The Final Warning of the



3 Angels Messages

THE FINAL WARNING OF THE THREE ANGELS MESSAGES

INTRODUCTION

What does God want us to know about what the future holds for us? What has He revealed through end-time Bible prophecy that we need to know? The Bible is full of prophecies that have all been 100% accurately fulfilled, so we can know the Bible comes from a trustworthy source and that its origin is divine.

The Bible is the most widely bought and translated book in the history of the world. More copies of the Bible have existed than any other book, and for good reason, it has predicted events with total accuracy, hundreds and in some cases thousands of years in advance. It is not bound by time, distance or circumstances and those who read it are transformed forever by its words. Its supernatural power has earned it the reputation of being the most influential book in history.

Its pages contain the story of redemption for a fallen human race and chronicles how a compassionate God made a way to save His earthly children from a hopeless fate. Those who have tried to destroy the Bible have only given it more life. It is the most truthful, most logical and trustworthy spiritual guide of all, it is the inspired word of God.

Jesus said in John 13:19; "I'm telling you now before it happens, so that when it happens, you will believe." And this is the purpose of prophecy, to reveal the future and to help us have faith and trust in a loving God.

Ever since Adam and Eve chose Satan's way over God's way, this planet has been the battleground of a spiritual war. Each of us is involved in this war every day. But God doesn't leave us to fight alone. He equips us by giving us His Word of truth.

All of the prophecies in the Bible culminate in the very last book of the Bible, Revelation, and the very last message of warning that God gives to His creation. This message is known as the "Three Angels Messages" and these are the final messages of warning to a fallen world, a planet in rebellion against God. These messages ensure that everyone has had a chance to make an informed choice, a choice between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Earth — Satan's kingdom. These final warning messages have been sent out into the world, warning mankind against receiving the "mark of the beast." (The beast system is the earthly human representation of Satan's kingdom).

To receive this mark means to come to the same decision, or to go along with this beast power, to advocate the same ideas, which are in direct opposition to the Word of God. This system will legally require all people to break the 4th Commandment of God. Up until that time true Sabbath worshippers have been, and are, free to obey the 4th Commandment. However, the mark of the beast will put God's Law in direct opposition to worldly law (Satan's law). Many will go along with this system, even if they don't agree with this power in order to maintain an easy life, not fully understanding the longer-term implications.

When the Three Angels Messages have reached every person, the time of probation will close for planet earth and Christ will return for His people. These messages are of vital importance, because it is the last message, the last chance, for each of us to get our lives right so that we might inherit eternal life and not eternal death. These last warning messages are found in the book of Revelation, chapter 14, verses 6-10. It's the message of the Three Angels, a final warning message for our time from God to His earthly children.

The vision which the apostle John receives here in Revelation 14 is not describing three literal angels who will come and proclaim these messages to the world, these angels are merely a symbol of God's people — His ambassadors — who are the ones who actually proclaim these messages.

The word "angel" in the Bible is translated from the Greek word "angelos", which means "messenger", this sometimes refers to a literal angel and sometimes a human agent (see the word in Strong's concordance, "angelos"). The everlasting gospel and this final message of warning is to be given by God's people as commissioned by Jesus.

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Matthew 28:19 ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations.....

Romans 10:14-15 ¹⁴ How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

The word "gospel" simply means "good news", and it is "everlasting" in that it is an eternally unchanging message. False doctrines come and go, new teachings are like wind and waves that toss the unsuspecting every which way, but God's Word remains firm and unchanging.

The Three Angels Messages are God's final warning to His earthly children, so that we might have faith in Him and prepare. He wants to bring each one of us home safely. The wages of sin is death for each one of us and eternal life is God's precious gift through His Son.

Romans 6:23 ²³ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God's divine Law requires a perfect sacrifice for sin or else the wages of sin is death. God wants each person in His Kingdom; His gift of eternal life is free to each and every person through Jesus Christ.

John 3:16 ¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Ezekiel 33:11 ¹¹ ... As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die...

The warning message of the Three Angels tells us who and how we should worship and calls all those in false systems of worship to come out before it is too late. God's judgements will fall on an unbelieving and rebellious world that have trampled on His Law and pushed God out of their lives.

Revelation 14:6-10 ⁶ And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

⁷ Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and <u>worship</u> him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

⁸ And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

⁹ 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,

¹⁰ 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:

¹¹ 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. ¹² Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

This is the most fearful message that we could ever receive from God, it is a last warning message, there will be no other.

1ST ANGELS MESSAGE - REVELATION 14:6

THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL

In Revelation chapter 14 verses 6 and 7 we have the First Angels Message. Here it speaks about taking the gospel, or good news, to the whole earth. Let's start by looking at verse 6.

And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.

This "everlasting gospel" of Revelation 14:6 is not new or different from the gospel which the Lord Jesus, the apostles, and the early church preached, and which is to be re-emphasized in worldwide proportions in these latter days. It is the same unchanged and unchangeable good news that God has conveyed to man ever since sin entered the world, though discerned with varying degrees of clarity and emphasis in different ages.

Basically, as soon as there was sin there was a Saviour. We see the promise of a Saviour first given while the first human beings (Adam and Eve) were still within the gates of the garden of Eden

God said in Genesis 3:15 ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

The gospel, according to the scriptures, was even preached to Abraham who was a Hebrew called by God, the first of the Hebrew patriarchs.

Galatians 3:8 ⁸ And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

To fully understand the prophecy of the Three Angels Messages it is necessary to understand the Great Controversy between good and evil, and to understand this we must look back to the dawn of history and one particular event that was paramount in setting the course that is still affecting our world today. When God finished creating the earth, He set aside a day of rest for mankind.

The first man Adam lived in the garden of Eden where all his needs were met. After God created the man Adam, He created a companion for him, a woman, whom Adam called Eve.

Life in this perfect paradise was full of enjoyment, but unfortunately all of this was lost when Adam and Eve made a fatal decision. Instead of trusting their Creator they decided to trust the lie of an evil angel named Lucifer, who was posing as a serpent.

Genesis 3:1-6 ³ Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die." ⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

Adam and Eve were created with sinless natures, they were pure in heart and lived in the direct presence of God and were in perfect harmony with Him. Their free-will decision to disobey God (hence obey the serpent) and eat the forbidden fruit brought sin into their entire being and thus condemned them to an immediate spiritual and eventual physical death. Their sinless nature was thus replaced with a sinful nature that would naturally be in rebellion against God.

Now eating a piece of fruit may seem harmless, but when Adam and Eve did this it showed their lack of trust in God and in reality, they yielded their authority to Lucifer, making him the rightful ruler of this world. Their actions settled the question of where their loyalty lay; it showed that they trusted themselves and Lucifer more than their Creator.

Now because God never interferes with our human free will, by His own decree He honored Adam and Eve's choice. However, this one foolish act of theirs began a chain of events that introduced sin and led the world to where it is today, the dismal state of war, poverty, disease, corruption and death which we see woven into everyday life.

In making this choice Adam and Eve separated themselves and their future descendents from the source of life that could only be received from the Creator. One way to better understand this is by observing the life of a battery.

When unplugging a computer from a power source the computer will run on its stored battery power for a while but it will eventually go dead if it is not recharged. You see Lucifer is a created being himself and is incapable of sustaining human life, and so when Adam and Eve, by their disobedience, cut themselves off from God's life force, they too eventually died.

By one single act of disobedience Adam and Eve contracted the disease of sin, and through them, all of their descendants have also inherited this disease, and in simple terms this is why all people die, our life force eventually gives out, just like the battery power that gives life to a computer. Sin is being separated or unplugged from the eternal life force that can only be received from our Creator. We all have this disease of sin and will all die just as Adam and Eve did.

After the fall of Adam and Eve all humans are now by nature sinful and enter into a natural state of rebellion against God. Sin is also defined as the transgression of the Law of God.

1 John 3:4 ⁴ Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Hence our need for a Saviour. In ourselves we have no ability to save ourselves from the death that our sinful nature will inevitably bring. The disease of sin cannot enter heaven and so humanity is condemned to an eternal death apart from God, but we have hope in Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15:22 ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

God has given us each complete freedom of choice, we have each chosen to sin and therefore we condemn ourselves. But in His mercy and goodness God has provided a way out for us. Through Jesus we can all now gain eternal life through turning to the Father and Son and abiding in them.

Hebrews 7:25 ²⁵ Wherefore he (Jesus) is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

As this tragedy of sin unfolded, God was filled with compassion for humanity, it was heart-breaking for Him to see His children set on a course of such unimaginable suffering. He refused to stand by without doing something to help. He could have left us to destroy ourselves and started afresh with a new plan and a new creation of people, but giving up is not part of God's character.

Isaiah 55:10-11 ¹⁰ "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, ¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

Through God's dedication to see His purpose fulfilled, He chose to show mercy towards humanity. Before the earth was even created, God devised a rescue plan to empower the descendants of Adam and Eve with the authority to choose.

1 Peter 1:18-20 ¹⁸ Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. ²⁰ He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world...

In this rescue plan, all people that came after Adam and Eve, people who had no choice in inheriting this disease of sin, would be offered a way to overcome it. You see we are all born with the propensity to sin; we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. This should make the reader consider their fallen state, examine their hearts and their lives before it is too late. There is still time to call out to God and His Son. Jesus took on human nature and conquered sin, and all who believe and follow Him will be saved – it's a free gift, the gift is eternal life.

The gospel was clearly preached before Jesus died on the cross; this gospel pointed to a Saviour, this gospel was a figure, a type, a shadow. The full revelation came in and through Jesus Christ. Thus we read:

Genesis 3:15 ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

When we read the account in Genesis, particularly the first eleven chapters, we get a full historical foundation for understanding the significance of this promise of a Saviour, and the depth of our desperate need for salvation.

Isiah 7:14 ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Hebrews 1:1-2 ¹God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, ² Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by

But we see a grave departure from the faith, a tragic falling away from the pure apostolic gospel. We see this developed in the great Latin apostasy, the dominant papal perversion of the Middle Ages. And from the pure gospel, error and deception came in and grew, until today we see the many perverted forms of so-called Christianity around the world. Hence the last warning message to preach the true everlasting gospel to a dying world.

From the time of Adam and Eve's sin and expulsion from the Garden of Eden, God sent and inspired prophets to reveal how He would send His only begotten Son to earth one day and carry out this plan of salvation. And through these prophets God accurately predicted specific details hundreds of years in advance so there would be no chance of mistaken identity when He arrived. One of these predictions explained how evil men would viciously kill Him for His act of mercy and kindness.

Isaiah 53:5 ⁵ But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

As promised, God sent His son as a man to live and walk among His creation, and be sacrificed, so that through this sacrifice all people would have an opportunity to be saved.

Leviticus 17:11 ¹¹ For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

Hebrews 9:22 ²² And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Romans 8:32³² He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

John 10:11,18 ¹¹ I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.... ¹⁸ No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Jesus did not have to come and die for us – He chose to. The pain and separation experienced between the Father and Son we cannot imagine. How many of us who are parents would rather suffer than see our children go through pain, and yet God the Father could not come Himself, because the Father cannot die, but His Son says 'I will go'. If Jesus had not gained complete victory over sin, that separation would have been eternal and Jesus would have lost all of Heaven, as we would have too.

Have you ever really contemplated the love of God? This is a love that cannot be matched. The sacrifice made for us is of so great a value, and yet the majority of the world either reject it, or just take it for granted. Satan has so misrepresented the character of God that many have a false view of God, and yet although most would reject this priceless gift, God sent His very own beloved Son and allowed Him to pay the price that we deserve.

As predicted at the appointed time, God entrusted His Son to a virgin woman named Mary and He was born as a human being. One of the most beautiful parts of this miracle is that Jesus chose to be born among the poorest of the poor.

2 Corinthians 8:9 ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

When Mary became pregnant, an angel went to her soon-to-be husband Joseph and instructed him to give the newborn child the name of Jesus, meaning "God saves".

Many eye-witness accounts reveal that while on earth Jesus healed the sick, fed the poor, gave hope to the hopeless, and even raised the dead. He offered His kindness and friendship to everyone He encountered. On His first visit to earth Jesus came as a humble and simple man, to offer Himself as a sacrifice, so that we could be saved from the disease of sin.

Ephesians 2:8 ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God.

There is nothing anyone can do to earn this pardon from sin, all people are guilty as charged and are destined to suffer the penalty of death, as our inherited sinful nature makes it impossible for us not to succumb to the temptation to sin without the help of Jesus.

The concept of sin, guilt and condemnation applies to those in rebellion against God, just as in the Garden of Eden. God does not hold us responsible for inheriting bad equipment. He is interested in the state of our mind and attitude, not in the defects of our nature. Sin is all about rebellion and choices, not about inheriting bad equipment.

There are two concepts that do not work well together – inevitability and responsibility. If sin is inevitable – because of inheriting a fallen nature – then I am not responsible for it. It is someone else's fault and problem. However, if sin is my own choice, then I alone am responsible, and must deal with it directly, rather than casting blame on someone else.

Sin and guilt reside only within those higher faculties of the mind responsible for choosing evil, not in the lower nature which suffers the effects of natural law and are a part of the earth's cycle of sin. Sin, at its root, is self-love. Sin is the choice to separate from God by putting self-first, it is the choice to cherish evil. Sin is the choice to remain ignorant of God's will. Sin is the choice to be careless of our abilities and responsibilities.

The Bible does not teach that we are sinners by nature, condemned and lost because we are born in a world of sin, so why has original sin become the majority belief among most Protestant and Catholic Christians? As is true for most errors in doctrine it is because people twist the Bible text to say what they would have them say. Does the Bible really teach that we are born condemned and lost? The Psalmist David says:

Psalm 51:5 ⁵ Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Does this text say that we are born condemned and lost? No.

Notice that David does not say that he was a sinner from birth, and whilst some Bible versions say this, it is a theological interpretation rather than a correct translation. Where else could David have been born except in iniquity and sin? His mother and father were sinners, and he was born in pain because of the sin of Adam and Eve. David was born in a sinful world to sinful parents. If a child would happen to be born in a family of thieves, where thievery was practiced and taught by the parents, he would be born in thievery. Would this in itself make him a thief? Likewise, to be born in sin does not automatically constitute one a lost and condemned sinner. It does mean that one's circumstances from birth are extremely undesirable, and that one is most likely to end up a sinner.

However, to make a way for people to survive this fate, God's Son became a human just like us, taking our fallen nature upon Himself, as confirmed in confirmed in Hebrews 2:14-18:

Hebrews 2:14-18 ...'Forasmuch then as **the children** are partakers of flesh and blood, <u>he also himself likewise **took part of the same**</u>; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; **but he took on him the seed of Abraham**. Wherefore **in all things** it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.'

Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life in this fallen flesh, and suffered a painful and cruel death in our place, as our substitute. With His own life He paid the high price that each person owes, and through this sacrifice everyone's penalty for breaking God's eternal and unchanging law has been paid in full.

When a person goes to prison for committing a crime, he or she remains there until the debt is paid, however once the debt has been paid, the law that once condemned that person no longer binds them and they are free to go. This is the grace and pardon that God offers everyone though the sacrifice of His Son Jesus, who with His own life paid our debt for breaking God's law by taking our place on the cross. This is the only means by which anyone can be saved from his or her sins, there is no other way. Jesus paid the debt with His own life and so now each of us can walk off of death row and out of prison, but only if we choose to do so, only if we accept by faith that Jesus has paid the debt for us. But does this make us free to continue living a life of sin?

Romans 3:31 ³¹ Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.

Interestingly the Bible goes a step further on the subject of salvation by grace. The Bible makes it unquestionable that accepting this gift does not give the possessors a free pass to continue living a sinful life. This is an essential Biblical teaching that is often misunderstood. To illustrate; when a woman who had been caught in adultery was brought to Jesus, He pardoned her sin but then He told her go and sin no more, He did not say continue as you always have – there has to be a change from the old way of life to a new way.

James 2:24,26 ²⁴ You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only... ²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

The Bible is clear that the ability to separate from our sins comes only through the sacrifice of Jesus. While Christians are called to be obedient to the Lord's commands, the Bible is clear that we will always be in need of God's grace and forgiveness. In other words, we cannot work our way into a position of deserving God's pardon, it is only available through faith in Christ. But God offers it freely to all who will accept it.

Matthew 5: 18-19 ¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. ¹⁹ Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Being saved by grace frees us to enjoy a genuine walk with God. The closer we are to God the more natural it is to live by His standards as outlined in His commandments. Jesus made it simple when He said...

John 14:15 If you love Me keep my commandments.

In honouring the commandments of God, each believer gives testimony that Jesus is the Lord of his or her life. You see if we are not obeying Christ's commands, then we are being used by Satan. When Adam and Eve sinned in the beginning, they gave their minds over to Satan, and so it is the same with all people today. But if we believe in the saving work of Jesus and give our minds in surrender to Him, then He will dwell within us through His Spirit, changing our sinful nature and helping us keep God's commands.

It is common in other religions to require countless acts of sacrifice, and even self-mutilation in some cases, to find salvation from sins. But God through Jesus makes salvation very easy to attain.

Romans 10:9 ⁹ That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

When Jesus appears the second time, He will do so with His heavenly supremacy and splendor, accompanied by all the holy angels, to give to those who have chosen to be saved the inheritance of eternal life in Him.

Hebrews 9:28 ²⁸ So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

This is the everlasting gospel, the everlasting good news. God has not abandoned the earth and left mankind to self-destruct. Instead He offers kindness, mercy, and forgiveness, making a way for all who choose to live with Him forever in paradise. This is important to understand, since God has given each person a free will and the ability to choose, this is an individual decision that each person must make.

If there is any one point you take away from all this, it should be how simple God has made it for you to have salvation. No works of sacrifice or self-punishment are required, just confessing Jesus as Lord of your life and believing in Him and following His way is all that you must do and salvation, freedom from sin, and eternal life, will all be yours.

APOSTASY CREEPS INTO THE CHRUCH

Now that we have briefly reviewed how things on earth began and why there are so many problems today, we will move forward from creation week and study a vision that God gave to the apostle John about our own time, the time in which we are living. We will begin by reviewing the history of the early Christian church since the time of Christ.

Over the past two thousand years, especially as Christianity made its way to the period of the Roman Empire, many unbiblical teachings and philosophies entered the church, attaching themselves to the Christian religion.

As a result, today there are so many false teachings mixed in with the truth that in some extreme cases the Christian aspect of a denomination is barely recognisable; but everyone can't be right, there can only be one actual truth. This struggle to live in real truth has been on going all through history. The accounts of God's people practicing true worship, then falling into false worship, then repenting and returning to true worship, are repeated throughout the Bible.

The book of Revelation describes all false worship as "Babylon": it is given this name since the historical Babylonian empire exemplified false worship. Because the Three Angels Messages are intended for today, the second Angels message is a call for people everywhere to turn away from man-made traditions that have been mixed into Biblical Christianity over the past two thousand years and come back to a primitive Godliness, one that rejects tradition and lives by the word of God alone.

There is much false worship within the churches of today that has not come from scripture. You see, God has told us throughout His word to keep His commandments; the Old Testament believers kept the commandments just as did the New Testament believers.

Many churches today say that the commandments were nailed to the cross, but this is not what scripture teaches, if that were so then we as Christians could freely steal, commit murder, covet, commit adultery etc. But we know that this is obviously not what Christ taught. So how is it that we keep some and break others constantly?

Jesus said if you love Me, keep My **commandments**...He did not say "commandment", Jesus said "commandments", in other words all 10 of them, it is a plural word, not singular.

Proverbs 7: ² Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye.

John 14: 15 "If you love me, keep my commands.

John 15: ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.

You see sin is a transgression of this law, the 10 commandments.

1 John 3: 4 Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Romans 4: ¹⁵ because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law *there is* no transgression.

Revelation 12: ¹⁷ Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God's commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.

Revelation 14: ¹² This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus.

Revelation 22: ¹⁴ Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

But on the flip side of keeping God's Commandments are those who follow man rather than God. Jesus said of the Pharisees who were the Church leaders of His day...

Mark 7:7-9 ⁷ And in vain they worship Me, Teaching *as* doctrines the commandments of men.' ⁸ For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men.... ⁹ He said to them, "*All too* well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition

The 4th Commandment is related to worship on the 7th day,

Exodus 20:8- 11 ⁸ Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: ¹⁰ But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Exodus 31:17 ¹⁷ It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

Ezekiel 20:12¹² Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them.

Most professing Christian Churches have changed this day to Sunday with no scriptural justification. So, do the churches of today follow man-made traditions or do they follow God as they profess to? Notice what churches admit regarding their observance of Sunday instead of Saturday the Biblical Sabbath.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Catholic Press, Aug. 25, 1900

"Sunday is a Catholic institution, and... can be defended only on Catholic principles.... From beginning to end of Scripture there is not a single passage that warrants the transfer of weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first."

Cardinal James Gibbons, The Faith of Our Fathers (Ayers Publishing, 1978): 108: But you may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify.

Our Sunday Visitor (February 5, 1950):

Practically everything Protestants regard as essential or important they have received from the Catholic Church... The Protestant mind does not seem to realize that in accepting the Bible and observing the Sunday, in keeping Christmas and Easter, they are accepting the authority of the spokesman for the church, the Pope.

Louis Gaston Segur, *Plain Talk about the Protestantism of To-Day* (London: Thomas Richardson and Son, 1874): 213:

Thus the observance of Sunday by the Protestants is a homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the (Catholic) Church.

So here we see that the reason for keeping Sunday is not Biblical but is man-made. The following churches are not obeying God but following the traditions of man.

METHODIST

Charles Buck, A Theological Dictionary, "Sabbath":

"Sabbath in the Hebrew language signifies rest, and is the seventh day of the week... and it must be confessed that there is no law in the New Testament concerning the first day."

Clovis Chappell, Ten Rules for Living, p. 61:

"The reason we observe the first day instead of the seventh is based on no positive command. One will search the Scriptures in vain for authority for changing from the seventh day to the first."

PRESBYTERIAN

The Christian at Work", April 19, 1883, and Jan. 1884:

"Some have tried to build the observance of Sunday upon Apostolic command, whereas the Apostles gave no command on the matter at all.... The truth is, so soon as we appeal to the *litera scripta* [literal writing] of the Bible, **the Sabbatarians have the best of the argument.**"

ANGLICAN

Isaac William, D.D., Plain Sermons on the Catechism, vol. 1:

"Where are we told in Scripture that we are to keep the first day at all? We are commanded to keep the seventh; but we are nowhere commanded to keep the first day.... The reason why we keep the first day of the week holy instead of the seventh is for the same reason that we observe many other things, **not because the Bible**, **but because the Church**, **has enjoined it.**"

EPISCOPAL

Philip Carrington, Toronto Daily Star, Oct. 26, 1949:

"The Bible commandment says on the seventh day thou shalt rest. That is Saturday. Nowhere in the Bible is it laid down that worship should be done on Sunday."

BAPTIST

Harold Lindsell (editor), Christianity Today, Nov. 5, 1976:

"There is nothing in Scripture that requires us to keep Sunday rather than Saturday as a holy day."

Many people when asked why they meet on Sunday instead of the seventh day, say, "It does not matter which day you worship on, because we can worship God any day". But the 4th commandment isn't about just worshipping God on a particular day, as we can and should worship God every day. This is about a specific day that God has set aside for holy use. And there is only one day that has been set aside as a special day for rest and holy use, and that is the seventh day (our Saturday today).

Here we see that the day which God ordained that we should keep holy has been changed by man, not God, and this will be a major issue as we reach the end time just before Jesus returns, as if you keep the true Sabbath you will eventually be unable to buy or sell.

If we compromise and do not follow God and His ways then we will receive what is called the "Mark of the Beast" and receiving the Mark of the Beast will have eternal consequences, as we will see a little later.

This will be a great test for all God's people, which is why we need to build that relationship of trust and obedience to God now. If you capitulate, then you will receive the Mark of the Beast. You see this issue of worship started way back in Heaven.

Satan wanted for himself the worship that was due to God his Creator alone – this is why he and his angels were cast out of heaven, and Satan has not changed, he will take worship any way He can get it. Sunday is his day, his mark of authority on planet earth, and by observing that day we give our worship to him. Most people will be under the powerful influence of Satan the Devil as scripture tells us..."he deceives the whole world".

Revelation 12: ⁹ And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world...

So, to follow what the Bible teaches we must observe the seventh-day Sabbath – 24 hours from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset. But if you are willing to compromise on the very commandment that points out the true God, the day that God specifically says to REMEMBER, then you might very well end up observing the "day of the Sun" right along with the majority, the countless millions that prophecy reveals will soon be subjected to the greatest tribulation in human history, those on whom the final plagues will fall because of their rebellion against the true Creator God! These seven plagues complete the wrath of God. As the apostle John wrote:

Revelation 15:1 ⁹ And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

Revelation 15:7 describes these seven last plagues as "golden bowls full of the wrath of God" to be poured out upon the earth. These seven last plagues found in Revelation 15 and 16 talk about the Angels that pour out the vials of God's wrath. The Bible does not tell us the date, but it does tell us that it's just before the second coming of Jesus because the seventh of the seven last plagues is synonymous with the coming of the Lord. When you consider the seven last plagues and you look at the nature of them, it talks about noisome and grievous sores, it talks about the fresh water supplies turning to blood, the oceans turning to blood, the darkness on the seat of the beast, the Euphrates river drying up, and the sun scorching men with great heat.

As you look at these seven plagues there is a lot of similarity between them and the plagues which fell on Egypt. The plagues fell on Egypt just before the children of Israel were liberated from their slavery. The 7 last plagues are going to fall on this wicked world just before spiritual Israel, God's people, are liberated from the world that is in bondage to sin.

THE SEAL OF GOD AND THE MARK OF THE BEAST

Before going further we must take a brief look at the Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast, so that you can clearly see what the Three Angels Messages are warning of, and what we need to do to receive the Seal of God and not the Mark of the Beast, eternal life and not eternal death.

We will start by looking at the Seal of God.

John 6:27 ²⁷ Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 ²¹ Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; ²² Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

Ephesians 1:13 ¹³ In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.

2 Timothy 2:19 ¹⁹ Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

The previous verses indicate a spiritual or symbolic seal rather than a physical seal. Remember that we are to be sealed in the forehead. But there is an important principle that needs to be applied when we look at the seal.

An official seal always has 3 distinct characteristics. Name, Title and Territory.

- 1. The name of the official
- 2. The title
- 3. The territory

For instance, "Cyrus [Name], King [Title] of Persia [Territory]"

Ezra 1:1 Now in the first year of **Cyrus king** of **Persia**, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled......

Or, Elizabeth II [Name] Queen [Title] of the United Kingdom [Territory]. When the Queen seals a document, this seal of approval must be on the document.

When looking for God's seal we find that it is found in His law.

Exodus 20:11 ¹¹ For in six days **the LORD made heaven and earth**, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

The commandments were God's legal document that was written on stone. And he stamped his seal of approval on it.

- 1. Name The LORD
- 2. Title Creator
- 3. Territory Heaven and earth.

The LORD's seal is contained in His fourth commandment, the commandment that tells us to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. So, we have established that God's seal is within His law.

Isaiah 8:16 ^{1 16} Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.

Ezekiel 20:12 ¹² Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them.

Ezekiel 20:20 ²⁰ And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God.

Exodus 31:13 ¹³ Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.

What has God given us as a special sign? The 7th day Sabbath. The Sabbath is a special sign between God and his people. God commands us to "Remember" the Sabbath; but the Christian world says "Forget" the Sabbath. Whom will you obey? God or man?

Some will say these promises were given only to the nation of Israel, and therefore they only apply to the Jews, but this is not so. The commandments were in effect when Lucifer/Satan was cast out of Heaven, because without the law there is no sin, therefore no condemnation.

Romans 4:15 ¹⁵ Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.

Romans 9:6-8 ⁶ Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: ⁷ Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. ⁸ That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

It is not literal Israel that is the seed, but spiritual Israel, those who accept the promise of eternal life through faith in God's son Jesus.

The words "seal," "sign," "mark," and "token" are used interchangeably throughout the Bible (compare Genesis 17:11 with Romans 4:11 and Revelation 7:3 with Ezekiel 9:4).

The sign and seal are interchanged in these verses. Only by faith in the Word of God do we keep the true Sabbath, while the rest of Christianity keeps Sunday according to man's tradition with no Biblical authority.

We have looked at God's Seal, now let's look at the opposite of God's Seal, which is the Mark of the Beast. This Beast will enforce its mark on all who do not follow it.

Revelation 13:16 ¹⁶ And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads.

Act 5:29 ²⁹ Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

MARK OF THE BEAST

Revelation 13 contains a Bible prophecy that will be fulfilled very soon. It will affect you and every other person on earth. Satan does not want you to know what the Mark of the Beast is, however if you worship the Beast and receive his mark you will be subject to the full outpouring of the wrath of God, so what is this mark? The last book of the Bible, Revelation, gives us this strong warning against receiving the mark.

Revelation 14:9-10 ⁹ 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, ¹⁰ 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:

So if we receive the Mark of the Beast, God's complete wrath will be poured out upon us. This mark of the beast is <u>all about worship</u>, and you will find that if you do not capitulate to follow the beast power (which will mean worshiping on Sunday) and instead you follow God to keep His 4th Commandment, keeping the seventh day Sabbath holy, then you will be punished for doing so.

Revelation 13:16-17 ¹⁶ And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: ¹⁷ And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

So, when the Mark of the Beast is legislated and enforced by law, and we can't buy or sell unless we receive it, how will we live?

Isaiah 41:10 ¹⁰ Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Isaiah 33:16 'He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.'

The answer is, we will live by faith, and God will provide for us.

So, we see then that the Mark of the Beast is a very serious matter because the most solemn curse in all of scripture is pronounced upon those who worship the Beast and his image and receive his mark. We need to know what this is. The very name Revelation means "a revealing." God wants us to understand this.

Speculation makes for interesting contemplation and conversation, but among the many questions we might ask about the Mark of the Beast, there is one very important thing we should ask ourselves: Will I accept or reject the Mark of the Beast when the time comes?

Those who have received God's seal have the name of the one true God written in their foreheads. This means that they have become settled into the truth and worship and live according to that truth of God's Word no matter what, and just as the Seal of God is not a physical mark but a settling into the truth, so the Mark of the Beast is not a physical mark but describes those who yield their minds to the Beast and follow the majority in order to avoid the penalties of not going along with the government and its decrees.

Some interpret the Mark of the Beast as a tattoo of some sort or perhaps a microchip injected into the hand or the forehead. Others think it might be connected to a credit card, national health card or bar code. From a practical standpoint this would be a monumental task that would be difficult to accomplish on a worldwide basis. Also, if this was forced upon us by the government, some physical mark enforced on people would not change their heart and allegiance to God and we could not be eternally lost for something which was forced upon us. We have to remember that we are dealing with Satan, the arch deceiver, so whatever he does will be subtle, this is why we must always let the Bible interpret itself and not speculate.

The first time we encounter a mark as a curse in the Bible is when the Lord set a mark upon Cain. Was this a physical mark or a spiritual mark?

Genesis 4:15 ¹⁵ And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.

Did Cain spend the rest of his life with writing on His forehead? If he did, the Bible certainly does not tell us and we never find anyone in the scriptures with a physical mark on them from God. You may have heard of the Mark of Cain or the Curse of Cain and if you have it originates from this story in Genesis. When Cain spilled his brother's blood, the earth became cursed and so did Cain for the shedding of the innocent blood of His brother.

The society that enforces the Mark of the Beast will differ significantly from the world we know today. It will be a world-dominating religio-military power that will be the adversary of God. It will stand in opposition to all that God stands for and will seek to extinguish His way, His laws, His people and His purposes from the earth. It will exist not for the benefit of all mankind, but only for those who "worship" it and serve its ungodly mission. It will be a One World Government with a One World religion and at the head of it all will be the Roman Catholic Pope.

It will be a governmental system formed from the uniting of Church and State that is subtly influenced and guided by none other than the spiritual force of Satan.

Revelation 13:4 ⁴ And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

The Bible is clear that the Mark of the Beast is to be a law, a man-made law, that goes against the commandments of God and His law, the Ten Commandments. Let's take a closer look at what this Mark is.

In the Bible we find the book of Daniel. The books of Daniel and Revelation go hand in hand, they are the two main prophetic books of the Bible and in Daniel we find the account of a young man and his three companions who have been taken captive from Jerusalem by king Nebuchadnezzar and taken to Babylon. These young men would have only been in their teens but they are an example of how each of us should be in our walk with God.

In Daniel chapter 3 we find the experience of Daniel's companions, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. These young men were required, on pain of death, to bow down to an image erected by king Nebuchadnezzar, which was decreed by civil laws. They were required to observe a man-made commandment in opposition to God's Commandment. They chose to honour God and refused to bow down to the image and so were thrown alive into a blazing furnace. But God miraculously delivered the three young men because of their refusal to compromise, and their faith in Him. This also showed king Nebuchadnezzar and the people that there was only one true God who could deliver even from death.

Likewise, there will be erected in these end times a spiritual version of this image, which is the union of church and state, a union with the papacy [the Beast] which ruled through the Dark Ages and persecuted those who would not follow her decrees.

There is a great deal to this subject and we have taken only a very small overview. If this is the first time you have heard that the papacy is the Beast that is described in the books of Daniel and Revelation, then this may be hard for you to digest. I would suggest that you visit our website and watch the Daniel and Revelation videos we have there. (Information at the back of this booklet).

If we choose to follow man-made rules above God's law, we are then paying homage to man rather than to God. We will not be walking by faith and we will not be trusting in God to deliver us as he delivered Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. We would be guilty of worshipping the creature rather than the Creator.

Romans 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, <u>his servants ye</u> <u>are to whom ye obey</u>, whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

What is sin?

1 John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

We have seen that God's law is the 10 commandments, not commandment, singular, and not the 10 suggestions. These are the laws we are to live by; these were not nailed to the cross as many people say today. If that was the case then there would have been no point in Jesus dying for our sins, because if the commandments are not still in place then we can just live as we please with no need for a Saviour.

To show that the Sabbath was indeed changed by the Papacy and that this is indeed her Mark of authority, it is only fair to let her speak for herself.

- "Q. Which is the Sabbath day?
- "A. Saturday is the Sabbath day.
- "Q. Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?
- "A. We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday." *Peter Geiermann, The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine (St. Louis: B. Herder Book Co., 1957 edition), p 50.*
- Q. Have you any other way of proving that the Church has power to institute festivals of precept?
- "A. Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her--she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority." Stephen Keenan, A Doctrinal Catechism (New York: P.J. Kenedy & Sons, third American edition, revised, n.d.), p. 174.

Sunday...is purely a creation of the Catholic Church. American Catholic Quarterly Review (January 1883)

Sunday...It is a law of the Catholic Church alone... Catholic American Sentinel (June 1893)

Not the Creator of the Universe in Genesis 2:1-3, but the Catholic Church "can claim the honor of having granted man a pause to his work every seven days." S.C. Mosna, *Storia della Domenica* (1969)

Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change was her act...And the act is a MARK of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters. Letter from C.F. Thomas, Chancellor of Cardinal Gibbons on October 28, 1895:

So, just as predicted in Daniel 7:25, the Papacy has changed God's times and laws.

Daniel 7:25 ²⁵ And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

The Catholic Church says that this is her MARK of power and authority, making Sunday a holy day, a change that virtually the entire Christian world bows down to. So we clearly see that keeping Sunday and not God's ordained Sabbath day would be taking the Mark of the Beast.

Tragically, both Catholicism and Protestantism stand in error for rejecting God's Sabbath — God's sign/seal of identification. Blue laws (national Sunday laws) are already on law books across America and around the world, they just need to be enforced.

To finish this chapter there are two things to understand as we study the message of the Three Angels.

1. A woman in Bible prophecy represents a church

A good woman represents a pure church, whereas an impure woman, a harlot, represents an impure or apostate church. God describes His church as Zion.

Jeremiah 6:2 ² I have likened the daughter of Zion to a comely and delicate woman.

Isaiah 51:16 ¹⁶ And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people.

Revelation 13:13 ¹³ And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

When Satan was no longer able to attack Jesus personally, he aimed his fury and persecution at God's church and His people. Jesus symbolizes His true church (the daughter of Zion) as a pure woman and the false, apostate churches as a harlot.

Revelation 17:4-5 ⁴ And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: ⁵ And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

2. The front of our brain (forehead) is where our thoughts and decisions are made. The hand represents our actions.

The forehead represents the mind:

Hebrews 10:16 ¹⁶ 'This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.'

A person will be marked in the forehead by a decision to keep Sunday as a holy day. The hand is a symbol of work:

Ecclesiastes 9:10 ¹⁰ Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

A person will be marked in the hand by choosing to work on God's holy Sabbath or by going along with Sunday laws for practical reasons (job, family, etc.). The sign, or mark, for either God or the Beast will be invisible to people. You will, in essence, mark yourself by accepting either God's mark—the Sabbath—or the Beast's mark—Sunday. Though invisible to men, God will know who has which mark:

2 Timothy 2:19 ¹⁹ Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

So now we can see that when it says in Revelation that the one group of people have God's name in their foreheads, it means that <u>God's character has become a deep part of their lives</u>, <u>thinking and actions</u>, because God's name is synonymous with His character. The same way as the other group of people have given their thoughts and actions to the Beast and receive the Beast's mark. It will all come down to who we choose to worship, God our Creator, or man, God's creation.

Do people who worship on Sunday as a holy day have the Mark of the Beast now? Absolutely not! No one will have the Mark of the Beast until Sunday worship becomes enforced by law. At that time, all those who choose to follow the false teachings of the Beast and worship on Sunday—the Beast's counterfeit holy day—will receive his mark. Those who follow Jesus and obey His truth will keep His Sabbath day holy and receive His Seal.

It's important to note that we are only judged by what we know. Those who have kept Sunday and have been laid to rest will still be raised in the first resurrection when Jesus comes again if their hearts were right with Him. God will judge every person who has drawn breath according to the light that was available to them.

Those who expect to refuse the Beast's ark in the future must step under Jesus' Sabbath banner now. His power is available to those who obey Him.

Acts 5:32 ³² And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

Without Him, we can do nothing:

John 15:5 ⁵ I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

But with Him, all things are possible:

Mark 10:27 ²⁷ And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

THE FIRST ANGEL - REVELATION 14:7 - Part 1

Verse 7 of the **first Angels** message reads:

⁷ Saying with a loud voice, <u>Fear God, and give glory to him</u>; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Here we see that God in His final message to the world points us back to how we should fear and worship Him as our Creator. Now to fear God does not mean to be frightened of Him but to reverence Him.

Martin Luther struggled with this concept of fear, but he made a distinction which has since become somewhat famous. He distinguished between what he called a "servile fear" and a "filial fear". The servile fear is a kind of fear that a prisoner in a torture chamber has for his tormentor, the jailer, or the executioner. It's that kind of dreadful anxiety in which someone is frightened by the clear and present danger that is represented by another person.

Luther distinguished between that and what he called filial fear, drawing from the Latin concept from which we get the idea of family. It refers to the fear that a child has for his father. In this regard, Luther is thinking of a child who has tremendous respect and love for his father or mother and who dearly wants to please them. He has a fear or an anxiety of offending the one he loves, not because he's afraid of torture or even of punishment, but rather because he's afraid of displeasing the one who is, in that child's world, the source of security and love.

True fear of the Lord, as the Bible reveals it, is to hate evil and love righteousness:

Proverbs 8:13 ... <u>'The fear of the Lord is to hate evil</u>: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.'

Psalm 34:11-14 ...'Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord. ¹² What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? ¹³ Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. ¹⁴ Depart from evil, and <u>do good</u>; seek peace, and pursue it.'

The fear of the Lord brings with it many blessings and benefits.

Psalm 111:10 ¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever

Proverbs 1:7 ⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Furthermore, fear of the Lord leads to life, rest, peace, and contentment.

Proverbs 19:23 ²³ The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.

It is the fountain of life.

Proverbs 14:26-27 ²⁶ In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge. ²⁷ The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

However, if we really have a healthy adoration for God, we still should have an element of the knowledge that God can be frightening.

Hebrews 10:31 ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

As sinful people, we have every reason to fear God's judgment; it is part of our motivation to be reconciled with God. The Lord will rescue us from our delusions, so that He may reveal the truth that sets us free. He casts us down, only to lift us up again. He sits in judgment of our sin, but forgives us nevertheless. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, but love from the Lord is its completion.

Isaiah 41:10 ¹⁰ Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

THE FIRST ANGEL - REVELATION 14:7 - Part 2

Now we have looked at the meaning of the word fear, let's look at who we should fear/give reverence to.

⁷ Saying with a loud voice, <u>Fear God, and give glory to him;</u> for the hour of his judgment is come.

Here we see who we should serve/worship. It is God, and note that God is singular, not plural as the teaching of the trinity would suggest...give glory to him.

Now along with the falling away from the pure apostolic gospel faith, we have the birth of the trinity doctrine, which almost the whole of Christendom now endorses.

But you can read your Bible from cover to cover and you will never find phrases that speak of "God the Son" or "God the Holy Spirit". You will only ever find the Father, who is the "Almighty God", His beloved Son who was bought forth (<u>not created</u>) from the Father, and God's Spirit which flows from the Father to the Son and dwells within those that seek Him, His personal presence within us.

Many argue that Christ was not bought forth, but if He was not, then the Bible is a lie because it would mean Christ is not the Son of God, but just playing a role. The Father would also be playing a role because He would then not be a true Father.

But as God the Father confirmed with His own words, speaking of Christ – "This is My beloved Son" (Matthew 3:17, Matthew 17:5).

And what about the Holy Spirit?

Acts 2:32-33 ³² This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. ³³ Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, <u>and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost</u>, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

Romans 8:9 ⁹ But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, <u>if so be that the Spirit of God dwell</u> in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Note here who the Holy Spirit is. It is not a third being, but the Spirit of God which flows through His Son, and Christ then dwells by His Spirit in the hearts of those who seek Him. Throughout the Bible this is what we see. John records that Jesus, after His resurrection, breathed upon His disciples and said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost".

John 20:22 ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

Could it be concluded that Jesus was breathing upon His followers another person (another individual like Himself)? It would appear that Jesus was breathing upon His disciple His own Spirit.

John 14:16-18 ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; ¹⁷ Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

This verse is the one of the most widely used to attempt to prove a trinity. People say; you see, it says "another"...But Jesus often spoke about Himself in the third person. How much plainer could Jesus be. He said to His disciples; you know who the Spirit is because I am dwelling with you now and when I go back to My Father I will come to you (not send someone else) but I will come in another form. <u>I WILL COME TO YOU</u>. It's interesting to note verses 22 and 23.

John 14:22-23 22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, <u>how</u> is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us..... 23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, <u>and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him</u>.

These verses agree with what Romans 8:9 tells us.

Romans 8:9 ⁹ But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, <u>if so be that the Spirit of God dwell</u> in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.)

The disciples knew who would come to them. Note, Judas asked <u>how</u> (not who) will you come Lord. He knew who would come because Jesus had told them, but he could not understand how, and nor do we, because we are not God.

You see while our spirit is fixed within us, God's Spirit can do what ours can't. He can send His Spirit anywhere and this is how He and His Son represent "Themselves" where "They" are not personally present. In other words, the Holy Spirit is their presence and power in you.

You see, when you read the whole passage in context, when you read what the Bible says and not what you think it says or what tradition from a pagan culture has indoctrinated the majority with, then it is a beautiful truth, the Bible opens up as a whole new book.

Here are a few verses where Jesus speaks of Himself as a third person. As you read ask yourself why Jesus did not just say I?

Luke 18:8 ⁸ I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Matthew 8:20 ²⁰ And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

If you put in a search for the phrase "Son of Man" you will see it was used over and over again by Jesus when He was actually referring to Himself. in 'the third person.'

Matthew 25:31 ³¹ When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

Jesus mostly spoke of Himself as a third person, but no one would argue that the above verse refers to someone other than Christ coming in the clouds to take us home. He also came in another form to the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

Mark $16:12^{-12}$ After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.

And when He comes as our Comforter it is in another form, by His Spirit.

John 14:18. 18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

There is no mistaking what Jesus was saying. He said it was Himself that would be returning as the Comforter. This promise was not just for a select group of people at that time but for all Christians down through the centuries. We must let the Bible speak for itself and read what it says.

It must also be asked; If the Holy Spirit is another being like God and Christ, where was He when God gave to John 'The Revelation of Jesus Christ' in the Book of Revelation? The opening verse says.

Revelation 1:1 ¹ The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

John 17:3 ³ And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Here in this verse nothing is said about knowing the Holy Spirit. All of these things suggest the Holy Spirit is not a third literal being of the Godhead. It is also interesting that in the Bible, God and Christ are depicted as sitting upon a throne, but the Holy Spirit never is. God and Christ are seen receiving worship, but the Holy Spirit never is. There must be a reason for all of these things.

One of the things that trinitarians (those who believe in the trinity) often say is that those who reject the trinity think that Jesus is inferior to God. This is not correct and is not what we believe. Jesus is truly God because His Father is God. Just like the son born of a human father; the son is also human, just like his father. He is not the person of his father, but possesses his father's attributes. He is of the same substance as his father and inherits his father's name and nature. They are two separate beings but both fully human.

In the same way, Jesus came forth from the Father; therefore He is also God by nature, having His Fathers substance, nature, attributes, and name.

Proverbs 8:22-25 ²² The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. ²³ I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. ²⁴ When there were no depths, <u>I was brought forth</u>; when there were no fountains abounding with water. ²⁵ Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth:

Jesus also tells us that He was with the Father as His Son before he came to earth.

John 17:5 ⁵ And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

Jesus is God by nature, but He is not God the Father, He is God's Son. Just as we would honour a human prince, the son of a human king, because the son inherits all from his father, likewise we honour Christ, the Son of God, who inherited all from His Father.

John 5:23 ²³ That <u>all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father</u>. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

Hebrews 1:2 ² Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Philippians 2:6 ⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Colossians 1:15 ¹⁵ Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

You cannot be an image of yourself, which again shows only two beings, the Father and Son.

Colossians 1:19 ¹⁹ For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

Colossians 2:9 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

1 Corinthians 8:6 ⁶ But to us there is but <u>one God, the Father</u>, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

John 14:28 ²⁸ Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: <u>for my Father is greater than</u> I.

So we find that Jesus is equal to His Father by inheritance; Jesus takes His Father's name, His character, His Divinity and His Holy Spirit. He came forth from the Father and has his infinite power and wisdom and love. But the Father possesses these divine attributes from Himself alone, whereas the Son possesses them by inheritance from the Father. In this real sense and in this sense only, the Father is greater than the Son.

THE FIRST ANGEL - REVELATION 14:7 - Part 3

Lastly verse 7 says:

and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

These words "that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters" are found in the 4th commandment and point us back to the Sabbath day, which we have already looked at.

Exodus 20:8-11 ⁸ Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days shall you labour, and do all your work: ¹⁰ But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD your God: in it your shall not do any work, your stranger that is within thy gates: ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

So the First Angels Message of Revelation 14:6-7 tells us:

- 1. To preach the everlasting good news of the gospel, of a crucified risen Saviour and His love for each one of us.
- 2. Fear God, reverence and worship Him singular, not a trinity of gods.
- 3. Worship Him and keep His commandments, including the 7th Day Sabbath.

Gods people are called to preach this message throughout the whole earth just before Jesus returns. The first Angels message of Revelation 14 points us back to God, to His Word and to His Commandments, calling people back to a pure form of worship. These things cannot be changed by man, God ordained them and we are told that even in Heaven the righteous will still keep them.

Isaiah 66:22-23 ²² For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. ²³ And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.

You see, there are many deceptions and man-made traditions that Satan has seduced the people of this world to follow, man-made, not God-directed teachings. They may sound good but they are not Biblical. The Bible calls this false belief system "Babylon". We don't have time to examine these false beliefs individually, but some of them are:

Sunday - the false Sabbath day, which we have looked at, this will be a major issue worldwide.

The Trinity doctrine, which we have also touched on. Teachings that came from the tower of Babel and have been incorporated into the beliefs of most modern day churches going against the very teachings of God and His Son. The word of God tells us over and over that there is one God, but we say God is wrong and man is right! Even trinitarians find the trinity difficult to explain. Why? Because the Bible does not teach it! One cannot prove or explain something from the Bible that is not Biblical, the teaching of a trinity is simply not there.

Baptism by immersion - many churches just sprinkle (christen) babies but again this is not taught in the Scriptures. Babies are not able to make a conscious choice, they are not condemned, there is no Biblical requirement for this, however, many think this takes the place of baptism. Baptism however, does require a conscious choice, this is the outward declaration of the sinner dying to the old life of sin to follow Jesus.

Heaven and Hell - many churches tell us we go straight to heaven or to hell at death. Again this is not what the Bible teaches. God tells us we will sleep unconsciously in death until He comes to call us forth from the grave. Why would Jesus call the righteous from the grave if they were already in heaven? In 1 Thessalonians it says; "The dead in Christ will rise first". We will look at this in more detail a little later.

Many churches teach that wicked people will burn forever in hell, but on careful study, this is not what the scripture teaches and is not the way a loving God would act toward His children.

Another deception is the secret rapture, many people say some will just be taken and others will not know what has happened to them. Again this is not what the Bible teaches; everyone on earth will know of Jesus' second coming, we will touch on this later.

You see man has taken many things from tradition and pagan worship practices rather than follow the Word of God. We have DVD's and literature on all these subjects if you would like to study these things further for yourselves. (Details at the end of this booklet).

A wise man will stick to the revelations of God from the scriptures. A foolish man will imagine all kinds of vain imaginations with his own mind from his own spirit and try to create God in an image that fits his limited understanding, this in turn only causes confusion.

In this great controversy being played out, Satan is determined that we will be lost. He is the master of deception and has originated all the lies and heresies that are in our world today, which if followed will result in the destruction of body and soul. On the other hand, God is doing all He can to save us. He loves us and wants us in His everlasting kingdom of peace, offering each one of us a crown of gold and eternal life.

THE SECOND ANGEL - REVELATION 14:8

We will now move on to look at the second Angel's message of Revelation 14:8:

⁸ And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

The "Babylon" mentioned here has nothing to do with the ancient city of Babylon, capital of the ancient Babylonian empire, which was already a desolate ruin in the apostle John's day. In the Babylonian language, Babylon was formed from two words, "bab" (meaning gate) and "el" (meaning god), thus translating as "gate of the gods." The Hebrews however associated it with "babel" a word in their language which meant "to confuse."

Ever since the fall of ancient Babylon, Satan has sought to control the world through one pagan power after another. Toward the close of the first century AD, Christians were already referring to the city and empire of Rome by the cryptic title Babylon.

Without a doubt, Satan's most nearly successful attempt to subvert the church has been through the papal apostasy of the Middle Ages, the 1260 years of terrible persecution of God's people, but God intervened. Now as we near the end of time, Satan will be permitted to achieve what appears briefly to be success in overthrowing the people of God.

Babylon, both literal and spiritual, has long been recognized as the traditional enemy of God's truth and people. As used in Revelation, the name Babylon is symbolic of all apostate religious organizations and their leadership, from antiquity down to the close of time.

The head of spiritual Babylon for many long years has been Roman Catholicism, the 'Mother of Harlots', as the Bible calls her. She has certainly made the world 'drunk with her wine', representing the false teachings with which the Roman Catholic Church has deceived the world. (This does not apply to individuals within this system because God has His people in all Churches and each person will be judged according to the light they have had during their own lifetime).

Revelation 17:1-4 ¹And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: ²With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. ³So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. ⁴And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

Revelation 18:3 ³ For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

And the various Protestant churches which have rejected truth in favour of holding onto Roman Catholic tradition, have now become 'fallen' and also part of Babylon, as they too are disseminating false doctrines. They are known as the "harlot daughters" of Mother Babylon.

Revelation 17:5 ⁵ And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

We see today the many protestant churches that fled the Papacy in the 1600's because of her false doctrines and cruel ways, are now flocking back to her as the Bible predicted they would. They do not look to their forefathers who fled from her, but are so inebriated by her wine and lies that they can no longer see things clearly.

Isaiah 28:7 ⁷ But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.

Satan introduced heresy into human life through Adam and Eve when he induced them to sin by telling them, "You will not surely die":

Genesis 3:4 ⁴ And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

They believed this perversion of God's truth and upon sinning, the destructive course began. By being cast out of the garden of Eden, they were almost immediately separated from God. They did not live and prosper as Satan's cruel perversion had led them to believe. Instead, the Devil exploited them through their innocence and desires, and through sin they became his slaves. Hundreds of years later, they died just as God had said they would.

The Devil's attempts to deceive through false teaching have never stopped. Jesus warned that as we approach the end, this deception will be especially intensive;

Mark 13:22 ²² For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.

Jesus warns that even those who follow Him, if they do not keep close to Him and His word, will also be deceived, so convincing will these deceptions be. It is not only false doctrines that we have to be aware of but also Satan and his demons.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Satan has tried to impersonate everything that Christ has done, putting in a subtle twist of deceit, mixing truth with error, so that it looks and sounds like the real thing, but is not fully according to God's Word. Therefore, we can expect Satan to appear impersonating Christ. This would be his greatest and final deception and is why it is imperative that we know the Word of God for ourselves and have a close relationship with our Lord. If Satan was able to deceive Adam and Eve, who were so close to God and His Son, how much more do we need to be on our guard!

Matthew 2423-27: ²³ Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. ²⁴ For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. ²⁵ Behold, I have told you before. ²⁶ Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. ²⁷ For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

It is vitally important that people understand that the first supernatural entity which appears on earth will not be our Lord. When Satan comes he will deceive millions, he will not come with horns and a tail as most may expect, but he will come with a gentle voice, quoting scriptures, appearing to heal and no doubt confirming to everyone that the day of worship was changed to Sunday. So convincing will he be that even the very elect, if they are not close to God, knowing

His Word, will fall for Satan's deception. This is why Christ tells us not even to look, in case by beholding we become changed.

The word "fornication" used in Revelation 14:8 is a symbol of the illicit connection between the Church and the State. The church should be married to her Lord, but when she seeks the support of the state, she leaves her lawful spouse. This is what the Vatican has done before and is aiming to do again, and by this illicit connection she commits spiritual fornication. This is the power she began with, power over both Church and State, and this is the power she has been trying to regain. Her aim is worldwide, she strives to attain world domination once more and she has almost achieved her aim. But she will use her "daughters", the fallen Protestant churches, to finish her work, which Revelation 13 says is the "image" of the beast.

Just as King Herod's wife Herodias used her daughter to unite with the state (King Herod) to have the head of John the Baptist, so too will that "mother of harlots", the Roman Catholic Church use her "daughters", the fallen Protestant churches to unite with the state to enforce her decrees and persecute God's true people. But in the end, this false system of religion, comprising a unity between the Roman Catholic Church, the fallen Protestant churches and the state, will fail.

The reason for the eventual collapse of this false system will be the world wide knowledge of God's truth when it is proclaimed under the Three Angels Messages. The false teachings prevalent in much of Christianity will soon crumble once the work of sharing God's plan of salvation is complete. Already many are coming out of Babylon's false belief systems and are accepting God's truth and mercy.

Unfortunately, Revelation chapters 13 and 17 reveal that the global government will unite with those who are willingly stubborn to the truth, those who choose to remain in false worship. This government will force unbiblical religious doctrines on the world population by controlling the international banking system.

All people will soon be exposed to the truth of the everlasting gospel, some will choose to accept God's offer of salvation, but others having a full knowledge of the consequences will choose to turn their backs on God forever. Many will allow their fear of the government to outweigh their trust in God's ability to save them. Once this comes to pass the question of their allegiance will be settled. They will have received the Mark of the Beast.

Satan's time must be getting close. We have witnessed massive earthquakes, multiple volcanoes erupting worldwide, worldwide flooding, financial crises, the relentless march of Islamic terrorists, and rouge nations going nuclear. The whole world, even atheists, sense an impending apocalypse, and they are searching after anything or anyone who will save them.

Add to this what would have been unthinkable only a few years ago: the decision of many countries to plunder the moral definition of marriage.

Luke 17:28-30 ²⁸ Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; ²⁹ But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. ³⁰ Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

And to top all this we have our first Jesuit pope who has addressed a joint session of the U.S. Congress for the first time ever and is treated as royalty wherever he goes. No other religious organisation has ever had such power.

Revelation 13:3 3and all the world wondered after the beast.

So what main point should we get from the second angel's message? What is the main reason for the "fall" of Babylon? It is because the churches chose to follow the "traditions of men" instead of following Christ and His word alone. The apostle Paul warns us in Colossians 2:8:

Colossians 2:8 ⁸ Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

This is a warning to us all, not to follow the traditions of the churches and the world, but instead to follow after Christ.

Paul continues in Colossians 2:10 by saying that "we are complete in Christ" which is the head of all principality and power:

Therefore, so as to not be "fallen" ourselves, or part of Babylon, we must stop following tradition. We must stop following the church leaders. We must stop following each other, and start following Christ and His Word alone!

THE THIRD ANGEL - REVELATION 14:9-10

With this in mind we will now we take a look at the message of the third Angel.

Revelation 14:9-10 ⁹ 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, ¹⁰ The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation...

Under the message of the third Angel are revealed the consequences for worshiping and following this false system.

False worship systems backed by the government will enforce Sunday observance by law. Following these laws there will be an enforcement that will prevent those keeping God's true 7th day Sabbath from being able to buy or sell.

The two-horned beast coming out from the earth found in Revelation chapter 13 represents the United States, whilst the first beast, the leopard-like beast, is the Papacy. The "image" of the beast is a religious power just like the first beast, teaching many of the same false teachings, and is a unity of church and state, with the church directing the state - the majority of the Protestant world teaches many of the same teachings as Papal Rome, and we are seeing the image being set up in America today with the Protestant/Evangelical leaders uniting with the state and "advising" the state regarding its policies.

Revelation 13 reveals plainly the astonishing fact that Protestant America will cause all to worship the Papacy and receive its "mark" by passing a National Sunday law, and that all who do not go along with it will suffer the consequences! Note, it is a National Sunday Law, it will start in America and then go worldwide, it will set up the process for all, worldwide, to receive the "mark of the beast"! And finally once again will repeat the old papal principle of persecution of dissenters.

Revelation 13:1-4 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. ² And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion; and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. ³ And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. (This is the Papacy) ⁴ And they worshipped the dragon (Satan) which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? lamb, and he spake as a dragon. (U.S.A) ¹² And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. ¹⁶ And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: ¹⁷ And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

You see, it won't be the beast which enforces its "mark" by law in the United States; it will be its "image"...Protestant America. It will all boil down to our being forced to either obey the laws of our country and disobey God, or having to violate the laws of the land in order to obey our Lord. That's a real test! If you are faithful and true to God, you'll find yourself, for a short time before Christ comes, without a job, without the right to buy or sell, and eventually even under the death penalty!

Does this sound impossible? Well it's already happening! Large religious groups such as the Lord's Day Alliance want a Sunday law and already have articles in print concerning it. Is the principle of "separation of church and state" crumbling? The Catholic Twin Circle stated...

"All Americans would do well to petition the President and the Congress to make a Federal law - an amendment to the, Constitution if need be - to re-establish the Sabbath [meaning Sunday] as a national Day of Rest." *Catholic Twin Circle*, *August 25*, *1985*, *Article "Sacking Sunday*"

Powerful groups like these have genuine concerns. They're working for many good things better T.V. programs, to save the family, etc. But what they don't realise is that when the U.S. actually passes a national Sunday law, it has taken away the religious freedom of those who choose to keep God's day instead of the "day of the sun" which the Roman church adopted from pagan sun worship - it will then be enforcing the "Mark of the Beast!" Those who go along with this oppressive law while knowing what they are doing will most definitely receive the "Mark of the Beast." Why? Because they will be disobeying the commandment of God in order to obey the tradition of men. Jesus said:

Mark 7:7 ⁷ Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Believe it or not, a mandatory Sunday law, and the death sentence, has already been established in the state of Virginia.

In 1610, the first Sunday law in America, in Virginia, required: "Every man and woman shall repair in the morning to the divine service and sermons preached upon the Sabbath (Sunday), and in the afternoon to divine service, and catechizing, upon pain for the first fault to lose their provision and the allowance for the whole week following; for the second, to lose the said allowance and also be whipped; and for the third to suffer death." !!! Laws and Orders, Divine Politique, and Martial, for the Colony in Virginia: first established by Sir Thomas Gates, knight, Lieutenant - General, the 24th of May, 1610.

Now you may be thinking that this was in the 1600's and that this would not happen now, we are in the 21st century! But did you know that these old Sunday blue laws are still on the statute books in Virginia today? They have never been removed. And blue laws exist in many states, countries, and municipalities, restricting anything from the sale of alcoholic beverages to, in the past, businesses being open at all on Sunday. "Blue law" is the term for laws enacted to promote or enforce the moral standards of religious groups. The trend over the past few decades has been to repeal blue laws, but many still remain on the books. Most states in the U.S. have had these "blue laws" enforced on and off throughout the last two hundred years. But this national law will enforce the "Mark" of the Beast. How will this be accomplished?

I would imagine with some kind of identification card, because something like that will allow those who obey the Sunday law to buy and sell. They will have these "temporary" benefits. Tremendous pressure to conform will be placed on those who choose to follow God. What will stir the people to bring in and accept a nation-wide Sunday law?

Perhaps something like crime which has escalated out of control, we see so much, and those committing these atrocities seem to be getting younger and younger. We see mass murders, neglect of the aged, abuse of women and even of babies that sicken the heart. People possessed, are taking the lives of men, women, and little children. A recent report to the Federal Communication Commission states - and I only have the US figures, but here in UK it's no different with TV, electronic games etc...it states that...

"Between the ages of 5 and 14 the average American child witnesses the violent destruction of thirteen thousand human beings on television A U.S. Senate subcommittee revealed that in one-decade violence witnessed on T.V. skyrocketed and delinquency in real life grew nearly 200%!

We live in a time when videos and movies too horrible to mention fill our living rooms and the minds of young and old alike.

So perhaps crime, a national disaster, the economy, another major terrorist attack, even war will bring about this cry for a National Sunday Law. We even have the "climate change" agenda being pushed on the world now, and what better way to "help the planet" than to enforce a shut down one day a week? One thing is for certain, it is coming upon us very soon and although all this may seem hard to believe and far-fetched, the Bible predicts it, and the signs and events happening around us today confirm the same.

This is where our faith will be tested to the full. Will we be prepared to lose everything we have and continue to follow God and trust in Him, or will we keep our homes and have food on the table but in doing so receive the Mark of the Beast, by obeying this Beast power rather than God? There will be no middle ground, no trying to keep both days holy, you either totally trust God whatever it may cost in this life, or not.

All people will be given the same choice that Adam and Eve had, the question is, will they be loyal to the God of creation or will they be loyal to the corrupted system that is controlled by the very same fallen angel who deceived Adam and Eve in Eden?

So how can we escape this Mark of the Beast? Revelation 14:12 gives us the answer.

Revelation 14:12 ¹² Here is the patience of the saints; here *are* those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

In this message of the Third Angel, the qualifications of those who escape the judgments of God as He fights evil will be clear. They have two distinctive characteristics; they keep the commandments of God, which we looked at earlier, and they have a rock-solid faith in Jesus as their one and only hope for eternal life.

Revelation 14:12 makes it clear that this remnant group will hold to God's commandments and to the faith of Jesus Christ and will need to exercise great patience and perseverance during this time of decision and persecution. This will be the ultimate test of their loyalty to God. But this time has not arrived yet. Those who remain loyal to God and have trust in Him will receive the Seal of God as opposed to the ones who turn their back on God and receive the Mark of the Beast - there are only two classes, and each of us will be in one or the other class.

So where are we in this prophecy of the Three Angels? The interesting thing here is that these messages contain very strong and dire warnings. Not just for unbelievers, but <u>especially</u> for those professing the Christian faith. And yet these warning are messages of love, because God doesn't just show His love for us by saying 'nice' things. He also shows His love by <u>warning</u> us, and telling us of the consequences if we don't heed those warnings. But why is that 'interesting'? Well, if you give these warning messages of Revelation to the professed Christian churches throughout the world today, the majority of them will tell you that you are not being 'loving' or 'brotherly' and will reject those messages. But what did the Lord say?

Revelation 3:19 ¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Let us therefore heed these last warnings of a loving God. You see all three messages are linked together and cannot be separated, as they give a combined warning to the world about who it is we should worship and obey, these three Angels messages will unite with the 4th Angel of Revelation 18, this is God's final warning, His last plea to His children to have them come to Him and be saved.

PROPHECY

In the great Biblical story, the signs of the times indicate that today we are witnessing the events that will ultimately lead to the return of Christ.

These many prophetic signs were given long ago to demonstrate that the Bible is trustworthy, and that its Author knows all things, even the distant future. Though each of these prophetic signs share equal value and should be carefully studied, in this segment we will focus on one specific prophecy, and in examining this prophecy we will not only discover its amazing accuracy but we will also learn how it will affect each person on this planet in the very near future.

As we touched on earlier, the prophecy found in Revelation 13 predicts that a powerful worldwide religious and political power will exercise absolute control over all people, by having full control over global finances. This will be the Roman Catholic Church and the United States of America, a religious and political power coming together.

The descriptive words "religious" and "political" are used here because this power will be both of these things - it will enforce its religious preference on all people and use its political and military power to enforce it.

An un-Biblical religion will align itself with the state and force everyone to adhere to its prescribed belief system or lose the privilege to buy and sell. This religious system's alignment with the military strong government that also controls the banking system will provide it with the power it needs to control everyone.

Revelation 13:16-17 ¹⁶ And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: ¹⁷ And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name

Why does this only apply to today? Because the technology to do this had not existed until now. You see as long as people have coins and banknotes, people will still be able to obtain things, if you can't buy it at the front of the store you can buy it at the back of the store, there have always been black markets.

So to prevent people from being able to buy or sell, something has to be done with the monetary system, and we are moving that way very, very quickly, much quicker than you imagine. We are all acquainted with credit cards. Well, they now have cards that are called smart cards, these cards resemble a credit card in size and shape, but inside it is completely different. First of all, it has something inside. A normal credit card is a simple piece of plastic. The inside of a smart card usually contains an embedded microprocessor, which is the brains of a computer, so a smart card can be programmed for multiple applications and can be updated to add new applications after they are issued.

It seems a wonderful invention, just stop and think of what that does to crime, if people do not have coins and banknotes it's going to be very hard for the criminal to get to it. Just think how many people handle one cheque when you write it, the cost of the checking system runs into millions, so it will save tremendous amounts of money.

A few years back a town called Swindon in the UK was among the first to trial the Mondex card. The Mondex system was developed by NatWest Bank in 1990 and it was an attempt at creating an electronic cash card that acted as alternative to coins and banknotes. Electronic payments were immediate without the need for authorisation checks or signatures. But a smart card is far in advance of that. Listen to this statement from Global Research. It was headed:

The Cashless Society is Almost Here – And With Some Very Sinister Implications

Over the years, futurists and commentators alike seemed to agree that a cashless society will be a slow creep, and would automatically phase itself in simply by virtue of the sheer volume of electronic transactions that would gradually make cash less available and more costly to redeem, or exchange. This is still true for the most part. What few counted on however was how the final push would take place, and why. Some will be surprised by these new emerging mechanisms, and the political and sinister implications they will ultimately lead to. There has been a lot made about the 'cashless society' in media, but this cannot fully happen until there is a cashless currency. Every revolution needs a good crisis in order to germinate its seed. The cashless revolution is no different. It should be abundantly clear by now that the global financial meltdown has been engineered at every juncture of its unfolding by the very private central banks who expand and contract the money supply. A dollar or euro collapse will trigger a global economic crisis, which is a prime opportunity to introduce the next phase.... The financial collapse which began in 2007-2008 was merely the opening gambit of the elite criminal class, a mere warm-up for things to come. With the next collapse we may see a centrally controlled global digital currency gaining its final foothold. Global Research https://www.globalresearch.ca/the-cashless-society-is-almost-here-and-with-some-very-sinister-implications/5313515

The cashless society is already here. The question now is how far society will allow it to penetrate and completely control each and every aspect of their day-to-day lives.

You see a cashless society would allow the authorities to boycott you, because all they have to do is say "don't accept that number" and you have been boycotted. So you see we are moving very quickly towards that day in which it says that it will be enforced on the people.

You may be wondering why a power such as this would want to control the world population. The truth is, dictatorial powers have been the norm in history, much more than liberal powers.

As an example, history shows that the Roman Catholic Church, which is a religious and political power, controlled Europe by the sword for more than one thousand years. If a person did not agree with the church, he or she was labelled as a heretic, tried as a criminal and in many cases tortured and killed.

In fact protestant Christianity in North America was established to escape from that system, with pilgrims landing at Plymouth Rock in 1620. Persecution clearly took place in the past, and the Bible predicts it will happen again. The freedoms that many have experienced in recent times are a very rare privilege when looking back across world history. Closer to our day, world domination was attempted by Stalin, Hitler, Mussolini and Japanese Prime Minister Tojo, they each came very close to reaching their goal.

According to the Bible, a one-world dictatorship will eventually succeed for a very short time; but how will this be accomplished? This global power will succeed by controlling the finances of all people, regardless of their location or status; all people will be forced to adhere to the decrees of this dictatorship or lose financial privileges, and the requirement will be that everyone must follow its prescribed religion instead of the Bible. Being loyal to this dictatorial government will earn you the privilege to buy or sell, as we have seen.

If you wish to continue buying and selling in the final crisis before Jesus returns you will need to receive the Mark of the Beast. Which of course the Bible strongly condemns.

The Bible tells us that before Christ's return, rich people will mourn over their disappearing wealth that has been accumulated at the expense of the workers whom they have exploited:

James 5:1-7 ¹ Come now, *you* rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon *you!* ² Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. ³ Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. ⁴ Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. ⁵ You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you. ⁷ Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. ⁸ You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

This Bible passage is describing the current global financial crisis in broad terms. It is in the context of the "last days" and the "coming of the Lord". The Bible predicts the causes of the global financial crisis. And it also says that the last days will be times of peril, people will love money, love themselves and love pleasure more than love God.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 ¹ But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

The Bible also predicted that in the time before Christ's return, people's hearts would fail them out of fear.

Luke 21:25-26 ²⁵ "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; ²⁶ men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

The world before Christ's return will be a very anxious place - rising crime, rising social violence, rising unrest, rising famine and disease and escalating natural disasters, this is exactly what we see in our world today.

Regarding controlling the finances, one theory described was that the many smaller banks will be bought out by the larger banks, eventually giving one bank the monopoly. We saw this happen during the last recession, many consumers found they had become depositors at a new bank overnight after their old bank failed. Now, in a continuing quest for growth, some of those acquiring banks are looking to merge or buy other banks.

Many believe that the Federal Reserve Bank in America already possesses and exercises that kind of power, since we have lost our self-sufficiency and have come to need money for survival, especially in the last one hundred years. Most of us are already at the mercy of the banking system, every aspect of our lives revolves around money, from food to fuel, transportation to housing, money drives every facet of the modern world. Banks are clearly in a very powerful position.

The only thing left is a great catastrophe to push the world population into a state of desperation, perhaps a natural disaster, a worldwide stock market crash, a global war, an energy shortage, famine, pandemics, escalating terrorism, or a combination of these crisis could cause a global form of Marshall Law that would further empower this dictatorial government.

It's easy to dismiss Bible warnings about earthquakes, wars, violence and famine as signs of Christ's soon return because these things have always happened. And Jesus agrees.

Matthew 24:6-8 ⁶ And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of sorrows.

But in relation to signs such as this. Jesus said: "the end is not yet" However, even the secular person sees that earthquakes, famines, disease, violence, lawlessness and religious conflict are rising dramatically. The Bible says signs like these will increase in intensity and frequency, just like birth contractions, before Jesus returns.

Just look at this earthquake graph... This is from the 1400's to our present day and deals with major earthquakes, ones that brought down houses and destroyed cities. You can see the increase, and today the amount that we could find was 291, but this is probably on the conservative side, and this is dealing only with major earthquakes.

Think of these Bible predictions the next time you open up your newspaper and read what's happening, or switch on your TV to listen to the news. The meaning behind today's mayhem is that Jesus is coming soon. It's mentioned over 320 times in the New Testament alone! And Jesus is our only hope for the future! Jesus painted a broad picture of world conditions before His return. But the Bible's key point is that the frequency and intensity of these signs will dramatically escalate. And escalating they are!

The times we live in today are increasingly severe on all fronts. They collectively point to a global deterioration in climate, weather, morals, health, the family unit, religion, and a corresponding increase in political corruption and vile acts against children and the elderly in our society.

2 Timothy 1-4 ¹ But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

More people today than ever before sense that planet earth is approaching its judgment, and soon. Refusing to believe it, won't change it. We need to recognise the signs for what they are and turn to Jesus, He is our only hope, He alone can and will save us if we turn to Him.

In 1970 Ruth Graham said: "If Jesus doesn't send judgment soon, He will have to apologise to Sodom and Gomorrah". We are now many years on from that statement and things continue to deteriorate rapidly, but we serve a loving God who wants everyone to be saved and He is extending His hand of mercy to all.

Our life is like the dial of a clock. The hands are God's hands, passing over and over again—the short hand of discipline and the long hand of mercy. Slowly and surely the hand of discipline must pass, and God speaks at each strike; but over and over passes the hand of mercy, showering down sixtyfold of blessing for each stroke of discipline or trial; and both hands are fastened to one secure point, the great, unchanging heart of a God of love.

No matter how it comes to pass, current world developments make it easy to see that the fulfilment of this two-thousand-year-old prophecy is now inevitable. Soon this global dictatorship, more powerful than any other in all of history, will exclusively grant or cease the privilege of buying and selling through the global central system that already exists.

Just decades ago this would have seemed unlikely and technologically impossible, but today it is only a matter of time before it reaches full fruition. Just imagine something of this magnitude happening without warning. The privilege of knowing the future in advance is a very special gift from God our Creator, it is His Fatherly way of showing us that He's watching out for us and that He truly cares. Keep your eyes open and follow the development of this prophecy very carefully.

Luke 21:28 ²⁸ Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

RECAP

So let's just recap on these very end times of earth's history:

- 1. We saw that God's commandments have been changed and that this will play a major role in the last day events.
- 2. We saw that as governments back the religious system of Babylon (the Roman Catholic System), those who don't conform to keeping Sunday as the day of rest will not be able to buy or sell and this will eventually lead to the persecution of God's people as they continue to serve God and not man. We are told that history will be repeated, just as in the dark ages when millions lost their lives through persecution.

It's interesting to note that when the Catholic Church started to suppress what they believed was heresy, which was basically not going along with their doctrines, their punishment was to imprison people. At first people were imprisoned without torture, however, as time went by the prosecution of heretics as they were called became more frequent and Inquisitions were established. With a license granted by the Pope himself, inquisitors were free to explore the depths of horror and cruelty.

Dressed as black-robed fiends with black cowls over their heads, Inquisitors could extract confessions from just about anyone. The Inquisition invented every conceivable device to inflict pain by slowly dismembering and dislocating the body. The horrors inflicted by one human on another in the name of God are often too awful even to talk about. You can read for yourself these atrocities on the internet or by reading Fox's Book of Martyrs.

The interesting thing here is that this is exactly how it will be in the very near future; first warnings, then imprisonment, then God's people will be hunted down and martyred for their faith, it will be the same sequence as happened in the Dark Ages to millions of God-fearing people.

To those of you that this may be new to, you may be thinking that this will never happen, but already in parts of the world people are persecuted for believing in Christ, and very soon this will happen worldwide, it will affect every person on the planet, no one will escape, each person will be required at that time to make a choice. This will happen. Bible prophecy is tomorrow's news today.

As some of God's people are being martyred, others will flee to the mountains as the plagues spoken of in Revelation 16 begin to fall on the wicked. When these things occur, the long awaited return of Jesus will soon follow. For those who have waited and anticipated His return, the fulfilment of this prophecy should be viewed as a wonderful sign that God is in control. When this sign comes to pass, God will once again prove that as Alpha and Omega He truly knows the beginning from the end and the end from the beginning of all things, and that He can be trusted with full confidence.

Psalm 91:2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."

These things are not to try and scare you but rather to warn you. If you are not warned you will not know, you will not be able to make the most important decision of your life. So many messages you may hear from the pulpit are preaching love, peace and safety - this is a false message, a message that will leave you unprepared for the days ahead and in a lost condition, following the Mark of the Beast. We read in Isaiah:

Isaiah 21:11-12 ¹¹... Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night? ¹²The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night:

The watchman said the morning was coming, but first the night, the time of darkness. This message might have been given almost 3,000 years ago, but it is as timely as today's headlines.

War rages in our world today. People are losing their lives by the thousands to terrorist attacks, freak natural disasters and the horrors of war. On another level, the tsunami of sin in our world is rising. Old convictions and standards are being swept away right before our very eyes. Our children are growing up into a Godless society, a society with very few values or morals. The winds of change are blowing all around us and fearful things are just on the horizon.

Today, just as there was in the prophet Isaiah's day, there is a need for the people of God to assume the role of watchman. There is a need for us to take our stand, look at that which is approaching and open our mouths and sound the warning, no matter the cost.

We have looked briefly at the warning of God, but as we bring this study to a close, let's look at the blessed hope of our Lords promise for us if we are faithful. We have looked at the night; now let's look at the morning.

Our greatest hope, the world's greatest hope, is Jesus' promise to return to this earth. The scriptures teach that He will come once all people have had the opportunity to learn about Him and His plan of salvation and make their decision.

Matthew 24:14 ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

JESUS RETURN

In fact, the New Testament promises over three hundred times that Jesus will return. But what will His return actually be like? Will it be silent or secretive with people just raptured away? The Bible text that describes the appearing of Christ speaks of Him approaching earth in the clouds. But as these clouds come closer, the reality that they are masses of angels will become evident.

Psalm 104:3³who maketh the clouds his chariot:....

Psalm 68:17 ¹⁷ The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels:....

Luke 21:27 ²⁷ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

Matthew 24:27 ²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

If you have ever experienced lightening you well know it is impossible to go unnoticed. Think of that for a moment....now consider this; when Jesus returns it will be like lightening filling the entire sky with power and brilliance.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words. NIV

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 ⁷....This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. ⁸ He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might ¹⁰ on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed.

All those who know Christ as their Lord will be waiting for Him with great expectation, but those who have refused to acknowledge Him as Lord will be terrified at His appearance. Reading the verses that talk about the return of Christ highlights a theme that is common in many movies such as the famous War of the Worlds.

This motion picture tells the story of a race of technologically advanced aliens who invade planet earth in order to destroy humanity. Now that was just a fictional story, but the reality is that one day there will be just such an invasion, it will not be aliens coming to destroy humanity but rather Jesus accompanied by countless angles coming to gather God's people for the journey to Heaven. When that day comes the skies of earth will be filled with the brightness of Jesus and all His powerful angels and every person on earth will experience this awesome scene.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 ⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

People throughout history who have died as followers of God will instantly come back to life and be given new bodies at the appearing of Jesus; and at that time, those who love the Lord and are still alive will also receive new bodies with youthful perfection. The crippled will walk, the blind will see and the deaf will hear, then with bodies that will never age or die again these people will meet Christ in the air with all the holy angels.

2 Timothy 4:8 ⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Will Jesus come in a spirit form hidden from our eyes and ears? Again the Bible makes it clear, it says just as Jesus left physically so He will return physically in the same way.

Acts1:9-11 ⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

As previously mentioned, those who are not expecting Christ's return will be caught off guard. The apostle Paul explains this using the analogy of a thief that breaks into a home at night. If the thief enters the home at night when everyone is asleep, the family will be unprepared to protect themselves and their property, however, the family that is awake and expecting the thief would be prepared to protect themselves. This is what Paul means when he gives this analogy.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-4 ¹But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ² For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. ³ For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. ⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

One additional point to be emphasised, and this is very important, is that when Jesus returns <u>His feet will not touch the earth during His second appearance</u>. Be careful not to be deceived by false Christs that will continue to come and go. So if someone is walking on this earth claiming to be Christ, you can be positive that they are not the actual Christ. Even if these false Christs are able to work miracles, do not be deceived by this either, keep in mind that even the demons are able to work miracles; a miraculous sign cannot be a factor in determining whether someone is the true Christ.

Christ will also not come in some kind of UFO, of which we have seen a lot of activity in the last few years, along with many crop circles appearing and many other strange phenomena, and this is why it is so important that we each get to know God's Word for ourselves so that we will not be deceived.

As we saw earlier, Satan has tried to impersonate everything that Christ has done, therefore we can expect him to come impersonating Christ in these last days, and he may very well come in some kind of spacecraft (in the clouds). He will walk the earth appearing to do good, speaking similar words to Christ, even performing miracles like Christ did, but be warned, this is a great deception and we are warned not to look at or listen to this deceiver least we are taken in. Jesus will come in the clouds with thousands upon thousands of angels. Satan cannot replicate this and until this happens and Jesus comes in the clouds all else is false and of the Devil. No matter how convincing it may appear, do not be deceived, Jesus tells us this over and over in Matthew 24 alone. Four times Jesus tells us to watch out that we are not deceived. We need to be on our guard, we have been warned.

The Bible makes the manner and details surrounding Jesus' return totally clear, He will come in the clouds with all of His angels, countless thousands upon thousands of angels will accompany Christ on His return. You can be confident that anything short of what has been presented in the scriptures will be a counterfeit designed to lure you away from the true and living Christ. Do not be tricked by these clever deceptions.

Matthew 24:24 ²⁴ For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Revelation 22:12 ¹² "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

Note, when Christ comes He brings our reward...everlasting life or death. If we went straight to Heaven at death then the righteous would already have their reward and there would be no saints to resurrect because they would already be in Heaven. Those who preach that we go straight to Heaven or hell when we die are preaching a false gospel that is not Biblical.

All wicked people will be destroyed at His appearing. The dead in Christ will be resurrected and those who are alive at His appearing will be changed. Then those who have accepted salvation through Christ will meet Him in the air and be taken to Heaven to receive their inheritance.

Then for one thousand years they will live with God in Heaven, the record books of Heaven will be opened for all to see that God's judgement was perfect, that He gave every person sufficient opportunity to turn from their sinful life and follow Him.

Revelation 7:9 ⁹ After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb...

The millennium in Heaven will be a special time of healing for mankind. It will be a massive family reunion for all of God's children. People from all ages will be there, from as far back as Adam's time, also many of our own loved ones and ancestors will be there in their fresh new immortal bodies.

Some believe that the wicked will be left behind on earth to suffer for a time while the people who have accepted Christ will be secretly taken to heaven, but we have seen from the scriptures that Christ's return will be anything but secretive. We must look to God's Word. Does the Bible back up this theory that the wicked will be left behind to earn their salvation?

A prophecy in Jeremiah plainly describes the state of the earth just after the redeemed with Christ and the angels have vacated it, no one could remain alive on the earth at this time:

2 Thessalonians 2:8 ⁸ And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and **shall destroy with the brightness of his coming**:

Jerimiah 4:23-28 ²³ I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. ²⁴ I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. ²⁵ I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. ²⁶ I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger. ²⁷ For thus hath the LORD said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end. ²⁸ For this shall the earth mourn, and the heavens above be black; because I have spoken it, I have purposed it, and will not repent, neither will I turn back from it.

Isaiah 24:1,3, 19-20 ¹ Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof...... ³ The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the LORD hath spoken this word....... ¹⁹ The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. ²⁰ The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again.

Isaiah 2:21 ²¹ To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to **shake terribly the earth**.

Jerimiah 25:33 ³³ And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.

Jerimiah 7:33 ³³ And the carcases of this people shall be meat for the fowls of the heaven, and for the beasts of the earth; and none shall fray them away.

It will be impossible for any person to repent during the 1,000 years because there will not be a person alive on the earth. The righteous will all be in heaven. All the wicked will be laying dead upon the desolate earth. Revelation 11:11-12 makes it clear that the case of every person is closed before Jesus returns. Those who wait to accept Christ until the 1,000 years begin will have waited too long.

Revelation 22:11-12 ¹¹ He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. ¹² And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

At the appearing of Christ the wicked will be destroyed and the faithful in Christ will rise to meet Him in the sky to be taken to Heaven, then for one thousand years the earth will be in a state of ruin, uninhabited and desolate. If you are not ready when Jesus comes there will be no second chance...now is the time to prepare! This world as we know it is about to end and a new chapter soon to begin. God has generously made a way for every person to be a part of the new earth that is soon to come.

1 Corinthians 2:9 "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

Since the fall of man in Eden, God has promised to one day make all things new. The Bible is full of wonderful promises from a loving God to His creation. God did not create this world with all of its beauty and splendour in vain, He created it to last forever and His plan has never changed.

The first two chapters in the book of Genesis, the first book in the Bible, outline the creation of this planet and the fall of humanity, the last two chapters of the book of Revelation, the last book in the Bible, outline how God will put an end to evil and recreate the earth in its former state of perfection, from paradise lost at the beginning to paradise finally restored at the end, and after the millennium of peace in Heaven it reveals that we will return to our earthly home to live forever with our Creator.

Revelation 21:1-4 ¹ Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. ⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

The sad and tragic order of things as we know them now will soon pass away and a state of complete perfection will replace it. Never again will the sensation of pain be experienced by human beings, and according to this scripture God will move His throne right here to this earth and dwell with us forever. This is the wonderful hope that is offered to all people. It is a promise directly from God Himself. Furthermore Jesus promises:

John 14:2-3 ² In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

This verse is talking about the New Jerusalem, the city prepared by God for His people, which was seen by the apostle John during the vision given to him in the book of Revelation, in which he sees the city descending from Heaven to earth as the eternal home of those who are saved. In this massive city, described by the Bible to be fourteen hundred square miles in size, there is more than enough room for every person that has ever lived on this earth, this is just a small idea of the amazing inheritance God is preparing. The truth is that any image we can imagine will not come close to portraying what it will actually be like, even so, it is thrilling to imagine the possibilities.

For thousands of years human beings have dreamed of creating a complete utopian civilisation and have searched the earth for the legendary fountain of youth. Those things that humanity has searched for since the dawn of time have been in God's word all along, in His message for mankind. God knows the needs and the desires of His creation, just as we long to live in abundance as we were created to, God longs to give us the desires of our hearts.

Unfortunately, Satan loves to misrepresent God as cruel, vindictive, and eager to punish human beings for their sins. But the Bible reveals that God's generosity and affection are boundless, and that He has gone to the greatest possible lengths to love and save humanity.

Ezekiel 33:11 ¹¹ Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GoD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'

John 3:17 ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

What a generous God and wonderful Saviour we have. God's only begotten Son left the glory and comforts of Heaven, clothed Himself in human flesh and came to this earth for this self-less mission, to save His creation, when He clearly had no obligation to do so. The message being shared to this dying world is a message of hope. As the time draws closer, will you be ready? Will you surrender your sinful ways and give your heart wholly to Jesus? God is preparing an extraordinary inheritance especially for you and me.

Revelation 22:12 ¹² 'Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.

Revelation 21:7 ⁷ He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

King David, the Psalmist, the man who was described by God as being "after God's own heart", says.

Psalm 8:3-4 ³ When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, ⁴ What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?

The stars that fill the night sky are more numerous than all the grains of sand on earth. Each of those stars is a sun like ours, and together they make up countless solar systems with a vast array of planets, moons and other heavenly bodies yet to be discovered. Billions of stars make up each galaxy, and the number of galaxies seem to continue without end. What is currently known as the cosmos is miniscule compared to the unlimited possibilities that remain to be discovered in the far distant reaches of space.

When contemplating the enormity, the complexity and splendour of the cosmos, the troubles confined to this tiny blue planet seem utterly senseless. It is a fantastic thought that the Author of creation would take such a deep and personal interest in rescuing His selfish, violent and war-plagued creatures, such as is found here on earth. His love and compassion are beyond human understanding. In His demonstration of mercy and kindness, God rises above the cruel and vengeful ways of human beings and offers His love and affection to everyone.

1 John 3:1 ¹ Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

Each person alive today should count themselves extremely fortunate to be offered such a generous act of kindness from our Creator, He is under no obligation to be so merciful, yet, through His unlimited capacity to love and forgive, He makes it possible for all people to live with Him forever in paradise as their God and friend. The story of redemption is the story of the relationship between God and His creation, it's the true story that we all share.

In reality we are one global family with a common beginning. We all descended from the first human beings, Adam and Eve. This legitimately makes us brothers and sisters. Culture, language and traditional developments over the centuries make us feel different sometimes but we have many more similarities than differences. Though we may appear different on the outside at times, we are all the same on the inside, we all share similar hopes, dreams and desires. God made each one of us distinctive and exceptional in our own special way. God's family is not an exclusive club or a select crowd, instead, it is an inclusive family and everyone on earth is welcome. But we must be willing to surrender our sinful ways and ask Jesus into our hearts.

This is why God gave us His revelation, the Bible, that we may know without a doubt who God is and how He would have us follow and worship Him, that we may attain eternal life. But we often think we know better, or we are too lazy to study for ourselves, we listen to the teachings of men and preachers, not delving into the word of God for ourselves, but this is what God would have us do, search the scriptures, He wants to be our teacher. In 2 Timothy it says:

2 Timothy 2: ¹⁵Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Just as He has throughout history, God is calling His people to come back to Him today. He wants people to shake off the traditions and the errors that have come in over the years and return to a more pure, a more primitive form of Christianity that is based exclusively on Biblical fact, and not man-made theories.

The Three Angels messages symbolise a process that brings about the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit, also called the "latter rain". This will be a powerful world-altering event that has not occurred since the day of Pentecost, which you can read about in the book of Acts. For that reason this extraordinary time can justifiably be called Pentecost Two, or the time of the latter rain.

Hose 6:3 ³ Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the **rain**, as the **latter** and former **rain** unto the earth.

James 5:7 ⁷ Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and **latter rain**.

The first Pentecost in Jerusalem began the work of proclaiming the gospel to the then-known world. The second Pentecost will be world-wide and will finish the great commission.

Matthew 28: 19-20 ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.

Once this modern day Pentecost is complete, all people on earth will have heard the gospel message, the good news of salvation by faith in Christ the Redeemer, and will be in a position to choose.

The gift of an infinite immortal life with a loving God and friend in which to explore the wonders of the universe is offered to all people regardless of their race, culture, language, nationality or social status. Everyone is welcome to become a member of the family of God. This is the message of the Bible.

All through history God has called upon human beings to share His love and kindness to the world and this is still true today. All over the world in every continent and every nation, places near and far, in the cities and in the remote places, God's salvation plan is being shared and the invitation is being extended to all to come and be a part of His family. In return many are accepting this invitation and preparing themselves to meet their Creator when He returns.

John 8:32 ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The truth of the condition of humanity has been clearly presented here and each one of us now has a very important decision to make, a decision that will truly set you free. While going over the tragic events of Eden, it's likely you felt that if you had been in Adam and Eve's place you would not have made the same mistake that they did. You may even wish that you could have been given that same set of circumstances so that you could do the right thing.

Well in reality God has now empowered you with the same two choices they had. Just like Adam and Eve you now have a choice of whether or not you want to live with God forever in paradise or follow the lies and deceptions that Satan offers. Don't put this opportunity off, there is a special blessing awaiting you, not only in the life to come, but in this life as well.

Jeremiah 29:11 ¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

God is willing and able to transform you right now into your best self; all you have to do is invite Him into your life. Following God does not involve living by a long list of do not's as much of society views it, instead it means finding a new life filled with purpose, joy and unlimited possibilities. A life with God will open up doors that you cannot even imagine.

The Three Angels Messages of Revelation 14 present an invitation for people from all walks of life to stand up and unite with God in truth.

Through God's Word which you have looked at, you now have the knowledge needed to join those who have accepted the good news of God's salvation and to count yourself among the many now preparing themselves for Jesus' soon return. If you have already invited God into your life then remain strong in your faith by sharing the plan of salvation with those around you.

If you don't have God in your life then accept Him today. Jesus says come as you are, it's never too late and no matter what you may have done in the past, leave it in the past and accept Jesus into your heart. He died for you and His love will change you.

You see, God loves the sinner, but it's the sin He hates. He can cure you of any addiction you may have, any problems that seem impossible, any lack of faith. If you are truly sorry and ask for His forgiveness, He will forgive any past sins no matter how bad. He will overcome our shortcomings if we just ask Him, yet He will not force us, it has to be our choice. All you need to do is accept Jesus as your loving Saviour.

PREPARE

We are in the very closing moments of earth's history. We need to be prepared for the final hours, and we need to be right with Jesus. The Three Angels Messages of Revelation 14 tell us that:

THE GOSPEL; HAS TO GO TO ALL.

It says that we need to...FEAR GOD AND GIVE GLORY TO HIM, not the Beast power.

We need to...COME OUT OF BABYLON (the churches preaching a false message), turn from pagan and man-made teachings, back to the truth in the Word of God.

Remember that the Bible tells us that when the gospel has reached all people, Christ will return. As you have seen, this work is well underway and will soon be completed. God's Word has stood the test of time. Almost all of His prophecies have been fulfilled, and when we look back at the fulfilment of God's Word then we can have faith and trust in Him to complete His work. Prophecy enables us to build a foundation on the past that we may have faith in the future.

John 14:29 ²⁹ And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.

We have only scratched the surface on each of these subjects and we would encourage each of you to study these things out for yourselves.

There is a crisis coming on the Earth. Thinking men everywhere recognize it, but few understand its exact nature. Laws are being made that will bring on this crisis, and life in our world will never be the same.

Earth has reached her last hours. It is clear that we now live in a world in rebellion. Lawlessness is in the very air we breathe, pollution of the earth, water and skies, pollution of men's minds, the debased level of their thoughts and entertainments. Our children appear to be born and schooled in vice and fraud. We are rapidly nearing the end.

Only those who are determined to live Godly lives in obedience to the Ten Commandments by the empowering grace of Christ will endure the terrible crisis that is just ahead. As we await the crisis, let us not forget that we need Christ for the crisis.

Ask God to give you His Spirit and prepare your heart, so that you choose Him and His promises, over the temporary physical pleasures, appeal and comfort offered by accepting the Mark of the Beast.

We will all appear before the judgment seat of God, but with Christ in your life you are pardoned. He has paid your ransom. All you have to do is accept Him and follow Him by faith.

Matthew 16:24-27 ²⁴ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵ For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. ²⁶ For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

What will your choice be? Are you ready to meet your God?

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Our mission is to reveal forgotten truth by unlocking the prophecies of the Bible

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Will you be ready for the end of this present world and the beginning of eternity?

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:
2 Peter 1:19

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