

# The Great Controversy IV

---

1. **Rev 12:7-9**--The great controversy that started in heaven and continued down here on earth after Satan was cast out, ultimately results in victory for God and His faithful people and the total collapse of the powers employed by Satan to deceive and coerce men into transgressing His Law, (i.e., the dragon, the beast rising out of the sea and the beast coming out of the earth)

## The Fall of Babylon

2. The total dissolution of Babylon is portrayed symbolically in at least three places in the book of **Revelation**:
  - a. **Revelation 16**—the drying up of the great river Euphrates (**Rev 16:12**)
  - b. **Revelation 17**—the ten kings hate the woman, make her naked and desolate, eat her flesh and burn her with fire (**Rev 17:16**)
  - c. **Revelation 18**— The great city Babylon is burned and thrown down, made desolate, cast into the sea (**Rev 18:8, 9, 19-21**; cf **Rev 16:19**)
3. **NOTE: Rev 17:18**--The corrupt woman of **Revelation 17** who fornicates with the kings of the earth is also said to be the great city (Babylon) which reigns over the kings of the earth (**Rev 17:1-2, 18**);
  - a. This new symbol of “a great city” highlights the politico-economic hold spiritual Babylon has upon the kingdoms of this world
4. The great city Babylon which reigns over the kings of the earth is also strongly stamped with the number 6!
  - a. Six-fold description of the attire of the great city of Babylon in **Rev 18:16** “fine linen, purple, scarlet, gold, precious stones and pearls”
  - b. Six reasons given in **Revelation 18** as to why Babylon is fallen, is fallen
    1. **Verse 2**: she is become the habitation of devils
    2. **Verse 2**: she is the hold of every foul spirit
    3. **Verse 2**: she is become the cage of every unclean and hateful bird
    4. **Verse 3**: all nations have drunk of the wrath of her fornication
    5. **Verse 3**: the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her
    6. **Verse 3**: the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies
5. **Rev 18:8-9, 19-21**—The great city Babylon is burned and thrown down, made desolate, cast into the sea (see also **Rev 16:19**)
  - a. Six things are no more found in Babylon after her collapse:
    1. **Verse 14**: the fruits she lusted, and the dainties and the goodly are found no more at all
    2. **Verse 22**: the voice of harpers and musicians and of pipers and trumpeters shall be heard no more
    3. **Verse 22**: no craftsman of whatever craft shall be found any more in thee;

4. **Verse 22:** the sound of a millstone shall be found no more in thee;
5. **Verse 23:** the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee;
6. **Verse 23:** the voice of the bridegroom and the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee

6. **Rev 18:5; Rev 16:19**—The worst part of Babylon’s judgment is not her political and economic collapse, not the cruel treatment she receives from the hands of those who formerly supported her, not her **temporal losses**, but her **eternal loss!** The irrevocable rejection by God! Her sins are not blotted out in the final atonement but are remembered!
  - a. Those who accepted the three angels messages are cleansed of their sins to the point that they remember them no more (**GC 620**)

Those who have delayed a preparation for the day of God cannot obtain it in the time of trouble, or at any future period. The righteous will not cease their earnest agonizing cries for deliverance. They cannot bring to mind any particular sins, but in their whole life they can see but little good. Their sins had gone beforehand to judgment, and pardon had been written. Their sins had been borne away into the land of forgetfulness, and they could not bring them to remembrance. **3SG 135**

- b. Those however, who reject the call to come of Babylon in the second angel’s message and chose to remain in Babylon partake of the sins of Babylon and those sins are never blotted out; they are remembered; they remain filthy forever!

## The Marriage of the Lamb

7. In **Revelation 19**, there is great rejoicing in heaven over two things:
  - a. Babylon is thrown down (**Rev 19:1-6**)
  - b. The marriage of the Lamb is come (**Rev 19:7-9**)
8. The marriage of the Lamb is the highest point in redemptive history; it is the consummation of Christ’s unconditional love for His church; aside from the many allusions in the Old and new Testament:
  - a. **Dan 7:13**—this marriage is alluded to in the Son of Man’s coming to the Ancient of Days to receive a kingdom

. . .The marriage represents the reception by Christ of His kingdom. . . **GC 426.**

- b. **Matt 22:1-14**--The parable of the wedding garment in Matt 22
  - c. **Matt 25:1-10**--The parable of the 10 virgins in Matt 25
9. **Rev 19:7-8**--The great controversy that started in heaven between Michael and Satan, and their angels over the Law of God is once and for all settled when it is demonstrated that God’s law can be kept by fallen human beings; this is seen in a group of people who are described in **Revelation 19** as wearing the fine linen which is the righteousness of the saints, "manifested in obedience to all the commandments of God" (**TM 91**)
  - a. **Rev 14:5**—they are without fault before the throne of God
  - b. **Rev 14:12**--here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus
  - c. **Rev 12:17**—they that keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ

## The Coming of the King Kings and Lord of Lords

10. **Rev 19:11-16**—The coming of Jesus to annihilate Babylon is graphically portrayed: the physical appearance of Jesus is presented in a seven-fold manner
1. **Verse 12:** His eyes were as a flame of fire
  2. **Verse 12:** on his head were many crowns
  3. **Verse 12:** he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself
  4. **Verse 13:** he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood:
  5. **Verse 13:** his name is called The Word of God
  6. **Verse 15:** out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.
  7. **Verse 16:** he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.
11. **Rev 19:13-14**-- God's faithful commandment keeping people on earth who keep the Sabbath at the peril of their lives are portrayed as the armies of heaven accompanying (in figure) Jesus as King of Kings and Lord of Lords at his second coming; the armies of heaven is not necessarily a reference to literal angels, although angels will be accompanying Him during His second coming
- a. **"the fine linen white and clean"**---the same fine linen received by God's faithful remnant in the final atonement and which they are seen wearing in the wedding of the Lamb (**Rev 19:8**)
  - b. **Rev 14:6**--God's faithful commandment-keeping people are seen flying in the midst of heaven proclaiming the three angels messages
  - c. **Rev 13:5-6**—God's faithful people are presented in figure as "dwellers of heaven"
  - d. **Rev 11:1**—God's faithful people are worshippers in heavenly sanctuary
  - e. **Heb 12:22**—they have come to Mount Zion as a result of heeding the call to enter boldly into the holiest by the blood of Jesus (**Heb 10:19**)
  - f. **Matt 25:4**--these are the wise virgins who took oil in their lamps
  - g. **Rev 17:14**—They are the **chosen** and **faithful** people of God who vindicate God's Law by keeping the Sabbath at the peril of their lives;
  - h. **Matt 22:14**—this is the same group identified in the parable of the wedding garment as the "chosen" out of many who are called to the wedding supper of the Lamb

The angels are represented as flying in the midst of heaven, proclaiming to the world a message of warning, and having a direct bearing upon the people living in the last days of this earth's history. No one hears the voice of these angels, for they are a symbol to represent the people of God who are working in harmony with the universe of heaven. Men and women, enlightened by the Spirit of God, and **sanctified through the truth, proclaim the three messages in their order. LS 429**

Clad in the armor of Christ's righteousness, the church is to enter upon her final conflict. "Fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as **an army** with banners" ( Song of Solomon 6:10), she is to go forth into all the world, conquering and to conquer. **PK 725.**

12. This is very important to know; the fact that God's people are portrayed as an army marching with Jesus teaches us that God's people are active participants (combatants) in the great controversy, even now! They are not to count themselves merely as spectators and fence-sitters!
13. They are to show that they are on the correct side of the controversy by demonstrating in their lives daily, the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

. . .The people now have a special message to give to the world, the third angel's message. Those who, **in their experience**, have passed over the ground, and acted a part in the **proclamation** of the first, second, and third angels' messages, are not so liable to be led into false paths as are those who have not had an experimental knowledge of the people of God. . . **2SM 102.**

## The Two Great Suppers

14. **Rev 19:7-9**—Those who receive the three angels messages and demonstrate them in the daily life (**Ev 196**) will receive the wedding garment are called to be part of the marriage supper of the Lamb
  
15. **Rev 19:17-18; Ezek 39:17-20**—Those who are on the other side of the controversy will find themselves being part of another supper—the **supper of the great God!**
  - a. Six kinds of flesh are eaten by the fowls of the air in the supper of the great God
    1. the flesh of kings
    2. the flesh of captains
    3. the flesh of mighty men
    4. the flesh of horses
    5. of them that sit on them
    6. the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great
  
16. **Rev 19:19-20; Dan 7:11**—the beast and false prophet are taken and cast in the lake of fire at the coming of Jesus; this lake of fire is not to be confused with the final lake of fire at the end of the Millennium
  1. James White believed in the existence of two lakes of fire, one at the beginning of the Millennium and another at the end of the Millennium
  2. It is in the final lake of fire that Satan and his angels are cast into, not in the first one
  3. In the first lake of fire, only the bodies of the wicked are destroyed, but not their souls (**Matt 10:28**)
  
17. **Rev 19:9**--blessed are those which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. . .

Now is the time to look to it that we have on hand an abundant supply of the oil of the grace of Christ. It was the wisdom of the wise virgins in supplying themselves with oil that made the difference between their fate and that of the foolish virgins, who had neglected to keep oil in their vessels with their lamps. In the Scripture, oil is used as a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The wise virgins are those who have faith and love and patience, whose experience day by day is nourished by the Holy Spirit. They do not conform to the world in careless inattention. They do not put off their daily preparation, but follow Jesus wherever he leads the way. God is not pleased with a flickering faith. It is compared to a lamp that is going out. He is pleased with those whose experience is like that of a lamp that is burning brightly. His followers are to shine as lights in the world.

Christ's servants are to keep their lamps trimmed and burning, that they may add their light to the light of others who are following Christ. Those who are not daily desirous of gaining a living, daily experience in the things of God, will not meet his approval, but will be found with those whose lamps are going out, and will not be prepared to go in to the marriage supper of the Lamb. We cannot be ready to meet the Lord by waking up at the last minute, when the cry is heard, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh," gathering up our lamps, from which the oil has burned away, and thinking then to have them replenished. Our only hope is daily to love God, to love the truth, not for the sake of its clear arguments, but for truth's sake alone. We must bring the truth into our hearts and minds, and every day be living, shining lights, learning daily more and more of Jesus. Our conversation must be in heaven, from whence we look for our Lord Jesus Christ. We should talk much of his coming; then we shall be constantly receiving the grace which cometh from above, from the Source of all spiritual power.

The time is far spent. It is too late now to sleep the careless sleep of indifference. It is time now to rejoice greatly because of the Bridegroom's voice. **It is time to sing of the marriage supper of the Lamb. The question for us to settle is, Which class shall we be among, the wise or the foolish? God help us to be among the wise. "Blessed are they that are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb." ST August 6, 1894, par. 7.**

18. Even now, it is our privilege to live like the 5 wise virgins, with pure faith, no errors in theology, no guile in our lips, making sure there is extra oil in our lamps daily and when the call is given, "Behold the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet Him" then we will be ready to meet Him in peace
19. By embracing the third angel's message, we are able to be with Jesus in the Most Holy Place by faith, and are daily able to go through the experience symbolized by the three articles in the ark of the covenant; this experience prepares us to receive the benefit of the final atonement and have our filthy garments of defective character taken away and replaced with the spotless robe of Christ's righteousness--the wedding garment needed to have a part in the marriage supper of the Lamb in **Rev 19:7-9**
  - a. **pot of manna**--faithfulness in the physical laws (health reform)
  - b. **tables of the Law** --faithfulness in the moral Law (Sabbath reform)
  - c. **the rod of Aaron**--the faith of Jesus (faith in Christ to save amply, fully and entirely from sin)

## The Final Destruction of the Wicked

20. **Revelation 20:** Till the very last, the Bible faithfully brands the rebellious with the number "6": There are six rebellious events portrayed that take place when the thousand years expire, leading to the final destruction of the wicked:
  1. **Verse 7:** Satan loosed out of prison
  2. **Verse 8:** He goes out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog
  3. **Verse 8:** and gathers them together to battle, the number of whom is as the sand of the sea
  4. **Verse 9:** And they went up on the breadth of the earth and compassed the saints about and the beloved city
  5. **Verse 9:** fire comes down from God out of heaven and devours them
  6. **Verse 10:** And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever

