

The Seven-fold Cleansing Messages of Revelation 14, I

SYNOPSIS: When Laodicea is cleansed, she becomes God’s powerful agent for the final cleansing and purifying of God’s honest children in all parts of the world just before Jesus comes;

1. It is important to be able to see the difference between the three angels’ messages and the message given to the church of Laodicea.
 - a. The first is a series of final warnings to be given **to the world** (nations, kindred, peoples)
 - b. The latter a special message given **to the church** to refine and prepare her to sound the three angels messages.

The Message to the Church of Laodicea	The Three Angels Messages
Given by the True and Faithful Witness (Jesus)	Given by angels flying in the midst of heaven
Given to the angel of the church of Laodicea (ministers, pastors and leaders of the church)	Given to languages, nations tongues and people (Rev 14:6)
For the benefit of the church—those already acquainted with the truth	Given for the benefit of those who are not of like faith (“a multitude not of their faith,” (RH Feb 25, 1902)

2. Jesus takes a three-fold step to correct Laodicea’s problem;
 - a. Step 1: “I counsel thee to buy of me. . .” **Laodicea Counseled**” (Rev 3:18),
 - b. Step 2: “As many as I love, I **rebuke**. . .” **Laodicea Rebuked** (Rev 3:19) and
 - c. Step 3: “and chasten. . .” **Laodicea is chastened** (Rev 3:19)
3. There is a noticeable progression in severity from step 1 to step 3; in other words, from counsel which least severe to chastening which is the most severe
4. Interestingly, such progression in severity is also evident in the imperatives of the three angels’ message:
 - a. Fear God, give glory. . .worship (1st angel’s message)---**Babylon counseled**
 - b. Babylon is fallen (2nd angel’s message)---**Babylon rebuked**
 - c. Shall be tormented with fire and brimstone. . .(3rd angel’s message)---**Babylon chastened**
5. Both messages are designed to accomplish the same thing—purify or cleanse those who accept them;

The Message to the Church of Laodicea	The Three Angels’ Messages
--The message purifies the church “I saw that the testimony of the True Witness has not been half heeded. The solemn testimony upon <u>which the destiny</u>	--This message purifies God’s honest children in the world “While the investigative judgment is going forward in

<p>of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded. This testimony must work deep repentance; all who truly receive it will obey it and be purified." EW 270.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>When this work shall have been accomplished, the followers of Christ will be ready for His appearing." GC 425</p>
<p>The destiny of the church hangs upon this message (EW 270)</p>	<p>The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received</p> <p>I saw a company who stood well guarded and firm, giving no countenance to those who would unsettle the established faith of the body. God looked upon them with approbation. I was shown three steps-- the first, second, and third angels' messages. Said my accompanying angel, "Woe to him who shall move a block or stir a pin of these messages. The true understanding of these messages is of vital importance. <u>The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received.</u>" EW 258-259</p>

6. How can it said that the three angels messages are a purifying message when there is nothing in the text of these messages that speak about cleansing?

The First Angel's Message

7. The first angel's message "Fear God," "give glory Him" and "worship Him" calls for a work purification from sin in the lives and character of God's people through
- a. **Conviction (Luke 23:39-40; Rom 3:12-18)**
 - b. **Confession (Josh 7:19; Rev 16:9-10)** and
 - c. **Conversion—a turning from the "error of his way"; law-keeping (Ps 29:2; James 5:19-20)**

By the first angel, men are called upon to "fear God, and give glory to Him" and to worship Him as the Creator of the heavens and the earth. In order to do this, they must obey His law. Says the wise man: "Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." Ecclesiastes 12:13. **Without obedience to His commandments no worship can be pleasing to God. . . GC 436.**

8. In other words, the benefit of receiving this message was forgiveness, sanctification and cleansing daily service benefits; these spiritual realities are couched in symbolic language which is why it not discerned on the surface!
9. Those who accepted the preaching of the first angel's message of William Miller in 1844 actually went through this experience:

"Everywhere the searching testimony was heard, warning sinners, both worldlings and church members, to flee from the wrath to come. . .The simple, direct testimony of the Scriptures, set home by the power of the Holy Spirit, brought a **weight of conviction** which few were able wholly to resist. Professors of religion were roused from their false security. They saw their backslidings, their worldliness and unbelief, their pride and selfishness. Many sought the Lord with **repentance** and humiliation. The affections that had so long clung to earthly things they now fixed upon heaven. The Spirit of God rested upon them, and with hearts softened and subdued they joined to sound the cry: "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come."

". . .The hearts of parents were turned to their children, and the hearts of children to their parents. The barriers of pride and reserve were swept away. **Heartfelt confessions** were made, and the members of the household labored for the salvation of those who were nearest and dearest. Often was heard the sound of earnest intercession. Everywhere were souls in deep anguish pleading with God. Many wrestled all night in prayer for the assurance that their own sins were pardoned, or for **the conversion of their relatives or neighbors**. GC 368-369.

The Second Angel's Messages

10. The work of cleansing and special purification from sin continues in the proclamation of the second angel (**Rev 14:8**);
11. AGAIN NOTE that there is nothing in the text or language of the message of the second angel that suggests a work of purification or cleansing; therefore there is a need to study and investigate below the surface;
12. **A call to come out of Babylon presupposed**---the second proclamation presupposes a call to come out from Babylon because she is unclean and the work of purification from sin cannot continue unless one heeds the call to separate from her communion (**Rev 18:1-4**); it is not enough to have an experience in **justification** and **sanctification**; one must also sever his ties with sin and error to be cleansed from them;
13. Who is Babylon and why is she unclean? Babylon is unclean because her sins are not washed away in forgiveness and blotted out; (**Rev 18:5**);

"The fallen denominational churches are Babylon. Babylon has been fostering poisonous doctrines, the wine of error. This wine of error is made up of false doctrines, such as the natural immortality of the soul, the eternal torment of the wicked, the denial of the pre-existence of Christ prior to His birth in Bethlehem, and advocating and exalting the first day of the week above God's holy, sanctified day. These and kindred errors are presented to the world by the various churches. . . ." **Ev 365**.

14. NOTE: Babylon's wine of false dogmas prevent people from heeding the first angel's message to fear God, give glory to Him and worship him in the hour of judgment;

Were it not that the world is hopelessly intoxicated with the wine of Babylon, multitudes would be **convicted** and **converted** by the plain, cutting truths of the word of God. But religious faith appears so confused and discordant that the people know not what to believe as truth. The sin of the world's impenitence lies at the door of the church. **GC 389**.

15. The call to come out of Babylon is necessary in order not to partake of her impurity (**2 Cor 6:17; Isa 52:11**)

16. There was actually a coming out of Babylon (fallen denominations) in the proclamation of the second angel's message in 1844:

“. . . In the summer of 1844 about fifty thousand withdrew from the churches. **GC 376.**

17. Again, only those who follow Jesus in the heavenly sanctuary will as a result of heeding the call of the first angel will see light in the second angel's message and will accept it and be benefitted by its proclamation to come out of Babylon's institutions;

The Third Angel's Message

18. The 3rd angel's message contains the final components in the cleansing process;
19. Again, on the surface, there's is nothing in the text of the 3rd angel's message that even suggests a cleansing work; just like the 1st and 2nd angels' messages, there is no direct reference to heavenly sanctuary and the ministration of Jesus there as High Priest; on the surface, what we read is a warning about the worship of the beast and receiving his mark on the forehead or the hand;
20. In reality, the 3rd angel's message is the final pieces or final steps in the FINAL cleansing process of the characters of God's people; the first and second angel's messages contained the other pieces in the cleansing process;
21. The third angel's message is based on the **CLOSING WORK** Jesus is doing in the Most Holy Place that brings about the final cleansing of the lives and characters of God's people, the blotting out of their sins from the books of heaven, and the placing of the seal of God's on their foreheads! This is why the third angel is also called the sealing angel;

The Historical Development and Unfolding of the Third Angel's Message

22. The pioneers of the Advent Movement understood and experienced the third angel's message in stages;
- a. **Sabbath Reform (1846)**--the 4th commandment Sabbath brought to the forefront through the effort of Joseph Bates; Rachel Oaks brought the Sabbath truth early in the history of the Advent Movement but was suppressed by the Millerite leaders thinking it was a diversion from their message of the coming of Christ;

When we began to present the light on the Sabbath question, we had no clearly defined idea of the third angel's message of **Revelation 14:9-12**. The burden of our testimony as we came before the people was that the great second advent movement was of God, that the first and second messages had gone forth, and that the third was to be given. We saw that the third message closed with the words: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." And we as clearly saw as we now see that these prophetic words suggested a Sabbath reform; but as to what the worship of the beast mentioned in the message was, or what the image and the mark of the beast were, we had no defined position. God by His Holy Spirit let light shine forth upon His servants, and the subject gradually opened to their minds. It required much study and anxious care to search it out, link after link. By care, anxiety, and incessant labor has the work moved on until the great truths of our message, a clear, connected, perfect whole, have been given to the world. **1T 78-79.** (1846)

- b. At this point, the mark of the beast issue was not clear to the pioneers and therefore not part of the proclamation of the 3rd angel's message; original features of the third angel's message merely consisted of Sabbath reform; no defined position on the mark of the beast;

23. In time, two additional features of the third angel's message would be included as result of "anxious care, incessant labor and much study;"
- a. **Health Reform (1863)**--the health message added as the "right arm of the third angel" or the "entering wedge;"

It was at the house of Brother A. Hilliard, at Otsego, Michigan, June 6, 1863, That the great subject of health Reform was opened before me in vision. **CD 481.**

- b. **The Loud Cry of the Third angel (1888)**-the final component of the third angel's message added through Elder Jones and Waggoner--- righteousness by faith; it was thought that with the introduction of this component of the third angel's message, that message would swell into a loud cry

The time of test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth (**RH Nov. 22, 1892 or 7BC 984**).

Of all professing Christians, Seventh-day Adventists should be foremost in uplifting Christ before the world. The proclamation of the third angel's message calls for the presentation of the Sabbath truth. This truth, with others included in the message, is to be proclaimed; but the great center of attraction, Christ Jesus, must not be left out. . **GW 156-157 (1915)**

The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones. This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God. . . This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angel's message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure. **TM 91 (1896)**

24. **The mark of Beast issue—(1888)**--also by this time, our pioneers has achieved a clear and solid understanding of the topic of the beast and the meaning of receiving its mark (**GC 445-449**)

Conclusion

25. Thus, the Christian experience of **justification, sanctification** and **perfection** of character is spelled out in the three angels' messages as a 7-step cleansing process: conviction, confession, conversion, coming out of Babylon, Sabbathkeeping, Health reform, receiving the imputed righteousness of Christ by faith now and His imparted righteousness in the final atonement;
26. The story of Naaman's miraculous cleansing from leprosy is present truth for God's people today; it serves as a type or model of the cleansing that God's people will experience in the last days; just as Naaman needed to humble himself and submit to God's program in order to be cleansed, God's people today need to afflict their souls in order to have their sins blotted out before Jesus leaves the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary;
- a. Naaman was a Gentile

b. Naaman did not have to know anything about the Hebrew theology to receive the benefit of the Elisha's ministrations;

27. The cleansing experience derived from living out the 3 angels' messages in the life is what prepares the world for the hour of judgment and for the final conflict

The third angel's message must be presented as the only hope for the salvation of a perishing world. **Ev 196.**

28. Those who reject the 1st and second angels' messages and do not benefit from the cleansing these messages offer through the ministrations of Christ in the most holy place cannot, and will not be in the position to receive and even understand the third angel's message, and will in fact, receive the mark of the beast;

29. IN FACT, THEY WILL NOT EVEN RECOGNIZE THE TRUE IMPORT OF THE MESSAGE; THEY WILL BE COUNTED AMONG THOSE WHO ARE WICKED AND WILL NOT UNDERSTAND" (**Dan 12:10**)

Linked Messages

The first, second, and third angels' messages are all linked together. The evidences of the abiding, ever-living truth of these grand messages, that mean so much to us, that have awakened such intense opposition from the religious world, cannot be extinguished. Satan is constantly seeking to cast his hellish shadow about these messages, so that the remnant people of God shall not clearly discern their import, their time, and place; but they live, and are to exert their power upon our **religious experience** while time shall last. **2SM 117.**

The Three Angels' Messages To Be Proclaimed in Their Order

During the past fifty years of my life, I have had precious opportunities to obtain an experience. I have had an experience in the first, second, and third angels' messages. . . . Men and women, enlightened by the Spirit of God and sanctified through the truth, proclaim the three messages in their order. **2SM 387.**

Sharing the Three Angels' Messages

So, I saw, that those who had **no experience in the first and second angels' messages** must receive them from those who had an **experience**, and followed down through the messages. **EW 189.**