SECOND ANGELIC MESSAGE.

8. “And another angel followed, saying, ‘Fallen is Babylon the  
Great; who hath made all the nations drink of the wine of the  
wrath of her fornication.’”  
  
 This is the true reading of the verse, as may be seen  
by consulting Tregelles’ text. Some authorities would  
add “a second,” before “angel.”  
 This is the first mention of Babylon, which occupies  
so conspicuous a place toward the close of the book.  
She is characterized by greatness: her greatness is  
the result of her fornication. For the Babylon now  
spoken of is the mystic Babylon of chapter xvii. This  
is clear if we look at xvii. 1, 2.  
 This angelic message, then, will be greatly needed, to  
damp the triumphant feelings, and still the words of  
Antichrist and his party over her fall. Rome is by  
them identified with Christ; and her destruction with  
the ruin of His cause, and the proof of His powerlessness.  
 Beside the false view of the reason of Rome’s final  
burning, therefore, God sets the true. This guilty city’s  
fall is owing, not to the almightiness of the False Christ,  
nor is it effected despite God’s power to hinder; *but by  
God’s counsel, and as the result of her sin*. She is the first-fruits  
of the Vintage, as the 144,000 are of the Harvest.  
She is smitten as the consequence of God’s wrath  
against idolatry; judgment begins on that which bears  
God’s name.  
 No angelic warning is sent to her. She has already  
had many from Christ, and has refused them.  
 The two great evils of the last days are:  
 1. Infidelity, amounting oft to atheism.  
 2. Idolatry, either Christianized, or openly pagan.  
 Rome falls; Satan and his vicegerent, with his  
associate kings, burn her. She is no longer adapted to