

“...And Justice for All”

A Contextual Study of
The Three Angels' Messages

Our Mission:

To make disciples of Jesus Christ who live as His loving witnesses and proclaim to all people the everlasting gospel of the Three Angels' Messages in preparation for His soon return (Matt 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Rev 14:6-12).

Key thoughts:

- God's people *are identified by* their faithfulness to His Word.
- God's people *have suffered because of* their faithfulness to His Word.

Revelation 6:9-11 NKJV

When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held...

Revelation 6:9-11 NKJV

And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

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- God's people *are identified by* their faithfulness to His Word.
- God's people *have suffered because of* their faithfulness to His Word.
- God *has promised justice* to those who have suffered for their faithfulness to His Word.

OT Background

1. The Song of Moses – Deuteronomy 32

- God will judge [vindicate] his people
- God will avenge the blood of his servants
- God will repay those who afflict his people

Key thoughts:

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- God *has promised justice* to those who have suffered for their faithfulness to His Word.
- God's justice includes *vindication* for those who have suffered for their faithfulness to His Word, and *vengeance* on those who have afflicted them.

Revelation 11:18

The nations were enraged,
but your rage ***has come***,
and the time *has come* for the dead to be judged,
and the time *has come* to give to your servants, the prophets,
their reward,
as well as to the saints and to those who revere your name,
both small and great,
and the time *has come* to destroy those who destroy the earth,

Summary of Rev 11:18-19

1. The wrath of God is a response to the wrath of the nations—which refers to their opposition to God and their oppression of His people.
2. The judgment of the dead assumes an examination of the evidence and results in the vindication of the martyred saints and the destruction of their oppressors.
3. The opening of the temple in heaven takes place in conjunction with the outpouring of the seven last plagues. The opening of the temple in heaven indicates the completion of the judgment process and the end of intercession.

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- God's people *are identified by* their faithfulness to His Word.
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“The Hour of His Judgment Has Come”

The Proclamation of Justice: Part Two

Vindication & Vengeance

Revelation 14:6-7 NKJV

Then I saw another angel 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—

Revelation 14:6-7 NKJV

...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.”

The First Angel's Message

1. His designation

“then I saw another angel”

- Possibly a reference back to Revelation 8:13:

And I looked, and I heard an angel flying in the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, “Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!”

“then I saw another angel”

Revelation 8:13

And I looked,
and I heard an **angel flying in the
midst of heaven**,
saying with a loud voice, “Woe, woe,
woe to those who dwell on the
earth, because of the remaining
blasts of the trumpet of the three
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Revelation 14:6-7

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has come...”

“then I saw another angel”

- Possibly a reference back to Revelation 8:13.
- The three angels’ messages anticipate the judgment of the seventh trumpet.
 - The seventh trumpet judgment was announced in chapter 11.
 - Then there is a respite or an interlude, giving an historical perspective of God’s people in their conflict with evil (chapters 12-14).
 - In Rev 14:6-11, the three angels anticipate the blowing of the seventh trumpet, when the seven bowls will be poured out as described in chapter 15 and 16.
 - So just before the final outpouring of the last seven judgments on the earth, we find the three angels’ messages.

The First Angel's Message

1. His designation
2. His location

“flying in the midst of heaven”

- The angel is flying in “midheaven”.
 - Midheaven is a Greek term that refers to the point in the sky when the sun has reached its meridian, its high point.
 - This angel is “flying directly overhead” (ESV) - the very highest point in the sky where the greatest amount of visibility is provided.

The First Angel's Message

1. His designation
2. His location
3. His possession

“having the everlasting gospel”

- The Greek word translated ‘gospel’ means ‘good news’.
- The Greek text does not have the definite article—i.e. there is no ‘the’ in the original.
- A literal translation would be “having eternal good news to preach.”

“having the everlasting gospel”

- The message of salvation from sin through the death of Christ is eternal good news—but it is not the focus here.
- The angel tells us exactly what his good news is— “the hour of his judgment has come”
- The good news is that God is going to bring justice to an unjust world—He is going to make right the wrongs that his people have suffered.

OT Background

1. The Song of Moses – Deuteronomy 32

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2. Judgment scene – Daniel 7

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2. Judgment scene – Daniel 7

- God will examine the evidence recorded in the books
- God will pass judgment in favour of the saints
- God will destroy the oppressor

Judgment Scene – Daniel 7

- Daniel 7 indicates that there are 3 aspects to the judgment portrayed in Revelation
 1. Investigation - Dan 7:9-10
 2. Vindication – Dan 7:21-22
 3. Destruction – Dan 7:26

The First Angel's Message

1. His designation
2. His location
3. His possession
4. His mission

“to preach to those who dwell on the earth”

Who is the message preached to?

- **“those who dwell on the earth”**

- Rev 6:10
- Rev 8:13
- Rev 11:9-10
- Rev 13:8
- Rev 14:6

The First Angel's Message

1. His designation
2. His location
3. His possession
4. His mission
5. His proclamation

“The hour of His judgment has come”

- In Revelation, God’s judgment is in response to the suffering and persecution of His people.
- In this context, God’s judgment is equated with His wrath.

“The hour of His judgment has come”

- “...the great **day of His wrath has come**, and who is able to stand?” – Rev 6:17
- “...The nations were angry, and **Your wrath has come...**” – Rev 11:18
- “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the **hour of His judgment has come...**” – Rev 14:7
- “Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one **hour** your **judgment has come.**” – Rev 18:10

“The hour of His judgment has come”

- In Revelation, God’s judgment is in response to the suffering and persecution of His people.
- In this context, God’s judgment is equated with His wrath.
- The execution of God’s judgment is presented explicitly in terms of the destruction of Babylon by means of the seven last plagues.

The First Angel's Message

1. His designation: **“another angel”**
2. His location: **“flying in the midst of heaven”**
3. His possession: **“having the everlasting gospel”**
4. His mission: **“to preach to those who dwell on the earth”**
5. His proclamation: **“the hour of His judgment has come”**
6. His invitation: **“fear God and give glory to Him...and worship Him”**

“Fear God and give glory to Him”

- Don't fear, don't reverence, don't be afraid of what the Beast says or does – but fear God (cf. Matthew 10:28).
- Give glory to God (see John 9:24; cf. Joshua 7:19; Jeremiah 13:16)
- This is essentially a call to repentance.

“worship Him who made heaven and earth...”

- God is worthy of worship because he is the creator (Rev 4:10-11)
- Mankind refuses to repent and turn from the worship of demons and idols (Rev 9:20)
- They worship the dragon, the beast and the image of the beast (Rev 13:4, 8, 12, 15, etc.)
- This is a call back to the worship of the Creator.
- The language is similar to the Sabbath commandment (Exodus 20:11; see also Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 146:6; Acts 4:24)

“The hour of His judgment has come”

- The first angel’s message (14:7) is a positive invitation to repentance and worship of the one true God in light of the impending execution of divine vengeance.
- The hour of God’s judgment is the hour of His wrath.
- It brings vindication and deliverance for the saints, but doom for Babylon.

Revelation 14:8

And another angel followed, saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of her wrath of her fornication.”

In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the word of God...

They have been given a work of the most solemn import—the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention...

The most solemn truths ever entrusted to mortals have been given us to proclaim to the world. The proclamation of these truths is to be our work. The world is to be warned, and God's people are to be true to the trust committed to them...

Are we to wait until the fulfillment of the prophecies of the end before we say anything concerning them? Of what value will our words be then? Shall we wait until God's judgments fall upon the transgressor before we tell him how to avoid them?

Where is our faith in the word of God? Must we see things foretold come to pass before we will believe what He has said? In clear, distinct rays light has come to us, showing us that the great day of the Lord is near at hand, "even at the doors." Let us read and understand before it is too late.

- Ellen G White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol 9, pp. 19-20

NEXT TIME

The Process of Justice
“A Thorough Investigation”

Revelation 6:9-11 NKJV

Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest **a little while [lit. 'time'] longer**, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

Revelation 10:5-6 NKJV

The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be **delay [lit. 'time'] no longer.**

Deuteronomy 32:43
Rejoice, O nations, with His people;
for He will **avenge the blood of His servants**, and will render
vengeance on His adversaries...

Deuteronomy 32:40-41

For I **lift up my hand to heaven and swear, As I live forever**... I will take
vengeance on my adversaries and will
repay those who hate me.

Revelation 6:10
"How long, O Lord, holy and true,
until you judge and **avenge our blood**
on those who dwell on the
earth?"

Revelation 10:5-6

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Revelation 10:7 NKJV

...but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to his servants the prophets.

Revelation 11:18-19 NKJV

“The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth.”

Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

“The nations were enraged, but your rage has come.”

Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing?

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*,

"Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us."

He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision.

Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure. (Psalm 2:1-5 NKJV)

“the nations were enraged”

"But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles [lit. 'nations']. And they will tread the holy city underfoot *for* forty-two months." (Rev. 11:2 NKJV)

“but your wrath has come”

And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" (Rev. 6:15-17 NKJV)

Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete. (Rev. 15:1 NKJV)

Summary

1. The wrath of God is a response to the wrath of the nations—which refers to their opposition to God and their oppression of His people.

“the time has come for the dead to be judged”

When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.

And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (Rev. 6:9-10 NKJV)

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The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be **delay [lit. 'time'] no longer...**

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...but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to his servants the prophets.

“the time has come for the dead to be judged”

1. the time has come to give to your servants, the prophets, their reward, as well as to the saints and to those who revere your name, both small and great, and...
2. the time has come to destroy those who destroy the earth.

Revelation 11:18

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but your rage ***has come***,
and the time *has come* for the dead to be judged,
and the time *has come* to give to your servants, the prophets,
their reward,
as well as to the saints and to those who revere your name,
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and the time *has come* **to destroy those who destroy the earth,**

Who are the destroyers of the earth?

Revelation 11:18

... the time has come ... for
destroying the **destroyers of the
earth.**

Revelation 19:2

... his judgments are true and just;
for he has judged the great
prostitute who **corrupted the
earth** with her immorality, and has
avenged on her the blood of his
servants.”

Summary

1. The wrath of God is a response to the wrath of the nations—which refers to their opposition to God and their oppression of His people.
2. The judgment of the dead assumes an examination of the evidence and results in the vindication of the martyred saints and the destruction of their oppressors.

“The time of your wrath has come”

Revelation 11:19

And the temple of God which is in heaven was opened...

...the ark of His covenant was seen...

...and there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder and an earthquake and a great hail storm.

Revelation 15:5-16:21
After these things I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened...

[7 LAST PLAGUES]

... and there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake...and huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men.

Revelation 10:7

The Seven Seals

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

The Seven Trumpets

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Seven Bowls

The

1 2 3

4 5 6 7

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Revelation 11:18

The nations were filled with wrath, but now the time of your wrath has come:

the time for the dead to be judged,
for rewarding your servants, the prophets
and saints,
and those
who fear your name,

both small and great,
and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.

Revelation 14:6-7 NKJV

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