



Bible Training Center

The Three Angels' Messages

edition 2015

by Melody Dietrich

This incomplete copy is provided for evaluation.

The Three Angels' Messages

The First Angel's Message.....	3
The Second Angel's Message.....	14
The Third Angel's Message.....	22

The Three Angels' Messages of Revelation 14

6 Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth--to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people--

7 saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

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

9 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand,

10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

12 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Revelation 14:6-12

Throughout history God has sent many judgments to this world. But God is not willing that anyone should perish so He always sends warnings before His judgments. There was the judgment of the flood, of the Egyptians when Pharaoh didn't let God's people go, of Sodom and Gomorrah, and of Jerusalem etc. But before each judgment He always warned the people. In each there were those who were unfaithful to God, who didn't listen to the warning and obey so they died. But those who obeyed God and heeded the warning lived. The 3 angel's message's are God's last warning to the world before the last great judgment. They are the last warning before Jesus comes the second time.

"At that time shall Michael stand up, the great Prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, everyone that shall be found written in the book." Daniel 12:1. {GC 613.1}

When the third angel's message closes, mercy no longer pleads for the guilty inhabitants of the earth. The people of God have accomplished their work. They have received "the latter rain," "the refreshing from the presence of the Lord," and they are prepared for the trying hour before them. Angels are hastening to and fro in heaven. An angel returning from the earth announces that his work is done; the final test has been brought upon the world, and all who have proved themselves loyal to the divine precepts have received "the seal of the living God." Then Jesus ceases His intercession in the sanctuary above. He lifts His hands and with a loud voice says, "It is done;" and all the angelic host lay off their crowns as He makes the solemn announcement: "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still." Revelation 22:11. Every case has been decided for life or death, Christ has made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins. The number of His subjects is made up; "the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven," is about to be given to the heirs of salvation, and Jesus is to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. {GC 613.2}

Since the 3 angel's messages are so important we need to understand what they really mean. Let's study them phrase by phrase.

The First Angel's Message

THEN I SAW ANOTHER ANGEL FLYING

The Angel represents the church and flying indicates speed:
“Those who labor in these valleys must take a deep interest in their work, or they will not succeed. The third angel is represented as flying through the midst of heaven. The work is one that must be done quickly. They must keep in working order, laboring intelligently and with consecration, and be prepared by the grace of God to meet opposition.”
Ev 423

(Note: Even though this quote is specifically talking about the 3rd Angel I believe it can also apply to the first angel because the first angel was also flying in the midst of heaven.)

“When will the church do her appointed work? She is represented as an angel of light, flying through heaven with the everlasting gospel to be proclaimed to the world. This represents the speed and directness with which the church is to prosecute her work.” MM 131

An angel is a messenger. We are appointed by God to be His messengers. Are you doing this work? As members of the church this is your appointed work.

IN THE MIDST OF HEAVEN

He was in the midst of heaven indicating a widespread gospel:
“The third angel is represented as flying in the midst of heaven, showing that the message is to go throughout the length and breadth of the earth. It is the most solemn message ever given to mortals, and all who propose to connect themselves with the work should first feel their need of an education, of the most thorough training.” CT 500

(Note: even though this quote is talking about the third angel, the first angel was flying in the midst of heaven too. The third angel followed so that means he followed into the same place.)

Practical examples: The sun at noon is visible to lots of people. Or an airplane can go around the globe.

HAVING THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL

This gospel is the same gospel that Adam preached, the same that Moses preached. All down the line of history until now, it is the same gospel, an everlasting gospel. We are not to teach a “new” gospel. Righteousness by faith in Jesus Christ is the way of salvation and has been from the beginning.

EGW quotes:

“The message proclaimed by the angel flying in the midst of heaven is the everlasting gospel, the same gospel that was declared in Eden when God said to the serpent, ‘I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel’ (Genesis 3:15). Here was the first promise of a Saviour who would stand on the field of battle to contest the power of Satan and prevail against him. Christ came to our world to represent the character of God as it is represented in His holy law; for His law is a transcript of His character. Christ was both the law and the gospel. The angel that proclaims the everlasting gospel proclaims the law of God; for the gospel of salvation brings men to obedience of the law, whereby their characters are formed after the divine similitude.” 2SM 106

“In the prophecy this warning of the judgment, with its connected messages, is followed by the coming of the Son of man in the clouds of heaven. The proclamation of the judgment is an announcement of Christ's second coming as at hand. And this proclamation is called the everlasting gospel. Thus the preaching of Christ's second coming, the announcement of its nearness, is shown to be an essential part of the gospel message.” COL 227

“...Christ was as much man's Redeemer in the beginning of the world as He is today. Before He clothed His divinity with humanity and came to our world, the gospel message was given by Adam, Seth, Enoch, Methuselah, and Noah. Abraham in Canaan and Lot in Sodom bore the message, and from generation to generation faithful messengers proclaimed the Coming One. The rites of the Jewish economy were instituted by Christ Himself. He was the foundation of their system of

sacrificial offerings, the great antitype of all their religious service. The blood shed as the sacrifices were offered pointed to the sacrifice of the Lamb of God. All the typical offerings were fulfilled in Him.” COL 126
Jesus is just as willing to save you today as He was thousands of years ago. God does not change, and nor does the way to salvation. Today we find salvation the same way Adam did – by grace through faith in Jesus.

TO PREACH TO THOSE WHO DWELL ON THE EARTH--TO EVERY NATION, TRIBE, TONGUE, AND PEOPLE

This gospel is to go to all the world. It is international. All people are to hear the first angels' message:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...”

Matthew 28:19

“And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15

“And they sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,’” Revelation 5:9

EGW quotes:

“Their liberality was to benefit their own nation; the work in these last days extends to the entire world. The message of truth is to go to all nations, tongues, and people; its publications, printed in many different languages, are to be scattered abroad like the leaves of autumn.” 1TT 467

“If you would go forth to do Christ's work, angels of God would open the way before you, preparing hearts to receive the gospel. Were every one of you a living missionary, the message for this time would speedily be proclaimed in all countries, to every people, and nation and tongue. This is the work that must be done before Christ shall come in power and great glory. I call upon the church to pray earnestly that you may understand your responsibilities. Are you individually laborers together with God? If not, why not? When do you mean to do your heaven-

appointed work?” 6T 438

SAYING WITH A LOUD VOICE

Loud voice indicates that the message is very important. Visual to teach the point in class: whisper in someone's ear, then say the same thing with a loud voice.

Other examples of the usage of “loud voice” in the Bible:

Matthew 27:46 *“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?’”*

Luke 17:15 *“And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God.”*

Deuteronomy 27:14,15 *“And the Levites shall speak with a loud voice and say to all the men of Israel: ‘Cursed is the one who makes a carved or molded image, an abomination to the Lord, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and sets it up in secret.’ And all the people shall answer and say, ‘Amen!’”*

Our Lord gave the 10 commandments with a loud voice (Deut. 5:6-22):
Deuteronomy 5:22 *“These words the Lord spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me.”*

FEAR GOD

What does it mean to fear God?

Proverbs 8:13 *“The fear of the Lord is to hate evil. ...”*

Job 28:28 *“... ‘the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding.’”*

Proverbs 14:16 *“A wise man fears and departs from evil. ...”*

Someone that fears God will hate evil and depart from it. They will be wise and fear to offend God. Do you hate all sin?

EGW quotes:

“The love of God ever tends to the fear of God--fear to offend Him. Those who are truly converted will not venture heedlessly upon the borders of any evil, lest they grieve the Spirit of God and are left to their own way, to be filled with their own doings.” UL 371

“Now it is impossible for us to love God with all our heart while breaking the fourth commandment, for this precept stands in the center of the Decalogue. We should be as a family of obedient children, having the fear of God before us--not slavish fear, but filial fear.” 3MR 67-68

AND GIVE GLORY TO HIM

What does it mean to give glory to God?

Exodus 33:18,19 Moses said, “*show me your glory*” and God said, “*I will make all my goodness pass before you*”

Isaiah 43:7 “*Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.*”

Colossians 1:27 God is glorified when I reveal His character in my life.

Matthew 5:16 We let our light shine and do good works to bring glory to God.

To give glory to God means to reveal His character in my life.

EGW quote:

“To give glory to God is to reveal His character in our own, and thus make Him known. And in whatever way we make known the Father or the Son, we glorify God.” MS 16, 1890

FOR THE HOUR OF HIS JUDGMENT HAS COME

When did this judgment began? This judgment began in 1844 and still continues today. It is called the investigative judgment.

There are 3 types of judgments in the Bible, that I know of, which are:

Investigative judgment: This is when Jesus is in the Most Holy Place right before the second coming deciding the destiny of all people according to whether they have chosen to be His or not.

2 Corinthians 5:10 says, *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”* Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 says, *“Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.”*

The judgment when the saints judge the wicked during the millennium: This is when the saints are in heaven and they get to judge to see that Jesus judged the wicked correctly. 1 Corinthians 6:2 *“Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?”*

The executive judgment: This is the final judgment when the wicked are destroyed. Revelation 20:14,15 *“Then Death and Hades were casted into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”*

The judgment of Revelation 14 is talking about the investigative judgment which began in 1844 and still continues today. How do we know this? I will share three reasons in short; but to deeply understand this would require a more thorough study of judgment, the prophesy of Daniel 8 and 9, and the sanctuary. First, look at the context of Revelation 14:7 which says, *“for the hour of His judgment is come.”* Right after this judgment takes place the second coming happens when Jesus takes the righteous to heaven. Revelation 14:14-16 *“Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, “Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe. So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.”* Since the investigative judgment takes place right before the second coming of Christ, this must be the investigative judgment.

The second and third reason we know that the judgment of Revelation

14 is talking about the investigative judgment and that it is happening right now (ever since 1844) is by thoroughly studying the prophesy of Daniel 8 and 9 and the sanctuary. (Get Jonathan's time-line chart out and explain that the last time prophecy, with a date, in the Bible, ended in 1844. This is the 2300 day prophecy. Show William Miller history also.) Daniel 8:14 says, *“And he said to me, ‘For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.’”* This cleansing of the sanctuary started to take place in 1844 when Jesus moved out of the Holy Place and into the Most Holy Place where He still is today. If you study the work that is done in the Most Holy Place you will understand what Jesus is doing right now. He is judging the people to see who has chosen to follow Him and keep His commandments or not. This is the investigative judgment. This judgment is happening right now!

Prophecy of Daniel 8 and 9 briefly stated:

When Daniel was told, *“For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed,”* he didn't understand and was greatly perplexed. So later the angel came again to give him more understanding. He said, *“Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.”* Daniel 9:25. That decree is found in Ezra 7:7,12,13 and the date was 457BC. If you add 2300 days (or years) to that you get AD1844 (remember to skip the zero year). This means that in 1844 the heavenly sanctuary began to be cleansed.

Sanctuary briefly stated:

In the sanctuary is where the record of sin is kept. To clean the record of sin is a judgment. The earthly sanctuary was cleansed once a year on the day of atonement by the high priest. Leviticus 16:15,16,30 says, 15 *“Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat. 16 So he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the*

uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions, for all their sins; and so he shall do for the tabernacle of meeting which remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness. 30 For on that day the priest shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before the Lord.”

The earthly sanctuary was given so we can understand better what is happening in the heavenly sanctuary. Hebrews 8:1,2 talks about this heavenly sanctuary: “Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.” Jesus is our High Priest. That is a wonderful thing to know! Just like the high priest in the time of Israel went into the Most Holy Place once a year to clean it and to make an atonement for the people, Jesus entered the Most Holy Place once for us. He doesn't go in every year but went into the Most Holy Place to clean it at the end of the 2300 days. Hebrews 9:25-28 says, “not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another-- He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.” See also Hebrews 9:12: “Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.”

EGW quotes:

“The conditions prevailing in society, and especially in the great cities of the nations, proclaim in thunder tones that the hour of God’s judgment is come and that the end of all things earthly is at hand. We are standing on the threshold of the crisis of the ages. In quick succession the judgments of God will follow one another---fire, and flood, and earthquake, with war and bloodshed.” PK 278

The standard by which we are judged is the 10 commandments (including the Sabbath!): *“Ere long the living and the dead are to be judged according to the deeds done in the body, and the law of God is the standard by which they are to be tested.”* CS 39

“The time of the judgment is a most solemn period, when the Lord gathers His own from among the tares. Those who have been members of the same family are separated. A mark is placed upon the righteous. ‘They shall be Mine, saith the Lord of host, in that day when I make up My jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.’” TM 234-235.

When we study the judgment that is going on right now, we can see that we are truly living in a solemn time. We must keep God’s law because that is the standard by which we are judged, but this can only be done through the power of God. He is ever near and ready to help us.

Have you confessed and forsaken all of your sins? How are you different than everyone else? For example how are you different in these areas since you know we are living in the time of judgment:

- Business in the market (compare two business men)
- Family life, marriage, child raising
- Life-style, eating, drinking

To have faith in Jesus and His righteousness is key to living Godly.

Let us remember that Jesus is not only our Judge but He is our Advocate, also. 1 John 2:1-3 says, *“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.”* And when we do stumble and fall Jesus will forgive us. 1 John 1:7-10 says, *“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is*

faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”

Jesus is also our Witness in the judgment. Revelation 3:14 says, *“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:’* What does a witness do in a court room? The witness is the one that saw the two cars crash in the accident for example and tells what exactly happened. What is Jesus going to say about us? He says, *“I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”* Revelation 3:18-21. We need to buy His true gold and be clothed with His righteousness. We need to repent of all our sins (have you confessed all your sins?) and let Him into our hearts and ask Him for power to keep His law. If we ask Jesus for help to do this He will help us and say as our Witness that we are over-comers and are worthy to sit with Him on His throne. It's not our works that save us but His.

AND WORSHIP HIM WHO MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH, THE SEA AND SPRINGS OF WATER

After God had finished the creation He rested and made the 7th day holy. Genesis 2:1-3 *“Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.”*

The fourth commandment, the Sabbath, was made for us so we would remember to worship and praise God. This day was set aside for us to worship God for His marvelous creation. Notice that some of the same words used in Revelation 14:7 are stated in the fourth commandment: Exodus 20:8-11 *“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”*

Revelation 4:11 *“You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”*

“The importance of the Sabbath as the memorial of creation is that it keeps ever present the true reason why worship is due to God -----because He is the Creator and we are His creatures.” J. N. Andrews.

Historical Time of 1st Angel's Message

We have look at the first angel's message phrase by phrase. But what time in history did the first angel's message have special significance's? The time was 1840-1844:

EGW quotes:

THE prophecy of the first angel's message, brought to view in Revelation 14, found its fulfillment in the advent movement of 1840-44. In both Europe and America, men of faith and prayer were deeply moved as their attention was called to the prophecies, and, tracing down the Inspired Record, they saw convincing evidence that the end of all things was at hand. The Spirit of God urged His servants to give the warning. Far and wide spread the message of the everlasting gospel, "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come." Revelation 14:7. {SR 356.1}

God called him [William Miller] to leave his farm, as He called Elisha to leave his oxen and the field of his labor to follow Elijah. {SR 357.1}

To William Miller and his colaborers it was given to preach the warning in America. This country became the center of the great advent movement. It was here that the prophecy of the first angel's message had its most direct fulfillment. The writings of Miller and his associates were carried to distant lands. Wherever missionaries had penetrated in all the world, were sent the glad tidings of Christ's speedy return. Far and wide spread the message of the everlasting gospel: "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come." {GC 368.1}

The testimony of the prophecies which seemed to point to the coming of Christ in the spring of 1844 took deep hold of the minds of the people. As the message went from state to state, there was everywhere awakened widespread interest....{GC 368.2}

Everywhere the searching testimony was heard, warning sinners, both worldlings and church members, to flee from the wrath to come. Like John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, the preachers laid the ax at the root of the tree and urged all to bring forth fruit meet for repentance....{GC 368.3}

The Second Angel's Message

AND ANOTHER ANGEL FOLLOWED, SAYING, "BABYLON IS FALLEN, IS FALLEN, THAT GREAT CITY..."

In order to better understand what this phrase "Babylon is fallen" means we need to study Revelation 12 and Revelation 17. Here we find that there are two churches or women. (A woman in the Bible symbolizes a church. See 2 Corinthians 11:2 and Ephesians 5:23-27.) One is the pure, true church of God talked about in Revelation 12. The other is the false corrupted church represented as Babylon talked about in Revelation 17.

True pure woman (church)

Revelation 12:1-3 "Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a

garland of twelve stars. Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. . . And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth to devour her Child as soon as it was born.” Notice that the dragon has seven heads and ten horns. Continue reading, especially the last verse in the chapter. “*And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the res of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*” Rev. 12:17. So the pure church, God's people, keep the commandments of God. The dragon is fighting against the pure church. Notice that even at the close of the 3 angel's messages it states that God's people will keep His commandments. “*Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.*” Revelation 14:12. Now compare this woman to the corrupted woman in Revelation 17.

False corrupted woman (church)

The false Babylonian church is presented in Revelation 17. Verses 1-6 says, “*Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me,* 'Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.' So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.*” Notice that the phrase “*made drunk with the wine of her fornication*” is almost the same as Revelation 14:8 that says, “...

she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” So clearly both of these texts point to the same Babylon. This woman is “*sitting on a scarlet beast*” and is “*arrayed in purple and scarlet*”. Purple and scarlet are the very same colors of Rome. She is sitting on a beast. What does beast symbolize in the Bible? Beast means: kingdom, political power, or government. See Daniel 7:17,23. Notice also that the beast she is sitting on has 7 heads and ten horns. Remember that the dragon who fights against the pure woman in Revelation 12 also has 7 heads and ten horns.

Continue reading in Revelation 17 and compare verses 7 through 14 (but especially verse 12) to the great image in the book of Daniel who's feet are partly of iron, partly of clay. This comparison will show clearly who this beast is. Here is the comparison briefly: Revelation 17:7-14 says, “*But the angel said to me, ‘Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. And the beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition. The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.” Now compare this to the feet of iron and clay in Daniel 2:31-34 “*You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. This image's head was of fine**

gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.”

Daniel 2:40-45 gives the interpretation of the fourth beast and the stone cut out without hands: *“And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others. Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold--the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”*

Through history we know that iron was a common metal in this kingdom, the kingdom of Rome. They used iron weapons in warfare to conquer because it was so strong. Notice the toes. There are ten toes. In Revelation 17 there are 10 horns or 10 kings.

All of this information is leading up to something very clear. We saw in Revelation 12 that the dragon had 7 heads and 10 horns. Then we saw that the beast in Revelation 17 had 7 heads and 10 horns or 10 kings. Moving to Daniel chapter 2 we see an image who has 10 toes. Do you see the similarities. All of these chapters are talking about the same

thing/power. But this is not all. There is one more chapter we need to look at to make this point especially clear and understandable. Compare all of these chapters (Rev. 12, 17, Dan. 2) to Daniel 7.

In Daniel 7 there are four beasts instead of four metals/kingdoms talked about in Daniel 2. Each beast represents a different kingdom just like each metal represents a different kingdom in Daniel 2. Let's study the fourth beast. Daniel 7:7 says, "*After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.*" Notice that this beast has iron teeth and ten horns and compare this to the 4th kingdom of Daniel 2. The metal of the 4th kingdom is iron and it has 10 toes.

Daniel didn't understand what this vision meant and desired to understand. He says in verse 19 and 20 "*Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet; and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows.*"

So now the interpretation is given to Daniel. Daniel 7:23-27. "*Thus he said: 'The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all other kingdoms, And shall devour the whole earth, Trample it and break it in pieces. The ten horns are ten kings Who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, And shall subdue three kings. He shall*

speaking pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.' But the court shall be seated, And they shall take away his dominion, To consume and destroy it forever. Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'"

Remember that the beast in Revelation 17 has ten horns or ten kings. Also notice that both Daniel 7 and Revelation 17 talk about the saints of God being persecuted (Dan. 7:25 & Rev. 17:6). I hope it is clear now. The dragon of Revelation 12, the beast of Revelation 17, the 4th kingdom of Daniel 2, and the 4th beast of Daniel 7, all point to the papacy. The beast is the papacy or the Roman Catholic church. (Note: Rev. 13:1-3 dragon gives his power to the beast.)

The papacy has done these very things. The pope allows people to treat him as if he was God. That is blasphemy! In almost every doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church she has put her doctrines and words above the words of the Most High just like Daniel 7:25 talks about. The papacy persecuted Christians who were unwilling to yield to the dictates of Rome. Remember the dark ages and how many Christians were killed and burned for having and following the Bible? The papacy has even tried to change the Law of God (Ten Commandments) just like Daniel 7:25 predicted. She says she changed the Bible Sabbath to Sunday and now all Christians should worship on that day. Many Sabbath keeping Christians have died because they were unwilling to give up the truth. Some day soon the papacy will again persecute and kill many more Sabbath keepers. Are you going to be strong even if you might die for keeping the Sabbath?

When studying these prophecies and the papacy it is important to remember that we are not talking about individuals. We are talking about the system, the power. There are many sincere people who are

Roman Catholics not knowing the truth. They are living up to the light they have. We need to, out of love, teach them the truth.

Babylon here is represented as the papacy (or Rome) and all the churches of today containing false doctrine:

EGW quotes on Revelation 17:

“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.

EGW quotes on Revelation 14:

“Babylon ... applies to the world-loving churches of the last days.” PP 124. *“The message of Revelation 14, announcing the fall of Babylon must apply to religious bodies that were once pure and have become corrupt.”* GC 383. *“There are God-fearing men in the fallen churches. If this were not so, we should not be given the message to bear, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen... Come out of her, My people [Revelation 18:1,4].”* Ev 558-559.

Revelation 18:4 *“...Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.”*

Revelation 18:7,8 *“In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, ‘I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.’ Therefore her plagues will come in one day-death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.”*

“There are only two parties upon the earth-those who stand under the bloodstained banner of Jesus Christ and those who stand under the black banner of rebellion.” 14MR161

BECAUSE SHE HAS MADE ALL NATIONS DRINK OF THE WINE OF THE WRATH OF HER FORNICATION.

What does wine represent in the Bible? When people drink bad

(fermented) wine they fall into error and their judgment is bad. They are led astray, out of the truth:

Isaiah 28:7 “*But they also have erred through wine, and through intoxicating drink are out of the way; ... they are swallowed up by wine, they are out of the way through intoxicating drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.*”

Isaiah 29:9 “*Pause and wonder! Blind yourselves and be blind! They are drunk, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with intoxicating drink.*”

Proverbs 20:1 “*Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.*”

EGW quotes:

This wine of Revelation 14 represents false doctrine: “*The fallen denominational churches are Babylon. Babylon has been fostering poisonous doctrines, the wine of error. This wine of error is made up of false doctrines, such as the natural immorality of the soul, the eternal torment of the wicked, the denial of the pre-existence of Christ prior to His birth in Bethlehem, and advocating and exalting the first day of the week above God's holy, sanctified day. These and kindred errors are presented to the world by the various churches...*” Ev 365-366.

Historical Time of 2nd Angel's Message

The historical time that the second angel's message began to be given was 1843 and 1844. But it is still to be proclaimed today.

EGW quotes:

The proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages has been located by the word of Inspiration. Not a peg or pin is to be removed. No human authority has any more right to change the location of these messages than to substitute the New Testament for the Old. The Old Testament is the gospel in figures and symbols. The New Testament is the substance. One is as essential as the other. The Old Testament presents lessons from the lips of Christ, and these lessons have not lost their force in any particular. The first and second messages were given in 1843 and 1844, and we are now under the proclamation of the third; but all three of the messages are still to be

proclaimed. It is just as essential now as ever before that they shall be repeated to those who are seeking for the truth. By pen and voice we are to sound the proclamation, showing their order, and the application of the prophecies that bring us to the third angel's message. There cannot be a third without the first and second. These messages we are to give to the world in publications, in discourses, showing in the line of prophetic history the things that have been, and the things that will be.--Manuscript 32, 1896. {CW 26.2}

The Bible declares that before the coming of the Lord, Satan will work "with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness;" and they that "received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved," will be left to receive "strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11. Not until this condition shall be reached, and the union of the church with the world shall be fully accomplished throughout Christendom, will the fall of Babylon be complete. The change is a progressive one, and the perfect fulfillment of Revelation 14:8 is yet future. {GC 389.3}

The Third Angel's Message

THEN A THIRD ANGEL FOLLOWED THEM, SAYING WITH A LOUD VOICE

Remember that the loud voice indicates the importance of the message. Note that the second angel's message that was just given above was also given with a loud voice: Revelation 18:1,2 "After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, 'Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, and prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!'"

If ANYONE WORSHIPS THE BEAST

Who is the beast?

Remember how we compared Revelation 14:8 and Revelation 17:3-5? The woman in Revelation 17 is sitting on the beast and on her forehead is written, "Mystery, Babylon the great..." We studied later in that same chapter too and found that the beast that she is sitting upon is the Papacy (or Rome). We compared these verses with Daniel 7:23-25 also where it says, "*Thus he said: 'The fourth beast shall be A fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all other kingdoms, And shall devour the whole earth, Trample it and break it in pieces. The ten horns are ten kings Who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, And shall subdue three kings. He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.'*" We can see then, as we studied before, that the beast is the papacy (or Rome).

EGW quote:

The beast is the papacy:

"The enforcement of Sunday-keeping on the part of Protestant churches is an enforcement of the worship of the papacy-of the beast. Those who, understanding the claims of the fourth commandment, choose to observe the false instead of the true Sabbath are thereby paying homage to that power by which alone it is commanded." GC 448-449.

What is the most distinct way someone could worship the beast?

The Bible says that the highest form of worship is obedience.

1 Samuel 15:22,23 "*So Samuel said: 'Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry...'*"

Genesis 22:5 says, "*And Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.'*" Abraham was going with his son Isaac to worship

God. How was he going to worship God? By obeying what God said by sacrificing his son on the alter. Since obedience is the highest form of worship than this is how people will worship the beast.

Daniel 7:25 says, “*He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law.*” The people who choose to obey the beast above God’s law will receive the mark of the beast. (Note: Notice that in the first angel's message it talks about worshiping God. In the third it talks about worshiping the beast. Compare and contrast this.)

AND HIS IMAGE

What does “his image” mean or represent?

Let’s first of all look at an example in Daniel where an image was set up and what we can learn from that about “image.” Daniel 3:1-12 Here Nebuchadnezzar has an image made to represent himself. It was made all gold from head to toe unlike the dream that God had given him telling him that his kingdom would not last forever for another kingdom would come after him. Nebuchadnezzar didn’t like that because he wanted his kingdom to last forever. So he had this image made and then commanded everyone to bow down and worship it. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, as you well know, did not bow down and worship the image because they were unwilling to worship anyone but the God of heaven. So what can we learn from this story? An image is like what you see in a mirror when you stand in-front of it. (Give a mirror to someone). You see yourself but it’s not really you; it’s just a representation of you. In this story the golden image represented king Nebuchadnezzar. When the people bowed down and worshiped the image they, in reality, were worshiping Nebuchadnezzar. Similarly, if people bow down and follow the false doctrines in the Protestant churches of today they are, in reality, worshiping the one who set up and influenced these falsehoods: the papacy.

Revelation chapter 13 actually tells us a lot about the meaning of this phrase in Revelation 14: “*if anyone worships the beast and his image.*” So let’s study Revelation 13 for a bit. Read the whole chapter (especially verses 1 and 2). Verse one says, “*Then I stood on the sand*

of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.” Notice that this description of the beast is almost exactly the same as what we saw in Daniel 7. Thus we know without doubt that this beast in Revelation 13:1-10 is the papacy. What is the lamb-like beast spoken of in Revelation 13:11-18 that tells people to make an image to the beast? This second beast (verses 11-18) has two horns like a lamb and comes out of the earth. Notice that it does not come out of the sea like the first beast did. “Sea” symbolizes peoples and nations in the Bible (Revelation 17:15). So this beast did not come out of a place where there were lots of people and nations but instead it came out of a place less inhabited. The sea is turbulent sometimes but the earth is peaceful. So this second beast is outwardly peaceful (it is like a lamb) and comes out of a sparsely populated area. The second beast of Revelation 13 is the United States of America. Didn’t this nation began peaceful like a lamb and start on a new land where there weren’t very many people yet? Revelation 13:11 says that he has horns like a lamb but his words are like a dragon: *“Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.”* We normally think of a lamb as harmless. Many people think the United States would never force people against their religious convictions like a dragon would but verses 11-18 describes him as a forceful beast. Verse 14 says, *“And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.”* Someday soon the United States is going to enforce Sunday-keeping upon all. This is similar to when Nebuchadnezzar forced all people to worship the image that he set up. When the United States forces the Sunday law it is going to cause the majority of the people to form an image to the beast (the papacy) because in effect they will be worshipping the beast and his image if they bow down and worship on Sunday against the Commandment of God (*“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work...” Exodus*

20:8-10). So do you understand the connection between Revelation 14 and Revelation 13 regarding “image”? Revelation 14:9 says, “*If anyone worships the beast and his image.*” To understand “his image” and what this means we went to Revelation 13 where we saw how the United States (lamb-like beast) causes people to worship the image of the papacy (beast with 7 heads and 10 horns).

EGW quotes on Revelation 13:

“In chapter 13 (verses 1-10) is described another beast, ‘like unto a leopard,’ to which the dragon gave ‘his power, and his seat, and great authority.’ This symbol, as most Protestants have believed, represents the papacy, which succeeded to the power and seat and authority once held by the ancient Roman empire. Of the leopard-like beast it is declared: ‘There was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies. . . . And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.’ This prophecy, which is nearly identical with the description of the little horn of Daniel 7, unquestionably points to the papacy.” GC 439

“‘The beast’ mentioned in this message, whose worship is enforced by the two-horned beast, is the first, or leopard-like beast of Revelation 13-the papacy. The ‘image to the beast’ represents that form of apostate Protestantism which will be developed when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power for the enforcement of their dogmas.” GC 445

“And when the Papacy, robbed of its strength, was forced to desist from persecution, John beheld a new power coming up to echo the dragon’s voice, and carry forward the same cruel and blasphemous work. This power, the last that is to wage war against the church and the law of God, was symbolized by a beast with lamb-like horns. The beast preceding it had risen from the sea, but this came up out of the earth, representing the peaceful rise of the nation which is symbolized. The ‘two horns like a lamb’ well represent the character of the United States

Government, as expressed in its two fundamental principles, Republicanism and Protestantism.” ST Nov. 11, 1899.

“The prophecy of Revelation 13 declares that the power represented by the beast with lamb-like horns shall cause ‘the earth and them which dwell therein’ to worship the papacy--there symbolized by the beast ‘like unto a leopard.’ The beast with two horns is also to say ‘to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast;’ and, furthermore, it is to command all, ‘both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond,’ to receive the mark of the beast. Revelation 13:11-16. It has been shown that the United States is the power represented by the beast with lamb-like horns, and that this prophecy will be fulfilled when the United States shall enforce Sunday observance, which Rome claims as the special acknowledgment of her supremacy.” GC 578-579

EGW quotes on Revelation 14:9 showing that “his image” is the churches that enforce a religious duty by secular power:

“But in the very act of enforcing a religious duty by secular power, the churches would themselves form an image to the beast; hence the enforcement of Sunday-keeping in the United States would be an enforcement of the worship of the beast and his image.” GC 448-449

“His image” is the power that enforces the institution ordained by Rome: *“But when Sunday observance shall be enforced by law, and the world shall be enlightened concerning the obligation of the true Sabbath, then whoever shall transgress the command of God, to obey a precept which has no higher authority than that of Rome, will thereby honor popery above God. He is paying homage to Rome and to the power which enforces the institution ordained by Rome. He is worshipping the beast and his image.” GC 448-449*

“The Lord has shown me clearly that the image of the beast will be formed before probation closes; for it is to be the great test for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided.” 7BC 976

AND RECEIVES HIS MARK

What are the characteristics of the beast and how do people receive

his mark? Daniel 7:25 says about this beast, *“He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law...”* RV says, *“think to change times and the law.”* KJV also says, *“think.”* The Roman Catholic Church has done this very thing. If you look at their version of the 10 Commandments you will see that the second commandment is completely gone and the 4th commandment is changed in such a way to make it possible for people to keep Sunday holy instead of Saturday. In the Catholic Catechism of Christian Religion we find, *“During the old law, Saturday was the day sanctified; but the church, instructed by Jesus Christ, and directed by the Spirit of God, has substituted Sunday for Saturday; so now we sanctify the first, not the seventh day. Sunday means, and now is, the day of the Lord.”* So we can see that the beast has attempted to change God’s holy law but we know that God’s law will never change (Luke 16:17 and Psalms 111:7,8). Right after the warning of the third angel is given, we read in Revelation 14:12, *“Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.”* Those who keep the commandments of God are contrasted with those who worship the beast and his image and receive his mark. So we can see by this that the keeping of God’s commandments is going to be the vital issue at stake. And what commandment better than the Sabbath commandment (4th commandment) fits the description “change times and the law”? The Sabbath commandment is the only commandment involving time directly. It is a commitment of time to God. We set aside 24 hours on the 7th day for us to worship God, the only One that truly deserves to be worshiped, because He created us. After creating us at the end of the 6th day he rested on the 7th day, sanctified it, and made it holy. Do you think God needed rest? No, of course not. He rested to give us an example of what we are privileged and commanded to do on the holy Sabbath day.

So in summary, the beast, or Roman Catholic church, claims to have changed Sabbath to Sunday. Those those who, knowing the Sabbath truth, continue to choose to keep Sunday holy instead of the true Sabbath are giving their allegiance to Rome instead of to God. They

will receive the mark of the beast. Who will you choose to worship? Worship is the great theme of the 3 angel's messages.

EGW quotes:

The observance of Sunday is the mark of the beast. *“The Sabbath question will be the issue in the great conflict in which all the world will act a part.”* 7BC 979-980. When the test comes, it will be clearly shown what the mark of the beast is. It is the keeping of Sunday. Those who, after having heard the truth, continue to regard this day as holy bear the signature of the man of sin, who thought to change times and laws.” (Lt 12, 1900)

“Sunday-keeping is not yet the mark of the beast and will not be until the decree goes forth causing men to worship this idol sabbath. The time will come when this day will be the test, but that time has not come yet.” (MS, 118,99)

ON HIS FOREHEAD OR ON HIS HAND

We have already read that the wicked receive the mark of the beast on their forehead or on their hand but Revelation 13:16-17 also talks about this same mark. *“He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”*

It is interesting to note that the righteous will receive something similar to a mark on their foreheads too, but it is completely the opposite. Before Jesus comes they are going to receive the seal of God on their foreheads. Revelation 7:1-4 says, *“After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, ‘Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.’ And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the*

children of Israel were sealed.” Revelation 9:4 says that those who have God's mark on their foreheads will be protected from the destruction that happens in the world because they have God's seal on their foreheads. Isn't that wonderful! Read Revelation 9:4: “*They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.*” (Note: see quote below on God's protection.) Revelation 22:4 says that the actual name of God will be on the foreheads of His people! “*They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.*” On the other hand the name of Satan will be on the wicked's foreheads. Revelation 13:16-17 says, “*He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.*”

So in summary, in the time of the end there will be two classes of people:

1. The wicked with the mark of the beast on their foreheads or on their right hands.
2. The righteous who have the seal of God on their foreheads.

Let us be sure that we are in this second class of people!

EGW quote on Revelation 13:16

“*He causeth all, both small and great, ... to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads' (Revelation 13:16). Not only are men not to work with their hands on Sunday, but with their minds are they to acknowledge Sunday as the Sabbath.” {LDE 224.4}*

Note: This is what the law of the land will command the people to do.

EGW quote on God's protection after probation closes

“*After Jesus rises up from the mediatorial throne, every case will be decided, and oppression and death coming to God's people will not then be a testimony in favor of the truth...*” {3SM 399.2}

HE HIMSELF SHALL ALSO DRINK OF THE WINE OF THE WRATH OF GOD WHICH IS Poured OUT FULL STRENGTH (without mixture) INTO THE CUP OF HIS INDIGNATION

Oh that people will listen to God's warnings before it is too late so they don't have to be part of this group. "And I heard another voice from heaven saying, 'Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.'" Revelation 18:4

EGW quotes:

"It will be found a terrible thing to have worn out the divine patience; for the wrath of God will fall so signally and strongly that it is presented as being unmixed with mercy; and the very earth will be desolated. It is at the time of the national apostasy, when, acting on the policy of Satan, the rulers of the land will rank themselves on the side of the man of sin-it is then the measure of guilt is full; the national apostasy is the signal for national ruin." 2SM 372-373.

"But not one is made to suffer the wrath of God until the truth has been brought home to his mind and conscience, and has been rejected. There are many who have never had an opportunity to hear the special truths for this time. The obligation of the fourth commandment has never been set before them in its true light. He who reads every heart, and tries every motive, will leave none who desire a knowledge of the truth, to be deceived as to the issues of the controversy. The decree is not to be urged upon the people blindly. Every one is to have sufficient light to make his decision intelligently." {GC88 605.1}

HE SHALL BE TORMENTED WITH FIRE AND BRIMSTONE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY ANGELS AND IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LAMB AND THE SMOKE OF THEIR TORMENT ASCENDS FOREVER AND EVER; AND THEY HAVE NO REST DAY OR NIGHT

Are the wicked really tormented eternally, painfully suffering the

flames? Would our merciful God do this?

Scripture has a lot to say on this subject. We can't just take this one verse and base our whole doctrine upon it. Psalms 37:9-11, 20 says that the wicked will be cut off, and it will be impossible to even find them because they will be no more. It says in verse 20, "Into smoke they shall vanish away." Malachi 4:1-3 says that the wicked will be stubble and burned up... no root or branch left. They become ashes. Scripture does not contradict itself. We can know that all these verses harmonize beautifully when studied and understood. One big key to understanding "*and the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night*" is to study the word "forever" in the Bible. Did you know that the Bible says that Jonah was in the belly of the fish "forever"? If you study the word forever in the Bible you will find that it doesn't always mean eternal.

Scripture sometimes uses "forever" to mean "eternal." Other times, Scripture uses it as we often do when sitting at an airport waiting for a delayed flight ("I've been waiting forever.") or when moving a piece of furniture in the house that hasn't been moved in years ("That chair has been there forever.") or when talking about the neighbors ("They have lived in that house {hut} forever"). Here are a few examples of this type of usage in Scripture.

1 Samuel 1:22,27,28 22 *"But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'Not until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the Lord and remain there forever. 27 For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. 28 Therefore I also have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the Lord.' So they worshiped the Lord there."* In this example, "forever" means "as long as he lives". Samuel remained in the temple "forever," or as long as he lived.

Exodus 21:6 *"...and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever."* Of course that slave is not still serving. Forever in this verse must mean, as long as he lives or for a very long time.

1 Samuel 28:2 *"...And Achish said to David, 'Therefore I will make you*

one of my chief guardians forever.’” Forever in this verse means as long as he lives.

2 Kings 5:27 “*Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and your descendants forever.’ And he went out from his presence leprous, as white as snow.” Gehazi died a very long time ago. Clearly forever in this verse again means as long as he lives.*

Psalm 30:12 “*...O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever.” As long as David lived he gave thanks to the Lord.*

Jonah 2:5,6 (In French Bible 6,7). 5 “*The waters surrounded me, even to my soul; The deep closed around me; Weeds were wrapped around my head. 6 I went down to the moorings of the mountains; The earth with its bars closed behind me forever; Yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O Lord, my God.*” From Jonah’s perspective he was in the belly of the fish forever, but of course he is not still in a really old fish today.

I think you can see now that when the Bible uses the word forever it does not always mean eternal. In many of the examples above forever means as long as he lives.

Now, it is important to realize that there are times when Scripture does truly mean eternally forever when it uses the word “forever”. Let’s look at some of those examples:

Isaiah 40:8 “*The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.” When God says something, that does not change; it stands eternally forever.*

Daniel 4:34 “*And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation.” God will live and reign eternally forever!*

Matthew 6:13 “*And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.” God’s kingdom, power, and glory will last eternally forever.*

Revelation 22:5 “*There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.*” Those who go to heaven will live with Jesus truly eternally forever!

How can we know when the Bible means forever as in just a long time or when the Bible means eternally forever? Can we just pick and choose which way we would like the word, “forever” to mean? No! Of course not. The key is to study the verse you are wondering about with other verses in the Bible. Let the Bible explain itself. “*For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little.*” Isaiah 28:10

So what does forever mean in Revelation 14:11 “*and the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night*”? When we study other verses in the Bible about hell and death we can see clearly that the wicked have an end. For example, Malachi 4:1-3 says, “*For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up,’ Says the Lord of hosts, ‘That will leave them neither root nor branch... You shall trample the wicked, For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet On the day that I do this,’ Says the Lord of hosts.” The wicked are not going to be shrieking in torment eternally. Peter understood this and wrote about it in his New Testament book. 2 Peter 2:6 says, “*and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;” And Jude 1:7 says something similar: “*as Sodom and Gomorrah... are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.” Sodom and Gomorrah are not still burning today. They burned until they were burned up. This is an example given to us so we can understand what happens to the wicked.***

This is just a few examples of many that make it clear that the wicked will not be suffering eternally. It is not the purpose of the study of the

Three Angel's Messages to study the subject of hell in depth. This topic is huge and it's important that you study it out for yourself. From what I have studied I believe that when the Bible says in Revelation 14:11 "*and the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night*" this means the wicked will suffer for as long as they live until they are burned up.

EGW quote:

"I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away. ' Revelation 21:1 The fire that consumes the wicked purifies the earth. Every trace of the curse is swept away. No eternally burning hell will keep before the ransomed the fearful consequences of sin." GC 674

WHO WORSHIP THE BEAST AND HIS IMAGE, AND WHOEVER RECEIVES THE MARK OF HIS NAME

From our study before we know already that the beast is the Roman Catholic Church and the mark of the beast is keeping Sunday holy instead of Sabbath when we know Sabbath truth.

EGW quote:

"The mark of the beast is the papal sabbath, which has been accepted by the world in the place of the day of God's appointment." {Ev 233-236}

HERE IS THE PATIENCE OF THE SAINTS;

"Here is the patience" Another word that could be used for patience is *"endurance."* Some other translations use the word endurance instead of patience. As the closing events of this world come upon us we are going to be in special need of patience and endurance. We need to endure to the end. The trials will be large and difficult and we need to be ready for this. We will be threatened with death for keeping the Sabbath and staying true to God. Lets ask God regularly to prepare our hearts and give us the character trait of endurance so we will be able to

stand strong when the test comes. Remember the reward God's people receive for enduring to the end, "*His Lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.'*" Matthew 25:23

HERE ARE THOSE WHO KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD AND THE FAITH OF JESUS

God still wants people to keep His commandments today. In fact He says His people must keep His commandments. Here are only a few of many, many more verses showing how important it is to God that we keep His law:

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 To fear God and keep His commandments is the "*whole duty of man;*" God judges our good and evil deeds.

James 2:10-12 If we keep all but one of the ten commandments, we are guilty of breaking them all.

Proverbs 28:9 Our prayers are abominations if we willfully ignore God's law.

1 John 2:3-6 If we really know God, we will keep His commandments; by keeping God's law, we walk just as He walked.

Revelation 22:14 Those who do His commandments are blessed and have access to the tree of life.

In the last days God's people will keep His commandments and have His faith. We need to have faith in Jesus that He will help us keep His commandments when we ask. Right after the warning of the third angel is given Revelation 14:12 says, "*Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.*" Those who keep the commandments of God are contrasted with those who worship the beast and his image and receive his mark. So we can see by this that the keeping of God's commandments is going to be the vital issue at stake. And what commandment better than the Sabbath commandment (4th commandment) fits the description "*change times and the law*" (Daniel 7:25)? The Sabbath commandment is the only commandment involving time directly. It is a commitment of

time to God. *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him...”*
Hebrews 11:6 We must ask God for help to keep His commandments and then have faith that He will. There are hard times ahead and we also need faith in Jesus to go through these times.

EGW quotes:

“Apparently the whole world is guilty of receiving the mark of the beast. But the prophet sees a company who are not worshiping the beast, and who have not received his mark in their foreheads or in their hands. ‘Here is the patience of the saints,’ he declares; ‘here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.’” {7BC 979.2}

“Of the remnant people of God it is written, ‘The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.’” Revelation 12:17. {DA 398.3}

“Of the loyal and true who do not bow to the decrees of earthly rulers against the authority of the King of heaven the revelator says, ‘Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.’” {CTr 315.5}

“These lessons are for our benefit. We need to stay our faith upon God, for there is just before us a time that will try every soul. Christ upon the Mount of Olives rehearsed the fearful judgments that were to precede His second coming... . While these prophecies received a partial fulfillment at the destruction of Jerusalem, they have a more direct application in the last days.” {CTr 315.6}

Historical Time of 3rd Angel's Message

Right now we are living in the special time of the 3rd angel's message.

EGW quotes:

The passing of the time in 1844 was followed by a period of great trial to those who still held the advent faith. Their only relief, so far as ascertaining their true position was concerned, was the light which directed their minds to the sanctuary above. Some renounced their faith in their former reckoning of the prophetic periods and ascribed to

human or satanic agencies the powerful influence of the Holy Spirit which had attended the advent movement. Another class firmly held that the Lord had led them in their past experience; and as they waited and watched and prayed to know the will of God they saw that their great High Priest had entered upon another work of ministration, and, following Him by faith, they were led to see also the closing work of the church. They had a clearer understanding of the first and second angels' messages, and were prepared to receive and give to the world the solemn warning of the third angel of Revelation 14. {GC 431.3}

To present these truths is the work of the third angel's message. The Lord designs that the presentation of this message shall be the highest, greatest work carried on in our world at this time. That this work may be carried forward on correct lines He has directed the establishment of schools, sanitariums, publishing houses, and other institutions. In these institutions the attributes of God are to be unfolded, and the glory and excellence of the truth is to be made to appear more vivid.--MS. 166, 1899. {MM 188.1}

The proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages has been located by the word of Inspiration. Not a peg or pin is to be removed. No human authority has any more right to change the location of these messages than to substitute the New Testament for the Old. The Old Testament is the gospel in figures and symbols. The New Testament is the substance. One is as essential as the other. The Old Testament presents lessons from the lips of Christ, and these lessons have not lost their force in any particular. The first and second messages were given in 1843 and 1844, and we are now under the proclamation of the third; but all three of the messages are still to be proclaimed. It is just as essential now as ever before that they shall be repeated to those who are seeking for the truth. By pen and voice we are to sound the proclamation, showing their order, and the application of the prophecies that bring us to the third angel's message. There cannot be a third without the first and second. These messages we are to give to the world in publications, in discourses, showing in the line of

prophetic history the things that have been, and the things that will be.--Manuscript 32, 1896. {CW 26.2}

Conclusion

In conclusion this little booklet has been made in hopes that it will help others understand what the Three Angels' Messages mean in a deeper way. If you were like me before I did this study I knew very little about the Three Angels' Messages. Yes, I had heard sermons preached on the messages and had listened to talks about them. I knew it was important for me to understand them, but when I read the words a lot of the phrases didn't go much deeper than words. "What does that mean?" I would ask myself. "What is that talking about?" I hope you were blessed by reading this study, but not only blessed; I hope you will share with others the Three Angels' Messages. As you have seen, they are so important to share, so please do!

Now, just to make sure we have absorbed everything in a practical way let's read the Three Angels' Messages again and fill in the blanks with the meaning of each phrase. This is like a practical summary of the whole study.

The Three Angels' Messages

6 *Then I saw another angel flying* [The church should do her work quickly and with focus.] *in the midst of heaven* [Everyone on earth is to hear this message.], *having the everlasting gospel* [Salvation through Jesus has always been the way of salvation and still is today.] *to preach to those who dwell on the earth--to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people--*[The entire world is to hear this message before Jesus comes.]

7 *saying with a loud voice,* [This message is very important thus it is proclaimed with a loud voice.] *"Fear God* [Hate evil and depart from it, be wise and fear to offend God.] *and give glory to Him,* [Reveal God's character in my life.] *for the hour of His judgment has come;* [This is the investigative judgment that began in 1844 when Jesus moved into the most Holy place of the sanctuary in heaven. He is still there today deciding who is safe to allow into heaven.] *and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.* [Some of these same words are stated in the fourth commandment, the 7th day Sabbath was made so we would remember to worship God for His marvelous creation.]

8 *And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city* [Rome and all the churches in the last days who cling to the traditions and doctrines of Rome are fallen.], *because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."* [The wine here represents false doctrines.]

9 *Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice* [This message is very important thus it is proclaimed with a loud voice.], *"If anyone worships the beast* [If anyone worships/obeys the papacy (Rome)] *and his image* [An image is a representation of the real thing. When the Sunday law is enforced and people bow down and follow this false doctrine they will in reality be worshipping the one who set up and

influenced these falsehoods; that is the papacy. Thus they will be worshipping “his image”.] , and receives his mark [Observance of Sunday after knowing the truth of the Sabbath and after the law is given for people to keep Sunday] on his forehead or on his hand, [Foreheads-people will be commanded to acknowledge with their minds Sunday as Sabbath. Hands- they will be commanded to keep Sunday by not working with their hands on that day.]

10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation.[This judgment is so strong that John writes “full strength.” It is not mixed with mercy for all have already made their final decision.] He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, [In this verse forever means as long as they live until they are burned up.] who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” [The beast is the Roman Catholic Church and the mark of the beast is Sunday observance after knowing the Sabbath truth.]

12 Here is the patience of the saints; [Another word for patience is endurance. God's people need this character trait in order to remain faithful to Him during the hard times ahead.] here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. [In the last days God's people will keep His commandments and have faith in Jesus. They will be known for this. God's people are contrasted with those who do not obey God's law and who receive the mark of the beast.] Revelation

14:6-12

Now you fill in the blanks without looking at the answers! May God bless you.

The Three Angels' Messages

6 Then I saw another angel flying _____
in the midst of heaven _____
having the everlasting gospel _____

to preach to those who dwell on the earth--to every nation, tribe,
tongue, and people-- _____

7 saying with a loud voice _____
"Fear God _____
and give glory to Him, _____
for the hour of His judgment has come; _____

and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of
water." _____

8 And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that
great city _____

because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her
fornication." _____

9 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice _____

"If anyone worships the beast _____
and his image _____

and receives his mark _____

on his forehead or on his hand _____

10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. _____

He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night,

who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” _____

12 Here is the patience of the saints; _____

here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. _____

Revelation 14:6-12



<http://deserttreeministry.org>

(DTM-EN_class-notes_Three-Angels-Messages.odt) 2016