



Three Angels? Why?

By Darrin Bartell

As Seventh-day Adventists we emphasize the three angel's messages of Revelation 14. It is essentially a backdrop for our mission and a context for our activities as a church organization. As a believer in the relevancy of the three angel's messages, both historically and for our time, I have sought for a Biblical foundation or license for emphasizing the truths of the three angels. Where can such Biblical backing be found?

Following are presented three passages of scripture. The first two show the gospel commission in Matthew and Mark and the third, in Revelation, gives the introduction for the 1st of the three angel's messages.

“Go ye therefore, and *teach all nations*, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you*: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Mat 28:19,20

“Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and **preach the gospel to every creature.**” Mar 16:14,15

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having **the everlasting gospel to preach** unto *them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,*” Rev 14:6

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Are We in the Faith?

From Bible Training School, August 1, 1912

We love Him, because He first loved us.” It is impossible for us to believe that Jesus endured the untold agonies of the cross for us, without having our hearts melted in love for Him. And if we love Him, we shall be solicitous to please Him, to obey Him. The heart stirred by the love of Christ will earnestly inquire, “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?”

Dear brethren, “examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith.” Many respond, ““Why, yes, I am in the faith; I believe every point of the truth.” But do you practise what you believe? Are you at peace with God and your brethren? Can you pray with sincerity, “Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors”? Or are you estranged from your brother, because you think he has injured you? Are there no heart-burnings among you? Is there no bitterness in your hearts, no envy, no jealousy, no evil surmising, no misjudging of your brethren? Is there no emulation, no desire for special favor or honors, no wish to have the supremacy? These feelings should not exist among Christians.

Jesus, who died for us, loves us with a love that is infinite; and we must love one another. We must put away all selfishness, and work together in love and unity. We have loved and petted ourselves, and excused ourselves in waywardness; but we have been unmerciful toward our brethren, who may not be as faulty as ourselves. The Lord loves us, and bears with us, even when we are ungrateful to Him, forgetful of His mercies, wickedly unbelieving; but consider, brethren, how relentless we are to one another, how pitiless; how we hurt and wound one another, when we should love as Christ has loved us. Let us make a complete change. Let us cultivate the precious plant of love, and delight to help one another. We must be kind, forbearing, patient with one another's errors; we must keep our sharp criticisms for ourselves, but hope all things of our brethren.

Some of you seem to be earnestly seeking forgiveness of sins, for freedom in God. Do you deserve the pardon that you are seeking?—No, you do not; nevertheless. God is willing to grant it freely. And dare you withhold from your brethren the forgiveness and affection of which you do not think them worthy? Would you have God deal thus with you? Deal with your brethren as you wish God to deal with you. If we expect our prayers for forgiveness to be heard, we must offer them in a forgiving spirit. We must forgive others in the same manner, and to the same extent, that we ourselves hope to be forgiven. The hard-heartedness that

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From the above passages we find the following comparisons:

	Matt 28	Mark 16	Rev 14
Messenger	"Go ye"	"the eleven", "go ye"	"angel"
Audience	"teach all nations", "teaching them"	"into all the world", "to every creature"	"them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,"
Message	"to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:"	"preach the gospel"	"the everlasting gospel to preach"

Now the following questions will be applied to Matthew and Mark:

1. Who is to do the "going"? - Messengers
2. Who is to be their audience? - Audience
3. What are they to present? - Message

Answers for passages from Matthew 28 and Mark 16:

1. Jesus is speaking to the eleven disciples – His followers.
2. Jesus tells His followers that they are to teach all nations, to go into all the world, to every creature.
3. They are to present all things that were commanded to them. They are to present the gospel.

What amazing parallels are seen here between Jesus' own words to His disciples and the words in Revelation? Applying the same questions to Revelation 14 we find the following answers:

1. (To be interpreted)
2. They that dwell on the world to all people.
3. The everlasting gospel.

The passages in Matthew and Mark have a message and an audience that match the message and audience of Revelation 14. As these two elements of the passage match we then allow the remaining, literal, element from Matthew and Mark (i.e. "ye") to interpret the remaining symbolic element from Revelation (i.e. "angel"). The symbolic language of Revelation, specifically "angel", or "ang'-el-os" in the Greek can be translated as "messenger." This is essentially what Jesus was commanding the disciples to become in Matthew and Mark. With this understanding I can conclude that the symbol of the angel in Revelation 14 could very well represent Jesus' disciples. It is of key importance to understand who the "angel" or messenger represents in Revelation because it is this understanding that will bear the weight of scrutiny as to why a church can emphasize so heavily this portion of scripture. In the case of the angel of Revelation it would not refer to the early eleven disciples Jesus spoke to before His ascension, but rather to His disciples at the end of time. This is further confirmed by Jesus' own words to His eleven disciples when He said in Matt 28:20: "...and, lo, I am with you always, **even unto the end of the world.** Amen."

Jesus will have disciples at the end of the world for He has promised to be with them even to that time. Therefore the symbol of the angel in chapter 14 of this end-time book of Revelation, given to prepare an end-time people, represents God's faithful followers and disciples at the end of time. Revelation 12 further illuminates these faithful followers at the end of time and refers to them as the "remnant" who are faithfully keeping the commandments of God and who also have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Since angels represent Jesus' faithful followers and messengers at the end of time, we find then that His disciples at the end of time are not only heralding the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ, as found in the first angel, but now Jesus has added additional "present truth" messages for His disciples to proclaim. These additional messages are found summarized in the exclamations of the 2nd and 3rd angel's messages of Revelation 14 and the expansion of the 2nd angel's message in Revelation 18 under the exclamation of the 4th angel.

In conclusion, the three angel's messages are rightly emphasized by the Seventh-day Adventist church. His faithful followers, disciples, messengers, remnant will be proclaiming the very messages Jesus has given them to proclaim. The disciples/messengers gave the message entrusted to them before Jesus' ascension and now His angels/messengers must again pronounce the messages given them before His return. ❖



Darrin Bartell is an evangelist with Amazing Facts. He will be conducting a Prophecy Seminar sponsored by the Three Angels SDA Church – Owasso beginning October 19th, 2007. Look for more information in future issues.

Cambodia Bible Worker

By Alfonso Orellana

"Cambodia is among the poorest countries in the world. The people have suffered some of the worst atrocities in human history. In an attempt to alleviate the pain caused by poverty, hunger and disease, Adventist Southeast Asia Projects (ASAP) sponsored national workers compassionately reach out to many Cambodians. They fervently share the gospel's hope to whoever will listen. The Lord greatly blessed their evangelistic endeavors last year, resulting in the baptism of 2,100 people and many new churches planted." www.asapministries.org

As we continued to pray for the Lord's leading in the mission He has given us, we have been impressed to support foreign missions. The Lord confirmed this when we read the following passage:

THREE ANGELS KITCHEN

Very Berry Banana Smoothie

Source: www.vegweb.com

Ingredients:

- 6 to 8 oz. almond milk (you can use soy or rice milk)
- 1 banana
- handful of strawberries, fresh
- handful of blackberries, fresh
- handful of cherries, frozen
- 2 tablespoons ground flaxseed
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 scoop of soy protein powder

Directions:

Pour the milk in a blender, and add the banana, the strawberries, blackberries, cherries. Then, add the flaxseed, the vanilla extract, and the protein powder. Let it blend to your desired consistency.

Serves: 1

Preparation time: 5 minutes. ❖



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

July

- 6 – Howard Waldorf
- 13 – Michael Strack
- 17 – Christine Peck
- 24 – Derek Turnham
- 31 – Chuck Hagen

The home missionary work will be farther advanced in every way when a more liberal, self-denying, self-sacrificing spirit is manifested for the prosperity of foreign missions; for the prosperity of the home work depends largely, under God, upon the reflex influence of the evangelical work done in countries afar off. It is in working actively to supply the necessities of the cause of God that we bring our souls in touch with the Source of all power.

An American business man, who was an earnest Christian, in conversation with a fellow worker, remarked that he himself worked for Christ twenty-four hours of the day. "In all my business relations," he said, "I try to represent my Master. As I have opportunity, I try to win others to Him. All day I am working for Christ. And at night, while I sleep, I have a man working for Him in China." In explanation, He added: "In my youth I determined to go as a missionary to the heathen. But on the death of my father I had to take up his business in order to provide for the family. Now, instead of going myself, I support a missionary. In such a town of such a province of China, my worker is stationed. And so, even while I sleep, I am, through my representative, still working for Christ."

Are there not Seventh-day Adventists who will do likewise? Instead of keeping the ministers at work for the churches that already know the truth, let the members of the churches say to these laborers: "Go work for souls that are perishing in darkness. We ourselves will carry forward the services of the church. We will keep up the meetings, and, by abiding in Christ, will maintain spiritual life. We will work for souls that are about us, and we will send our prayers and our gifts to sustain the laborers in more needy and destitute fields. *Christian Service*, p. 170,171

So, in May our church began supporting a Bible worker in Cambodia through the ministry of Adventist Southeast Asia Projects (ASAP). In this way, we are practically working for the Lord 24 hours a day! It has been a blessing to see the willingness of each church member to support this important ministry in Cambodia. If you would like to know more about this project and would like to contribute, please join us Sabbath mornings at 9:30 AM for amazing mission reports from around the world and for information on how to contribute, or write us at info@t3asda.org.

Some facts about Cambodia:

- Population: 13,607,069
- Below Poverty Line: 40% of the Population
- Religion: Theravada Buddhist 95%, Other 5%
- SDA Members: 5,648 ❖

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Healthy Choices Cooking Classes

Place: Three Angels SDA Church - Owasso
 Time: Sunday, July 29 (2-4 PM). This is the final presentation so don't miss it!

Come enjoy health videos by renowned doctors and health professionals as well as food samples, gift drawings, and more!



Amazing Facts – Bible Answers Live

Here's another witnessing opportunity for you! On Sunday July 29 at 7 AM we will begin re-broadcasting Amazing Facts' Bible Answers Live right here in the greater Tulsa area. The program will be aired every Sunday on KAKC 1300 AM. Tune in and tell your family and friends!

Revelation Seminar

Place: Three Angels SDA Church – Owasso
 Time: Each Wednesday at 7:00 PM

Each Wednesday evening, we delve into the fascinating prophecies of the book of Revelation using a question and answer format with a colorful study guide for each lesson. These in-depth studies will provide you will valuable insights crucial to our times. Come join us as we pray and study together to learn what God has to share with us in these last days of earth's history.



Stop Smoking Seminar

Place: Three Angels SDA Church – Owasso
 Time: Program begins August 9, 2007 / 7:00 p.m.

OKTruth.org in Owasso is holding a stop smoking clinic using material based on Dr. Arthur Weaver's highly successful "Breathe Free" seminars to help individuals quit smoking. There is no charge for the series, however donations are encouraged.

The program is scheduled for 7 days, August 9, August 13-17, and August 20, 2007. Each class runs about 1 hour beginning at 7:00 p.m. Space is limited. Call now for early registration, 918-809-9295. Or visit us online at www.oktruth.org

professed Christians manifest toward one another is not Christlike, but savors of the satanic. We must every one of us open our hearts wide to the love of Jesus, and encourage pity and affection for our brethren.

It was "while we were yet sinners," that "Christ died for us." In view of His unmerited love and mercy toward us, how can we cherish malice, or even one feeling of unkindness toward our brethren, the purchase of His blood? Let us put away all suspicion and hatred, and all feelings of bitterness, even toward our worst enemies, those who seek to do us harm. But, brethren, do not wait until the heart is in harmony with your brother before you come to Jesus; for it is His spirit and power working in you that will give you the victory.

Many are filled with self-importance, and esteem themselves above their brethren. Such should let self die; let the carnal mind be crucified. If you have enmity, suspicion, envy, and jealousy in your hearts, you have a work to do. Confess your sins; come into harmony with your brethren. Speak well of them. Throw out no unfavorable hints, no suggestions that will awaken distrust in the minds of others. Guard their reputation as sacredly as you would have them guard yours; love them as you would be loved of Jesus. Work for their interest, instead of seeking to tear them down, that you may build up self on their ruins. Satan is an accuser of the brethren, and he loves to have you help him. But disappoint him; do not let him triumph over you. ❖

And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with him a hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. (Revelation 14:1)

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Worship Schedule

Saturday (Sabbath)

Sabbath School.....9:30am
 Main Worship Service.....10:45am

Wednesday

Prayer Meeting.....7:00pm

Send comments/suggestions about this newsletter to alfonsoorellana@msn.com

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

