

“...And Justice for All”

A Contextual Study of
The Three Angels' Messages

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

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 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 vengeance and destruction for Babylon.

Revelation 14:8 NKJV

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

The Fall of Babylon

The Prophetic Picture of Justice: Part One

Revelation 14:8 NKJV

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Babylon

The woman (Babylon) of Revelation 17 ... that for so many centuries maintained despotic sway over the monarchs of Christendom is Rome. The purple and scarlet color, the gold and precious stones and pearls, vividly picture the magnificence and more than kingly pomp affected by the haughty see of Rome...

Babylon

And no other power could be so truly declared "drunken with the blood of the saints" as that church which has so cruelly persecuted the followers of Christ.

– Ellen G White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 382.

Babylon

“Babylon is found wherever there is satanic deception. It is defined more by dominant idolatries than geographical or temporal boundaries...

Babylon

“Babylon is an eschatological symbol of satanic deception and power; it is a divine mystery that can never be wholly reducible to empirical earthly institutions. It may be said that Babylon represents the total culture of the world apart from God, while the divine system is depicted by the New Jerusalem. Rome is simply one manifestation of the total system.”

What does it mean that Babylon “is fallen”?

- The key background passage for the second angel’s message is Isaiah 21:9
- The term ‘fallen’ is reference to her destruction, her doom.

Jeremiah 51:8 NKJV

Babylon has suddenly fallen and been destroyed

- How is it that God's people are called out of Babylon after the announcement of her fall? Is it not rather late to call them out after her destruction has come?
- In Jeremiah 51:8, we have the announcement of the fall of Babylon, and the term "has suddenly fallen and been destroyed" was used while she was in the height of her glory.

- The explanation of this is that the prophet sees in a vision the city in ruins, and announces what he sees, and therefore he uses the past tense.
- That the prophet is describing a future destruction is clear from verses 60-64.
- Here we have a complete parallel with the announcements concerning modern Babylon.

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- False religious systems and everything that stands against God will be destroyed (cf. Daniel 7:26)

The third angel's message

- The third angel further reinforces the message of the first angel by proclaiming the judgment of the unrepentant who continue to drink Babylon's wine and worship the beast (14:9-11).

The third angel's message

- The second angel's message concerns the inevitable fall of that system of human evil that opposes God's kingdom.
- The third angel's message concerns the judgment of individuals who continue to adhere to the system.
- Together they form the negative warning which underlines the positive invitation of the first angel.

The Fall of Babylon

- False religious systems and everything that stands against God will be destroyed (cf. Daniel 7:26)
- The plagues bring the destruction
- Must “come out” before it is too late (Rev 18:2-5).