

HEALING STREAM MINISTRIES presents...

THE UNDILUTED, FULL STRENGTH, THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES
with enough power to...

- **cleans**e from all sin
 - **set us free** from all bondage
 - **break all the power** of the enemy over us
 - **restore us to total spiritual health**
 - **develop immunity** to all last-day deceptions
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#50 – Letting Jesus Stretch You

Do you believe that God wants to use the Scriptures to stretch us? I recall having listened to many sermons, sometimes punctuating them with hearty *Amens!*, because I very clearly saw how the messages applied to someone else who needed stretching (I thought). I liked to use Scripture to stretch others. But I was not always ready to let the Scriptures stretch me.

And when it came to the meaning of 'Babylon' in the Book of Revelation, how could this possibly stretch me? After all, I did not believe in wrong doctrine, and I took pride that I was not part of "Babylon," – apostate religious movements. Others needed to be stretched to come out of Babylon. And yet I also needed to be stretched by learning more about Babylon.

The Bible describes 'Babylon' as a harlot, someone who goes looking for love in all the wrong places. James thundered, "*You adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God!*" (James 4:4). A 'Babylon' mindset leads to "wars and fights" (James 4:1). "*You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask*" (James 4:2). So many conflicts are rooted in trying to fill our 'love cup' through demanding and controlling strategies in our relationships with others – expecting them to fix us when we should go to Jesus Christ. God considers such conduct not merely as a personal slight, but as open warfare against Him.

The core lie of Babylon is – 'when God does not come through for us in the ways that we demand, we are then justified to live in a *Frank Sinatra* style of "*I did it my way!*" This is idolatry – me first, enthroning as ultimate the SELF on the throne of our hearts. This is the Babylon virus.

Christian writer Charles L. Newbold describes the Babylon principle this way:

“Symbolic Babylon is that attitude of heart that makes us think we can solve all of our problems and meet all our needs without God. We look to government, politics, science, technology, psychology, sociology, economics, entertainment and religion for our help – things mankind has invented. Therefore, we look to ourselves to save ourselves. Self-centered living is making ourselves out to be god; therefore, it is idolatry, which is spiritual harlotry. We become spiritual prostitutes when we create something and give our hearts to it rather than the Lord Jesus Christ. Whatever appeals to Self is not of God. Self is in love with Self. It seeks its own. It is vain, prideful, arrogant, self-exalting, self-indulging, self-absorbed, power-hungry, and lustful. It strives for independence, self-reliance, and self-management. It uses and abuses others, if necessary, to achieve its own ambitions. It lies, steals, cheats, murders, covets, blames, justifies, and does whatever seems necessary to save itself. It goes to any end to protect itself. It is addicted to more. It can never be satisfied...Because the Self is centered upon itself, it is a black hole upon the space where it stands, forever suctioning itself inward as a vacuum. Self consumes itself, is self-destructive, and has death as its final reward. Self lives and dies for Self.”

To “come out of Babylon” is to make a jailbreak from the prison where self is in bondage to self. And there is only one cure for the deadly cancer of self; it is crucifixion. In crucifixion you don’t just crucify an arm or a leg, but the entire person is stretched out and then crucified. *“I am crucified with Christ”* (Galatians 2:20). Are you ready to let Jesus stretch you out with Himself on His cross?

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The Undiluted Three Angels Messages
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