

THE THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES

A Comparison Between the Conventional Version and the Undiluted Version

The Conventional Version	The Undiluted (full strength) Version
<p><u>Methodology:</u></p> <p>Correctly interprets the Book of Revelation according to the historical-prophetic method of Bible interpretation.</p> <p>May see the Book of Revelation largely as a portrayal of past and a prediction of future events.</p> <p>Correctly looks to historical events on earth that matches the text. May sometimes lead to fear of the future unless Christ's mediatorial work in the heavenly courtroom is also emphasized.</p> <p>Sees the three angels' messages primarily as messages to warn the world.</p>	<p><u>Methodology:</u></p> <p>Also emphasizes the Book of Revelation as a revelation of Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:1) "...but the great Center of attraction, Jesus Christ, must not be left out of the third angel's message..."(Ev 184).</p> <p>While continuously alert to historical events on earth as prophetic fulfillments of the text, it also focuses significantly on the work of Christ in heaven's open courtroom in order to give people solid assurance of salvation through Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Seeks to dig deeper in the Scriptures by letting the Bible be its own interpreter for <u>every</u> symbol and concept.</p> <p>Also seeks to discover <u>all</u> the practical and experiential aspects of the three angels messages as found everywhere in both the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Basically, there are no 'additional' truths, but only previously existing truths that we have not yet discerned due to the blindness of our hearts.</p> <p>Also sees the three angels' messages as God's formula for everyday successful Christian living. These messages are indeed God's medicine for our lives today. When we <u>live</u> these messages we will be better prepared to <u>give</u> them.</p>
<p><u>First Angel's Message:</u></p> <p>Correctly emphasizes the worldwide proclamation of the everlasting gospel.</p> <p>May see the 'everlasting gospel' as just <u>one</u> part of the three angels' messages.</p>	<p><u>First Angel's Message:</u></p> <p>Correctly emphasizes the worldwide proclamation of the everlasting gospel. Also shows that the apostasies of both Babylon and the beast are worldwide, and not just confined to certain particular groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "<u>All</u> nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication" (Revelation 14:8) • "<u>All</u> who dwell on the earth will worship Him, whose names have no been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb" (Revelation 13:8) <p>"The principle that man can save himself by his own works lay at the foundation of every heathen religion; it had now become the principle of the Jewish religion. Satan had implanted this principle. Wherever it is held, men have no barrier against sin" (DA 35).</p> <p>Sees the 'everlasting gospel' everywhere, though sometimes hidden, in the <u>entire</u> three angels' messages. The everlasting gospel is the intention of God's heart, before the world began, to justly save us from sin through the blood of the Lamb at Calvary's cross. The everlasting gospel is the foundational key for detecting and overcoming all sin and apostasy.</p>

The Conventional Version	The Undiluted (full strength) Version
<p data-bbox="191 149 337 180">“Fear God”</p> <p data-bbox="191 386 607 449">“Give Glory to Him” by seeking to honor Christ in everything we do.</p> <p data-bbox="191 825 626 856">“The hour of His judgment is come.”</p> <p data-bbox="191 890 620 1020">We are now living in the antitypical day of atonement – “prepare to meet your God” by the putting away of sin.</p>	<p data-bbox="659 149 1430 348">“Fear God” for the ‘fear of God’ is the key to overcoming all other fears: fears of the judgment, fears of the future, fears of punishment, and fear of rejection. “<i>Self is the enemy we most need to fear</i>” (GW 475). The genuine fear of God is also the key to overcoming the fear of the beast. “<i>The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him...</i>” (Martin Luther).</p> <p data-bbox="659 386 1422 516">Also emphasizes that the cross of Christ is God’s tool to deal a deadly blow to the sin of <u>pride</u>, which of all sins is the most incurable and hopeless. “<i>But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ</i>” (Gal. 6:14).</p> <p data-bbox="659 554 1425 716">“<i>What is justification by faith? It is the work of God in laying the glory of man in the dust, and doing for man that which it is not in his power to do for himself. When men see their own nothingness, they are prepared to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ</i>” (FLB 111.2)</p> <p data-bbox="659 753 1325 785">God is most glorified when we are most satisfied in Him.</p> <p data-bbox="659 823 1393 886">Also emphasizes that the “hour of His judgment” is good news because...</p> <ul data-bbox="708 890 1430 1262" style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus Christ wants to return to correct all the injustices of this world. • Jesus Christ wants to save everyone in a way that justifies God. • Jesus Christ received on Calvary’s cross the judgment of God’s wrath that we deserve. Because we owed a debt we could not pay, he paid a debt He did not owe. • In the judgment Jesus presents the merits of His shed blood as the only just reason for our salvation. • Jesus Christ wants to dispense all the benefits of His covenant to His children. <p data-bbox="659 1299 1430 1430">“<i>...the uplifted Saviour is to appear in His efficacious work as the Lamb slain, sitting upon the throne, to dispense the priceless covenant blessings, the benefits He died to purchase for every soul who should believe on Him</i>” (TM 92).</p> <p data-bbox="659 1467 1357 1530">Also emphasizes the security we have in Jesus Christ now – based on His atonement:</p> <p data-bbox="659 1568 1422 1814">“<i>The Father gave all honour to His Son, seating Him at His right hand, far above all principalities and powers. He expressed His great joy and delight in receiving the Crucified One, and crowning Him with glory and honour. And all the favours He has shown to His Son in His acceptance of the great atonement are shown to His people... God loves them as He loves His Son. The seal of Heaven has been affixed to Christ’s atonement. His sacrifice is in every way satisfactory. In Him mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. The Father embraced His Son, and in this included all who receive Him</i>” (BEcho, May 22, 1899).</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">The Conventional Version</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Undiluted (full strength) Version</p>
<p>Sees the sins of Babylon primarily as false doctrine.</p> <p>“Come out of her my people.” Correctly appeals to people to leave churches where false doctrines are taught in order to come to the remnant church.</p>	<p>Also sees ‘sin’ as...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • addictive – a dependence on possessions, people, places, power, and position to meet our deepest needs. • as captivity - any bondage that restricts our true freedom in Christ, including the bondage of bitterness and unforgiveness toward those who have hurt us. <p>Also appeals to all people to come to Jesus Christ to find their truest joy and deepest satisfaction only in Him: “<i>And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come</i>”(Revelation 2:17).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Third Angel’s Message:</u></p> <p>Correctly identifies the beast as the R.C. Church and its resurgence of political and religious power in the last days.</p> <p>Correctly notes the religious and spiritual abuses of the R.C. Church throughout its history.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The elevation of Mary • The role of the priesthood. • The usurping of God’s authority by the replacement of the Sabbath. • Dependence on the institution of the church and its sacraments for salvation. • Persecution of those who do not conform. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Third Angel’s Message:</u></p> <p>Also seeks to discover the <u>principles</u> of the beast - the replacement and substitution of Christ’s redemptive work wherever it occurs in human life and experience.</p> <p>Also notes that the primary attack of the beast is on the redemptive work of Christ on Calvary’s cross and His mediatorial work in the heavenly sanctuary. (Revelation 13:8).</p> <p>The beast “<i>opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven</i>” (Revelation 13:8). To blaspheme is to seek to do Christ’s work for him. Since it is Christ’s work to save, is it not also possible that we unwittingly may also be guilty of blasphemy if we try to save ourselves?</p> <p>Also teaches that the third angel’s message is “<i>justification by faith in verity</i>” (Review and Herald, April 1, 1890). Also teaches the cruciality of Christ’s imputed righteousness (justification) for victory over the beast.</p> <p>“<i>The thought that the righteousness of Christ is imputed to us, not because of any merit on our part, but as a free gift from God, is a precious thought. The enemy of God and man is not willing that this truth should be clearly presented; for he knows that if the people receive it fully, his power will be broken</i>” (The Faith I Live By, p. 111)</p> <p>To worship the beast is to depend on methods of salvation that displace the redemptive work of Christ’s atonement on the cross and in the heavenly sanctuary.</p> <p>Also notes that we may unknowingly sometimes be guilty of some the same practices. Seeks to discern the principles of the beast wherever they may occur in our own lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we ever use the methods of the beast to do the work of the Lamb? • Are any of the traits of the beast present in our own lives: force, fear, threat, coercion, intimidation, manipulation? • Do we ever seek to control the lives of others?

<p style="text-align: center;">The Conventional Version</p> <p>Correctly shows the activities of the beast through Sunday-legislation and last-day persecution of God’s people</p> <p>Correctly teaches people to be alert to the deceptions of the beast, particular events that forge stronger ties between church and state to control the minds and consciences of people.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Undiluted (full strength) Version</p> <p>Also seeks to detect and overcome all beastlike behaviors in our own lives and churches. “...you bite and devour one another...” (Gal.5:15) “beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!” (Philippians 3:2).</p> <p>“Any man, be he minister or layman, who seeks to compel or control the reason of any other man, becomes an agent of Satan, to do his work, and in the sight of the heavenly universe he bears the mark of Cain” (MS 29, 1911).</p> <p>“There can be no more conclusive evidence that we possess the spirit of Satan than the disposition to hurt and destroy those who do not appreciate our work, or who act contrary to our ideas.” DA 487.</p> <p>Also teaches people that the best preparation against the worship of the beast is the genuine worship of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.</p> <p>Shows the sufficiency of Jesus Christ for everything, so there is no need to worship substitutes and replacements that cannot deliver what only Jesus Christ promises.</p>
<p><u>The Patience of the Saints</u></p> <p>Rarely, if ever, mentioned.</p>	<p><u>The Patience of the Saints</u> is also patience <u>with</u> the saints. Patience is to accept difficult situations without giving God a deadline to meet them. Patience is to trust in the sovereignty of our God without running ahead of Him by taking matters into our own hands. Lack of patience is lack of faith.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">The Conventional Version</p> <p><u>The Faith of Jesus:</u></p> <p>Tends to sometimes teach that the ‘faith of Jesus’ is the knowledge of correct doctrine.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Undiluted (full strength) Version</p> <p><u>The Faith of Jesus:</u></p> <p>Also teaches that genuine faith is fully trusting in Christ’s covenant faithfulness.</p> <p>“It is not enough to believe about Christ; we must believe in Him. The only faith that will benefit us is that which embraces Him as a personal Saviour; which appropriates His merits to ourselves. Many hold faith as an opinion. Saving faith is a transaction by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God. Genuine faith is life. A living faith means an increase of vigor, a confiding trust, by which the soul becomes a conquering power. (DA 347.1)</p>

Preparation for Last-day Events:

May sometimes tend to teach people to believe that their alertness to ‘breaking news’ of prophetic fulfillments is the best preparation for last-day events.

May lead to unhealthy fear, stress and apprehension.

May depend on the turmoil of impending last-day events to bring about conviction of sin and repentance.

May lead to spiritual illness, distrust of God and others, anxiety, and a false sense of security resting on pride of opinion in believing that knowledge of correct doctrines and membership in the right church is sufficient for salvation and an adequate preparation for last-day events.

Preparation for Last-day Events:

Also teaches that the best preparation for last-day events is to intimately know and trust Jesus Christ, clinging with confidence to Him, believing that He is for us, not against us.

“The shortness of time is frequently urged as an incentive for seeking righteousness and making Christ our friend. This should not be the great motive with us; for it savors of selfishness. Is it necessary that the terrors of the day of God should be held before us, that we may be compelled to right action through fear? It ought not to be so. Jesus is attractive. He is full of love, mercy, and compassion. He proposes to be our friend, to walk with us through all the rough pathways of life. He says to us, I am the Lord thy God; walk with Me, and I will fill thy path with light. Jesus, the Majesty of heaven, proposes to elevate to companionship with Himself those who come to Him with their burdens, their weaknesses, and their cares. He will count them as His children, and finally give them an inheritance of more value than the empires of kings, a crown of glory richer than has ever decked the brow of the most exalted earthly monarch.” (EGW, LHU 98.3).

“The mighty argument of the cross will convict of sin” (4T375).

Spiritual health is to know that our God is BIG enough to handle anything. This truth saves us from the life-damaging consequences of trying to play God. The key to all spiritual health is Christ’s atonement at the cross and in the heavenly sanctuary.

The Conventional Version	The Undiluted (full strength) Version
<p><u>The fruit of the three angels' messages:</u></p> <p>May lead to unhealthy fear and apprehension.</p> <p>May teach people to rely more on knowing the timetable of last-day events than in trusting Jesus.</p> <p>May lead people to have assurance of salvation based on believing the correct doctrines and by being members of the right church.</p> <p>May lead to spiritually sick churches.</p> <p><i>"...churches are dying for the want of teaching on the subject of righteousness by faith in Christ, and on kindred truths (GW 30).</i></p>	<p><u>The fruit of the three angels' messages:</u></p> <p>Leads to positive love, joy, and trust in Christ – the fruit of the Spirit.</p> <p>Also teaches people to know the Conductor, Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Leads to solid assurance of salvation through the certainty of Christ's atoning death on Calvary's cross. <i>"On Christ the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand."</i></p> <p>Leads to spiritually healthy churches:</p> <p><i>"The atonement of Christ is not a mere skillful way to have our sins pardoned; it is a divine remedy for the cure of transgression and the restoration of <u>spiritual health</u>. It is the Heaven-ordained means by which the righteousness of Christ may be not only upon us but in our hearts and characters" (Letter 406, 1906; 6BC 1074).</i></p> <p>Leads to contagious personal testimonies of Jesus.</p> <p><i>Our confession of His faithfulness is Heaven's chosen agency for revealing Christ to the world. We are to acknowledge His grace as made known through the holy men of old; but that which will be most effectual is the testimony of our own experience. We are witnesses for God as we reveal in ourselves the working of a power that is divine. Every individual has a life distinct from all others, and an experience differing essentially from theirs. God desires that our praise shall ascend to Him, marked by our own individuality. These precious acknowledgments to the praise of the glory of His grace, when supported by a Christ-like life, have an irresistible power that works for the salvation of souls. (DA 347).</i></p>

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