

The dragon Satan is enraged with God's last day people who "obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus." Revelation 12:17. Satan attacks God and His people through the activities of the two beasts of Revelation 13. Even a casual reading of Revelation 12:17-13:17 reveals that the devil will do everything in his power to obliterate the ten commandments of God, the Word of God, and the true worshippers of God. It is a traumatic picture of deception and persecution. The question that naturally arises is: Will the true church, God's true people, survive?

Revelation 14 returns to the people of God, His MESSENGERS, and the special MESSAGE that His people preach and follow in the last hours of the world. The opening verses portray the victory of the saints. They will be delivered by the return of Jesus Christ. (Compare Revelation 6:12-7:4.)

GOD'S MESSENGERS



Q1 How many will survive, and remain faithful during, the final onslaughts of the dragon, beast and false prophet? Revelation 14:1

A

These have the seal of God and are ready for Jesus Christ to come. (Revelation 7:1-4.) They have "been redeemed." Revelation 14:3.



Q2 God's people are described as being pure. What demonstrates their loyalty to God? Compare Revelation 14:4 with Revelation 17:1-5 and 18:1-5

A

Q3 What will be the reward of those who remain true and faithful to Jesus Christ? Revelation 14:4,5

A **They will be offered as**

They will be gathered and delivered in the

harvest of the earth. (Compare Revelation 7:1-4,9; 14:1-5,14-20.)

GOD'S SPECIAL MESSAGE

God's people do not sit passively waiting for deliverance. They have a special message to proclaim to the world. This is a message that confronts the attacks of the dragon, beast and false prophet. This message is often called the three angels' message. (Revelation 14:6-12.) However, the work of preaching is given to God's people. (See Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15,16; Romans 10:13-17.) The first and the third messages are proclaimed in "a loud voice." Revelation 14:7,9. This suggests the importance and urgency of the message. It is proclaimed in the turmoil of the events that lead up to the second coming of Jesus Christ.

THE FIRST MESSAGE



Q4 What does the first angel have to proclaim? Revelation 14:6

A

This is the unchangeable good news of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. (John 3:16; Acts 4:12; Romans 1:16,17; 15:16,20; 2 Corinthians 4:4.) It is the good news about what Jesus Christ has done for us by His death and resurrection. (1 Corinthians 15:1-5; Ephesians 2:8,9.) It has been proclaimed through the ages. (Galatians 3:8.) Speaking of the crisis of the last days, Christ said, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." Matthew 24:14. Believers proclaim the eternal gospel. (Compare Revelation 5:9; 14:5.) No person can merely absorb the good news of salvation like a sponge collecting water. The very nature of the gospel demands that it be proclaimed and shared. (Compare Revelation 10:11; 11:7.)



Q5 **What three aspects of the gospel are highlighted by this angel's message?** Revelation 14:7

- A
- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

I Fear God and Give Him Glory

"To fear the LORD is to hate evil." Proverbs 8:13. "Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways." Psalm 129:1. "Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands." Psalm 112:1. "Fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing." Psalm 34:9. To fear God is to reverence His name and to walk in paths of righteousness. To fear Him is to love, obey and honour Him. Even though we are faced with fearful pressures, threats and sanctions, in the conflict of Revelation 12-14, we are called upon to "fear God."



Q6 **Why is the call to "fear God and give him glory" so urgent?** Revelation 14:7

A

2 The Hour of His Judgement has Come

Time has come for judgement. The dragon, beast and false prophet have slandered God's name, dwelling-place and people. The truths of God's Word have been attacked. A counterfeit system of worship has been set up. A counterfeit authority has been set up in place of the scriptures. The system relies upon tradition. A counterfeit saviour is promoted with a "gospel" which teaches that human merit determines eternal destiny. A counterfeit standard is set up which changes God's holy Law of the ten commandments. A counterfeit Sabbath is claimed as the mark of the counterfeit system's authority. A counterfeit spirit is revealed in deceptive miracles. A counterfeit seal is placed on people as a mark of identity. False Christs and false prophets counterfeit the second coming of Jesus Christ. It is time for judgement. The outrage against God's name, His truth and His people must be dealt with.

In descriptions of the conflict of the last days we have reference to judgement taking place before the return of Christ. (See Daniel 7:9-14,26,27; 8:13,14.) In the pre-advent judgement, God, the gospel and His people are vindicated, while those who have rejected God are condemned.



Q7 **How do we know that an important work of judgement takes place before Jesus Christ returns?** Revelation 22:12

A

3 Worship Him Who Made the Heavens and the Earth

When Christ comes the second time decisions have already been made for the Lord comes with rewards. There are three phases to judgement: (1) the pre-advent judgement, (2)

the verdict, which will be pronounced as Jesus Christ closes the door of mercy and ends His work as our High Priest, (Revelation 8:3-5; 15:8) and (3) the execution of judgement. It is the execution of judgement that commences when Jesus Christ comes in glory and is completed when sin and sinners are destroyed. (Revelation 20:1-15.)

Eternal destinies are being decided now. While many are carelessly acting as if they are accountable to no one, the solemn work of judgement is taking place in heaven. While the beast and the false prophet are persecuting God's people and using economic sanctions and death threats to force allegiance to them, the heavenly court is in session. We are given views of the "tabernacle of the Testimony" (Revelation 15:5), which stands as a witness against all who reject the gospel. We are faced with a clear choice: Whom will we serve, obey and worship?



Q8 The gospel message of the first angel is presented in the midst of this final conflict over worship. Who are we called upon to worship? Revelation 14:7

A

Q9 Who do those who are deceived worship? Revelation 13:4,15

A

Q10 On the "tables of Testimony," (Revelation 15:5) or in "God's commandments," Revelation 12:17; 14:12), how are we told to honour and worship the One who made the heavens and the earth? Exodus 20:8-11

A

When we keep the seventh-day Sabbath holy we worship the Creator and Lord of the Sabbath. (Mark 2:27,28.) In the conflict of the last days, those who choose to reject the Sabbath will worship the beast creature rather than the Creator. (Compare Isaiah 58:13,14.)

THE SECOND MESSAGE



Q11 What does the second angel declare? Revelation 14:8

A

Q12 Who is Babylon in Revelation? Revelation 17:1-5

A

Revelation could be called "The Tale of Two Cities - Jerusalem and Babylon." This imagery comes from the Old Testament where the two literal cities were in conflict. The fall of literal Babylon provides a useful guide to understanding the references to the evil system of Babylon in Revelation. The evil woman called Babylon is apostate or counterfeit religion. It is opposed to the true church or people of God. In a later seminar, we will examine Babylon more closely.



Q13 What has Babylon done to cause it to fall? Revelation 14:8

A

Q14 What is meant by this adultery? Revelation 13:4,8,11,12

A

Symbolic adultery is a most abhorrent activity. It involves giving attention to one other than the one to whom it is due. It involves taking attention and worship away from God. (Compare Jeremiah 3:6-10,20.) Symbolic adultery involves making a commitment to

falsehood instead of SCRIPTURE. It is giving assent to that which is not the gospel of the SAVIOUR. It is worshipping that which should never be worshipped. It is honouring the traditions of men rather than the STANDARD of God's commandments. It is disregarding the SABBATH that God said to "remember." (Exodus 20:8.) It is making alliances that take us away from Him who loves us.

From the very first account of Babylon, or Babel, in the Old Testament, we find the spirit of rebellion and self-sufficiency that has characterized all those who refuse to accept the gospel. The builders of Babel said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth." Genesis 11:4. The basis of all rebellion is the idea that our ideas and ways are better than those of God.



Q15 **What does God call upon His faithful and obedient people to do?** Revelation 18:4,5

A

THE THIRD MESSAGE



Q16 **What will happen to those who refuse to respond to the call to come out of Babylon and who continue to worship the beast and his image?** Revelation 14:9-11

A

The issue is WORSHIP. Here is a warning to all to examine where their loyalties lie:

1 **WARNING—Do Not Worship the Beast**

In Revelation 4 and 5 our attention is directed to the One who is worthy of worship. He is the Creator and Saviour. In true worship we acknowledge what He has done. Creation and salvation are the perfect works of Christ, given freely to us. In our lives and worship we reverence and honour Him.

Tragically, in the early centuries and the Middle Ages, the Church was guilty of drawing attention to traditions and away from the scripture. The one sacrifice of the Saviour was put aside by the repetitious rites of the Church and stress was laid upon human merit. The false gospel focuses upon the worthiness of humanity rather than the worthiness of the sacrificed Lamb. (Compare Galatians 3:1-11.) The Church of the Dark Ages also dared to challenge the standard of the ten commandments, including God's Sabbath, and was guilty of building an earthly edifice instead of preparing people for the glorious second coming of Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God.

2 **WARNING—Do Not Worship the Image to the Beast**

The image to the beast is a replica of the religious-political power of the revived Church of the Dark Ages. It represents the same departure from scriptural truth as does the beast. It is guilty of symbolic adultery. It may seem like a harsh judgement to point the finger at apostate protestant Christianity and say that within it are seen the characteristics of the false prophet. However, today, many Bible truths are being challenged and mostly the attacks come from within professing Christianity.

Some churches deny the plain teachings of the scripture with their acceptance of the traditions of Modernism, Praeterism and Futurism. Others deny the validity of the Old Testament. Some deny the one Saviour with the theories of Dispensationalism. Some deny the standard of the ten commandments. There are those who accept homosexuality as an alternative lifestyle for some people. There are those who deny the judgement and others who deny God's holy Sabbath. Some churches deny the literal second coming of Jesus Christ.

3 **WARNING—Do Not Receive the Mark of the Beast**

The mark of the beast "is the name of the beast or the number of his name." Revelation 13:17. To have the name of the beast means to belong

to, and manifest the character of, the beast. God warns us not to belong to, or give support to, the revived Church of the Dark Ages. If we stubbornly follow the traditions, or the false gospel, or the counterfeit commandments and the counterfeit Sabbath of the revived Church of the Dark Ages we will receive the mark of the beast. We will not be ready for Jesus Christ to come.

WHERE DO YOU STAND?



Q17 **What characterizes those who resist the dragon, the beast and the false prophet?** Revelation 14:12 (Compare Revelation 12:17.)

- A 1.
2.

God's faithful worshippers uphold the scriptures, worship the Saviour, choose to obey the eternal standard of the ten commandments, and eagerly wait for the second coming of Jesus.



Q18 **What is God's assurance to those who are attacked because of their faithful preaching of the gospel?** Revelation 14:13

A

Satan is intent on destroying the message and God's messengers. However, God cares for His people and assures them that their faithfulness and suffering will not be in vain. The rest of death will be a welcome relief from the hellish anger of the dragon. But, sweeter by far will be the rest of redemption that will be theirs at the resurrection or the harvest. The purpose of the messages of the three angels is to prepare people for the harvest.

THE HARVEST

1 The GRAIN HARVEST



Q19 **What is the "one 'like a son of man'" told it is time for?** Revelation 14:14-16

A

Jesus Christ spoke of the harvest as "the end of the age" when "the good seed," or "the sons of the kingdom," are gathered. (Matthew 13:38,39.) Christ's coming will mean deliverance for God's people.

2 The GRAPE HARVEST



Q20 **What is gathered in the second part of the harvest, and where are they thrown?** Revelation 14:17-20

A

The coming of Jesus Christ, and the ensuing events, will bring universal destruction to sin and the wicked. (Compare Revelation 19:11-20:15.)

my response...

The contrasts of Revelation are very important. We are presented with...

JERUSALEM

The pure woman

The authority of SCRIPTURE

True worship of the Creator Saviour

The obedient followers of the Lamb

The eternal STANDARD and SABBATH

The seal of God

The DELIVERANCE of God's people

and

BABYLON

and

The prostitute woman

and

The counterfeit of tradition

and

Counterfeit worship of the beast creature

and

The rebellious worshippers of the beast

and

The counterfeit commandments and Sunday

and

The mark of the beast.

and

The DESTRUCTION of the rebellious



There is no neutral ground. We either accept Jesus Christ and obey all of His commands or fall prey to the deceptions of the dragon Satan. Explain what you feel about the idea of joining the Advent movement in following and sharing the messages of the three angels? What changes might this bring to your life?

