

The Prophecies Of Revelation & God's Last Warning to Mankind

Revelation chapter 14 verses 6 to 12 introduce three angel messengers carrying three vital and urgent messages to the entire world. Revelation 18:1-4 introduces the very last warning, also pictured as given by an angel messenger, and it is obvious that the Revelation 18:1 message is a repetition of the second; but with added power and light, it thus embraces the previous three.

That these 'Three Angels' Messages, supplemented by the message of Rev. 18:1 constitute God's final warning to a doomed world is made clear by Revelation 14:14. This text introduces the events associated with the actual Second Coming of Jesus. We shall now trace concisely the historical development of the messages of Revelation 14:6-12.

During the middle ages, when the Roman Catholic church was in total ecclesiastical-political control of Europe, religious freedom and Bible truth were unknown to the masses. Bible Prophecy had predicted that the Papacy would have controlled the world for 1260 years from 538 A.D. to 1798 AD. (Revelation 12:6,14; Revelation 13:1-10).

The Protestant Reformation restored religious freedom and Bible truth to the masses, and by 1798 there was enough freedom for independent scriptural research, freedom of worship, and religious expression.

The U.S.A. (which is brought to view in prophecy in Revelation 13:11) had become the great land of escape for thousands of Europeans who sought political and religious freedom.

After 1798 Bible students around the world became increasingly aware of the great Biblical doctrine of the

Second Coming of Christ; and thereby was awakened new interest in the study of Bible prophecy.

In various countries of the world, Bible students studied the great prophecies of Daniel which traced the political history of the world through the successive empires of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Pagon Rome, Imperial Rome's division into the nations of Europe, and the rise of the Papacy, then the judgment, and the setting up of God's Kingdom. All this was clear from Daniel chapters 2 and 7. In Daniel chapter 8 Bible students came upon the great 2300-day prophecy of Daniel 8 verse 14, and, by careful study of Gabriel's interpretation in Daniel 9, they calculated that the 2300-day-years of Daniel 8:14 would end around 1843 to 1844. This conclusion was arrived at independently by Bible students in various countries, including England, Europe, Africa and North America.

But it was in North America, and, more particularly, in the U.S.A. (especially north eastern U.S.A.) that the preaching of the prophecies of Daniel in connection with the second coming of Christ achieved greatest momentum. Thus, history records that in the period 1840 to 1844 there occurred in many lands a great Christian awakening, with the preaching of the gospel within the context of the second coming of Christ and the end of the 2300-day-year prophecy of Daniel 8:14.

In the U.S.A., this great awakening was called the great Advent Movement. As the second coming of Christ was preached and the 2300 day-year prophecy was expounded, the people were called upon to prepare for judgment, and Revelation 14:6,7 were quoted directly as God's Message to the people. In that great religious awakening God used many humble, consecrated men to preach and teach the truth with urgency; but the primary messenger was a man named William Miller, who entered quietly upon his work

in 1831, and by 1833 the Advent Movement was agitating the minds of members of the popular protestant churches, which churches, according to Jesus in Revelation 3:1, were spiritually dead. In the period 1840 to 1844 the Advent Movement in the U.S.A. surged forward with a power and scriptural truth that were conclusive evidences of God's presence and direction.

As was explained in the previous tract (Series A, No.5), the end of the 2300 years meant the beginning of Christ's final phase of work as our High Priest in the Heavenly sanctuary. However, the believers in the great religious awakening in the U.S.A. in the period 1840 to 1844 did not at that time understand this. They, in harmony with the then popular religious belief, thought that the earth was the sanctuary to be cleansed by fire at the second coming of Christ.

In the summer of 1844 the doctrine of the second coming of Christ, along with the prophecies and the gospel of forgiveness, cleansing and conversion in Christ, were all preached with divinely imbued energy. The parable of Matthew 25:1-13 formed the basis of that most urgent call given to the spiritually dead, popular, traditional churches in the U.S.A. Thus the urgent call to prepare for judgment was called the "Midnight Cry" (Matthew 25:6 and was given with greatest power in the summer of 1844).

The popular churches rejected the truth preached by God's messenger: and those church members who accepted the truth were forced to separate. Some 100,000 people separated from the popular, so-called "mainstream" churches and joined together in truth and righteousness.

They prayed and agonised before God for forgiveness, cleansing, the new birth and perfection of character.

The rejection of the message by the popular churches meant that those churches had fallen away from the path of light. Thus it was announced by God's messengers in the summer of 1844 that Babylon (false Christianity) had fallen (had ceased to be God's channels of light); Revelation 14:8 was sounded loudly and clearly as believers in the then present truth left the doomed churches.

The erroneous idea that the earth was the sanctuary to be cleansed at the second coming of Christ had led the Advent believers to look for the coming of Christ in 1844, October 22. Although this error was caused by their clinging to popular theology, it did not invalidate their message of the 2300 years ending in 1844, and the judgment call that was preached. As a matter of fact, God allowed a testing of faith to occur based on that error.

On October 22, 1844 as the Advent believers waited for the end, they were greatly disappointed, because, in fact, Christ did not return as they had thought. This was a most severe test for the believers. They were ridiculed, scorned, and abhorred, and contempt was thrown upon them. Many gave up all faith in the Bible, many continued to set other dates for the coming of Christ. Only a small minority decided to do nothing but pray and search the scriptures until God would send them clearer light on the matter of the "cleansing of the sanctuary" of Daniel 8:14. As they waited and watched and prayed to know the will of God, they saw that their great High Priest had entered upon his final phase of ministration. Christ had entered the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary to perform the work of perfecting a living generation of saints. This they understood by a careful study of Hebrews chapters 7,8,9,10; (please study these precious chapters in that book), and see Tract No.5, Series A.

It is thus that the small group of believers came to have a clearer understanding of the two messages of

Revelation 14:6-8, and the foundation was laid for them to understand the third angel's message of Revelation 14:9-12.

The First Angel's Message, Revelation 14:6,7.

This passage of scripture declares that the one, true gospel, the everlasting gospel, will be brought to the attention of every person in earth's last generation.

Verse 7 calls upon all people to: "Fear God and give him glory; for the hour of His judgement is come." This is a call to admire, adore, and respect God for His wonderful love and mercy, and because of His gracious, perfect, absolutely righteous nature and character. To give God glory means to reflect his character in our lives by obedience to his law, and this can only be achieved through the Gospel of Christ.

Verse 7 also gives the reason for the call to "fear God and give glory to Him", the reason being that: "... the hour of His judgment is come". The 2300 day prophecy of Daniel 8:14 ended on October 22,1844. Since then the investigative judgment of Daniel 7:9-13 has been going on in heaven in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. This work by our great high priest, Jesus Christ, has been going on for the professed righteous who have died. Soon it will commence for the last (living) generation, when the final test of the seventh day - first day controversy is brought upon the world.

In the judgment, the moral law of God, (His ten commandments of love), is the standard by which all are judged (Ecclesiastes 12:13,14; James 2:8-12). In the New Covenant, the gospel of Jesus Christ brings the believer into harmony with the ten commandments of God.

Further, Revelation 14:7 goes on to say: "...and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the

fountains of waters.” Here is given the supreme reason for worship. We should worship the true living God, Yahweh, because he is the absolute creator, and we are his dependent creatures. Without him we cannot survive! Thus, the first angel’s message of Revelation 14:6,7 points all mankind to the seventh-day sabbath of the fourth commandment. As a matter of fact, Revelation 14:7 ends very much like the fourth commandment, (please read Exodus 20:8-11 noticing verse 11: “For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: Wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath Day, and hallowed it”). The seventh-day Sabbath is the unchanging, eternal memorial of the unchanging, eternal fact that God Yahweh is the creator of the Universe, (Genesis 2:1-3).

The first angel’s message of Revelation 14:6,7 will reach complete fulfilment in the last generation of God’s true Christians. They will fully reflect the character of Christ in their lives, and therefore be victorious in the judgment, and have their sins blotted out from the heavenly sanctuary. They will indeed be true worshippers of the true God, and their keeping of the true, seventh-day Sabbath will be the sign of their loyalty to the Creator “who made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” Rev. 14:7.

The Second Angel’s Message Of Revelation 14:8.

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

As was already mentioned, this message was first given in the summer of 1844 and was directed at the popular denominational churches because of their rejection of the first angel’s message.

For a full understanding of the term Babylon, as it

applies to the last generation, we need to study Revelation chapter 17.

We have already shown in this series that in Bible prophecy a woman symbolises a church (see Series A No. 4). The pure woman of Revelation 12 is symbolic of God's true church in the Christian era, whereas the impure woman (whore) of Revelation 17 is symbolic of false "Christianity", the false church.

Revelation 17:1 introduces "the great whore that sitteth upon many waters". In Bible prophecy, the term "waters" is symbolic of "people, multitudes, nations and tongues" (Revelation 17:15). Here, then, is a picture of a great false church which commands, overwhelmingly, the popular support of the masses of professed Christians in the nations of the world. Verse 6 and 18 (of Revelation 17) leave us in no doubt as to the identity of this great whore. Verse 6 describes her as a persecuting church responsible for the killing of those who were loyal to Bible truth; and verse 18 describes her as "that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth." One organization, and one alone, fits such a description: the Roman Catholic organization under the Papacy, with headquarters in Rome (the great city of the ancient Roman Empire) and which killed millions of Christians during the Middle Ages from 538 A.D. to 1798 A.D., (Although by 1773 papal persecution had almost ceased).

Revelation 17, verse 2, gives an interesting description of the Papacy: "with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication".

This text describes the church-state or ecclesiastical-political union that existed in the Middle Ages between the Roman Catholic church and European (political) states. The wine of her fornication" describes the many false doctrines of the Roman Catholic church, the most

prominent of which are: Sunday-sacredness; immortality of the human soul; infant baptism by sprinkling or pouring; church-state union; the immaculate conception of the Virgin Mary and hence the error that Christ's flesh was like Adam's before sin, rather than being like ours; the belief that church tradition is as important or more important than the Bible in the determination of Christian faith and practice; the infallibility of the Pope; and human headship of the Church.

Notice that the text (Rev.17:2) says that "the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of fornication." False doctrines such as Sunday-sacredness have be-come so popular that people automatically regard Sunday as a holy day without question. Drunk indeed are the earth's masses - drunk with falsehood!

Revelation 17 verse 4 is a very interesting verse. Purple and scarlet are among the popular official colours of the Papacy.

We come now to verse 5 of Revelation 17 and we learn that this "great whore" has daughters, for she is described as the "mother of harlots". In order to understand this statement, let us consider a bit of church history. The Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth century exposed Roman Catholic error, and called the people back to Bible truth in its purity and simplicity, as presented in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Without exception, each reformer recognized the Papacy as the Anti-christ: the "Revelation 13:1-10" beast; and the Daniel 7 "Little-horn".

Thus, out of the Roman Catholic "Mother"-Church came the various Protestant denominations. However, rather than make progressive advancement in the truth, the protestant denominational churches soon became worldly, popular and continued to cling to many Papal errors such as Sunday-sacredness, immortality of the soul, etc. Thus, by rejecting present truth the Protestant

denominational churches have also become Babylon.

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 fulfilment 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 have 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.

Revelation 17 thus makes it clear that Babylon refers to the popular "Christian" churches, and indeed all those Christian churches or organizations which believe, teach, and practice false doctrine.

The Third Angel's Message. Revelation 14:9-12.

As we mentioned earlier, after the great disappointment of October 1844 a minority of Advent believers prayed and agonized before God for clearer light on the "cleansing of the sanctuary". That light came. The sanctuary truth was clearly established from the scriptures, and the believers understood that Christ, by His true gospel, was to purify unto perfection the last generation of believers. Such a purification is mentioned

in Malachi 3:3; Hebrews 9:14; Hebrews 7:25, 1John 3:1-3; and 1Peter 4:17-19. It was understood that this perfection of Christian character was an absolute necessity for those believers who would be alive when Jesus comes again, this group being described in 1Corinthians 15:51 and 52 as those who shall be changed or translated into the immortal state without having died.

Jesus, our Great High Priest, will achieve the following for His last generation of true Christians.

- (i) Perfection of their characters so that they cease to commit sin.
- (ii) Therefore their sins will be blotted out of the heavenly sanctuary as they are judged worthy of eternal life through Christ's righteousness, which has become theirs by faith.
- (iii) They will fully reflect the character of God in their lives. Since God's law is a transcript of his character, then this last generation of true believers will "keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus" Revelation 14:12.
- (iv) To achieve all this Christ has been, and is sending ever-increasing light and truth from the heavenly sanctuary. His people can only make progress in character perfection as they believe, understand and assimilate all the truth revealed to them by God.

When, after October 1844, the early Advent believers understood the sanctuary truth, and the need to be victorious over sin, they took a closer look at the definition of sin and understood "that sin is the transgression of the

law” 1John 3:4 Revelation 11:19 revealed to them that “the temple of God was opened in heaven and there was seen in his temple The Ark of His Testament”. Comparing the heavenly sanctuary with the earthly sanctuary of Moses, they understood that the ark in the second apartment of the earthly sanctuary was merely a receptacle for the tables of the law, the ten commandments.

“When the temple of God was opened in heaven the ark of His testament was seen”. Within the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary is this same unchanging law of God. Thus was seen, as never before, the force of the Saviours words: “Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law” Matthew 5:18. The law of God, being a revelation of His will, a transcript of His character, must endure forever. (Psalm 119:89; Psalm 111:7,8). As the law was studied, they were convicted by the Spirit of God that they had been ignorantly breaking the fourth commandment. They could find no evidence in the Scriptures that the Fourth Commandment had been abolished, or that the Sabbath had been changed. In repentance and humility they proceeded to keep the true seventh-day Sabbath of the law of God.

Therefore, from the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary, light was shining, and the Sabbath truth was established! In Revelation 14:6,7 human beings are called upon to worship the Creator; and the prophecy brings to view a class that, as the result of the threefold message of Revelation 14:6-12, are keeping the commandments of God. Since the fourth commandment reveals the seventh-day Sabbath as the memorial of God’s creative power, The Sabbath therefore lies at the very foundation of divine worship, for it teaches us, as no other institution does, the true reason why worship is due to God... because he, Yahweh or Jehovah, is the creator and we are his creatures.

That is why God said “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy because He foreknew that man would forget.

Those who accept the special truths of Revelation 14:6-12 are described in verse 12 as: “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus”. In contrast to those who keep the commandments of God, the third angel points to another class and announces the most solemn warning in scripture: “And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, 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 (Revelation 14:9,19).

It is therefore absolutely clear that the mark of the beast will be received by those who will not keep the commandments of God.

The Beast is brought to view in Revelation 13:1 - 10, and as has already been proven, represents the Roman Catholic church, the Papacy. In Revelation 13, verse 11, is introduced another beast with “two horns like a lamb”. This second beast of Revelation 13 is the one which will set up an image to the first beast, and enforce his mark, (Revelation 13:11-18). Can we determine the identity of this lamb-like beast of Revelation 13:11? We can; and we must!

The lamb-like Beast Of Revelation 13:11.

The prophet sees this lamb-like beast coming up “out of the earth” in contrast to the first beast which came up out of the sea (Revelation 13:1).

The great kingdoms that ruled the world were presented to the prophet Daniel as beasts of prey, rising when “the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea” (Daniel 7:2). In Revelation 17:15 it is explained that waters represent “people, and multitudes, and nations,

and tongues”. Winds are a symbol of strife (Jeremiah 25:31,32). The four winds of heaven striving upon the great sea represent the terrible scenes of conquest and revolution by which kingdoms have attained to power.

But the lamb-like beast was seen “coming up out of the earth”. Instead of overthrowing other powers to establish itself, the nation thus represented must arise in territory previously unoccupied, and grow up gradually and peacefully. It could not, then, arise among the crowded and struggling nations of the old world. It must be sought in the Western Continent. In Revelation 13:10 is described the termination of the 1260 years ecclesiastical political dominion of the Papacy in 1798; then verse 11 introduces the lamb-like beast. What nation of the new world was in 1798 rising into power, giving promise of strength and greatness and attracting the attention of the world? One nation, and only one, meets the specifications of this prophecy: Revelation 13:11 points unmistakably to the United States of America.

“And he had two horns like a lamb.” The lamb-like horns indicate youth, innocence, and gentleness, fitly representing the character of the USA in 1798 when she is brought to view in Revelation 13:11. Many Christians first fled to the U.S.A. in the period after the Reformation, seeking a nation without a king and a church without a pope. They were determined to establish a government upon the broad foundation of civil and religious liberty; and the USA Constitution guarantees to its people the rights of (1) democracy and self-government through free and fair elections, and (2) freedom of religious faith, every man being permitted to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience. Republicanism and Protestantism thus became the fundamental principles of U.S.A. These two principles of civil and religious liberty are symbolised by the two horns, and are the secret of

America's power and prosperity. Millions have sought the shores of the U.S.A. because of the above characteristics, and it has become the greatest nation on earth today.

But Revelation 13:11 goes on to say that the beast with "two horns like a lamb spake as a dragon," and verses 12-17 describe how the U.S.A. will cause the entire world to form an image to the first beast, and enforce the mark of the first beast. This prediction plainly foretells the development of the spirit of intolerance and persecution which was manifested by the Papacy in the middle ages in Europe against those who differed with the Papal false doctrines. In other words, prophecy predicts that the U.S.A. shall disregard its constitution, and enforce certain religious observances by the civil authority. Remember that the U.S. constitution provides that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;" and that "no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office of public trust under the U.S.A." Only in flagrant violation of these safeguards of religious liberty will the U.S.A. enforce any religious observance by civil authority. Thus the beast with the lamb-like horns of civil and religious freedom shall speak as a dragon, and persecute those who differ from the majority in matters of faith!

The Image Of The Beast

"Saying to them that dwell on the earth that they should make an image to the beast." Rev. 13:14. To understand the "image of the beast" and how it is to be formed, we need to study the characteristics of the beast itself-the Papacy.

When the early church became corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel and accepting heathen rites and customs, she lost the spirit and power of God,

and in order to control the conscience of the people, she sought the support of the secular power. The result was the Papacy: the Roman Catholic church that controlled the power of the state and employed it to further her own end, especially for the punishment of “heresy”.

Therefore, when the leading churches of the U.S.A., uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce their beliefs and to sustain their institution, then protestant America will have formed an “image” of the medieval Roman Catholic Papacy. The result will be the infliction of civil penalties upon those of different faith.

The Mark Of The Beast

We have proven already (in Series A No.1) that the beast (the Roman Catholic Papacy) admits that Sunday sacredness is The Mark of her ecclesiastical authority. Scripture makes it clear that the special characteristic of the Papacy is the breaking of God’s commandments, Daniel 7:25. The Apostle Paul describes the proud papal power as “the man of sin who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God” 2Thessalonians 2:3,4. Only by changing God’s law could the papacy exalt itself above God. The pope has instituted Sunday as a sacred day in the place of the seventh-day Sabbath.

The U.S.A. will, in the near future, enforce Sunday-Sacredness by law, and all nations on the earth will follow her example. This is exactly what is meant by the mark of the beast.

YES, friend, a terrible religious-political crisis is just ahead of us. The overwhelming majority of people will join the system by obeying the compulsory Sunday Law.

This is what the Scriptures symbolize as the receiving of the mark of the beast. Only a very small minority will keep the true seventh-day Sabbath, and “thus keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” Revelation 14:12. Only by experiencing the true gospel, with the power of God to save completely from sinning, can you or I be in that small group, the remnant of the woman’s seed of Revelation 12:17!

Those who keep the Sunday at that time (when Sunday laws are passed by the nations of the world) will be thereby keeping a day which is the mark of the beast. Those who keep the seventh-day Sabbath, at that time, will be thereby keeping the day which signifies the authority of God in Christ, and will therefore have the seal of the living God, because, by that time, true Sabbath-keeping will be no less than the evidence of their perfect, sinless Character: the harvest-ready fruit of righteousness by faith!

Those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus will be severely persecuted but God’s grace will sustain them. When everyone’s mind shall be made up then the 7 last plagues of Revelation 16 shall afflict those who receive the mark of the beast. God will deliver his true people whereas the rejectors of his gospel will suffer the destructive wrath of the powers of nature out of control. At last Jesus will come for his people. The second coming of Christ is the subject of another tract - Series B No.1.

Friends, why not surrender yourself to Christ and accept his love and his truth for the final generation.