

## **The Wine of Babylon**

Elder Parminder has mentioned that we may be in danger of drinking from the wine of Babylon. He gave the example of dowry and the fact that it is linked to human trafficking and he quotes the following:

**The right to hold human beings in bondage and to buy and sell them, is now made out in the most confident manner from the Old and New Testaments, by the leading doctors of divinity of most denominations; and some of the most distinguished and skillful are able to make out this from the golden rule.** The professed church to a fearful extent, is the right arm of the slave power, and our own nation is a perfect illustration on the subject of slavery, of a nation drunken with the wine of Babylon. That most infamous law, "the fugitive slave bill," was vindicated by our most distinguished Doctor of Divinity as a righteous measure. {1855 JNA, TAR 56.1}

The intention of this study is to look closely of what constitutes the wine of Babylon. We are all in danger of drinking from it even if it is a little sip or even if it is to have pleasure to just look at the cup of wine.

### **1<sup>st</sup> mention of the wine of Babylon**

The first mention of the wine of Babylon is found in Jeremiah 51:7. We are told:

#### **Jeremiah 51**

51:7 Babylon [hath been] a golden cup in the LORD'S hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore, the nations are mad.

51:8 Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed: howl for her; take balm for her pain, if so be she may be healed.

- Jeremiah gives a prophecy of what would happen to literal Babylon and particularly her fall.
- She has committed inequity by letting her princes, her governors, her mighty men be drunk by her wine.
- This is what happened on the night Belshazzar drunk from the cup of the Temple of the Lord.
- He has been cursed by not paying attention of the instruction of the Lord and has a result himself and his own nation was punished.
- Babylon is no more to be found.

*The Hebrew prophets had spoken clearly concerning the manner in which Babylon would fall: { RR 189.1 }*

*"Babylon has suddenly fallen and been destroyed." "The Lord is the God of recompense; He will surely repay. 'And I will make drunk her princes and wise men, her governors, her deputies, and her mighty men. And they shall sleep a perpetual sleep and not awake,' says the King, whose name is the Lord of hosts." Jeremiah 51:8, 56, 57. { RR 189.2 }*

So “Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldeans’ pride,” became like Sodom and Gomorrah—a place forever accursed. “It will never be inhabited, nor will it be settled from generation to generation; nor will the Arabian pitch tents there, nor will the shepherds make their sheepfolds there. But wild beasts of the desert will lie there, and their houses will be full of owls; ostriches will dwell there, and wild goats will caper there. The hyenas will howl in their citadels, and jackals in their pleasant palaces.” Isaiah 13:19-22. { RR 189.3 }

### The feast of Bacchus

We want to look at the historical context or the reasons why Belshazzar had the audacity to drink wine in the sacred cup of the Lord. From this awful act, he received an immediate punishment which resulted from his fall and the fall of his kingdom.

We are in the annual feast of Bacchus. This is what we learn from Haskell in the Story of Daniel the Prophet:

*It was the last night of a nation's existence, but the people knew it not. Some slept in unconscious peace; some reveled and whirled away in thoughtless dance. In the dens of Babylon, men steeped in vice continued their wild orgies; in the palace halls Belshazzar feasted with a thousand of his lords. Music resounded through the brilliantly lighted rooms. The nobles lounged about the tables sumptuously spread. Court women and concubines of the king entered those halls. **It was a feast of Bacchus, and they drank to the health of the king on his throne.** He ordered that the sacred vessels be brought from the temple to show that no being, human or divine, could raise a hand against him, the king of Babylon. **The golden cup filled with wine was raised and the blessing of Bel invoked,** but it never reached the lips of the half-intoxicated king. His hand was stayed. Those vessels had been molded by hands divinely skilled, and after heavenly models. Angels had watched them as they were taken from the temple at Jerusalem and carried to Babylon. Messengers divinely appointed had guarded them, and their very presence in the heathen temple was a witness of the God of the Jews. Some day the silence would be broken. The desecration of his temple would not always remain unpunished. {1901 SNH, SDP 68.1}*

- The feast of Bacchus is a feast or an orgy in honor of Bacchus. 2. hence: a drunken feast; drunken reveler. bacchanalia n 1. an orgiastic festival in ancient Greece in honor of dionysus (= bacchus) [syn: dionysia, bacchanalia] 2. a wild gathering involving excessive drinking and promiscuity [syn: orgy, debauch, debauchery, saturnalia, riot, bacchanal, drunken revelry]  
Translation of Bacchanalia in English – Babylon translation.babylon-software.com/english/bacchanalia/

From Wikipedia, we learn:

**Dionysus** or **Dionysos**<sup>[a]</sup> is the god of the grape-harvest, winemaking and wine, of fertility, orchards and fruit, vegetation, insanity, ritual madness, [religious ecstasy](#), [festivity](#) and [theatre](#) in [ancient Greek religion](#) and [myth](#).<sup>[2][3][4]</sup>

He is also known as **Bacchus** (/ˈbækəs/ or /ˈbɑːkəs/; **Greek**: Βάκχος, *Bákkhos*), the name adopted by the **Romans**;<sup>[5]</sup> the frenzy he induces is *bakkheia*. Another name used by the Romans is **Liber** meaning “free”, due to his association with wine and the Bacchanalia and

other rites, and **the freedom associated with it**. His [thyrsus](#), sometimes wound with ivy and dripping with honey, is both a beneficent wand and a weapon used to destroy those who oppose his cult and the freedoms he represents. As **Eleutherios** ("the liberator"), his wine, music and ecstatic dance free his followers from self-conscious fear and care, and subvert the oppressive restraints of the powerful. **Those who partake of his mysteries are believed to become possessed and empowered by the god himself.**<sup>[6]</sup>

The cult of Dionysus is also a "cult of the souls"; his [maenads](#) feed the dead through blood-offerings, and he acts as a divine communicant between the living and the dead.<sup>[15]</sup> He is sometimes categorised as a [dying-and-rising god](#).<sup>[16]</sup>

Some scholars of [comparative mythology](#) identify both Dionysus and Jesus with the [dying-and-rising god](#) mythological [archetype](#).<sup>[265]</sup> On the other hand, it has been noted that the details of Dionysus' death and rebirth are starkly different both in content and symbolism from Jesus. The two stories take place in very different historical and geographic contexts. Also, the manner of death is different; in the most common myth, Dionysus was torn to pieces and eaten by the [titans](#), but "eventually restored to a new life" from the heart that was left over.<sup>[266][267]</sup>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dionysus>

A **dying-and-rising, death-rebirth, or resurrection deity** is a religious [motif](#) in which a god or goddess dies and is [resurrected](#)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dying-and-rising\\_deity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dying-and-rising_deity)

- If we summarize all these elements, we have a feast that is given in the **time of harvest** of the grape.
- The beverage you drink during that feast is exclusively wine. No other beverage can be served.
- An interesting point about that feast is that **sense of liberty, of freedom** that it provides you with. It frees the actors from their self-conscious fear and care.
- They have this sensation that the god himself is with them. He empowers them.
- The definition of **empowerment** is as follows:
  - authority or power given to someone to do something.  
"individuals are given empowerment to create their own dwellings"
  - the process of becoming stronger and more confident, especially in **controlling one's life and claiming one's rights**.  
"political steps for the empowerment of women" ·
- So, this god give them authority in controlling someone's life. Empowering them to have sexual intercourse with anyone on that particular day. Freeing them from any restraints. It doesn't matter if it is with your neighbour, or the baker, or the brother or sister. This is an orgy.
- This cult is also considered of a cult of souls. Feeding them with blood so they can resurrect. We would call that the **state of the dead**.

## Wine of Babylon

We saw historically what the feast of Bacchus was and what it was comprised of. I want us now to look at what motivated Belshazzar to use the cups.

*Before that terror-stricken throng, Daniel, unmoved by the promises of the king, stood in the quiet dignity of a servant of the Most High, not to speak words of flattery, but to interpret a message of doom. "Let thy gifts be to thyself," he said, "and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation." { PK 529.1}*

*The prophet first reminded Belshazzar of matters with **which he was familiar**, but which had not taught him the lesson of humility that might have saved him. He spoke of Nebuchadnezzar's sin and fall, and of the Lord's dealings with him—the dominion and glory bestowed upon him, **the divine judgment for his pride**, and his subsequent acknowledgment of the power and mercy of the God of Israel; and then in bold and emphatic words he rebuked Belshazzar for his great wickedness. He held the king's sin up before him, **showing him the lessons he might have learned but did not**. **Belshazzar had not read aright the experience of his grandfather, nor heeded the warning of events so significant to himself. The opportunity of knowing and obeying the true God had been given him, but had not been taken to heart, and he was about to reap the consequence of his rebellion.** { PK 529.2}*

*"Thou, ... O Belshazzar," the prophet declared, "**hast not humbled thine heart**, though thou knewest all this; but **hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven**; and they have brought the vessels of His house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified: then was the part of the hand set from Him; and this writing was written." { PK 529.3}*

- Specific characteristics of Belshazzar's judgement was given to him.
- He was pride
- He did not learn the lessons from his grandfather regarding the sacred character of God. None the less, he had a certain familiarity of them. Even if it was minimum, he was not ignorant.
- And this is one of the characteristics of many men in high position who brought their nation to the ruin. We have Caiaphas, Herod and his family (Antipas, Agrippa I, Agrippa II). They all had a certain degree of the knowledge of God, yet their pride and unbelief brought them to rebel against God and his warnings.
- He did not take heed of his own grandfather experience nor the warning of events
- He had no willingness to obey the commandments of God. To be willing to be teachable, you have to humble yourself. But worldly recognition and honor don't go together with humility and self-sacrifice.
- But He was not humble
- And instead he lifted up himself against the Lord. And the reason for that is because during this feast you think you are empowered by the god itself. You become as god as

you receive his authority to control someones' life. He thought he could be the god and drink from the sacred cup.

*In that last night of mad folly, Belshazzar and his lords had filled up the measure of their guilt and the guilt of the Chaldean kingdom. No longer could God's restraining hand ward off the impending evil. Through manifold providences, **God had sought to teach them reverence for His law.** "We would have healed Babylon," He declared of those whose judgment was now reaching unto heaven, "but she is not healed." Jeremiah 51:9. Because of the strange **perversity of the human heart**, God had at last found it necessary to pass the irrevocable sentence. Belshazzar was to fall, and his kingdom was to pass into other hands. { PK 530.3 }*

- **No reverence for the law of God**, no respect, no esteem, no obedience for it.
- **Perversity of the heart.** His heart has been turned from right to wrong , it 's been derived from it's proper purpose. We know that out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks ( Luke 6:45). But his action to elevate himself as god, his boldness to drink in the cup makes sister White add the word *strange*. It was odd, uncommon,unusual.  
The heart is a broad subject to understand what It intakes. But if there is a perverted version of the heart, then if mean by contrast that an unperverted version exist.
- But something is sure is that Belchazzar's heart was perveted. Not by the wine only but by his stubborn attitudes towards the things of God all his life.

### **Who is Babylon?**

Although we want to focus on the wine, it is important to know who is represented by Babylon.

We know that the books of Daniel and Revelation are one. The books of Daniel and Revelation touch on the same subjects, they complement each other. The book of Daniel talks about the rise and fall of the kingdoms (Judah, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome). The Book of Revelation talks about Rome who is also referred as Babylon. So, it is natural that we find the last mentions of the wine of Babylon there.

*The books of Daniel and the Revelation are one. One is a prophecy, the other a revelation; one a book sealed, the other a book opened. John heard the mysteries which the thunders uttered, but he was commanded not to write them. { 7BC 971.5 }*

We find the mention of Babylon and the wine in a few chapters of Revelation.

### **Revelation 14**

14:8 And there followed another angel, saying, **Babylon** is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the **wine of the wrath of her fornication**.

### **Revelation 16**

16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs [come] out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

16:19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and **great Babylon** came in remembrance before God, to give unto her **the cup of the wine** of the fierceness of his **wrath**.

### Revelation 17

17:5 And upon her forehead [was] a name written, **MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH**.

17:6 And I saw **the woman drunken with the blood of the saints**, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

- I want us to focus on Revelation 16 because this is This is where we can see what Babylon looks like in at the end of the world.
- When we talk about dragon, beast and false prophet. The dragon is a state under religious power (see Ez. 29:3 where the dragon = Egypt; Rev. 12:4 where pagan Rome is Satan but secondly is pagan Rome - TM 38)
- The beast is a symbol of papal Rome. { GC 54.2 }
- And the false prophet is America.
- But America is the 3 of these. We have dragon spirit - pagan Rome ( the pagan phase, that continue in a beast – papal Rome and takes this Christian element ( the Christian phase). And then we have the false prophet or the false protestants or apostate protestants in the USA are going to have the same spirit of these power ( the Dragon and the beast).
- So Babylon is a 3-fold union because he's got all of these 3 elements in it. He is prophesying falsely. It is the voice of apostate protestants. And he's got pagan and papal rome in it. Papal Rome worked through the social, political and religious means. We can say they work through the churches, the government and the educational system. They have their hands in all these areas.. And that is important to see because we often want to say, that the beast is a religious power, the dragon is a state power but they are both. It is very similar. It is different symbols for the same thing. They are involved in all branches of society church, government and education.
- And we know that apostate Protestantism have these 7 mountains theology : these seven mountains are family, religion, education, media, entertainment, business and government.”.
- Now, Elder Parminder touched based on this idea that the Dragon, the beast and the false prophet are the USA. He said, we don't fully understand how they work.
- But I can see that if we compare with Daniel 2, we can see the same dynamic.
- When the stone hits the feet, the whole statue collapses not just the feet ( all the materials are broken in pieces. We know that all the kingdoms are spiritualized at the end of the world. And we derived that concept from Daniel 7: 12 where we are told concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. So elements of their lives should be found at the end of the world. And these characteristics are found when we use the rule of first mention on each kingdoms.

- So we have church and state for Babylon, dual part for Medo-persia, strong ruler over the earth for Greece and, strong nation, dictatorship for pagan Rome and church and state. All these elements spiritualized at the end of the world representing the USA.
- That was just to narrow who we are looking at when we look at the wine of Babylon.
- And sister white says :

**The term Babylon, derived from Babel, and signifying confusion, is applied in Scripture to the various forms of false or apostate religion.** But the message announcing the fall of Babylon must apply to **some religious body** that was once pure, and has become corrupt. It cannot be the Romish Church which is here meant; for that church has been in a fallen condition for many centuries. **But how appropriate the figure as applied to the Protestant churches, all professing to derive their doctrines from the Bible, yet divided into almost innumerable sects.** The unity for which Christ prayed does not exist. Instead of one Lord, one faith, one baptism, there are numberless conflicting creeds and theories. **Religious faith appears so confused and discordant that the world know not what to believe as truth.** God is not in all this; it is the work of man,—the work of Satan. { 4SP 232.2 }

- So, here we have a confirmation of who Babylon is and it is any forms of false or apostate religion.
- And then she makes a direct application to the protestant churches who profess the Bible but in reality don't apply the principles behind it.
- And in doing so, they are actually turning truth into a lie
- And this brings confusion to their message at a point that the world doesn't know what to believe
- And if we were to continue reading, we would see that Apostate Protestantism takes their doctrine and traditions from their mother Rome. They follow her worldly practices which we can categorized as Tyranny, oppression, fraud, hypocrisy, bigotry, worldly honor, using any means to reach their selfish ends. ( GC 235.1; 1842 Wim MWV 227.2)
- And so, they refused the truth and accept a lie.

In Revelation 17, Babylon is represented as a woman, a figure which is used in the Scriptures as the symbol of a church. A virtuous woman represents a pure church, a vile woman an apostate church. Babylon is said to be a harlot; and the prophet beheld her drunken with the blood of saints and martyrs. **The Babylon thus described represents Rome, that apostate church which has so cruelly persecuted the followers of Christ.** But Babylon the harlot is the mother of daughters who follow her example of corruption. **Thus are represented those churches that cling to the doctrines and traditions of Rome and follow her worldly practices, and whose fall is announced in the second angel's message.** { 4SP 233.1 }

The great sin charged against Babylon is, that she "made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." **This cup of intoxication which she presents to the world, represents the false doctrines which she has accepted as the result of her unlawful connection with the great ones of the earth.** Friendship with the world corrupts her faith, and in her turn she exerts

a corrupting influence upon the world by teaching doctrines which are opposed to the plainest statements of the word of God. { 4SP 234.2 }

### **Sin of Babylon**

So now, let us see what type of wine the protestants are drinking.

*I saw that since the second angel proclaimed the fall of the churches, they have been growing more and more corrupt. **They bear the name of being Christ's followers; yet it is impossible to distinguish them from the world.** Ministers take their texts from the Word of God, but preach smooth things. To this the natural heart feels no objection. It is only the spirit and power of the truth and the salvation of Christ that are hateful to the carnal heart. There is nothing in the popular ministry that stirs the wrath of Satan, makes the sinner tremble, or applies to the heart and conscience the fearful realities of a judgment soon to come. Wicked men are generally pleased with **a form of piety without true godliness**, and they will aid and support such a religion. { EW 273.1 }*

- Sister white is dealing with the sins of Babylon in her time, and the first thing in that chapter she will make us notice is the attitudes of the churches, particularly the Christian of her time.
- They will **profess godliness**, yet they are so **corrupted** that you can't even distinguish them from the world.
- And when she refers to the world we are talking of the doctrines and traditions of Rome and follow her worldly practices.
- And the context is slavery because the churches particularly in the south will promote slavery. But the north was to blame as well.

*Said the angel, "Nothing less than the whole armor of righteousness can enable man to overcome the powers of darkness and retain the victory over them. **Satan has taken full possession of the churches as a body.** The sayings and doings of men are dwelt upon instead of the plain, cutting truths of the Word of God. **The spirit and friendship of the world are at enmity with God.** When the truth in its simplicity and strength, as it is in Jesus, is brought to bear against the spirit of the world, it at once awakens the spirit of persecution. Very many who profess to be Christians have not known God. The natural heart has not been changed, and the carnal mind remains at enmity with God. **They are Satan's faithful servants, notwithstanding they have assumed another name.**" { EW 273.2 }*

- Sister White is comparing two spirits. The spirit of God and the spirit of Satan.
- One bear an undivided truth for the word of God. The other seeks the friendship of the world. Just like for Belchazzar or the leaders of the Jewish Nation, worldly recognition and honor have more value than the word of God. To such an extend that although **professing to know God**, they actually don't. They are fed with another name.

**Selfishness, fraud, and deceit are practiced by them without the reprovings of conscience.** And over all these evil traits they throw the cloak of religion." I was shown the pride of the nominal churches. **God is not in their thoughts;** ...These agents of Satan look upon the religious bodies with exultation, for the cloak of religion covers *the greatest crime and iniquity.* { EW 274.1 }



*All heaven beholds with indignation human beings, the workmanship of God, **reduced by their fellow men to the lowest depths of degradation and placed on a level with the brute creation.** Professed followers of that dear Saviour whose compassion was ever moved at the sight of human woe, heartily engage in this enormous and grievous sin, and deal in slaves and souls of men. Human agony is carried from place to place and bought and sold. Angels have recorded it all; it is written in the book. The tears of the pious bondmen and bondwomen, of fathers, mothers, and children, brothers and sisters, are all bottled up in heaven. God will restrain His anger but little longer. **His wrath burns against this nation and especially against the religious bodies that have sanctioned this terrible traffic and have themselves engaged in it.** Such **injustice, such oppression, such sufferings**, are looked upon with heartless indifference by many professed followers of the meek and lowly Jesus. And many of them can themselves inflict, with hateful satisfaction, all this indescribable agony; and yet they dare to worship God. It is solemn mockery; Satan exults over it and reproaches Jesus and His angels with such inconsistency, saying, with hellish triumph, "Such are Christ's followers!" { EW 275.1}*

- In the previous paragraph we read, sister White has mentioned Satan's spirit as being a spirit and friendship of the world. Now, in those paragraphs, she explains what it is all about:
- The Christians are **selfish, fraudulent and deceitful.**
- They have sanctioned the use of slavery which we could summarize as **human trafficking.**
- They have no guilt in **degrading another** human being. They have no reproof of a conscience to inflict injustice, **oppression and sufferings** to another human being.
- And God is mocked by their actions. Just like with Belchazzar. And for that they will suffer the wrath of his indignation.
- And when we continue reading, we learn that their practice is worse than the papists and the heathens' one. As a result, their judgement will be worse, they will be more accountable than the papists and the heathens.

*They can inflict most **inhuman torture** with the same relentless **cruelty** manifested by papists and heathen toward Christ's followers. Said the angel, "**It will be more tolerable for the heathen and for papists in the day of the execution of God's judgment than for such men.**" { EW 275.2}*

## **A Moral fall**

Now, AT Jones attributes this human trafficking to a moral fall of the churches. He explains the situation very well.

WHAT constitutes the fall of Babylon? Those who contend that the Babylon of Revelation is the city of Rome, answer that the fall of Babylon is the burning of Rome; while those who make Babylon a symbol of the Church of Rome only, answer that this fall is the loss of her civil power, - the fall of the woman from the beast. We dissent from both these positions, **believing that the fall of Babylon is a moral fall, and that it denotes her rejection, as a body, of God.** That the fall of Babylon is not the burning of Rome, appears from the following facts:- {1892 JNA, TMR 49.1}

We understand that **the fall of Babylon is her rejection by God, that the Holy Spirit leaves her in consequence of her alienation from God and her union with the world, and that thus she is left to the spirits of devils.** As an illustration, we will refer to the fall of the Jewish Church, the harlot of Eze.16. This fall is distinctly stated in Rom.11. Its particulars may be gathered from Matt.21:43; 23; 12:43-45. {1892 JNA, TMR 50.7}

- First and foremost, we now have a definition of what the fall of Babylon is.
- It is a moral fall which denotes the rejection of God's law by His churches. And as a result, the Holy Spirit depart from them to be left by the spirit of Devil.
- We have this neat compare and contrast: Acceptance/ Holy Spirit – Rejection / Spirit of devils.
- The other aspect her union with the world. How did she unite with the world? She had allowed/sanctioned slavery to happen.

1. The nature of the reasons assigned for the fall of Babylon proves **that it is a moral fall**; for it is because she has made the nations drunk with her wine. In other words, it is **her wickedness that has caused God to reject her.** {1892 JNA, TMR 51.2}

**8 The right to hold human beings in bondage and to buy and sell them, is now made out in the most confident manner from the Old and New Testaments, by the leading doctors of divinity of most denominations; and some of the most distinguished and skillful are able to make out this from the golden rule.** The professed church to a fearful extent, is the right arm of the slave power, and **our own nation is a perfect illustration on the subject of slavery, of a nation drunken with the wine of Babylon.** That most infamous law, "the fugitive slave bill," was vindicated by our most distinguished doctors of divinity as a righteous measure. {1855 JNA, TAR 56.1}

- Now, we have a refined definition of this wine, which is the right to hold human being in bondage and to buy and sell them.
- In other words, we would call that **human trafficking done by the churches**
- Churches have compromised their loyalty to God to justify such an abomination. Yet, the they will not recognize it.

9. **Finally, the lowering of the standard of godliness to the dust.** This has been carried so far that the multitudes are made to believe that "every one that saith, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven." In proof of this I might appeal to almost every tomb stone or funeral discourse. {1855 JNA, TAR 56.2}

God appointed the church to be the light of the world, and at the same time ordained that his Word should be the light of the church. But **when the church becomes unfaithful to her trust, and corrupts the pure doctrines of the gospel, as a natural consequence the world becomes intoxicated with her false doctrine.** That the nations of the earth are in such a condition at the present time is too obvious to be denied. **The world is intoxicated in the pursuit of riches and honor, but the sin lies at the door of the church;** for the church sanctions what the Lord strictly forbade, and she sets the example to the world. If the church had not intoxicated the world with

the wine of her false doctrines, the plain truths of the Bible would powerfully move the public mind. But the world seems hopelessly drunken with the wine of Babylon. {1855 JNA, TAR 56.3

- So, Andrews connects two concepts. The lowering of standard of godliness and the use the name of the lord wrongly.
- In the name of the Lord, the church introduced false doctrines, they corrupted the gospel and as a result, the world has followed her steps by implementing false standards. Which were the pursuit of riches and honor.
- In 1855, the subject of slavery is still a great debate. The south built all its economy on slavery. Those who are uplifting this institution are primarily the churches. This is why Andrews and even sister White says that the sin – singular – lies upon the churches.
- While a few slaves were treated humanly, the vast majority of slaves were subject to rape, branding, whippings and torture. A slave could legally be killed by his master, and many were. A person who was slave was legally property in every sense of the word and slaves were bought and sale according to their skills, fitness, gender, abilities, and age.
- Slaves were counted as 3/5 of a white citizen for tax purpose and representation in congress
- Yet, by 1860, they were over 4 million slaves in the south while prior to 1800 they were fewer than a million. All that were sanctioned by the southern churches upon a thus saith the Lord.
- The churches and the owners got more riches and more honor. They had no scruples to oppress the few/the poor to reach their selfish ambition. The end justifies the mean. But this principle is Satan principles not God's.
- This satanic principle took different shape in world's history. But more often it was carried on by the church. In the time of Christ, it was used to crucify Christ. Caiaphas and the Pharisees eliminated one person, Jesus, for the whole Jewish nation to be saved. But in reality, they wanted their selfish ambition, their worldly recognition and honor to stay intact. They wanted to save themselves over a small minority. So, they turned the truth into a lie to justify their action.
- The Catholic church during the 1260 used the same tactics. They used tyranny, superstitions and fear, what we will call conspiracy theory today. They use false humility by pretending to do the work of God to justify their actions. So, it was legally authorized to kill someone, mainly a protestant because they were the one that were causing problems. And so, to keep peace and avoid discord, they asked the kings to implement cruelty and oppression. But in reality, they wanted their worldly recognition and honor to stay intact. They wanted to keep their riches and even grow them.
- During slavery in the US, we see the same things. In the name of God, they kept brutalizing the lowest, to keep their riches and worldly honor. So, if that means that one must suffer for the interests of the nation to be secured, then all the means are good. Keep slavery, use whatever it takes for the grandeur of the nation to be kept intact. They used fear and conspiracy theories that pictured what would happen if black men were free. And we know how the press at that time used very caricatural pictures. They legally killed black men.

- How can all that represent the character of God? Christ gave another example on how you have to treat mankind?

### The danger for us + concrete examples

*In the history of Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar, God speaks to the people of today. The condemnation that will fall upon the inhabitants of the earth in this day will be because of their rejection of light. Our condemnation in the judgment will not result from the fact that we have lived in error, but from the fact that we have neglected Heaven-sent opportunities for discovering truth. The means of becoming conversant with the truth are within the reach of all; but, like the indulgent, selfish king, we give more attention to the things that charm the ear, and please the eye, and gratify the palate, than to the things that enrich the mind, the divine treasures of truth. It is through the truth that we may answer the great question, "What must I do to be saved?" { BEcho September 17, 1894, par. 5 }*

### Wine of Babylon

- In the **time of Harvest**, we can have that sense of Liberty, of freedom (feast of Bacchus) which we know is a false freedom.
- Just like Bacchus, we would want to **resurrect** false theologies which are a counterfeit of the true character of Christ. Instead of being fed and restored and we can hold and be fed on false concepts that God want us to be dead at.
- Elder Parminder has spoken of human trafficking in the context of dowry.
- Elder Tess has mentioned the modern version of dowry with western traditional wedding and the transfer of ownership when the father walks the aisle with her daughter to transfer her to her new owner, her husband. Or the fact that the future husband must ask the permission of the parent to marry her. This is sexism in disguise in the name of good manners.
- We can have this wrong assurance that we've been empowered from God. That God has given us a special message to share which at the end is not. Or to share someone's idea which are opposed the MC message. Elder Parminder gave the example of this Adventist pastor, Graham Maxell, and this Adventist psychologist, Timothy Jennings, whose thoughts have been introduced to the movement.
- We don't have **that freedom**. But that doesn't mean that we shouldn't study for ourselves. We have this obligation to ourselves and to our fellow brothers. But we can be in danger, if we let those feelings this **false liberty** enters into our studies.
- Elder Tess that we have nothing to learn from the world. They will learn from us.
- We are not to be confused. Let us call a dog a dog and sexism, sexism.
- We can narrow the use of sexism in our everyday life. If you have children or grandchildren, have you ever bought something pink to your daughter or granddaughter, niece or cousin and something blue to your son, grandson, nephew or cousin? You control their mind by telling them pink is for girl and blue is for boy. And if a boy likes pink, you may have concerns. Or if your niece likes cars you may rather her

play with dolls and so she can learn from childhood how to properly take care of a child. This is nothing else than controlling their mind to think a certain way.

- The danger we are facing is to think that God **has empowered** us. He has given us authority over someone's life. We have seen the issue with dowry, but I want us to narrow this attitude to ourselves. How much do we want to control somebody else's life thinking we have been called by God to do so? Like our spouse's life or best friend's life. We may feel we need to think for them because it is a salvation issue. Of course, we have prayed for that person, but because our faith is not that big, we need to control them. Because it is our duty to show how wrong they are. I am not referring to having an argument over something but rather forcing someone to do something against his/her will. We may have no problem that the other person grants us our freedom of worshipping the way we want, because of course, we are doing things right. Yet, we can feel impressed or empowered to not give the same privilege to that person. There is a difference between uplifting, communicating, or arriving at an agreement and forcing.
- **State of the dead.** Thinking we know it all. Going back into a Laodicean condition. For example, those who separate from us may think we are wrong in wearing pants. It is a heresy because we are rich and think we need of nothing. We know the Bible and the SOP. We don't need new light. But in reality, we are dead. Refusing a spirit of progress will make us go back to old/dead understanding and we will feed those thoughts thinking that they will make us alive, they will give us zeal to preach a message. But in reality, it is a dead message.
- **The pride:** like Belshazzar, we can let pride take over us. We don't want to hear the message or warning that are given to us. We will stop watching presentations for example. It means that we refuse to learn and take heed of the warnings. We don't want to listen nor practice the 10 commandments. We refuse to humble ourselves, to become teachable and hence prefer to drink from our own stream. Our own wine.
- **We have to remember that wine is an alcoholic beverage and it damages your brain, your nervous system.**
- Do we reverence the law? Do we partake of this law?
- Oppression the right of liberty of conscience of someone
- Adhering to customs and traditions that lower the standard of religion
- How much wrong ideas do we hold in the **name of freedom**. Externally, people are held in bondage. Immigrants have a hard time getting in. If they are here even legally, it is harder and harder for them to get a job or their right to apply. Or in the name of that freedom, we refuse the right for a woman to dispose of her body.
- Internally, we have women still subjected to their husbands. We have women who are persecuted because they are leaders. We have women who are not trusted in their role. They have no freedom.
- But we also have men who are preventing others to access the message. They control the message. They give themselves the right to hold other innocent people in spiritual bondage. Sister White when talking about the black community being now free for almost 30 years and the work that was to be done for them said the same thing.:

*Who have taken upon them the burden of presenting to them spiritual freedom that has been purchased for them at an infinite price? Have we not left them beaten, bruised, despised, and forsaken by the way? Is this the example that God has given us in the history of the deliverance of the children of Israel? By no means. { SW 42.1 }*

- Sister White points to the neglect of the work of restoration upon the black people. And she compares it to be as bad as being in bondage and inflicting the same punishments upon them which is terrible!!!
- Being left uncared is contrary to the divine character of God
- Why? They've been destroyed, bruised, beaten, despised, they need hope that someone care for them. Someone will wipe their tears, will healed their wounds. They need love.
- So, when in our time, in our movement we have people holding on the truth in places where it is very difficult to access, when people in our movement refuse to cooperate with the leaders to ensure that their community receives proper spiritual food, they are indeed partaking to the sin of Babylon, they are drinking from this wine which, as we saw with Belshazzar and the feast of Bacchus allow you to control someone's life. Headship idolatry. They wrongly use their false authority to keep people in spiritual bondage. And they fail to give hope to give love to people who are bruised, who are destroyed by the situation that they are in.
- This situation brings a lot of confusion which is what the wine means biblically. They blame and opposed the leadership. They don't want to organize.

*While we can recognize the hand of the Lord in bringing out a people by the second angel's message, free from the power of creeds, and placed in condition where they could search for and accept his truth, **this liberty was not a permission to run into anarchy and confusion**. It was just as true then **that liberty did not mean license, fanaticism, or confusion** as in the days of the apostles, when it was said to the Galatians, "Brethren, we have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another." Gal.5:13. {1907 JNL, COOD 88.1}*

- There are others in Africa who use the MC message to proclaim that there is no need of organization at all!
- And it doesn't have to be an Eastern problem. In the West, we can encounter the same problem. You may not restrain information to someone because the internet is widely available, but if you mislead someone in the understanding of the truth, you may keep them in spiritual bondage. You control their thoughts, their eternal destiny. And when rebuke comes to you, the pride may take over which will lead to a separation. Let us learn to be humble and teachable.
- Some blame their leaders; some blame the vows.
- Also, we cannot give up on our work because saving souls depend on us.
- All we have spoken about, bring us to the last point, which is that we **lower down the standard of Godliness**. What example Do we give to the world? The sins lie at the door of the church. Externally, we see how the work of white evangelicals shape the heart of the nation. They profess upholding the Bible, yet it is at the expense of the minority. They violate principles of justice, equality, and kindness by no treating the others the way they would want to be treated. They use fear and conspiracy theories too. They affirm to be the true protestants. Internally, we are the one who are guiding the Levites and the Nethinims. We should have enmity for the world. Yet if we carry on false doctrines of inequality, if we carry on false doctrine of freedom, if we carry on

conspirational thinking especially towards our leaders, when we see them in a conspirational way, we are no better than the world, or apostate protestantism. And we falsely represent Christ. We are in complete idolatry. We turn truth into lie. And we ultimately lower the standard of Godliness. We should have instead the true spirit of Protestantism.

- We need to really understand what the true spirit of Protestantism is. In GC 197.1, sister white refers to the protest of the princes. Protestantism doesn't mean people who profess to believe the Bible and fight the Bible. That is not the definition. The definition of Protestantism is the spirit of Liberty of Conscience.
- *One of the noblest testimonies ever uttered for the Reformation was the Protest offered by the Christian princes of Germany at the Diet of Spires in 1529. The courage, faith, and firmness of those men of **God gained for succeeding ages liberty of thought and of conscience.** Their Protest gave to the reformed church the name of Protestant; **its principles are "the very essence of Protestantism."**—D'Aubigne, b. 13, ch. 6. { GC 197.1}*
- So, the principles of Protestantism or God's principles are **liberty of thoughts and liberty of conscience.**
- They are not the only one though. We can add kindness, love your neighbour, humility, tenderness, long-suffering, self-sacrifice, etc.
- But if we try to erect a standard that suits ourselves, it will be corrupted, it becomes fraudulent as it promotes self-service or self-promotion. It will use conspiracy theories and false freedom to exalt a fake standard.

*Only those who honor Him can He honor. Man's conduct in this world decides his eternal destiny. As he has sown, so he must reap. Cause will be followed by effect. { MH 180.3}*  
*Christ came to make us "partakers of the divine nature," and His life declares that humanity, combined with divinity, does not commit sin. { MH 180.5}*

### **Organization blamed**

*The agitation of the subject of organization has revealed a great lack of moral courage on the part of ministers proclaiming present truth. Some who were convinced that organization was right failed to stand up boldly and advocate it. They let some few understand that they favored it. Was this all God required of them? No: he was displeased with their cowardly silence, and lack of action. **They feared blame and opposition.** They watched the brethren generally to see how their pulse beat before standing manfully for what they believed to be right. The people waited for the voice of their favorite minister in the truth, and because they could hear no response in favor from them, decided that the subject of organization was wrong. **Thus the influence of some of the ministers was against this matter while they professed to be in favor.** They were afraid of losing their influence. Some one must move here and bear responsibility, and venture his influence; and as he has become inured to censure and blame, he is suffered to bear it. His fellow-laborers who should stand by his side and take their share of the burden, are looking on to see how he succeeds in fighting the battle alone. But God marks his distress, his anguish, his tears, his discouragements and despair, while his mind is taxed almost beyond endurance; and as he is ready to sink, God lifts him up and points him to the rest for the weary, the reward for the faithful; and again he puts his shoulder under the heavy burden. I saw that all will be rewarded according as their works shall be. Those who shun responsibility will meet with loss in*

*the end. The time for ministers to stand together is when the battle goes hard. { RH August 27, 1861, Art. C, par. 2 }*

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