



SAVED TO SERVE  
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The Great Controversy, pt. 38: The Final Warning.  
School Massacre: Put God & Prayer Back In Schools. SDA Pastor Leads Church  
To Theater. Black Panther & Black Power vs Latter Rain & Loud Cry Power

1. What is the title of chapter 38 of *The Great Controversy*? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Let us read Revelation 18:1,2,4,23. This scripture brings to view the final warning in connection with Revelation 14:6-20.
3. What message does the final warning repeat? Revelation 18:2 and Revelation 14:8 \_\_\_\_\_

**This scripture 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. With every rejection of truth the minds of the people will become darker, their hearts more stubborn, until they are entrenched in an infidel hardihood. In defiance of the warnings which God has given, they will continue to trample upon one of the precepts of the Decalogue, until they are led to persecute those who hold it sacred. Christ is set at nought in the contempt placed upon His word and His people. As the teachings of spiritualism are accepted by the churches, the restraint imposed upon the carnal heart is removed, and the profession of religion will become a cloak to conceal the basest iniquity. A belief in spiritual manifestations opens the door to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and thus the influence of evil angels will be felt in the churches. {GC 603.2}

4. What entities comprise Babylon? Revelation 17:1-6 \_\_\_\_\_

The woman (Babylon) of Revelation 17 is described as "arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness:...and upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots." Says the prophet: "I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus." Babylon is further declared to be "that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth." Revelation 17:4-6, 18. **The power that for so many centuries maintained despotic sway over the monarchs of Christendom is Rome. The purple and scarlet color, the gold and precious stones and pearls, vividly picture the magnificence and more than kingly pomp affected by the haughty see of Rome.** And no other power could be so truly declared "drunken with the blood of the saints" as that church which has so cruelly persecuted the followers of Christ. Babylon is also charged with the sin of unlawful connection with "the kings of the earth." It was by departure from the Lord, and alliance with the heathen, that the Jewish church became a harlot; and Rome, corrupting herself in like manner by seeking the support of worldly powers, receives a like condemnation. {GC 382.2}

**Babylon is said to be "the mother of harlots."** By her daughters must be symbolized churches that cling to her doctrines and traditions, and follow her example of sacrificing the truth and the approval of God, in order to form an unlawful alliance with the world. **The message of Revelation 14, announcing the fall of Babylon must apply to religious bodies that were once pure and have become corrupt.** Since this message follows the warning of the judgment, it must be given in the last days; **therefore it cannot refer to the Roman Church alone, for that church has been in a fallen condition for many centuries.** Furthermore, in the eighteenth chapter of the Revelation the people of God are called upon to come out of Babylon. According to this scripture, many of God's people must still be in Babylon. And in what religious bodies are the greater part of the followers of Christ now to be found? **Without doubt, in the various churches professing the Protestant faith.** {GC 382.3}

5. What is the condition of Babylon, under the final warning? Revelation 18:2 \_\_\_\_\_
6. Why does the call go forth to come out of Babylon? Revelation 18:4,5 \_\_\_\_\_
7. Note: This mighty angel of Revelation 18:1-6 is a mighty movement that comes when Babylon's sins have reached unto heaven, during the Mark of the Beast crisis and just before the seven last plagues are poured out. Compare the previous points with Exodus 3:1-12.
8. What constitutes a part of the final warning? Revelation 14:9,10,12. What is it contrasted to? Revelation 13:15-17 \_\_\_\_\_

9. When does a person officially receive the mark of the beast? Compare Revelation 18:1 with John 3:17-21 \_\_\_\_\_

**With the issue thus clearly brought before him, whoever shall trample upon God's law to obey a human enactment receives the mark of the beast;** he accepts the sign of allegiance to the power which he chooses to obey instead of God. The warning from heaven is: "If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation." Revelation 14:9, 10. {GC 604.3}

**The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty, for it is the point of truth especially controverted. When the final test shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve Him not.** While the observance of the false sabbath in compliance with the law of the state, contrary to the fourth commandment, will be an avowal of allegiance to a power that is in opposition to God, the keeping of the true Sabbath, in obedience to God's law, is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator. **While one class, by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, receive the mark of the beast, the other choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive the seal of God.** {GC 605.2}

10a. Who will the Lord use to give the final warning? Acts 1:20-26; Acts 4:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Thus the message of the third angel will be proclaimed. 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. The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power--all will be unmasked. {GC 606.2}

10b. Which movements will the movement of Revelation 18:1 far exceed? Which movement will Revelation 18:1 resemble?

The angel who unites in the proclamation of the third angel's message is to lighten the whole earth with his glory. A work of world-wide extent and unwonted power is here foretold. **The advent movement of 1840-44 was a glorious manifestation of the power of God; the first angel's message was carried to every missionary station in the world, and in some countries there was the greatest religious interest which has been witnessed in any land since the Reformation of the sixteenth century; but these are to be exceeded by the mighty movement under the last warning of the third angel.** {GC 611.1} **The work will be similar to that of the Day of Pentecost.** {GC 611.2}

11a. What will be the effect of the message? Matthew 12:21-24,31; Revelation 11:18 \_\_\_\_\_

**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. As the people go to their former teachers with the eager inquiry, **Are these things so? the ministers present fables, prophesy smooth things, to soothe their fears and quiet the awakened conscience.** But since many refuse to be satisfied with the mere authority of men and demand a plain "Thus saith the Lord," the popular ministry, **like the Pharisees of old, filled with anger as their authority is questioned, will denounce the message as of Satan and stir up the sin-loving multitudes to revile and persecute those who proclaim it.** {GC 606.2}

11b. What effect does this angel of Revelation 18:1 have or this mighty movement have? Revelation 18:1 \_\_\_\_\_

**As the controversy extends into new fields and the minds of the people are called to God's downtrodden law, Satan is astir. The power attending the message will only madden those who oppose it.** {GC 607.1}

11c. When they are maddened by the final warning, how will they label God's commandment-keeping people? Acts 2:12-16 \_\_\_\_\_

12. What will the apostate churches do in order to stop the final warning? John 11:47-51; Luke 23:12; Acts 5:17,18 \_\_\_\_\_

**The clergy will put forth almost superhuman efforts to shut away the light lest it should shine upon their flocks.** By every means at their command they will endeavor to suppress the discussion of these vital questions. **The church appeals to the strong arm of civil power, and, in this work, papists and Protestants unite. As the movement for Sunday enforcement becomes more bold and decided, the law will be invoked against commandment keepers. They will be threatened with fines and imprisonment, and some will be offered positions of influence, and other rewards and advantages, as inducements to renounce their faith.** But their steadfast answer is: "Show us from the word of God our error"--the same plea that was made by Luther under similar circumstances. **Those who are arraigned before the courts make a strong vindication of the truth,** and some who hear them are led to take their stand to keep all the commandments of God. **Thus light will be brought before thousands who otherwise would know nothing of these truths.** {GC 607.1}

13. During that Mark of the Beast crisis, what will happen among many families? Matthew 10:34-38; 2 Timothy 3:1-3,10-12 \_\_\_\_\_

Conscientious obedience to the word of God will be treated as rebellion. **Blinded by Satan, the parent will exercise harshness and severity toward the believing child; the master or mistress will oppress the commandment-keeping servant. Affection will be alienated; children will be disinherited and driven from home.** The words of Paul will be literally fulfilled: "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." 2 Timothy 3:12. As the defenders of truth refuse to honor the Sunday-sabbath, some of them will be thrust into prison, some will be exiled, some will be treated as slaves. **To human wisdom all this now seems impossible; but as the restraining Spirit of God shall be withdrawn from men, and they shall be under the control of Satan, who hates the divine precepts, there will be strange developments. The heart can be very cruel when God's fear and love are removed.** {GC 608.1}

14. During that Mark of the Beast crisis, what will happen among many churches, even among the Seventh-day Adventist church? Matthew 10:34-38 \_\_\_\_\_

**As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition.** By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. **Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbathkeepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them.** {GC 608.2}

15. Who is the Lord using, as one of His methods, to hold the winds of strife and persecution from coming prematurely upon His people? John 7:50-53, Acts 5:33-39

But so long as Jesus remains man's intercessor in the sanctuary above, the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit is felt by rulers and people. It still controls to some extent the laws of the land. Were it not for these laws, the condition of the world would be much worse than it now is. While many of our rulers are active agents of Satan, God also has His agents among the leading men of the nation. **The enemy moves upon his servants to propose measures that would greatly impede the work of God; but statesmen who fear the Lord are influenced by holy angels to oppose such propositions with unanswerable arguments. Thus a few men will hold in check a powerful current of evil. The opposition of the enemies of truth will be restrained that the third angel's message may do its work.** When the final warning shall be given, it will arrest the attention of these leading men through whom the Lord is now working, and some of them will accept it, and will stand with the people of God through the time of trouble. {GC 610.3}

16. When must the final warning go forward? What will give it force and power?

**"Heretofore those who presented the truths of the third angel's message have often been regarded as mere alarmists. Their predictions that religious intolerance would gain control in the United States, that church and state would unite to persecute those who keep the commandments of God, have been pronounced groundless and absurd.** It has been confidently declared that this land could never become other than what it has been--**the defender of religious freedom. But as the question of enforcing Sunday observance is widely agitated, the event so long doubted and disbelieved is seen to be approaching, and the third message will produce an effect which it could not have had before.** {GC 605.3}

17. CURRENT EVENTS: Watch the sermon video in order to view the other news reports fulfilling Bible prophecies. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDiSeLqJOCQ>

18. Yet this very class put forth the claim that the fast-spreading corruption is largely attributable to the desecration of the so-called "Christian sabbath," and that the enforcement of Sunday observance would greatly improve the morals of society. This claim is especially urged in America, where the doctrine of the true Sabbath has been most widely preached. {GC 587.1}

19. 17 killed in mass shooting at high school in Parkland, Florida <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/police-respond-shooting-parkland-florida-high-school-n848101>

20. We are living in the time of the end. The fast-fulfilling signs of the times declare that the coming of Christ is near at hand. The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth...The daily papers are full of indications of a terrible conflict in the near future. Bold robberies are of frequent occurrence. Strikes are common. Thefts and murders are committed on every hand. Men possessed of demons are taking the lives of men, women, and little children. {9T 11.1}

21. Columbine, Sandy Hook and Virginia Tech: Major school shootings in the United States in the last 20 years <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5392845/Major-school-shootings-United-States.html>

22. 18 school shootings in 45 days — Florida massacre is one of many tragedies in 2018 <https://www.cnn.com/2018/02/14/florida-school-shooting-brings-yearly-tally-to-18-in-2018.html>

23. Samuel Rodriguez, Paula White, Greg Laurie and More Call America to Prayer After Parkland Shooting <https://www.charismanews.com/us/69622-samuel-rodriguez-paula-white-greg-laurie-and-more-call-america-to-prayer-after-parkland-shooting>

24. SC legislators want to put prayer back in public schools <http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article199796334.html>

25. Dozens attend 'Put Prayer Back in Schools' forum in Florence <http://wpde.com/news/local/dozens-attend-put-prayer-back-in-schools-forum-in-florence>

26. Fmr. NFL star on Florida school shooting: Get God back in our schools <http://www.foxbusiness.com/features/2018/02/15/fmr-nfl-star-on-florida-school-shooting-get-god-back-in-our-schools.html>

28. AZ Senator: Church attendance should be mandatory..."I believe what's happening to our country is that there's a moral erosion of the soul of America," she said. "It's the soul that is corrupt. How we get back to a moral rebirth I don't know. Since we are slowly eroding religion at every opportunity that we have. **Probably we should be debating a bill requiring every American to attend a church of their choice on Sunday to see if we can get back to having a moral rebirth...**" <http://www.azfamily.com/story/28620533/az-senator-church-attendance-should-be-mandatory?clienttype=mobile>

29. What do the people who are in the church and the world desire, even though human probation is about to close, the mark of the beast is about to be enforced? 2 Timothy 4:1-4; Isaiah 30:8-11

In every generation God has sent His servants to rebuke sin, both in the world and in the church. **But the people desire smooth things spoken to them,** and the pure, unvarnished truth is not acceptable. **Many reformers, in entering upon their work, determined to exercise great prudence in attacking the sins of the church and the nation. They hoped, by the example of a pure Christian life, to lead the people back to the doctrines of the Bible.** But the Spirit of God came upon them as it came upon Elijah, moving him to rebuke the sins of a wicked king and an apostate people; they could not refrain from preaching the plain utterances of the Bible-- doctrines which they had been reluctant to present. They were impelled to zealously declare the truth and the danger which threatened souls. The words which the Lord gave them they uttered, fearless of consequences, and the people were compelled to hear the warning. {GC 606.1}

30. World Church: Spirit of Prophecy Resolution Voted, Points Church to Bible...The resolution notes the study of **Mrs. White's writings "will constantly lead the Church back to the Bible as the very foundation of faith and practice."** Dr. Angel Manuel Rodríguez, Biblical Research Institute director, said that for Adventist Christians, the "Bible is the fundamental ground of the Adventist faith and practice." He added that the gift exercised by Ellen G. White **"can enrich but not define our faith and practice."** <https://news.adventist.org/en/all-news/news/go/2005-07-02/world-church-spirit-of-prophecy-resolution-voted-points-church-to-bible/>

31. **CURRENT EVENTS:** Watch the sermon video in order to view the other news reports regard SDA pastors and people attending the theaters in order to watch Black Panther. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDiSeLqJOCQ>

32. Follows T'Challa who, after the death of his father, the King who of Wakanda, returns home to the isolated, technologically advanced African nation to succeed to the throne and take his rightful place as king. But when a powerful old enemy reappears, T'Challa's mettle as king and Black Panther is tested when he is drawn into a formidable conflict that puts the fate of Wakanda and the entire world at risk. Faced with treachery and danger, the young king must rally his allies and release the full power of Black Panther to defeat his foes and secure the safety of his people and their way of life... <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1825683/plotsummary>

33. **Another minister seeks to please his congregation, and tells them that young people must have pleasure; it is no harm to go to the theater and attend parties of pleasure and to dance, for Jesus attended a wedding feast.** All this is in keeping with **the theory that you are not saved by good works but by Christ and Christ alone.** The ministers tell the congregations they cannot keep the law; no man ever kept it or ever can keep it. What a theory! The wise and good God presents to His people a law that is to govern their actions which it is impossible for them to observe! What a character to give our heavenly Father, who so loved man that in order to save him He did not withhold His only Son, but gave Him up for us all! How much more, says the inspired apostle, will He not with Him freely give us all things? {21MR 243.1}

34. But dancing, as practiced at the present day, is detrimental to the health of soul and body. **Theater-going, dancing, card-playing, gambling, inebriety, are all steps in the path of vice and dissipation. He who, having received the light of present truth, will yet persist in venturing into this path, is unworthy of the name of Christian. What attractions can this elder of the church find in the dance-hall? Is he in this godless company fitting himself to exert a proper influence over the flock of God?** {ST, February 23, 1882 par. 5}

35. Many place themselves on **the enchanted ground** by frequenting scenes of **amusement where fallen spirits congregate.** **Professing Christian, when you resort to the theater, remember that Satan is there, conducting the play as the master-actor...** Wherever an influence is exerted to cause men to forget their Creator, there Satan is at work, it matters not how innocent the guise under which he conceals his purpose. {ST, May 18, 1882 par. 23}

36. **The true Christian will not desire to enter any place of amusement or engage in any diversion upon which he cannot ask the blessing of God. He will not be found at the theater, the billiard hall, or the bowling saloon. He will not unite with the gay waltzers or indulge in any other bewitching pleasure that will banish Christ from the mind.** {AH 515.4}

37. As soon as these entertainments are introduced, **the objections to theatergoing are removed from many minds, and the plea that moral and high-toned scenes are to be acted at the theater breaks down the last barrier.** Those who would permit this class of amusements at the sanitarium would better be seeking wisdom from God to **lead these poor, hungry, thirsting souls to the Fountain of joy and peace and happiness.** {CH 240.2}

38. There are amusements, such as card-playing, dancing, theater-going, etc., which we cannot approve, because Heaven condemns them. They open the door to great evils. By their exciting tendency they produce in some minds a passion for gambling and dissipation. **All such amusements should be condemned by Christians, and something perfectly harmless should be substituted in their place.** {CTBH 108.2}

39. To those who plead for these diversions we answer, We cannot indulge in them in the name of Jesus of Nazareth. The blessing of God would not be invoked upon the hour spent at the theater or in the dance. No Christian would wish to meet death in such a place. No one would wish to be found there when Christ shall come. {AH 516.1}

40. You have no time to devote to the theater or the dance hall. You have no time to grumble. It is lost, lost. You have no time to play cards. You have no time to attend horse races. You have no time to attend shows. How is it with my soul? . . . Have I a living connection with God? If I have, I must seek to win these souls that are attracted with these outward pleasures. {RC 247.4}

41. **The true Christian will not desire to enter any place of amusement or engage in any diversion upon which he cannot ask the blessing of God. He will not be found at the theater, the billiard hall, or the bowling saloon. He will not unite with the gay waltzers, or indulge in any other bewitching pleasure that will banish Christ from the mind.** {TMK 311.2} **...To those who plead for these diversions, we answer, We cannot indulge in them in the name of Jesus of Nazareth.... Go in imagination to Gethsemane** and behold the anguish which Christ endured for us. See the world's Redeemer wrestling in superhuman agony, the sins of the whole world upon His soul. Hear His prayer, borne upon the sympathizing breeze, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matthew 26:39). The hour of darkness has come. Christ has entered the shadow of His cross. Alone He must drink the bitter cup. {TMK 311.3}

42. How will many of God's commandment-keeping people feel during the Mark of the Beast crisis, when they are troubled and persecuted on every side? \_\_\_\_\_

In this time of persecution the faith of the Lord's servants will be tried. They have faithfully given the warning, looking to God and to His word alone. God's Spirit, moving upon their hearts, has constrained them to speak. Stimulated with holy zeal, and with the divine impulse strong upon them, they entered upon the performance of their duties without coldly calculating the consequences of speaking to the people the word which the Lord had given them. They have not consulted their temporal interests, nor sought to preserve their reputation or their lives. **Yet when the storm of opposition and reproach bursts upon them, some, overwhelmed with consternation, will be ready to exclaim: "Had we foreseen the consequences of our words, we would have held our peace."** They are hedged in with difficulties. Satan assails them with fierce temptations. The work which they have undertaken seems far beyond their ability to accomplish. They are threatened with destruction. The enthusiasm which animated them is gone; yet they cannot turn back. **Then, feeling their utter helplessness, they flee to the Mighty One for strength. They remember that the words which they have spoken were not theirs, but His who bade them give the warning. God put the truth into their hearts, and they could not forbear to proclaim it.**  
{GC 608.3}

43. Read and meditate upon Jeremiah 20:9; Acts 4:24-32, then write your thoughts \_\_\_\_\_

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