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Bible Explorations Newsletter

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"The preceding scripture points forward to the time when the announcement of the fall of Babylon, as made by the second angel of Revelation 14, is to be repeated; with the additional mention of the corruptions which has been entering the various organizations that constitute Babylon, since that message was first given in the summer of 1844." GC 605.

But who has fallen, and who has not? What is the fornication in her cup? Who makes up the folk of end-time Babylon? On the other hand, who makes up those who have come from Babylon and are ready for Christ's return as described later in the chapter? And, then again, when is the message to be given and by whom? Just what is this call for change all about? Is it really serious?

For those who follow the popular teachers, who say that prophecy does not repeat itself, the message has already been given. Statements such as "Study Revelation in connection with Daniel for history will be repeated" TM 116, and many statements like it, are minimized or ignored.

But, for most of us, the case of this angel's message to the world has its primary contextual emphases on future events — that is, after the 144,000 are sealed, in verses 1-5, and after the angel, in verses 6 and 7, gives his message to "every nation, kindred, tongue, and people." No church, nor group of churches, has yet accomplished this feat. The gospel has still not been carried to all the above mentioned places, and especially as the message contains an obvious reference to the Sabbath commandment. We'll see that later — stay with me. Since the 144,000 have not yet done their task, as further described in Revelation 7, and so long as the Mark of the Beast has not yet developed (which is to come on the heels of our angel's message), then the only fair



"And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of her fornication." Rev. 14:8.

conclusion is that this second angel has not yet made his final proclamation that Babylon is fallen!

Then there's the question in regard to who has fallen and who has not? There are two points brought out in these very verses. One is that fallen Babylon neglects the message to worship God, specifically, as the Creator of heaven earth and sea; and the other is that they are not found among the remaining saints who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus — as shown in verse 12. "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

In my studies, I am bold to say I have only found one place in all the Word of God that tells a person both how and why to worship Yahweh as the creator of heaven, earth, and sea. Surely, with so much hanging on this end-time scenario, we must glean from all its clues.

The way and how to worship Him, specifically, as Creator of heaven and earth and sea is given in Exodus 20:8-11.

THE WAY AND HOW IS IN THE DECALOGUE

Exodus 20:8-11 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.

Careful reading shows that the "why" is to separate the true God from all false Gods by honoring Him as the only Creator. The "how" involves His command to keep the seventh day of the week as holy time. Pretty simple! Before we go any further, let's get our sequence of events, in this chapter of Revelation 14, in order.

First, we have a reference to the 144,000 holy "redeemed" people who stand before the throne. I see them there waiting for their marching orders. Second, we see their angelic-inspired marching orders to present a certain three messages going all over the world. Third, we see a "beast figure" who produces a likeness to, or an image of, the messages given under the inspiration of holy angels. This beast's message must be a little different in some way because it results in blasphemy and eternal damnation, as described in verses 9 and 10. The issues are serious.

Verse 13 describes a terrible, life-destroying persecution resulting from the differences between the genuine message, of the angel in verses 6 and 7, and the image of it produced by the beast. Verse 13 says, "Blessed are the dead who "die in the Lord from *henceforth*." That is, *henceforth* as a result of the Mark of the authority of the beast in the immediate preceding context.

One thing obvious is that the folk who keep the commandments are called "saints" and "blessed." Also, they have an entirely different future than those who go along with the beast. The former will meet with Jesus and are seen standing victoriously before God in heaven. "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the *song of the Lamb*." (Rev. 15:2,3)

It is more than coincidental that they sing such a song. And it is more than coincidence that these are primary characteristics of the end-time saved saints. Certainly if we are to focus on being among those who stand on the sea of glass, rather than receiving torment of fire and brimstone mentioned in verse 10, we would want to understand the things Moses did, and the things Christ did, and then make them both a part of our everyday life. Those who do are listed in verse 12 as the "saints who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."

Remember, Moses made up no laws. Every commandment, statute, and judgment given to Israel came from a Higher Power.

Moses, who received the laws by which Israel should live, and Christ from whom we receive pardon and justification through His blood, are presented as things fastened in the hearts of those who receive the end-time messages and end up standing on the sea of glass. These people will glory in a beautiful picture of law and grace, loyalty and faith, love and obedience, and portrayed by the "mercy seat" on the top of the Ark encompassed with the Shekinah glory.



The "mercy seat" on the top, between the two cherubim angels, was to represent the throne for the God of mercy. In the base of the Ark is the law of God; hence, again, those two basic characteristics of law and grace, or, in essence, the two songs.

It is written that "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matt. 12:34). Is it not, then, also true that out of the abundance of our hearts our mouths will

sing? Are you ready, yet, to sing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb?

It appears obvious that we are to be willing to have the teachings of Moses combined with the Spirit of Christ in our hearts. Those who will not, are listed as those who “shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God,” in verse 10.

This is a tough message to give. No matter how careful and clever we are, at presenting it, some listeners will get offended. Those who are more earnest to walk with the saints, than they are to stand on tradition, will be thankful and excited when they hear the message. But, so long as we are faithful to present these truths, some will sneer and even become angry. Especially of concern would be the third angel’s message regarding the Mark of the Beast.



On the one hand we are told that, “Those who present the Word of God concerning the verity of the Lord’s holy day are to bear in mind that the line of demarcation between Sabbath-keepers and those who observe the day upon which no sanctity has been placed by the Lord, is NEVER to be obliterated. MS29, 1910 pp. 1,3,4.

On the other hand, we read, “Today, the old largely negative approach – emphasizing chiefly the things wherein we differ from all other religious groups -- is past, definitely past. And that is as it should be.” Ministry Magazine, March, 1966.

And, then again, the same magazine sent with Conference blessing to all SDA ministers, and on occasion to ministers of other persuasions: “The Adventist church today is better prepared to make common cause with these other evangelicals than at any previous time in its history.” June, 1966. 19, 20.

If these advantages can be used to facilitate the spreading of our unique message, all is well and good. But, if not, then we would not be able to do the work which Sabbath keeping folk were established, by God, to do. Eventually, all who go along with such a trend will be assimilated into Babylon. In fact, Ellen White makes it clear that, under these circumstances, any resistance to the force of the world would be futile. Notice:

“Unless the line of demarcation between the church and the world is carefully preserved, *assimilation to the world will* be the result.” 2CMP p 559.3

Actually, all four angel’s messages, to be given to the world, appear in the negative to some who hear them. Pointing out sin always does. It calls for changes: changes that affect lifestyle; changes that affect one’s family and position in the work place; changes that affect worship; changes that affect one’s relations with the God of the Book.

Ellen White put it this way: “Those who engage in the solemn work of bearing the third angel’s message must move out *decidedly*, and in the Spirit and power of God. *Fearlessly* preach the truth, and *let it cut*. They should elevate the standard of truth, and urge the people to come up to it. It has been lowered down to meet the people in their condition of darkness and sin. It is the *pointed testimony* that will bring up the people to decide. A peaceful testimony will not do this.” Spiritual Gifts, Vol 2, pages 299, 300.

“There is to be no change in the general features of our word. It is to stand as clear and distinct as prophecy has made it. We are to enter into no confederacy with the world, supposing that by so doing we could accomplish more.” 6TM 17.

The plain truth is that the angelic messages of Revelation are prophecies and that they are different and distinct from what other organizations believe.

Together, as funds come in and as others are here at BE helping, I plan to keep the newsletters going out across the land, continue to keep the spring and fall retreats available, and especially continue to keep the message of the four angels being broadcast over the internet. These things are the desire of my heart. All these avenues of witness encourage purity of character and loyalty of purpose.

“But like Enoch, God’s people will seek for purity of heart and conformity to His will, until they shall reflect the likeness of Christ,” Ellen White stated. “Like Enoch, they will warn the world of the Lord’s second coming and of the judgments to be visited upon transgression, and by their holy conversation and example they will condemn the sins of the ungodly.” PP 88, 89.

PRESENTING IN ADVERSITY

All who love God and keep His commandments have a responsibility to the world around us. Soon His spirit is to be poured out on those of His choosing. The angelic messages must be told and lived before the people of the world during very tumultuous times. Who will deliver the messages? The ones who, like Isaiah, will say, “Here am I, send me.”

A shaking is coming and the issues are clear. The truth is that there will be a people who will do His bidding in dangerous times. Prophecy predicts that they will do

their job very well until a great multitude responds in a positive fashion. The majority of folk will not.

Do you remember what was said to Ezekiel?

“And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house.

“Thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious.” (Ezekiel 2:6,7)

The beast, the false prophet, and the dragon are most rebellious; and they will control many innocent people who have no idea of what is going on or the issues at stake. Only as they are informed can they make intelligent, eternal decisions. We must all be committed to inform in every way we can.

INTERNET

To spread the word, our four-hour internet broadcasts all start off the same way. The first hour always has to do with the messages special to all of us who keep the 7th-day Sabbath. They include messages on the state of the dead, the 2300 days, the Sabbath, the mark of the beast, and the coming tribulation. It is all being presented with nothing held back. The second hour is the New Discoveries series. Then, the third and fourth hours are various other speakers from our retreats.

Many thanks and much appreciation is extended to all of you whom have been supporting this work. It would grind to a screeching halt without you. Also, thanks to our engineer, Dave Clark, whose consistent efforts have brought about our internet programming. And many thanks to Sandy Clark who has made answering letters, phone calls, and getting out orders much more efficient.

BROADCAST TIME

On the west coast, where the broadcasts originate, the programs are Friday evening from 5 to 9 p.m. and Sabbath afternoon from 2 to 6 p.m. Those who live to the east of us must consider one hour later, per time zone, across the country. Our recorded messages for overseas viewers are rebroadcasted at 1 a.m. Pacific Time. Thus, Germany, for example, can get it starting at 10 a.m. Sabbath and Sunday morning. Likewise, Okinawa and Japan can get it starting at 5 p.m. Sabbath and Sunday evening.

OFFERNG UPDATE

We are making it. Actually, out of 2,142 newsletters, we can count on almost 200 returns. We take notice of *everyone* who helps, and are grateful for your help. I wonder how much more ministry we could do, to present our timely messages, if fully half of you were able to respond to *this* newsletter, Wow!

In the past, some of you have given large amounts of a thousand dollars and more, and some just enough to help

with postage and toner. But it all adds together to make things work. You are all appreciated!

YEAR END RECIEPTS

In the meantime receipts for tax purposes will be coming to all of you who have given of your means this past year. All checks, money orders, and credit card offerings given between January 1, 2008 and this Dec. 31, 2008 will be honored with receipts for your tax advantage.

FROM CHRISTIAN MEDIA

“On December 10 the judiciary Committee of the Ohio House held a hearing on House Joint Resolution No. 8, ‘Applying to the congress of the United States pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution to call a constitutional convention for proposing amendments.’



“Fortunately networked citizens caused so much constituent heat on the House floor leadership, and on members of the Judiciary committee, that the possible vote morphed into a testimony-only hearing. Thus, there will be no further action on the con-con resolution in the 2008 session of the Ohio state legislature.”

Sarah Foster, writing for NWV news commented:

COLOMBUS Ohio – “An attempt by GOP lawmakers to sneak a resolution through the state legislature last week calling for a constitutional convention – or “con-con” – was halted, at least until next year, by a hastily assembled coalition of grassroots activists who lobbied representatives at the state capitol and testified against the controversial measure during its committee hearing Wednesday.

“I believe it was God’s blessing that we found out about it and were able to organize quickly and put a stop to it being voted on today by the committee and the House. It was moving very quickly,” Teri Owens told NewsWithViews that evening.

“We seem to have put a kink in their plans because this had been introduced very quietly and we almost missed it,” she said. “We had no idea this was coming down the pike.”

“Rep. Matt Huffman, and first-term member of the House of Representatives, the General Assembly’s lower chamber, waited until Dec.3 to introduce house Joint

THIRD AND LAST ANGEL REJECTED

Resolution 8, which if passed by both houses would make Ohio the 33rd state to petition Congress to call a constitutional convention. Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution, when the legislatures of two thirds (34) of the states have passed a petitioning resolution, Congress is mandated to convene a convention.”

Christian Media Worldwatch states that “if Ohio had gone for the con-con, there would be only one state between us and throwing our U.S. constitution and bill of rights up for grabs.”

This may be something to keep our eye on. As an example, after Jan Marcussen explains the quiet merger of various nations such as Canada, Mexico, and the U.S., he quotes Jun Tucker who claims that when such mergers take place, “all the victimized countries lose their sovereignty. They’re seeking to destroy every constitution on earth.”

These concepts remind me of two comments. First, at one time president elect Obama, while discussing that our country’s founding fathers did not provide for a proper distribution of wealth, once commented that the U.S. is suffering from a “fundamentally flawed constitution.”

He may have a good point, but every time a change is indicated, I think of the second comment “A great crisis awaits the people of God. A great crisis awaits the world. The most momentous struggle of all the ages is before us. Events which for more than half a century we have, upon the authority of the prophetic word, declared to be impending, are now taking place before our eyes. An amendment to the Constitution restricting liberty of conscience has long been urged upon the legislators of the nation; and the question of enforcing Sunday observance has become one of national importance. Are we ready for the issue involved in the Sunday movement?” ST Nov. 28, 1900.

It might be good for my readers to check to see if I am right, but it seems to me that with the help of Ellen White a restructuring of the General Conference and a humble rededication of leadership took place. Then, in 1903 the 1901 plan for restructuring was discarded and things went back to business as usual resulting in another delay.

But, what goes around comes around, and history may indeed be about to repeat itself. That is why I suggest we keep our eye on possible changes being made to our Constitution. Last month I reported the attempt to alter the rules of order for the E.U in favor of Sunday legislation. I also commented that prophecy indicates that our country should be the leader in such action. True to form, it was tabled in Europe.

What I am suggesting is that we keep our eyes open, be not deceived, and know that last day events are indeed rapid ones.

[See bulletin board poster on back of this page.]

Those of you who are helping to spread the final, angelic messages should not be discouraged. It is not for us to do the work of the Spirit of God. It is the Spirit that is to convince the world of sin and righteousness, and the judgment to come. It is for us to get the word out and to do all we can to make it plain.

That includes the truth regarding the Mark of the Beast as presented by the third angel of Revelation 14; and also the final message to the earth by the angel of Revelation 18 who lightens the earth with his glory.



“The third angel’s message will not be comprehended, the light which will lighten the earth with its glory will be called a false light by those who refuse to walk in its advancing

glory. The work that might have been done, will be left undone by the rejecters of truth because of their unbelief.”



WALTER

Since Walter and his family had been spotted as heretics, they had to travel in the back country without the help of other believers to guide them along the safest route.

They did not remain long in Provence, the lands held by Count Raymond. After they left Provence, Father said they could travel by day.

After an especially hard day’s walk, they approached a small village in the Italian Piedmont. Pierre Murat’s face brightened as he recognized the place from a trip he had taken long before. “There was a small group of Brethren here,” he said. “I made shoes here for nearly a month, and we enjoyed good fellowship. Perhaps I could ask very carefully, and we might have comfortable lodgings and good food once more before the hard climb into the mountains.”

But after all the carefully guarded questions that any of the Brethren would know at once, he found no familiar response; only uncomprehending faces. At last he found lodging with a peasant family in the village, using one of his precious coins to pay for their services.

Walter thought of sleeping indoors once more with his stomach full of warm food. He found himself daydreaming about supper while they washed at the village well and eagerly drank the fresh water.

When they returned to the villager’s cottage to eat, they heard a disturbance in the lane. The peasant came to his door and stared out. He looked at Brother Murat, his face suddenly suspicious and wary. “Are you heretics fleeing from Toulouse of Provence?” he asked bluntly.