

7 The Seven-fold Purifying Messages of Revelation 14, VII

1. The three angels messages are a purifying and testing message:

“The message which God had sent for the **testing** and **purification** of the church. . .” **Ev 198**

“The Lord has been pleased to give His people the third angel’s message as **a testing message** to bear to the world. . .” **Ev 233**

2. Because the third angel’s message is composed of three components, all are tested whether they are faithful to the three components that make up the third angel’s message
 - a. Sabbath reform
 - b. Health message
 - c. The faith of Jesus
3. Recall that the three points Jesus was tempted on in the wilderness were in actuality the same three points that make up the third angel’s message
 - a. **Turn the stones into bread**—lines up with the health component of the third angel’s message (the physical law)
 - b. **Cast thyself down**---the faith of Jesus as opposed to presumption, the counterfeit of faith (**DA 126**)
 - c. **Worship me** (the Devil)—Sabbath reform, the part of the moral law that deals with worship
4. These tests serve as models or types of the tests that the final generation of Christians must go through before they can be entrusted with the robe of Christ’s perfect righteousness in the final sense;

The Tests and Trials in the Book of Daniel

5. The experiences of Daniel and his 3 friends recorded in the first three chapters of the book of Daniel are nothing but a series of tests that line up perfectly with the three components of the third angel’s message; the reason why this is not seen right away, is because the book of Daniel is seen as nothing but a prophetic book more than anything else!
6. The experiences of Daniel and his three friends as recorded in the first half of the book of Daniel were handpicked primarily to serve as blueprint of the experiences and trials God’s faithful remnant will experience during the closing scenes of the great Day of Atonement

TEST #1: Victory over Appetite

7. Daniel and his three friends purposed in their hearts not to defile themselves with the king's food (**Dan 1:8**);
8. This test lines up with the health reform component of the third angel's message; as with Jesus, Daniel and his friends were first tested on appetite
 - a. Appetite needs to be reined in before anyone can have success in character development; the work of gaining self-control begins with appetite (**Prov 25:28**)

The life of Daniel is an inspired illustration of what constitutes a sanctified character. It presents a lesson for all, and especially for the young. A strict compliance with the requirements of God is beneficial to the health of body and mind. In order to reach the highest standard of moral and intellectual attainments, it is necessary to seek wisdom and strength from God, and to observe strict temperance in all the habits of life. In the experience of Daniel and his companions we have an instance of the triumph of principle over temptation to indulge the appetite. It shows us that through religious principle young men may triumph over the lusts of the flesh, and remain true to God's requirements, even though it cost them a great sacrifice.

What if Daniel and his companions had made a compromise with those heathen officers, and had yielded to the pressure of the occasion, by eating and drinking as was customary with the Babylonians? That single instance of departure from principle would have weakened their sense of right and their abhorrence of wrong. Indulgence of appetite would have involved the sacrifice of physical vigor, clearness of intellect, and spiritual power. One wrong step would probably have led to others, until, their connection with Heaven being severed, they would have been swept away by temptation. **Te 154-155.**

Dear youth, God calls upon you to do a work which through His grace you can do. "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Stand forth in your God-given manhood and womanhood. Show a purity of tastes, appetite, and habits that bears comparison with Daniel's. God will reward you with calm nerves, a clear brain, an unimpaired judgment, keen perceptions. The youth of today whose principles are firm and unwavering will be blessed with health of body, mind, and soul. **AH 301.**

9. Because Daniel and his friends were faithful in the first test, they were ready for the second test

TEST #2: The Testimony of Jesus

10. The focus of the test in Daniel 2 was not so much whether Daniel and his 3 friends had the faith of Jesus, but whether they possessed the "testimony of Jesus"
11. In Daniel 2, Daniel and his friends were tested to see if He had the "testimony of Jesus;" in fact his survival and that of his 3 friends depended on whether they had it or not!
12. The "testimony of Jesus" is "to be blended with the "faith of Jesus"

The faith of Jesus and the testimony of Jesus are blended. They are to be clearly presented to the world. But in God’s word we are shown the consequences of proclaiming this message. “The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” **PH086 6.3**, Special Testimony to Battle Creek (1898).

13. The testimony of Jesus and the faith of Jesus used interchangeably:

The Word of God has given tests to his people. The keeping of God’s holy law, the Sabbath, is a test, a sign between God and his people throughout their generations forever. Forever this is the burden of the third angel’s message—the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. **3SM 287**.

We are accountable only for the light that shines upon us. **The commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus are testing us.** If we are faithful and obedient, God will delight in us, and bless us as His own chosen peculiar people. When perfect faith and perfect love and obedience abound, working in the hearts of those who are Christ’s followers, they will have a powerful influence. Light will emanate from them, dispelling the darkness around them, refining and elevating all who come within the sphere of their influence, and bringing to a knowledge of the truth all who are willing to be enlightened and to follow in the humble path of obedience. **2T 693**.

14. Notice also the parallel between **Rev 14:12** and **Rev 12:17**

- i. Keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus (**Rev 14:12**)
- ii. Keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus (**Rev 12:17**)

15. **IMPORTANT:** What is the testimony of Jesus? It is the “testimony” originating from Jesus that is revealed to His church through the medium of prophecy; the prophetic gift (**Rev 19:10; 1 Cor 12:1, 10**)

- a. The close relationship between the “testimony of Jesus” and prophecy is further demonstrated by the noting the parallel between **Rev 19:10** and **Rev 22:9**:
 - i. “thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren which have the spirit of prophecy” (**Rev 19:10**)
 - ii. “thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren the prophets” (**Rev 22:9**)
 - iii. **Rev 1:1-3**—the “word of God” and the “testimony of Jesus” are coupled and refers to the book of Revelation as a message **from** Jesus and also **about** Jesus
 1. things that must shortly come to pass (**Rev 1:1**)
 2. things that he saw (**Rev 1:2**)
 3. The words of this prophecy (**Rev 1:3**)
 - iv. **Rev 1:9**—John is said to have word of God and “testimony of Jesus” for which he is in exile
- b. **THEREFORE**, the “testimony of Jesus” is the distinctive work of the prophets to bear a testimony (message) from Jesus to His people;

- c. **Rev 12:17**--The end-time is distinguished by the manifestation of the gift of prophecy in Ellen White

16. In order to survive the test in Daniel 2, Daniel and his friends needed to have the “testimony of Jesus” or the spirit of prophecy; Daniel’s ability to explain the dream of Nebuchadnezzar showed he had obtained the testimony of Jesus
17. Faithfulness in the health reform work prepared Daniel and his friends to receive this ability (**Dan 1:17**); their fervent prayer in **Dan 2:18** would have availed nothing, if they were not faithful to the health message in Daniel 1
18. How can God’s people receive the “testimony of Jesus” or the spirit of prophecy?
 - a. Preserve clear minds by adhering to the health message so God can communicate truths to them pertaining to the time of the end; God’s people need to be faithful in the health message or they will not be endowed with the ability to understand the dreams and visions recorded in the book of Daniel and Revelation; failure to receive the “testimony of Jesus” or the spirit of prophecy means being ignorant of the issues behind the Sabbath-Sunday crisis in final conflict and therefore being deceived by miracle-working devils which go forth to deceive the world into making an image to the beast and worshipping the beast and his image
 - b. Earnest and prayerful study of the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation while faithful to the health message in order to discern the errors that are binding the minds and hearts of men to the enemy of souls (**Dan 9:2**)

John was a representative of the people of God in the last days, to whom God has committed important and solemn truths. The world at large are given to gluttony and the indulgence of base passions. The light of health reform is opened before the people of God at this day, that they may see the necessity of holding their appetites and passions under control of the higher powers of the mind. **This is also necessary, that they may have mental strength and clearness, to discern the sacred chain of truth, and turn from the bewitching errors and pleasing fables, that are flooding the world.** Their work is to present before the people the pure doctrine of the Bible. **Hence health reform finds its place in the preparatory work for the second appearing of Christ. 2SP 44**

- c. Studying the Testimonies—the writings of Ellen White are a manifestation of the testimony of Jesus for the remnant church; studying them and applying in the life means having the testimony of Jesus
19. To have the faith of Jesus is to believe in the ability of Christ to save “amply, fully and entirely” from sin; to have the testimony of Jesus is to believe in the messages of Jesus given through the prophetic gift
 - a. **2 Chron 20:20**—believe in God and so shall you be established; believe in His prophets and you shall prosper

b. **Prov 29:18**—where there is no vision, the people perish. . .

20. When God’s people are able to correctly interpret current events in the light of the truths of the dreams and visions of Daniel and John, the Revelator, they could be said to have the “testimony of Jesus;”

21. Because Daniel and his 3 friends survived the second test, they were prepared for test 3—the final test!

TEST #3: Victory over the Worship the Golden Image (Dan 3)

22. Worship of the golden image on the plain of Dura; a type of the final crisis over the Sabbath

“An idol sabbath has been set up, as the golden image was set up in the plains of Dura. And as Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, issued a decree that all who would not bow down and worship this image should be killed, so a proclamation will be made that all who will not reverence the Sunday institution will be punished with imprisonment and death. Thus the Sabbath of the Lord is trampled underfoot.” –**14MR No. 1097.**

23. Just as Nebuchadnezzar was furious when the three Hebrew worthies refuse to bow down to his golden idol, (**Dan 3:19**) the Papacy (king of the north) is filled with rage on account of the faithful remnant who refuse to bow down to his rival Sabbath, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus (**Dan 8:19; Dan 11:44**)

Conclusion

24. It is important to see the connection between the historical portion of the book of Daniel (**Dan 1-6**) with the three angels messages; not to recognize the narratives in the first 3 chapters of Daniel as tests and hurdles is to miss the real intent for which they were written:

25. **Dan 6:4**--Daniel is a type of the people who shall stand faultless before God in the time of the end as a result of the purifying messages of **Revelation 14** and the final atonement;

26. The time of preparation for the tests also become shorter as one progresses through the tests

- a. **Daniel 1**--10 days of preparation for the health test (**Dan 1:15**)
- b. **Daniel 2**--A night of preparation to interpret Nebuchadnezzar’s dream (**Dan 2:19**)
- c. **Daniel 3**--No time granted to prepare for the final test (**Dan 3:5**)
 - i. “that at what time ye hear the sound. . .”

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