

“The Three Messages from the Three Angels”
Revelation 14:6-12

Last Sunday: The Interlude of Mount Zion: The Lamb and His People

Today: The Three Messages from the Three Angels

OUTLINE

- 14:6-7, The First Angel’s Message: An Eternal Gospel
- 14:8, The Second Angel’s Message: Babylon is Fallen
- 14:9-11, The Third Angel’s Message: The Wrath of God for Unbelievers
- 14:12, The Call for Endurance

14:6-7/ “Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel...”

- Gospel – εὐαγγέλιον (*euangelion*)
- The English word "gospel" comes from the Old English *godspel*: "good story, good tidings"

What is this “good news (gospel)?”

1. Preterist (**past**): Rome’s “gospel” was that Caesar was lord and savior. This eternal gospel is telling us Jesus is Savior and Lord and those persecuting God’s people will be judged.
2. Historicist (**timeline**): THE gospel that brought the Great Awakening of the 1730s-1740s associated with Jonathan Edwards, John and Charles Wesley, George Whitefield, etc.
3. Idealist (**spiritual**): Not exactly John 3:16, but the symbolic call for mankind to repent and turn to God for He is coming to judge the world.
4. Futurist (**future**): This is either good news that Christ’s kingdom is coming to the earth OR a last call for people to believe THE gospel (THE good news of Jesus Christ).

This first angel exhorts us to take three actions:

1. Fear God.
2. Give Him glory
3. Worship HIM who made heaven, earth, the sea, springs of water

14:8/ “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great...”

What is Babylon the Great?

1. Preterist (**past**): Jerusalem or Rome (pagan)
 - a. I Pet. 5:13, “She who is at Babylon ... sends you greetings...” Jerusalem or Rome?
No Scriptural reference that Peter went to Rome (Gaius, AD 170-180)
2. Historicist (**timeline**): Rome (papal). When did Rome change from pagan to papal?
3. Idealist (**spiritual**): The rebellious world system
4. Futurist (**future**): Literal city of Babylon, a false religious or political system (Rome?)

14:10/ “...he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in *the presence* of the Lamb.”

2 Th. 1:9 reads, “...the punishment of eternal destruction, *away* from the presence of the Lord...” Which is the right interpretation?

14:11/ “And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever...”

Annihilation (Conditional Immortality) OR Eternal Punishment?

1. Annihilation: the belief that the final state of unbelievers is total destruction, extinction, *not* eternal torment. S. Lewis Johnson, “Conditional immortality (annihilation) teaches that ... the soul is *not immortal*. Only God possesses immortality. Man only becomes immortal through faith in Christ. It teaches also that unbelievers will bear just punishment after death ... In other words, they do not teach that when a man dies, he’s annihilated immediately. But rather, for a time he bears punishment dependent upon the kind of life he’s lived. In other words, if he has lived a wretched life ... he may have to bear a considerable amount and time of punishment. But if he has not, he may have a limited time of punishment ... And then ultimately those individuals will suffer destruction ... *They cease to exist* ... In other words, men and women will cease to exist after they have suffered for their sins. If they believe in Christ they are given the gift of eternal life and immortality ... The Jews did not accept (this) doctrine and our Lord made no effort to distinguish His view from theirs. That would suggest that He had the *same view* as they had. Christian churches (in history) were almost universally believers in eternal conscience torment.”
2. Eternal Suffering:
 - a. Mt. 25:46, “These will go away into everlasting punishment but the righteous into eternal life” (One happens at the same time as the other).
 - b. “Torment” (βασανισμός): used *nowhere* else in Revelation or biblical literature in the sense of annihilation, but of conscious suffering (9:5, 11:10, 18:7, 10, 15, 20:10).
 - c. Smoke? Same as in Rev. 8:4...a figurative term involving a real, ongoing action.
 - d. Mk 9:48, “...’where the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched’ (Is. 66:24).