

TIME HALCH - For the word of God is quick, and

powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews

THE LEARNING FORUM: Three Messages: The Patience of God Revealed

The Apostle Luke Links two important events to the second coming of Christ! FIRST:

Luke 17:26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man

Luke 17:27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

SECOND:

Luke 17:28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

Luke 17:29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed [them] all.

Luke 17:30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

A closer look reveals there were three messages in the time of Noah.

Why is this so? Because God is consistent. Before probation ends:

- 1. There is a call to and a warning of impending judgment
- 2. There is an evaluation made and a report given. Fallen.
- 3. The sentence is pronounced.

THE FIRST MESSAGE IN THE TIME OF NOAH: (Probation/Judgment)

Genesis 6:3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also [is] flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. (*Probation/Judgment*)

THE SECOND MESSAGE IN THE TIME OF NOAH: (Description of the fall of Babylon)

Genesis 6:5-6 And God saw that the wickedness of man [was] great in the earth, and [that] every imagination of the thoughts of his heart [was] only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

You say Pastor there was not even a Babylon at that time! Well, What IS Babylon?

First: it was a literal city on the banks of the Euphrates River.

THE LEARNING FORUM: Part 12

Second: Babylon was a kingdom, or Empire.

Third: Babylon became the name of an entire system set up by Satan in rebellion against God.

Revelation 17:5 And upon her forehead [was] a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Fourth: The rebellion of Babylon <u>was and will be in the future</u>, a copy of the same rebellion of the antediluvians.

THE THIRD MESSAGE IN THE TIME OF NOAH: (All those who have received the mark will be destroyed!)

Genesis 6: 12, 13 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

AFTER THOSE MESSAGES WERE DELIVERED A CALL WENT FORTH: (Come out of her my people.)

Genesis 7:1 And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

Notice the sequence:

- 1. There is a call to and a warning of impending judgment
- 2. There is an evaluation made and a report given. Fallen.
- 3. The sentence is pronounced.

A closer look reveals There were three messages in the time of Lot.

Genesis 18:1,2 And the LORD appeared unto him (Abraham) in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw [them], he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground,

Three angels disguised as men appeared to Abraham as he sat in the door of his tent. They were strangers to Abraham, but he treated them courteously, and supplied all their necessities as human beings, knowing not that one of those whom he entertained was no less than the Son of God. {The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials Chapter 189, Page 1637.3}

<u>Three 'Men?'</u> - Three Angels = *Angelos* or messengers with 3 messages

FIRST MESSAGE IN THE TIME OF LOT: (Judgment!)

Genesis 18:20, 21 And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; <u>I will go down now, and see</u> whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.

SECOND MESSAGE IN THE TIME OF LOT: (Fall of Babylon)

Genesis 18:22 And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD.

FALLEN BABYLON: Genesis 18:32 And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy [it] for ten's sake.

Genesis 19:1 And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing [them] rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;

Notice that there are only two angels that arrive in Sodom at Even. The first message is past. They have been judged, and now there are only two messages left. The city has fallen. This is demonstrated by their behavior.

Genesis 19:5 And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where [are] the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.

Genesis 19:10 But the men (Angels) put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door.

Genesis 19:11 And they smote the men that [were] at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door.

THIRD MESSAGE IN THE TIME OF LOT: (All those who have received the mark will be destroyed!)

Genesis 19:12 And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring [them] out of this place:

Genesis 19:13 For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it.

AFTER THOSE MESSAGES WERE DELIVERED A CALL WENT FORTH: (Come out of her my people.)

Genesis 19:14 And Lot went out, and spake unto <u>his sons in law</u>, which married *his daughters*, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.

Genesis 19:15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy **two daughters**, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

Genesis 19:16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

Just as there were three messages in the days of Noah, and in the days of Lot, *There are three messages in these last days*.

These three messages are directly connected to the Father Son and Holy Spirit:

1st Message - Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come

1st Person of the Godhead - The Father- JUDGE Daniel 7:9, 10 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

The Ancient of Days is God the Father. [GC 479.1]

2nd Message - Babylon is fallen, is fallen. Fallen Spiritually by rejecting the Word of God

 2^{nd} Person of the Godhead - Son – The WORD - John 1:14 And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (When the word is rejected, Babylon falls.)

3rd Message - Revelation 14:9 - If any man worship the beast and his image, Revelation 14:10 - he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels.

3rd Person of the Godhead – The Holy Spirit - SEALER Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. (WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GRIEVED, HIS PROTECTIVE POWER IS WITHDRAWN AND THE DEVIL HAS FULL SWAY IN THE LIFE.)

God works by the manifestation of His Spirit to reprove and convict the sinner; and if the Spirit's work is finally rejected, there is no more that God can do for the soul. The last resource of divine mercy has been employed. The transgressor has cut himself off from God, and sin has no remedy to cure itself. There is no reserved power by which God can work to convict and convert the sinner. "Let him alone" (Hosea 4:17) is the divine command. Then "there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries." **Hebrews 10:26, 27. {PP 405.1**}

SATAN HAS THREE MESSENGERS.

Revelation 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs [come] out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

- **1. Dragon ANTI-JUDGE** Isaiah 14:13,14 I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:.. I will be like the most High.
- **2. Beast BLASPHEMER** Revelation 13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty [and] two months.

3. False prophet –**MARKER** Revelation 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image.

The Godhead	The Anti-God
1. Father- JUDGE - Daniel 7:9, 10 I beheld	1. Dragon – ANTI-JUDGE - Isaiah 14:13,14
till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient	I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my
of days did sit, the judgment was set, and the	throne above the stars of God: I will sit also
books were opened. The Ancient of Days is	upon the mount of the congregation, in the
God the Father. <i>{GC 479.1}</i>	sides of the north: I will be like the most
	High.
2. Son -WORD - John 1:14 And the word	2. Beast - BLASPHEMER - Revelation 13:5
was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we	And there was given unto him a mouth
beheld his glory, the glory as of the only	speaking great things and blasphemies; and
begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.	power was given unto him to continue forty
	[and] two months.
3. Spirit - SEALER - Ephesians 4:30 And	3. False prophet –MARKER - Revelation
grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye	19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him
are sealed unto the day of redemption	the false prophet that wrought miracles before
	him, with which he deceived them that had
	received the mark of the beast, and them that
	worshipped his image.

As we look in detail at these special messages from Heaven, we will be comforted and assured of God's everlasting protection and guidance.

Jeremiah 31:31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

Jeremiah 31:33 But this [shall be] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law <u>in their inward parts</u>, and *write it in their hearts*; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Ezekiel 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I *put within you*: and I will *take away the stony heart* out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:27 And I will *put my spirit within you*, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do [them].

Hebrews 8:10 For this [is] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Hebrews 10:16 This [is] the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

Truth must become truth to the receiver, to all intents and purposes. It must be stamped on the heart. "With the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom. 10:10). "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength" (Mark 12:30). This is the service that God accepts. . . . The heart is the citadel of the being, and until that is wholly on the Lord's side the enemy will gain constant victories over us through his subtle temptations. . . . {In Heavenly Places 140.2}

Full and abundant is the provision that has been made that we may have mercy, grace, and peace. Why, then, do human beings act as if they entertained the idea that the truth is a yoke of bondage? It is because the heart has never tasted and seen that the Lord is good. *{In Heavenly Places 140.3}*

When the truth as it is in Jesus molds our characters it will be seen to be truth indeed. As it is contemplated by the believer it will grow brighter, shining with its original beauty. It will increase in value, quickening and vivifying the mind and subduing selfish, unChristlike coarseness of character. It will elevate our aspirations, enabling us to reach the perfect standard of holiness. *[In Heavenly Places 140.7]*