

WHY THE NEED TO CRITICIZE RELIGION?



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1. Why do Thusians (SDA's) criticize other religions? Because the applicable prophecy for this present time tells us that this is the present message we should give. Rev. 18:1-4.
2. Exegesis of Rev 12:14 shows that God has a remnant people called the little flock, they are the ones to inherit the kingdom of God. (Rev. 12:14; Lk. 12:32).
3. Exegesis of Rev. 18:1.
 - a. To man was given the commission to preach the gospel to the world, not to angels; thus this angel symbolizes a movement of people. (Rev. 18:1; Matt. 28:18-20).
 - b. The great power (authority) of this angel or movement is that which Christ alone has, but which He delegates to the church, hence the final movement of His church, they have the great authority of Jesus Himself, therefore they speak from Him. (Rev. 18:1; Matt. 28:18).
 - c. The glory that lightens the earth is the glory of God Himself, thus God Himself, working through this last movement, is giving the light of Truth to the world. (Rev. 18:1; Eze. 43:2).
4. Exegesis of Rev. 18:2.
 - a. This people cry mightily with a great voice; this is as loud as a trumpet, it means they are giving an urgent message of a call to repentance to all the earth. (Rev. 18:2; Isa. 58:1).
 - b. Who is this Babylon that is being denounced? While Babylon is a very ancient city, it was used as a symbol for false religion because it was the source of all post-flood false religion on the earth. Babylon is a symbol of false religion. (Rev. 18:2; Jer. 50:2, 34, 38; Jer. 51:7; Isa. 21:9).
 - c. The knowledge of false religion and idolatry makes man brutal; that is sinful, cold, unloving and anti-rights. (Rev. 18:2; Jer. 51:17, 18).
 - d. As false religion, Babylon is presented as a harlot woman. Since a pure and chaste woman symbolizes God's true church, so a corrupted, harlot woman symbolizes a false church with false religion. (Rev. 18:2; Rev. 17:1-4).
 - e. Babylon is not only one false, but many religions, because she has daughters, that is, she has religions that came from her and derive their teachings and policies thereof. (Rev. 18:2; Rev. 17:5).

f. In the near future Babylon is to be broken up into three parts; this shows that it is made up of three types of false religions. (Rev. 18:2; Rev. 16:19).

g. The three types of false religions in the world are revealed in Rev. 16:13, 14.

1. The Dragon is non-Christian spiritualistic religions openly ruled by Satan. (Rev. 12:9; Jn. 8:44).

2. The Beast is Roman Papal Christianity made up of falsehood from ancient nations. Rev. 13:1-8.

3. The False Prophet is apostate protestant Christianity that lie on the Bible and depend on satanic spiritualistic miracles to survive. (Jer. 14:14; Matt. 24:4, 5; Rev. 19:20).

h. And who is the harlot woman, the chief of the evil religions? We are told that it is the city that is ruling over the world in John's time — this is Rome. So the only religion to hold the city of Rome as its capital or administrative city in times past was the Roman Papacy with its religion. Rev. 17:18.

i. What is Babylon fallen from? Since we are saved by Grace giving us Faith, Babylon is fallen from Grace, so these religions cannot give salvation to their followers. (Rev. 18:2; Eph. 2:8; Gal. 5:4).

j. In Babylonian false religions can be found demons. (Rev. 18:2; Deut. 32:16, 17; 1 Cor. 10:21).

k. Babylon is a hold for every false experience (spirit). (Rev. 18:2; 1 Sam. 1:15).

l. Babylon is also a cage presided over by unclean and hateful birds which are evil religious leaders. (Rev. 18:2; Jer. 5:26-28).

5. Exegesis of Rev. 18:3.

a. The nations are made drunk or mad over the false doctrines of these false religions that causes them to go after false gods. (Rev. 18:3; Jer. 51:7; Jer. 50:38).

b. The kings of the earth have committed fornication with false religion, this is an unlawful relationship between religion and government. This means the legislation of religion by government. (Rev. 18:3; Rev. 13:15).

c. The merchants of the earth make much profit from false religions, thus vast amounts of money are poured into these religions to support them. Rev. 18:3, 19, 23.

6. Exegesis of Rev. 18:4.

a. God calls His people to come out of Babylon, they are to leave all false religions by first giving up their teachings and become converted to the Truth. (Rev. 18:4; 2 Cor.

6:14-18).

b. Those who leave are people with conviction from the Holy Spirit, and who are true to these convictions. (Rev. 18:4; Jn. 10:16; Jn. 8:30, 31, And 43).

c. They are called to become those who keep the Law by Faith. (Rev. 18:4; Rev. 14:12).

d. Thus the call to leave all false religion is to associate in one true fold, those who keep the Law of God by the Faith of Jesus Christ. (Rev. 18:4; Jn. 10:16; Rev. 14:12).

e. This action on the part of those who leave Babylon saves them from the seven last plagues destroying them. Rev. 18:4, 8.

f. Those who remain in these false religions will be lost and receive of the plagues. Rev. 16:1, 2.

7. All the false religions are reserved for destruction in the seven last plagues, hence the urgent call for men to leave all false religion. Rev. 17:16, 17

8. Elijah, Jesus and Paul criticized false religion. 1 Kin. 18:26-28; Matt. 23:1-8, 13, 24-28, 32, 33; Acts. 19:23-28.

9. Thus God's agenda for His people in the last days is that they call people from Babylon that they may be saved, hence we must be critical to false religion. Even Ellen G. White who Seventh-day Adventists acknowledge as being an inspired prophetess led by the Holy Spirit tells us that Rev. 18:1-4 is God's final message to call people out of Babylon false religion hence the need to criticize them.

“This scripture [Rev. 18:1-4] points forward to a time when the announcement of the fall of Babylon, as made by the second angel of Revelation 14 (verse 8), is to be repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the various organizations that constitute Babylon, since that message was first given, in the summer of 1844. A terrible condition of the religious world is here described.” Ellen G. White, the Great Controversy, pg. 603.

“Hence the movement symbolized by the angel coming down from heaven, lightening the earth with his glory and crying mightily with a strong voice, announcing the sins of Babylon. In connection with his message the call is heard: “Come out of her, My people.” These announcements, uniting with the third angel's message, constitute the final warning to be given to the inhabitants of the earth.” Ibid, pg. 604.

“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... By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these. In amazement they hear the testimony that Babylon is the church, fallen because

of her errors and sins, because of her rejection of the truth sent to her from heaven.” Ibid, pg. 606-607.

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