

The Revelation Chapter 14 verses 6 to 13 presents the sacred words of the 144,000, borne to the world during the era immediately before Christ's *Second Coming*, known as the **Time of the End**. Chronologically, these verses precede the description of the glorious vision of Jesus, the Lamb, and the 144,000 on Mt Zion, given in verses 1-5. The *work* of this unique group is symbolized by three angels, flying in the midst of heaven, carrying messages of hope and warning to all inhabitants of a dying world. As Jesus stated, "*I came not to send peace, but a sword*" (Matthew 10:34); so, these messages of heavenly origin divide the world, producing two classes of people: the righteous who heed the warnings, and the wicked who reject them. The sounding of the First Angel is joined by the Second Angel, which is then joined by the Third, such that all three angels eventually sound their messages in unison until the close of humankind's **probation**. We have seen past historical events confirm Bible prophecy; this final work of utmost importance in earth's last days is no less worthy of historical confirmation. The Lord has provided **waymarks**, or signs in Scripture, indicating when each of these messages was to be given. These messages and the responses they evoke have also been typified in the Bible through parables and the writings of the prophets. We will analyze each angel's message separately, covering the **First Angel's Message** in this study.

The Bible describes the *Time of the End* as a momentous period, marked by wonderful signs in the heavens and upon the earth. Jesus and the prophet Joel foretold signs in the

heavens where, "*the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood*" (Joel 2:31); events that mysteriously occurred on May 19, 1780, and were witnessed and documented in New England, North America. However, the most telling event of this period was the fall of the papacy in A.D.1798 after 1,260 years of tyrannical rule [see [Lesson#29](#) for more details]. Fulfillment of these celestial and terrestrial signs, predicted in the Bible, began a religious revival known as the **Second Great Awakening** in North America, South America, Europe, and Australia. The spiritual revival in North America was best identified through the works of the **Advent Movement**, pioneered by the Baptist minister, William Miller. Miller and other Advent members from various mainline Protestant denominations began reading the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation, including the prophecies of Revelation Chapter 14. Through their studies, they came to the understanding that Christ's Second Coming and the end of the world were imminent. By the year A.D.1832, Miller and other Adventists understood and taught that Jesus would return during the Hebrew calendar year, 1843. Basing their prediction on the prophecy recorded in Daniel 8:14, foretelling a sanctuary being cleansed after a prophetic period of 2,300 days (see [Lesson #23](#)), as well as the warning of judgment found in the First Angel's message of Revelation 14, they believed the earth and its inhabitants to be that sanctuary. Let us analyze the First Angel's message and the Advent Movement.

Q: What is the message that the First Angel initially

proclaims, and to whom? Read Revelation 14:6; Gen 3:15; Galatians 1:3, 4, 8, 9; 2 Cor 11:3, 4; 2 Tim 3:14-17; John 3:16;

A: John saw the First Angel flying in the midst of heaven, preaching the [Everlasting Gospel](#) to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people on the earth. Paul affirms there is one gospel of Scripture known to man, that is, the **Good News of salvation by grace, through faith of Jesus Christ. This universal message of hope is to be perpetuated while there remains yet one sinner on earth, unaware of the *Kingdom of God*. It is the foundation for all other messages to follow.**

Revelation 14:7 is a continuation of the prior verse, giving clarity and understanding to the gospel message. In preparation for reviewing the details of this message, let us first consider the work of the **Holy Spirit**, Whom Jesus made known to His apostles. Read John 16:7-14.

Q: Of what does the Holy Spirit reprove and give testimony?

A: The Holy Spirit, Who is God, will not testify of Himself but will testify of Jesus Christ, His Godliness, His mission, and His works on behalf of humanity. The Holy Spirit will first reprove the world of **sin: convicting men of their sinful nature, acts of sin, and guilt before God's perfect law. Next, He will reprove the world of **righteousness**: showing Jesus to be mankind's only solution to its condemnation under the Law of God. Christ's imputed and imparted righteousness is the only plea humankind can make to its defense (Jeremiah 23:5, 6). Lastly, The Holy Spirit reproves men of **judgment**: "*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things [done] in [his] body,***

according to that he hath done, whether [it be] good or bad" 2 Corinthians 5:10.

Therefore, it is in testifying of Christ's works as the "*Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world*", His works as our Heavenly Mediator, and His final work as our Great High Priest, officiating during the *Antitypical Day of Atonement*, a day of *judgment* (see [Lesson #17](#)), that the Holy Spirit proclaims the gospel. Let us now consider the details of the gospel message given by the First Angel. The angel commands all who dwell upon the earth to "*Fear God and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come*:" Rev 14:7.

Q: What means the phrase "Fear God"? Consider the following: Luke 12:4, 5, 23:39-43; Isaiah 8:12, 13, 6:1-7; Daniel 10:5-8; Psalm 111:10; Hebrews 12:18-21; Job 28:28; 2 Tim 1:7

A: Jesus warned His Apostles and a multitude gathered, that they should not fear men who can kill the body alone, but fear Him who can destroy both body and soul in hell! Jesus warned that men should weigh the consequences of offending God over that of men. However, in a broader sense, the word fear, as used by the First Angel, denotes giving honor, paying reverence, and running or turning to God. The experience of Isaiah, John, Ezekiel and Daniel as they beheld God's Majestic Glory [[maréh vision](#)– Heb] (an experience that all must have), left them without strength, utterly ashamed, fearful of their sinful nature before His Holiness and yet trusting in His grace.

Q: What means the phrase "give glory to Him"?

A: Written for a people living after an era of gross spiritual darkness marked by self-exalting men claiming to be God

and blasphemously exercising His prerogatives, the First Angel draws men's attention to godliness, in humbly giving honor to the True God (2 Thess 2:3-10; Luke 17:15-19).

Q: What means the phrase "the hour of His judgment is come"?

A: The hallmark of the Advent Movement was the proclamation of the "blessed hope and glorious appearing" of Jesus Christ at His advent, Second Coming (Titus 2:13). This confidence was based on Bible time prophecies, understood for the first time by Advent ministers using new methods of Bible study, endorsed by Scripture and empowered by the Holy Spirit. William Miller, a recent convert from Deism to Christianity, began a meticulous 2-year study of the Bible in A.D.1816 utilizing a King James Bible and a Cruden's Concordance. During his studies, he established [14 rules](#) for interpreting the Bible and its prophecies. These rules, adopted and used by other Advent believers, enabled them to understand prophecies in their proper context, theretofore undecipherable. One such rule states:

Figures always have a figurative meaning, and are used much in prophecy to represent future things, times and events such as mountains, meaning governments; beasts, meaning kingdoms; waters, meaning people; lamps, meaning the Word of God; day, meaning a year. Daniel 2:35, 44; 7:8,17; Revelation 17:1, 15; Psalms 119:105; Ezekiel 4:6

From this rule, the *day-for-a-year* method of time prophecy interpretation was derived. Miller and other Advent leaders, utilizing these rules along with an understanding of Bible chronologies and world history, confirmed the imminent

fulfillment of key prophecies. One such prophecy is chronicled in the Revelation 9:15, which reads:

"And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men." Revelation 9:15

An Advent pioneer, Josiah Litch, understood the prophecy to have spoken of the *Ottoman Turk Empire*, which, after 391 years and 15 days, based on the *day-for-a-year* method of interpreting time prophecies, would come to its end. Recognizing that the starting point of this prophecy coincided with the end of another related prophecy, also dealing with Islam, Litch, by A.D.1838 predicted the Ottoman Empire would fall in A.D.1840. Two weeks before the fulfillment of the prophecy, Litch reconfirmed his prediction in writing by giving the exact date of August 11, 1840 for the event. When the event occurred as prophesied in the Bible and interpreted by Litch, the Bible and the Advent Movement's methods of Bible study received worldwide notoriety, empowering both the Movement and its message. A fundamental aspect of the Movement's message was Christ's return to the earth for **judgment**, the **cleansing of the sanctuary** (Daniel 8:14). Though the outcome of the event was misunderstood, the predicted time was accurate for another event of great significance. The works of this Movement confirmed God's inspiration behind the initial herald to the world, the *First Angel's Message*.

The First Angel's message concludes with the command to "worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and

the fountains of waters."

Q: Who is referenced in this statement, and where have we read a similar command? Compare Ex 3:14, 15, 20:8-11, 31:13-17; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Ezek 20:12, 20; Isa 58:13, 14, 37:16

A: The God of Creation is the One Whom we must fear, give glory, and our worship. We see in the Fourth Commandment **God's Memorial**, Who in six days, "made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh-day". As Adam rested in God's finished works as Creator, and Joshua rested in God's deliverance from Egyptian bondage, we too, rest in Jesus as our Creator, Deliverer from sin, and the One Who perfects our faith. Having finished the work of redemption from the *foundation of the world*, we honor and worship God by observing [resting in Him on] the Sabbath day (Matthew 11:28-30; Ephesians 1:3-5; Hebrews 4:1-11).

Within the First Angel's message, we see the command to worship the God of Creation, Who is also the *Lord of the Sabbath* (Isaiah 58:12-14). The **Seal of God**, the Sabbath, is presented as the moral authority by which God claims man's worship. God's authority and right to mankind's worship has been challenged by deceptive, lying-wonders, and in time forceful coercions by the Dragon who also covets man's worship. The First Angel's message, typified by an angel flying in the midst of heaven, was first proclaimed through the Advent Movement. It will continue to sound until all nations, kindred, tongues, and people hear the *gospel* of Jesus Christ through God's human agents, you and me!

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The First Angel's Message

Revelation Chapter 14 – Part 2 [Based on verses 6, 7]



Lesson 37