in some tongues experiences.

The conclusion that the lesson is drawing from the tongues and miracle-working power is that these manifestations may be leading to the final spiritualistic alliance of the last days. The book of Revelation pictures the final Babylon coming into being by a union of spiritualistic power. Revelation 13 points out that it is this final threefold union that will impose the mark of the beast.

### Question 25

You will need to point out that Babylon is failed. In other words, God at

## Questions 21 & 22

Questions 21 and 22 show that fire is associated with the Holy Spirit throughout Scripture. Fire is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. In other words, Babylon will claim that the Holy Spirit is being poured out abundantly upon it because of all the miracles and the fire. This will deceive people into thinking that this is a genuine manifestation of God when it is actually coming from Satan.

You will need to make these points strong and clear to your students. A half-hearted emphasis here will not lead to decisions.

Your students need to see without a doubt that there are two Holy Spirit manifestations taking place today: a true and a false. It is the falling of this false Holy Spirit that seems to be the spiritualistic link that unites Protestants and Catholics for the final controversy.

## Question 24

This question introduces the subject of tongues speaking, a topic which needs to be handled gently and yet firmly.

Make clear to your students that you believe there is a genuine Biblical gift of tongues, but that there is also a counterfeit gift of tongues.

You have already shown that in Scripture, fire falling from heaven is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

The particular form that the Holy Spirit takes seems to be associated with the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, when tongues of fire fell from heaven. Thus tongues speaking could well be a fulfilment of the fire falling to deceive people into worshipping the first beast.

It is interesting to note that the symbol used almost universally by the tongues movement is a picture of fire falling from heaven, and the very symbol used in Revelation 13 to describe what the second beast will do as it attempts to form the threefold union.

You will want to take time for your students to turn to Exhibit 1 and lead them through some of the main points in this exhibit.

## Question 9

Modern Babylon has the same characteristics as ancient Babylon—she persecutes God's people.

## Question 10

This question reveals that Babylon is just like ancient Babylon in committing adultery and fornication, mixing truth and error and palming it off as truth.

Remember that Babylon actually thinks that what it is saying is truth; it doesn't think it's error. It claims it's truth. And people are deceived because her false doctrines have done the same thing that literal wine does—it clouds their minds so they can't think or see clearly. They trust that what Babylon says is truth when it is virtual falsehood.

## Question 11

This text clearly indicates that Babylon is a power controlled by spiritualism. Just as ancient Babylon's belief structure and system received credibility because of the spiritualistic powers at work in her, so modern Babylon claims that she is the depository of the truth of God and points to all of the miracles, signs, wonders and spiritualistic phenomena that take place in her midst as proof.

## Question 12

Revelation 16:19 declares that Babylon is divided into three parts. The next several questions will help your students identify the threefold union of apostasy which is the final Babylon.

### Question 13

You will need to draw your students' attention to the fact that original spiritual Babylon is the same as the beast in Revelation 13.

### Question 14

This question convincingly shows that the characteristics of ancient Babylon were the same as those of the first beast of Revelation 13, the Roman Church.

Again, make plain to your students that you are talking about a system, not the people in the system. At this point you can explain that the Roman Church is not exclusively Babylon. It is the original Babylon; however, Babylon in the last days is composed of more than merely Romanism.

### Question 15

This question introduces the fact that many Protestant churches have become a part of Babylon by accepting the teachings of Romanism. The point is that whenever a church mixes truth with error, or pagan beliefs with the Word of God, and passes it off as the truth of God, it has become Babylon.

### Question 16

This part of the lesson deals with the power that will impose the mark of the beast. Remember that it is not Catholicism or Protestantism that imposes the mark of the beast, but the threefold union, the final Babylon.

Before the final mark of the beast can be imposed there must be a union of Romanism, apostate Protestantism and spiritualism.

Question 16 emphasizes what was learned in the previous lesson. It refers to the rise of the United States as a primarily Protestant nation who will seek to cause the earth to worship the first beast.

### Question 17

Modern Babylon is also a spiritualistic power. It is spiritualistic phenomena, as Question 18 points out, that unites the first beast with the second beast to finally form the threefold union. It is this spiritualistic power that gives authenticity to the claims of modern Babylon to be the depository of the truth of God.

### Question 19

Notice that the second beast (or this final three-fold union which really is what the second beast becomes) deceives by miracles. As you introduce this section again you will need to make clear that there are genuine miracles that God still performs today. But miracles alone are not a sign of genuineness.

The beast doesn't just pretend to perform miracles; it actually performs miracles. However, the purpose of the miracles is to deceive people into forming this threefold union so that the whole world will worship the beast. This will lead to the imposition of the mark of the beast.

### Question 20

The great sign of the power of this beast is its ability to bring down fire from heaven.

Please point out to your students that this fire deceives people. Many wild interpretations of this text have been suggested. Some have felt that it is an atomic bomb that falls upon the world. But the fire that comes down here deceives people.

An atomic bomb might obliterate people; it might destroy them, but it does not deceive them. The point of the passage is that the fire deceives. Since we are studying the book of Revelation which is full of symbols, we must let the Bible explain the symbol of fire.