

THE CROSS AND THE 3 ANGELS' MESSAGE

The Final Moment of Christ and the Final Message of the Church

*The 3 Angels' Message of Revelation 14 fueled the Advent movement.
It is the Gospel for the last days - the final message for the final movement.*

Revelation 14. This is it. This is the message. This will end it all; this will begin all of it.

- "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).
- "These truths, as presented in Revelation 14 in connection with "the everlasting gospel," will distinguish the church of Christ at the time of His appearing. . . . And this message is the last to be given before the coming of the Lord" (GC 453-454).
- "The third angel's message, the great testing truth for this time, is to be taught in all our institutions" (6T 128).
- "The third angel's message is to be given to our world in clear, distinct lines. The third angel's message is to be at this time regarded as of the highest importance. It is a life and death question" (Lt 28, 1900/SDABC 7:980).
- "The third angel's message means far more than we take it to mean. We should search to find out all that is possible concerning this solemn message. The earth is to be lightened with its glory. The angels of God will even now go through our land to arouse the minds of the people if we will co-operate with them; but sad indeed is the fact that we are far behind the providences of God, and the work that ought to be done to send the rays of truth to those who sit in darkness is undone...." (CT 140).
- "He designs that the medical missionary work shall prepare the way for the presentation of the saving truth for this time,—the proclamation of the third angel's message. If this design is met, the message will not be eclipsed nor its progress hindered" (6T 293).
- "December 10, 1871, I was again shown that the health reform is one branch of the great work which is to fit a people for the coming of the Lord. It is as closely connected with the third angel's message as the hand is with the body. The law of ten commandments has been lightly regarded by man; but the Lord would not come to punish the transgressors of that law without first sending them a message of warning. The third angel proclaims that message. Had men ever been obedient to the law of ten commandments, carrying out in their lives the principles of those precepts, the curse of disease now flooding the world would not be" (3T 161, 162).
- "The question was asked, "Do you believe the truth? do you believe the third angel's message? If you do believe, then act your faith." ... Probationary time will not permit of long-protracted years of drill. God calls; hear His voice as He says, "Go work today in My vineyard." Matthew 21:28. Now, just now, is the time to work...." (CT 415).
- "The message of the fall of Babylon, as given by the second angel, is repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the churches since 1844. The work of this angel comes in at the right time to join in the last great work of the third angel's message as it swells to a loud cry. And the people of God are thus prepared to stand in the hour of temptation, which they are soon to meet. I saw a great light resting upon them, and they united to fearlessly proclaim the third angel's message" (EW 277).
- "I was pointed down to the time when the third angel's message was closing. The power of God had rested upon His people; they had accomplished their work and were prepared for the trying hour before them. They had received the latter rain, or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, and the living testimony had been revived. The last great warning had sounded everywhere, and it

- had stirred up and enraged the inhabitants of the earth who would not receive the message" (EW 279).
- "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" (EW 299).
 - "This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angel's message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure" (Ev 190).
 - "Those who would labor in word and doctrine, should be firmly established in the truth before they are authorized to go out into the field to teach others. The truth, pure and unadulterated, must be presented to the people. It is the third angel's message that bears the true test to the people. Satan will lead men to manufacture false tests, and thus seek to obscure the value of, and make of none effect, the message of truth" (Ev 211).
 - "Of all professing Christians, Seventh-day Adventists should be foremost in uplifting Christ before the world. The proclamation of the third angel's message calls for the presentation of the Sabbath truth. This truth, with others included in the message, is to be proclaimed; but the great center of attraction, Christ Jesus, must not be left out. It is at the cross of Christ that mercy and truth meet together, and righteousness and peace kiss each other. The sinner must be led to look to Calvary; with the simple faith of a little child he must trust in the merits of the Saviour, accepting His righteousness, believing in His mercy" (GW 156).
 - "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).
 - "These announcements, uniting with the third angel's message, constitute the final warning to be given to the inhabitants of the earth" (GC 604).
 - "The work will be similar to that of the Day of Pentecost" (GC 611).
 - "When the third angel's message closes, mercy no longer pleads for the guilty inhabitants of the earth. The people of God have accomplished their work. They have received "the latter rain," "the refreshing from the presence of the Lord," and they are prepared for the trying hour before them. Angels are hastening to and fro in heaven. An angel returning from the earth announces that his work is done; the final test has been brought upon the world, and all who have proved themselves loyal to the divine precepts have received "the seal of the living God." Then Jesus ceases His intercession in the sanctuary above. He lifts His hands and with a loud voice says, "It is done" (GC 613).

The Final Moments of Christ and the Final Message of the Church

"Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people— 7 saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water" (Rev 14:6-7).

Fear God

"Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation [judgment]?" (Luke 23:40)

Matthew: "Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing" (Mt 27:44). Mark: Isaiah 53:12: *"With Him they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other*

on His left. So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with the transgressors" (Mark 15:27-28). John: "And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, 18 where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center" (John 19:17-18).

We say that the Devil is in the details. God is too: **Details strengthen the credibility of the Gospel and reinforce our faith!**

- The thief on the cross expressed his conversion publicly and then it was passed on from one to another! **How, or rather Who will continue the proclamation?!**

We learn even more from the thief. When you fear God you . . .

- acknowledge your guilt and
 - accept the judgment of God in your life. You agree with the verdict; that is, you declare yourself a sinner (in the hands of a loving God). Are you hearing the echo from Revelation 14:7, Fear God . . . Judgment?!

Acknowledgement of guilt is the first step of a genuine conversion! Prompted by the promptings of the Holy Spirit I express my guilt without cover-up or sugar-coating of my life.

This is so Sermon from the Mount, Beatitudes 1-4: A sinner in contrite relation to God:

Matt 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven"

Matt 5:4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted!"

Matt 5:5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth!"

Matt 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled!"

Question, hand on your heart, with heaven at stake: Do *you* recognize that you are a) lost, and b) you don't have to be lost?! You realize, right, that in the Gospel a) and b) go together - Thank God!

Without bad news no Good News; but with Good News one day no more bad news!

The fear of God leads to repentance, which leads to an immediate affirmation of salvation!

Question, again, to you, personally, individually, You and Jesus: Do you today (not tomorrow, today) need this affirmation from Jesus? A confirmation directly from the Cross?

Turn to Jesus with your biggest problem and He will give you His biggest promise!

Glory! _____

"So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man!" (Luke 23:47).

We glorify God when we exclaim the true identity of Jesus when no one else does!

A fascinating reversal takes place here. While the thief recognizes his guilt, the Roman centurion recognizes the righteousness of Jesus! His righteousness covers our unrighteousness.

Let me propose that every human being on this planet earth needs this moment at the cross. We are all thieves, we are all robbers, we are all centurions. Not the Pharisee, not the Sadducee, not the Herodian, not the Elder, not the church-goer recognized Jesus, but a Roman centurion.

The Second Coming of Christ

". . . who himself was also waiting for the kingdom of God" (Luke 23:51).

Maybe Joseph was not directly aware of the Second Coming of Christ, but in effect Joseph was a Seventh-day Adventist in the true sense of the word: Latin *adventus Domini* - the arrival of the Lord. The wait is long but the wait will be worth it! "But he who endures to the end shall be saved" (Matt 24:13). *Hang on, and hang in there!*

Caution: My biology prof warned us. *Don't live a once-then life.* Don't live your life with an endless waiting for the next step, the next phase: Once I graduate from high school, once I graduate from college, once I get married, once I have a job and make some real money (maybe get job first, then get married?!), once I have kids, once the kids are grown, once I retire, once I - oops, too late.

Sabbath

"That day was the Preparation, and the Sabbath drew near . . . And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment" (Luke 23:54,56).

All 4 Gospels mention the Sabbath around the Cross. Connection to Rev 14:12-13 (commandments, rest, works): "Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the **commandments** of God and the faith of Jesus. Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' " "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may **rest** from their labors, and their **works** follow them."

Christianity systematically and persistently neglects the Sabbath, especially at the Cross. *That's 24 hours taken out of the Gospel weekend!* We always speak of Cross and Resurrection . . . But between this Friday and this Sunday there is Sabbath!

The Sabbath embraces Cross and Resurrection, and draws us close to Christ. Weekly!

It was on the Sabbath that Nicodemus understood Jesus and publicly confessed his faith.

Sabbath is not just a rule; it's a relationship! The Sabbath draws us to the Lord.

Question: Do you have Cross and Sabbath in your life? Do you have a preparation day? A beginning and end of Sabbath? Yes?! If not, I invite you to start next Friday evening - *You won't regret it.*

Death

"And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid" (Lukas 23:55).

Death. The facts. Pure reality. Luke simply records what happened. Death here is simply that: death. And that's precisely why the Gospel record is so trustworthy, so reliable, so rock solid. There's no escaping of souls, no reincarnation, no Nirvana, no near-death-experience, no nebulous mystery. Just Life. Death. Burial. Period. The end.

Verse 56 is so final, and yet in a sense so normal: "Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment." They returned to their everyday-life, where everybody dies, where within 80 years, plus/minus, everything is over, and the survivors simply "return". It is precisely this cold reality of death, this apparent hopelessness, this presumed final end that the Gospel interrupts with the resurrection!

Only a real death means a real resurrection!

The Gospel is full of surprises. The unexpected. And the impossible. Locked tombs, sealed by men. Silence. Darkness. Death. But then - an opening! A broken seal, the stone moved by an invisible hand, light penetrating the darkness. Sunday morning after Friday afternoon. Life and Death. Life *after* Death.

What humans close, Heaven opens!

Proclamation by 3

"Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles" (Luke 24:9-10).

Ladies, question to *you* now. Nobody has to be ordained to proclaim Jesus . . . Are you proclaiming the resurrection of Christ to anybody? Are you?! God bless you!

Finale: Lukas 24:47-53 . . .

In rapid succession, notice how the Gospel of Luke ends in relation to Revelation 14:

Verse 47: all nations - just like Revelation 14:6.

Verse 49, 51: height and heaven - just like Revelation 14:6.

Verse 52: adoration and home-coming - just like Revelation 14:7 and the rest of Revelation 14.

Verse 53: God.

The last verse of the Gospel of Luke demonstrates in real-time and real life what the 3 Angels' Message of Revelation 14 seeks to accomplish: a turning of humanity away from self and earth towards God. Persistently and relentlessly. After the most bitter experience (superlative!) a home-coming with joy. Jerusalem! Temple! God!

**The final moment of Christ is the final message of the Church
And . . . The final message of the Church is for the final moment of the World!**
