



2023 Q2 Three Cosmic Messages: Lesson 3 The Everlasting Gospel

by Mark Cox

SABBATH

MEMORY TEXT: “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” Revelation 14:6

X MARKS THE SPOT

Revelation is written like a **Treasure Map** where **X Marks the Spot**. Right in the middle of Revelations is the **Three Angels Message** - Revelation 14: 6-12. I submit to you, the most important idea, “**The Everlasting Gospel**”, is where X marks the spot. [Don’t go by the chapter and verse numbers. They were added later]

Revelation is written in a literary poetic form called **Chiasm**, after the Greek letter **Chi**. Which looks like the English letter **X**.

The **First Half of Revelation** is **Historical** and the **Last Half of Revelation** is **Eschatological / End Time Events**

The subject matter of the first half **Reflects** or **Mirrors** the second half. There are **key words** and **phrases** in the first half that **Compare** and **Contrast** ideas in the second half.

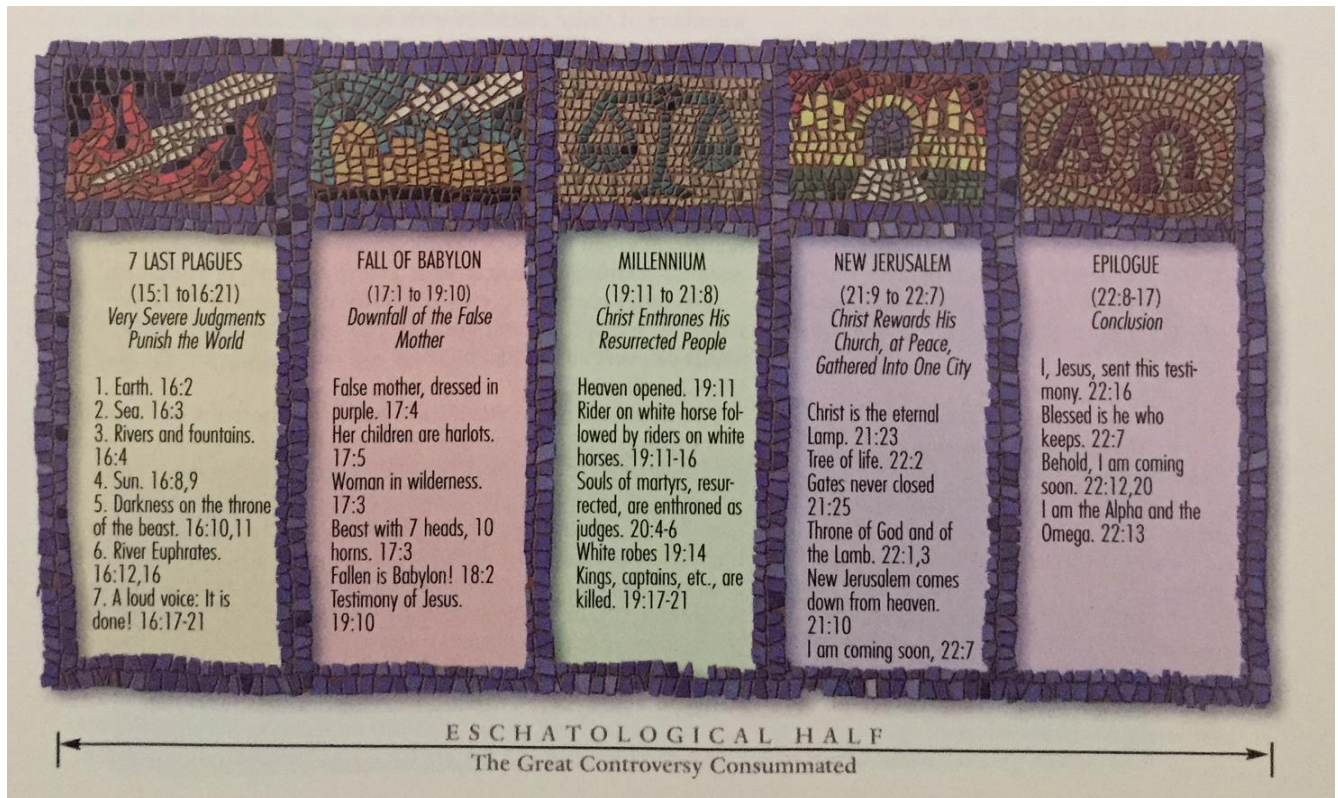
While many believe Revelation cannot be understood, the **poetic style** and **structure** tells us quite the opposite. Not only is Revelation written to be understood, it is written in **precise order** with **specific thoughts** to be **mastered by the reader** and **not forgotten**.

It is not written for the casual reader, it is written for the **seeker**. Like a **puzzle** it’s ideas are organized for the delight of **discovery**. Once fully realized the picture is complete and all the parts and pieces make a whole. Contemplating the meaning of the message is the time and challenge.

Far from being the ramblings of an old lonely prophet cast away on the isle of Patmos, Revelation is a **master piece** of **inspiration** and **symmetry**, with specific **order** and **organization** of thoughts and ideas.

Signs of the Times Special Edition - Revelation Chiasm

For your reference I have attempted to share with you a couple of pages from an old special edition of “Signs of the Times” that make my point for me. I apologies, I don’t have the exact date and issue.



The Chi in the Great Controversy

Our readers and listeners may find it interesting that the book “**The Great Controversy**” appears to be written in a similar **Chiastic Structure**. The first half is **Historical** while the last half is **Eschatological**.

I like to think of the **Great Controversy** as a **commentary** for the ideas in the book of Revelation. It amplifies and sharpens the issues of the **Cosmic Conflict**.

Seventh-day Adventist have come to identify with the “Three Angels Message” in our **origin, purpose** and **principles** preparing the world for **Jesus soon coming** and the **Final Conflict**. Over the years our **message and mission** has developed into a **corporate man made organization**, with a financial and legal structure that governs our operations. While the work of God should be orderly and organized for effective ministry, it is important to recognize God’s church of the last day believers will be defined by the **Character of a people** not by a building or a corporate organization. There will be a time when all man made structures and organization will **fail**, but the **origin, purpose** and **principles** of Gods Kingdom will endure until the end, and reach around the world, and be represented by a multitude that no man can number. People who have the **faith of Jesus and keep the commandments of God**. This is a church built up by the hand of God.



SUNDAY

A Grace-Filled Book of Hope

THE REVELATION OF JESUS

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—**things which must shortly take place**. And He sent and **signified it by His angel** to His servant John, who bore **witness to the word of God**, and to the **testimony of Jesus Christ**, to all things that he saw. Blessed is he who **reads** and those who **hear the words of this prophecy**, and **keep** those things which are written in it; for the **time is near**.” Rev. 1-3 NKJV

THE SIFTING

These truths, as presented in Revelation 14 in connection with “**the everlasting gospel**,” will **distinguish the church of Christ at the time of His appearing**. For as the result of the threefold message it is announced: “**Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus**.” And this **message is the last to be given** before the coming of the Lord. **Immediately following** its proclamation the Son of man is seen by the prophet, coming in glory to **reap the harvest of the earth**. – {GC 453.3}

Those who received the light concerning the **sanctuary** and the **immutability of the law of God** were filled with joy and wonder as they saw **the beauty and harmony of the system of truth** that opened to their understanding. They desired that **the light which appeared to them so precious** might be **imparted to all Christians**; and they **could not but believe that it would be joyfully accepted**. But **truths that would place them at variance with the world were not welcome to many who claimed to be followers of Christ**. **Obedience to the fourth commandment required a sacrifice from which the majority drew back**. – {GC 454.1}

THE WORLD DIVIDED.

Did you notice how the current events have effectively **polarized the world** and **sifted out people** from every back ground and organization. It didn't matter what country or state, business or church, race or creed, the world was divided into two classes of people because some believed in the vaccine and others did not. Even in the **Adventist Church** we were divided. What causes such a **devison even among fellow believers**. Our **Faith Tested!** Our **Truth Tested!** Our **Character Tested!**

THE THREE HEBREW WORTHIES WONT BEND THE KNEE TO SATAN.

It takes a particular kind of mind and heart to stand for truth against authoritarianism.

THE DECEPTION - God's Law operates the same as Man's Law is a lie.

That **the law** which was spoken by God's own voice is faulty, that some specification has been set aside, **is the claim** which Satan now puts forward. **It is the last great deception that he will bring upon the world**. He needs not to assail the whole law; if he can lead men to disregard one precept, his purpose is gained. For “whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.” [James 2:10](#). By consenting to break one precept, men are brought under Satan's power. **By substituting HUMAN LAW for GOD'S LAW, Satan**



will seek to control the world. This work is foretold in prophecy. Of the great apostate power which is the representative of Satan, it is declared, “He shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand.” [Daniel 7:25](#). – {DA 763.1}

Men will surely set up their laws to counter work the laws of God. They will seek to **compel the consciences of others**, and in their **zeal to enforce** these laws they will **oppress their fellow men**. – {DA 763.2}

The warfare against God’s law, which was begun in heaven, will be continued until the end of time. Every man will be **tested**. **Obedience or disobedience** is the **question** to be **decided** by the **whole world**. All will be called to choose between the **law of God** and the **laws of men**. **Here the dividing line will be drawn**. There will be but **TWO CLASSES**. Every character will be fully developed; and all will show whether they have chosen the side of **loyalty** or that of **rebellion**. – {DA 763.3}

Then the end will come.

TWO LAWS - Law of God and the Laws of Men.

Before we understand the deception we must understand the difference between the **Law of God** and **Laws of Man**. We must recognize how God’s law and mans law **operate** differently.

HOW GOD’S LAW OPERATES

I believe the simplest way to understand how Gods law operates is to understand **the idea of Wisdom introduced in scripture**.

OLD TESTAMENT CHI

Just as in **Revelation** where we see **one author’s** use of the **Chiastic structure** in the poetic form of **one book**, in the whole collection of **OT books**, we see the **Chiastic structure** in the **order** and **organization** of the **many authors** and **many books**. Another **X Marks the Spot** in the Old Testament - the Chiasm of the OT puts the book of **Proverbs** right in the middle of the Old Testament. From Genesis to Malachi there **39 books** and **Proverbs** is the center book, **number 20**.

17 Historical books - Genesis to Esther

5 Inner Experiences Books - Job, Psalms, **Proverbs**, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

17 Prophetic Books - Isaiah to Malachi

CHOKHMAH

The **Hebrew word** for **Wisdom** is - “**CHOKHMAH**” - it describes an **invisible, creative force** that guides people in how they should live. **You can’t see it**, like you **can’t see gravity**, but it is **there**, it is **everywhere** and it **affects everything** we do. The **Idea of Wisdom**, I would submit to you, is an understanding of “**Design Law**” or Natural Law. How God created **Reality to Operate** - God’s **Protocol for Life**.



Even more important, this **creative invisible power** is **not an impersonal force**. It is a **living attribute of God** that we can **experience**. It is a very **real, living, personal power** of God, that God used to **create the Universe**. God **wove** it into the **fabric of everything thing** and **how everything works**. Everything is **designed to exist in harmony** with **CHOKHMAH - Wisdom**

“The **fear** of the **Lord** is the **beginning** of **wisdom**, and **knowledge** of the **Holy One** is **understanding**.” Proverbs 9:10

To **know wisdom** is more than an **intellectual pursuit**. To **know wisdom** is to **know God** and to be **fully known by God**.

When we **live in harmony with Wisdom** there is **life** and when we **live out of harmony with Wisdom** there is **death**. There is an **inherent consequence** that **blesses** or **curses** our existence.

When we think of the **laws of God** we don't usually think of things like gravity, the **laws of physics** and **thermal dynamics**; the **laws of relationships** like truth and unselfishness love, forgiveness and trust; the **laws of Character development** such as our principles and habits; the **laws of health** such as our diet and exercise etc.. but these are all the **laws of God**, that **God designed into his creation**, that govern **Heaven and Earth**.

SCIENCE & RELIGION

The world promotes Science against Religion, but in **CHOKHMAH - Wisdom** they cannot be divided. They are the same. They are in synch with God's design or not.

LIVING OUT OF HARMONY WITH GOD

John tells us in 1 John 3:4 “Whosoever committeth Sin transgresseth also the law: for Sin is the **transgression of the law**.” **Transgression** is a **Violation of Trust** in our **relationships** with God, our **relationships** with one another and ourself. Yes we can break trust with ourself by not being honest with ourself.

John is referring to God's **Law of Love (Relationships)** not God's **Ten Commandments (Behaviors)**. Thus the Command to **Love God and others as our self**.

In the book **Steps to Christ**, **Ellen White** makes that clear.

“**God made man perfectly holy and happy**; and the fair earth, as it came from the **Creator's hand**, bore no blight of decay or shadow of the curse. **It is TRANSGRESSION of God's law—the LAW OF LOVE—that has brought woe and death**. Yet even amid the suffering that **results from sin**, God's love is revealed. It is written that God cursed the ground for man's sake. [Genesis 3:17](#). ...”— {SC 9.3}

NOTICE how she describes **Gods law of love** in the **context of Creation**. “**God is Love**” His **Law is love**, a personal attribute of God. I would submit to you this is an understanding of **CHOKHMAH - Wisdom**, that God has **woven into Faith, Character and our Relationships**.



Psalms 1:But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; **Psalms 19:**The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul..... **Psalms 119:**97 O how I love thy law!

Rom. 13:10 love does no harm to its neighbor. **Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law** Gal. 5:14 **The entire Law summed up in a single command:** "Love your neighbor as yourself." James 2:8 **The Royal Law** "Love your neighbor as yourself " Mat. 22:37-40 / Lev. 19:18 / Deut. 6:5 "Love the Lord Your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. **This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like unto it:** Love your neighbor as yourself. **All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.**" 1 Corin. 13:5 - "Love is **not self seeking.**

"**God is love.**" 1 John 4:16. His **nature**, His **law**, is love. It ever has been; it ever will be. "The high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity," whose "ways are everlasting," **changeth not.** With Him "is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." Isaiah 57:15; Habakkuk 3:6; James 1:17.
– {PP 33.1}

For God is love, and love is life....{COL 258.3}

"It will be seen that **the glory shining in the face of Jesus is the glory of self-sacrificing love.** In the light from Calvary it will be seen that **the law of self-renouncing love is the law of life for earth and heaven;** that the love which "seeketh not her own" **has its source in the heart of God;** and that in the meek and lowly One is manifested the **character of Him** who dwelleth in the light which no man can approach unto...." – {RC 15.4}

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Most of us, when we speak of God's law, go straight to God's Ten Commandments/ the Decalogue. But **God's law** is much more than just the Ten Commandments. **The Ten Commandments themselves were given in Love.**

Jesus says: "If you **love Me, keep My commandments** ... He who has My **commandments** and **keeps** them, it is he who **loves Me** ... If anyone **loves Me**, he will **keep My word**; and My Father will **love him**, and **We will come to him and make Our home with him.**" John 14:15-24."

Love is inherent in **God's Creation and Design**, while the scriptures tell us the **Ten Commandments** were **added because of Sin.**

Read **Paul's** words in **Galatians 3:19** - The **Ceremonial Laws** and the **Moral Law** were **added after sin.** What does that mean?

"Wherefore then serveth the law? **It was added because of transgressions**, till the **seed** should come **to whom the promise was made**; and it was **ordained by angels** in the **hand of a mediator.**" Galatians 3:19



“I am asked concerning the **law in Galatians**. **What law is the schoolmaster** to bring us to Christ? I answer: Both the **ceremonial** and the **moral code of ten commandments...** “The law was our schoolmaster **to bring us unto Christ**, that we might be **justified by faith**” (Gal. 3:24). In this **scripture**, the **Holy Spirit** through the **apostle** is speaking especially of the **moral law.**” {1SM 233, 234}

Behavior sins (Moral Failures) are indicators of **Relational Sin** (Trust Violations)

This is essentially what is being said. John says **Sin is transgressing the Law of Love**. and Paul is saying **the Ten Commandments were added because you violated the Law of love**.

Or I might summarize it this way: Sin (with a Capital “S”) is Transgression / **Violating a Trust Relationship**. Living with broken trust with God we tend to sin (with a little “s”) / **Moral Failures** so God gave us the Ten Commandments to **protect** us from **destructive behaviors**.

The Law of Love and the Ten Commandments are God’s Laws

The law of Love is the **foundation of Gods Creation** and the Ten Commandments were **given in Love** to **protect us from destructive behaviors**.

The **Ten Commandments cannot save**, but we would not have **known sin / destructive behaviors** if the Ten Commandments did not **point it out**.

Obedience to the Ten can **protect** or “**Quarantine**” in order to be saved.

The **Right Relationship with God** transforms our lives. The **relationship** is **Transforming** and **saving**. To **know God** and **be fully known by God**. **Faith in Jesus** makes us **right with God - Thus - Salvation is by Faith**.

WHAT?! THERE IS A LAW?!

In heaven, service is not rendered in the spirit of legality. When Satan in heaven rebelled against the law of Jehovah, the thought that there was a law came to the angels almost as an awakening to something they had not thought of. Love for God and for the Commander in high heaven, had been without one drawback. In their ministry the angels did not work as servants, they were not doing the will of God for wages, or to secure position; not to increase their importance or minister to their own pleasure; but their will was identical with the will of God. There was a perfect unity of taste and inclination between the angels and their Creator. Obedience was no drudgery to them. It was a delight.—Letter 4, 1892, p. 15. (To Sister A. G. Daniells, September 19, 1892.) – {9MR 210.2}



THE DECALOGUE

The law for the **depraved, degraded** and the **demoralized** / the **morally immature**. Those in the **bondage of sinfulness**. The Ten Commandments were given to the **Israelites during the Exodus**, a time when they were **morally degraded by captivity**.

“Knowing this, that the **law is not made for a righteous man**, but for the **lawless** and **disobedient**, for the **ungodly** and for sinners, for **unholy** and **profane**, for **murderers** of fathers and murderers of mothers, for **manslayers**, For **whoremongers**, for them that **defile themselves** with mankind, for **menstealers**, for **liars**, for **perjured persons**, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.” 1Timothy 1:9-11

PERSPECTIVE ON CHARACTER

Moral - Take responsibility for Character and Relationships - Purpose Principles and Habit

Amoral - Neglect responsibility for Character and Relationships - Purpose, Principles and Habits

Immoral - Ones Character does not fit the Purpose Principles and Habits of a Society

Demoralized - Robbed of Higher Reasoning and Will Power to determine Purpose, Principles and Habits. Bondage to others Purpose Principles and Habits. **A Slave**.

Seven Levels of Moral Decision Making / Moral Maturity

Dr. Lawrence Kohlberg 6 levels adapted by Dr. Tim Jennings in his book “God Shaped Heart”.

1. Reward and Punishment
2. Market Place Exchange
3. Social Conformity
4. Law and Order
5. Lover for Others
6. Principle-based Living
7. **Understanding Friendship with God**

SIMPLE OBEDIENCE

To escape the bondage of Sin and sinfulness **Simple Trust and Obedience is required**.

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly.... But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law [**CHOKHMAH / Wisdom / Design Law / Natural Law**] doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” Psalm 1:1-3. **It is only as the law of God is restored to its rightful position that there can be a revival of primitive faith and godliness among His professed people.** “Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the



good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.” Jeremiah 6:16. – {GC 478.3}

It is God’s **design** that **His name shall be honored before the heavenly universe**. The **whole earth** is to show forth **His infinite glory**. He is gathering from this earth a people for Himself. **His will is the law of the universe**. He calls upon every human being to **cooperate** with Him. But He **forces** no one. **He has placed man’s destiny in His own hands, telling him that his future welfare depends on his choice**. To be saved, he must **cooperate with God in His work of restoration**. – {18MR 271.1}

The **religion of self** makes **easy conversions**. **Scripture is perverted, God dethroned, and self deified**. The **operation of the Holy Spirit on hearts is denied**. This is the new, broad way, **substituted** as an improvement on the strait gate and the narrow way. When self becomes thus prominent, God is lost sight of and the work cannot prosper. The Lord is misrepresented and misjudged. **The importance of the truth is lost to view while human opinions rise to vast importance**. Thus the **experience is cheapened**. **Zeal for self** takes the place of the higher aims which should mold the life. Egotism develops and strengthens. **Religion is used as a means for carrying out selfish purposes**. The solemn claims of God are treated as a farce, spoken of with levity and irreverence. A man with such an experience has lost his anchorage, and is drifting without guide or compass. – {18MR 271.2}

In seeking to cast contempt upon the divine statutes, **Satan has perverted the doctrines of the Bible**, and **errors** have thus become **incorporated into the faith of thousands who profess to believe the Scriptures**. The **last great conflict** between **truth and error** is but the final struggle of the long-standing controversy concerning the **law of God**. Upon this battle we are now entering—a battle between the **laws of men** and the **precepts of Jehovah**, between the **religion of the Bible** and the **religion of fable and tradition**. – {Darkness Before Dawn, 28.2}

THE SUBTLETY OF THE DECEPTION

Two Truths

1. Jesus, the Son of God, Died on the Cross, & paid a great price, for my Sin/sins & therefore Salvation.
2. God the Father Loves, Accepts and Forgives you and me unconditionally.

Man’s Law - Operates Contractually - Legal issue. The problem with looking at God’s law Contractually is that it makes one of our two truths false.

For Example:

1. If Jesus the Son of God died on the Cross and paid a great price for my sin - Then God the Father did not forgive me for anything. **The Contract was fulfilled**.



2. If God the Father, Loves, Accepts and Forgives me unconditionally than why did Jesus have to die? **The offense has been dismissed.**

If we see our problem with God as a legal contractual problem it takes away our role in the solution. We are just waiting around for the Judgement. We have no part. What happened to **“Work our your Salvation with fear and trembling”**. It takes us away from **cooperation with God.**

JESUS CAME AS A REVELATION OF TRUTH AND LOVE **“Truth sets you Free” “Love Casts out all Fear”**

The Truth about **God** - Is Wisdom - **Love Life and Liberty**

The Truth about **Satan** - The Disease - **A Liar, Thief and a Murderer**

The Truth about **Man** - Fatal Condition - **Of Sin Suffering and Death**

The Truth about **Jesus** - The Remedy - **The Way the Truth and the Life.**

Christ came to represent the character of his Father, to win man back to his allegiance to God, to reconcile man to God. He proposed to meet the foe and unmask his arts, that man might be able to make choice of whom he would serve. Satan had been Lucifer, the light-bearer, the sharer of God’s glory in heaven, and second to Jesus in power and majesty. In the words of inspiration he is described as the one who “sealest up the sun, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.” But Lucifer had perverted the beauty and power with which he was endowed by the Creator, and his light had become darkness. When through his rebellion he was cast out of heaven, he determined to make **man his victim, and the earth his kingdom.** He cast the **blame of his rebellion upon Christ, and in determined hatred of God, sought to wound Him through the fall of man.** In the happiness and peace of Eden, he beheld a vision of the bliss that he had forever lost, and he determined to excite in the hearts of God’s creatures the same bitterness that he himself felt, so that their songs of praise and thanksgiving might be turned to reproach against their Maker. – {BEcho November 1, 1892 Par. 3 }

GOVERNED BY THE LAW OF GOD

The **Sabbath as sign** of those who understand Gods law - **CHOKHMAH / Wisdom / Design Law / Natural Law.** The law of God written on the heart.

“Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written, not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.” 2 Corinthians 3:3

The Sabbath Message - The celebration of the relationship between the creature and his creator. **Celebration of Creation**

“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, 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.**’” Revelation 14:6-7

MONDAY

The “Everlasting” Gospel

WHAT IS THE “EVERLASTING” GOSPEL / GOOD NEWS?

THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION

But the **plan of redemption** had a yet **broader and deeper purpose** than the **salvation of man**. **It was not for this alone that Christ came to the earth**; it was not merely that the inhabitants of this little world might regard the law of God as it should be regarded; **but it was to vindicate the character of God before the universe**. To this **result of His great sacrifice**—its influence upon the **intelligences of other worlds**, as well as upon **man**—the Saviour looked forward when just before His crucifixion He said: “Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all unto Me.” [John 12:31, 32](#). **The act of Christ in dying** for the salvation of man would not only make heaven accessible to men, but before all the universe it would **justify God and His Son** in their dealing with the **rebellion of Satan**. It would establish the **perpetuity of the law of God** and would reveal the **nature and the results of sin**. – {PP 68.2}

Thinking that Jesus came to this world just to save mankind misses the scope and magnitude of the work of redemption. If Christ failed to vindicate the Character of God the entire universe would be lost..

In my humble opinion, if we think the **plan of redemption** is only about **saving man** I believe the **motivation to be a Christian** becomes **self serving**. We all want eternal life, not eternal non-existence, right?

However, if we see **the salvation of man as secondary**, and the **glory of God’s Character of love as primary**, then we share in the **ministry of Christ to vindicate God before the heavenly universe**. This understanding empowers the believer in Christ to live with purpose and meaning and the courage to die for the Gospel - The Glory of the Father!

14-18 ([Hebrews 1:3](#); [John 1:1-3, 14](#); [Philippians 2:5-8](#); see EGW comment on Mark 16:6; [Luke 22:44](#); [Romans 5:12-19](#); [Hebrews 3:1-3](#)). **God Reached Humanity Through Humanity—Christ alone was able to represent the Deity**. He who had been in the presence of the Father from the beginning, **He who was the express image of the invisible God**, was alone sufficient to accomplish this work. No verbal description could reveal God to the world. Through a life of purity, a life of perfect trust and submission to the will of God, a life of humiliation such as



even the highest seraph in heaven would have shrunk from, **God Himself must be revealed to humanity**. In order to do this, our Saviour clothed His divinity with humanity. He employed the human faculties, for only by adopting these could He be comprehended by humanity. **Only humanity could reach humanity**. He lived out the character of God through the human body which God had prepared for Him. He blessed the world by living out in human flesh the life of God, thus showing that He had the power to unite humanity to divinity (The Review and Herald, June 25, 1895). – {7BC 924.6}

SATAN AND EVIL WICKED MEN

By the same misrepresentation of the character of God as he had practiced in heaven, causing Him to be regarded as severe and tyrannical, **Satan induced man to sin**. He declared that God's unjust restrictions had led to man's fall, as they had led to his own rebellion. – {HF 309.3}

In the banishment of Satan from heaven, God declared His justice and honor. But when man sinned, God gave evidence of His love by yielding up His Son to die for the fallen race. **In the atonement the character of God is revealed**. The mighty argument of the cross demonstrates that sin was in no wise chargeable upon the government of God. During the Saviour's earthly ministry, **the great deceiver was unmasked**. The daring blasphemy of his demand that Christ pay him homage, the unsleeping malice that hunted Him from place to place, inspiring the hearts of priests and people to reject His love and to cry, "Crucify him! crucify him!"—all this excited the amazement and indignation of the universe. **The prince of evil exerted all his power and cunning to destroy Jesus**. Satan employed men as his agents to fill the Saviour's life with suffering and sorrow. The pent-up fires of envy and malice, hatred and revenge, burst forth on Calvary against the Son of God. – {HF 309.4}

Now the guilt of Satan stood forth without excuse. He had revealed his true character. Satan's lying charges against the divine character appeared in their true light. **He had accused God** of seeking the exaltation of Himself in requiring obedience from His creatures and had declared that while the Creator exacted self-denial from all others, He Himself practiced no self-denial and made no sacrifice. Now it was seen that the Ruler of the universe had made the greatest sacrifice which love could make, for "**God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself.**" [2 Corinthians 5:19](#). **In order to destroy sin Christ had humbled Himself and become obedient unto death.** – {HF 310.1}

THE ATONEMENT

Story on Atonement Models

Moral influence Theory - good theory - the idea that Jesus is our **example** - all preachers use it - It is just incomplete.



There is a word in the Bible that puzzled me for a long time. I had not seen it in the right context. The word is **Propitiation**. We often replace it with the word **Atonement**. It shows up three times in the New Testament. It's basic meaning is to **Win Favor** or **Appease Anger**.

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

25 Whom God hath set forth to be a **propitiation** through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; Romans 3:24-25

And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

2 And he is the **propitiation** for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:1-2

9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the **propitiation** for our sins. 1 John 4:9 & 10

But this great sacrifice was **not** made in order to create in the Father's heart a love for man, **not** to make Him willing to save. No, no! "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son." **John 3:16**. The Father loves us, not because of the great **propitiation**, but **He provided the propitiation** because He loves us. Christ was the medium through which He could pour out His infinite love upon a fallen world. "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself." **2 Corinthians 5:19**. God suffered with His Son. In the agony of Gethsemane, the death of Calvary, the heart of Infinite Love paid the price of our redemption.— **Steps To Christ 13.2**

God through Jesus seeks to **win our favor** and **appease our anger**. (Man's anger caused by his own believing lies, violating trust and moral failures) We fail the relationship and God redeems it.

Atonement! Relationships and Character restored.

Unlike Satan & Pagan worship that **compels** man to seek Satan's favor and appease Satan's anger. Satan perverts character and relationships and ultimately destroys.

Not until the death of Christ was the character of Satan clearly revealed to the angels or to the unfallen worlds. The archapostate had so clothed himself with deception that even holy beings had not understood his principles. They had not clearly seen the nature of his rebellion. – {DA 758.3}

It was a being of wonderful power and glory that had set himself against God. Of Lucifer the Lord says, "Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty." [Ezekiel 28:12](#). Lucifer had been the covering cherub. He had stood in the light of God's presence. **He had been the highest of all created beings, and had been foremost in revealing God's purposes to the universe.** After he had sinned, **his power to deceive was the more deceptive**, and the



unveiling of his character was the more difficult, because of the exalted position he had held with the Father. – {DA 758.4}

God could have destroyed Satan and his sympathizers as easily as one can cast a pebble to the earth; but He did not do this. **Rebellion was not to be overcome by force**. Compelling power is found only under Satan's government. **The Lord's principles are not of this order**. His authority rests upon **goodness, mercy, and love**; and the **presentation of these principles is the means to be used**. **God's government is moral, and truth and love are to be the prevailing power**. – {DA 759.1}

It was God's purpose to place things on an eternal basis of security, and in the councils of heaven it was decided that time must be given for Satan to develop the principles which were the foundation of his system of government. He had claimed that these were superior to God's principles. **Time was given for the working of Satan's principles, that they might be seen by the heavenly universe**. – {DA 759.2}

God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, 2 Corinthians 5:19

TUESDAY

A Story of Grace

FORETHOUGHT

"The plan for our redemption was not an afterthought, a plan formulated after the fall of Adam. It was a revelation of 'the **mystery** which hath been kept in **silence** [Secret] through times eternal. '[Romans 16:25](#), R.V. It was an unfolding of the principles that from eternal ages have been the foundation of God's throne.'"—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 22.

When my wife and I had Children - we determined we would love, accept and forgive our children before they were ever born.

THIS EARTH WAS GODS ANSWER TO THE WAR IN HEAVEN.

When was the world created? Before or after sin entered heaven?

Gods plan of redemption was in place before we were created. I would suggest we were created as the answer to the Conflict in Heaven.

I would suggest that war had already begun. Which means - at one point in time - **Sin only existed in Heaven.**

Sin is not just an earthly problem but a universal problem. How God resolves it will effectively save, not just your soul or my soul, not just the planet, but the entire universe of heavenly angels and Unfallen worlds.



COSMIC CONFLICT

War in Heaven threatens to destroy the universe - Promise of a New Heaven

WORLD CONFLICT

Human Strife threatens to destroy all life on earth - Promise to make a New Earth

SOUL CONFLICT

Human Struggle threatens to destroy our own existence - Promise of a New Bodies - Recreated.

Paul's struggle doing the things he didn't want to do and not doing the things he knew he should. Deliver me from this body of death.

Paul Loved God, but struggle with memories, thoughts, emotional triggers from years of living against God. We are a products of what we are born with, what happens to us and our response. **Conversion** is changing direction but **transformation** can take a lifetime.

Conflict Rightly Met Develops Steadfastness

Through conflict the spiritual life is strengthened. Trials well borne will develop steadfastness of character and precious spiritual graces. The perfect fruit of faith, meekness, and love often matures best amid storm clouds and darkness.—Christ's Object Lessons, 61 (1900).

Waging a War

It is not mimic battles in which we are engaged. We are waging a warfare upon which hang eternal results. We have unseen enemies to meet. Evil angels are striving for the dominion of every human being.—The Ministry of Healing, 128 (1905).

Conflicts Not Created by Christ

We are living in a solemn time. An important work is to be done for our own souls and for the souls of others, or we shall meet with an infinite loss. We must be transformed by the grace of God, or we shall fail of heaven, and through our influence others will fail with us.

“Let me assure you that the struggles and conflicts which must be endured in the discharge of duty, the self-denials and sacrifices which must be made if we are faithful to Christ, are not created by Him. They are not imposed by arbitrary or unnecessary command; they do not come from the severity of the life which He requires us to lead in His service. Trials would exist in greater power and number were we to refuse **obedience to Christ** and become the **servants of Satan and the slaves of sin.**”—Testimonies for the Church 4:557, 558 (1881).

Life Is a Conflict

This life is a conflict, and we have a foe who never sleeps, who is watching constantly to destroy our minds and lure us away from our precious Saviour, who has given His life for us.—Life Sketches of Ellen G. White, 291 (1915).



Prepare the Soul for Peace

The Lord permits conflicts to prepare the soul for peace.—The Great Controversy, 663 (1888).

Ephesians 6: The Full Armor of God

Religious Experience Gained Only Through Conflict

With energy and fidelity our youth should meet the demands upon them, and this will be a guarantee of success. Young men who have never made a success in the temporal duties of life will be equally unprepared to engage in the higher duties. **A religious experience is gained only through conflict, through disappointment, through severe discipline of self, through earnest prayer.** The steps to heaven must be taken one at a time, and every advance step gives strength for the next.—Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, 100 (1913). . 2MCP 555-2MCP 556.3

WEDNESDAY

Into the World

SATANS POWER

The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled was convincing the world he didn't exist. “The Usual Suspects” 1995

DANGER CLOSE

None are in greater danger from the influence of evil spirits than those who, notwithstanding the direct and ample testimony of the Scriptures, **deny the existence and agency of the devil and his angels.** So long as we are ignorant of their wiles, they have almost **inconceivable advantage;** many give heed to their suggestions while they suppose themselves to be following the dictates of their own wisdom. This is why, **as we approach the close of time,** when Satan is to work with greatest power to deceive and destroy, **he spreads everywhere the belief that he does not exist.** It is his policy to conceal himself and his manner of working. – {GC 516.2}

There is nothing that **the great deceiver fears** so much as that **we shall become acquainted with his devices.** The better to disguise his real character and purposes, he has caused himself to be so represented as to excite no stronger emotion than ridicule or contempt. He is well pleased to be painted as a ludicrous or loathsome object, misshapen, half animal and half human. He is pleased to hear his name used in sport and mockery by those who think themselves intelligent and well informed. – {GC 516.3}

It is because he has masked himself with consummate skill that the question is so widely asked: **“Does such a being really exist?”** It is an evidence of his success that theories giving the lie to the plainest testimony of the Scriptures are so generally received in the religious



world. And it is because **Satan can most readily control the minds of those who are unconscious of his influence**, that the word of God gives us so many examples of his malignant work, **unveiling before us his secret forces**, and thus placing us on our guard against his assaults. – {GC 517.1}

The power and malice of Satan and his host might justly alarm us were it not that we may find shelter and deliverance in the superior power of our Redeemer. We carefully secure our houses with bolts and locks to protect our property and our lives from evil men; but **we seldom think of the evil angels who are constantly seeking access to us, and against whose attacks we have, in our own strength, no method of defense**. If permitted, **they can distract our minds, disorder and torment our bodies, destroy our possessions and our lives**. Their only delight is in misery and destruction. Fearful is the condition of those who resist the divine claims and yield to Satan's temptations, **until God gives them up to the control of evil spirits**. But those who follow Christ are ever safe under His watchcare. Angels that excel in strength are sent from heaven to protect them. The wicked one cannot break through the guard which God has stationed about His people. – {GC 517.2}

THURSDAY

A Mission Movement

Me and my PURPOSE - Reason we Existence - Our Presence Matters & becomes the Message.
My Life and my MISSION - The Causes of our Endeavors - Our Work
Living with INTENTION - What we Think, Say or Do - Actions affecting the world.

Let your **Purpose** be lived out in your **Mission** with **Intention**.

AMERICA WAS A CAUSE

“The cause of America is in a great measure the cause of all mankind. Many circumstances hath, and will arise, which are not local, but universal, and through which the principles of all Lovers of Mankind are affected, and in the Event of which, their Affections are interested.”
Thomas Paine - Common Sense

Liberty of Conscience / Inviolability of Conscience.

“The framers of the Constitution recognized the eternal principle that man’s relation with his God is above human legislation, and his rights of conscience inalienable. **Reasoning was not necessary to establish this truth; we are conscious of it in our own bosoms.** It is this consciousness which, in defiance of human laws, has sustained so many martyrs in tortures and flames. They felt that their duty to God was superior to human enactments, and that man could exercise no authority over their consciences. It is an inborn principle which nothing can



eradicate.”—**Congressional Documents (U.S.A.), serial No. 200, document No. 271** – {GC 295.3}

“In that grand old document which our forefathers set forth as their bill of rights—the **Declaration of Independence**—they declared: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.’ And the **Constitution** guarantees, in the most explicit terms, the **inviolability of conscience**: ‘No religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.’ ‘**Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.**’ – {GC 295.2}

How Reality Works. Confronted with tyranny, our forefathers’ declaration of war was the Declaration of Independence. Here the writers declare that there are “**powers of the earth,**” “**laws of nature**” subject to “**nature’s God,**” “**truth**” that is “**self-evident,**” that men are “**created equal,**” “**endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights**” of “**life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.**” These are declarations of universal laws, protocols for life, designed into our existence, that cannot be ignored without inherent consequence. These laws of cause to affect have no exemptions, exceptions or exclusions. Three are superior.

1. **The Law of Love: Disinterested Benevolence.** The “**pursuit of happiness**” is no trivial pursuit of self-gratification, rather the right and responsibility to become “**a good soul**”, to produce good without ulterior motives and when necessary resist or restrain evil at one’s own risk, peril or sacrifice.
2. **The Law of Life: Reciprocal Service.** When love is reciprocal, “**life**” is created and sustained. All creation is designed on the great commandment, “**Love your neighbor as yourself.**” Love unreciprocated is death.
3. **The Law of Liberty: “Inviolability of Conscience.”** Compelling power, Coercion and Manipulation, cannot elevate man to the image designed by his maker. This law cannot be broken. To violate this law is to cause inherent damage to the Soul, the Body and the Spirit, creating a defiant rebel or a captive in bondage. **Religious Liberty, Individual Autonomy, Freedom of Choice,** are the powers of man for self-determination, self-governance and self-reliance. Our Constitution and was written to protect these principles for which life, safety and security are worthy sacrifices.