

Quarter Two: The Great Controversy
Lesson 9—The Foundation of God’s Government
Thursday: The Three Angels’ Messages
May 30, 2024

- **Last Week:** “Light from the Sanctuary”
 - The Investigative Judgment (pre-advent judgment), occurring in heaven right now
- **This Week:** “The Foundation of God’s Government”
 - The law as the foundation of God’s government
 - Connection between the sanctuary, God’s law, the Sabbath, & the coming crisis with the mark of the beast

Memory Text: “And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” (Rev 12:17, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** The Sanctuary & the Law (John L)
 - Rev 11; Ex 25; Ex 31; Rev 12:17 – the Ark of the Covenant in the Most Holy Place
 - Contained the law of God; perpetuity of that law (not nailed to the cross)
- 2. **Monday:** The Immutability of God’s Law (Ryan)
 - Multiple verses – the perpetuity of the Law of God, including the Sabbath (ceremonial law nailed to the cross, but not the moral law)
- 3. **Tuesday:** The Sabbath & the Law (John D)
 - Rev 14:6, 7; Gen 2:1 – 3; Ex 20:8 – 11 – connection between the Sabbath & creation & redemption, in conjunction with God’s Law; keeping the Sabbath as symbol of redemption & righteousness by faith (not legalism)
- 4. **Wednesday:** The Mark of the Beast (James)
 - Rev 12:12, 17; Rev 13 & 14 – final conflict over worship – the Lamb or the beast; God’s Sabbath or the counterfeit “sabbath” (Sunday)
- 5. **Thursday:** The Three Angels’ Messages (Jill)
 - Rev 14:6 – 12 -

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- The Three Angels’ Messages: Rev 14:6 – 12
 - Basic review / study of the 3 angels’ messages
 - Vs 6 – “Then I saw another angel (messenger) flying in the midst of heaven, having the **everlasting gospel** to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to **every** nation, tribe, tongue, and people—”
 - **Takeaway #1: The underpinning of the 3 angels’ messages is the gospel**
 - The focal point is Jesus & His character & law of love
 - The lost & their need of salvation
 - The blood of Jesus that cleanses us from all sin

- **#2: This message (both gospel & 3 angels' messages) is for everyone**
 - Every = *pas* = each & every one
 - Nation = *ethnos* = race / nation, esp Gentiles
 - Tribe = *foo-lay'* = Clan / tribe / race, esp Jews
 - Tongue = language
 - People = a people (in general)
- Vs 7 – “saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come, and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.’”
 - **First Angels' Message: 5-fold message**
 - 1. Reverence (& respect for God)
 - 2. Judgment (time of Investigative Judgment / cleansing of the sanctuary)
 - 3. Worship (central theme in GC)
 - 4. Creation (made heaven & earth)
 - 5. The Sabbath (same wording in Ex 20)
 - **Takeaway #3: Believe in, accept, & follow God and His eternal law**
 - 1. Can't revere & respect what you don't believe in
 - Need to believe in God & His law b4 you can respect Him
 - *only truly respect those you know & love
 - 2. Anything goes, if you didn't believe in the Law or coming judgment
 - Need to accept & believe the OT prophecies & authority of the law of God to believe in the judgment
 - 3. Idol worship is easy & even preferred, if you don't know the true God
 - Need to know **who** you worship, before you **can** worship
 - 4. Evolution is preferred, if you don't know & worship the true God
 - Need to accept by faith what His Word says, “In the beginning, God created...”
 - 5. Sunday worship is easily accepted, if you don't know the Word & law of God
 - Need to study the importance & perpetuity of God's law
- Vs 8 – “And another angel followed, saying, ‘Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.’”
 - **Second Angels' Message**
 - Danger of mingling truth with error & enticing others to follow
 - Wine = false doctrine
 - Babylon = confusion / apostate religious system (mingles truth with error)
 - **Takeaway #4: Study, know, and follow the Word of God**
 - Not traditions of men
 - Not truth mixed with error
 - Whether it's popular or not
- Vs 9 – 11 – “Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, ‘If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, (10) he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. 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 ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of the beast.”

- **Third Angels’ Message**
 - Danger of following (worshipping) the wrong doctrines (system of worship), and the end result of those who don’t follow God and His law (including the Sabbath)

- **#5: Choose to worship God alone and accept His law, including the Sabbath**
 - Don’t let the threat of punishment, ridicule, persecution or even death move you from following God and His law
 - Worship Him
 - Honor the Bible Sabbath

- Vs 12 – “Here is the **patience** of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.”
 - Patience = steadfast endurance

 - **Two-fold characteristics of God’s people:** (commandments / faith of Jesus)
 - **1. Keep His commandments**
 - God’s end-time people will **not**
 - a. Believe the law was nailed to the cross
 - b. Uphold tradition of any church over the Word of God
 - c. Believe that grace gives me a license to sin

 - God’s end-time people **will keep all** of God’s commandments
 - a. Teach the validity of God’s Word & law
 - Including the 4th commandment
 - Still binding, still God’s holy, sanctified day
 - b. Understand that the commandments are kept by grace through faith
 - c. Walk in obedience through gift of righteousness of Christ

 - **2. Exemplify His faith** (Jesus’ faith)
 - **Characteristics of Jesus’ faith**
 - He endured hunger & temptation
 - He endured ridicule (the crowd turning against Him)
 - He endured betrayal of His friends
 - He endured separation from His Father
 - He endured pain, torture and death

 - **Faith of Jesus looks beyond the here and now – to eternity**
 - Moses – Heb 11:27 – Moses endured as seeing Him who is invisible
 - Jesus – Heb 12:2 – endured the cross, despising the shame – for the joy that was set before Him
 - 2 Cor 4:17 – “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.”

