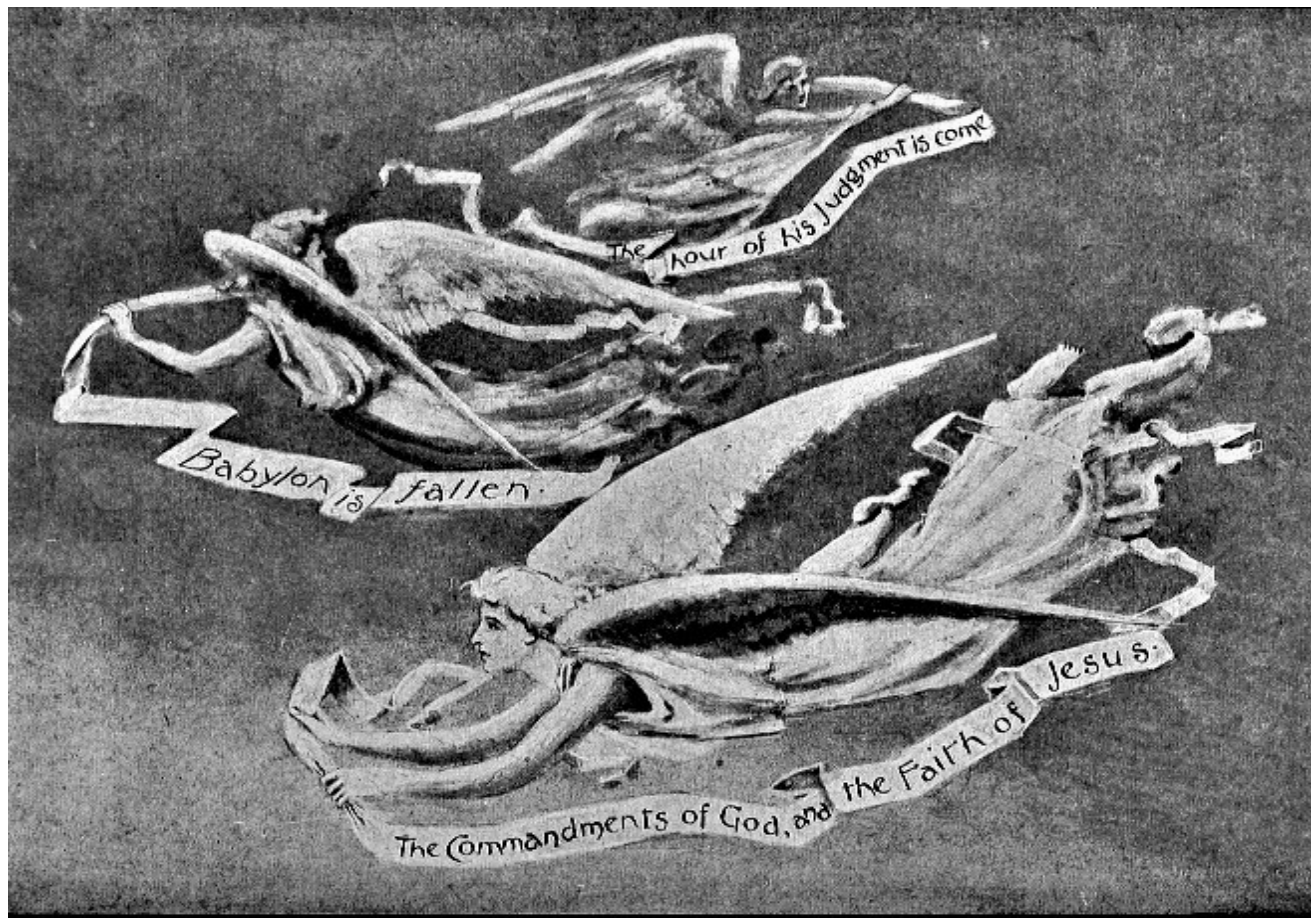


The 3 Angels' Messages - Introduction

This is the first in a series of studies on the 3 Angels Messages of Rev. 14. Each will draw heavily from the book "Daniel and the Revelation" by Uriah Smith (original 1897 version) with additional comments by me. Where Smith provides short scripture references without quoting, I will include those verses between his paragraphs. My comments are enclosed thus <<...>>. The illustration is from the 1897 book. -Sid Nash



THE THREE MESSAGES OF REVELATION 14.

[Revelation 14:6](#) And I saw another angel flying in mid heaven, having eternal good tidings to proclaim unto them that dwell on the earth, and unto every nation and tribe and tongue and people; [7](#) and he saith with a great voice, Fear God, and give him glory; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made the heaven and the earth and sea and fountains of waters. [8](#) And another, a second angel, followed, saying, Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, that hath made all the nations to drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. [9](#) And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a great voice, If any man worshippeth the beast and his image, and receiveth a mark on his forehead, or upon his hand, [10](#) he also shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is prepared unmixed in the cup of his anger; 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 goeth up for ever and ever; and they have no rest day and night, they that worship the beast and his image, and whoso receiveth the mark of his name. [12](#) Here is the patience of the saints, they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

<< [INTRODUCTION by Uriah Smith](#) >>

Another scene and another chain of prophetic events is introduced in these verses. We know that this is so, because the preceding verses of this chapter describe a company of the redeemed in the immortal state — a

scene which constitutes a part of the prophetic chain commencing with the first verse of chapter 12, and with which that chain of events closes; for no prophecy goes beyond the immortal state; and whenever we are brought in a line of prophecy to the end of the world, we know that that line there ends, and that what is introduced subsequently belongs to a new series of events. The Revelation in particular is composed of these independent prophetic chains, as has already been set forth, of which fact, previous to this instance, we have had a number of examples. [DAR 585.4](#)

The messages described in these verses are known as “the three angels’ messages of **Revelation 14**.” We are justified in applying to them the ordinals, first, second, and third, by the prophecy itself; for the last one is distinctly called “the *third* angel,” from which it follows that the one preceding was the *second* angel; and the one before that, the *first* angel. [DAR 586.1](#)

These angels are evidently symbolic; for the work assigned them is that of preaching the everlasting gospel to the people. But the preaching of the gospel has not been intrusted to literal angels; it has been committed unto men, who are responsible for this sacred trust placed in their hands. Each of these three angels, therefore, symbolizes a body of religious teachers, who are commissioned to make known to their fellow men the special truths which constitute the burden of these messages respectively. [DAR 586.2](#)

But we are to consider further that angels, literally, are intensely interested in the work of grace among men, being sent forth to minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation. And as there is order in all the movements and appointments of the heavenly world, it may not be fanciful to suppose that a literal angel has charge and oversight of the work of each message. [Hebrews 1:14](#); [Revelation 1:1](#); [22:16](#). [DAR 586.3](#)

[Hebrews 1:14](#) Are they not all **ministering spirits**, sent forth to do service for the sake of them that shall inherit salvation?

[Revelation 1:1](#) The Revelation of **Jesus Christ**, which God gave him to show unto his servants, *even* the things which must shortly come to pass: and he sent and signified *it* by **his angel** unto his servant John;

[Revelation 22:16](#) I Jesus have sent **mine angel** to testify unto you these things for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright, the morning star.

In these symbols we see the sharp contrast the Bible draws between earthly and heavenly things. Whenever earthly governments are to be represented, — even the best of them, — the most appropriate symbol that can be found is a cruel and ravenous wild beast; but when the work of God is to be set forth, an angel, clad in beauty and girt with power, is taken to symbolize it. [DAR 586.4](#)

The importance of the work set forth in the verses last quoted will be apparent to any one who will attentively study them. Whenever these messages are due, and are proclaimed, they must, from the very nature of the case, constitute the great theme of interest for that generation. We do not mean that the great mass of mankind then living will give them attention; for in every age of the world, the present truth for that time has been generally overlooked; but they will constitute the theme to which the people would pay most earnest regard if they were awake to that which concerns their highest interests. When God commissions his ministers to announce to the world that the hour of his Judgment is come, that Babylon has fallen, and that whoever worships the beast and his image must drink of his wrath poured out unmingled into the cup of his indignation, — a threatening more terrible than any other which can be found in the Scriptures of truth, — no man, except at the peril of his soul, can treat these warnings as non-essential, passing them by with neglect and disregard. Hence the necessity for the most earnest endeavor in every age, and especially in the present age, when so many evidences betoken the soon-coming of earth’s final crisis, to understand the work of the Lord, lest we lose the benefit of the present truth. [DAR 587.1](#)