

CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS
NOVEMBER 28 2026

run for your life

Scripture Story: Revelation 18:1-14.
Commentary: *The Great Controversy* (or *Love Under Fire*), chapter 38.
Key Text: Revelation 18:4, 5.

PREPARING TO TEACH

I. SYNOPSIS

From God's initial warning to Adam and Eve not to partake of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:17), to the admonition delivered by the angel of Revelation 18, much has transpired. God's counsel has fallen on some deaf ears, while others have made it their duty to obey. However, whatever the past record of humanity's adherence or disdain, Revelation 18 signals the end of God's patience with sin.

The angel John sees in vision illumines the entire earth with its brightness. The message borne is reminiscent of the second angel of Revelation 14:6-13, who declares that the world's system of confusion—Babylon—is fallen, broken beyond repair. But the angel in Revelation goes further. Not only is Babylon fallen, it has become the "dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird" (Revelation 18:2, NKJV), and human beings are caught up in it.

Students need to know that the progression from Revelation 14 to 18 depicts the fearful state of the world as we near the second coming of Jesus. Contrary to human prognosticators, the world is not getting better, argues the angel of Revelation 18. The truth, as it is in Jesus, has been rejected by this time. Human minds and hearts have become deadened to sin, and those who adhere to truth are subjected to terrible privations—even death—especially as they hold true to God's holy Sabbath.

As the world plunges deeper into peril, God's Holy Spirit will give special power to the proclamation of the final warning to the world, represented by the message of the Revelation 18 angel. Your students need to know that God is playing for keeps this time. Now is the time to heed God's warning to come out of the world's system of confusion, renounce all sin, and prepare to meet Jesus in peace.

II. TARGET

The students will:

- Know that God will not allow the world's system of sin and confusion to continue forever. *(Know)*
- Accept God's call to separate from Babylon and its system of sin. *(Feel)*
- Share God's message of warning with their friends. *(Respond)*

III. EXPLORE

The Experience of Salvation, Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs, No. 10

"In infinite love and mercy God made Christ, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might be made the righteousness of God. Led by the Holy Spirit we sense our need, acknowledge our sinfulness, repent of our transgressions, and exercise faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord, Substitute and Example. This saving faith comes through the divine power of the Word and is the gift of God's grace. Through Christ we are justified, adopted as God's sons and daughters, and delivered from the lordship of sin. Through the Spirit we are born again and sanctified; the Spirit renews our minds, writes God's law of love in our hearts, and we are given the power to live a

holy life. Abiding in Him we become partakers of the divine nature and have the assurance of salvation now and in the judgment" (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 45:22; 53; Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek. 33:11; 36:25-27; Hab. 2:4; Mark 9:23, 24; John 3:3-8, 16; 16:8; Rom. 3:21-26; 8:1-4, 14-17; 5:6-10; 10:17; 12:2; 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Gal. 1:4; 3:13, 14, 26; 4:4-7; Eph. 2:4-10; Col. 1:13, 14; Titus 3:3-7; Heb. 8:7-12; 1 Peter 1:23; 2:21, 22; 2 Peter 1:3, 4; Rev. 13:8).

TEACHING

I. GETTING STARTED

Activity

Refer the students to the What Do You Think? *section of their lesson. After they have completed it, discuss their responses.*

The answers to the *What Do You Think?* activity are: A. 4, B. 1, C. 2, D. 3.

The objective of this activity is to consider some of the warnings God has given people in the Bible. Ask the students to share some of the times in their lives when they heeded a warning and were thankful that they had. Have the students also share times in their lives when they failed to listen to warnings and suffered for it.

Make the point that God always gives us a final warning before judgment.

Illustration

Share this illustration in your own words:

I was in the north of England in 1881, when a fearful storm swept over that part of the country. A friend of mine, who was a minister at Evemouth, had a great many of the fishermen of the place in his congregation. It had been very stormy weather, and the fishermen had been detained in the harbor for a week. One day, however, the sun shone out in a clear blue sky; it seemed as if the storm had passed away, and the boats started out for the fishing ground. Forty-one boats left the harbor that day.

Before they started, the harbor-master hoisted the storm signal, and warned them of the coming tempest. He begged them not to go; but they disregarded his warning, and away they went. They saw no sign of the coming storm. In a few hours, however, it swept down on that coast, and very few of those fishermen returned. There were five or six men in each boat, and nearly all were lost in that dreadful gale. In the church of which my friend was pastor, I believe there were three male members left. . . . I lift up the storm signal now, and warn you to escape from the coming judgment![1]

II. TEACHING THE STORY

Bridge to the Story

Share the following in your own words:

If we are honest, we would have to admit that the thought of a coming storm seems a bit far-fetched when the sun is beaming in the sky.

Is it any wonder that we tend to treat God the same way? The idea that we could be threatened for our faith seems far-fetched, especially in Western democratic countries. We must realize that God has been to the future and seen the difficulties we will one day have to face, and He has returned to tell us to stand apart from the world, lest we partake of its punishments (Revelation 18:4).

Out of the Story for Teachers

After you read the Into the Story *section with your students, use the following in your own words to process it with them.*

- The angel speaking in Revelation 18 has some specific attributes. The angel has "great authority" and illuminates the world with its glory. These special traits will also be seen in the lives of the end-time remnant who deliver God's final message of warning.
- Babylon, the great harlot, has seduced "all the nations." They commit fornication with her. She has also made the merchants of the world rich because of her many luxuries. Do we see these practices in the world today? If Babylon represents the world's system of corruption and open rebellion against God, what practices in particular might God be referring to here? Unpack some of these for the students.

Beginning with verse 9 of Revelation 18, we see the people of the world mourning the fall of their bankrupt lover. One need only look at the response to rises and falls in world financial markets to see that much of our planet has put its trust in the things of this world—chiefly money.

- Babylon's sin has come before God. There

is a sense in Revelation 18 that her sins have been mounting over time, carefully catalogued by God. The pronouncement of judgment by the angel is accompanied by many scrupulous details about her crimes. What does this tell us about the way in which God views sin.

Use the following as more teachable passages that relate to today's story: Revelation 14:6-12; Revelation 7:1-8; Ephesians 6:10-19; Isaiah 48:20.

Sharing Context and Background

Use the following information to shed more light on the story for your students. Share it in your own words.

1. The Set-up. Understanding Revelation 18 is made easier by reading Revelation 17. In chapter 17 Babylon is described as a woman arrayed in purple and scarlet, with a golden cup in her hand, sitting upon a beast. Revelation 18 builds on this description and fast-forwards her narrative to a time when she is judged for the damage she has caused in the world.

2. Demonic Possession. There is a tendency among many, particularly the young, to believe that demonic possession is evidenced by frothing from the mouth, loud shrieks, and other such phenomena. Babylon seems to give the lie to that idea. The angel describes Babylon as a sensual woman who entangles humanity by her charms and luxuries. This is hardly the picture of demonic activity.

Yet Revelation 18:2 depicts Babylon as wholly possessed, the place "foul spirits" call home. The picture is one of total perversion and apostasy, but to those in her embrace, none of this is seen. They are simply enjoying their time with Babylon.

Revelation 18 is serious because it unmasks the true identity of the world's system of corruption and evil, and God's desire to save His people from its destruction.

3. Historical Parallel. Read Isaiah 48:20; Jeremiah 50:8; Jeremiah 51:6, 45. *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* notes: "As God's people

Tips for Top-Notch Teaching

RABBI 101

Picture That

For this lesson you might want to show a picture of a woman dressed like the woman described in Revelation 17 and 18. She should be clothed in purple and scarlet, with gold, jeweled stones, and pearls.

Invite the class to guess who she is based on how she is attired. When the guesses stop, read with the students the biblical description from Revelation 17 and 18.

This activity ought to get the class thinking and exploring the subject matter.

Teaching From . . .

Refer your students to the other sections of their lesson.

- **Key Text**
  Invite students to share the Key Text *with the class if they have committed it to memory.*
- **Flashlight**
  Read the Flashlight *statement, pointing out that most of the time it is from the commentary on this week's story found in the book* The Great Controversy. *Ask what relationship they see between the statement and what they have just discussed from* Out of the Story.
- **Punch Lines**
  Point out to your students the verses listed in their lesson that relate to this week's story. Have them share the verse that spoke most directly to them and allow them to explain why they chose it.
- **Further Insight**
  Ask them how the quote in Further Insight *conveys the point of the story in this lesson.*

formerly came out of literal Babylon in order that they might return to Jerusalem, so His people today are called out of mystical Babylon in order that they may be accounted worthy to enter the New Jerusalem. Presumably, all who are truly His people will hear His voice and heed His call."[2]

4. Humble Instruments Wanted. "As the time comes for it to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them. The sins of Babylon will be laid open."[3]

III. CLOSING

Activity

Close with an activity and debrief it in your own words.

Close this week's lesson by asking each student to pray silently, asking God to reveal areas in their lives where Babylonian ways and values have crept in. Perhaps it's in their entertainment choices, their online lives, or their friendships.

Let this personal prayer time end the Sabbath School time together.

Summary

Share the following thoughts in your own words:

The final scenes of earth's history will be fearful ones. Jesus said as much in Matthew 24 and 25, though the disciples could scarcely grasp His meaning at the time. Though they could not fully understand their Lord, Jesus still warned them of what was to come, much of it coming thousands of years after their deaths.

Revelation 18 shows a remarkably consistent God, one who suffers long with human beings and gives them every opportunity to be saved. The world's system of confusion and sin will one day be shattered. God will return to save those who remain faithful to Him. But in the meantime, those faithful ones have a work to do. They must lay bare the sins of Babylon, so that men and women can make a choice for or against God.

Lightened with the power of the Holy Spirit, the faithful will stand on God's Word, choosing death and privation rather than give up the Sabbath or disobey any of God's laws. Their sacrifice will lead countless others to heed the call to come out of Babylon.

It is a singular honor to be trusted with such an all-important message. Let us do our part for God in His power.

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[1] From *Moody's Anecdotes and Illustrations,* pp. 115, 116.

[2] *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 7, p. 861.

[3] Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy,* p. 606.



Remind the students about the reading plan that will take them through the inspired commentary of the Bible, the Conflict of the Ages Series. The reading that goes with this lesson is *The Great Controversy* (or *Love Under Fire*), chapter 38.

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STUDENT LESSON

Scripture Story: Revelation 18:1-14.
Commentary: *The Great Controversy* (or *Love Under Fire*), chapter 38.

run for your life



Photo by A Truman

keytext

"And I heard another voice from heaven saying, 'Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.'"

(Revelation 18:4, 5, NKJV)

flashlight

"But not one is made to suffer the wrath of God until the truth has been brought home to his mind and conscience, and has been rejected. There are many who have never had an opportunity to hear the special truths for this time. The obligation of the fourth commandment has never been set before them in its true light. He who reads every heart and tries every motive will leave none who desire a knowledge of the truth, to be deceived as to the issues of the controversy. The decree is not to be urged upon the people blindly. Everyone is to have sufficient light to make his decision intelligently" (*The Great Controversy,* p. 605).

what do you think?

When natural disasters leave a path of destruction and ruined lives, one of the first questions that people ask is, Was there adequate warning? That's one question that can never be asked of God when He brings judgment on human beings. He always gives a warning.

Here are few warnings God gave before destruction came. Match the people with the scripture where the warning is found.

A. Noah	1. Genesis 41:30, 31
B. Pharaoh	2. Genesis 19:12-15
C. Lot	3. Jonah 3:4, 5
D. Nineveh	4. Genesis 6:5

did you know?

The book of Revelation encompasses visions given by Jesus Christ to John while he was imprisoned on the island of Patmos. Patmos still exists today. It is a relatively small island among the Sporades group of islands in the Aegean Sea near the west coast of Turkey.

Roman emperors would seek out remote territories such as Patmos to imprison political and religious rivals because there they would have neither legal rights nor access to courts. According to some historians, John was believed to be in his 90s when the emperor Domitian imprisoned him on Patmos for two years. It was during this time that God gave him revelations of the end of time and John wrote the book of Revelation.

INTO THE STORY

"After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, 'Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.'

"And I heard another voice from heaven saying, 'Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, "I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow." Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.

"'The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, "Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come."

"'And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men. The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all.'"

(Revelation 18:1-14, NKJV)

OUT OF THE STORY

Have you ever read Revelation 18:1-14 before? What part of this week's passage caught your attention?

Who is speaking? Who is the audience for this message?

Notice the sins of the woman symbolically referred to as Babylon. Place a *checkmark* by each sin that she has committed. How do people in the world relate to her?

If you were to describe God's attitude toward Babylon, what would you say?

What do you think Babylon represents? What is it a symbol of?

Why does the world mourn for Babylon after God begins to destroy it? Is it possible to become so caught up in sin that you literally cry over the fact that it is gone?

What two lessons do you take away from this week's *Into the Story* passage?

punch lines

"And another angel followed, saying, 'Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication'" **(Revelation 14:8, NKJV).**

"Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God; for He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you—the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month" **(Joel 2:23, NKJV).**

"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" **(Ephesians 6:13, NKJV).**

"As the Lord had commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did. He left nothing undone of all that the Lord had commanded Moses" **(Joshua 11:15, NKJV).**

"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong" **(1 Corinthians 16:13, NKJV).**

further insight

"So the followers of Christ are to shed light into the darkness of the world. Through the Holy Spirit, God's word is a light as it becomes a transforming power in the life of the receiver."

—Ellen G. White, *Christ's Object Lessons,* p. 414

connectingtolife

Sabbath

Read Matthew 25:31-46.

Complete the *What Do You Think?* activity. Were you able to correctly match the warning given with the person or persons warned? By now you've got the answers, but let's dig a little deeper into each story.

Take a moment to read the following scriptures again. Examine each passage to find out what specific sin or sins led God to begin punishment. Write what you find next to each verse.

Genesis 41:30, 31: _____

Genesis 19:12-15:_____

Jonah 3:4, 5:_____

Genesis 6:5:_____

Notice that God's punishments are not arbitrary. God's punishments are always a last resort, after all other means have failed.

Sunday

Read Revelation 18:3.

After reading the *Into the Story* section, explore the passage using the *Out of the Story* prompts. The word "Babylon" comes to us from an ancient place called Mesopotamia. Babylon was its chief city, a place known for its sensuality, sexual immorality, and luxury.

Now that you know what Babylon means, why do you think God calls the world's system of sin by the name Babylon?

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The world has committed fornication with Babylon. Fornication occurs when two unmarried people have sex. Why is the angel of Revelation 18 using such strong terms to describe what's happening in the world?

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Monday

Read Revelation 18:4, 5.

The angel encourages all people to come out of Babylon. In a sentence or two share what you think it means to "come out of Babylon."

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Now, read Romans 12:1, 2. How does giving your life to Jesus Christ help you detach from the world?

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Tuesday

Read Exodus 20:1-17.

This week's *Flashlight* quote reminds us that God will give every person an opportunity to accept Him as their personal Savior from sin and Lord of their life. One of the ways that we demonstrate that we are willing to follow Jesus is by keeping His commandments.

What message does keeping all the commandments send to the world? What does it say about you and your relationship to God? Do you think you'll have to defend that relationship one day?

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Wednesday

Read Isaiah 44:3, 4.

Do any of this week's *Punch Lines* grab your attention? They should.

Farmers and others who work in agriculture understand the importance of early and latter rains. Early rains—typically in the spring—help a crop to get going. Latter rains get it ready for the harvest.

In today's reading we see the harvest imagery at work. Why does God want to rain down His Holy Spirit on you as Jesus prepares to return to earth?

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Thursday

Read James 3:17.

Write a three- or four-sentence response to the following scenario:

One day while you are walking to school, two friends you usually hang out with begin to shout at each other. They get louder and louder and soon a pushing match ensues. You listen in and discover that they are fighting over a girl they both like.

What would you do and why?

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Friday

Read 1 John 1:8-2:2.

Do you see any parts of Babylon in your life? What about the music you listen to, the movies you watch, the friends you hang with?

Is there something that you need to give up in order to heed God's final warning? Why not ask God's forgiveness, and pray at the beginning of each hour for strength to go without it?

this week's reading*

The Great Controversy (or *Love Under Fire*), chapter 38.

**Love Under Fire* is a special adaptation of *The Great Controversy,* created for you by the Ellen G. White Estate and Pacific Press. Get more information about it at http://www.cornerstoneconnections.net/article/191/about-us/conflict-of-the-ages-companion-books#.URlhF1rBO9s. By following the weekly reading plan, you will read at least one book of the Conflict of the Ages Series each year.