

Overview: The principle of Babylon is hypocrisy, that of not considering herself a widow but of glorifying herself and living luxuriously, the principle of a harlot. When we are in our mind, we are in the principle of Babylon. When we are in our spirit, we are in today's Jerusalem, in which there is the divine oneness. Anything that is halfway and not absolute is called Babylon which God hates. Both of being absolute for God (burnt offering) and enjoying the Triune God (peace offering) are the matter of burning. We need to have a start with the burning every morning and keep burning in the spirit throughout the day. This is for us to overcome the principle of Babylon in our being.

<p>I . The principle of Babylon (Heb. Babel) is man's endeavor to build up something from earth to heaven by human ability, by bricks: A. Stone is made by God, whereas bricks are made by man, being a human invention, a human product. B. Those who live according to the principle of Babylon do not see that they are limited; rather, they attempt to do the Lord's work by their natural ability with their human effort. C. The building of God is not built with man-made bricks and by human labor; it is built with God-created and transformed stones and by the divine work.</p>	<p>II . The principle of Babylon is hypocrisy: A. The significance of Achan's sin was his coveting a beautiful Babylonian garment in his seeking to improve himself, to make himself look better, for the sake of appearance. B. This was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira, who lied to the Holy Spirit: ① They did not love the Lord very much but they wanted to be looked upon as those who greatly loved the Lord; they were just pretending. ② They were not willing to offer everything cheerfully to God, but before man they acted as if they had offered all. C. Whenever we put on a garment that does not match our actual condition, we are in the principle of Babylon. D. Everything done in falsehood to receive glory from man is done in the principle of the harlot, not in the principle of the bride.]</p>	<p>III . The principle of Babylon is that of not considering herself a widow but of glorifying herself and living luxuriously: A. Only those believers who have fallen would consider themselves not to be a widow; in a sense, the believers in Christ are a widow in the present age because their Husband, Christ, is absent from them; because our Beloved is not here in the world, our heart is not here. B. Anything in our living that is in excess is luxury and is in the principle of Babylon.</p>	<p>IV . The principle of Babylon is the principle of a harlot: A. Babylon's purpose is for man to make a name for himself and deny God's name: ① To denominate the church by taking any name other than our Lord's is spiritual fornication. ② The church, as the pure virgin espoused to Christ, should have no name other than her Husband's. B. Babylon means confusion: ① In the church we should not have different kinds of speaking; we should have only one mind and one mouth under one ministry with one unique teaching for the one Body. ② When we are in our mind, we are in the principle of Babylon; when we are in our spirit, we are in today's Jerusalem, in which there is the divine oneness. ③ We should not dare to have any division, because our Husband is one, and we His wife are also one. C. With the rebellious people at Babel, there was a scattering: ① In the ancient time all the Israelites came together three times a year at Jerusalem; this was versus the scattering at Babel: a. It was by this unique place of worship to God, Jerusalem, that the oneness of His people was kept for generations. b. Jerusalem not only signifies our spirit but also signifies the genuine ground of oneness, the ground of locality. c. In order to come out of Babylon, we must be "in spirit, on the ground." ② The sin of Jeroboam, who set up another center of worship, is the sin of division caused by one's ambition to have a kingdom, an empire, to satisfy his selfish desire. D. Babylon is a mixture of the things of God with the things of the idols: ① King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon burned the house of God in Jerusalem, carried away all the vessels that were in God's house for God's worship, and put them in the temple of his idols in Babylon.② In the New Testament this mixture is enlarged with the great Babylon.]</p>
<p>V . The Lord's call in the book of Revelation is for His people to come out of Babylon, the apostate church, so that they may return to the orthodoxy of the church: A. According to God's Word, His children cannot partake of anything that has the character of Babylon. B. God hates the principle of Babylon more than anything else: C. Anything that is halfway and not absolute is called Babylon: ① We need God to enlighten us so that in His light we may judge everything in us that is not absolute toward Him ② Only when we judge ourselves in this way can we confess that we too hate the principle of Babylon. ③ By His grace, may the Lord not allow us to seek any glory and honor outside of Christ. ④ The Lord requires that we delight and seek to be one who is absolute, not one who is living in the principle of Babylon. D. When God judges the harlot and shatters all her work, and when He casts out all that she is and the principle she represents, voices from heaven will say, "Hallelujah!"]</p>	<p>VI . In order to overcome the principle of Babylon, we need to daily take Christ as our burnt offering, which typifies Christ in His living a life that is perfect and absolutely for God and for God's satisfaction and in His being the life that enables God's people to have such a living: A. By laying our hands on Christ as our burnt offering, we are joined to Him, and He and we become one; in such a union all our weaknesses, defects, and faults are taken on by Him, and all His virtues become ours; this requires us to exercise our spirit through the proper prayer so that we may be one with Him in an experiential way. B. When we lay our hands on Christ through prayer, the lifegiving Spirit, who is the very Christ on whom we lay our hands, will immediately move and work within us to live a life that is a repetition of the life that Christ lived on earth, the life of the burnt offering.] C. The burnt offering being kept on the hearth of the altar until the morning signifies that a burnt offering should remain in the place of burning through the dark night of this age until the morning, until the Lord Jesus comes again. D. The ashes, the result of the burnt offering, are a sign of God's acceptance of the offering; the priest's putting on linen garments signifies that fineness, purity, and cleanliness are needed in handling the ashes; his putting on other garments to carry the ashes outside the camp signifies that the handling of the ashes of the burnt offering was done in a stately manner. E. Ashes indicate the result of Christ's death, which brings us to an end, that is, to ashes; the putting of the ashes beside the altar toward the east, the side of the sunrise, is an allusion to resurrection; in relation to the burnt offering, the ashes are not the end, for Christ's death brings us to resurrection. F. God has a high regard for these ashes, for eventually the ashes will become the New Jerusalem; our being reduced to ashes brings us into the transformation of the Triune God ; in resurrection we as ashes are transformed to become precious materials—gold, pearl, and precious stones—for the building of the New Jerusalem. G. "The fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it must not go out. And the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and he shall lay the burnt offering in order upon it and shall burn the fat of the peace offerings on it. Fire shall be kept burning on the altar continually; it shall not go out": ① The priest's burning wood on the altar every morning signifies the need of the serving one's cooperation with God's desire by adding more fuel to the holy fire to strengthen the burning for the receiving of the burnt offering as God's food; the morning signifies a new start for the burning. ② The burning of the burnt offering laid a foundation for the sweetness of the peace offering; this indicates that our offering ourselves to God as a continual burnt offering should be laid as a foundation for our sweet fellowship with God, signified by the burning of the fat of the peace offering; the burning of both the burnt offering and the peace offering signifies that both our absoluteness for God and our enjoyment of the Triune God are a matter of burning.]</p>		

Day1: Gen11:3 And they said to one another, Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and they had tar for mortar. **4** And they said, Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower whose top is in the heavens; and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered over the surface of the whole earth.

Jos7:21 When I saw among the spoil a beautiful mantle of Shinar and two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And now they are hidden in the earth in my tent, with the silver under it.

Day2: Rev18:7 As much as she has glorified herself and lived luxuriously, as much torment and sorrow give to her; for she says in her heart, I sit a queen, and I am not a widow, and I shall by no means see sorrow.

17:5 And on her forehead there was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF THE HARLOTS AND THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Day3: Rev3:8 I know your works; behold, I have put before you an opened door which no one can shut, because you have a little power and have kept My word and have not denied My name.

17:4 And the woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and gilded with gold and precious stone and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the unclean things of her fornication.

Day4: Rev18:2 …He cried with a strong voice, saying, Fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great! And she has become a dwelling place of demons and a hold of every unclean spirit and a hold of every unclean and hateful bird. **4** I heard another voice out of heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people, that you do not participate in her sins and that you do not receive her plagues.

19:1 After these things I heard as it were a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, Hallelujah! The salvation and the glory and the power are of our God.

Day5: Lev1:3 If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall present it, a male without blemish; he shall present it at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, that he may be accepted before Jehovah. **4** And he shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be accepted for him, to make expiation for him.

Day6: Gal2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Lev6:9 …This is the law of the burnt offering: The burnt offering shall be on the hearth on the altar all night until the morning **10**…And the priest shall put on his linen garment; …and he shall take up the ashes to which the fire has consumed the burnt offering on the altar, and he shall put them beside the altar. **12** The fire on the altar shall be kept burning on **13**…the altar continually; it shall not go out.

Experience① :Being saved from the principle of Babylon, hypocrisy and falsehood

The first ones to commit sin in the New Testament after the church began...were Ananias and Sapphira....They lied to the Holy Spirit. They did not love the Lord very much, but they wanted to be looked upon as those who greatly loved the Lord. They were just pretending. They were not willing to offer everything cheerfully to God. Before man, however, they acted as if they had offered all. This is the Babylonian garment.

The principle of Babylon, therefore, is hypocrisy. There is no reality, yet people act as if there is in order to obtain glory from man. Here is a real danger to God's children—pretending to be spiritual. There is a great deal of spiritual behavior which is acted out in falsehood. It is put on as a veneer. Many long prayers are counterfeit; many prayerful tones are unreal.... Whenever we put on a garment which does not match our actual condition, we are in the principle of Babylon.

God's children do not know how much falsehood they have put on in order to receive glory from man. This is entirely opposite from the attitude of the bride. Everything done in falsehood is done in the principle of the harlot, not in the principle of the bride. It is a great matter for God's children to be delivered from pretending before man....If we set our sight upon man's glory and man's position in the church, we are participating in the sin of the Babylonian garment and the sin committed by Ananias and Sapphira. False consecration is sin, and false spirituality is also sin. True worship is in spirit and truthfulness. May God make us true men.

For Young Working Saints

In Japanese culture, they pay too much attention to maintaining outside looking or appearance. Paying attention excessively to maintaining the appearance, may lead you to think too little about your inner reality and lead to falsehood, the principle of Babylon. For example, when a Japanese person tries to work with many other people as a project manager in his company, he tends to make a decision based on the precedents or the oppositions. Those items are important but not the essential element. As a result, he does not see the essence of the project, so he cannot take an innovative approach or cannot take an approach to focus on the essential element of the project.

If we study the success stories in the business, we see in most of the cases that the project leader took an innovative approach thinking outside of the precedents to create the new market and complete the project successfully.

For example, in the professional baseball, it has been a common sense until a few years ago that any baseball team cannot last long without investing a lot of money. However, Nippon Ham who won championship last year, Hiroshima who won the first place of the Central League two consecutive years, and DeNA who placed the third place in the league but won the Climax Series games, all have been successful in operating their own baseball club with less money. These baseball clubs have thought through how they can win the games and keep operating their business in the black without using a lot of money. Especially, DeNA and Hiroshima pay very low to their players in average, but become successful to win their games and to bring many fans to their games.

As a business person, you need to be saved from paying too much attention to the principles of Babylon, such as hypocrisy, falsehood, and maintaining appearance, both in your work in the office and in your service in the church. You should call upon the Lord's name, exercise your spirit, put your mind on the spirit, and pray this way: "Lord, Jesus. You extremely hate hypocrisy and falsehood. But when I live according to the Japanese culture, I pay too much attention to care the outward things unconsciously. As a result, by paying too much attention to avoid opposition against me, I get lost from essential point and am entering into a maze. Please save me from Japanese culture. Let me walk according to the spirit to be able to make an innovative approach catching the essence without following precedents. May I become an employee who live Christ and express His wisdom and power in the office. I pray in the Lord's name. Amen!"

Experience② :Deal with being halfway to overcome the principle of Babylon

God hates the principle of Babylon more than anything else. We must note in His presence how much of our being is still not absolute for Him. Anything which is halfway and not absolute is called Babylon. We need God to enlighten us so that in His light we may judge everything in us which is not absolute toward Him. Only when we judge ourselves in this way can we confess that we too hate the principle of Babylon. By His grace, may the Lord not allow us to speak any glory and honor outside of Christ. The Lord requires that we delight and seek to be one who is absolute, not one who is living in the principle of Babylon.

The burnt offering denotes Christ's being absolute for God's satisfaction. The way to satisfy God with sweetness, peace, and rest is to live a life that is absolutely for God. Since we cannot live such a life, we must take Christ as our burnt offering. We need to lay our hands on Him to indicate that we desire to be identified with Him, and to live the kind of life He lived on earth. Such a life includes being slaughtered, skinned, cut into pieces, and washed. By passing through all these processes, we shall have something to offer to God as our burnt offering—the very Christ whom we have experienced.

For Junior and Senior High Students

You should listen to your teacher, parents, and classmates carefully, but not halfway. To listen seriously is not to gulp down anything. Instead, you listen to what they are saying carefully and discern. To listen to what people say, understand what they are saying, and decide whether to go along with them or not is the basis for building any good human relationship. One who listens halfway to what people say, one who does not listen closely to the end, will not be able to understand what they are talking about, hence cannot discern correctly. As a result, good relationship cannot be built up.

Train to listen firmly to the very end of what people say from your young age. This will bring you great profit in the things that follow.

i) You'll be able To understand what the Bible says and fellowship with the Lord based on His Words. In many cases, when you read the Bible, you are reading according to your preconceived opinions and you cannot get the facts in the Bible. If it is so, you cannot fellowship with the Lord based on His Words because God's intention can't be conveyed to you.

ii) In the future when you get a job or study at graduate school, you will have to communicate well with your supervisor or guiding professor. If you can only communicate halfway, you can never become a competent person.

iii) In the future you need to get married. Your spouse is your completion and helper. However, if you cannot communicate well with your spouse, not only you will not be complemented, but also you will consider your spouse a nuisance. In order to build up a healthy marriage life, you must always train yourself to listen carefully to what people say. Whatever is halfway and not absolute, it is called Babylon. You need God to enlighten you so that in His light you may judge everything in you which is not absolute toward Him. Only when you judge yourself in this way can you confess that you too hate the principle of Babylon. By His grace, may the Lord not allow us to speak any glory and honor outside of Christ. May you live Christ, and to have a life that is absolute to God. Amen.

補504番

- 1 バビロンを経て、エルサレムに来た。
いちをあかしし、栄こうかみに！
きよう理、意見捨て、靈のいちまもり、
われらみないる、地方しようかいに。
(復) ハレルヤ！ハレルヤ！
ひとつおもいで、からだ建ぞうす。
ハレルヤ！ハレルヤ！
地方召会のなかに生きる！
- 2 かいふくのため、さい司がひつ要。
キリスト生きて、栄こうかみに！
主にしん透され、主にあり生きて、
けんぞうされる、地方しようかいで。
- 3 神せいな権威の おうしょくを見る。
われらはふくす、栄こうかみに！
しようかいのため、その靈にふくす、
これぞひつよう、地方しようかいに。
- 4 さいだんに来て すべてをささげ、
はんさいとなる、栄こうかみに！
言いわけもなく かん全にふくす。
ほかに余地なし、地方しようかいに。
- 5 土だい据えられ、えい光あらわる！
かん喜たかまる、栄こうかみに！
大いなるさけび、ひびきわたって、
できぜんめつす、地方しようかいで。

中補 507

1. 聚集在耶路撒冷，完全脱离巴比伦，
我们作合一见证，哦，愿荣耀归给神！
摒弃各样的教训，放下一切的异议，
竭力保守灵合一，在众地方召会里。
(副) 阿利路亚！阿利路亚！
我们都同心合意，建造基督的身体。
阿利路亚！阿利路亚！
我们如今活在地方召会里。
2. 为使恢复能继续，祭司体系乃所需，
惟此才蒙神称许，哦，愿荣耀归给神！
祭司神前过生活，完全被主浸透过，
如此建造神居所，在众地方召会里。
3. 我们眼睛须开启，看见君王的治理，
神圣权柄得建立，哦，愿荣耀归给神！
为使召会得益处，先决条件要守住—
完全向圣灵顺服，在众地方召会里。
4. 我们须就近祭坛，将一切全都奉献，
如此事奉理当然，哦，愿荣耀归给神！
对此我们无争辩，绝对摆上心甘愿，
召会合一得实现，在众地方召会里。
5. 现今根基已立定！哦，何等荣耀显明！
我们都快乐高兴，哦，愿荣耀归给神！
让我们大声欢呼，将声音传到远处，
并将仇敌全灭除，在众地方召会里。

Hymn 1251

1. To Jerusalem we've come,
We are through with Babylon,
We have gathered to be one,
O glory be to God!
Of the teachings we're bereft,
All opinions we have left,
Spirit from the soul is cleft,
In the local churches now.
(C) Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
We are all in one accord
For the building of the Lord.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
We are living in the local churches now!
2. That recovery may proceed
Real priests are what we need—
Those who live in Christ indeed,
O glory be to God!
Saturated with the Lord,
They have Christ as their reward.
These the building work afford
In the local churches now.
3. And the kingship we must see
With divine authority—
To this rule we'll all agree,
O glory be to God!
To the Spirit we'll submit
For the church's benefit—
This is His prerequisite
In the local churches now.
4. We the altar must obtain,
Have our all upon it lain.
The burnt-offering must be slain,
O glory be to God!
This we never should dispute,
For the church be absolute,
All that's otherwise uproot
In the local churches now.
5. The foundation now is laid—
O what glory doth pervade!
We are all with joy arrayed,
O glory be to God!
Let us raise a mighty shout—
They will hear us far without,
And the enemy we'll rout
In the local churches now.