

# 6 The Seven-fold Cleansing Messages of Revelation 14, VI

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1. In **GC 425**, recall that a work of **cleansing** and **purification** from sin among God's people on earth is more clearly presented in the messages of **Revelation 14**.

While the investigative judgment is going forward in heaven, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is to be a special work of purification, of putting away of sin, among God's people upon earth. This work is more clearly presented in the messages of Revelation 14. **GC 425**.

## A Purifying Message

2. Recall also that the third angel's message was revealed in stages to the Advent people that came out of the Great Disappointment of 1844:
  - a. **Sabbath reform**---discovered in 1846-47 (**1T 78-79**)
  - b. **Health reform**—the right arm of the third angel; revealed by the Lord to Ellen White in 1863 (**6T 288**)
  - c. **Righteousness by faith**---the Loud Cry of the third angel (**7BC 984, EGW on Rev 18:1**); brought to the Seventh-day Adventist church in 1888
3. Why were these three components packaged as the third angel's message?
  - a. The **Sabbath** truth was restored to the Advent people because it could not be said that "here are they that keep the commandments of God while they were violating the fourth commandment Sabbath
  - b. The **health reform** message was also added to the third angel's message because it could not be said that they were keeping the commandments of God while they were transgressing the natural law;

"Transgression of physical law is transgression of the moral law. . ." (**COL 347**)

- c. **Righteousness by faith** was added because law keeping apart from genuine faith in Christ is legalism; obedience to the commandments of God must be the fruit of faith; Law and Gospel must go together
4. In essence therefore, the third angel's message is the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus

## A Testing Message

5. However, we are also told that the three angels messages of Revelation 14 are a **testing** message; this aspect of the three angel's messages of **Revelation 14** also needs to be "more clearly

presented” to the people of God; our presentation on the three angel's message cannot be complete without presenting them as a 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**

6. The question we need to ask ourselves at this point is, “how is the third angel’s message (which embraces the first and the second angels’ messages, by the way, **Ev 196**), a test? What does this test consist of? If we desire to pass the test, then by all means we need to know what the nature of the test is, in order to be prepared for it!
7. When referring to the third angel’s message as a test, is that strictly talking about the Sunday Law crisis which is still future and during which time, Sabbathkeepers are tested on the Sabbath?
8. Once we have embraced the third angel’s message and 1) have begun to strictly observe the seventh-day Sabbath, once we 2) have begun to strictly practice the health reform message and once we 3) have become righteous by faith by believing in Christ as personal Saviour, does the third angel’s message cease to become a test for us?
9. Could it be that there is more to the third angel’s message as a testing message than we are comprehending right now?

## A Most Startling Discovery

10. Here is a most startling discovery: the three points on which Jesus was tempted in the wilderness right after His baptism, are in principle, the same three points that make up the third angel’s message!
11. **IMPORTANT:** If we can understand the points or issues involving the temptations of Jesus in the wilderness, then we can understand the nature of **the tests** on which the third angel’s message is based on
12. **The first temptation (Matt 4:3-4)**---Jesus tempted on appetite; this lines up with the **health component** of the third angel’s message, which also deals with appetite and the natural law
  - a. On the surface, the first temptation appeared to be merely a test on appetite; but the real test in this temptation was whether Jesus lived according to every word that comes from the mouth of God (**Matt 4:4**)! Appetite merely served as a means by which Jesus could be tested on whether He was **totally dependent on God’s word**

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.” Often the follower of Christ is brought where he cannot serve God and carry forward his worldly enterprises. Perhaps it appears that obedience to some plain requirement of God will cut off his means of support. Satan would make him believe that he must sacrifice his conscientious convictions. But the only thing in our world upon which we can rely is the word of God. Even in this

life it is not for our good to depart from the will of our Father in heaven. **When we learn the power of His word, we shall not follow the suggestions of Satan in order to obtain food or to save our lives. Our only questions will be, What is God's command? and what His promise? Knowing these, we shall obey the one, and trust the other.**

**In the last great conflict of the controversy with Satan those who are loyal to God will see every earthly support cut off. Because they refuse to break His law in obedience to earthly powers, they will be forbidden to buy or sell.** It will finally be decreed that they shall be put to death. See Revelation 13:11-17. But to the obedient is given the promise, "He shall dwell on high: his place of defense shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure." Isaiah 33:16. By this promise the children of God will live. When the earth shall be wasted with famine, they shall be fed. . . **DA 121-122**

- b. This brings home a very important point: if we do not demonstrate daily in our lives that we live by every word that comes from the mouth of God, all our temperance and physical health reform work is in vain;

13. **The second temptation (Matt 4:5-7)**—Jesus tempted to exercise presumption as opposed to genuine faith; it would have been **sheer presumption on the part of Jesus, not faith**, to believe that the Father would interpose by sending angels to save Him from death, if He had ventured, unbidden, to cast Himself down to the ground as Satan demanded, in order to prove His divinity; this test therefore, lines up with the faith of Jesus component of the third angel's message;

. . . God had already testified that Jesus was His Son; and now to ask for proof that He was the Son of God would be putting God's word to the test,—tempting Him. And the same would be true of asking for that which God had not promised. It would manifest distrust, and be really proving, or tempting, Him. We should not present our petitions to God to prove whether He will fulfill His word, but because He will fulfill it; not to prove that He loves us, but because He loves us. "Without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Hebrews 11:6.

**But faith is in no sense allied to presumption. Only he who has true faith is secure against presumption. For presumption is Satan's counterfeit of faith.** Faith claims God's promises, and brings forth fruit in obedience. Presumption also claims the promises, but uses them as Satan did, to excuse transgression. Faith would have led our first parents to trust the love of God, and to obey His commands. Presumption led them to transgress His law, believing that His great love would save them from the consequence of their sin. **It is not faith that claims the favor of Heaven without complying with the conditions on which mercy is to be granted.** Genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of the Scriptures.

Often when Satan has failed of exciting distrust, he succeeds in leading us to presumption. **DA 126**

14. **The third temptation (Matt 4:8-10)**--- Jesus who was already a Sabbathkeeper, worshipping on the right day, could still be tempted on the point of worship; this temptation lines up with the Sabbath Reform component of the third angel, which really deals with worship and obedience to the moral law;

- a. The real test in the third temptation in the wilderness was whether Jesus worshipped and served God **ONLY!**
- b. If our daily lives demonstrate that we worship other things, we are, in principle, breaking the moral law and our Sabbathkeeping is meaningless

By the one who had revolted in heaven the kingdoms of this world were offered Christ, to buy His homage to the principles of evil; **but He would not be bought**; He had come to establish a kingdom of righteousness, and He would not abandon His purpose. With the same temptation Satan approaches men, and here he has better success than with Christ. To men he offers the kingdom of this world on condition that they will acknowledge his supremacy. He requires that they sacrifice integrity, disregard conscience, indulge selfishness. Christ bids them seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; but Satan walks by their side and says: Whatever may be true in regard to life eternal, in order to make a success in this world you must serve me. I hold your welfare in my hands. I can give you riches, pleasures, honor, and happiness. Hearken to my counsel. Do not allow yourselves to be carried away with whimsical notions of honesty or self-sacrifice. I will prepare the way before you. Thus multitudes are deceived. They consent to live for the service of self, and Satan is satisfied. While he allures them with the hope of worldly dominion, he gains dominion over the soul. . . **DA 130**

## Another Startling Discovery

15. **IMPORTANT:** The three components of the third angel's message also find counterparts in the three articles found inside the ark of the covenant in the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary:
  - a. The pot of manna—the health reform work (natural law)
  - b. The tables of the commandments—the moral law
  - c. The rod of Aaron—the faith of Jesus
16. Again, the sin of **Korah, Dathan and Abiram** was the sin of **presumption**; they believed that God would honor them as priests, even though their action was directly against the provisions which God Himself had laid down with regards to the selection of priests;
  - a. The rod of Aaron was preserved in the ark to serve as a token, a memorial (warning) against anyone who would venture to commit the sin of presumption, believing it to be an act of faith (**Num 17: 10; Num 16:39, 40**)
17. The faith of Jesus requires that the favor of God can only be claimed if we have complied with “the conditions on which mercy is to be granted”
18. The **emerging church teachings** are exposed as based on presumption, not genuine faith
  - a. The belief that God will save us in our sins, while our lives are not in perfect harmony with the Law of God, is not based on genuine faith, but presumption!

The condition of eternal life is now just what it always has been,—just what it was in Paradise before the fall of our first parents,—**perfect obedience to the law of God, perfect righteousness**. If eternal life were granted on any condition short of this, then the happiness of the whole universe would be imperiled. **SC 62.**

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

- b. The belief that we can have a saving relationship with Jesus apart from the doctrines of the bible is not based on genuine faith but is presumption of the highest order; it also falls short of demonstrating in the life that man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of God!
  - c. The belief today that spirituality can be achieved on a purely sensual level, i.e., the senses, the touch, the smell, the imagination, is not based on faith, but presumption; it is a counterfeit spirituality
19. This tie-in between the third angel's message and the three articles in the ark of the covenant is the strongest proof that can be presented to show that God was leading the advent movement after the great

disappointment of 1844; He is also leading us today if we embrace the three angels messages and demonstrate them daily in our lives

The Three Components of the Third Angel's Message	The Three Temptations of Jesus in the Wilderness	The Three Articles in the Ark of the Covenant
The health reform message	<b>First temptation</b> --turn the stones into bread	Pot of manna
The Sabbath Reform work	<b>Third temptation</b> --bow down and worship the devil	Tables of the Law
The faith of Jesus	<b>Second temptation</b> --cast thyself down	The rod of Aaron that budded

## Conclusion

20. The third angel's message tests everyone

- a. to see if they are living daily not by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God
- b. to see if they are daily demonstrating genuine faith in God and are not found exercising presumption instead, which is the Devil's counterfeit of faith
- c. to see if they worship God and serve Him only

21. The third angel's message tests and then separates the obedient from the disobedient, the faithful from the presumptuous, the wheat from the tares---

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.**

22. Because Jesus overcame when He was tested, we too, can overcome even as He overcame; His victory is assurance that we too, can be victorious

23. Those who are purified by demonstrating daily the sanctifying power of the three angels messages in their lives, are the only ones who will endure the testing messages of **Revelation 14**. . .

24. **Dan 12:10**--this passage speaks of "many" who will be "purified and made white and tried" in the time of the end:

- a. **purified**--a reference to the purification from sin which should take place now while the investigative judgment is going forward in heaven (GC 425)
- b. **made white**--a reference to the final atonement for the living in which their sins are blotted out and no longer remembered,
  - i. "they are eternally secure from the tempter's devices" and "they are nevermore to be defiled by the corruptions of the world" (**PK 591**)
  - ii. "their characters remain spotless for all eternity" (**5T 216**)
- c. **tried**--those who have been purified and made white go through the time of final testing; they have to remain loyal to God and not sin during the time when there is no intercession going on in the sanctuary in heaven (**Dan 12:1**)