

3 The Seven-fold Purifying Messages of Revelation 14, III

1. There is more to the three angels of messages of Rev 14 than is commonly understood and much study and prayer are needed to unlock their deep meaning:

The theme of greatest importance is the third angel’s message, embracing the messages of the first and second angels. **All should understand the truths contained in these messages and demonstrate them in daily life, for this is essential to salvation.** We shall have to study earnestly, prayerfully, in order to understand these grand truths; and our power to learn and comprehend will be taxed to the utmost.— Letter 97, 1902. **Ev 196**

The Demographics of Revelation 14

2. The proclamation of the gospel in the New Testament always involves two groups of people: the good and the bad
 - a. **Matt 22:10**—In the parable of the wedding garment, the gospel is proclaimed to two groups of people—the good and the bad
 - b. **Matt 13:24**--In the parable of the wheat and tares, the proclamation of the gospel produces two groups of people, the wheat and the tares
 - c. **Matt 13:47-48**—in the parable of the net two groups of people are
3. Likewise, the everlasting gospel of **Rev 14** is proclaimed to two classes of people living in the time of the end:
 - a. **“The dwellers of the earth”**-the wicked, avowed enemies of God and His people; nothing positive is mentioned about this group in the Bible
 - b. **“Nation, kindred and tongue and people”**—the honest children of God scattered in all the nations of the earth; nothing negative is said about this group

The dwellers of the earth	Nation, kindred and tongue and people
Rev 6:10 ---they persecute God’s people	Rev 7:9 ---the great multitude composed of all nations and kindred and people and tongues
Rev 11:10 —they rejoice and make merry and send gifts when the two witnesses which tormented them are put to death for “3 ½ days” The two witnesses represent the Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament. Both are important testimonies to the origin and perpetuity of the law of God. Both are witnesses also to the plan of salvation. GC 267.	Rev 11:9 they refuse to bury the dead bodies of the two witnesses (That is, they conscientiously refuse to acknowledge that the word of God is dead);
Rev 13:8 —they do not have their names written in the book of life	PK 188-189 — . . .In heathen Africa, in the Catholic lands of Europe and of South America, in China, in India, in the islands of the sea, and in all the

	dark corners of the earth, God has in reserve a firmament of chosen ones that will yet shine forth amidst the darkness, revealing clearly to an apostate world the transforming power of obedience to His law.
Rev 13:12 ---they end up worshipping the beast and his image	Rom 2:14-16 --The Gentiles have the Law of God written in their hearts and live faithfully according to the little light they have; sinning ignorantly against the commandments of God
Rev 13:14 ---deceived into making an image to the beast	DA 638 —“Even among the heathen are those who have cherished the spirit of kindness; before the words of life had fallen upon their ears, they have befriended the missionaries, even ministering to them at the peril of their own lives. Among the heathen are those who worship God ignorantly, those to whom the light is never brought by human instrumentality, yet they will not perish. Though ignorant of the written law of God, they have heard His voice speaking to them in nature, and have done the things that the law required. Their works are evidence that the Holy Spirit has touched their hearts, and they are recognized as the children of God.”
Rev 17:2 ---made drunk with the wine of Babylon’s false teachings	
DA 635 —the “dwellers of the earth” are those “who make this world their home”	

The Angel Flying in the Midst of Heaven

4. **Rev 14:6**—The everlasting gospel is proclaimed by a group of people symbolized by angels flying in the midst of heaven;
 - a. These are believers who have had an experience in the 3 angels messages and as a result have become sanctified by obeying the truth:

I have had precious opportunities to obtain an experience. I have had an experience in the first, second, and third angels’ messages. The angels are represented as flying in the midst of heaven, proclaiming to the world a message of warning, and having a direct bearing upon the people living in the last days of this earth’s history. No one hears the voice of these angels, for they are **a symbol to represent the people of God who are working in harmony with the universe of heaven. Men and women, enlightened by the Spirit of God, and sanctified through the truth, proclaim the three messages in their order. LS 429.**

5. **Rev 14:1-5**—as a result of being cleansed of their sins and defects of characters, these believers proclaim the messages of Revelation 14 in a loud voice
6. Why are those who proclaim the three angels messages represented as angels flying in the midst of heaven? True believers are often pictured in the Bible as dwelling in heaven; this truth has serious implications on how believers live and behave (**Col 3:1-3**)

- a. **Dan 8:9-10**—the little horn power (Rome) is prophesied to war with the host of heaven and cast some of the stars to the ground to trample upon them; host and stars, a reference to the Jews and later on the Christian church
- b. **Eph 2:5-7**—raised together with Christ and made to sit together with Christ in heavenly places
- c. **Phil 3:20**—our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven
- d. **Rev 11:1**—“them that worship therein”—a reference to God’s faithful people who through faith follow Jesus in His heavenly ministration
- e. **Rev 13:5-6**—them that dwell in heaven a reference to God’s people who were trodden underfoot for forty-two prophetic months
- f. **Heb 12:22-23**—they are come to mount Zion

The Loud Cry of the Third Angel Delayed

7. The proclamation of the three angels messages in a loud voice results in the conversion of a large number of unbelievers; **Zech 8:20-23; Isa 60:1-5; Rev 18:1-5;**

I heard those clothed with the armor **speak forth the truth with great power**. It had effect. Many had been bound; some wives by their husbands, and some children by their parents. The honest who had been prevented from hearing the truth now eagerly laid hold upon it. All fear of their relatives was gone, and the truth alone was exalted to them. They had been hungering and thirsting for truth; it was dearer and more precious than life. I asked what had made this great change. An angel answered, "It is the latter rain, the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, the loud cry of the third angel." **EW 271.**

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.**

. . . **The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening.** The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close. . . .

Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By **thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders** will follow the believers. Satan also works, with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. Revelation 13:13. Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand.

The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God. The arguments have been presented. The seed has been sown, and now it will spring up and bear fruit. The publications distributed by missionary workers have exerted their influence, yet many whose minds were impressed have been prevented from fully comprehending the truth or from yielding obedience.

Now the rays of light penetrate everywhere, the truth is seen in its clearness, and the honest children of God sever the bands which have held them. Family connections, church relations, are powerless to stay them now. Truth is more precious than all besides. **Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand upon the Lord's side. GC 611-612.**

8. A. The question is, why is the Loud Cry not happening right now? B. Why cannot we point to a single occurrence in the world and be able to say, "This incident answers to and corresponds to the powerful outreach by the church resulting in the conversions of masses of people, as described in **Rev 18** and **GC 611-612**? C. Why cannot God's people today be correctly represented as angels flying in the midst of heaven proclaiming the everlasting gospel. . .?

ANSWER: We cannot give something we do not possess; unless we experience the three angels messages ourselves, our proclamation of these messages will be less than powerful and effective

" . . .those who have had no experience in the first and second angels' messages must receive them from others who had an experience and followed down through the messages. . ." **EW 188**

9. The third angel's message (which embraces the first and the second) ends in--"here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus;" before we can convince others to do likewise and be likewise, the statement needs to be true of us first:

Here are they that keep the commandments of God . . .

10. Keeping the commandments of God is more than just keeping the ten commandments; keeping the laws that govern health is included in commandment-keeping

a. Violations of the health principles means breaking the ten commandments:

A continual transgression of nature's law is a continual violation of the law of God" **CTBH 8**

b. Intemperance and laxity in eating habits make it easier to violate the law of God

It is as truly a sin to violate the laws of our being as it is to break the ten commandments. To do either is to break God's laws. **Those who transgress the law of God in their physical organism, will be inclined to violate the law of God spoken from Sinai. CTBH 53**

c. Unfaithfulness in the health message also causes one to reject the first angel's message:

"Sinful indulgences defiles the body and unfits men for spiritual worship." **CTBH 9**

d. it is impossible to attain to character perfection while disregarding the health message (1 per 2:11)

"It is impossible for those who give rein to appetite to attain to character perfection **CTBH 47**

Whoever eats too much, or of food which is not healthful, is weakening his power to resist the clamors of other appetites and passions. . .**CTBH 75**

... And the faith of Jesus

11. **Unbelief** is leavening the Christian experience of many among God's people and this is the reason why it cannot be said of them that they have or keep "the faith of Jesus;"
12. Many of us talk about faith and righteousness by faith, but do not believe that we need to overcome sin in our lives and be perfect in character before Jesus comes; in other words, it is common understanding now within Adventism that believers will continue sinning until Jesus comes! And because Jesus said that he will never leave his people, this is taken to mean that there will be always be intercession in the heavenly sanctuary and therefore it is OK to sin until Jesus comes!
13. The question is, Can these be said to have the faith of Jesus?

THE FAITH OF JESUS

". . .It has been necessary to exalt the great standard of righteousness, but in doing this, many have neglected to preach the faith of Jesus. If we would have the spirit and power of the third angel's message, we must present the law and the gospel together, for they go hand in hand. As a power from beneath is stirring up the children of disobedience to make void the law of God, and to trample upon the faith of Christ as our righteousness, a power from above is moving upon the hearts of those who are loyal to exalt the law, and to **lift up Jesus as a complete Saviour**. . .RH Sept 3, 1889.

"The faith of Jesus." It is talked of, but not understood. What constitutes the faith of Jesus, that belongs to the third angel's message? Jesus becoming our sin-bearer that he might become our sin-pardoning Saviour. He was treated as we deserve to be treated. He came to our world and took our sins that we might take his righteousness. And faith in the ability of Christ to save us **amply** and **fully** and **entirely** is the faith of Jesus. **3SM 172..**

14. The Bible teaches that the standard of righteousness which men are required to have is no less than the perfect character of Christ: **Lev 11:44; Matt 5:48; Rom 8:29; Eph 4:13-15; Col 4:12; James 1:4;**

The Lord requires perfection from His redeemed family. He expects from us the perfection which Christ revealed in His humanity. **CG 477.**

God will accept only those who are determined to aim high. He places every human agent under obligation to do his best. **Moral perfection is required of all. Never should we lower the standard of righteousness in order to accommodate inherited or cultivated tendencies to wrong-doing. We need to understand that imperfection of character is sin.** All righteous attributes of character dwell in God as a perfect, harmonious whole, and every one who receives Christ as a personal Saviour is privileged to possess these attributes. **COL 330**

15. The reason why many professed Christians lower the standard of righteousness is "to accommodate inherited or cultivated tendencies to wrong-doing;"
16. **Heb 9:27**--Those deluded Adventists who believe they can continue sinning until Jesus comes are destined to experience the greatest disappointment when Jesus comes:

When He comes He is not to cleanse us of our sins, to remove from us the defects in our characters, or to cure us of the infirmities of our tempers and dispositions. If wrought for us at all, this work will all be accomplished before that time. When the Lord comes, those who are holy will be holy still. Those who

have preserved their bodies and spirits in holiness, in sanctification and honor, will then receive the finishing touch of immortality. But those who are unjust, unsanctified, and filthy will remain so forever. No work will then be done for them to remove their defects and give them holy characters. The Refiner does not then sit to pursue His refining process and remove their sins and their corruption. This is all to be done in these hours of probation. It is now that this work is to be accomplished for us. **2T 355**

Conclusion

17. What it boils down to is this: we don't have **the faith of Jesus** and as a result, we do not possess the works or **commandment-keeping** that corresponds to that faith!
18. When God's people humbly acknowledge that they have neither the keeping of the commandments of God nor the faith of Jesus, . . . when they fall down on their knees in deep humiliation acknowledging that they have failed and in deep repentance plead for forgiveness and for purity of heart, the compassionate and merciful High Priest will issue the command, "Take away their filthy garments, and give them a change of raiment;"
19. **Acts 3:19** ---This is the final atonement; this sets in motion a rapid train of events and circumstances which cannot be repressed, and which results in the finishing of the mystery of God, the gathering in of the Gentiles to the fold of God.
20. Ample provision has been made for men to attain to the perfection of Christ's character; there is absolutely no reason for anyone to fail of attaining to Christ's perfect character:

None need fail of attaining, in his sphere, to perfection of Christian character. By the sacrifice of Christ, provision has been made for the believer to receive all things that pertain to life and godliness. God calls upon us to reach the standard of perfection and places before us the example of Christ's character. In His humanity, **perfected by a life of constant resistance of evil**, the Saviour showed that through co-operation with Divinity, human beings may in this life attain to perfection of character. This is God's assurance to us that we, too, may obtain complete victory. **AA 531.**

21. The question is, will the third angel whose "work is fearful and who mission is awful" (**EW 118**), class us as among the **wheat** for the garner, or will he cast us off with the **tares** on account of our disobedience and failure to reach the high standard of righteousness? We cannot afford to be uncertain about our answer to this question.

I then saw the third angel. Said my accompanying angel, "**Fearful is his work. Awful is his mission.** He is the angel that is to select the wheat from the tares, and seal, or bind, the wheat for the heavenly garner. These things should engross the whole mind, the whole attention." **EW 118.**

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