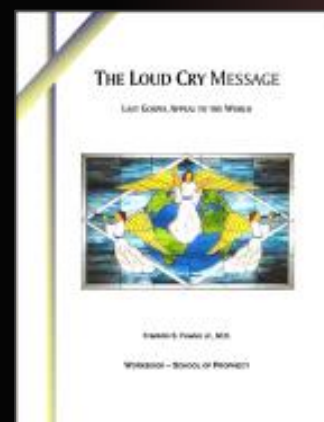


A book that goes along with this Three Angels' Messages series is *The Loud Cry*, which can be obtained by:

Calling: 760-248-1111

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E-mailing: [prophecy-research@earthlink.net](mailto:prophecy-research@earthlink.net)

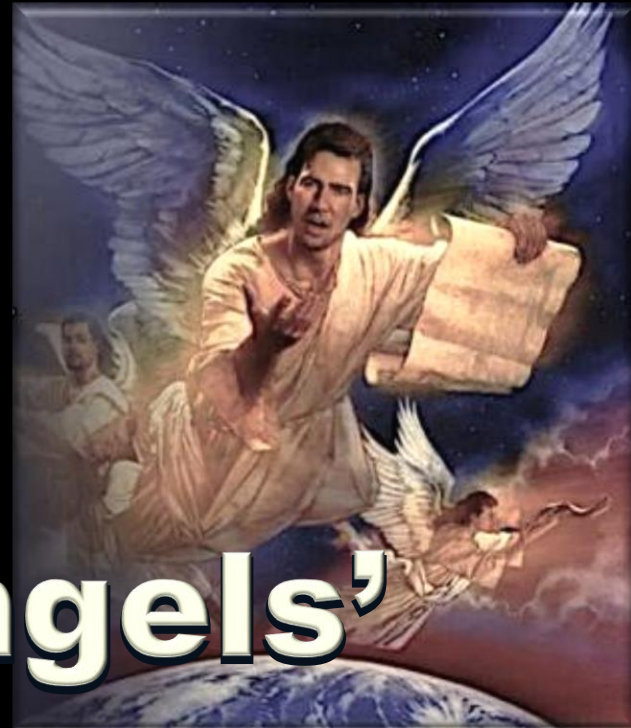


We now continue our studies on:

***The Three Angels' Messages***

Prophecy Research Initiative  
presents

# The Three Angels' Messages



Revelation 14

Franklin S. Fowler Jr., M.D.

## Lesson Three – Revelation 14

# Angel Three: Commissioned To Announce God's Wrath!



In the *second* and *fourth* angels' messages, God is warning Christians to disassociate themselves from Babylon, representing "Christian" churches promoting falsehood.

With deepening spiritual and judicial concerns, God sternly announces that Babylon has become the "home of devils!"

(Rev. 18:2)

Paul had already alerted his readers that Satan's work at the end would be so deceptive that people will actually believe "strong delusions" or lies. (II Thess. 2:9-11)

“Satan and his angels are wide awake and intensely active, working with energy and perseverance through human” beings. (3 SM 407)

But God also has His “instruments,” first presented in the Apocalypse as the 144,000. Their effectiveness will be *stunning*:

“The message of solemn warning must be given to all nations, tongues, and people. The message will convict and convert the hearers or condemn them. All will be left without excuse.” (5MR 300)

God has couched the wording of this warning message to minimize its rejection.



This is how it begins:

*“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 ...” (Rev. 14:9)*

The words “third” and “followed” reveal that this final message won’t go out until after the other two have been scattered around the world!

Based upon additional prophetic studies in Daniel and Revelation, that final appeal to planet earth goes out towards the end of earth's last 3½-year period.

Daniel and Habakkuk call that period the:

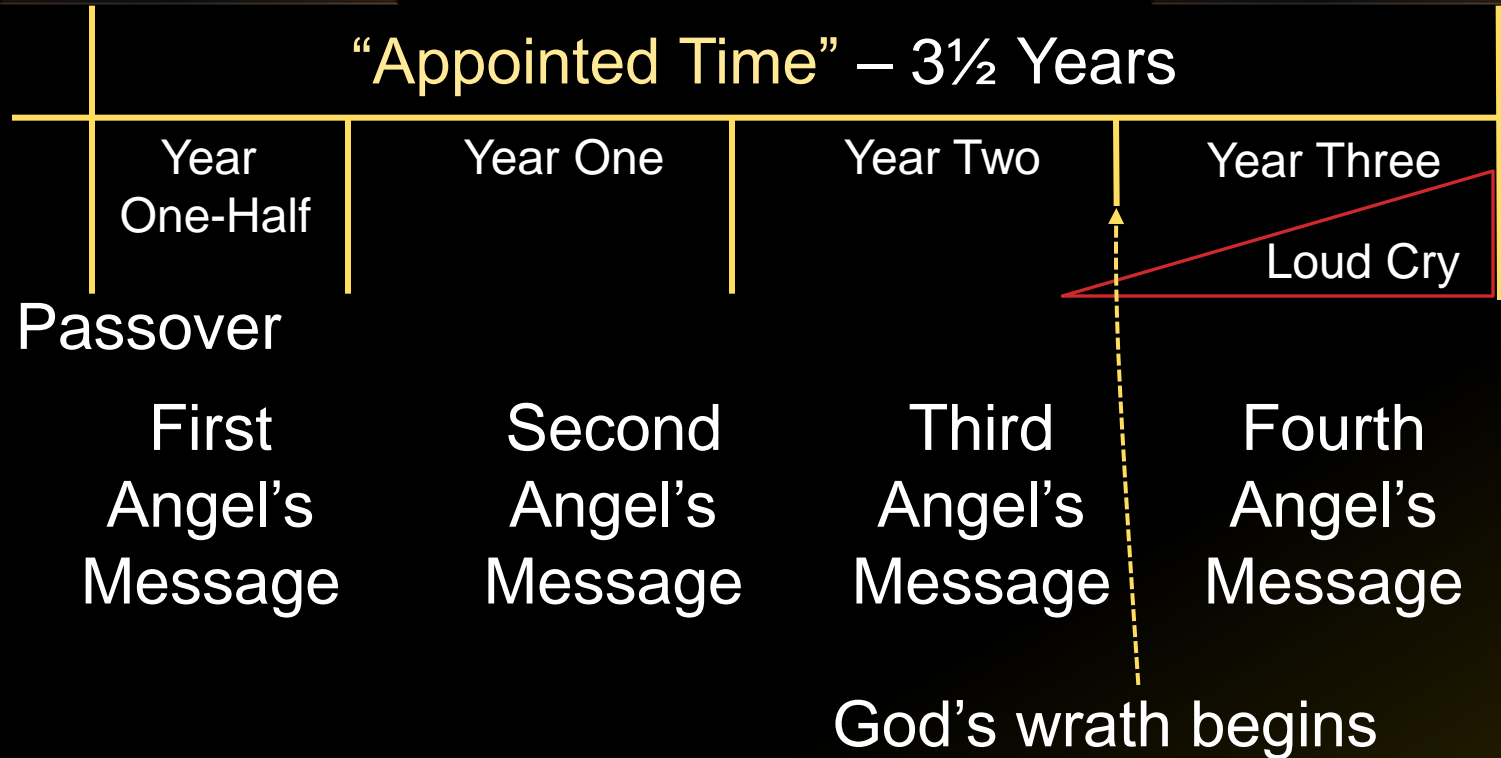
**“Appointed Time”**

# “Appointed Time”

Abomination  
leading to  
desolation

Deliverance  
of God's  
people

“Appointed Time” – 3½ Years





We are told that this third message will:

1. Prepare a people to stand in the last days
2. Accomplish a work few realize
3. Command the attention of the world

(8T 94, GC 450)

The “voice” of this message, like the first angel, is portrayed with a mission of “drama.” Its “loud voice” suggests unprecedented urgency!

*“saying with a loud voice.”* (Rev. 14:9)

Everyone will hear it; it is universally important.

“I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven, descending to the earth, and again ascending to heaven, preparing for the fulfillment of some **important event**. Then I saw another mighty angel commissioned to descend to the earth, to unite his voice with the third angel, and give power and force to his message.... The work of this angel comes in at the right time to **join in the last great work of the third angel’s message** as it swells to a loud cry. And the **people of God are thus prepared to stand in the hour of temptation**, which they are soon to meet. I saw a great light resting upon them, and they united to fearlessly proclaim the third angel’s message.” (EW 277)



Fourth Angel

Loud Cry

Great  
Tribulation

Third  
Angel's  
Message

Deliverance  
of God's  
people

3½ years  
come to an  
end!

*“If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand ...” (Rev. 14:9)*

“If any man worship” excludes no one!

A conditional issue is being announced.

If anyone worships:

1. The “**beast**” from the sea or from the “bottomless pit” or the one the harlot rides on
2. Or the beast’s “**image**” – something that represents him
3. Or receives his mark or insignia

God’s wrath will be activated.

The world has been warned to “come out of Babylon” – get away from the harlot/beast influence. This is implying that if one stays in:

1. They will be honoring that “beast”
2. They will be “worshiping” that “beast”

Just recently God had informed John:

*“And they [the world] worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying; who is like unto the beast? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.” (Rev. 13:4-5)*

Man was warned in the first angel's message to worship only the Creator!

In Revelation 17 the "beast" has ten horns (kings), and it says that they had no "kingdom" as yet. (17:12) In Revelation 13 the same "beast" now has a kingdom crown on each horn. (13:1)

These ten horns give the beast their power. "Ten" means a "complete" number. The power can't be exceeded. Total earthly support is given to the beast!

To “worship” the beast means that “sacred honor” is being extended to it, along with those ten horns.

To understand this more deeply, we look at its “mark” – the “mark of the beast.”

An institution's descriptive sign of authenticity is in its **logo**. Some unique **mark or design** distinguishes it, an **insignia** showing who it is!

God is saying that this beast not only has a “mark” but it is **stamped on the foreheads or hands of its followers!** They have accepted fully, or at least in action, what that insignia stands for!

God doesn't like that! In fact, we will shortly see that that “marks” an individual for His wrath. We have noted elsewhere that God looks on this as an “abomination!”





The best way to evaluate this is to first look at God's "mark" or "sign" of His authority. The "antichrist" would be in opposition or have an opposite "mark!"

"Verily my sabbath ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you ... that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you ... it is holy unto you: Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath ... for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever ... And he gave unto Moses ... two tables of ... stone, written with the finger of God."

(Ex. 31:13-14, 16-18)

Daniel tells us that any rebellion against the seventh-day Sabbath is a special sin called a transgression – or in Hebrew, *pesha*.

(Dan. 8:12-13, 9:24)

Collectively, throughout the O.T., that means: rebellion against God's authority, His law and His covenant – or against God's restoration promises. That is rebellion against God's "Sabbath mark!"



The "mark of the beast" would, therefore, be something that establishes his authority, fixed by the force of law! Something that is opposite of God's Sabbath!

Imagine →

“The Church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof positive of that fact. Deny the authority of the Church and you have no adequate or reasonable explanation or justification for the substitution of Sunday for Saturday in the Third – Protestant Fourth – Commandment of God.” (*Catholic Record of London, Ontario, September 1, 1923*)



“Sunday is our mark of authority ...”  
(*Catholic Record of London, Ontario, September 1, 1923*)



“From this we may understand how great is the authority of the church in interpreting or explaining to us the commandments of God – an authority which is acknowledged by the universal practice of the whole Christian world, even of those sects which profess to take the Holy Scriptures as their sole rule of faith, since they observe as the day of rest not the seventh day of the week demanded by the Bible, but the first day, which we know is to be kept holy, only from the tradition and teaching of the Catholic church.” (Henry Gibson, *Catechism Made Easy*, #2, 9th edition, vol. 1, pp. 341-342)



“It is well to remind the Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, and all other Christians, that the Bible does not support them anywhere in their observance of Sunday. Sunday is an institution of the Roman Catholic Church, and those who observe the day observe a commandment of the Catholic Church.”



(Priest Brady, in an address reported in *The News*, Elizabeth, New Jersey, March 18, 1903)

The Bishop of Rome, Sylvester I, made the first ecclesiastical Sunday law in 316 A.D. and Constantine the first civil Sunday law in 321 A.D.

Now we know what “the mark of the beast” is! It’s a “false Sabbath.”



“The change of the Sabbath is the sign or mark of the authority of the Romish church. Those who, understanding the claims of the fourth commandment, choose to observe the false sabbath in the place of the true, are thereby paying homage to that power by which alone it is commanded. The mark of the beast is the papal sabbath, which has been accepted by the world in the place of the day of God’s appointment.” (Ev. 234)



Here is a very insightful timing missive:

“No one has yet received the mark of the beast. The testing time has not yet come....None are condemned until [1] they have had the light and [2] have seen the obligation of the fourth commandment. But when the decree shall go forth [1] enforcing the counterfeit sabbath, and [2] the loud cry of the third angel shall warn men against the worship of the beast and his image, the line will be clearly drawn between the false and the true. Then those who still continue in transgression will receive the mark of the beast.”

(MS 51, 1899)

**In mercy** – no one is eternally judged until they:

1. Have had the light
2. Have seen the obligation of the fourth commandment

For some, that will not occur until the last 1-1½ years of that final appointed time:

1. When a **universal** decree shall go forth, enforcing the counterfeit sabbath – and
2. When the loud cry of the third angel shall warn men against the worship of the beast and his image



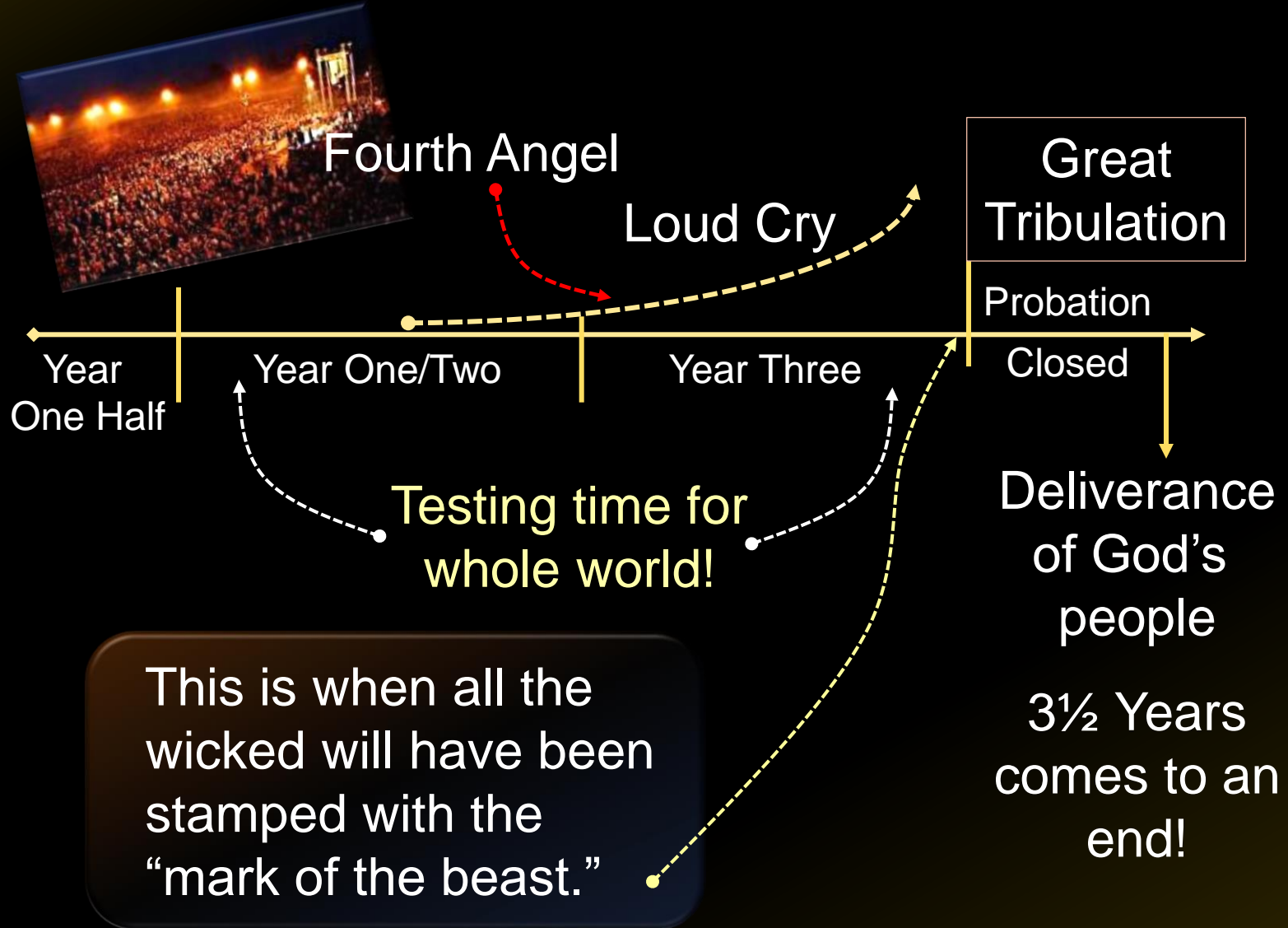
*“If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark ...” (Rev. 14:9)*

Notice again the “If:”

- At the time of the third angel, moral choices can still be made
- A time to repent still remains open
- A time to “fear God and given glory to Him” is still lingering
- “Competition” in who to worship will suddenly focus on the Sabbath issue!

This will be the “final testing time” before the “mark” of the beast is put on mankind!

# The Final “Testing Time”



This imagery is profound!

1. The final salvic choices for ALL of mankind will pivot around receiving this “mark” or God’s “mark!”
2. The final, pivotal moral issue will relate to acceptance or rejection of the Sabbath.



WHY?

It identifies who God is, the basis of His authority and the great purpose of redemption.

This picture of “worship” and the “mark” is so intense in God’s sight that it comes up in prophecy in many ways in Revelation:

### Revelation 13

World worships beast (vss 3-4, 12)  
Worships image to beast (vs 15)  
Receives its mark (vs 16)  
Will drink wrath of God (vs 10)

### If Honors Beast

Have mark/worship image (16:2)  
Have mark/worship image (19:20)

### If Resists Beast

Not worship or receive mark (20:4)

### Revelation 14

If any man worships beast (vs 9)  
If any man worships image (vs 9)  
If any man receives mark (vs 9)  
Will drink wrath of God (vs 10)

### God’s Wrath

Receive first vial plague (16:2)  
Cast into lake of fire (19:20)

### Reward

Live and reign with Christ (20:4)

This is why there must be total clarity in presenting what these angels' messages are and in showing what Babylon represents by defining fully the "mark" of that Roman power.

**What does the "image" to the beast mean?**

Anyone copying or observing the Roman Sunday "sabbath!" **OR** anyone who is in sympathy with any law that enforces it.

Intriguingly: Pope Benedict XVI appealed for laws to enforce this false Sabbath. (Dan. 12:11)

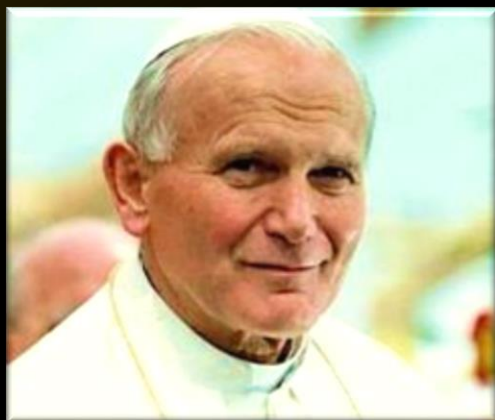
Sunday interest began to accelerate in 1985 when a revision of *The Roman Catechism* was published by Pope John Paul II:



“The civil authorities [government] *should be urged to cooperate with the church in maintaining and strengthening this public worship of God* [referring to Sunday], and to support with their own authority the regulations set down by the church’s pastors.”

“For it is only in this that *the faithful will understand why it is Sunday and not the Sabbath day that we now keep holy.*”

(*The Roman Catechism*, 1985)



In an apostolic letter, *Dies Domini*, Pope John Paul II wrote: “In this matter, my predecessor Pope Leo XIII in his Encyclical *Rerum Novarum* spoke of Sunday rest as a worker’s right which the State must guarantee.” (*Dies Domini*, 5-31-1998 [66])

“Therefore, also in the particular circumstances of our own time, *Christians will naturally strive to ensure that civil legislation respects their duty to keep Sunday holy*.” (*Dies Domini*, 5-31-1998 [67])



November 12, 2005:

Francis Rooney was installed as the new ambassador of the United States of America to the Holy See.



Pope Benedict addressed the occasion:



“Social disorder, war, injustice and violence” can only be countered by renewed appreciation and respect for the universal moral law (specifically, Sunday rest), and that only by recognizing that law can the world have “dignity, life and freedom.”



He didn't stop there:

Only if the world recognizes  
“that law, can the world have  
‘dignity, life and freedom’ with ‘conditions  
of justice and peace’ in all the communities  
of the world, and that the **promotion and**  
**defense of this law** is what ‘must govern  
relations between nations and peoples in the  
pursuit of the **common good** of the human  
family ... within the international community.’”



Anyone who supports the Roman Catholic Church's "sabbath," whether through worship or through legislation is:

Making an image to that church, which the book of Revelation calls a "beast."

In fact, not to be deceived, the Greek word used in Revelation for that beast is *therion*. It means: a vicious, terrifying beast.

**Of this we are to warn the world!**

Benedict also queried: “Something quite unprecedented happened in the nascent church: the place of the Sabbath, the seventh day, was taken by the first day.... The structure of the week is overturned. No longer does it point towards the seventh day, as the time to participate in God’s rest.... This change is utterly extraordinary, considering that the Sabbath, the seventh day seen as the day of encounter with God, is so profoundly rooted in the Old Testament.” (Pope Benedict XVI; Homily, April 23, 2011)



The title of this sermon?

*This is What Everything Hinges Upon*

“Utterly extraordinary” ?!?! Disobeying God’s explicit Biblical counsel is what is so extraordinary! Even more is the arrogance to claim the authority to teach others to disobey God!

All this is occurring to fulfill prophecy, revealed long ago by Daniel, that the Roman Catholic Church would *“think to change times and laws.”* (Dan. 7:25)

Benedict epitomized the blasphemy of the “little horn” (Dan. 7:8, 25-25; 8:9-12), the “vile person” (Dan. 11:30-45), the “man of sin” (II Thess. 2:3-12) and the “harlot” (Rev. 17:1-14)!

There's more to this third angel's message:

*“The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb” (Rev. 14:10)*



God now begins to announce what His judicial response is going to be! Once this begins, there will be NO turning back.

The beloved John elsewhere notes:

*“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”*

(I John 3:4) Breaking the Sabbath law is sin!

Jesus told us to go to Daniel for the rest of the “end-time” story, where it talks about the abomination that leads to desolation. (Matt. 24:15)

Their worshiping or honoring a false sabbath is that “abomination.” This helps to explain such prophecies as this third angel’s message, which reveals God’s terminal wrath against such apostasy!



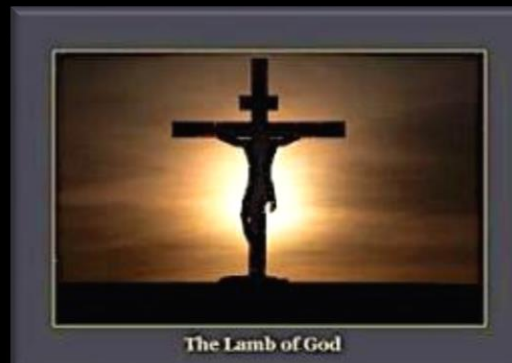
Suddenly, we can see why the first angel's message warns us to “Fear God, and give glory to Him!”



Fear to disobey Him

Fear anything that blasphemes His name

But “love Him so much” you will “glorify Him!”



The third angel's message is written in future tense. It is anticipatory.

It provides a sense of warning.

It gives the hearer an opportunity to urgently benefit from the message.

It confirms, again, the original message that the “hour of His judgment has come.”

Something judicial is about to be executed!





*“The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God”* (Rev. 14:10)

The “same” – “whoever” – worships the beast or has its mark!



Whoever drinks of the “wine” from the harlot’s cup (Roman Catholic Church’s promotion of this false doctrine), depicted in Revelation 17, will drink of God’s “cup,” which is filled with divine wrath.

Thus, there are two prophetic “cups” and two types of “wine:”

In the harlot’s Cup – “wine” is her false doctrines that God calls an “abomination,” and whoever drinks of it is having an adulterous/illicit relationship with the harlot. In God’s Cup – “wine” is His wrath that He forces those identifying with Rome to drink.

*“the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation” (Rev. 14:10)*

Jeremiah refers to God’s wrath as a  
“cup of wine.” (Jer. 25:15-18, 27-28)

David notes: *“For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same; ... all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them.”* (Psa. 75:8)

The “mixture” in Psalms refers to either being diluted with water (unlikely context) or mixed with stupefying herbs.

*“without mixture”*



Here, this third angel announces that the wrath of God, about to descend on earth's inhabitants, is “without mixture.” It is not diluted! It is God's wrath in full.

Most interesting: God's wrath expressed in “fire,” destroys from the outside in. The “wine of His wrath,” is imbibed and destroys from the inside out! That is a “spiritual metaphor,” depicting its action is complete – without hope.

“God in his infinite mercy bears long with the transgressors of his law ... [But] With unerring accuracy, the Infinite One keeps a record of the impiety of nations and individuals. Long is his mercy tendered to them, with calls to repentance; but when their guilt reaches a certain limit, which he has fixed, then mercy ceases her pleadings, and the ministration of wrath begins.” (Sketches from the Life of Paul, 318)





We must not pass  
this way without  
pausing to focus  
again on Him:

*“O my Father, if it be possible,  
let this cup pass from me:  
nevertheless not as I will, but  
as thou wilt.”* (Matt. 26:39)

Because He accepted the “cup of God’s wrath,”  
we don’t have to receive the cup announced  
by the third angel! He drank it for us!



“Men are prone to abuse the long-suffering of God, and to presume on His forbearance. But there is a point in human iniquity when it is time for God to interfere; and terrible are the issues. ‘The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked’ (Nahum 1:3).... It will be found a terrible thing to have worn out the divine patience; for the wrath of God will fall so signally and strongly that it is presented as being unmixed with mercy; and the very earth will be desolated.”  
(2 SM 372-373)

This third message continues:

*“and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb”* (Rev. 14:10)

“He” refers back to “the same” and back further to anyone who worships the beast or its image!

Something **new** is now introduced. This has caused some confusion. This alludes to a later time when God’s wrath is **again** expressed!



First, God's wrath is directed "inwardly" (drinking the cup). That relates to the time surrounding the Second Advent. Now it comes from the "outside," and we are fast-forwarded to the time when planet earth will be burned up.



Stunning is the emphasis in this last phrase on the word “**torment.**” But why? Haven’t we seen enough of the “wrath” message?

Christians should have no illusions: the end to sin is dramatic, painful and conclusive! It’s in the Bible. It’s part of the last message we are to give the world!!!

There is a period of suffering for one’s sins. It is brief but intense: *“these were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.”*

(Rev. 19:20)

**There’s more drama to this:**

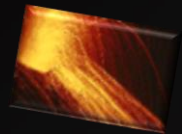
*“and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb” (Rev. 14:10)*

At first “blush” – one might recoil in horror at this last phrase. But – this is the great end to sin. Christ, all the angels and all the saved are present when fire comes down from heaven.

This is how it is summarized:

*“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them [speaking of the wicked – there is now no hiding place].” (Rev. 20:11)*

Then comes a final “judicial review” of why they are lost. What a horrible time for those who have rejected God!



*“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.... And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”*

(Rev. 20:14-15)

“in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb” (Rev. 14:10)

The “Lamb” and the “holy angels” appear to act a part in the final scenes of this sinful world. With its destruction, everything will then be ready for the recreation of a “new heavens” and a “new earth.”

**Intriguingly** – Jesus said that those who overcome, He would acknowledge before the angels and the Father!!! (Rev. 3:5)

The intensity of this final message continues:

*“And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.”* (Rev. 14:11)

This is a prophecy of that end.



John later describes its happening: *“And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet... and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.”* (Rev. 19:20)

When the “sheep” and the “goats” are separated at Jesus’ coming, He says to the goats:



*“Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.”* (Matt. 25:41)

“The most fearful threatening ever addressed to mortals is contained in the third angel’s message. That must be a terrible sin which calls down the wrath of God unmingled with mercy. Men are not to be left in darkness concerning this important matter; the warning against this sin is to be given to the world before the visitation of God’s judgments.” (GC 449-450)



Let's look at this important phrase:

*“And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever”* (Rev. 14:11)

This type of expression occurs in many places and is used to justify “eternal torment.” (cf. Mark 9:44, Matt. 25:46, Rom. 2:3-9, II Thess. 1:6-9)

But these are not doctrinal “statements of the dead;” rather, they are God’s portrayal of the enormity of sin and the permanency of its end! Later in Revelation this language actually becomes a hymn of praise: *“Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever.”* (Rev. 19:3)

Is your God one who will eternally torture those who rebelled in a fire that never burns things up? The Bible elsewhere makes clear how the “final end” of the wicked will be:

*“For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.... they shall be ashes.”* (Mal. 4:1, 3)

“For ever and ever” is an idiomatic expression for the finality of a situation. (II Peter 3:7, 9; John 3:16; II Thess. 1:6-10; Eze. 28:17-19; Obad. 1:15-18)

A similar resolution applies to the next phrase:

*“and they have no rest day nor night,”* (Rev. 14:11)

Meaning?

No matter how long time goes on, you will never find rest or repose from this terminal sentence. It is irrevocable!

Let's look more deeply at the “mark” of this “Babylon” beast. In the previous chapter we were told:

*“And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark ...”* (Rev. 13:16)



This expresses the worldwide influence and coercive power of the papacy. In this apocalyptic book, it often identifies this incredible end-time control over everyone (save those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life)! (Rev. 13:8)

This “mark” and God’s “seal” both represent the final judicial sentencing from what was worshiped. That epitomizes loyalty to either God or Satan. It is what **GOD places** on man – an irrevocable, eternal sentence.

(Osborne, Grant R.; *Revelation*, p. 517)

“That the mark of the name is figurative and not literal is evident from the ‘blasphemous names’ on the head of the beast (13:1), which figuratively connote false claims to earthly divine kingship.” (Beale, G. K.; *The Book of Revelation*, 716)

The “mark of the beast” is a distinguishing “stain,” the world’s “badge of honor” right at the end of time.

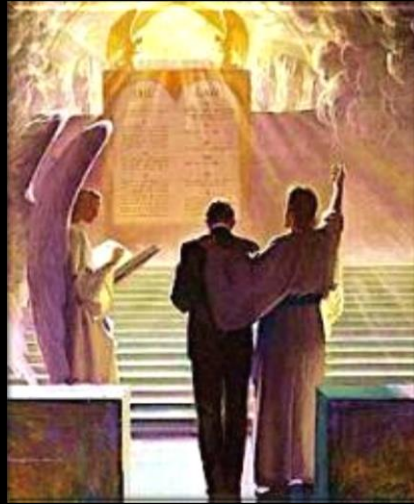


It is what God labels as the:

“**Mark of Beast**” – observing and defending Sunday as the holy Sabbath day

This John compares to the “sign” of His saints, the:

“**Seal of God**” – God’s “mark” – that they are secure in His truth, observing and defending Saturday as His holy Sabbath



Final decisions will soon be drawn to a close in God's heavenly court. When all judicial sentences are pronounced – will you receive the “papal mark” or God's “seal of approval?”

Won't you glorify Him – without reservation – while the opportunity remains open?

# The End

Next lesson:

***How These Escape God's Wrath!***





PRI Headquarters



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