

The account tells of Lot in Sodom entertaining two angels who came into the city and abode with him one night. The next morning they informed Lot of the coming destruction upon the city and told him to go and warn his sons-in-law and daughters whom they had married and whosoever he had in the city. This Lot did, but they would not listen to him. Because Lot lingered, the angels took him and his wife and two daughters by the hand and led them out of the city, urging them to flee to the mountains in order to escape the coming destruction lest they be consumed in it.

Lot was first removed from the city by angelic intervention before the great destruction. Is this further indication of the removal of a group of the Spirit-filled men and women prior to the final phase of world tribulation? Was it from such a trial to come that Jesus warned some might escape when He charged His followers to watch and pray as set forth in Luke 21:36.

We must let the Bible speak for itself in these matters. Each reader will have to draw his own conclusions from the statements made and the recorded facts of prophecy as given; letting the analogies drawn by Jesus give guidance in that understanding as the Holy Spirit directs. No man can really give others the conviction and hope that is acquired through a comprehensive and prayerful study of the Word. But so vital is this question to every believer we cannot too strongly urge upon all a diligent, painstaking search of the record that they may attain an understanding of its significance and meaning.

It is certain that there is a special blessing awaiting those who, with Paul, strive and attain unto the high calling, a prize to be worthy of attaining for it is above and beyond eternal life which will be freely given to everyone who believes upon Jesus Christ and is saved from destruction. "And the Angel said to John:" Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he said unto me, These are the true sayings of God" (Rev, 19:9).

The New Testament ends with the book of Revelation, in the last chapter of which it is stated: "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.. Blessed are they that do His commandments that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. " (Rev. 22:12-14).

The last book of the Old Testament, Malachi, has a message of special importance for those who remain true to their Lord and God: "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name."

Following this statement is the promised reward for those who, despite temptation and trouble, remain true: "And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels, and I will spare them, as a man spareth His own Son that serveth Him." From what are they to be spared? Does this promise involve keeping them from the same difficulties to which Jesus referred when admonishing His disciples to watch and pray that they might escape troubles to come? It would seem that these of whom Malachi is speaking are to return from some place to which they have gone, for he says: "Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not" (Mal. 3:16-18).

Are these those who will return from the Marriage Supper of the Lamb? It is certainly sure that the summons to the Supper and the return from it will definitely reveal to all who are the righteous who are to reign and rule with him in His Kingdom and discernment will have been made for all time between those who served God and those who served Him not.

We have in this article endeavored to point out facts and raise questions, the answers to which are so vital to every believer that reverent, prayerful deliberation should be given to their consideration. The record with its context should be studied afresh that the Spirit may open to the inquiring and consecrated mind of the believer the significance of it all as it will affect the true Church, that body of Spirit-filled men and women who are chosen for such a high calling." [End of quote].

In the last book of the Bible the Apostle John is given a vision about the future fall of an entity called Babylon. Some have speculated that this Babylon is referring to the United States of America! The parallels between the Babylon of Revelation 18 and America today are thought provoking! "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. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies “ (Rev. 18:1-3).

"Delicacies" meaning: wantonness, lust and greed for more! But God's people are given warning in verses 4 and 5. "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. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities" (Rev. 18:4-5). God's people formerly came out of literal Babylon in order that they might return to Jerusalem. "Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the LORD's vengeance; He will render unto her a recompense" (Jer. 51:6).

God's elect today are being called out of mystical Babylon in order that they may be accounted worthy to enter the New Jerusalem. All who are truly God's people will hear His voice and heed His call. "Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: [her reward will be paid in kind and the payment will fit the crime] for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning" (Rev. 18:6-9),

The desolation of mystical Babylon brings victory and rejoicing to all God's righteous beings throughout all of God's created universes. ☞

MAY GOD HASTEN THAT DAY FOR ALL WHO LOVE GOD AND PUT INTO PRACTICE HIS WORD!

James Russell