

Sermon 04: The Three Angels' Messages: God's Final Call

By Pastor Ed Anderson

Scripture Reading

"Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, 'Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.'"
(Revelation 14:6-7)

Introduction: A Story of a Final Warning

It was a quiet night in 1986 when tragedy struck in the small town of Chernobyl. A nuclear reactor began to overheat, and the alarms started sounding. Technicians worked frantically to figure out what was happening, but instead of taking the warnings seriously, they dismissed them as a malfunction. Precious time slipped away, and the reactor reached a critical state. Then, in the early hours of the morning, the unthinkable happened—the reactor exploded, releasing deadly radiation into the air.

The tragedy of Chernobyl is a sobering reminder of what happens when warnings are ignored. Like the technicians in that control room, many people today are dismissing the warnings that God is sending through His Word. The Three Angels' Messages in Revelation 14 are the ultimate alarms, God's final call to humanity before judgment falls. Will we heed these warnings, or will we ignore them at our own peril?

The Three Angels' Messages: God's Final Call

The Three Angels' Messages are not just warnings—they are messages of hope, love, and salvation, designed to prepare humanity for the soon return of Christ. Let's explore what these messages mean for us today.

1. The First Angel's Message: A Call to Worship (Revelation 14:6-7)

"Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come. Worship Him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and the springs of water."

- **What It Means:** The first angel calls us back to true worship, pointing us to God as Creator. In a world consumed by materialism and humanism, this message reminds us that God is the source of life and the rightful object of our worship. It also declares that the hour of God’s judgment has come, urging us to take our spiritual lives seriously.
- **Today’s Relevance:**
- The rise of secularism has led many to forget their Creator. Evolution and false ideologies have taken center stage.
- Climate crises and natural disasters remind us of the fragility of the world God created. This message calls us to honor and worship the One who sustains it.
- **Application:** How do you worship God daily? Does your life reflect His glory? This message challenges us to make worship a central part of our lives and acknowledge God’s authority.

2. The Second Angel’s Message: A Warning Against Babylon (Revelation 14:8)

“Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.”

- **What It Means:** Babylon represents spiritual confusion and false religion. This message warns us about systems of worship and belief that distort God’s truth and lead people away from Him. It is a call to separate from anything that compromises our faith.
- **Today’s Relevance:**
- Babylon’s “wine” of false doctrines is everywhere, leading many into spiritual deception.
- From compromised religious teachings to moral relativism, this message exposes anything that takes us away from biblical truth.
- **Application:** Are you clinging to any beliefs or practices that are not grounded in God’s Word? This message challenges us to leave behind spiritual confusion and align fully with God’s truth.

3. The Third Angel’s Message: A Warning About the Mark of the Beast (Revelation 14:9-11)

“If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, they, too, will drink the wine of God’s fury.”

- **What It Means:** The third angel warns of the consequences of worshipping the beast—a system of false worship that leads people to disobey God’s commandments. It highlights the ultimate test of loyalty: whether we will stand with God or conform to the world.

- **Today's Relevance:**
- The "mark of the beast" represents allegiance to systems that oppose God's law. It challenges us to stay faithful to God, even when it is unpopular or dangerous.
- The enforcement of Sunday laws or other forms of coerced worship could soon bring this issue to the forefront.
- **Application:** Where does your loyalty lie? Are you willing to stand for God's truth, even if it means persecution or loss?

The Acronym: ACT

To prepare for the Three Angels' Messages, remember the acronym **ACT**:

- **A - Acknowledge God as Creator**
Worship Him and honor His authority in your life.
"Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come." (Revelation 14:7)
- **C - Come Out of Babylon**
Leave behind spiritual confusion and false teachings.
"Fallen is Babylon the Great." (Revelation 14:8)
- **T - Trust in God's Word**
Stay faithful to God's commandments and reject the mark of the beast.
"Here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." (Revelation 14:12)

Conclusion: A Final Story of Rescue

In 2018, during the Paradise Fire in California, a firefighter named Jake worked tirelessly to save lives. As the fire spread rapidly, he knocked on doors, warning people to evacuate. Many listened and escaped to safety. But tragically, some hesitated, convinced the fire wouldn't reach them. For those who ignored the warnings, the fire overtook them, leaving devastation in its wake.

The Three Angels' Messages are like that firefighter's urgent warnings. They are God's final call to humanity, urging us to prepare before it's too late. But just like in Paradise, some will heed the warnings and be saved, while others will ignore them at their peril.

The question is: how will you respond? Will you acknowledge God, come out of Babylon, and trust in His Word? Or will you delay, hoping there's more time?

Appeal:

The Three Angels' Messages are not just warnings—they are an invitation to salvation, a call to worship the Creator, and a plea to stand with God in the final conflict. The alarm is sounding. Will you answer the call?

Let us pray.