

CMC BSP Session 9  
Group Time Discussion  
May 27, 2005

**Group Time Sharing Questions**

**QUESTION 1:**

Read Matthew 12:43-45 and Matthew 23:37-38. There is a house in both Mt. 12:44 and Mt. 24:38, both stand for the Temple of Jerusalem. **What do these passages suggest about the way in which the corrupted worship in the Temple (the center of opposition to the new covenant), and the destruction of that Temple is related to Revelation 18:1-2?**

**HINTS:**

- See the person's body in Mt 12:43 as the house or Temple
- See a relationship between the cleaning of the person's body and Jesus' cleaning of the Temple
- See the dwelling of 7 evil spirits in the person's body as the evil dwelling in the Temple at Jesus' time
- See Revelation 18:1-2 as the end result

Matthew 12:43-45	<sup>43</sup> "When an unclean spirit goes out of a person it roams through arid regions searching for rest but finds none. <sup>44</sup> Then it says, 'I will return to my home from which I came.' But upon returning, it finds it empty, swept clean, and put in order. <sup>45</sup> Then it goes and brings back with itself seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they move in and dwell there; and the last condition of that person is worse than the first. Thus it will be with this evil generation."	<sup>43</sup> 邪魔由人身上出來以後，走遍乾旱之地，尋找一個安息之所，卻沒有找著， <sup>44</sup> 他於是說：我要回到我出來的那間屋裏去。他來到後，見裏面空著，打掃乾淨，裝飾整齊， <sup>45</sup> 就去，另外帶了七個比他更惡的魔鬼來，進去，住在那裏；那人末後的處境就比以前的更壞了。對這邪惡的世代也必是這樣。」
Matthew 23:37-38	<sup>37</sup> "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how many times I yearned to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her young under her wings, but you were unwilling! <sup>38</sup> Behold, your house will be abandoned, desolate."	<b>哀耶路撒冷</b> <sup>37</sup> 耶路撒冷!耶路撒冷!你常殘殺先知，用石頭砸死那些派遣到你這裏來的人。我多少次願意聚集你的子女，有如母雞把自己的幼雛聚集在翅膀底下，但你卻不願意! <sup>38</sup> 你看吧!你們的房屋必給你們留下一片荒涼。
Rev. 18:1-2	<sup>1</sup> After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth became illumined by his splendor. <sup>2</sup> He cried out in a mighty voice: "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great. She has become a haunt for demons. She is a cage for every unclean spirit, a cage for every unclean bird, (a cage for every unclean) and disgusting (beast)."	<b>宣佈巴比倫的滅亡</b> <sup>1</sup> 這些事以後，我看見另一位天使從天降下，掌有大權，下地被他的光榮照亮了。 <sup>2</sup> 他用強大的聲音喊說：「偉大的巴比倫陷落了!陷落了!她變成了邪魔的住所，一切不潔之神的牢獄，一切不潔和可憎飛禽的巢穴，【以及一切不潔和可憎走獸的圈檻，】

QUESTION 2:

A heavenly voice says, “Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues.” (Rev 18:4)

我又聽到了另一個聲音從天上說：「我的百姓，你們從她中間出來罷！免得你們分沾她的罪惡，也免得遭受她的災禍（默18:4）」

**What was the Church in the first century being called out of? What are we “called out of” today?**

QUESTION 3:

Curiously, Revelation 19:7 tells us “his Bride has made herself ready.” Recognizing that apart from Jesus we can do nothing (John 15:5), **how do we as the members of the Bride, “make ourselves ready” for the marriage supper of the Lamb?**

Rev. 19:7	<sup>7</sup> Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory. For the wedding day of the Lamb has come, his bride has made herself ready.	<sup>7</sup> 讓我們歡樂鼓舞，將光榮歸於他罷！因為羔羊的婚期來近了，他的新娘也準備好了；
John 15:5	<sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.	<sup>5</sup> 我是葡萄樹，你們是枝條；那住在我內，我也住在他內的，他就結許多的果實，因為離了我，你們什麼也不能做。

Web links

- [http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/\\_INDEX.HTM](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/_INDEX.HTM)
- <http://www.catholic.org.tw/bible/index.htm>
- <http://www.cathlinks.org/ccc-toc.htm>
- <http://www.christusrex.org/www1/CDHN/ccc.html>

## ANSWERS FOR BSP 9 GROUP TIME QUESTIONS

### QUESTION 1:

- A person's body is the temple or house of God (1 Cor 6:19)
- The possessed man's body is therefore the Jerusalem temple, the house of God
- It's cleansed in the sense that Jesus' saving grace has arrived. Jesus also literally cleansed the temple (Luke 19:45)
- The cleansing, however, doesn't help Jerusalem because it's ruled by evil leaders spiritually and politically.
- The future condition of that person (the Jerusalem temple) will be therefore worse than before. Jesus is referring to its future destruction.
- Destruction of Jerusalem - the falling "Babylon" or haunted "house" that is inhabited by demons - is clearly the prediction of Revelation 18:1-2.

### QUESTION 2:

- The bible sees the temple as a microcosm of the whole earthly reality. Therefore, the destruction of Jerusalem also has its eschatological meaning, i.e. the Last Judgment
- As a result, encourage your group members to relate the sinfulness of Jerusalem with the sinfulness of the world we live in.
- "Do not conform yourself to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect." (Romans 12:2)
- With this in mind, encourage your group members to suggest things about this world that we should not conform ourselves to.

### QUESTION 3:

- Note that in Revelation 19, Jesus' bride is proclaimed "ready" and "she was allowed to wear a bright, clean linen garment", which "represents the righteous deeds of the holy ones.)
- Ask your group members whether they have their "clean linen garments" or righteous deeds ready for the marriage feast of the Lamb.
- How can they get their clean linen garments ready?