

Revelation's HOPE

Lesson 13: The Three Angels of Revelation

I. Introduction

A. Little Horn Summary: Little horn of **Daniel 7** and the Beast of **Revelation 13** represent the medieval church of Rome. This power had the height of its reign from 538-1798 but was dealt a deadly wound. However, we cannot be quick to count out this major player in Christian history. For its wound is healed and it rises to worldwide power at the end. It is in this context that God sends His Angels / Messengers to share the everlasting gospel.

B. Revelation 14

“And I saw, and behold, the Lamb standing on the mount Zion, and with him a hundred and forty and four thousand, having his name, and the name of his Father, written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and the voice which I heard was as the voice of harpers harping with their harps. ³ and they sing as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four living creatures and the elders: and no man could learn the song save the hundred and forty and four thousand, even they that had been purchased out of the earth” (**Revelation 14:1-4**, ASV)

- 144,000 true followers of Jesus and worship before Him.
- Where? Mt. Zion.
- Not the first time this has been mentioned in the Bible. No I am not thinking of Rev. 7→

C. Revival in the Last days

“This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: ² In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. ³ Many peoples will come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.’ The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples” (**Isa 2:1-4**, NIV)

- “but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe” (**Heb 1:2** NIV).
- The Last days began with the coming of Jesus the first time. The world has been accelerating towards its ultimate END since then.
- What about the law going out from Zion? What is Zion?

C. Zion

“But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³ to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect” (**Heb 12:22** NIV).

- Zion = the Church. The Law will go out from the Church and the “word of the Lord” = true revival as lives are changed!
- But is this just for “jews”?

D. All Nations

- “. . . all nations will stream to it” (**Isaiah 2:2**).
- “Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD” (**Isa 2:1** NIV).
- Definite parallels to the Three Angel’s messages of Revelation 14 →

E. Parallels

Isaiah 2	Revelation 14
Time: Last Days (after time of Jesus)	Time: Last Days (just before Harvest)
Audience: All nations	Audience: All nations
Message: Worship / Learn ways of Creator	Message: Worship / Learn ways of Creator
Special focus: Judgment	Special focus: Judgment
Zion = Church	Zion = Church
Visible evidence of allegiance	Visible evidence of allegiance

II. A Closer Look at Revelation 14

“These [144,000] were purchased from among men, to be the firstfruits unto God and unto the Lamb. ⁵ And in their mouth was found no lie: they are without blemish. ⁶ And I saw another angel flying in mid heaven, having eternal good tidings to proclaim unto them that dwell on the earth, and unto every nation and tribe and tongue and people; ⁷ and he saith with a great voice, Fear God, and give him glory; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made the heaven and the earth and sea and fountains of waters” (**Rev. 14:5-7**).

A. Key Words

- Angel = angelos / messenger / envoy (**Matt. 28** = Church)
- **Everlasting Gospel**
- Every nation (like **Isaiah 2**)
- Give Glory to God (linked to gospel)
- Judgment is come (we learned this became the focus of the plan of Salvation around 1844).
- Worship Him who made (Creator)
- **The heaven, earth, sea and fountains of water.**

B. The Everlasting Gospel

- Through Jesus we can be free!

- 1 Corinthians **15:3-4**: Jesus is risen and has POWER He wishes to give to us to live victorious lives!
- Please understand, our faith is dependent upon what Christ did for us not what we do for Him. However, this faith in Jesus changes us (**Galatians 2:20**)!
- We accept Jesus' gift of life, we also accept His perfect life record. So, in the judgment the universe sees Jesus' record not ours! That's why Good News is linked with the Judgment
- How can you have peace? The everlasting Gospel!
- What does the gospel look like in my life? **Ephesians 2:8-10**: You are created for good works = you become HIS workmanship!
- **Revelation 14** – you worship Him as the Creator
- **Revelation 14** – you “fear” or reverence God.
- Fear God and keep His commandments (**Ecclesiastes 12:13**).
- **Proverbs 3:1** – Let your heart keep His commandments
- **Revelation 14:12** – God's people at the end are seen as ones who keep ALL of God's commandments.
- This is not just a mental belief by itself. It is a mental belief that shows itself in Corresponding Action! The challenge is then both remember and do as He has asked us!

III. Monument

A. Mount Rushmore:

“A monument's dimensions should be determined by the importance to the civilization of the events commemorated. We are not here trying to carve an epic, portray a moonlit scene, or write a sonnet; neither are we dealing with mystery or tragedy, but rather the construction and dramatic moments or crises in our amazing history”

Gutzon Borghum

B. God's Monument

“Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. ² By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done” (**Gen 2:1** NIV).

C. Given personally to ALL mankind

“And Jehovah God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. . .” (**Gen. 2:15**).

- “Took” – word is sometimes used when referring to a marriage: husband “taking” a wife. Commitment & deep relationship.
- “Put” = “settle down, rest”. “Eden” = Delight. They were made on 6th day and rested with God on 7th!
- Where do we see the monument next?

D. Before the establishment of the Hebrew nation.

“Six days you are to gather it [manna], but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any” (**Exo 16:26** NIV).

- Notice this is before establishment of nation and Sinai.

E. Next we find this monument in the 10 commandments etched on stone

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner (all nations) residing in your towns" (**Exo 20:8-10 NIV**). WHY REST?

F. Why Rest

"For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy" (**Exo 20:11 NIV**).

- Just like 1st Angel of Rev. 14
- The Creator made this rest day – WHO is the creator?

G. The Creator

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (**Joh 1:1 NIV**).

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (**Joh 1:14 NIV**).

¹¹ "Worthy art thou, our Lord and our God [Jesus], to receive the glory and the honor and the power: for thou didst create all things, and because of thy will they were, and were created" (**Rev 4:1-11 ASV**)

- Sabbath is Jesus' day Remember→

H. Words of Jesus

"For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath" (**Mat 12:8 NIV**).

- What was His intention for the Sabbath?

"Then he said to them, 'The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath'" (**Mar 2:27 NIV**).

- Jesus wanted ALL to enjoy rest, joy and peace with Him!

IV. Which Day is the Lord's Day?

A. Not the Preparation day:

"Going to Pilate, he [Joseph] asked for Jesus' body. ⁵³ Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. ⁵⁴ It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin. . ." (**Luke 23:52-54**).

- Notice Jesus dies on the "Preparation day" = called good Friday. This is not the Sabbath.

B. Leading up to the Sabbath when Jesus was in the tomb

". . . The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. ⁵⁶ Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment" (**Luk 23:52-56 NIV**).

- It is the day after the Preparation day. The text is more specific→

C. First day of the week

"On the first day of the week [first after the Sabbath], very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone

rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus” (Luk 24:1-3 NIV).

- First day of the week: “first after the Sabbath”, mia ton sabbaton.

D. The sequence



- You will find Greek, Jewish and Christian sources attesting to the actual day we call Saturday and time has not been lost. Of course Sabbath begins at sundown (like creation week). Sabbath = sundown Friday to sundown Saturday.

E. Does it matter?

- The Sabbath is the “Sign of the cross of Calvary”! Jesus completed the work of Salvation and chose to rest in the tomb on the Sabbath! It must have been important to Him!!
- Every week we are reminded of our need of Jesus for both our physical and spiritual deficiencies. We are wholly dependent upon Him as we lay aside our acquisition of wealth and worldly possessions. In this way our physical act solidifies our commitment to Jesus as our Savior each week and serves as a reminder of His great love. Additionally, after resting we go forth refreshed and in the newness of life that only He can provide. The Sabbath truly is the Sign of the cross of Calvary because it points to HIM!

E. Parallels to the Cross

Cross	Sabbath
Origin – Before the creation of the world (Revelation 13:8)	Before the creation of the world (since Jesus was before our world existed and this is His day)
Access to merits of cross – by faith and trust	Access to rest in Christ – by faith and trust
Historical process: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jesus died on the preparation day having completed the work of salvation 2. Jesus rested in the tomb on 	Historical process <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We complete our work and rest in the knowledge of His salvation 2. We put aside our work physically and trust Him

<p>Sabbath</p> <p>3. Jesus resurrected / had newness of life after resting on Sabbath.</p>	<p>completely for spiritual and physical salvation</p> <p>3. As Sabbath ends, we begin a new week with Him.</p>
<p>Duration – The Cross will stand as a monument of mercy for eternity</p>	<p>Duration – the Sabbath will stand as a monument in time for eternity (Is. 66).</p>

V. Has it ever changed? Jesus does not (**Hebrews 13:8**)

A. Many examples in the New Testament

“Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath” (**Mat 24:20 NIV**). Matthew did not interject Sunday for Sabbath. It had not changed almost 30 years after the cross when Matthew wrote. Also, Jesus saw them still keeping it when Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D.

- The book of Acts records many instances of Sabbath keeping.
- **Acts 13:14** – Paul spoke two Sabbaths in a row
- **Acts 16:12&13** – Phillipi keeping it by river 22yrs. After resurrection.

B. More from Acts

"When they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures" (**Acts 17:1-2**). 3 Sabbaths in one place.

"Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.... Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.... So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God" (**Acts 18:1, 4, 11**).

- 78 Sabbaths in one place!

C. *What about the First day?*

- Six out of 8 verses referring to the 1st day are in the Gospels and read almost like the one we read a few moments ago in Luke, where it says that on the first day of the week the disciples came to the tomb and found Jesus had been raised.
- Each time in the gospels it says “first day after the Sabbath” when referring to the Sunday.
- The others are in **1 Cor. 16 and Acts 20**.
- We will look at each one closely

D. I Corinthians 16

“Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. ² On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. ³ Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you

approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴ If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me" (1Co 16:1-4, NIV).

- Collection for Jerusalem. Does not say offering plate or "money" (mammon).
Another translation→

² "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come" (1Co 16:1 KJV).

- These are agrarian terms. The first day of the week was seen as a secular work day. Harvesting and exchanging for money would take place on that day. Jerusalem = famine. Some food would go too
- "Lay by himself" – they were doing it individually, not corporately at a religious meeting. In fact, there is no mention of a religious meeting or that this was a "holy" day. It appears to be a work day.

E. Acts 20

"On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. ⁸ There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting. ⁹ Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead" (Acts 20:7-10).

- First day = day after Sabbath; break bread = they did this daily. Dark = Saturday night after Sabbath.

". . . Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. 'Don't be alarmed,' he said. 'He's alive!' ¹¹ Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left. ¹² The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted. We went on ahead to the ship and sailed for Assos, where we were going to take Paul aboard. He had made this arrangement because he was going there on foot" (Act 20:11-13 NIV).

- What a revival! Definitely a farewell. What did Paul do on Sunday morning?
Walk 15 miles!

VI. What about the "Lord's Day"?

A. Revelation 1

"On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet" (Rev 1:10 NIV).

- No mention of Sunday – "first after the Sabbath"
- Closest we have the "Lord's day" is In Isaiah and when Jesus calls says He is Lord of the Sabbath.

"If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the LORD's holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words. . ." (Isa 58:13 NIV).

- This is the same 7th day Sabbath Jesus said He was Lord of. That is why it is the Lord's day! It is the same day John had the WHOLE VISION of Creator worship – in fact He was likely worshipping the Creator on Sabbath!

B. Where did the Sunday come from?

- Jews and Christians worshipped together

- Jews began to rebel against Rome and persecution came.
- This led to anti-Semitism
- Barnabas in 135 AD: Jews were “wretched men”, deluded by an angel and “were abandoned” by God.
- Justin Martyr in 150 AD: “As I stated before, it was by reason of your sins and the sins of your fathers that, among other precepts, God imposed upon you the observance of the Sabbath as a mark. . . The purpose of this was that you and only you might suffer the afflictions that are now justly yours; that only your land be desolated, and your cities ruined. . . By fire. . . That not one of you be permitted to enter your city of Jerusalem”.
- Sabbath was losing favor in the Christian Church.
- Rome = most were pagan converts and worshipped the sun and venerated Sunday. Sabbath = private observance or a fast day.
- 4th Century, Constantine passed a law: “All judges and city people and the craftsmen shall rest upon the venerable day of the sun. Country people, however, may freely attend to the cultivation of the field” (Joseph Cullen Ayer, A Source Book for Ancient Church History, 284-285).
- In 364 AD, Council of Laodicea in Rome: “Christians must not Judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, rather honoring the Lord’s Day; and, if they can, resting then as Christians. But if any shall be found Judaizers, let them be anathema from Christ”.
- How can the Church change one of God’s commandments? John Paul II: “God blessed the seventh day and made it holy. . . Sunday is the day of rest because it is the day blessed by God and made holy by Him”.
- Sunday from paganism and then it entered the Church→

C. The Little Horn / Medieval Church

- Remember the little horn power that would attempt to change the set times and laws (**Daniel 7**)? This is exactly what happened as prophesied!
- Attempt because you cannot change a birthday or anniversary! **Eternal Memorial**
- God’s Word predicted this and history reveals it. Not individuals but a power.
- What about the calendar change?

The Calendar Change  October 1582						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

D. A Call to REMEMBER:

- **Revelation 14:6 & Isaiah 66:** A call to remember the Creator
- There will be an attempt to call people back to Jesus and the experience of worshipping Him at the end of time. This will continue even beyond the New Earth.
- ⁸ “For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. ⁹ So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ¹⁰ for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his” (**Heb 4:1** ESV).
- What day? The day of salvation when Jesus died. Which He hearkens to us to remember. Which we are all given one day a week to commemorate.
- This rest brings us closer to Jesus and it remains for us to enter into both now & into eternity!
- “For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath” (**Mat 12:8** NIV).
- Jesus wanted ALL to enjoy rest, joy and peace with Him!
- “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (**Mat 11:28** ASV).

E. When is this call to remember given?

- **Revelation 14:12-13** tells us God's people will be obeying all of His commandments at the end of time. Verses 6-7 tell us they will be from all nations.
- **Revelation 14:14-16** tells us this group is there at the harvest.
- When is the Harvest? Jesus tells us it is the end of time: **Matthew 13:39**.
- **Isaiah 2 and 56** tells us ALL nations will enter into this rest at the end.
- Jesus has a rest for all nations at the end – why not enter now?
- If you see the Seventh-day is the Sabbath, then why not consider worshipping together with HIM on that day? Why not find people who also want to enter that rest?