

"ESTABLISH YOUR HEART" BY "COMING OUT OF BABYLON  
(RELIGIOUS CONFUSION)" FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD IS NEAR"  
JAMES 5:8

- Say - Welcome to Sabbath School class. Let's bow our head as we ask God for understanding in our study today. This is the 5th lesson in a 7-part series from James 5:8 which says, "Be ye also patient; establish your hearts (place firmly your face toward God and His way of life, not our way or the world's way of life)".
- Say - In lesson one, we discussed God's purpose for us, our goal and reward. In lesson two we discussed the importance of developing the character of a Righteous King by learning to love the instructions and laws of God which lead us to Christ. We discussed the patience one must have as God's people live each day with the expectation that His coming is very near.
- Say - In lesson 4, we discussed the importance of "establishing our hearts" by giving God the "reins" of our mind and lesson 5 we discussed choosing the Path of Life or "Strait and Narrow way" to prepare for Christ's coming.
- Say - God reveals to us another way to "establish our hearts" so we are prepared for His coming. He warns us that we are to "...come out of her, (Babylon) my people (Why?) that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" Revelation 18:4.
- Say - Through a vision to John, God said, "... upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS (those who allow themselves to be defiled) AND ABOMINATIONS (idol worship and its impurities) OF THE EARTH" Rev. 17:5.
- Say - God warns us to "Come out of her (Babylon) my people" because she is the false or apostate church based in idolatry, full of pride and arrogance and derogatory against the magnificence of God, yet she claims to be the originator of the true church of God and parades herself as kind, loving and full of the goodness of God. God calls her the "Mother of harlots" because many broke away from her and became separate denominations and are referred to as the harlots because they kept the same false doctrines as the "Mother" false church.
- Say - Babylon means and is symbolic of religious confusion; man-made doctrines mixed with truth and error abandoning and or twisting the truth of God. It is a religious system where the laws of God are

changed to fit man-made doctrines and traditions and celebrations.

Say - The Bible speaks of two ways of life; there is the "broad way" which leads to death or the "strait and narrow" way (which we have discussed) which leads to eternal life. Christ tells us which one to choose. Here is how He says it.

Say - "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction (death), and many there be which go in thereat (the "broad way" is the way the majority of people choose to follow in our society)". Why is this so?

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way (difficult), which leadeth unto life (a life devoted to God and His holy righteous instructions and laws), and few (not many) there be that find it" Matt. 7:13-14. Most people want to do their own thing; they do not want to change and do not realize God's way would bring them the happiness they desire.

Say - While both ways are governed by laws, the "broad way" of life is governed by the "flesh" or human reasoning in contrast to the "strait and narrow way of life" which is governed by God's divine way of thinking and reasoning shown to those who choose to follow him in His laws of love, Romans 13:10.

Say - In another verse God instructs us, "Depart ye, depart ye (turn away from, reject), go ye out from (there) ... go ye (depart, turn away, reject her false teachings) out of the midst of her... (do not stay or linger in spiritual Babylon because it will be more difficult to leave once one gets comfortable and accepting of the "broadway" of life)"..." Isaiah 52:11.

Say - What makes many religions deceptive is that many denominations do a lot of good deeds and have very caring people, sincere people but if we don't know the difference between the truth of God and the false doctrines concerning salvation, we can be pulled into a false religion based on goodness. God says don't fall for the Satanic cover-up. We are to learn to recognize the "snare" of the false religions and flee from it.

Say - Why were God's people not to mix pagan or false worship with the true God? "Take heed, (as in urgent that we listen), lest you make a compact or agreement with the disobedient people and it be a snare (like a noose used for catching animals, a hook or a trap) in the midst of thee", Ex. 34:12, Deut. 7:16. God wants our

absolute loyalty to Him and His righteous ways because, "From God comes our salvation", Ps. 62:1. There will be no salvation from the "broadway" of the world's religions and way of life.

Say - Let's look at an example. Is Easter, Halloween, and Christmas a "Snare" or a "Trapping"? Our Bible says in Psalms, "Rid me, (set me free) and deliver me (rescue me) from the hand (power) of strange (pagan gods) children, whose mouth speak vanity (falsehood, emptiness), and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood (deception)", Psalms 144:11.

Say - Many can relate how difficult it was and is to come out of the world's holidays. Once out, it is equally difficult and painful to watch the struggle of another, when they learn the origins of these celebrations, freeing from the "Noose or Trap" as they are sometimes laced with guilt and accusations of abandonment from their own families.

Say - But God warns His people not to mix pagan worship with the worship of the true God, "For they will turn away My son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly", Deut. 7:4. The world is deceptively tempted and attracted to serve another God; which, "...Is transformed (as if) an angel of light". We must not follow the world, it is the "Broad way which leads to destruction", Matt. 7:13.

Say - Unless we were raised to know the truth of God, we will be filled with truth and error. Religions which accept doctrines which were established hundreds of years BEFORE AND AFTER Christ died and have combined pagan practices with the truth of God. God wants us to totally come out of Babylon. For example even at the time of Christ, Simon Magus in the book of Acts used witchcraft and the people said this is from the power of God but they were deceived, Acts 8:8-10.

Say - God warned us of this very thing happening two days before He died. He said, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost (spirit) hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God (My people), which he hath purchased with his own blood" (this is the church Christ died for, not the apostate/false church).

"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise (in God's true church), speaking perverse things,

(Why?) to draw away disciples (followers of God) after them" Acts 20 28-30.

Say - Simon Magus was like the false church leaders today which are still deceiving many by teaching truth and error. Many churches teach that we are under "Grace" for salvation but God teaches just the opposite that we must be called of God, repent of sin and be baptized then we will receive God's grace and the promise of salvation. You see repentance must come first then by God's grace, we are forgiven not the other way around.

Say - Another example, many churches teach that God's law is done away or some say that the Sabbath Day was changed to Sunday. Yet many religions teach that God's Holy Days are Jewish and done away. If we do not study to know what the Bible says, we will always be in the confusion of Babylon. Now we can understand why Christ tells us, "Come out of her (Babylon) my people".

Say - Another thing Christ warned us about two days before He died, He said, "...Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many" Matthew 24:4-5. This is so true; many religions use the terminology of God and put Christ's name on it and people fall for it thinking they are worshipping God yet they refuse to obey His instructions. God says, "In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" Matthew 15:9. "Take heed that no man deceive you" Matt. 24:4-5.

Say - Many that once had been called of God have now forsaken the truth of God and gone back to the mainstream religions they once had come out of. Once knowing the plan of salvation are now teaching one goes to heaven when we die while the Bible teaches just the opposite, John 13:3. For many their diet has returned to the unclean foods and back to eating pork, (which God compares to mice, Isaiah 66:17), lobster, shrimp, rabbits, squirrels etc.

Say - Spiritual blindness has set in once again and God will not have a spiritual relationship with anyone rebellious to His teachings. We must ask ourselves how much are we still in the false Babylon's religions of this world. The answer to this question is how much are we Bible based with the teachings of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Say - God tells us how to "Come out of (Babylon)". He says, "Submit (obey) yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil (oppose Satan and His false doctrines), and he will flee from you (he will leave us alone)". He tells us, "Draw nigh (near) to God (ask for His help,

seek His guidance, have a teachable mind), and he will draw nigh (near) to you (He will keep us on the Path of Life).

Say - Christ, continuing on on how to come out of Babylon said, "Cleanse your hands, ye sinners (be freed from the guilt of sin by repentance); and purify your hearts (keep our minds from evil), ye double minded (don't waver choose right over wrong and good over evil)" James 4:7, 8. Learn to recognize the "snare" of the world's false doctrines. Look for the cover-up and flee from it no matter the good deeds they do.

Say - God wants us to come totally out of the confusion of Babylon. God tells us, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" I John 2:15. In another place He tells us, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed (changed, repent of sin) by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable perfect, will of God" Romans 12:1, 2.

Say - God is telling us love not the deceptive culture of the world, the songs which are contrary to God, the movies, T. V. (American Idol, at least they call it what it is), the foods we put in the "temple of God", our bodies. Remember He owns us and He wants us to come out of idol worship. Our technology has become our God; we can't take our mind off of who might be "calling us or texting" us. We depend on the technology of this world. The Bible tells us, "But my God shall supply all your need (abundantly supply) according to his riches (He owns all things)..." Philippians 4:19 if we follow Him.

Say - God wants us to replace false doctrines with His truth. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest (God does not tell us lies), whatsoever things are just (keep the laws of God not change them), whatsoever things are pure (free from man's reasoning which is contrary to God), whatsoever things are lovely (pleasing and acceptable to God), whatsoever things are of good report (speaking kindly from the words of God); if there be any virtue (moral goodness), and if there be any praise, think on these things (this is what is to fill our mind and control our actions)" Philippians 4:8.

Say - How will we know what is "Truth", "Honest", "Pure", "Lovely", and "Virtuous"? God tells us how; He says, "...they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" Acts 17:11. All of us can "Prove all things, hold fast that which is good" and prove or disprove the

doctrines of the world's religions and "establish our hearts" for the His coming, I Thessalonians 5:21.

Say - In another place God tells us, "Search the scriptures (for God's will, what's right and what's wrong)); (Why?) for in them ye think ye have eternal life (this is our goal remember): ...John 5:39.

Say - It is the Word of God or Scriptures through which He "... will guide you into all truth... (no lies, no deception, no false doctrine) John 16:13. But if we sit in front of the T. V. or the computer or on the phone constantly, we are saying we are not interested in God's guidance or knowing the truth for us. We are telling Him we can't be bothered, that we want our religion from a different source and He will depart from us.

Say - God tells us, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" Hebrews 13:5.

Say - What will happen to the false religions of Babylon? God tells us, "The (self appointed rulers) kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together (or set themselves up), against the LORD (against the supreme God or Most High God), and against his anointed (those called of God), saying,

"Let us break (tear down, drag away) their bands asunder, and cast away their cords (beliefs, Godly doctrine, they want their own doctrine) from us".

"He (God) that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh (mock them for their false gods cannot deliver them or protect them): the LORD shall have them in derision (in confusion, God will look on them as one who can accomplish nothing, their false gods they have served and their idols of modern technology and false religions of soft, "smooth words" cannot save them)".

"Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath (God will be enraged by their disobedience to Him and how they have twisted His truth and misled His creation to a false religion), and vex (put them in terror) them in his sore displeasure (in His heat of anger)" Psalms 2:2-5.

Say - At the time Christ returns not only will the governments of this world be abolished and The Kingdom of God established, but the churches and people which conformed to the apostate church and her apostate religion will be revealed to all, Revelation 17:5.

Say - Through a vision to John, God showed him a time when Babylon, the false religious system of this world will fall. He said describing the false church, "I will show unto thee the judgment (the punishment) of the great whore (Babylon, the chief seat of idolatry) that sitteth upon many waters (figurative of many people)" Rev. 17:15.

"With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication (her religion is in many nations), and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication (a metaphor used here of a fiery wine, which God in His wrath is going to give to those He is about to punish for enticing others to idolatry)" Revelation 17:1-2, Isaiah 63:3, 6.

Say - Finally Babylon's apostate/false religion and its leaders will end in utter destruction as they come to "...make war with the Lamb (Jesus Christ), and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful (NEVER give up)" Rev. 17.

Say - Christ continued in the vision to John, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils (demons)...vs 2"

"Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues (giving all one last chance to repent and flee the false religious system)" vs. 4.

"For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities (lawlessness yet she pretended to be the true church)" vs. 5.

"Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works (she will be punished double for what she has done)"...vs. 6.

(Here is how pious she was) "How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen (Ezekiel 28:2-8), and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow (how wrong she will be)" vs. 7.

"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 (remember God's people are spared these plagues if they "hold fast" unto the end)" Revelation 18:4.

"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",

"Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come (in just a short time God will make her desolate).

"And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more":

"The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,

"And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men".

"And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all" (utter destruction of the system, physically and spiritually).

"And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived" (all those who fell for it will pay the penalty for it) Revelation 18:1-23.

#### SELF APPLICATION

We must ask ourselves have we come totally out of Babylon, the "Broad way" of life and the world's false religions. Are we presenting ourselves as the "a living sacrifice to God", the foods we eat, the music we listen to, the T. V. programs, our choice of friends, our entertainment, our hobbies etc? Remember, garbage in, garbage out. If we are living in the "broad way" of life, we are foolish and are in spiritual darkness and we will pay the penalty. We must come totally out of spiritual Babylon.

#### MEMORY VERSE

"Come out of her (Babylon, mystery religion, false religion), my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

Revelation 18:4

## BIBLE STORY COME OUT OF BABYLON

Our story today is about Abram, whose name was later changed to Abraham, who God called "Out of Babylon" or the city of Ur.

Babylon was an ancient city which was the wonder of the entire world for it had beautiful gardens, extensive libraries and was the seat of culture in the Middle East. But, on the other hand, Babylon was also known for its great sin of pride and evil and confusion.

Abraham was a descendant of Noah's son, Shem, from which the entire Hebrew nation later came. The Hebrew nation would eventually conquer the Land of Canaan or the Promised Land which is spiritually symbolic of the Kingdom of God.

God called Abraham and told him, "Get out of the country and from thy kindred...unto a land I will show you". God wanted Abraham out of the sinful culture and the confusion of Babylon.

The Bible tells us, by faith, Abraham with his wife, Sara, left for the Land of Canaan. God made an agreement or a covenant with Abram and said, "I will make of thee a great nation and I will bless you and thou shall be a blessing to the entire world. But this agreement was conditional. Abram must do what God wanted him to do.

Abraham obeyed God and walked away from his home and friends and the culture of Babylon for the promise from God for greater things in the Promised Land. In Abraham's journey out of Babylon, God tested him through a very difficult circumstance to strengthen and build his character.

The son Abraham and Sara had waited for for so long, God was now instructing him to offer Isaac up as a burnt offering. God wanted to know without a doubt if Abraham loved Him more than anything else, even his son. God wants to know if we love Him more than anything else also.

Abraham did as God requested and rose up early and saddled his donkey and with Isaac gathered up the wood for the ultimate sacrifice. Abraham respected God and had great faith in God. He knew without a doubt he could trust God. Abraham said, "My God will provide a lamb for the burnt offering" and God did.

Just as Abraham was going to offer the sacrifice, God called out to him, "Lay not thine hand upon thy son...for I know you fear God" above all else. What about us, do we fear and respect God "above all else" as Abraham? We can ask God to give us the kind of faith and trust in God as Abraham had and He will provide for His people. We too must "come out of spiritual Babylon" as God has told us and walk in His ways to achieve our goal, the Kingdom of God.

BELOW ARE THE MEMORY VERSES TO BE CUT OUT AND PLACED WITH AN APPROPRIATE PICTURE WHICH COMPLEMENTS THE STORY OR LESSON AND PLACED IN THE SABBATH SCHOOL NOTEBOOKS.

MEMORY VERSE

"Come out of her (Babylon, mystery religion, false religion), my people,  
that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her  
plagues.

Revelation 18:4

MEMORY VERSE FOR TOTS

"Come out of her (Babylon, mystery religion, false religion), my people..

Revelation 18:4