

### Ellen White on the Study of Revelation: It is time to understand the book of Revelation!

**“And he said to me, “Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand” (Rev 22:10).**

“The book of Revelation must be opened to the people...The truth it contains must be proclaimed, that people may have an opportunity to prepare for the events which are so soon to transpire.” Letter 87, 1896. (Ev. 195.4)

“Those who become confused in their understanding of the Word, who fail to see the meaning of antichrist, will surely place themselves on the side of antichrist. There is no time now for us to assimilate with the world. Daniel is standing in his lot and in his place. **The prophecies of Daniel and of John are to be understood.** They interpret each other. They give to the world truths which every one should understand. These prophecies are to be witnesses in the world. By their fulfillment in these last days they will explain themselves.(7BC 949.6}

Every part of the Bible is given by inspiration of God and is profitable. The Old Testament no less than the New should receive attention. As we study the Old Testament we shall find living springs bubbling up where the careless reader discerns only a desert.(Ed 191.1}

**The book of Revelation, in connection with the book of Daniel, especially demands study. Let every God-fearing teacher consider how most clearly to comprehend and to present the gospel that our Saviour came in person to make known to His servant John—“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass.” Revelation 1:1.** None should become discouraged in the study of the Revelation because of its apparently mystical symbols. “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not.” James 1:5.(Ed 191.2}

“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.” Revelation 1:3.(Ed 191.3}

Prophecy has been fulfilling, line upon line. The more firmly we stand under the banner of the third angel’s message, the more clearly shall we understand the prophecy of Daniel; for the Revelation is the supplement of Daniel. The more fully we accept the light presented by the Holy Spirit through the consecrated servants of God, the deeper and surer, even as the eternal throne, will appear the truths of ancient prophecy; we shall be assured that men of God spake as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost. **Men must themselves be under the influence of the Holy Spirit in order to understand the Spirit’s utterances through the prophets. These messages were given, not for those that uttered the prophecies, but for us who are living amid the scenes of their fulfillment.**(2SM 114.2}

**There is need of a much closer study of the word of God; especially should Daniel and the Revelation have attention as never before in the history of our work.** We may have less to say in some lines, in regard to the Roman power and the papacy, but we should call attention to what the prophets and apostles have written under the inspiration of the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit has so shaped matters, both in the giving

of the prophecy, and in the events portrayed, as to teach that the human agent is to be kept out of sight, hid in Christ, and the Lord God of heaven and His law are to be exalted.—Letter 57, 1896.(CW 65.1)

**The third angel's message, the great testing truth for this time, is to be taught in all our institutions. God designs that through them this special warning shall be given, and bright beams of light shall shine to the world. Time is short. The perils of the last days are upon us, and we should watch and pray, and study and heed the lessons that are given us in the books of Daniel and the Revelation.**(6T 128.1}

**When the books of Daniel and Revelation are better understood, believers will have an entirely different religious experience. They will be given such glimpses of the open gates of heaven that heart and mind will be impressed with the character that all must develop in order to realize the blessedness which is to be the reward of the pure in heart.**(TM 114.3}

The Lord will bless all who will seek humbly and meekly to understand that which is revealed in the Revelation. This book contains so much that is large with immortality and full of glory that all who read and search it earnestly receive the blessing to those “that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein.”(TM 114.4}

### Children!

**Those who eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of God will bring from the books of Daniel and Revelation truth that is inspired by the Holy Spirit. They will start into action forces that cannot be repressed. The lips of children will be opened to proclaim the mysteries that have been hidden from the minds of men.**(TM 116.1)

**We are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Many of the prophecies are about to be fulfilled in quick succession. Every element of power is about to be set to work. Past history will be repeated; old controversies will arouse to new life, and peril will beset God's people on every side. Intensity is taking hold of the human family. It is permeating everything upon the earth....**(TM 116.2)

**Study Revelation in connection with Daniel, for history will be repeated.... We, with all our religious advantages, ought to know far more today than we do know.**(TM 116.3)

Angels desire to look into the truths that are revealed to the people who with contrite hearts are searching the word of God and praying for greater lengths and breadths and depths and heights of the knowledge which He alone can give.(TM 116.4)

**As we near the close of this world's history, the prophecies relating to the last days especially demand our study. The last book of the New Testament Scriptures is full of truth that we need to understand.** Satan has blinded the minds of many so that they have been glad of any excuse for not making the Revelation their study. But Christ through His servant John has here declared what shall be in the last days; and He says, “Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein.” (TM 116.5)

The books of Daniel and the Revelation should be bound together and published. A few explanations of certain portions might be added, but I am not sure that these would be needed.(TM 117.1)

It was my idea to have the two books bound together, Revelation following Daniel, as giving fuller light on the subjects dealt with in Daniel. The object is to bring these books together, showing that they both relate to the same subjects.(TM 117.2)

**A message that will arouse the churches is to be proclaimed. Every effort is to be made to give the light, not only to our people, but to the world. I have been instructed that the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation should be printed in small books, with the necessary explanations, and should be sent all over the world. Our own people need to have the light placed before them in clearer lines.**(TM 117.3)

**The vision that Christ presented to John, presenting the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, is to be definitely proclaimed to all nations, people, and tongues.** The churches, represented by Babylon, are represented as having fallen from their spiritual state to become a persecuting power against those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. To John this persecuting power is represented as having horns like a lamb, but as speaking like a dragon....(TM 117.4)

As we near the close of time, there will be greater and still greater external parade of heathen power; heathen deities will manifest their signal power, and will exhibit themselves before the cities of the world; and this delineation has already begun to be fulfilled. By a variety of images the Lord Jesus represented to John the wicked character and seductive influence of those who have been distinguished for their persecution of God's people. All need wisdom carefully to search out the mystery of iniquity that figures so largely in the winding up of this earth's history.... In the very time in which we live, the Lord has called His people and has given them a message to bear. He has called them to expose the wickedness of the man of sin who has made the Sunday law a distinctive power, who has thought to change times and laws, and to oppress the people of God who stand firmly to honor Him by keeping the only true Sabbath, the Sabbath of creation, as holy unto the Lord. (TM 117.5)

**The perils of the last days are upon us, and in our work we are to warn the people of the danger they are in. Let not the solemn scenes which prophecy has revealed be left untouched. If our people were half awake, if they realized the nearness of the events portrayed in the Revelation, a reformation would be wrought in our churches, and many more would believe the message. We have no time to lose; God calls upon us to watch for souls as they that must give an account.** Advance new principles, and crowd in the clear-cut truth. It will be as a sword cutting both ways. But be not too ready to take a controversial attitude. There will be times when we must stand still and see the salvation of God. Let Daniel speak, let the Revelation speak, and tell what is truth. But whatever phase of the subject is presented, uplift Jesus as the center of all hope, "the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright and morning Star."(TM 118.1)

### My Study Process

1. Soul-Searching
2. Study Scripture
3. Spirit of Prophecy
4. Scholars

## Revelation 14

## The Lamb and the 144,000 on Mount Zion

Καὶ εἶδον, καὶ ἰδοὺ, ἄρνιον ἐστῆκε ἐπὶ τὸ ὄρος Σιών,  
καὶ μετ' αὐτοῦ ἑκατὸν τεσσαρακοντατέσσαρες χιλιάδες,  
ἔχουσαι τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ γεγραμμένον ἐπὶ τῶν  
μετώπων αὐτῶν.

2 καὶ ἤκουσα φωνὴν ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ,  
ὡς φωνὴν ὑδάτων πολλῶν,  
καὶ ὡς φωνὴν βροντῆς μεγάλης·

καὶ φωνὴν ἤκουσα κιθαρῶδῶν κιθαρῶδων ἐν ταῖς  
κιθάραις αὐτῶν.

3 καὶ ἄδουσιν ὡς ᾠδὴν καινὴν ἐνώπιον τοῦ θρόνου, καὶ  
ἐνώπιον τῶν τεσσάρων ζώων καὶ τῶν πρεσβυτέρων·

καὶ οὐδὲ ἰσθύνατο μαθεῖν τὴν ᾠδὴν, εἰ μὴ αἰέκατὸν  
τεσσαρακοντατέσσαρες χιλιάδες,  
οἱ ἠγορασμένοι ἀπὸ τῆς γῆς.

4 οὗτοι εἰσὶν οἱ μετὰ γυναικῶν οὐκ ἐμολύνθησαν·  
παρθένοι γάρ εἰσιν.

οὗτοι εἰσὶν οἱ ἀκόλουθοὶ τῶν ἄρνιων ὅπου ἂν ὑπάγῃ.

οὗτοι ἠγοράσθησαν ἀπὸ τῶν ἀνθρώπων,  
ἀπαρχὴ τῶ θεῶ καὶ τῶ ἄρνιων.

5 καὶ ἐν τῷ στόματι αὐτῶν οὐχ εὐρέθη δόλος·  
ἄμωμοι γάρ εἰσιν ἐνώπιον τοῦ θρόνου τοῦ Θεοῦ.

## The First Angel

6 Καὶ εἶδον ἄλλον ἄγγελον πετόμενον ἐν μεσοουρανῆματι,  
ἔχοντα εὐαγγέλιον αἰώνιον, εὐαγγελίσαι τοὺς  
κατοικοῦντας ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς,  
καὶ πᾶν ἔθνος καὶ φυλὴν καὶ γλῶσσαν καὶ λαόν,

7 λέγοντα ἐν φωνῇ μεγάλῃ,  
Φοβήθητε τὸν Θεόν,

καὶ δότε αὐτῷ δόξαν,  
 ὅτι ἤλθεν ἡ ὥρα τῆς κρίσεως αὐτοῦ,  
 καὶ προσκυνήσατε τῷ ποιήσαντι τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ τὴν  
 γῆν καὶ τὴν θάλασσαν καὶ πηγάς ὑδάτων.

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### The Second Angel

8 Καὶ ἄλλος ἄγγελος ἤκουσεν, λέγων,

Ἔπενεν ἔπενεν Βαβυλῶν ἡ πόλις ἡμεγάλη,  
 ὅτι ἐκ τοῦ οἴνου τοῦ θυμοῦ τῆς πορνείας αὐτῆς πέποτι κε  
 πάντα ἔθνη.

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### The Third Angel

9 Καὶ τρίτος ἄγγελος ἤκουσεν αὐτοῖς, λέγων ἐν φωνῇ  
 μεγάλῃ,

Εἴτις τὸ θηρίον προσκυνεῖ καὶ τὴν εἰκόνα αὐτοῦ,  
 καὶ λαμβάνει χάραγμα ἐπὶ τοῦ μετώπου αὐτοῦ, ἢ ἐπὶ τὴν χειρὰ  
 αὐτοῦ,

10 καὶ αὐτὸς πίεται ἐκ τοῦ οἴνου τοῦ θυμοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ,  
 τοῦ κεκερασμένου ἀκράτου ἐν τῷ ποτηρίῳ τῆς ὀργῆς αὐτοῦ,  
 καὶ βασανισθήσεται ἐν πυρὶ καὶ θείῳ ἐνώπιον τῶν ἁγίων  
 ἄγγέλων, καὶ ἐνώπιον τοῦ ἄρνιου.

11 καὶ ὁ καπνὸς τοῦ βασανισμοῦ αὐτῶν ἀναβαίνει εἰς αἰῶνας  
 αἰώνων.

καὶ οὐκ ἔχουσιν ἀνάπαυσιν ἡμέρας καὶ νυκτὸς οἱ  
 προσκυνοῦντες τὸ θηρίον καὶ τὴν εἰκόνα αὐτοῦ,

καὶ εἴτις λαμβάνει τὸ χάραγμα τοῦ ὀνόματος αὐτοῦ.

12 ὧδε ὑπομονὴ τῶν ἁγίων ἐστίν.

ὧδε οἱ τηροῦντες τὰς ἐντολὰς τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ τὴν πίστιν Ἰησοῦ.

13 Καὶ ἡ κοῦσα φωνῆς ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ λεγούσης μοι,

Γράψον, Μακάριοι οἱ νεκροὶ οἱ ἐν Κυρίῳ ἀποθνήσκοντες ἀπ’  
 ἄρτι.

ναί, λέγει τὸ Πνεῦμα, ἵνα ἀναπάσωνται ἐκ τῶν κόπων αὐτῶν.  
 τὰ δὲ ἔργα αὐτῶν ἀκολοθεῖμετ’ αὐτῶν.

14 Καὶ εἶδον, καὶ ἰδοὺ, νεφέλη λευκή,  
καὶ ἐπὶ τὴν νεφέλην καθήμενος ὄμοιος υἱὸ ἀνθρώπου,  
ἔχων ἐπὶ τῆς κεφαλῆς αὐτοῦ στέφανον χρυσοῦν,  
καὶ ἐν τῇ χειρὶ αὐτοῦ δρέπανον ὀξύ.

#### The Fourth Angel

15 καὶ ἄλλος ἄγγελος ἐξῆλθεν ἐκ τοῦ ναοῦ,  
κράζων ἐν μεγάλῃ φωνῇ τῷ καθημένῳ ἐπὶ τῆς νεφέλης,

Πέμψον τὸ δρέπανόν σου καὶ θέρισον·  
ὅτι ἡλθέσει ἡ ὥρα τοῦ θερίσαι,  
ὅτι ἐξῆραν θηόθερισμός τῆς γῆς.

16 καὶ ἔβαλεν ὁ καθήμενος ἐπὶ τὴν νεφέλην τὸ δρέπανον αὐτοῦ  
ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν, καὶ ἐθερίσθη ἡ γῆ.

#### The Fifth Angel

17 Καὶ ἄλλος ἄγγελος ἐξῆλθεν ἐκ τοῦ ναοῦ τοῦ ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ,  
ἔχων καὶ αὐτὸς δρέπανον ὀξύ.

#### The Sixth Angel

18 καὶ ἄλλος ἄγγελος ἐξῆλθεν ἐκ τοῦ θυσιαστηρίου,  
ἔχων ἐξουσίαν ἐπὶ τοῦ πυρός,  
καὶ ἐφώνησε κραυγῇ μεγάλῃ τῷ ἔχοντι τὸ δρέπανον τὸ ὀξύ,  
λέγων,

Πέμψον σου τὸ δρέπανον τὸ ὀξύ καὶ τρύγησον τοὺς  
βότρυας τῆς ἀμπέλου τῆς γῆς,  
ὅτι ἤκμασαν αἰσταφυλαὶ αὐτῆς.

19 καὶ ἔβαλεν ὁ ἄγγελος τὸ δρέπανον αὐτοῦ εἰς τὴν γῆν,  
καὶ ἐτρύγησε τὴν ἀμπέλον τῆς γῆς,  
καὶ ἔβαλεν εἰς τὴν ληνὸν τοῦ θυμοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ τὴν μεγάλην.

20 καὶ ἐπατήθη ἡ ληνὸς ἔξω τῆς πόλεως,  
καὶ ἐξῆλθεν αἷμα ἐκ τῆς ληνοῦ ἄκριτων χαλινοῦ τῶν ἵππων,  
ἀποσταδίων χιλίων ἑξακοσίων.

In a view given June 27, 1850, my accompanying angel said, "Time is almost finished. Do you reflect the lovely image of Jesus as you should?" Then I was pointed to the earth and saw that there would have to be a getting ready among those who have of late embraced the third angel's message. Said the angel, "Get ready, get ready, get ready. Ye will have to die a greater death to the world than ye have ever yet died." I saw that there was a great work to do for them and but little time in which to do it. (EW 64.1}

"The message of Revelation 14 is the message that we are to bear to the world. It is the bread of life for these last days" (8T 27).

"The fourteenth chapter of Revelation is a chapter of the deepest interest. This scripture will soon be understood in all its bearings, and the message given to John the revelator will be repeated with distinct utterance" (RH Oct 13, 1904).

**Revelation 14:1-5 Behold the Lamb**

**“Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion”**

“The fourteenth chapter of Revelation is a chapter of the deepest interest. This scripture will soon be understood in all its bearings, and the messages given to John the revelator will be repeated with distinct utterance” (RH Oct. 13, 1904/7BC 978).

**Introduction:** We were all afraid of Frau Koch. Frau Koch was our French teacher in High School in Germany. We feared her. She drove an Opel Kadett, and after school she would get out those long Virginia Slim cigarettes and just sit there in her car, smoking. The reason we feared her was because every class period she gave an oral quiz to two or three terrified students. This was no True/False/Multiple Choice Quiz. You had to know your stuff. And there were no words of encouragement, no smile. You got it right, or you got it wrong. Let me give you an example: The very first quiz in French class, French 101 in 7th grade, was to write the following sentence on the board: *Qu'est-ce que c'est?* This is what it looks like written out [project]. Literally it means, What is it that it is?, but it simply means, What is this? Now the poor victim of this first quiz was a schoolmate of mine named Jürgen. He couldn't write *Qu'est-ce que c'est?*! Neither could we have! We were just glad it wasn't us at the chalk board!

He got a 0. The next class period it was time for quiz #2. Frau Koch nailed us with the same question! *Qu'est-ce que c'est?* She called on Jürgen again. 0 again. While I was glad again that it wasn't me, I felt bad for him. Then some 4.0 girl wrote it perfectly.

To find and determine her victims, Frau Koch wouldn't just call a name. She'd intensely scan the whole class - who sat in utter silence - for what appeared to be an eternity. Now here is what we did at the beginning of every class period. Our strategic plan that would grant us a fighting chance of success: We would look away! We would look down, we tried to appear invisible, we would have this look of No big deal on our faces. We did everything except establish eye-contact with Frau Koch! Why? Because we thought that if we don't look, we might not get picked! If we don't look, we can avoid reality! Don't look, and you'll live!

Revelation 14:1. I wonder if John didn't want to look. After chapter 12 and esp. 13, did anybody still want to look anymore? After two horrible beasts doing horrible things (horrible beasts do horrible things!), who wants to look?

**Context**

Just glance over Revelation 12-13, and you will see dragons, persecutions, floods, beasts, blasphemous names, deadly wounds, war, death penalties, people killed with the sword, fire out of heaven, more death penalties, and that dreadful number 666. After seeing all that, I wonder if John wanted to close his eyes rather than look and see?! Could it get any worse?

If we had to compare Rev 12-13 to the weather, it would be dark clouds, thunder and lightning, tornadoes and flash floods. Rev 12 and 13 is a disaster! John probably thought the world was in bad shape back then. And personally he was banned to a lone island in the Aegean Sea. It couldn't get much worse; what he sees in Rev 13 proved that it would get worse before it would get worse! But he is shown more. And so John looks and beholds.

**Here is a clear message: when we think things cannot get any worse, we need to look again!**

The book of Revelation has another 7 chapters, but God in His mercy - to John and us - pulls the curtain aside and shows us how this story's going to end! 666 is not have the final word.

### The Lamb

John had already looked or seen twenty times. But in the midst of apocalyptic disaster, he looks again. And to look again is well worth it. Right after the darkness of 666 he sees . . . the Lamb! No dragons, no beasts, no horns and heads and tails and abyss. A lamb. In Revelation, Jesus is also shown as a Lion, as king of kings, and Lord of Lords! But here He is shown as the Lamb. There is an important lesson in this for us: **ultimate success comes through sacrifice.**

The Lamb reminds me of Zech 4:6: "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," Says the LORD of hosts." Might makes right - among humans. Not with God. It is a lamb that wins in the end, not the beast, nor a dragon. If - since - that is the case, we might want to be(come) a bit more lamb-like than beastly. *Beauty, not the beast.*

### Standing

I want you to notice something about the Lamb: the Lamb is standing, not slain! Five times before the Lamb was depicted as slain (5:6, 9, 12; 6:9; 13:8); now He stands! This standing is therefore highly significant:

Daniel 12:1 "At that time Michael shall **stand up**, The great prince who stands *watch* over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, *Even* to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book."

Acts 7:56 "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man **standing** at the right hand of God!"

**Standing is a sign of final judgment, when God says, Enough is enough!**

There is only one way that this Lamb could stand after it had been slain . . . and you know it. You know the solution to standing after being slain, right? There is only one possibility, and it's spelled *resurrection*.

Incidentally, the Lamb being slain is not just the report of a cold-blooded murder, senseless and ruthless. This death accomplished something of infinite value: "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" (Rev. 5:9). . . saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the

Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" (Rev. 5:12)

In other words, the Lamb slain for us was not an afterthought, like an "oops, now what?!"

"All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Rev. 13:8).

Interestingly, the Lamb is not the only person slain in the Book of Revelation:

"When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held" (Rev. 6:9).

"And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."  
(Rev. 18:24)

Now people slain is tragic. But you can be slain because you made the right choices in life and followed God. It's called persecution. Or you can be slain because you made the wrong choices in life and followed someone other than God. But there is a difference: one slain is temporary, the other is permanent.

As I was studying the Sabbath School Lesson about Captain Namaan recently, I ran across this quote:

"God's faithful, praying ones are, as it were, shut in with Him. They themselves know not how securely they are shielded. Urged on by Satan, the rulers of this world are seeking to destroy them; but could the eyes of God's children be opened as were the eyes of Elisha's servant at Dothan, they would see angels of God encamped about them, holding in check the hosts of darkness" (PK 590).

Then my eyes got big; from Captain Namaan's experience Ellen White ends up with Rev. 14! Listen to this:

"As the people of God afflict their souls before Him, pleading for purity of heart, the command is given, "Take away the filthy garments," and the encouraging words are spoken, "Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment." Zech 3:4. The spotless robe of Christ's righteousness is placed upon the tried, tempted, faithful children of God. The despised remnant are clothed in glorious apparel, nevermore to be defiled by the corruptions of the world. Their names are retained in the Lamb's book of life, enrolled among the faithful of all ages. They have resisted the wiles of the deceiver; they have not been turned from their loyalty by the dragon's roar. Now they are eternally secure from the tempter's devices. Their sins are transferred to the originator of sin. A "fair miter" is set upon their heads." . . . "While Satan has been urging his accusations, holy angels, unseen, have been passing to and fro, placing upon the faithful ones the seal of the living God. These are they that stand upon Mount Zion with the Lamb, having the Father's name written in their foreheads. They sing the new song before the throne, that song which no man can learn save the hundred and forty and four thousand which were redeemed from the earth. "These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God." Rev 14:4, 5" (PK 591).

Allow me to read a most familiar Bible text here: 1 Thess 4:13-18!

**Mathematical formula: If what happens to Christ happens to Christians, then *slain* is not the end. It's not a stop sign - it's just a pause.**

Question to you then: Is your life in the hands of Jesus? Is your life and death in the hands of the Lamb? Are you beholding the Lamb? Or what are you beholding? What screen has your attention? Is your life stuck in darkness, or have you caught a glimpse of the rays of hope from God's throne?

I want to remind you of what exactly happens when we behold the Lamb:

### 1. Beholding changes your behavior

"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (Jn 1:29) . . . "And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God." (Jn. 1:34 NKJ) Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup> And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup> **The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus**" (Jn 1:35).

Beholding the Lamb we start following Him! John looks, he invites others to look, and the invitation is followed by discipleship! Truly by beholding we become changed!

### 2. Beholding changes your identity

"Looking unto Jesus we obtain brighter and more distinct views of God, **and by beholding we become changed.** Goodness, love for our fellow men, becomes our natural instinct. We develop a character which is the counterpart of the divine character. Growing into His likeness, we enlarge our capacity for knowing God. More and more we enter into fellowship with the heavenly world, and we have continually increasing power to receive the riches of the knowledge and wisdom of eternity" (COL 355).

This beholding the Lamb is, of course, not new. Remember Abraham's journey with Isaac? Gen 22:8: And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." **So the two of them went together.** Because Abraham beheld the Lamb by faith, he didn't have to quit his journey! "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad." (Jn 8:56)

Warning: Pilate had the chance but missed the moment: Jn 19:5 "Behold the man!" = he said the right thing but didn't act on his conviction!

Mt 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God!"

When will we see Him? When? Of course. At the Second Coming! I suggest we start beholding Him Now!

[Song: We Have this Hope] - Up next: Mount Zion.

## Location Location Location: Where are you going?

It is an interesting and highly enlightening exercise to slice through the book of Revelation based on pre-defined filters. We understand reality in 3 dimensions: Time, Space, Matter/People.

In this section I'd like to consider a location. When you buy a home or even rent an apartment, location makes a huge difference. In fact, the mantra of every real estate agent is Location Location Location.

Consider these locations in the Book of Revelation: earth vs heaven - Patmos, 7 churches, Babylon, God's throne, Satan's throne, temple, bottomless pits, cities, wilderness, New Jerusalem, sea shores, the midst of heaven, the river Euphrates, and, in Rev 14:1: Mount Zion.

21 references in the Bible on "Mount Zion". What makes it a bit difficult is that the precise meaning of Mount Zion changed over the course of time:

- 1) A part of Jerusalem
- 2) The land of Israel
- 3) Heaven!

How can that be? Well, look at the little city of Keene. Through annexation, it too has changed its geographic definition. Same with countries. Saddam Hussein wanted to change the size of Irak. The Ukraine is undergoing definition right now. But when we look at the Bible texts, it's not so much the geographic location as the spiritual connotation that matters. Here are some examples:

### Mount Zion in the Bible

Part of Jerusalem: [2Ki 19:31 KJV] For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of mount Zion: the zeal of the LORD [of hosts] shall do this.

Jerusalem: [Psa 48:2 KJV] the joy of the whole earth, [is] mount Zion, [on] the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

[Psa 48:11 KJV] Let mount Zion rejoice, let the daughters of Judah be glad, because of thy judgments.

\* Where God dwells: [Psa 74:2 KJV] Remember thy congregation, [which] thou hast purchased of old; the rod of thine inheritance, [which] thou hast redeemed; **this mount Zion, wherein thou hast dwelt.**

\* Israel: [Psa 78:68 KJV] But chose the tribe of Judah, **the mount Zion which he loved.**

\* Forever!: [Psa 125:1 KJV] [[A Song of degrees.]] They that trust in the LORD [shall be] **as mount Zion, [which] cannot be removed, [but] abideth for ever.**

[Isa 4:5 KJV] And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory [shall be] a defence.

\* God dwells: [Isa 8:18 KJV] Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me [are] for signs and for wonders in Israel **from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion.**

Part of Jerusalem: [Isa 10:12 KJV] Wherefore it shall come to pass, [that] when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem, I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks.

[Isa 10:32 KJV] As yet shall he remain at Nob that day: he shall shake his hand [against] the mount of the daughter of Zion, the hill of Jerusalem.

[Isa 16:1 KJV] Send ye the lamb to the ruler of the land from Sela to the wilderness, unto the mount of the daughter of Zion.

\* [Isa 18:7 KJV] In that time shall the present be brought unto the LORD of hosts of a people scattered and peeled, and from a people terrible from their beginning hitherto; a nation meted out and trodden under foot, whose land the rivers have spoiled, **to the place of the name of the LORD of hosts, the mount Zion.**

[Isa 24:23 KJV] Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.

[Isa 29:8 KJV] It shall even be as when an hungry [man] dreameth, and, behold, he eateth; but he awaketh, and his soul is empty: or as when a thirsty man dreameth, and, behold, he drinketh; but he awaketh, and, behold, [he is] faint, and his soul hath appetite: so shall the multitude of all the nations be, that fight against mount Zion.

[Isa 31:4 KJV] For thus hath the LORD spoken unto me, Like as the lion and the young lion roaring on his prey, when a multitude of shepherds is called forth against him, [he] will not be afraid of their voice, nor abase himself for the noise of them: so shall the LORD of hosts come down to fight for mount Zion, and for the hill thereof.

[Isa 37:32 KJV] For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of mount Zion: the zeal of the LORD of hosts shall do this.

[Jer 31:6 KJV] For there shall be a day, [that] the watchmen upon the mount Ephraim shall cry, Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the LORD our God.

\* Place of Delivery: [Joe 2:32 KJV] **And it shall come to pass, [that] whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.**

\* [Oba 1:17 KJV] **But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance,** and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.

\* [Oba 1:21 KJV] **And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD'S.**

[Mic 4:7 KJV] And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever.

**“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels” (Heb. 12:22).**

The location is in contrast to those who “dwell on the earth” (Rev 13:14)!

Question: Which direction in life are you headed? Where are you going?  
Are you just dwelling on earth, or are you driving towards Mount Zion?

Now the real question is, How do you get to Mount Zion?

**“and with Him”**

This, to me, is mind-boggling. Remember that the question we are pursuing is Location, location, location. Here is a group of people who are “with him”. I have to admit something: I thought the focus should just be on this Lamb. The Lamb is what it’s all about, isn’t it?! The Lamb, period. After all, the Adventist church even has a ministry called the One Project. Jesus. All. According to Rev 14:1, it’s not Jesus alone, but Jesus comma and - “and with Him”. When you let this phrase melt on your tongue, there might not be anything more beautiful than those three words. “And with Him.” The Lamb is not alone! There are people with Him, 144,000 to be precise.

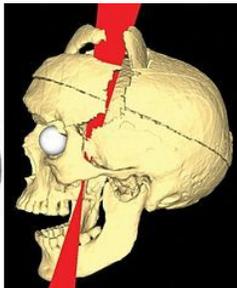
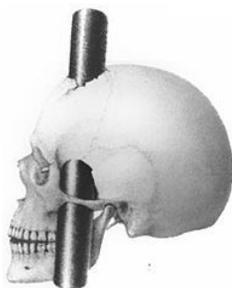
I don’t know who exactly will be the 144,000, but let me ask you this: Are you “with Him” - now? Are you really? Moment by moment? If we want to be “with Him” then - shouldn’t we be “with Him” now?

So, How do you get to Mount Zion, and how can you be “with Him?”

### “having his Father's name written in their foreheads”

Why in their foreheads and not in their hearts? After all, we ask people, “Have you accepted Jesus in your heart?”, not, “Have you accepted Jesus in your forehead?”

The frontal lobe is where we make decisions, plan for the future, and just plain think.



On Sept. 13, 1848, Phineas Gage was struck by an iron peg in the frontal lobe. He survived the accident, but his friends say that he became a different person. No longer hard-working and kind, Phineas became lazy and rude.



Notice a contrast right within the book of

Revelation: “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” (Rev 14:9).

“And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH” (Rev 17:5).

Now listen to a description of the opposite: “The mighty power of the Holy Spirit works an entire transformation in the character of the human agent, making him a new creature in Christ Jesus. When a man is filled with the Spirit, the more severely he is tested and tried, the more clearly he proves that he is a representative of Christ. The peace that dwells in the soul is seen on the countenance. The words and actions express the love of the Saviour. There is no striving for the highest place. Self is renounced. The name of Jesus is written on all that is said and done. (RH June 10, 1902, Art. A, par. 14} We may talk of the blessings of the Holy Spirit, but unless we prepare ourselves for its reception, of what avail are our works? Are we striving with all our power to attain to the stature of men and women in Christ? Are we seeking for his fullness, ever pressing toward the mark set before us,—the perfection of his character? When the Lord’s

people reach this mark, they will be sealed in their foreheads. Filled with the Spirit, they will be complete in Christ, and the recording angel will declare, "It is finished." (RH June 10, 1902, Art. A, par. 15}

"Those who have in their foreheads the seal of the infinite God will regard the world and its attractions as subordinate to eternal interests. They will keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment. Christ resisted the temptations of the enemy with the only weapon that the soldier of the cross of Christ can successfully use,—“It is written.” Where?—In the Old and New Testaments. With these words we are to defend ourselves and warn others, holding forth to them the word of life. (RH July 13, 1897, par. 3}

"Those who come out from the world, to stand distinct from worldlings in words and works, those who realize that it is an honor to bear God's sign, will receive power to become His sons. The Lord will have men who can be depended on. No one will enter the courts above who does not bear the sign of God. Those who in this sin-cursed earth bear this sign in holy boldness, looking upon it as an honor, will be recognized and honored by Christ in the courts above (Letter 125, 1903). (7BC 969.8} (Jeremiah 8:20; 1 John 3:3.) Will the Angel Pass Us By?—"And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." In a little while every one who is a child of God will have His seal placed upon him. O that it may be placed upon our foreheads! Who can endure the thought of being passed by when the angel goes forth to seal the servants of God in their foreheads (RH, May 28, 1889)? (7BC 969.9}

### The Father's Name

What is the Father's Name? Moses already asked this question, and received the following answer:

"Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, '**What is His name?**' what shall I say to them?"<sup>14</sup> And God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM.**" And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, '**I AM** has sent me to you.'"<sup>15</sup> Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The Lord God of your fathers, **the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob**, has sent me to you. **This is My name forever**, and this is My memorial to all generations.'"

Many philosophical attempts have tried to explain this seemingly cryptic phrase "I am who I am". But in context God is simply saying that His identity can only be understood (right now) by His saving relation to the human race. **God is thus not simply a philosophical entity, but a real being that exists in relation to us esp. in our Exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land: "You will know my existence by My presence in your life"!**

**While true religion is a matter of the heart, it cannot forever be kept a secret. While your sins are erased, your Savior got engraved!**

"It is written" is neither just a Bible quote nor an Adventist ministry, it is the engraving of God's name onto the most significant part of your conscious existence! "It is written" means your relationship with God is permanent; it has had time to develop roots.

You got brain-washed, and it shows on your forehead!

When and how do you use your name the most often?

### Identification

1) When you introduce yourself to someone who doesn't know you. God on your forehead means He has had a chance to introduce Himself to you.

2) When you sign something, esp. important papers! God's signature is on your life! He felt comfortable to sign His name on your forehead, on your decision-making process, on your life! Signed, sealed, and delivered!

Is God on your mind? 24/7 - I mean, non-stop? Always, day and night? No, I'm not talking about avoiding reality. (Karl Marx already claimed religion was the opium for the masses). I'm not talking about withdrawing from society, living the life of a hermit, moving into a monastery, checking out. I'm talking about allowing God to have a signature role in your life in all that you do, in all that you say, in all that you think. In everything. 100%.

What would be tragic is if He didn't. Because if His signature is not on your life, someone else's signature will appear on your signature line. But what might even be worse if you as a Christian try to have 2 signatures on your signature line. Impossible, because there's room for only one! God won't sign it if someone else has already signed it! This means, in practical terms, if God's signature is *not* on your life, you need to erase someone else's signature first. Yours, the Devil's, other people's, it doesn't matter.

**Only God's signature belongs on your forehead, or He won't sign your permanent visa papers into the pearly gates.** So, surrender your knuckle-headed, stiffnecked, bull-headed forehead today. He wants to sign His name on your forehead!

I had a student one time who forged someone's signature on a credit card while working at a retail store - I don't remember the details - but his boss found out, called the cops - felony with a record for the rest of his life. **You don't want the wrong signature or name on your forehead!**

**If you want to stand with your feet on Mount Zion one day, let God sign your forehead!**

"In all you do, let your thought be, "Is this the way of the Lord? Will this please my Saviour? He gave His life for me; what can I give back to God? I can only say, 'Of Thine own, O lord, I freely give Thee.'" Unless the name of God is written in your forehead,—written there because God is the center of your thoughts,—you will not be meet for the inheritance in light. It is your Creator who has poured out to you all heaven in one wondrous gift,—His only-begotten Son.... (CS 46)

"The only hope of any man lies through Jesus Christ.... The pure and holy garments are not prepared to be put on by any one after he has entered the gate of the city. All who enter will have on the robe of Christ's righteousness, and the name of God will be seen in their foreheads. **This name is the symbol which the apostle saw in vision, and signifies the yielding of the mind to intelligent and loyal obedience to all of God's commandments.** (SD 370.2)

“The same angel who visited Sodom is sounding the note of warning, “Escape for thy life.” The bottles of God’s wrath cannot be poured out to destroy the wicked and their works until all the people of God have been judged, and the cases of the living as well as the dead are decided. And even after the saints are sealed with the seal of the living God, His elect will have trials individually. Personal afflictions will come; but the furnace is closely watched by an eye that will not suffer the gold to be consumed. The indelible mark of God is upon them. God can plead that His own name is written there. The Lord has shut them in. Their destination is inscribed—“God, New Jerusalem.” They are God’s property, His possession. (TM 446.1} Will this seal be put upon the impure in mind, the fornicator, the adulterer, the man who covets his neighbor’s wife? Let your souls answer the question, Does my character correspond to the qualifications essential that I may receive a passport to the mansions Christ has prepared for those who are fitted for them? Holiness must be inwrought in our character.” (TM 446.2}

We need to practically imagine this process: God calls you over, adjusts your head (like at the barbershop), you have to hold still in the presence of God, and God thinks it’s safe to put His name on your forehead. This requires Facetime with God, Face to Face.

Face to face with Christ, my Savior, Face to face-what will it be, When with rapture I behold Him, Jesus Christ who died for me.

Face to face I shall behold Him, Far beyond the starry sky; Face to face in all His glory, I shall see Him by and by!

Only faintly now, I see Him, With the darkling veil between, But a blessed day is coming When His glory shall be seen.

What rejoicing in His presence, When are banished grief and pain; When the crooked ways are straightened, and the dark things shall be plain.

Face to face! O blissful moment! Face to face-to see and know; Face to face with my Redeemer, Jesus Christ who loves me so.

**Rev 14:1-5 - The 144,000****The Sound of Music**

Two immediate problems arise with the 144,000: 1. we just don't know 100% who they are, 2. when you talk about the 144,000, people quickly think of arrogance and pride - some kind of elite group, better than others.

I have to admit I noticed at the GC that Stephen Bohr from Secrets Unsealed had a DVD package on the 144,000 for sale - I resisted the temptation to microwave someone else's study and instead present to you what I'm noticing in the text. I'm also resisting at this point to present to you some theories on the 144,000, including good ones.

**The Text:**

What really struck me was the fact that you can actually forget for a moment WHO they are and process WHAT they are like:

- 1) having His Father's name written on their foreheads
- 2) they learn a song nobody else can learn
- 3) redeemed from the earth
- 4) not defiled with women; they are virgins
- 5) they follow the Lamb wherever He goes
- 6) redeemed from among men as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb
- 7) in their mouth was found no deceit for they are without fault before the throne of God

This entire list is either reasonably doable or up to God!

What is also noticeable is that John's sensory experience switches from sight to sound: "And I heard". That sound can be broken up into two sources:

- 1) from Heaven
  - a) the voice of many waters (see Rev 1:15)
  - b) like the voice of loud thunder
- 2) from Harpists and Hymnists: they played, and the sang.

Think about this: We accompany the voice of Jesus Himself!

Are you in tune with Jesus? Does your voice match His?  
Does your use of instruments (real, or electronically) match His Holiness in Heaven?

After all, this quad surround sound in Heaven takes place precisely "before the throne" (15:3) and "before the throne" (15:5). Location, location, location!

What would be on Jesus' iPod?!  
What's on yours that shouldn't be?  
Your radio station? Is it all godly?

I didn't choose this music theme - Revelation did it for me.

Then I noticed something stunning. Look at Rev 14:3. For one, they learn a new song. New music has to be learned in Heaven. That has to mean that even our good music on earth is insufficient for the glories of heaven!

Two, regardless of who the 144,000 are, only the redeemed can learn that song.

**When it comes to heavenly music, only the saved can sing!**

I'd like to share some notes on music with you. Some of them might be perceived as sharp, some will be minor. Music is risky business because you can fall flat on your face. But here it goes . . .

When I was 17 and an exchange student in the US - in fact, it must have been my first few weeks in America, I stayed in the home of Ken & Joyce Williams in Keene, TX - a great Adventist couple. One Friday evening I decided to do my laundry. I wasn't Adventist, so no problem. I already had my stuff in the washer when Joyce informed me that I couldn't do my laundry on Sabbath.

I'm 17 and unconverted! 49% in me was embarrassed that I didn't know you couldn't do laundry on Sabbath . . . 51% was in me was mad that I was told that couldn't do laundry on Sabbath. It was Friday evening, it wasn't even church time yet . . . so I went to my room and listened to - Pink Floyd. Pink Floyd, The Wall.

I was never really into rock music. In 6th grade I saw how some girls in my class acted absolutely out of their mind, listening to Kiss, Queen, Black Sabbath, and AC/DC. Looked and sounded weird to me.

Later in life I learned the power of music: Daniel 3:4-6. Music was used to induce false worship. Disobedience met the death penalty. I remember a student of mine always suggested that it would be compromise to pretend that you were like tying your shoe laces . . .

And later in ministry I discovered that music was a dividing issue in the church. My family and I attended one for a while that featured a soft form of contemporary Christian music. We always felt awkward, but couldn't put our finger on it. Until one day our washing machine broke and we had to buy a new one (you know, these days it's cheaper to buy a new one than to have it fixed . . .).

We're walking into Sears, and on the back wall are dozens of flat panel TVs lined up, showing a rock band playing rock music. Kollin, our youngest (he must have been 6 or so) turned to me and said, Dadda, church!

I had a theology major who attended a Friday night vespers on our campus church. Mind you, he had come out of the bar scene, had given up drinking, and was walking a different path in life now. In the middle of a

song he got up and yelled, "Where's the beer?!" Some administrators thought that was highly inappropriate. I interjected that it was indeed inappropriate - the music that is.

I have heard of a church in Germany that played their Contemporary Christian Music so loud that the neighbors complained. They have since then installed a \$250,000 glass sound barrier. "Sorry I can't hear you, the music is too loud!"

I'm not hating I'm just stating!

**Here's the problem: What you win them with is what you win them to!**

Now I have a quote here from a Christian radio station that reads as follows:

"We are a radio station that is focused outward, on our audience, as opposed to being focused on an internal message." (Mike Agee, KJRN, Spirit Magazine Summer 2014).

I've been told that CCM is a bridge to your young people, and we want to speak their language.

Yes, we want to build bridges, and we want to speak their language, but I'm afraid CCM is a bridge to the world, not a bridge away from the world, and some people might speak a foreign language, but every language has language that is not in Websters and shouldn't be repeated!

This is of grave concern to me. I thought our message is for the outward, and our music is tasty when you are converted and internal!

Let me isolate one such language: the drum beat. Yes, the drum beat is a problem. Listen to this - no, I don't have samples, but I have a quote from a specific situation, and then I'll share an experience with you:

"It is impossible to estimate too largely the work that the Lord will accomplish through His proposed vessels in carrying out His mind and purpose. The things you have described as taking place in Indiana, the Lord has shown me would take place just before the close of probation. Every uncouth thing will be demonstrated. There will be shouting, with drums, music, and dancing. The senses of rational beings will become so confused that they cannot be trusted to make right decisions. And this is called the moving of the Holy Spirit. (2SM 36.2)

The Holy Spirit never reveals itself in such methods, in such a bedlam of noise. This is an invention of Satan to cover up his ingenious methods for making of none effect the pure, sincere, elevating, ennobling, sanctifying truth for this time. Better never have the worship of God blended with music than to use musical instruments to do the work which last January was represented to me would be brought into our camp meetings. The truth for this time needs nothing of this kind in its work of converting souls. A bedlam of noise shocks the senses and perverts that which if conducted aright might be a blessing. The powers of satanic agencies blend with the din and noise, to have a carnival, and this is termed the Holy Spirit's working. (2SM 36.3)

When the camp meeting is ended, the good which ought to have been done and which might have been done by the presentation of sacred truth is not accomplished. Those participating in the supposed revival receive impressions which lead them adrift. They cannot tell what they formerly knew regarding Bible principles. (2SM 37.1}

No encouragement should be given to this kind of worship. The same kind of influence came in after the passing of the time in 1844. The same kind of representations were made. Men became excited, and were worked by a power thought to be the power of God(2SM 37.2}

When I was at Seminary I studied with a Pentecostal family for 1 ½ years. Every Tuesday, and I don't think I ever canceled because of snow. They accepted the Sabbath but wouldn't come visit my church. So I made a deal with them: I visit your church, you visit mine.

Their Friday evening church service started out fine, with a good sermon, decent singing, nice people. But then the drums came in, and with the drums came the speaking in tongues. The whole atmosphere changed into palpable electricity. I thought you could slice the air. Drums.

Karl Tsatalbasidis, a former jazz artist, has written a little book on *Drums, Rock, and Worship*, in which he clearly links the playing of drums to the invocation of *Orisha* - deceased ancestor spirits that enter the worshipers. Friends, contacting the dead in the Old Testament carried the death penalty!

I won't go into a detailed analysis of all this - others like Ivor Myers and Christian Berdahl have already done this. I have read books like *"Oh, Be Careful Little Ears"* by Kimberly Smith, Gary Gilley's *This little Church went to market*", and of course Dan Lucarini's *"Why I left the Contemporary Christian Music Movement"*. I also read scores of material from the other side.

But leave all that aside for a moment. Just logically I cannot imagine Jesus or the apostle Paul having a board meeting with the disciples and saying, "Look, we need to reach the secular pagan world. Let's play music in church that will attract them."

No . . .

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. (Matt. 26:30 NKJ)

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. (Acts 16:25 NKJ)

<sup>R95</sup> **Acts 16:25** Pero a medianoche, orando Pablo y Silas, cantaban himnos a Dios; y los presos los oían. speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, (Eph. 5:19 NKJ)

By the way, the argument that Martin Luther used bar songs and put Christian words to it is a myth. It's a misunderstanding of the lines in musical notation - bars, not drinking bars.

We have to be careful trying to reach the world with the methods of the world. In fact, the Bible tells us not to do that.

Deut 20:1  
 Josh 11:6  
 Judges 2:3  
 Ps 20:7-8  
 2 Kings 23:11  
 Isa 31:1-4

You cannot reach Heaven with human methods. You cannot reach humans with human methods.

Now before you say, Wait a minute . . . there are drums in the Bible - I'm ready for that!

Drums in the Bible are little circles, 11 inch in diameter and 2 inches thick. The Hebrew word is *toph*, in Arabic - listen carefully - *tanbur* - tambourine.

Now here is the important part: the drum in the Old Testament is used for festivals, not in the divine worship service! Examples from the *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* (played by women):

- dances or processions: Ex 15:20; Jdg 11:34; 1 Sam 18:6; Ps 150:4; Jer 31:4
- banquets: Job 21:12; Isa 24:8; 30:32
- weddings: 1 Macc 9:39

Drums are neither found in Jerusalem nor in the heavenly music of the book of Revelation!

What we find in David's worship service are only four instruments: lyres, harps, trumpets, cymbals (1 Chron 15:16, 19; 16:4-5, 42; 2 Chron 29:25-30; Ez 3:10; Neh 12:27, 36)

Those cymbals indicated the beginnings of a song or stanza; they were not used to maintain a beat like you would find it in rock music or a jazz band (see Tsatalbasidis, 60). As such, there is a huge difference between carrying or supporting a melody and driving the rhythm.

### **Worship Reformation**

"The work of restoration and reform carried on by the returned exiles, under the leadership of Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah, presents a picture of a work of spiritual restoration that is to be wrought in the closing days of this earth's history. The remnant of Israel were a feeble people, exposed to the ravages of their enemies; but through them God purposed to preserve in the earth a knowledge of Himself and of His law. They were the guardians of the true worship, the keepers of the holy oracles. Varied were the experiences that came to them as they rebuilt the temple and the wall of Jerusalem; strong was the opposition that they had to meet. Heavy were the burdens borne by the leaders in this work; but these men moved forward in unwavering confidence, in humility of spirit, and in firm reliance upon God, believing that He would cause His truth to triumph. Like King Hezekiah, Nehemiah "clave to the Lord, and departed not from following Him, but kept His commandments.... And the Lord was with him." 2 Kings 18:6, 7. (PK 677)

Music forms a part of God's worship in the courts above, and we should endeavor, in our songs of praise, to approach as nearly as possible to the harmony of the heavenly choirs. The proper training of the voice is an important feature in education, and should not be neglected. (ST March 14, 1900, par. 23}

Education p. 167!

**Let's look at these characteristics one more time:**

- 1) having His Father's name written on their foreheads
- 2) they learn a song nobody else can learn
- 3) redeemed from the earth
- 4) not defiled with women; they are virgins
- 5) they follow the Lamb wherever He goes
- 6) redeemed from among men as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb
- 7) in their mouth was found no deceit for they are without fault before the throne of God

Do you notice something? Their brain, their bodies, their entire being is dedicated to the Lord - specifically when other lifestyle options are available.

You can have other things on your mind than God.  
 You can choose not to be a virgin, spiritually or physically.  
 You can go some place other than following the Lamb.  
 You can spit stuff out of your mouth that is not all that good.

"in their mouth was found no guile/deceit" - they talk like Jesus did!

Isa 53:9 And they made His grave with the wicked-- But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. (Isa. 53:9 NKJ)

Ps 32:2!

John 1:47! Nathanael!

"Those who have learned of Christ will 'have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness' (Ephesians 5:11). In speech, as in life, they will be simple, straightforward, and true; for they are preparing for the fellowship of those holy ones in whose mouth 'was found no guile' (Revelation 14:5)" (MB 69).

The Sound of Music is not something you watch with popcorn or a hot chocolate on a cold winter day.  
 The Sound of Music is not something you hear.  
 The Sound of Music is something that comes out of your mouth when you speak.

**Ellen White on the 144,000**

"The vision of the prophet pictures [the 144,000] as standing on Mount Zion, girt for holy service, clothed in white linen, which is the righteousness of the saints. But all who follow the Lamb in heaven must first have

followed Him on earth, not fretfully or capriciously, but in trustful, loving, willing obedience, as the flock follows the shepherd" (AA 591).

"Christ says that there will be those in the church who will present fables and suppositions, when God has given grand, elevating, ennobling truth, which should ever be kept in the treasure-house of the mind. When men pick up this theory and that theory, when they are curious to know something it is not necessary for them to know, god is not leading them. It is not His plan that His people shall present something which they have to suppose, which is not taught in the Word. It is not His will that they shall get into controversy over questions which will not help them spiritually, such as who is to compose the hundred and forty-four thousand. This those who are the elect of God will in a short time know without question." 1SM 174-175.

"If you are faithful, you with the 144,000, shall have the privilege of visiting all the worlds and viewing the handiwork of God." EW 39-40

"On the matter of the exact meaning of the 144,000 Sister White has repeatedly instructed us that "silence is eloquence."" EGW's secretary C. C. Crisler to Elder E. E. Andross, president of Pacific Union Conference, against a Dr. B. E. Fullmer of Los Angeles, claiming that the 144,000 are only Americans.

"Let us thrive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand. And let us do all that we can to help others to gain heaven." RH March 9, 1905

The Sound of Music . . . does that sound good to you?

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### “Whiter than Snow”: Are you a Virgin?

Rev 14:4 “These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins.”

Reminder: “The message of Revelation 14 is the message that we are to bear to the world. It is the bread of life for these last days” (8T 27).

“The fourteenth chapter of Revelation is a chapter of the deepest interest. This scripture will soon be understood in all its bearings, and the message given to John the revelator will be repeated with distinct utterance” (RH Oct 13, 1904).

We are overdue for Revelation 14 to unfold in its entirety, including this virgin text. After all . . .

7BC 978 [Rev 14:1-4 quoted]. “This scripture represents the character of the people of God for these last days” (MS 139, 1903).

But I admit a problem to you: how do you deal with this little line “these are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins” in the pulpit?!

For one, I deal with the muck of humanity, and presenting virginity from the pulpit as the standard seems Pharisaical, out of touch with reality, overly idealistic - a disconnect between the pulpit and the pew. I might immediately lose people who think, Well, that's not me. And I'm not just talking about the sinner in the gutter, or the girls for hire we saw in Italy this summer - in broad daylight! - as we traced the footsteps of the Waldenses. Talk about a contrast. No, who can claim that they stand before God in a robe that's whiter than snow (which will be our closing hymn)?! All our resumes have some mud on them, all our life records need the cleansing blood of Jesus, don't they?

“The lives recorded in the Bible are authentic histories of actual individuals. From Adam down through successive generations to the times of the apostles we have a plain, unvarnished account of what actually occurred and the genuine experience of real characters” (4 T 9).

There's another problem with this text, and I wanted to avoid it: How do you preach on virgins on Sabbath morning, with everybody, all ages, all backgrounds, in your congregation? I don't want to mortify parents! I don't want to embarrass teenagers - “awkward” talking about *that* subject.

So I planned to skip over it.

But the text screamed at me, saying: You can't just ignore this line just because it's inconvenient, and there are innocent ears in the congregation, or sinners that feel like their past history is being dragged up into the pulpit and then they don't measure up . . .

As I deal with this text, I promise - being sensitive and appropriate was on the forefront of my mind and efforts. I pray that I succeed.

**[Rev 14:1-5]: Literal or Symbolic?**

Defiled: both literal and symbolic: Rev 3:4 (clothes); 1 Cor 8:7 (conscience)

In general: The Bible views marriage as something positive. I only need to remind of Genesis, 1 Cor 7:1-5, and Ephesians 5. And since it is such a positive divinely inspired human institution, no wonder the literal and the symbolic blend as closely as husband and wife themselves:

“Christ honored the marriage relation by making it also a symbol of the union between Him and His redeemed ones. He Himself is the Bridegroom; the bride is the church, of which, as His chosen one, He says, ‘Thou art all fair, My love; there is no spot in thee’” (SS 4:7) (MH 356).

“They are called virgins because they profess a pure faith” (COL 406).

**Context**

Specifically, Rev 14:8: fornication - a relationship you shouldn't have when you are not married to someone

Rev 17:1-6!

Parents, you can take a breath of relief: virginity here in Revelation is spiritual, and addresses huge dynamics of the Great Controversy!

"The term "Babylon" is derived from "Babel," and signifies confusion. It is employed in Scripture to designate the various forms of false or apostate religion. In Revelation 17 Babylon is represented as a woman—a figure which is used in the Bible as the symbol of a church, a virtuous woman representing a pure church, a vile woman an apostate church. In the Bible the sacred and enduring character of the relation that exists between Christ and His church is represented by the union of marriage. The Lord has joined His people to Himself by a solemn covenant, He promising to be their God, and they pledging themselves to be His and His alone. . . . "The unfaithfulness of the church to Christ in permitting her confidence and affection to be turned from Him, and allowing the love of worldly things to occupy the soul, is likened to the violation of the marriage vow. The sin of Israel in departing from the Lord is presented under this figure; and the wonderful love of God which they thus despised is touchingly portrayed" (GC 381-382).

Texts:

Jer 3:14, 20; 31:3-4

Ezek 16:8, 13-15

Hosea 2:19

2 Cor 11:2

James 4:4

The beauty of marriage - physically and in its symbolic meaning - is being threatened on both fronts.

We are witnessing an illicit relationship forming between church and state:

Pope Francis will deliver an address to Congress in September, House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) said Thursday. "It is my great privilege to announce that His Holiness Pope Francis will visit the United States Capitol on Thursday, September 24, 2015. On that day, he will become the first leader of the Holy See to address a joint meeting of Congress. It will be a historic visit, and we are truly grateful that Pope Francis has accepted our invitation." (source: Washington Post, Feb 5 2015)

"Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience" (GC 588).

But, I don't want to just dwell on the unfolding of large prophetic movements. I don't want to avoid the inconvenience of the personal appeal of Rev 14:4. I want to introduce some virgins to you:

### Virgins

**1) Genesis 2:20-24: Virgins come from the hand of God; only from the hand of God do virgins come.**

**2) Genesis 24:1-4, 12, 15-16, 58, 67: You get the virgin if you operate within the blessing of God!**

"If there is any subject which should be carefully considered and in which the counsel of older and more experienced persons should be sought, it is the subject of marriage; if ever the Bible was needed as a counselor, if ever divine guidance should be sought in prayer, it is before taking a step that binds persons together for life" (PP 175).

How special is that? SS 4:16-5:1.

**3) Matthew 1:18: Virgins carry Jesus near their heart!**

Lk 1:30-38: Virgins receive the special favor of God, and submit to His will in the end and until the end.

But, we cannot be obsessed with the virgin Mary because Jesus wants to make all of us such virgins according to Rev 14:4. While only one woman was chosen to be the mother of Jesus, there will be at least 144,000 virgins in Heaven!

**4) Matthew 25:1-13: Only Virgins - who also have the Holy Spirit - get to meet Jesus!**

"In the parable, all the ten virgins went out to meet the bridegroom. All had lamps and vessels for oil. For a time there was seen no difference between them. So with the church that lives just before Christ's second coming. All have a knowledge of the Scriptures. All have heard the message of Christ's near approach, and confidently expect His appearing. But as in the parable, so it is now. A time of waiting intervenes, faith is

tried; and when the cry is heard, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him," many are unready. They have no oil in their vessels with their lamps. They are destitute of the Holy Spirit. (COL 408.2} Without the Spirit of God a knowledge of His word is of no avail. The theory of truth, unaccompanied by the Holy Spirit, cannot quicken the soul or sanctify the heart. One may be familiar with the commands and promises of the Bible; but unless the Spirit of God sets the truth home, the character will not be transformed. Without the enlightenment of the Spirit, men will not be able to distinguish truth from error, and they will fall under the masterful temptations of Satan. (COL 408.3}

The class represented by the foolish virgins are not hypocrites. They have a regard for the truth, they have advocated the truth, they are attracted to those who believe the truth; but they have not yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit's working. They have not fallen upon the Rock, Christ Jesus, and permitted their old nature to be broken up. This class are represented also by the stony-ground hearers. They receive the word with readiness, but they fail of assimilating its principles. Its influence is not abiding. The Spirit works upon man's heart, according to his desire and consent implanting in him a new nature; but the class represented by the foolish virgins have been content with a superficial work. They do not know God. They have not studied His character; they have not held communion with Him; therefore they do not know how to trust, how to look and live. Their service to God degenerates into a form. "They come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as My people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness." Ezek 33:31 (COL 408-411).

**5) Gethsemane: You only get pure 100% Virgin Olive Oil through pressure - not by having a crush but by being crushed!**

**Appeal: Revelation 18:4 - "Come out of her, my people!"**

"Revelation 18 points to the time when, as the result of rejecting the threefold warning of Revelation 14:6-12, the church will have fully reached the condition foretold by the second angel, and the people of God still in Babylon will be called upon to separate from her communion. This message is the last that will ever be given to the world; and it will accomplish its work" (GC 390).

In its first year of existence, Country Life is in soul-searching phase. We have baptized only 2 so far, even though more are ripe I suspect, including among our children. I'm not a prophet, but I predict that Country Life will not look the same in a year or two - and that is good. It will challenge our cozy social networks and knowing one another. Our prayer for ourselves as a church must include, Lord prepare us for the time when we not only search our own souls, but invite others to do the same!

Until then . . . 2 Cor 5:17

"Christ has pledged Himself to be our substitute and surety, and He neglects no one. He who could not see human beings exposed to eternal ruin without pouring out His soul unto death in their behalf, will look with pity and compassion upon every soul who realizes that he cannot save himself. (COL 157.1}

He will look upon no trembling suppliant without raising him up. He who through His own atonement provided for man an infinite fund of moral power, will not fail to employ this power in our behalf. We may

take our sins and sorrows to His feet; for He loves us. His every look and word invites our confidence. He will shape and mold our characters according to His own will. (COL 157.2}

In the whole Satanic force there is not power to overcome one soul who in simple trust casts himself on Christ. "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength." Isaiah 40:29. (COL 157.3}

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." The Lord says, "Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the Lord thy God." "Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean; from all your filthiness and from all your idols will I cleanse you." 1 John 1:9; Jeremiah 3:13; Ezekiel 36:25." (COL 158)

Persevere until you stand before Him.

"The Christian life is a battle and a march. In this warfare there is no release; the effort must be continuous and persevering. It is by unceasing endeavor that we maintain the victory over the temptations of Satan. Christian integrity must be sought with resistless energy and maintained with a resolute fixedness of purpose" (MH 453).

7BC 978 [Rev 14:1-4 quoted]. "This scripture represents the character of the people of God for these last days" (MS 139, 1903).

It's not a statement of how great we are, but it is a promise of How great He is!  
It's a statement of what He will accomplish in us in the end.

And it is with this assurance that I invite you to sing: "Whiter than Snow"!

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**Revelation 14:5: "Speech Therapy"**

"And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God." (Rev. 14:5)

**Introduction:** low grade fever, swollen glands, mind you - no toothache - dentist: apiocectomy

but that's not half as bad as when I was 6 or 7 years old, because back then I needed a *washyourmouthwithsoapocetomy* . . . Buxheim, Bavaria: us boys hid behind trash can and talked all kind of trash to guy by cemetery - every word in the book - in German! - until he walked up to my house and told my mother. She didn't make me wash out my mouth with soap but I did rub my cheek for a while.

**1) mouth:** personal space, and origin of the easiest but most damaging action: speech  
With our mouth we talk, eat, drink, breathe, spit, and even kiss. And here, at the end of the description of the 144,000, the heavenly messenger describes neither heart nor forehead, not your hand for labor or your feet where you walk, but your mouth. The centerpiece of your face.

**2) "was found"** - investigation! I always thought God looks at your heart: For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (1 Sam. 16:7 NKJ)  
He also looks at your forehead. But your mouth? Like a dentist? Open wide?! Then comes the big bright light, and the moment the dentist looks with his mirror for cavities, oral cancer, and other abnormalities - and oh the relief when he says, Looks all good!

This is strange language . . . think about it for a minute. So it's not what is being said, but what is still in your mouth that's being investigated. This is only one step from thought to action; it's 3 inches from your forehead to your mouth. Mind you, it hasn't left your body yet, and God is checking before it passes your teeth!

**3) no deceit/guile: fish bait; decoy; deceit**

- Gen 27:35 Jacob and Esau
- Isa 53:9! - (1 Pet 2:22! - Peter remembers that one . . .)
- Daniel 8:25 little horn!
- Mk 7:21 list of human evil (Paul has it in his list, too: Rom 1:29)
- Mt 26:4/Mk 14:1 deceit killed Jesus
- Jn 1:47 Nathaniel
- 1 Pet 2:1 It can be laid aside
- 1 Pet 3:10
- James 3!

"When the right way is so plainly marked out, why do not the professed people of God walk in it? Why do they not study and pray and labor earnestly to be of one mind? Why do they not seek to cherish compassion for one another, to love as brethren, instead of rendering evil for evil and railing for railing? Who does not love life and desire good days? yet how few comply with the conditions, to refrain the tongue from evil and the lips from speaking guile. Few are willing to follow the Saviour's example of

meekness and humility. Many ask the Lord to humble them, but are unwilling to submit to the needful discipline. When the test comes, when trials or even annoyances occur, the heart rebels, and the tongue utters words that are like poisoned arrows or blasting hail" (5T 176.1}.

"Into the city of God there will enter nothing that defiles. All who are to be dwellers there will here have become pure in heart. In one who is learning of Jesus, there will be manifest a growing distaste for careless manners, unseemly language, and coarse thought. When Christ abides in the heart, there will be purity and refinement of thought and manner" (MB 24-25).

"Through the help that Christ can give, we shall be able to learn to bridle the tongue. Sorely as he was tried on the point of hasty and angry speech, he never once sinned with his lips. With patient calmness he met the sneers, the taunts, and the ridicule of his fellow workers at the carpenter's bench. Instead of retorting angrily, he would begin to sing one of David's beautiful psalms; and his companions, before realizing what they were doing, would unite with him in the hymn. What a transformation would be wrought in this world if men and women today would follow Christ's example in the use of words!" (RH May 26, 1904, Art. A, par. 10}

**4) without fault:** 23x in Leviticus = certification for eligibility to be a sacrificial animal

NT: Eph 1:4; 5:27; Phil 2:15; Col 1:22; Heb 9:14; 1 Pet 1:19; 2 Pet 3:14; Jude 1:24: Christ or the Christian!

#### **5) before the throne of God**

- Jesus demonstrated that when He stood before the throne of man in His judgement

2 Cor 5:10: August 21, 1985: first day in the US - 30 years ago!

**Unity in Diversity? Unity in Adversity! Rev 13:11 While the dragon speaks like a lamb, people who used to act like dragons now speak like the Lamb!** They speak the truth or keep their mouth shut.

P.S. 144,000. 144,000! not the isolated experience of a superhero individual. 144,000! Group Ripening . . .

**Fulfillment of Prophecy!** "The remnant of Israel shall do no unrighteousness And speak no lies, Nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; For they shall feed their flocks and lie down, And no one shall make them afraid." (Zeph. 3:13 NKJ)

#### **Application**

So what if you have a problem with what comes out of your mouth?

Mt 4:4: Change what comes out of your mouth by listening to what comes out of His!

#### **Conclusion**

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer. (Ps. 19:14 NKJ)

**Re-Creation: The #1 Issue before the End**

“Frank, we need you to prepare a message to the world. We figure that more people will be listening to your voice than that of any other person in history. Plan to say something appropriate.” NASA to Apollo Mission - Gen 1:1-10!

- Gen 1:1 7 words, rhyme
- Gen 1:2: Tohu vawohu - rhyme
- Gen 1:24, 26: 2 creation acts on day 6
- separation - unseparation

“The scientist is possessed by the sense of universal causation . . . . His religious feeling takes the form of a rapturous amazement at the harmony of natural law, which reveals an intelligence of such superiority that, compared with it, all the systematic thinking and acting of human beings is an utterly insignificant reflection.” - Albert Einstein

“The laws of science, as we know them at present, contain many fundamental numbers, like the size of the electric charge of the electron and the ratio of the masses of the proton and the electron. . . . The remarkable fact is that the values of these numbers seem to have been very finely adjusted to make possible the development of life.” - *Stephen Hawking*

“On the seventh day man is to refrain from labor, in commemoration of the Creator’s rest.” PP 111

“Marriage and the Sabbath had their origin, twin institutions for the glory of God in the benefit of humanity . . . “ MB 63

“It is one of Satan’s devices to lead the people to accept the fables of infidelity; for he can thus obscure the law of God, in itself very plain, and embolden men to rebel against the divine government. His efforts are especially directed against the fourth commandment, because it so clearly points to the living God, the Maker of the heavens and the earth.” PP 113

“And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit shall make war against the two witnesses.” Rev 11:7

“The warnings of the word of God regarding the perils surrounding the Christian church belong to us today. As in the days of the apostles men tried by tradition and philosophy to destroy faith in the Scriptures, so today, by the pleasing sentiments of higher criticism, evolution, spiritualism, theosophy, and pantheism, the enemy of righteousness is seeking to lead souls into forbidden paths.” AA 474

James Hutton, 1788: “the present is key to the past” (“The Theory of the Earth”, 1795): “But if the succession of worlds is established in the system of nature, it is in vain to look for anything higher in the origin of the earth. The result, therefore, of our present enquiry is, that we find no vestige of a beginning,-no prospect of an end” (Theory, p. 166)

George Cuvier, 1789: Evolutionary Sedimentology

Robert Chambers, mid-Oct 1844: Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation

Physicist Sir David Brester: "fair chance of poisoning the fountains of science, and sapping the foundations of religion"

"How did evolution gain this pivotal role in the public arena? The answer turns out to have little to do with Darwinian biology or Big Bang astronomy. Instead, the critical period is the first half of the nineteenth century, and the turning point is the response of readers to Vestiges." - James A. Secord, Chicago, 2000.

"I have never been an atheist in the sense of denying the existence of a God. ... an agnostic would be the most correct description of my state of mind." - Charles Darwin [Annie, 1847-1851]

1858: Great Controversy - 1859: Origin of Species!, then Hegel, Marx, Hitler

"You insult every man of science and learning in the world because he does not believe in your fool religion. We have the purpose of preventing bigots and ignoramuses from controlling the education of the United States." - Clarence Darrow, Defense Attorney

"'Humani Generis' . . . considered the doctrine of 'evolutionism' as a serious hypothesis, worthy of a more deeply studied investigation and reflection on a par with the opposite hypothesis. Today, more than a half century after this encyclical, new knowledge leads us to recognize in the theory of evolution more than a hypothesis. ... The convergence, neither sought nor induced, of results of work done independently one from the other, constitutes in itself a significant argument in favor of this theory." - John Paul II, Vatican City, Oct 23 1996

"The notion of the traditional view of redemption as reconciliation and ransom from the consequences of Adam's fall is nonsense for anyone who knows about the evolutionary background to human existence in the modern world." Karl Schmitz-Moormann, quoted by Hans Küng, *Credo*, 21.

"Man knows at last that he is alone in the universe's unfeeling immensity, out of which he emerged only by chance. His destiny is nowhere spelled out, nor is his duty." Jacques Monod, Nobel Prize Biology

"The great object in the establishment of our college was to give correct views of science and Bible religion." 4T 274

EGW, 1877 - Battle Creek: contra Uniformitarian Evolutionism, 1840-1880

"We need to guard continually against the sophistry in regard to geology, and other branches of science falsely so-called, which have not one semblance of truth. The theories of great men need to be carefully sifted of the slightest trace of infidel suggestions. One tiny seed sown by teachers in our schools, if received by the students will raise a harvest of unbelief." RH March 1, 1898 [7BC 916]

“There will be an effort made on the part of many pretended friends of education to divorce religion from the sciences in our schools.” FE 135

“There were a class of very large animals which perished at the flood. God knew that the strength of man would decrease, and these mammoth animals could not be controlled by feeble man.” 4SG 121

“A popular belief known as Creationism - a theory that the earth is 10,000 or less years old - has spread like wild fire in our century from its humble beginning in the writings of Ellen White, the founder of Seventh-day Adventism to its current status as a “Gospel truth embraced by 10s of millions of Bible-believing Evangelicals and Fundamentalists around the world.” (p. 13)

“I was then carried back to the creation and was shown that the first week, in which God performed the work of creation in six days and rested on the seventh day, was just like every other week. The great God in his days of creation and day of rest, measured off the first cycle as a sample for successive weeks till the close of time. 3SG 90f.

. . . Each day was accounted of him a generation, because every day he generated or produced some new portion of his work.”

But the infidel supposition, that the events of the first week required seven vast, indefinite periods for their accomplishment, strikes directly at the foundation of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. It makes indefinite and obscure that which God has made very plain. It is the worst kind of infidelity; . . . and is an impeachment of his wisdom. (3SG 91.1}

I have been shown that without Bible history, geology can prove nothing. . . . But when men leave the word of God in regard to the history of creation, and seek to account for God's creative works upon natural principles, they are upon a boundless ocean of uncertainty. Just how God accomplished the work of creation in six literal days he has never revealed to mortals. His creative works are just as incomprehensible as his existence. (3SG 93.1}

“Man will be left without excuse. God has given sufficient evidence upon which to base faith if he wish to believe. In the last days the earth will be almost destitute of true faith. Upon the merest pretense, the word of God will be considered unreliable, while human reasoning will be received, though it be in opposition to plain Scripture facts. Men will endeavor to explain from natural causes the work of creation, which God has never revealed” (3 SG 94).

But human science can not search out the secrets of the God of Heaven, and explain the stupendous works of creation, which were a miracle of Almighty power, any sooner than it can show how God came into existence. (3SG 94.3}

The work of creation cannot be explained by science. What science can explain the mystery of life? (MH 414.1} “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?” Job 38:4 NKJV

“In the creation of the earth, God was not indebted to pre-existing matter. "He spake, and it was; . . . He commanded, and it stood fast." Ps 33:9. All things, material or spiritual, stood up before the Lord Jehovah at His voice and were created for His own purpose. The heavens and all the host of them, the earth and all things therein, came into existence by the breath of His mouth.” (MH 414.3)

“The deepest students of science are constrained to recognize in nature the working of infinite power. But to man’s unaided reason, nature’s teaching cannot but be contradictory and disappointing. Only in the light of revelation can it be read aright. ‘Through faith we understand.’” (Hebrews 11:3).” Ed 134

### Why does this matter?

“Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning . . . “ Jesus - Mt 19:4

“In the beginning was the Word.” John 1:1

“The creative energy that called the worlds into existence is in the word of God. This word imparts power; it begets life. Every command is a promise; accepted by the will, received into the soul, it brings with it the life of the Infinite One. It transforms the nature and re-creates the soul in the image of God.” Ed 126

The Cross Event: Creation Parallels as Neutralization of the Curse (Deut 21:23; Gal 5:11)

- 1) 2nd Adam (Rom 5:14)
- 2) naked = Adam
- 3) Friday
- 4) Garden
- 5) Tree
- 6) Thorns = Gen 3:18
- 7) Jesus takes care of His mother = male/female relationship secured
- 8) darkness = Gen 1:2
- 9) “Paradise” = Eden
- 10) “Why have you forsaken me?” = Gen 3 (loss of God’s presence)
- 11) “Come down” = you don’t have to die (original lie)
- 12) “It is finished” = creation (Gen 1:31-2:3)
- 13) breathed his last (Mk 15:37, 39; Lk 23:46) = reversion of Gen 2:7
- 14) Sabbath rest in tomb
- 15) resurrection = Edenic restoration

“Therefore we were buried with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in a new way of life.” - Rom 6:4

“The very essence of the gospel is restoration.” Ellen White - The Desire of Ages, 824

“. . . that He might recreate the image of God”(ST, Aug 21, 1893) - 2 Cor 5:17!

“Sickness, suffering, and death are work of an antagonistic power. Satan is the destroyer; God is the restorer.” MH 113

“The Spirit recreates, refines, and sanctifies human beings” God’s Amazing Grace, ch. 186

“The old nature, born of blood and the will of the flesh, cannot inherit the kingdom of God. The old ways, the hereditary tendencies, the former habits, must be given up; for grace is not inherited. The new birth consists in having new motives, new tastes, new tendencies.” (RH, April 12, 1892 par. 9)

Those who become new creatures in Christ Jesus will bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." Galatians 5:22, 23.

They will no longer fashion themselves according to the former lusts, but by the faith of the Son of God they will follow in His steps, reflect His character, and purify themselves even as He is pure. The things they once hated they now love, and the things they once loved they hate. The proud and self-assertive become meek and lowly in heart. The vain and supercilious become serious and unobtrusive. The drunken become sober, and the profligate pure. The vain customs and fashions of the world are laid aside. SC 58

“The Holy Spirit comes to the souls as a Comforter. By the transforming agency of His grace, the image of God is reproduced in the disciple; he becomes a new creature. Love takes the place of hatred, and the heart receives the divine similitude.” DA 391

“Marriage and the Sabbath had their origin, twin institutions for the glory of God in the benefit of humanity . . . Like every other one of God’s good gifts entrusted to the keeping of humanity, marriage has been perverted by sin; but it is the purpose of the gospel to restore its purity and beauty. In both the Old and the New Testament the marriage relation is employed to represent the tender and sacred union that exists between Christ and His people, the redeemed ones whom He has purchased at the cost of Calvary.” MB 63-64

“Now, as in Christ’s day, the condition of society presents a sad comment upon heaven’s ideal of this sacred relation. . . through the surrender of the soul to God, His wisdom can accomplish what human wisdom fails to do. Through the revelation of His grace, hearts that were once indifferent or estranged may be united in bonds that are firmer and more enduring than those of earth – the golden bonds of a love that will bear the test of trial.” MB 65

“When there shall be a restitution of all things . . . the creation Sabbath, the day on which Jesus lay at rest in Joseph’s tomb, will still be a day of rest and rejoicing.” DA 769

“Far more sacredness is attached to the Sabbath than is given it by many professed Sabbath-keepers. The Lord has been greatly dishonored by those who have not kept the Sabbath according to the commandment, either in the letter or the spirit. He calls for a reform in the observance of the Sabbath.” 6T 353

“All through the week we are to have the Sabbath in mind, and be making preparation to keep it according to the commandment.” 6T 353

“On Friday let the preparation for the Sabbath be completed. See that all the clothing is in readiness, and that all the cooking is done. Let the boots be blacked, and the baths to be taken. . . . Before the setting of the sun, let all secular papers be put out of sight. We should jealously guard the edges of the Sabbath.”  
 6T 355, 356 “There is another work that should receive attention on the preparation day. On this day all differences between brethren, whether in the family or in the church, should be put away. Let all bitterness and wrath and malice be expelled from the soul.” 6T 356

“On that Sabbath, when Christ lay in the grave, Nicodemus had opportunity for reflection. A clearer light now illuminated his mind, and the words which Jesus had spoken to him were no longer mysterious. He felt that he had lost much by not connecting himself with the Saviour during His life. Now he recalled the events of Calvary. The prayer of Christ for His murderers and His answer to the petition of the dying thief spoke to the heart of the learned councilor. Again he looked upon the Saviour in His agony; again he heard that last cry, "It is finished," spoken like the words of a conqueror. Again he beheld the reeling earth, the darkened heavens, the rent veil, the shivered rocks, and his faith was forever established.” DA 775

Rev 14:7 + Ex 20:11

un-Creation: “at the end of the one thousand years He will call forth the fires in the earth as His weapons which He has reserved for the final destruction” 3 SG 87/1 BC 1091

Rev 20:9 fire!

1. O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder, Consider all the works Thy Hand hath made,  
 I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, Thy pow'r throughout, The universe displayed . . .

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!  
 Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

2. When through the woods And forest glades I wander I hear the birds Sing sweetly in the trees;  
 When I look down From lofty mountain grandeur And hear the brook And feel the gentle breeze;

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul,  
 My Saviour God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

3. And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in; That on the cross,  
 my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin; Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to  
 Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee, How great  
 Thou art! How great Thou art!

4. When Christ shall come, With shouts of acclamation, And take me home, What joy shall fill my heart!  
 Then I shall bow In humble adoration And there proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!"  
 Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul,  
 My Saviour God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

### Revelation 14:8 - Are you Drunk?

Alcohol . . . worst drug ever, presented as harmless and culturally valuable

Report card: Negative:

- Gen 9:20-21
- Gen 19:32
- Lev 10:9
- Prov 23:25-30
- Isa 5:11-12; 28:7
- Jer 51:7!
- Lam 2:12
- Hab 2:15
- John the Baptist (Mk 6)
- Mk 10:38 - symbol of the cross!
- Eph 5:18

Alcohol kills.

NT: sober: 1 Thess 5:6-8; 1 Peter 1:13; 4:7; 5:8; 1 Tim 3:2, 11; 2 Tim 4:5; Tit 1:7-8; 2:2

But what about? . . .

- John 2:11! see 19:34, and Mt 26:29; Mk 14:25; Lk 22:18: fruit of the vine!
- Deut 14:26
- Prov 31:6
- 1 Tim 5:23 - Pliny: Nt. Hist. 23-23)

Defend wine? Ok. Do that in the face of every mother, father, husband, wife, child . . . cemetery.

We do not praise liquor because it consists of 70% water. Driving while intoxicated!

Revelation 14:8: concentrated - 24 words in Greek.

Not the one who sips, but the one who sells.

contrast 144,000.

### What is this wine?

oinos/yayin - used to be good; now corrupted!

v6 -all nations - v8 -all nations

Context: Rev 14:6-7? Sabbath! Ten Commandments!

**Uriah Smith:**

1. immaculate conception
2. mass, transubstantiation
3. confession to human priest
4. tradition vs Bible
5. Sabbath
6. immortality of the soul
7. saints
8. infant baptism
9. Second Coming only spiritual, not real
10. peaceful millennium on earth

**Ellen White: The Wine of Babylon in a Nutshell**

**The wine of Babylon is the exalting of the false and spurious sabbath above the Sabbath which the Lord Jehovah hath blessed and sanctified for the use of man, also [it is] the immortality of the soul. These kindred heresies, and the rejection of the truth, convert the church into Babylon. Kings, merchants, rulers, and religious teachers are all in corrupt harmony. (2SM 68)**

“This cup of intoxication which she presents to the world represents the false doctrines that she has accepted as the result of her unlawful connection with the great ones of the earth. Friendship with the world corrupts her faith, and in her turn she exerts a corrupting influence upon the world by teaching doctrines which are opposed to the plainest statements of Holy Writ.” GC 388

“Were it not that the world is hopelessly intoxicated with the wine of Babylon, multitudes would be convicted and converted by the plain, cutting truths of the word of God” (GC 389)

“The theory of eternal torment is one of the false doctrines that constitute the wine of the abomination of Babylon, of which she makes all nations drink. . . . If we turn from the testimony of God’s word, and accept false doctrines because our fathers taught them, we fall under the condemnation pronounced upon Babylon; we are drinking of the wine of her abomination.” GC 536-537

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 immortality 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

**Coercion**

The so-called Christian world is to be the theater of great and decisive actions. Men in authority will enact laws controlling the conscience, after the example of the papacy. Babylon will make all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. Every nation will be involved ... [Revelation 18:3-7 quoted] (Manuscript 24, 1891).(7BC 949.11}

“God has a controversy with the churches of today. They are fulfilling the prophecy of John. . . . They have divorced themselves from God by refusing to receive His sign.” 7BC 979 (Lt 98, 1900).

**Fallen Protestantism:**

1 Thess 4:13-18 at SWBTS

Tony Evans, radio: “There is no death”

6 years old, cemetery

**Question**

- are you in a false relationship?
- are you driving while intoxicated?
- are you fooling yourself?
- are you spiritually sober?

**The Call of Revelation 18**

bad theology: not opinions and viewpoints, but a toxic mix!

contrast 1st angel vs 2nd angel: mid-heaven vs fallen, fallen

**Conclusion**

We are back to square one: Garden of Eden: Satan offering the world a fruit. It’s still fruit, but it’s fermented now. It’s instead of relying on the Word of God relying on a 3rd party. Letting other people decide what to do.

**Case Study: Pilate - Mt 27:11-26  
John 18-19**

What are you drinking? What have you been drinking? Are you drunk?

**Oktoberfest** in Germany: de-tox tent

**Garden of Eden**

**Revelation 14:12 - This is testing my patience! *Whoever gives up, gives up too soon.***

ASI Youth: 1) Relationships, 2) Forgiveness, 3) Discouragement

EGW's 1st vision:

As God has shown me the travels of the Advent people to the Holy City and the rich reward to be given those who wait the return of their Lord from the wedding, it may be my duty to give you a short sketch of what God has revealed to me. The dear saints have many trials to pass through. But our light afflictions, which are but for a moment, will work for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory—while we look not at the things which are seen, for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. I have tried to bring back a good report and a few grapes from the heavenly Canaan, for which many would stone me, as the congregation bade stone Caleb and Joshua for their report. (Numbers 14:10.) But I declare to you, my brethren and sisters in the Lord, it is a goodly land, and we are well able to go up and possess it. (EW 13.3)

While I was praying at the family altar, the Holy Ghost fell upon me, and I seemed to be rising higher and higher, far above the dark world. I turned to look for the Advent people in the world, but could not find them, when a voice said to me, "Look again, and look a little higher." At this I raised my eyes, and saw a straight and narrow path, cast up high above the world. On this path the Advent people were traveling to the city, which was at the farther end of the path. They had a bright light set up behind them at the beginning of the path, which an angel told me was the midnight cry. This light shone all along the path and gave light for their feet so that they might not stumble. If they kept their eyes fixed on Jesus, who was just before them, leading them to the city, they were safe. But soon some grew weary, and said the city was a great way off, and they expected to have entered it before. Then Jesus would encourage them by raising His glorious right arm, and from His arm came a light which waved over the Advent band, and they shouted, "Alleluia!" Others rashly denied the light behind them and said that it was not God that had led them out so far. The light behind them went out, leaving their feet in perfect darkness, and they stumbled and lost sight of the mark and of Jesus, and fell off the path down into the dark and wicked world below. Soon we heard the voice of God like many waters, which gave us the day and hour of Jesus' coming. The living saints, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake. When God spoke the time, He poured upon us the Holy Ghost, and our faces began to light up and shine with the glory of God, as Moses' did when he came down from Mount Sinai. (EW 14.1)

The 144,000 were all sealed and perfectly united. On their foreheads was written, God, New Jerusalem, and a glorious star containing Jesus' new name. At our happy, holy state the wicked were enraged, and would rush violently up to lay hands on us to thrust us into prison, when we would stretch forth the hand in the name of the Lord, and they would fall helpless to the ground. Then it was that the synagogue of Satan knew that God had loved us who could wash one another's feet and salute the brethren with a holy kiss, and they worshiped at our feet. (EW 15.1)

Soon our eyes were drawn to the east, for a small black cloud had appeared, about half as large as a man's hand, which we all knew was the sign of the Son of man. We all in solemn silence gazed on the cloud as it drew nearer and became lighter, glorious, and still more glorious, till it was a great white cloud. The bottom appeared like fire; a rainbow was over the cloud, while around it were ten thousand angels, singing a most lovely song; and upon it sat the Son of man. His hair was white and curly and lay on His shoulders; and upon

His head were many crowns. His feet had the appearance of fire; in His right hand was a sharp sickle; in His left, a silver trumpet. His eyes were as a flame of fire, which searched His children through and through. Then all faces gathered paleness, and those that God had rejected gathered blackness. Then we all cried out, "Who shall be able to stand? Is my robe spotless?" Then the angels ceased to sing, and there was some time of awful silence, when Jesus spoke: "Those who have clean hands and pure hearts shall be able to stand; My grace is sufficient for you." At this our faces lighted up, and joy filled every heart. And the angels struck a note higher and sang again, while the cloud drew still nearer the earth. (EW 15.2)

Then Jesus' silver trumpet sounded, as He descended on the cloud, wrapped in flames of fire. He gazed on the graves of the sleeping saints, then raised His eyes and hands to heaven, and cried, "Awake! awake! awake! ye that sleep in the dust, and arise." Then there was a mighty earthquake. The graves opened, and the dead came up clothed with immortality. The 144,000 shouted, "Alleluia!" as they recognized their friends who had been torn from them by death, and in the same moment we were changed and caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air. (EW 16.1)

We all entered the cloud together, and were seven days ascending to the sea of glass, when Jesus brought the crowns, and with His own right hand placed them on our heads. He gave us harps of gold and palms of victory. Here on the sea of glass the 144,000 stood in a perfect square. Some of them had very bright crowns, others not so bright. Some crowns appeared heavy with stars, while others had but few. All were perfectly satisfied with their crowns. And they were all clothed with a glorious white mantle from their shoulders to their feet. Angels were all about us as we marched over the sea of glass to the gate of the city. Jesus raised His mighty, glorious arm, laid hold of the pearly gate, swung it back on its glittering hinges, and said to us, "You have washed your robes in My blood, stood stiffly for My truth, enter in." We all marched in and felt that we had a perfect right in the city. (EW 16.2)

Here we saw the tree of life and the throne of God. Out of the throne came a pure river of water, and on either side of the river was the tree of life. On one side of the river was a trunk of a tree, and a trunk on the other side of the river, both of pure, transparent gold. At first I thought I saw two trees. I looked again, and saw that they were united at the top in one tree. So it was the tree of life on either side of the river of life. Its branches bowed to the place where we stood, and the fruit was glorious; it looked like gold mixed with silver. (EW 17.1)

Flower - never fade.

And He said, "You must go back to the earth again and relate to others what I have revealed to you." Then an angel bore me gently down to this dark world. Sometimes I think I can stay here no longer; all things of earth look so dreary. I feel very lonely here, for I have seen a better land. Oh, that I had wings like a dove, then would I fly away and be at rest! (EW 19.1)

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I cannot think of anything more tragic than someone who is on the right track but gives up just before the Second Coming of Christ.

Whoever gives up, gives up too soon.

Rev 14:12: patience 7x (1:9; 2:2, 3, 19; 3:10; 13:10; 14:12) - "to remain under"  
 "here" 7x (4:1; 11:12; 13:10,18; 14:12 2x; 17:9)

## 1. The patience of the believers

- Gen 3:15 Adam and Eve
- Noah: before, during, after rain
- Abraham: Hagar!
- Gen 22: 3 days with Isaac. Waiting is cleansing.
- Exodus, 10 plagues. When? Are we there yet?
- Job 42!
- Daniel: 70 weeks = 490 years! - Daniel 8:13, 14
- Judas
- Luke 15: prodigal son, father
- Mt 25: virgins that waited
- James 1:1-5!
- Rev 1:9!
- Rev 13:10 - 1260 years!
- Rev 14:12: not just waiting - it's waiting till the end, the very end, all the way to the end!

Rev 14:12 - patience in the specific context of the Ten Commandments! This can only mean one thing: our patience in relation to the Ten Commandments will be tested precisely at the end.

### Faith + Law

“The trials of life are God’s workmen, to remove the impurities and roughness from our character. Their hewing, squaring, and chiseling, their burnishing and polishing, is a painful process; it is hard to be pressed down to the grinding wheel. But the stone is brought forth prepared to fill its place in the heavenly temple. Upon no useless material does the Master bestow such careful, thorough work. Only His precious stones are polished after the similitude of a palace. (MB 10.3} Lord will work for all who put their trust in Him. Precious victories will be gained by the faithful. Precious lessons will be learned. Precious experiences will be realized.

God had committed to His people a work to be accomplished on earth. The third angel’s message was to be given, the minds of believers were to be directed to the heavenly sanctuary, where Christ had entered to make atonement for His people. The Sabbath reform was to be carried forward. The breach in the law of God must be made up. The message must be proclaimed with a loud voice, that all the inhabitants of earth might receive the warning. The people of God must purify their souls through obedience to the truth, and be prepared to stand without fault before Him at His coming. (Ev 695.2}

Had Adventists, after the great disappointment in 1844, held fast their faith and followed on unitedly in the opening providence of God, receiving the message of the third angel and in the power of the Holy Spirit proclaiming it to the world, they would have seen the salvation of God, the Lord would have wrought mightily with their efforts, the work would have been completed, and Christ would have come ere this to receive His people to their reward. But in the period of doubt and uncertainty that followed the disappointment, many of the advent believers yielded their faith.... Thus the work was hindered, and the

world was left in darkness. Had the whole Adventist body united upon the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, how widely different would have been our history! (Ev 695.3)

It was not the will of God that the coming of Christ should be thus delayed. God did not design that His people, Israel, should wander forty years in the wilderness. He promised to lead them directly to the land of Canaan, and establish them there a holy, healthy, happy people. But those to whom it was first preached, went not in “because of unbelief.” Their hearts were filled with murmuring, rebellion, and hatred, and He could not fulfill His covenant with them. (Ev 696.1)

For forty years did unbelief, murmuring, and rebellion shut out ancient Israel from the land of Canaan. The same sins have delayed the entrance of modern Israel into the heavenly Canaan. In neither case were the promises of God at fault. It is the unbelief, the worldliness, unconsecration, and strife among the Lord’s professed people that have kept us in this world of sin and sorrow so many years.—MS 4, 1883. (Ev 696.2)

We may have to remain here in this world because of insubordination many more years, as did the children of Israel; but for Christ’s sake, His people should not add sin to sin by charging God with the consequence of their own wrong course of action.—Letter 184, 1901. (Ev 696.3)

By giving the gospel to the world it is in our power to hasten our Lord’s return. DA 633 (1898). (Ev 696.4)

It is the privilege of every Christian, not only to look for, but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain.—Testimonies For The Church 8:22, 23 (1904). (Ev 696.5)

**When the Message Is Finished**—It [the coming of the Lord] will not tarry past the time that the message is borne to all nations, tongues, and peoples. Shall we who claim to be students of prophecy forget that God’s forbearance to the wicked is a part of the vast and merciful plan by which He is seeking to compass the salvation of souls?—The Review and Herald, June 18, 1901. (Ev 697.1)

### Personal Experience

John 6:60,66

theology major peers

Mt 24:13?!

### Conclusion

1. Patience = Hope: The wait was worth it!

2. saints, pl.: you don’t wait alone!

Ps 27

2 Thess 3:5!

**Rev 14:15 - Harvest - It's Over!**

Somewhere between relief and the shocking realization that it's over. The moment of truth has come. Sowing, growing, watering, and waiting, are over. Now it's time for the harvest. The reaper with the sickle.

Reminder: strawberries, apples, wheat, barley, bananas? People!

2 harvests.

**1. Rev 14:14-16 - Happy Harvest**

- Christ gets to gather His crops!
- 2 hours: Rev 14:6-7 + Rev 14:14-16 - Judgement: one leads to the other

Case Study: teenager in court!

Jewelry: Ex 33:6; Num 31:50; Mk 5:15; 1 Tim 2:8

The Hour of the Harvest will come. Rev 14:6-7 wants to ensure that we can be harvested.

**2. Rev 14:17-20 - Horrible Harvest**

2-edged sword of the Gospel: Jn 3:16

Ps 1

Joel 3:11-14; 4:14-20 but Joel 2:25!

Gen 1:29: Jewish Feast Day Cycle

“Christ was standing at the point of transition between two economies and their two great festivals. He, the spotless Lamb of God, was about to present Himself as a sin offering, that He would thus bring to an end the system of types and ceremonies that for four thousand years had pointed to His death. As He ate the Passover with His disciples, He instituted in its place the service that was to be the memorial of His great sacrifice. The national festival of the Jews was to pass away forever. The service which Christ established was to be observed by His followers in all lands and through all ages. The Passover was ordained as a commemoration of the deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage. God had directed that, year by year, as the children should ask the meaning of this ordinance, the history should be repeated. Thus the wonderful deliverance was to be kept fresh in the minds of all. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper was given to commemorate the great deliverance wrought out as the result of the death of Christ. Till He shall come the second time in power and glory, this ordinance is to be celebrated. It is the means by which His great work for us is to be kept fresh in our minds.” (DA 652.3)

“It was Christ's desire to leave to His disciples an ordinance that would do for them the very thing they needed—that would serve to disentangle them from the rites and ceremonies which they had hitherto engaged in as essential, and which the reception of the gospel made no longer of any force. To continue these rites would be an insult to Jehovah. Eating of the body, and drinking of the blood, of Christ, not

merely at the sacramental service, but daily partaking of the bread of life to satisfy the soul's hunger, would be in receiving His Word and doing His will (The Review and Herald, June 14, 1898). (5BC 1139.6)

Feast of Tabernacles? Camp Meeting! PP 540, 6T 40

Harvest means, it's over:

Jer 50:14-16; Jer 51:33

Mt 3:12; Mt 9:37-38; Lk 10:2

Mt 13:24-30; 13:36-43 - v39!

Joh 4:35-38:

Because we know not the exact time of His coming, we are commanded to watch. "Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when He cometh shall find watching." [Luke 12:37](#). Those who watch for the Lord's coming are not waiting in idle expectancy. The expectation of Christ's coming is to make men fear the Lord, and fear His judgments upon transgression. It is to awaken them to the great sin of rejecting His offers of mercy. Those who are watching for the Lord are purifying their souls by obedience to the truth. With vigilant watching they combine earnest working. Because they know that the Lord is at the door, their zeal is quickened to co-operate with the divine intelligences in working for the salvation of souls. These are the faithful and wise servants who give to the Lord's household "their portion of meat in due season." [Luke 12:42](#). They are declaring the truth that is now specially applicable. As Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Moses each declared the truth for his time, so will Christ's servants now give the special warning for their generation. ([DA 634.2](#))

One day it's over. Soon. Too soon for too many.

So . . . why don't you become a harvester?!

Zip Code - You!

### **Consideration: There will be a harvest!**

"When the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come." Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own. ([COL 69.1](#))

It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, ([2 Peter 3:12](#), margin). Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain. ([COL 69.2](#))

Are you growing? Ripening?

Do you need more water? More light? Better soil?

What stifles your growth? What eats up your faith? What is fertilizing your weeds? Do you have pine beetles sapping your sap? Why are your leaves wilting and turning brown?

Check your garden now - because when the man with the sickle comes, it's too late!



## The Three Angels' Messages

"The message of Revelation 14 is the message that we are to bear to the world. It is the bread of life for these last days." (8T 27)

"The fourteenth chapter of Revelation is a chapter of the deepest interest. This scripture will soon be understood in all its bearings, and the message given to John the revelator will be repeated with distinct utterance" (RH Oct 13, 1904).

In a view given June 27, 1850, my accompanying angel said, "Time is almost finished. Do you reflect the lovely image of Jesus as you should?" Then I was pointed to the earth and saw that there would have to be a getting ready among those who have of late embraced the third angel's message. Said the angel, "Get ready, get ready, get ready. Ye will have to die a greater death to the world than ye have ever yet died." I saw that there was a great work to do for them and but little time in which to do it." (EW 64)

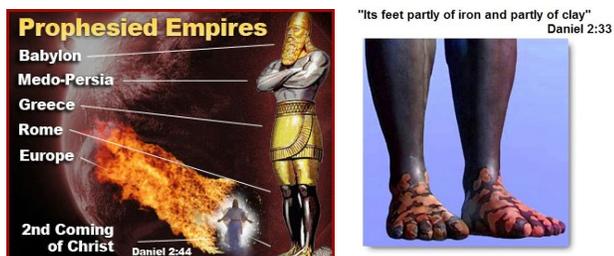
## The First Angel's Message

As we approach the 3 Angels' Messages, notice a trend in the world and in the Word of God.

**Step 1: Signs:** Context: Destruction of the Temple/Jerusalem: a corrupt church will face catastrophe

1. Deception (Mt 24:5: "many . . . many")
2. Wars and rumors of wars (nations, kingdoms)
3. Famine (various places)
4. Pestilence
5. Earthquakes
6. Tribulation & Death Penalty: Global Hatred (Mt 24:9 "all nations")
7. false prophets ("many")
8. lawlessness ("many")
9. singular: he who endures (24:13)
10. World Mission ("all the world", "all nations", end)

One thing is clear: there's an end to it all, and Daniel shows us just how close we are:



<https://www.worldslastchance.com/images/empires.jpg>

[https://heavenawaits.files.wordpress.com/2014/09/clip\\_image001\\_thumb4.jpg?w=501&h=455](https://heavenawaits.files.wordpress.com/2014/09/clip_image001_thumb4.jpg?w=501&h=455)

### Babylon - Nebuchadnezzar

### Medo-Persia

**Alexander the Great:** he "wept because he had no more worlds to conquer". Eric Donald Hirsch, William G. Rowland, Michael Stanford, *The New First Dictionary of Cultural Literacy* (2004), p. 144.

### Rome

and then - we, us

### World Domination/Globalism

"World domination (also called global domination or world conquest) is a hypothetical power structure, either achieved or aspired to, in which a single social or political authority holds the power over virtually all the inhabitants of the planet Earth. Various individuals or regimes have tried to achieve this goal throughout history, without ever attaining it." (wikipedia, "World Domination")

"Whosoever commands the sea commands the trade; whosoever commands the trade of the world commands the riches of the world, and consequently the world itself". Sir Walter Raleigh, "A Discourse of the Invention of Ships, Anchors, Compass, &c.", *The Works of Sir Walter Raleigh, Kt.* (1829, reprinted 1965), vol. 8, p. 325.

"Who rules East Europe commands the Heartland:

Who rules the Heartland commands the World-Island:

Who rules the World-Island commands the World".

Sir Halford John Mackinder, *Democratic Ideals and Reality: A Study in the Politics of Reconstruction* (1919), p. 186.

Babylon tried, Medo-Persia tried, Greece tried (Alexander the Great), Rome tried, and many subsequent -isms have tried: We have had anarchism, communism, fascism, capitalism, secularism, atheism, fundamentalism, and more -isms. But none has succeeded. Except one, one that will succeed. It is the only global movement that has the prophetic stamp of approval and the divine signature ensuring its success: The 3 Angels' Message.

Listen to the global reach of Rev 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".

This message . . .

1. sky-high: visible to all

2. everlasting: across all times

## 3. all nations

Time - Space - Matter/People: It's all or nothing.

"He has given us a world-wide message. This truth must be extended to all nations, tongues, and people."  
3T 388

Analyzing, understanding, and putting this message into practice will require special care, singular courage, and an untiring effort. This is our message, this is the message that started our church, this remnant movement, this is the message that will go around the world, sky-high, loud voice, this is the message that will finish the work! This is it! The angel says, It's all or nothing.

In proclaiming the truths of the everlasting gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, God's church on earth today is fulfilling the ancient prophecy, "Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit." [Isaiah 27:6](#). The followers of Jesus, in co-operation with heavenly intelligences, are rapidly occupying the waste places of the earth; and, as the result of their labors, an abundant fruitage of precious souls is developing. Today, as never before, the dissemination of Bible truth by means of a consecrated church is bringing to the sons of men the benefits foreshadowed centuries ago in the promise to Abraham and to all Israel,—to God's church on earth in every age,—“I will bless thee, ... and thou shalt be a blessing.” [Genesis 12:2](#).

Do you realize what this means? Do you really? God has waited for the unfolding and fruition of this message since the days of Abraham.

All Heaven is saying, Finally! Finally finality! Soon it's over! The last angel that functioned as a communicator is the angel of the 7th trumpet. Thus the “another angel” of Rev 14:6 can be considered the first in a new sequence. (By the way, did you know that there are 6 angels in Revelation 14, not 3?) At the end of time, God is talking to us! There is an urgency in Rev 14 - Listen NOW, Pay attention NOW, Do something NOW! NOW! NOW!

**angel:** “Christ is coming the second time, with power unto salvation. To prepare human beings, for this event, He has sent the first, second, and third angels’ messages. These angels represent those who receive the truth, and with power open the gospel to the world” (Letter 79, 1900).

“Large numbers will be admitted who in these last days hear the truth for the first time” (RH July 5, 1906).

**mid-heaven:** Why? Because every nation, every tribe, every tongue, and every people need to be reached with the eternal gospel.

**eternal gospel:** a term unique to Revelation. Why is gospel defined by this qualifier - eternal? There is a “glorious” gospel (2 Cor 4:4; 1 Tim 1:11), but what is “eternal”? Is it forever? From eternity to eternity? Or is there a starting point - and an endpoint?

“Eternal” refers to the beginning of human history to the end, as marked by Creation (“worship Him who made”), esp. the Sabbath, and the Second Coming (with a pre-warning via “hour of judgment”). These two points in time mark the beginning and end of humanity’s need for the Gospel, from Fall to Fixing everything:

Creation	The Everlasting Gospel	Second Coming
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As long as humans have needed good news, this good news is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. So it’s not some sectarian special side-news by a little obscure denomination. Whatever the message is, it’s Gospel, which goes all the way back to Abraham:

And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, *saying*, “In you all the nations shall be blessed” (Gal 3:8).

“In the first angel’s message men are called upon to worship God, our Creator, who made the world and all things that are therein. They have paid homage to an institution of the Papacy, making of no effect the law of Jehovah, but there is to be an increase of knowledge on this subject. 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 106.2}.

*euaggellion* (good news): 77x in the Bible (once in the OT: 2 Sam 4:10)

Mt 4x; Mk 8x; Acts 2x; the rest mostly Paul; Revelation uses the term only here (14:6).

Gospel dominance: the Gospel is something that is preached globally

Acts 15:7: the word of the Gospel is for the Gentiles = all nations

Rom 10:16: the Gospel is something to be obeyed (see 2 Thess 1:8; 1 Pet 4:17)

1 Thess 1:5: not in word only, but in power - demonstrated by Paul’s lifestyle (see 2:8!)

2 Tim 1:10: gospel overcomes death and introduces immortality! (see 2 Tim 2:8)

**So, the Gospel is not just a message we preach but a method we practice!**

**every nation:**

- Rev 10:11 - prophecy is the core of the final movement!
- 11:9 - French Revolution: whole world got to see the results of atheism
- 13:7 - medieval papacy (Rev 17:5)

But 5:9; 7:9: saved out of all those nations. The Gospels is received freely but spread at a price but successful in the end and to the ends of the world!

### Ellen White on Revelation 14:6

“The church is charged to convey to the world, without delay, God’s saving mercy. . . . We have no time to waste. God has provided a means of recovery for sinners. By unselfish work His truth is to be represented. This is the trust He has given us, and it is to be faithfully executed. 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. In the medical missionary work Jesus is to behold the travail of His soul. Human beings are to be snatched as brands from the burning.” {MM 131.5}

“If angels occupied the place of man in the administration of the gospel, there would not be whole regions left in darkness and the shadow of death. The work would have been as is represented by the angel flying through the midst of heaven proclaiming the everlasting gospel to them that dwell on the earth. But the Lord does nothing without the cooperation of man. Could the intense interest which the angels have for man be put into voice that would be heard by the human agent, what appeals would be heard in burning words to communicate to others that which heaven had communicated to them.” ML 304

**“To all people and nations and kindreds and tongues the truth is to be proclaimed. The time has come for much aggressive work to be done in the cities, and in all neglected, unworked fields.”**—The Review and Herald, June 23, 1904.(Ev 59.1)

“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)

[An appeal made by Mrs. White in 1886. Written from Europe.] If we indeed have the truth for these last days, it must be carried to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. Erelong 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. Then they must now be warned; God’s holy law must be vindicated, and held up before them as a mirror. To accomplish this work, means is needed. I know that times are hard, money is not plenty; but the truth must be spread, and money to spread it must be placed in the treasury....(CS 39.2)

“The light that God has given His people is not to be shut up within the churches that already know the truth. It is to be shed abroad into the dark places of the earth. Those who walk in the light as Christ is in the light will co-operate with the Saviour by revealing to others what He has revealed to them. It is God’s purpose that the truth for this time shall be made known to every kindred and nation and tongue and people. In the world today men and women are absorbed in the search for worldly gain and worldly

pleasure. There are thousands upon thousands who give no time or thought to the salvation of the soul. The time has come when the message of Christ's soon coming is to sound throughout the world." (9T 24

"The gospel dispensation is the last period of probation that will ever be granted to men. Those who live under this dispensation of test and trial and yet are not led to repent and obey will perish with the disloyal. There is no second trial. The gospel that is to be preached to all nations, kindreds, tongues, and peoples presents the truth in clear lines, showing that obedience is the condition of gaining eternal life. Christ imparts His righteousness to those who consent to let Him take away their sins. We are indebted to Christ for the grace which makes us complete in Him (Manuscript 40, 1900). (7BC 971.9)

"Christ ascended to heaven and sent His Holy Spirit to give power to the work of His disciples. Thousands were converted in a day. **In a single generation the gospel was carried to every nation under heaven.** But little by little a change came. The church lost her first love. She became selfish and ease-loving. The spirit of worldliness was cherished. The enemy cast his spell upon those to whom God had given light for a world in darkness, light which should have shone forth in good works. The world was robbed of the blessings that God desired men to receive." (8T 26.3)

"Is not the same thing repeated in this generation? Many in our day are keeping back that which the Lord has entrusted to them for the salvation of a world unwarned, unsaved. In the word of God an angel is represented as flying in the midst of heaven, [quoting Revelation 14:6, 7.] (8T 26.4)

"The verity and truth of the binding claims of the fourth commandment must be presented in clear lines before the people. 'Ye are My witnesses.' The message will go in power to all parts of the world, to Oregon, to Europe, to Australia, to the islands of the sea, to all nations, tongues, and peoples. Preserve the dignity of the truth. It will grow to large proportions. Many countries are waiting for the advanced light the Lord has for them; and your faith is limited, it is very small. Your conception of the work needs to be greatly enlarged. Oakland, San Francisco, Sacramento, Woodland, and the large cities in the United States must hear the message of truth. Go forward. God will work with great power if you will walk in all humility of mind before Him. **It is not faith to talk of impossibilities. Nothing is impossible with God.** The light of the binding claims of the law of God is to test and prove the world"....(LS 209.1)

**14:7 And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God, and give Him the glory, because the hour of His judgment has come! And worship Him who made the Heaven and the earth and the sea and the springs of water!”**

loud voice: Rev 5:2, 12; 6:10; 7:2, 10; 8:13; 10:3; 14:7, 9, 15, 18; 16:17; 19:7 (interestingly, the term “great” is reserved 8x for Babylon in chapters 17-18!).

Why so many loud voices? A loud voice is no stranger to Revelation; it occurs 13x overall, as Revelation has to turn up the volume in a noise-saturated world, for ears filled with sounds and ear-buds and the beats of this world. What happened to the still small voice (1 Kgs 19:12)?

“And after the earthquake a fire; *but* the LORD *was* not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice” (1Kgs 19:12).

Laodicea still has to contend with that voice: “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Rev 3:20).

Sad, the conditional sentence: “if any man hear my voice”. If. May be. Possibly not.

Noise.

What do you do with the noise in your life? The constant barrage of sound?

I have found only three spaces of silence: early morning, late at night, and geographical solitude.

The rest is noise.

Voice-cancelling noise.

Seek solitude today and listen to His word.

He still has a voice.

### **Fear God.**

Two words. Fear God.

Before we explore the actual meaning of the term “Fear God”, two aspects shall be pointed out:

- 1) It’s plural. The world is asked to fear God - the entire world!
- 2) It comes from the angel, which is the message of the Advent movement to the entire world.

We routinely assume that the Three Angels’ Message is a message *to* the Advent movement. But it is, again, actually the message *of* the Advent movement to the world.

This leads us to a crucial point: If we are the messengers of a message, wouldn't that assume that we exhibit evidence of living that message ourselves?

We are not uninvolved mechanism - "we're just the messengers". We are involved in this message. We believe this message, and we live this message. We who solicit the fear of God from the world fear God ourselves.

What is this "fearing God"?

### Survey of "fear God" phrases in the Bible:

Gen 22:12 And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only *son*, from Me." (Gen 22:12 NKJ)

Gen 42:18 Then Joseph said to them the third day, "Do this and live, *for* I fear God: (Gen 42:18 NKJ)

"Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place *such* over them *to be* rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. (Exo 18:21 NKJ)

"how he met you on the way and attacked your rear ranks, all the stragglers at your rear, when you *were* tired and weary; and he did not fear God. (Deu 25:18 NKJ)

So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? (Job 1:9 NKJ)

God will hear, and afflict them, Even He who abides from of old. Selah Because they do not change, Therefore they do not fear God. (Psa 55:19 NKJ)

Come *and* hear, all you who fear God, And I will declare what He has done for my soul. (Psa 66:16 NKJ)

For in the multitude of dreams and many words *there is* also vanity. But fear God. (Ecc 5:7 NKJ)

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. (Ecc 12:13 NKJ)

saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. (Luk 18:2 NKJ) . . . "And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, (Luk 18:4 NKJ)

"Men *and* brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to you the word of this salvation has been sent.

(Act 13:26 NKJ)

But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?" (Luk 23:40 NKJ)

I am afraid that we think the Three Angels' message is some kind of special prophetic message, disconnected from the "real" Gospel - the Cross and Resurrection of Christ. It's a good message, for sure, but not the same message as believing in Jesus.

But consider this verse again - "Fear God" shows up at the very moment of Christ's death! And fearing God leads a sinner to be saved!

It is wrong to think that fearing God is important, but the real deal is believing in Jesus.

Fearing God and getting saved carry the same biblical DNA!

Then Paul stood up, and motioning with *his* hand said, "Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen: (Act 13:16 NKJ)

Honor all *people*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. (1Pe 2:17 NKJ)

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." (Rev 14:7 NKJ)

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### Ellen White on Fearing God

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. The Word of God is the Guidebook; turn not from its pages to depend upon the human agent. That Book contains the warnings, the admonitions, from God, the rebuke of every evil, the clear definition of sin as the transgression of the law which is God's great standard of virtue and holiness.(14MR 194.1}

The Word is full of warnings, of the most merciful invitations, and also of words in decided condemnation of evil. Not one who will study the Word of God and apply its teachings will miss the way. By the love of God, by the fear of God, by the reverence and honor we feel for the Author of truth and righteousness, we are instructed, admonished, and profited. 14MR 194

### Example: Noah

Noah did not mix the soft, pleasing deceptions of Satan with his message. He did not utter the sentiment of many of his day who declared that God was too merciful to do such a terrible work. Many asserted that

God would grant the wicked another season of probation; but Noah did not indulge them in the faintest hope that those who neglected the present opportunity, who rejected the present message, would be favored with another opportunity of salvation. God means that men shall not only love him, but that his fear shall be in their hearts. Noah's faith was mingled with fear; for it is written that Noah, being warned of God, moved with fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his house. His faith intensified his fear; for it was no cowardly fear that moved him. He dared not suppress the words of God for fear of men, or withhold his message in dread of the consequences that might result because of the opposition and hate of the wicked and unbelieving about him. He knew the power of God, and realized that God would fulfill his word. His fear of God did not separate him from God, but served to draw him closer to him, and to lead him to pour out his soul in earnest supplication. There were many who at first received Noah's message, but the fear of men was greater than the fear of God, and they turned away from the truth of God to believe a lie. As time passed on, and reproach and ridicule were heaped upon them, their hearts failed them, and they did not bear the test. It is the testing time that will measure professed faith and assurance in God. Courage and integrity cannot be estimated rightly by men until the day of trial puts them to the test. (ST April 18, 1895, par. 9}

"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." 3 MR 67-68?

**"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).

### Ellen White on the Hour of Judgment

**The Elijah Message**—In this age, just prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, God calls for men who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord. Just such a work as that which John did, is to be carried on in these last days. The Lord is giving messages to His people, through the instruments He has chosen, and He would have all heed the admonitions and warnings He sends. The message preceding the public ministry of Christ was, Repent, publicans and sinners; repent, Pharisees and Sadducees; "for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Our message is not to be one of peace and safety. As a people who believe in Christ's soon appearing, we have a definite message to bear,—“Prepare to meet thy God.”(4BC 1184.6}

Our message must be as direct as was that of John. He rebuked kings for their iniquity. Notwithstanding the peril his life was in, he never allowed truth to languish on his lips. Our work in this age must be as faithfully done....(4BC 1184.7}

**In this time of well-nigh universal apostasy, God calls upon His messengers to proclaim His law in the spirit and power of Elias. As John the Baptist, in preparing a people for Christ's first advent, called their attention to the Ten Commandments, so we are to give, with no uncertain sound, the message: "Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come." With the earnestness that characterized Elijah the prophet and John the Baptist, we are to strive to prepare the way for Christ's second advent** (The Southern Work 3-21-1905).(4BC 1184.8}

“Today, in the spirit and power of Elias and of John the Baptist, messengers of God’s appointment are calling the attention of a judgment-bound world to the solemn events soon to take place in connection with the closing hours of probation and the appearance of Christ Jesus as King of kings and Lord of lords. Soon every man is to be judged for the deeds done in the body. **The hour of God’s judgment has come, and upon the members of His church on earth rests the solemn responsibility of giving warning to those who are standing as it were on the very brink of eternal ruin. To every human being in the wide world who will give heed must be made plain the principles at stake in the great controversy being waged, principles upon which hang the destinies of all mankind.**” (PK 716)

God did not design that the medical missionary work should eclipse the work of the third angel’s message. The arm is not to become the body. **The third angel’s message is the gospel message for these last days, and in no case is it to be overshadowed by other interests and made to appear an unessential consideration. When in our institutions anything is placed above the third angel’s message, the gospel is not there the great leading power.**—Testimonies For The Church 6:235-241 (1900).(Ev 522.3)

God’s message for the inhabitants of earth today is, “Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.” **Matthew 24:44.** 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. We are not to be surprised at this time by events both great and decisive; for the angel of mercy cannot remain much longer to shelter the impenitent.(PK 278.1)

“Behold, the Lord cometh out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.” **Isaiah 26:21.** **The storm of God’s wrath is gathering; and those only will stand who respond to the invitations of mercy, as did the inhabitants of Nineveh under the preaching of Jonah, and become sanctified through obedience to the laws of the divine Ruler. The righteous alone shall be hid with Christ in God till the desolation be overpast.** Let the language of the soul be:(PK 278.2)

*“Other refuge have I none,  
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;  
Leave, O, leave me not alone!  
Still support and comfort me.(PK 278.3)  
“Hide me, O my Saviour, hide!  
Till the storm of life is past;  
Safe into the haven guide,  
O receive my soul at last!”(PK 278.4)*

(See also PK 714)

John in the Revelation foretells the proclamation of the gospel message just before Christ's second coming. He beholds an angel flying "in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come." [Revelation 14:6, 7](#).(COL 227.1}

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}

The Bible declares that in the last days men will be absorbed in worldly pursuits, in pleasure and money-getting. They will be blind to eternal realities. Christ says, "As the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." [Matthew 24:37-39](#).(COL 228.1}

So it is today. Men are rushing on in the chase for gain and selfish indulgence as if there were no God, no heaven, and no hereafter. In Noah's day the warning of the flood was sent to startle men in their wickedness and call them to repentance. So the message of Christ's soon coming is designed to arouse men from their absorption in worldly things. It is intended to awaken them to a sense of eternal realities, that they may give heed to the invitation to the Lord's table.(COL 228.2}

The gospel invitation is to be given to all the world—"to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." [Revelation 14:6](#). The last message of warning and mercy is to lighten the whole earth with its glory. It is to reach all classes of men, rich and poor, high and low. "Go out into the highways and hedges," Christ says, "and compel them to come in, that My house may be filled."(COL 228.3}

The world is perishing for want of the gospel. There is a famine for the word of God. There are few who preach the word unmixed with human tradition. Though men have the Bible in their hands, they do not receive the blessing that God has placed in it for them. The Lord calls upon His servants to carry His message to the people. The word of everlasting life must be given to those who are perishing in their sins. (COL 228.4}

In the command to go into the highways and hedges, Christ sets forth the work of all whom He calls to minister in His name. The whole world is the field for Christ's ministers. The whole human family is comprised in their congregation. The Lord desires that His word of grace shall be brought home to every soul.(COL 229.1}

To a great degree this must be accomplished by personal labor. This was Christ's method. His work was largely made up of personal interviews. He had a faithful regard for the one-soul audience. Through that one soul the message was often extended to thousands.(COL 229.2}

We are not to wait for souls to come to us; we must seek them out where they are. When the word has been preached in the pulpit, the work has but just begun. There are multitudes who will never be reached by the gospel unless it is carried to them.(COL 229

[An appeal made by Mrs. White in 1886. Written from Europe.] If we indeed have the truth for these last days, it must be carried to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. Erelong 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. Then they must now be warned; God's holy law must be vindicated, and held up before them as a mirror. To accomplish this work, means is needed. I know that times are hard, money is not plenty; but the truth must be spread, and money to spread it must be placed in the treasury....(CS 39.2)

The looker-on may discern no difference; but there is One who said that the tares were not to be plucked up by human hands lest the wheat be rooted up also. Let both grow together until the harvest. Then the Lord sends forth His reapers to gather out the tares and bind them in bundles to burn, while the wheat is gathered into the heavenly garner. 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 hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him." Those who have been obedient to God's commandments will unite with the company of the saints in light; they shall enter in through the gates into the city, and have right to the tree of life. The one shall be taken. His name shall stand in the book of life, while those with whom he associated shall have the mark of eternal separation from God.(TM 234.

Fear God = keep His commandments: Eccl 12:13

By the first angel, men are called upon to “fear God, and give glory to Him” and to worship Him as the Creator of the heavens and the earth. In order to do this, they must obey His law. Says the wise man: “Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.” [Ecclesiastes 12:13](#). Without obedience to His commandments no worship can be pleasing to God. “This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.” “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.” [1 John 5:3](#); [Proverbs 28:9](#). (GC 436.1)

The duty to worship God is based upon the fact that He is the Creator and that to Him all other beings owe their existence. And wherever, in the Bible, His claim to reverence and worship, above the gods of the heathen, is presented, there is cited the evidence of His creative power. “All the gods of the nations are idols: but the Lord made the heavens.” [Psalm 96:5](#). “To whom then will ye liken Me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things.” “Thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it: ... I am the Lord; and there is none else.” [Isaiah 40:25, 26; 45:18](#). Says the psalmist: “Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves.” “O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.” [Psalm 100:3; 95:6](#). And the holy beings who worship God in heaven state, as the reason why their homage is due to Him: “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for Thou hast created all things.” [Revelation 4:11](#). (GC 436)

The most fearful threatening ever addressed to mortals is contained in the third angel’s message. That must be a terrible sin which calls down the wrath of God unmingled with mercy. Men are not to be left in darkness concerning this important matter; the warning against this sin is to be given to the world before the visitation of God’s judgments, that all may know why they are to be inflicted, and have opportunity to escape them. Prophecy declares that the first angel would make his announcement to “every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.” The warning of the third angel, which forms a part of the same threefold message, is to be no less widespread. It is represented in the prophecy as being proclaimed with a loud voice, by an angel flying in the midst of heaven; and it will command the attention of the world. (GC 449)

### The Solidity of the Calculation

The preaching of a definite time for the judgment, in the giving of the first message, was ordered by God. The computation of the prophetic periods on which that message was based, placing the close of the 2300 days in the autumn of 1844, stands without impeachment. The repeated efforts to find new dates for the beginning and close of the prophetic periods, and the unsound reasoning necessary to sustain these positions, not only lead minds away from the present truth, but throw contempt upon all efforts to explain the prophecies. The more frequently a definite time is set for the second advent, and the more widely it is taught, the better it suits the purposes of Satan. After the time has passed, he excites ridicule and contempt of its advocates, and thus casts reproach upon the great advent movement of 1843 and 1844. Those who persist in this error will at last fix upon a date too far in the future for the coming of Christ. Thus they will be led to rest in a false security, and many will not be undeceived until it is too late. (GC 457)

## Child Preachers

The movement was chiefly among the lower class, and it was in the humble dwellings of the laborers that the people assembled to hear the warning. The child-preachers themselves were mostly poor cottagers. Some of them were not more than six or eight years of age; and while their lives testified that they loved the Saviour, and were trying to live in obedience to God's holy requirements, they ordinarily manifested only the intelligence and ability usually seen in children of that age. When standing before the people, however, it was evident that they were moved by an influence beyond their own natural gifts. Tone and manner changed, and with solemn power they gave the warning of the judgment, employing the very words of Scripture: "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come." They reproved the sins of the people, not only condemning immorality and vice, but rebuking worldliness and backsliding, and warning their hearers to make haste to flee from the wrath to come. (GC 366.3)

The people heard with trembling. The convicting Spirit of God spoke to their hearts. Many were led to search the Scriptures with new and deeper interest, the intemperate and immoral were reformed, others abandoned their dishonest practices, and a work was done so marked that even ministers of the state church were forced to acknowledge that the hand of God was in the movement.(GC 367.1)

## The last movement mightier than the first

The angel who unites in the proclamation of the third angel's message is to lighten the whole earth with his glory. A work of world-wide extent and unwonted power is here foretold. The advent movement of 1840-44 was a glorious manifestation of the power of God; the first angel's message was carried to every missionary station in the world, and in some countries there was the greatest religious interest which has been witnessed in any land since the Reformation of the sixteenth century; **but these are to be exceeded by the mighty movement under the last warning of the third angel.**(GC 611)

"Upon us is shining the accumulated light of past ages. The record of Israel's forgetfulness has been preserved for our enlightenment. In this age God has set His hand to gather unto Himself a people from every nation, kindred, and tongue. In the advent movement He has wrought for His heritage, even as He wrought for the Israelites in leading them from Egypt. In the great disappointment of 1844 the faith of His people was tested as was that of the Hebrews at the Red Sea. Had the Adventists in the early days still trusted to the guiding Hand that had been with them in their past experience, they would have seen of the salvation of God. If all who had labored unitedly in the work of 1844 had received the third angel's message and proclaimed it in the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lord would have wrought mightily with their efforts. A flood of light would have been shed upon the world. Years ago the inhabitants of the earth would have been warned, the closing work would have been completed, and Christ would have come for the redemption of His people." (8T 115)

## Now is the time to work!

Recently in the night season, my mind was impressed by the Holy Spirit with the thought that if the Lord is coming as soon as we believe He is, we ought to be even more active than we have been in years past in getting the truth before the people. (2SM 402.3)

In this connection my mind reverted to the activity of the Advent believers in 1843 and 1844. At that time there was much house-to-house visitation, and untiring efforts were made to warn the people of the things that are spoken of in God's Word. We should be putting forth even greater effort than was put forth by those who proclaimed the first angel's message so faithfully. We are rapidly approaching the end of this earth's history; and as we realize that Jesus is indeed coming soon, we shall be aroused to labor as never before. We are bidden to sound an alarm to the people. And in our own lives we are to show forth the power of truth and righteousness. The world is soon to meet the great Lawgiver over His broken law. Those only who turn from transgression to obedience can hope for pardon and peace. (2SM 402)

### The Hour of His Judgement

In the typical system, which was a shadow of the sacrifice and priesthood of Christ, the cleansing of the sanctuary was the last service performed by the high priest in the yearly round of ministration. It was the closing work of the atonement—a removal or putting away of sin from Israel. It prefigured the closing work in the ministration of our High Priest in heaven, in the removal or blotting out of the sins of His people, which are registered in the heavenly records. This service involves a work of investigation, a work of judgment; and it immediately precedes the coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory; for when He comes, every case has been decided. Says Jesus: "My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Revelation 22:12. It is this work of judgment, immediately preceding the second advent, that is announced in the first angel's message of Revelation 14:7: "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come." (GC 352)

A Great religious awakening under the proclamation of Christ's soon coming is foretold in the prophecy of the first angel's message of Revelation 14. An angel is seen flying "in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." "With a loud voice" he proclaims the message: "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." Verses 6, 7. (GC 355.1)

The fact that an angel is said to be the herald of this warning is significant. By the purity, the glory, and the power of the heavenly messenger, divine wisdom has been pleased to represent the exalted character of the work to be accomplished by the message and the power and glory that were to attend it. And the angel's flight "in the midst of heaven," the "loud voice" with which the warning is uttered, and its promulgation to all "that dwell on the earth,"—"to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,"—give evidence of the rapidity and world-wide extent of the movement. (GC 355.2)

The message itself sheds light as to the time when this movement is to take place. It is declared to be a part of the "everlasting gospel;" and it announces the opening of the judgment. The message of salvation

has been preached in all ages; but this message is a part of the gospel which could be proclaimed only in the last days, for only then would it be true that the hour of judgment *had come*. The prophecies present a succession of events leading down to the opening of the judgment. This is especially true of the book of Daniel. But that part of his prophecy which related to the last days, Daniel was bidden to close up and seal “to the time of the end.” Not till we reach this time could a message concerning the judgment be proclaimed, based on the fulfillment of these prophecies. But at the time of the end, says the prophet, “many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” [Daniel 12:4](#). (GC 355)

The Hour of His Judgement = 1844 and Christ’s ministry in the Most Holy Place

Dan 7:13; 8:14; Mal 3:1

### Historical Marker

To William Miller and his collaborators 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. Many were convinced that the arguments from the prophetic periods were correct, and, sacrificing their pride of opinion, they joyfully received the truth. Some ministers laid aside their sectarian views and feelings, left their salaries and their churches, and united in proclaiming the coming of Jesus. There were comparatively few ministers, however, who would accept this message; therefore it was largely committed to humble laymen. Farmers left their fields, mechanics their tools, traders their merchandise, professional men their positions; and yet the number of workers was small in comparison with the work to be accomplished. The condition of an ungodly church and a world lying in wickedness, burdened the souls of the true watchmen, and they willingly endured toil, privation, and suffering, that they might call men to repentance unto salvation. Though opposed by Satan, the work went steadily forward, and the advent truth was accepted by many thousands. (GC 368.2)

### The Purpose and Result of the Message

The first angel’s message of [Revelation 14](#), announcing the hour of God’s judgment and calling upon men to fear and worship Him, was designed to separate the professed people of God from the corrupting influences of the world and to arouse them to see their true condition of worldliness and backsliding. In this message, God has sent to the church a warning, which, had it been accepted, would have corrected the evils that were shutting them away from Him. Had they received the message from heaven, humbling their hearts before the Lord and seeking in sincerity a preparation to stand in His presence, the Spirit and power of God would have been manifested among them. The church would again have reached that blessed state

of unity, faith, and love which existed in apostolic days, when the believers “were of one heart and of one soul,” and “spake the word of God with boldness,” when “the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” Acts 4:32, 31; 2:47.(GC 379.1}

If God’s professed people would receive the light as it shines upon them from His word, they would reach that unity for which Christ prayed, that which the apostle describes, “the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” “There is,” he says, “one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism.” Ephesians 4:3-5.(GC 379.2}

Such were the blessed results experienced by those who accepted the advent message. They came from different denominations, and their denominational barriers were hurled to the ground; conflicting creeds were shivered to atoms; the unscriptural hope of a temporal millennium was abandoned, false views of the second advent were corrected, pride and conformity to the world were swept away; wrongs were made right; hearts were united in the sweetest fellowship, and love and joy reigned supreme. If this doctrine did this for the few who did receive it, it would have done the same for all if all had received it. (GC 379

## The 2nd Commandment: Gateway to the Ten!

**“All false worship is spiritual adultery. The second precept, which forbids** false worship, is also a command to worship God, and Him only serve. The Lord is a jealous God. He will not be trifled with. He has spoken concerning the manner in which He should be worshiped. He has a hatred of idolatry, for its influence is corrupting. It debases the mind, and leads to sensuality and all kinds of sin. **(2SAT 184**

## The Central Role of the Sabbath

**Had the Sabbath been universally kept,** man’s thoughts and affections would have been led to the Creator as the object of reverence and worship, and there would never have been an idolater, an atheist, or an infidel. GC 437

The keeping of the Sabbath is a sign of loyalty to the true God, “Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” It follows that the message which commands men to worship God and keep His commandments will especially call upon them to keep the fourth commandment. GC 438

Fulfillment of the prophecies of Isa 6:3; 35:2:

“Today this prophecy is meeting rapid fulfillment. The missionary activities of the church of God on earth are bearing rich fruitage, and soon the gospel message will have been proclaimed to all nations.” PK 314

## The Reason for the Great Disappointment: God created a Readiness among His People

**I saw the disappointment of the trusting ones, as they did not see their Lord** at the expected time. It had been God’s purpose to conceal the future and to bring His people to a point of decision. Without the preaching of definite time for the coming of Christ, the work designed of God would not have been accomplished. Satan was leading very many to look far in the future for the great events connected with the judgment and the end of probation. It was necessary that the people be brought to seek earnestly for a present preparation. **(EW 246.2}**

## The Three Angels’ Message in a Nutshell

To prepare a people to stand in the day of God, a great work of reform was to be accomplished. God saw that many of His professed people were not building for eternity, and in His mercy He was about to

send a message of warning to arouse them from their stupor and lead them to make ready for the coming of the Lord.(GC 311.2)

This warning is brought to view in Revelation 14. Here is a threefold message represented as proclaimed by heavenly beings and immediately followed by the coming of the Son of man to reap “the harvest of the earth.” The first of these warnings announces the approaching judgment. The prophet beheld an angel flying “in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” Revelation 14:6, 7.(GC 311.3)

This message is declared to be a part of “the everlasting gospel.” The work of preaching the gospel has not been committed to angels, but has been entrusted to men. Holy angels have been employed in directing this work, they have in charge the great movements for the salvation of men; but the actual proclamation of the gospel is performed by the servants of Christ upon the earth.(GC 312.1)

Faithful men, who were obedient to the promptings of God’s Spirit and the teachings of His word, were to proclaim this warning to the world. They were those who had taken heed to the “sure word of prophecy,” the “light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the daystar arise.” 2 Peter 1:19. They had been seeking the knowledge of God more than all hid treasures, counting it “better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.” Proverbs 3:14. And the Lord revealed to them the great things of the kingdom. “The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him; and He will show them His covenant.” Psalm 25:14.(GC 312.2)

It was not the scholarly theologians who had an understanding of this truth, and engaged in its proclamation. Had these been faithful watchmen, diligently and prayerfully searching the Scriptures, they would have known the time of night; the prophecies would have opened to them the events about to take place. But they did not occupy this position, and the message was given by humbler men. Said Jesus: “Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you.” John 12:35. Those who turn away from the light which God has given, or who neglect to seek it when it is within their reach, are left in darkness. But the Saviour declares: “He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” John 8:12. Whoever is with singleness of purpose seeking to do God’s will, earnestly heeding the light already given, will receive greater light; to that soul some star of heavenly radiance will be sent to guide him into all truth.(GC 312)

### The First Angel’s Message - A Historical Description and Perspective

*as retold by Ellen White, Early Writings pp. 232-237*

#### *The First Angel’s Message*

[See Appendix.]

I saw that God was in the proclamation of the time in 1843. It was His design to arouse the people and bring them to a testing point, where they should decide for or against the truth. Ministers were convinced of the correctness of the positions taken on the prophetic periods, and some renounced their pride, and left their salaries and their churches to go forth from place to place to give the message. But as the

message from heaven could find a place in the hearts of but few of the professed ministers of Christ, the work was laid upon many who were not preachers. Some left their fields to sound the message, while others were called from their shops and their merchandise. And even some professional men were compelled to leave their professions to engage in the unpopular work of giving the first angel's message. (EW 232.2)

Ministers laid aside their sectarian views and feelings and united in proclaiming the coming of Jesus. Wherever the message was given, it moved the people. Sinners repented, wept, and prayed for forgiveness, and those whose lives had been marked with dishonesty were anxious to make restitution. Parents felt the deepest solicitude for their children. Those who received the message labored with their unconverted friends and relatives, and with their souls bowed with the weight of the solemn message, warned and entreated them to prepare for the coming of the Son of man. Those cases were most hardened that would not yield to such a weight of evidence set home by heartfelt warnings. This soul-purifying work led the affections away from worldly things to a consecration never before experienced. (EW 232.3)

Thousands were led to embrace the truth preached by William Miller, and servants of God were raised up in the spirit and power of Elijah to proclaim the message. Like John, the forerunner of Jesus, those who preached this solemn message felt compelled to lay the ax at the root of the tree, and call upon men to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. Their testimony was calculated to arouse and powerfully affect the churches and manifest their real character. And as the solemn warning to flee from the wrath to come was sounded, many who were united with the churches received the healing message; they saw their backslidings, and with bitter tears of repentance and deep agony of soul, humbled themselves before God. And as the Spirit of God rested upon them, they helped to sound the cry, "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come." (EW 233.1)

The preaching of definite time called forth great opposition from all classes, from the minister in the pulpit down to the most reckless, heaven-daring sinner. "No man knoweth the day nor the hour," was heard from the hypocritical minister and the bold scoffer. Neither would be instructed and corrected by those who were pointing to the year when they believed the prophetic periods would run out, and to the signs which showed Christ near, even at the doors. Many shepherds of the flock, who professed to love Jesus, said that they had no opposition to the preaching of Christ's coming, but they objected to the definite time. God's all-seeing eye read their hearts. They did not love Jesus near. They knew that their unchristian lives would not stand the test, for they were not walking in the humble path marked out by Him. These false shepherds stood in the way of the work of God. The truth spoken in its convincing power aroused the people, and like the jailer, they began to inquire, "What must I do to be saved?" But these shepherds stepped in between the truth and the people, and preached smooth things to lead them from the truth. They united with Satan and his angels, crying, "Peace, peace," when there was no peace. Those who loved their ease and were content with their distance from God would not be aroused from their carnal security. I saw that angels of God marked it all; the garments of those unconsecrated shepherds were covered with the blood of souls. (EW 233.2)

Ministers who would not accept this saving message themselves hindered those who would have received it. The blood of souls is upon them. Preachers and people joined to oppose this message from heaven and to persecute William Miller and those who united with him in the work. Falsehoods were circulated to injure his influence; and at different times after he had plainly declared the counsel of God, applying cutting truths to the hearts of his hearers, great rage was kindled against him, and as he left the

place of meeting, some waylaid him in order to take his life. But angels of God were sent to protect him, and they led him safely away from the angry mob. His work was not yet finished.(EW 234.1}

The most devoted gladly received the message. They knew that it was from God and that it was delivered at the right time. Angels were watching with the deepest interest the result of the heavenly message, and when the churches turned from and rejected it, they in sadness consulted with Jesus. He turned His face from the churches and bade His angels faithfully watch over the precious ones who did not reject the testimony, for another light was yet to shine upon them.(EW 235.1}

I saw that if professed Christians had loved their Saviour's appearing, if they had placed their affections on Him, and had felt that there was none upon the earth to be compared with Him, they would have hailed with joy the first intimation of His coming. But the dislike which they manifested, as they heard of their Lord's coming, was a decided proof that they did not love Him. Satan and his angels triumphed, and cast it in the face of Christ and His holy angels, that His professed people had so little love for Jesus that they did not desire His second appearing.(EW 235.2}

I saw the people of God joyful in expectation, looking for their Lord. But God designed to prove them. His hand covered a mistake in the reckoning of the prophetic periods. Those who were looking for their Lord did not discover this mistake, and the most learned men who opposed the time also failed to see it. God designed that His people should meet with a disappointment. The time passed, and those who had looked with joyful expectation for their Saviour were sad and disheartened, while those who had not loved the appearing of Jesus, but embraced the message through fear, were pleased that He did not come at the time of expectation. Their profession had not affected the heart and purified the life. The passing of the time was well calculated to reveal such hearts. They were the first to turn and ridicule the sorrowful, disappointed ones who really loved the appearing of their Saviour. I saw the wisdom of God in proving His people and giving them a searching test to discover those who would shrink and turn back in the hour of trial. (EW 235.3}

Jesus and all the heavenly host looked with sympathy and love upon those who had with sweet expectation longed to see Him whom their souls loved. Angels were hovering around them, to sustain them in the hour of their trial. Those who had neglected to receive the heavenly message were left in darkness, and God's anger was kindled against them, because they would not receive the light which He had sent them from heaven. Those faithful, disappointed ones, who could not understand why their Lord did not come, were not left in darkness. Again they were led to their Bibles to search the prophetic periods. The hand of the Lord was removed from the figures, and the mistake was explained. They saw that the prophetic periods reached to 1844, and that the same evidence which they had presented to show that the prophetic periods closed in 1843, proved that they would terminate in 1844. Light from the Word of God shone upon their position, and they discovered a tarrying time—"Though it [the vision] tarry, wait for it." In their love for Christ's immediate coming, they had overlooked the tarrying of the vision, which was calculated to manifest the true waiting ones. Again they had a point of time. Yet I saw that many of them could not rise above their severe disappointment to possess that degree of zeal and energy which had marked their faith in 1843.(EW 236.1}

Satan and his angels triumphed over them, and those who would not receive the message congratulated themselves upon their farseeing judgment and wisdom in not receiving the delusion, as they called it. They did not realize that they were rejecting the counsel of God against themselves, and were working in union

with Satan and his angels to perplex God's people, who were living out the heaven-sent message. (EW 236.2}

The believers in this message were oppressed in the churches. For a time, those who would not receive the message were restrained by fear from acting out the sentiments of their hearts; but the passing of the time revealed their true feelings. They wished to silence the testimony which the waiting ones felt compelled to bear, that the prophetic periods extended to 1844. With clearness the believers explained their mistake and gave the reasons why they expected their Lord in 1844. Their opposers could bring no arguments against the powerful reasons offered. Yet the anger of the churches was kindled; they were determined not to listen to evidence, and to shut the testimony out of the churches, so the others could not hear it. Those who dared not withhold from others the light which God had given them, were shut out of the churches; but Jesus was with them, and they were joyful in the light of His countenance. They were prepared to receive the message of the second angel. (EW 237.1}

### Revelation 14:8

Καὶ ἄλ λ ο ς ἄ γ γ ε λ ο ς ἠ κ ο λ ο ῦ θ η σ ε , λ ἔ γ ω ν , Ἔ π ε σ ε ν ἔ π ε σ ε  
Β α β υ λ ὶ ο ν ἢ π ὁ λ ι σ ῆ μ ε γ ἄ λ η , ὅ τ ι ἐ κ τ ο ῦ ο ἴ ν ο υ τ ο ῦ θ υ μ ο ῦ τ ῆ ς  
π ο ρ ν ε ί α ς α ὔ τ ῆ ς π ε π ὴ ρ ι κ ε π ἅ ν τ α ἔ θ ν η

Observations:

- global (all nations)
- an alliteration on pi!
- Babylon: Hebr. *balal* to confuse (Gen 11:9)  
Judg 9:35; Ruth 4:1; 1 Kgs 22:10; Jer 22:3
- founded by Nimrod (Gen 10:10; 11:1-9)
- 1 Pet 5:13!
- Sibylline Oracles, pseudepigraphical Jewish book: "In widowhood shalt thou sit beside thy banks. . . . But thou hast said, I am unique, and none shall bring ruin on me. But now God . . . shall destroy thee and all of thine").

also in 2 Baruch 11:1

also in Midrash Rabbah SS 1:6 "They called the place Rome Babylon"

Tertullian: *Against Marcion* iii. 13; *Answer to the Jews* 9; Irenaeus *Against Heresies* v. 26.1

Talmud *Makkoth* 12a,

- is fallen: 2x Isa 21:9
- made drink: coercion
- fornication: church and state (Eze 16:15; James 4:4)

**Direct definition by Ellen White:**

In the professedly Christian world many turn away from the plain teachings of the Bible and build up a creed from human speculations and pleasing fables, and they point to their tower as a way to climb up to heaven. Men hang with admiration upon the lips of eloquence while it teaches that the transgressor shall not die, that salvation may be secured without obedience to the law of God. If the professed followers of Christ would accept God's standard, it would bring them into unity; but so long as human wisdom is exalted above His Holy Word, there will be divisions and dissension. The existing confusion of conflicting creeds and sects is fitly represented by the term "Babylon," which prophecy (**Revelation 14:8; 18:2**) applies to the world-loving churches of the last days. (PP 124

Church not Babylon: TM 20-23

The second angel's message of **Revelation 14** was first preached in the summer of 1844, and it then had a more direct application to the churches of the United States, where the warning of the judgment had been most widely proclaimed and most generally rejected, and where the declension in the churches had been most rapid. But the message of the second angel did not reach its complete fulfillment in 1844. The churches then experienced a moral fall, in consequence of their refusal of the light of the advent message; but that fall was not complete. As they have continued to reject the special truths for this time they have fallen lower and lower. Not yet, however, can it be said that "Babylon is fallen,... because she made *all nations* drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." She has not yet made all nations do this. The spirit of world conforming and indifference to the testing truths for our time exists and has been gaining ground in churches of the Protestant faith in all the countries of Christendom; and these churches are included in the solemn and terrible denunciation of the second angel. But the work of apostasy has not yet reached its culmination. (GC 389.2)

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

This scripture points forward to a time when the announcement of the fall of Babylon, as made by the second angel of **Revelation 14 (verse 8)**, is to be repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the various organizations that constitute Babylon, since that message was first given, in the summer of 1844. A terrible condition of the religious world is here described. With every rejection of truth the minds of the people will become darker, their hearts more stubborn, until they are entrenched in an infidel hardihood. In defiance of the warnings which God has given, they will continue to trample upon one of the precepts of the Decalogue, until they are led to persecute those who hold it sacred. Christ is set at nought in the contempt placed upon His word and His people. As the teachings of spiritualism are accepted by the churches, the restraint imposed upon the carnal heart is removed, and the profession of religion will become a cloak to conceal the basest iniquity. A belief in spiritual manifestations

opens the door to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and thus the influence of evil angels will be felt in the churches. (GC 603.2)

Of Babylon, at the time brought to view in this prophecy, it is declared: "Her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." [Revelation 18:5](#). She has filled up the measure of her guilt, and destruction is about to fall upon her. But God still has a people in Babylon; and before the visitation of His judgments these faithful ones must be called out, that they partake not of her sins and "receive not of her plagues." Hence the movement symbolized by the angel coming down from heaven, lightening the earth with his glory and crying mightily with a strong voice, announcing the sins of Babylon. In connection with his message the call is heard: "Come out of her, My people." These announcements, uniting with the third angel's message, constitute the final warning to be given to the inhabitants of the earth. (GC 604.1)

Fearful is the issue to which the world is to be brought. The powers of earth, uniting to war against the commandments of God, will decree that "all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond" ([Revelation 13:16](#)), shall conform to the customs of the church by the observance of the false sabbath. All who refuse compliance will be visited with civil penalties, and it will finally be declared that they are deserving of death. On the other hand, the law of God enjoining the Creator's rest day demands obedience and threatens wrath against all who transgress its precepts. (GC 604.2)

With the issue thus clearly brought before him, whoever shall trample upon God's law to obey a human enactment receives the mark of the beast; he accepts the sign of allegiance to the power which he chooses to obey instead of God. The warning from heaven is: "If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation." [Revelation 14:9, 10](#). (GC 604.3)

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. Everyone is to have sufficient light to make his decision intelligently. (GC 605.1)

The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty, for it is the point of truth especially controverted. When the final test shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve Him not. While the observance of the false sabbath in compliance with the law of the state, contrary to the fourth commandment, will be an avowal of allegiance to a power that is in opposition to God, the keeping of the true Sabbath, in obedience to God's law, is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator. While one class, by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, receive the mark of the beast, the other choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive the seal of God. (GC 605)

### In a nutshell

GC 381 "The term "Babylon" is derived from "Babel," and signifies confusion. It is employed in Scripture to designate the various forms of false or apostate religion."

Satan and his angels are wide awake and intensely active, working with energy and perseverance through human instrumentalities to bring about his purpose of obliterating from the minds of men the knowledge

of God. But while Satan works with his lying wonders, the time will be fulfilled foretold in the Revelation, and the mighty angel that shall lighten the earth with his glory will proclaim the fall of Babylon, and call upon God's people to forsake her (The Review and Herald, December 13, 1892).(7BC 985.2}

(Revelation 14:8.) Part of a Series of Events—The message in regard to the fall of Babylon must be given. God's people are to understand in regard to the angel who is to lighten the whole world with his glory, while he cries mightily, with a loud voice, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen." The solemn events which are now taking place belong to a series of events in the chain of history, the first link of which is connected with Eden. Let the people of God prepare for what is coming upon the earth. Extravagance in the use of means, selfishness, heresies, have taken the world captive. For centuries satanic agencies have been at work. Will they now give up without a struggle (Manuscript 172, 1899)?(7BC 985.3}

(Matthew 15:9; 21:11, 12; John 2:13-16; see EGW comment on Revelation 6:9.) Two Calls to the Churches—[Revelation 18:1, 2 quoted.] This is the same message that was given by the second angel. Babylon is fallen, "because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." What is that wine?—her false doctrines. She has given to the world a false sabbath instead of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and has repeated the falsehood that Satan first told to Eve in Eden—the natural immortality of the soul. Many kindred errors she has spread far and wide, "teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."(7BC 985.4}

When Jesus began His public ministry, He cleansed the temple from its sacrilegious profanation. Among the last acts of His ministry was the second cleansing of the temple. So in the last work for the warning of the world, two distinct calls are made to the churches. The second angel's message is, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." And in the loud cry of the third angel's message a voice is heard from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities" (The Review and Herald, December 6, 1892).(7BC 985.5}

Three Messages to Be Combined—The three angels' messages are to be combined, giving their threefold light to the world. In the Revelation, John says, "I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory." [Revelation 18:2-5 quoted.] This represents the giving of the last and threefold message of warning to the world (Manuscript 52, 1900).(7BC 985.6}

1-8 (see EGW comment on Revelation 14:9-12). Danger in Worldly Alliances—[Revelation 18:1-8 quoted.] This terrible picture, drawn by John to show how completely the powers of earth will give themselves over to evil, should show those who have received the truth how dangerous it is to link up with secret societies or to join themselves in any way with those who do not keep God's commandments (Manuscript 135, 1902).(7BC 985.7}

"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.'" Ev 559

"The churches, represented by Babylon, are represented as having fallen from their spiritual state to become a persecuting power against those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Ev 197

“Canvassers, remember that in the books you handle you are presenting, not the cup containing the wine of Babylon, doctrines of error dealt to the kings of the earth, but the cup full of the preciousness of the truths of redemption” (6T 317).

### The Wine of the Wrath of Her Fornication

If we do our very best to present the truth in its stirring character, crossing the opinions and ideas of others, it will be misinterpreted, misapplied, and misstated, to those who are entertaining error, in order to make it appear in an objectionable light. There are few to whom you bring the truth, who have not been drinking of the wine of Babylon. It is hard for them to comprehend the truth, therefore the necessity of teaching it as it is in Jesus. **(1SM 405.1)**

Those who claim to be lovers of truth can afford to be meek and lowly of heart, as was the Great Teacher. Those who have been diligently working in the mines of God’s Word, and have discovered the precious ore in the rich veins of truth, in the divine mysteries that have been hidden for ages, will exalt the Lord Jesus, the Source of all truth, by revealing in their characters the sanctifying power of what they believe. Jesus and His grace must be enshrined in the inner sanctuary of the soul. Then He will be revealed in words, in prayer, in exhortation, in the presentation of sacred truth, for this is the great secret of spiritual success. **(1SM 405.2)**

When self is woven into our labors, then the truth we bear to others does not sanctify, refine, and ennoble our own hearts; it will not testify that we are fit vessels for the Master’s use. It is only through fervent prayer that we may hold sweet fellowship with Jesus, and through this blessed communion the words and the spirit are made fragrant with the spirit of Christ. There is not a heart that will not bear watching. Jesus, the precious Saviour, enjoined watchfulness. The oversight of self must not be relaxed for a moment. The heart must be kept with diligence, for out of it are the issues of life. Watch and discipline the thoughts, that you may not sin with your lips. **(1SM 405.3)**

### The Wine of Babylon in a Nutshell

**The wine of Babylon is the exalting of the false and spurious sabbath above the Sabbath which the Lord Jehovah hath blessed and sanctified for the use of man, also [it is] the immortality of the soul. These kindred heresies, and the rejection of the truth, convert the church into Babylon. Kings, merchants, rulers, and religious teachers are all in corrupt harmony. (2SM 68)**

“This cup of intoxication which she presents to the world represents the false doctrines that she has accepted as the result of her unlawful connection with the great ones of the earth. Friendship with the world corrupts her faith, and in her turn she exerts a corrupting influence upon the world by teaching doctrines which are opposed to the plainest statements of Holy Writ.” GC 388

“Were it not that the world is hopelessly intoxicated with the wine of Babylon, multitudes would be convicted and converted by the plain, cutting truths of the word of God” (GC 389)

“The theory of eternal torment is one of the false doctrines that constitute the wine of the abomination of Babylon, of which she makes all nations drink. . . . If we turn from the testimony of God’s word, and accept

false doctrines because our fathers taught them, we fall under the condemnation pronounced upon Babylon; we are drinking of the wine of her abomination." GC 536-537

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 immortality 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

### Coercion

The so-called Christian world is to be the theater of great and decisive actions. Men in authority will enact laws controlling the conscience, after the example of the papacy. Babylon will make all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. Every nation will be involved ... [Revelation 18:3-7 quoted] (Manuscript 24, 1891).{7BC 949.11}

"God has a controversy with the churches of today. They are fulfilling the prophecy of John. . . . They have divorced themselves from God by refusing to receive His sign." 7BC 979 (Lt 98, 1900).

### The Man of Sin

"The man of sin thinks himself able to change the times and the laws of God, and the Protestant world have accepted the authority of the papal power, and in so doing have apostatized from God. All nations have been made drunk by partaking of the wine of Babylon, by accepting the presumptuous work of the man of sin, who has tampered with the law of God, and thought to change the precepts of Jehovah." ST Nov. 14, 1895

"The human family have been made drunk with the wine of Babylon, and drunken men will not reason. They have taken large drafts of Satan's sophistry, and they are determined that they will not see the foolishness of accepting another standard, while casting aside the law of the Lord of hosts." ST NOV 14, 1895

**True sanctification is found in yielding the will to the will of God, in rendering** obedience to his commandments, and in making his standard of righteousness the aim of our life. If men would consent to follow the Lord fully, if they were not confused with the wine of Babylon, they would see that to tamper with the Lord's standard, to depart from his commandments, is the worst species of rebellion. This is well represented as the wine of the wrath of the abomination of Babylon, the cup which she has presented to all nations to drink. Were it not for this, thousands, yes, millions, would be found in the path cast up for the ransomed of the Lord to walk in. But the will of God, expressed in his law, the direction which he has given to guide men in the path to heaven, is authoritative and divine. We have more than a royal road to heaven, we have a divine pathway in which to travel. The opinions of men are not to weigh as amendments to the law of God; for the law of God is the expression of the will and mind of God, of him who is unchanging in counsel. The precepts of the law are not given to the human family as propositions to criticize. They are the positive declarations and decisions of an infallible Judge, and they will stand through eternal ages. They are

the very laws that will test character, by which we are to be judged for the deeds done in the body. Who hath bewitched you, that you who are finite by nature, who are sinful and erring, should presume to handle the law of God in the manner in which you do? How is it that you think yourselves at liberty to cancel the decisions of Jehovah, to remove the ancient landmarks, and substitute in place of the true guideboards false waymarks that will lead men to follow the path of the first great apostate in place of following Jesus Christ? God has not left his law to be endorsed, reviled, or annulled according to the pleasure of his creatures. The wise man declares the true attitude of man to the law, and says: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." (ST November 14, 1895, par. 9)

### *The Second Angel's Message*

[see [Appendix.](#)]

As the churches refused to receive the first angel's message, they rejected the light from heaven and fell from the favor of God. They trusted to their own strength, and by opposing the first message placed themselves where they could not see the light of the second angel's message. But the beloved of God, who were oppressed, accepted the message, "Babylon is fallen," and left the churches. (EW 237.2)

Near the close of the second angel's message, [see [Appendix.](#)] I saw a great light from heaven shining upon the people of God. The rays of this light seemed bright as the sun. And I heard the voices of angels crying, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him!" (EW 238.1)

This was the midnight cry, which was to give power to the second angel's message. Angels were sent from heaven to arouse the discouraged saints and prepare them for the great work before them. The most talented men were not the first to receive this message. Angels were sent to the humble, devoted ones, and constrained them to raise the cry, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him!" Those entrusted with the cry made haste, and in the power of the Holy Spirit sounded the message, and aroused their discouraged brethren. This work did not stand in the wisdom and learning of men, but in the power of God, and His saints who heard the cry could not resist it. The most spiritual received this message first, and those who had formerly led in the work were the last to receive and help swell the cry, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him!" (EW 238.2)

In every part of the land, light was given upon the second angel's message, and the cry melted the hearts of thousands. It went from city to city, and from village to village, until the waiting people of God were fully aroused. In many churches the message was not permitted to be given, and a large company who had the living testimony left these fallen churches. A mighty work was accomplished by the midnight cry. The message was heart-searching, leading the believers to seek a living experience for themselves. They knew that they could not lean upon one another. (EW 238.3)

The saints anxiously waited for their Lord with fasting, watching, and almost constant prayer. Even some sinners looked forward to the time with terror; but the great mass manifested the spirit of Satan in their opposition to the message. They mocked and scoffed, repeating everywhere, "No man knoweth the day nor the hour." Evil angels urged them on to harden their hearts and to reject every ray of light from heaven, that they might be fastened in the snare of Satan. Many who professed to be looking for Christ had no part in the work of the message. The glory of God which they had witnessed, the humility and deep devotion of the waiting ones, and the overwhelming weight of evidence, caused them to profess to receive the truth; but they had not been converted; they were not ready for the coming of their Lord. (EW 238.4)

A spirit of solemn and earnest prayer was everywhere felt by the saints. A holy solemnity was resting upon them. Angels were watching with the deepest interest the effect of the message, and were elevating those who received it, and drawing them from earthly things to obtain large supplies from salvation's fountain. God's people were then accepted of Him. Jesus looked upon them with pleasure, for His image was reflected in them. They had made a full sacrifice, an entire consecration, and expected to be changed to immortality. But they were destined again to be sadly disappointed. The time to which they looked, expecting deliverance, passed; they were still upon the earth, and the effects of the curse never seemed more visible. They had placed their affections on heaven, and in sweet anticipation had tasted immortal deliverance; but their hopes were not realized. (EW 239.1)

The fear that had rested upon many of the people did not at once disappear; they did not immediately triumph over the disappointed ones. But as no visible tokens of God's wrath appeared, they recovered from the fear which they had felt and commenced their ridicule and scoffing. The people of God were again proved and tested. The world laughed and mocked and reproached them; and those who had believed without a doubt that Jesus would ere then have come to raise the dead, and change the living saints, and take the kingdom, to possess it forever, felt as did the disciples at the sepulcher of Christ, "They have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him." (EW 239.2)

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