

- This message proclaims that there is a judgment that all must face on an individual basis before God.
- This message tells us that the time of the judgment has opened, bringing to an end the longest time prophecy in the Bible (Daniel 8:14), and any further prophecies based upon definite time. On October 22, 1844 the great Court from which there is no appeal convened in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary.

The first angel's message packs with it a lot of information and paves the way for the next two messages... all of which prepares us for the final battle with the beast, his image, his mark, and the number of his name! Can you see how important the study of Bible prophecy really is to each of us? Is it your wish to be a member of God's people and reflect the image of Jesus? Now is the time to make your choice... do not delay to have your name written in the Lamb's book of life. **Choose Jesus as your Lord and Savior right now, won't you?**

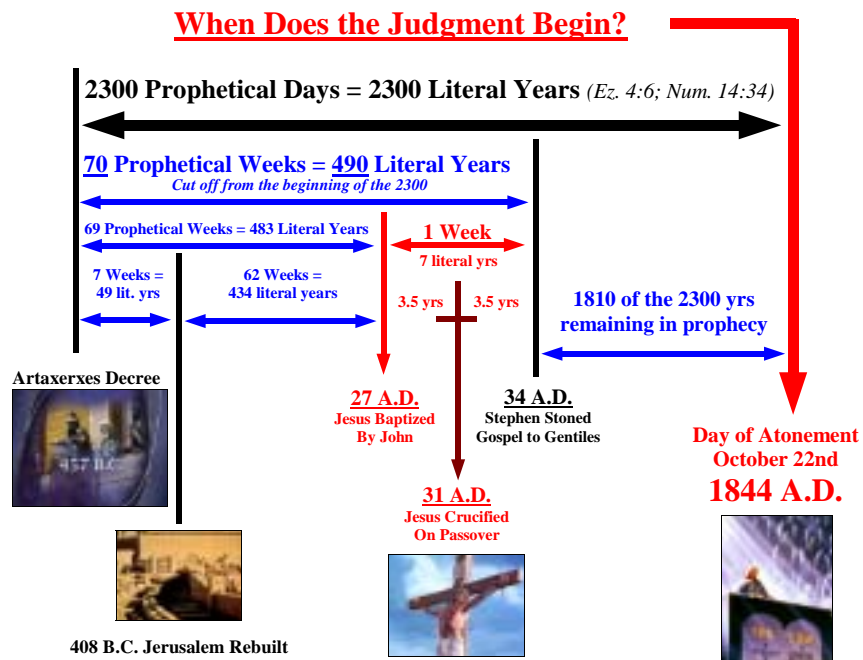
*Eternal Truth Ministries*

Presents

# Bible Glances



## Lesson 18 "The First Angel's Message"



We learned from Revelation chapter 13 that the two-horned beast (United States) will create an image to the seven-headed beast (Papal Rome) and eventually enforce worship of that image by the use of a mark. God now shares three important messages that will prepare His true followers for this last conflict with the beast, his image, and mark. These messages are found in Revelation chapter 14 and they are the last messages of warning to be proclaimed prior to Christ's return. We are going to look at these messages, starting with the first angel's message...



- What special message does the first angel have?  
*Revelation 14:6, 7*

Verses 6 & 7 are better rendered: "And I saw a messenger proclaiming worldwide, **the perpetual good news**. To declare unto them that live in the world, to every race (gentile), and tribe (clan), and language, and people, saying with a mighty noise: reverence and awe the very God, and give Him honor and praise, and worship Him for the time of His judging is come. And worship Him that brought forth the sky, and earth, and the sea, and the supply of waters."

"...seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness." Matthew 6:33

**ANSWERS:** 1) The Everlasting Gospel. 2) We can develop a character like that of Jesus. 3) By being born again and having Jesus live within our heart. 4) Having the very image of God reproduced in humanity. 5) To share the good news with all the world. 6) Not God does not change so neither does His character. 7) To morally reverse God—develop a character like Jesus by grace. 8) By reflecting God's image in our life... by staying healthy, helping others to know the Gospel, and loving God with our entire heart. 9) That the judgment has opened in heaven. 10) Prophetic time ended. 11) The prophecy of Daniel 8:14. 12) By loving God who is the truth and applying the truth to our life. 13) To do the will of God in all aspects of our life. 14) To keep His commandments. 15) They will be able to discern truth and live it through Jesus.

This is a symbolic vision so this is not a literal angel, but a worldwide message. The angel represents God's saints engaged in the task of proclaiming the everlasting gospel, *especially* the features of the gospel mentioned in this verse, at a time when the "judgment is come." The loud voice indicates that the message will be proclaimed so that all may hear. It also emphasizes the importance of the message.



**2. What is the everlasting gospel?**

*Genesis 3:15; John 3:16, 17; Romans 1:16; John 1:12*

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God declares, "I will put enmity." This enmity is supernaturally put, and not naturally. When man sinned, his nature became evil, and he was in harmony, and not at variance, with Satan. When Satan heard that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head, he knew that though he had succeeded in



depraving human nature, yet by some mysterious process God would restore to man his lost power, and enable man to resist and overcome his temptations. It is the grace that Christ implants in the soul that creates the enmity against Satan. Without this grace, man would continue to be the captive of Satan, a slave always ready to do his bidding.

This power is not naturally in humans, it is the power of God! **When a soul receives Christ, he receives power to live the life of Christ.** This is the everlasting gospel... the *perpetual good news!*

**3. How do we experience the everlasting gospel?**

*Galatians 2:20; John 15:5*

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It is impossible for man in his own strength to escape from the pit of sin into which he has fallen and to bring forth fruits unto holiness. Christ must live within. This is the secret of a successful Christian experience—Christ abiding within and living out in us the same perfect life that He lived here on earth.

**4. What is the most important aspect of the everlasting gospel?**

*John 8:31, 32, 36*

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The only condition upon which the freedom of man is possible is that of becoming one with Christ. Jesus said, "*The truth shall make you free;*" and

heard God's voice speaking to their hearts and yet persist in ways of their own choosing "*have no cloke for their sin*" (John 15:22) and are in danger of presumption. John also declares that the believer fulfills two conditions: (1) keeps God's commandments; (2) does those things that please God, just as Jesus did!



**14. What is God's will? Psalm 40:8; 112:1; 128:1; John 14:15**

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Love for God is the motive of obedience to Him. Obedience that springs from compulsion or from fear is not the ideal form of obedience. One of the best human illustrations of obedience that springs from love is that of children to their parents. With Jesus, the keeping of God's law was a matter both of intellect and of feeling, of the mind and of the heart (see Deut. 4:29; 6:5). To the Jews the externals were the sum total of religion. Jesus taught that these were only a means to an end and that the end itself was harmony with the will of God. The basic function of the plan of salvation is to restore in man the image of God.

**15. What promise in the Bible is given to those who obey God's revealed will? John 7:17; 13:17**

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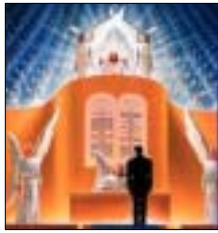
He who sincerely desires to do the will of God will be enlightened by God and enabled to evaluate correctly the claims of others. A prerequisite to receiving light is that the seeker for truth must be willing to follow in the light that may be revealed. A knowledge of duty places upon man the responsibility of performance. A man is not held responsible for the things of which he is ignorant, provided, of course, that his ignorance is not willful (see John 9:41; 15:22; Rom. 5:13; James 4:17).

**What we learned from the first angel's message:**

1. This is not a literal angel, but a worldwide message.
2. This message consists of the perpetual good news of salvation; that through Christ's merits we can reflect the image of God perfectly in our life here.
3. This message tells us the time of the Messiah's first Advent.
4. That His true church (the body of Christ) will be giving this message to every nation, tongue, and people.
5. This message calls people to glorify God in body and in Spirit. To follow God's health laws is an integral part of this message!



In our studies we have learned that a day in prophecy is equal to a literal year. The 2300 days in this 'little book' of Daniel 8:14 would be 2300 literal years. This is the longest time prophecy in the Bible and it includes the 70 week prophecy that we studied in lesson two—70 weeks being determined or 'cut off' of the 2300—so both have the same starting date (B.C. 457). The 70 week



(or 490 literal years) prophecy ended in A.D. 34 when Stephen was stoned and the gospel then went to the Gentiles. This leaves 1810 years of the 2300 year prophecy remaining to be fulfilled. Adding 1810 years to A.D. 34 brings us to the year A.D. 1844 as the fulfillment of Daniel 8:14. The time the judgment would open in heaven would be on October 22nd of that year (the actual 'Day of Atonement' for that year). After October 22, 1844, there was **prophetic** "time no longer"—Jesus could now come as soon as His people finished their work for Him; that of character perfection. (See judgment timeline at the end of this study.)

12. The last part of the first angel's message speaks of worshipping the Creator. **How should we worship Him?** *John 4:23*

We are to worship the Creator in all sincerity, with the highest faculties of the mind and emotions, applying the principles of truth to the heart. This is genuine worship, Jesus says all else is false. (see Matthew 5:3, 48; 7:21–27; Mark 7:6–9)

*"In order to serve Him aright, we must be born of the divine Spirit. This will purify the heart and renew the mind, giving us a new capacity for knowing and loving God. It will give us a willing obedience to all His requirements. This is true worship. It is the fruit of the working of the Holy Spirit."* White, *My Life Today*, p.46.

13. **If we are worshippers of the true God of heaven, what will we do?**  
*Matthew 7:21; John 9:31*



The one who performs the will of God when he learns of it is a true worshipper. Faith in God must accompany the doing, or the doing is only a form. It is true that "faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone" (James 2:17), but it is equally true that works unaccompanied by a sincere and living faith are also "dead" (Heb. 11:6). Those who do not know the will of God are not held accountable for it (Luke 12:47, 48), but those who have

Christ is the truth. When we continue in His word by prayer, study, and sharing His truth with others, we grow closer to the likeness of Jesus and fulfill the most important aspect of the everlasting gospel—the very image of God reproduced in humanity! Let us never forget that the honor of God, and the honor of Christ, is involved in the perfection of the character of His people. We can do nothing in perfecting our character without Jesus abiding within us!



5. **What is our duty regarding the everlasting gospel?**  
*Mark 16:15; Matthew 24:14*



*"The commission given to the disciples is given also to us. Today, as then, a crucified and risen Saviour is to be uplifted before those who are without God and without hope in the world... To every nation, kindred, tongue, and people the tidings of pardon through Christ are to be carried."* White, *Gospel Workers*, p.29.

6. **Will the everlasting gospel ever change?**  
*Galatians 1:6-9*

*"...the emissaries of Judaism succeeded in alienating many of the Christian converts from their teacher in the gospel. Having gained this point, they induced them to return to the observance of the ceremonial law as essential to salvation. Faith in Christ, and obedience to the law of ten commandments, were regarded as of minor importance."* White, *The Life of Paul*, p.188.

Paul explained to the Galatians that any attempt to superimpose works on faith as a means of salvation is a perversion of the gospel, because it denies both the necessity and the efficacy of Christ's sacrifice. There is no other good news than that of salvation through Jesus Christ (see Acts 4:12). The 'everlasting' Gospel never changes!



7. **Revelation 14:7 says to "fear God"... what does that mean?**  
*Genesis 22:2, 12; Deuteronomy 6:2; 8:6*

The Greek word for "fear" in these instances is akin to the Hebrew word *yare'* (yaw-ray'), which means "morally to revere; to be in awe of."

What does “moral” mean? Webster’s 1828 Dictionary puts it this way: “*the practice, manners or conduct of men as social beings in relation to each other, and with reference to right and wrong. The word moral is applicable to actions that are good or evil, virtuous or vicious, and has reference to the law of God as the standard by which their character is to be determined.*” For Abraham, to fear God meant to obey God by **developing a character** like that of God—to **morally revere God!** The first angel is calling us to do the same as Abraham and morally revere—develop a character like—Jesus! Without His character revealed in our life we will fail in our battle with the beast, and lose salvation. All heaven is given to help us in this development process, known also as ‘sanctification.’



**8. Revelation 14:7 goes on to say, “and give glory to Him.” How do we tangibly give glory to God?**

*1 Corinthians 6:20; John 15:8; Matthew 5:16; Psalm 50:23*



It is a Christian’s duty to do all in their power to keep their bodies in the best condition, so that they may best glorify God by serving Him acceptably. So an understanding of physiology, anatomy, and the laws of health is necessary, and the practice of this knowledge is needed if the body is to be taken care of intelligently.

Christ’s followers will not permit bodily appetites and desires to control them. Instead, they will make their bodies servants to regenerated minds that are constantly guided by divine wisdom. This wisdom is needed in forming a character like that of Christ’s. Glory comes to God when His image is reflected in the lives of His followers. Satan claims that the requirements of God are too severe and that men cannot attain to the ideal of Christian perfection. Thus the character of God is vindicated when men, through divine grace, become partakers of the divine nature and reflect the image of their Maker. Living by God’s natural health laws hastens this process!

*“To give glory to God is to reveal His character in our own, and thus make Him known. And in whatever way we make known the Father or the Son, we glorify God.”* White, Signs of the Times Article: ‘Draw from the Source of Strength,’ October 17, 1892.

**9. What is the burden of the first angel’s message?**

*Revelation 14:7*

To announce that the judgment is starting! Again, verse seven is better

rendered: “*saying with a mighty noise: reverence and awe the very God, and give Him honor and praise, and worship Him for the time of His judging is come. And worship Him that brought forth the sky, and earth, and the sea, and the supply of waters.*”



The message of the first angel sheds light as to the time when this judgment is to take place. It is declared to be a part of the “*everlasting gospel;*” and it announces *the opening* of the judgment. The message of salvation has been preached in all ages; but this message **is a part of the gospel** which could be proclaimed **only in the last days**. The prophecies present a succession of events leading down to the opening of the judgment. This is especially true of the book of Daniel. But remember that part of his prophecy which related to the last days, Daniel was bidden to close up and seal “*to the time of the end*” which we previously learned began in A.D. 1798. Not till we reach this time frame could a message concerning the judgment be proclaimed, based on the fulfillment of these time prophecies. So the three angel’s messages would have to be given sometime after A.D. 1798 (“*the time of the end*”), **and** just before the judgment would begin, as the first message heralds that event. When were the three angel’s messages first given? The summer of A.D. 1844! But at “*the time of the end,*” says the prophet, “*many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.*” Daniel 12:4. Such knowledge as the opening of the judgment!



**10. Revelation 10:6 says “that there shall be time no longer.” Is this real or prophetic time? Revelation 10:10, 11**



Though John’s eating of the book had ended in bitterness, Christ’s reassuring words to the prophet are that he is now to prophesy again. As a representative of the advent believers after the disappointment of A.D. 1844, John is placed under strong obligation to deliver a further message. A great work remains to be done. They must go forth and proclaim the three messages of Revelation 14:6–12. The ‘*time,*’ which the angel declares with a solemn oath, is not the end of this world’s history, nor probationary time, but of **prophetic time**, which should precede the second coming of our Lord. That is, the people will not have another message upon definite time after the judgment begins.

**11. What is the “little book” that gives the longest time prophecy?**

*Daniel 8:14*