



## 2023 2Q Three Cosmic Messages—Lesson 13 Ablaze with God’s Glory

by Tim Jennings

### SABBATH

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Read memory text:

“After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.” (Revelation 18:1 NKJV).

What does this text mean?

What is God’s glory?

Turn to **WEDNESDAY**’s lesson and read the fourth and fifth paragraphs:

God’s glory is His character. The earth will be filled with the glory of God when we are filled with the love of God and our characters are changed by redeeming love.

Revealing His love in our personal lives reveals His glory, His character, to the world. The last message to be proclaimed to a world engulfed in spiritual darkness carried by three angels in the midst of heaven is “ ‘Fear God and give glory to Him’ ” (Rev. 14:7, NKJV). (SDA Adult SS Guide Second Quarter 2023, Three Cosmic Messages, p. 108)

This is well said. How would you describe how we reveal His glory, His love to the world when the world is doing evil?

When did Jesus bring the greatest glory to the Father?

What did Jesus mean when He prayed this to His Father right before the events of crucifixion weekend:

“Father, the time has come. **Glorify your Son**, that your Son may **glorify you**. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now **this is eternal life: that they may know you**, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. **I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do**. And now, Father, **glorify me** in your presence with the **glory** I had with you before the world began. **I have revealed you** to those whom you gave me out of the world.” (John 17:1-6 NIV84).



If God's glory is His character, what does this text mean? How was Jesus going to be glorified by the Father? Is this speaking of the display of heavenly light at the transfiguration?

It doesn't seem likely that it means the transfiguration, as John's narrative does not allow for that possibility. In John's narrative, it says:

**When he had finished praying**, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was an olive grove, and he and his disciples went into it. **Now Judas, who betrayed him**, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. So **Judas came to the grove, guiding a detachment of soldiers** and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees. (John 18:1-3 NIV84).

So when Jesus prayed that the time had come for the Father to glorify the Son so that the Son could glorify the Father—what happened, what are the very next events that happened and what does it mean for our understanding of God's glory?

Jesus is treated unjustly by the religious and political powers of the world.

- His own people reject Him
- His closest friends abandon Him
- His church turns on Him
- He is lied about
- The judicial system is perverted and perjury is perpetrated against Him
- The Jewish officials break their own laws conducting a court hearing illegally at night, the High Priest rends his garments and acts the role of accuser instead of defender
- The religious leaders had Him beaten and mocked
- They solicited the pagan authorities to reject, convict, and crucify Him
- He was publicly stripped, humiliated, tortured, and repeatedly tempted to use His power to prove His authority

But what did Jesus do? John 13 tells us that Jesus had been given all power. Jesus told Peter He could call 12 legions of angels to rescue Him—Jesus was not powerless, but what did Jesus do with the power at His disposal?

Is there any glory being revealed by these actions? What is the glory that Jesus asked the Father to bring to Him so that Jesus could glorify the Father with the glory He had before the world began?

What did Jesus do after His prayer? He fully, completely, totally, lived out God's love. He chose self-sacrificial love instead of so-called human "justice" of using power to punish sin, evil, and injustice. He refused to defend Himself. He refused to use power to protect self. He chose to do what was best for others.

- He says speaks words of encouragement, hope, and promise to a dying thief



- He ensures His mother is cared for
- He forgives those who are abusing and crucifying Him

He administered God's justice of love and refused to use power to administer the justice of imposed law. God is love and He loves His enemies, prays for those who persecute Him, blesses those who assault Him. He reveals a glory, a beauty, a righteousness, a truth that is beyond human imagining, it is the reality of who our Creator God is—God is love.

And when is such love most fully, clearly, powerfully, perfectly revealed—when all things are going well, when everyone is doing right, when one is receiving all praise, or in the face of opposition, false accusation, injustice, and abuse?

And we are called, as the world decays into chaos, into satanic delusion and control, into the worst forms of corruption, perversion, and injustice all under the guise of pursuing justice, to give glory to God. How do we do this?

By living out God's character of love in how we treat others. We are to be truth bearers by being living embodiments of God's love and design law methods.

- We will bless those who curse us.
- We will forgive those who wrong us.
- We will love our enemies so that we may be sons and daughters of our Father in heaven
- We will be filled with the Spirit of God so that the character of God will be manifest in contrast to the most vile, corrupt, destructive, evil the world has seen.

As Paul wrote to the Philippians:

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

**Your attitude** should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,  
but made himself nothing,  
taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place



and gave him the name that is above every name,  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
**to the glory of God the Father.** (Philippians 2:1–11 NIV84).

What does it mean to be in awe of God and give Him glory?

The lesson links the glory of God's character to the third angel's message. Let's read that message and consider, do you find God's character of love in this message? How do you share this message in a way that uplifts Jesus' self-sacrifice without inciting fear?

A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name." This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus. (Revelation 14:9-12 NIV84)

If you haven't read our [Final Message of Mercy to the World: The Three Angels](#) magazine yet, I encourage you to do so, because we explain these messages in great detail showing that they do in fact reveal God's character of love.

But a shortened review of this magazine is:

**Step One:** Remember this is a three step or three stage/step message. It is a message that builds with each subsequent message. I just read the third message of the series of three. It cannot be properly understood until the two preceding messages are properly understood. So step one is start with the first angel's message, understand it, and then go to the second, understand it, and then to the third.

**Step Two:** Determine, before attempting to decipher the messages, what law lens one understands the Bible through. If one assumes and believes God's law and government work like human law and government, imposed rules requiring imposed penalties, then all of Scripture is twisted out of its true light into a mockery of heaven, into a perverted satanic delusional alternate fantasy that is not real. In order to properly understand any of Scripture one must reject the human law model and return to worshiping God as Creator and understanding His laws are the laws that reality exists and operates upon. Design law.

**Step Three:** Determine your rules for interpretation, the Bible interprets itself, God's character is love and no interpretations will be permitted that place God in a character other than love, as Jesus revealed Him to be. And God's law is the design law of love and no interpretations will be allowed that violate God's design law of love.



**Step Four:** Humbly ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten your mind to truth, and acknowledge your finiteness and admit your eagerness to be corrected by the Spirit of Truth and led into all truth.

Then start with the first angel's message and study it, comparing its message with the rest of what Scripture has already revealed. It is okay to read commentaries, it is recommended to study with other humble people who are interested in growing in the truth, but then compare the various parts, work on decoding the symbols, ensure the conclusions always conform to the truth and principles of God's character as revealed by Jesus and His revealed design law methods.

The first angel's message:

Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.” (Revelation 14:6-7 NIV84).

The Message of the Three Angels starts with what? The Eternal Gospel!

What is the Eternal Gospel? The eternal good news?

The common answer is that Jesus died for our salvation. And let us be clear. It is absolutely true that Jesus died for our salvation, that Jesus is the only way or means of salvation, that no human can be saved without Jesus, and that this news is certainly incredibly good news. There is no doubt about this. But the question is, is this truth, is this good news about what Jesus has done for us, the *eternal* gospel, or is this good news the result of and outworking of the eternal gospel?

Well, let's ask a few questions and see if the answers to our questions help clarify and bring to light the eternal gospel.

- What is the Good News that has been true, *eternally true*; true in eternity past and future?
  - Is the good news that Jesus died as our Savior eternally good news, i.e. did the angels in heaven, when Lucifer began his rebellion have the good news of Jesus' incarnation, sinless human life, self-sacrificial death, resurrection, and ascension to help them?
  - But is there eternal good news that was available to them in eternity past back when Lucifer rebelled that had they clung to it would have protected them from being deceived?
- What is the news that the universe has doubted but is foundational to life, health, and happiness?
  - When Lucifer rebelled did his lies cause some truth to be doubted and some reality to be set aside for an alternate view that Satan was advancing? And Satan's alternate view resulted in all the pain and suffering that sin brings, thus was some there good news that Satan's view was wrong?



- What is the news that dispels the lies of Satan and wins us back to trust in God, and also would have protected the angels in eternity past?
  - Was that good news that Jesus died as our Savior—or again, was Jesus' death the outworking of that eternal good news?
- What is the central target of Satan's lies, upon which his rebellion has been built, and thus, the eternal good news is that Satan is wrong?
  - Was the central target of Satan's lies about humans or about God?
- What is the central news that Jesus said He came to complete and had accomplished?
  - What was it Jesus prayed right before His crucifixion that we read already this morning? That He finished the work God gave Him to do He had revealed the truth about the Father.

Paul wrote:

For though we live in the world, we do not wage **war** as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against **the knowledge of God**, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (2Corinthians 10:3-5 NIV84)

The Eternal Good News is the truth about God's character of love!

- "God is love" 1John 4:8
- God is *not* the person Satan alleges
- The eternal good news is what Jesus revealed "Anyone who has seen me, has seen the Father" John 14:9
- Life eternal is knowing God John 17:3

If we don't understand the good news about God, His character and methods of love, how reality works as God built it work, then we will misunderstand everything else!

And what idea directly impacts and determines how we conceive of and understand God's character? How we understand His law!

If we understand and believe that God's law is imposed rules like created beings make up, then we automatically, and without any ability to stop it, conclude that God, in order to be just, must use His power to punish rule breakers. Justice is viewed as inflicted punishment and God is viewed the source of inflicted pain, torment, and death rather than the source of life and salvation. In other words, people believe something needs to be done to God to protect us from God, rather than something be done to us to heal and cleanse us from sin and restore us to rightness with God.

The imposed law legal/penal view creates a grotesque mischaracterization of God that makes God out to be like Satan has alleged. And the final message of mercy to the world, the message of the three angels exposes this lie and calls people to advance the eternal gospel of God's character of love and His design law of love by worshiping Him who made the heavens, earth, sea and fountains of water.



But doesn't the message say that we are to be in fear because the hour of God's judgment has come? The hour in which God sits and passes judgment upon sinners?

The message does NOT say that hour of God's judicial legal passing of judgments has come. It says we that are to be in awe of Him, to admire revere, and respect Him for His amazing character and methods of love and to live those same methods in how we treat others and thereby give Him glory on Earth, because the hour in human history has come when God is being judged. The hour of HIS judgment has come. The time in history for people to make their final decision about who God is and whether they will trust Him or reject Him. It is the final message which settles people into loyal love or if they reject it, hardens them beyond healing.

As Paul confirmed in Romans 3:4:

Let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: "That You may be justified in Your words, and may overcome when You are judged." (Romans 3:4 NKJV).

Remember the war—it started in heaven when Satan lied about God. The central issue in the war is the knowledge of God. God is the one lied about. When lies are believed they break the circle of love and trust and result in fear and selfishness. Fear and selfishness cause sinful actions, including using power over others to make oneself feel safe.

The plan of salvation starts with the truth about God which is the eternal good news. And this eternal good news about God displaces the lies and wins us to trust. In trust we open our hearts and the Holy Spirit enters and takes the victory of Christ and reproduces it in us and we are reborn, changed, transformed, renewed, recreated to be like Jesus. We are reconciled or brought back to at-one-ment with God through all that Jesus has done. We love as God loves and therefore do not seek to control others, but give of ourselves to uplift others and thereby bring glory to God by revealing His character.

Thus the final message that goes to the world is that God's people glorify Him in revealing His true character of love because the time in human history has come for God to be rightly judged. For people to stop worshiping the imperial dictator god who acts like a Roman Caesar using his power to inflict punishment, and to start worshiping the Creator who uses His power to heal and save people from sin.

When we understand these truths, the eternal good news about God, that He is Creator and His laws are the design law protocols that life and health and happiness operate upon and choose, through His power, to live His methods in our lives, then we are ready for the second message.

A second angel followed and said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries." (Revelation 14:8 NIV84).

Babylon is the symbolic system of religious imperialism, the system that uses governmental power to enforce religious dogma. As soon as Nebuchadnezzar believed in Daniel's God, he passed a law that anyone who speaks evil about Daniel's God was to be executed. Of the various nations in the Bible



story arc that interacted with Israel in the Old Testament, Babylon was the first to make a legal code, the code of Hammurabi.

The system of Babylon, of imposed law requiring imposed punishments, became the system of Roman Christianity with its various cannon laws and teachings that God's law is like human law, breaks require punishment, and thus the inquisition and inflicted punishment. Further, it advanced the belief that God's law, just like human law, can be changed by the church and that is why the church changed the commandments. And while Protestants have protested some of the various changes, they have never fully rejected the lie that God's law functions like human law and essentially all Protestant groups still teach the imposed law view in some way.

The message of the second angel is that that system of imposed law is fallen, corrupt, doesn't work, that one cannot be made righteous through law, through legal means, that God's government does not work this way, and therefore we are to leave such legal systems behind.

This angel calls for people to leave Babylon, to get out. And it is this portion of the message that the angel in Revelation 18 is specifically empowered to repeat, which is our memory verse for this week, note the message of the angel of Revelation 18:

After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. With a mighty voice he shouted:

“Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!  
She has become a home for demons  
and a haunt for every evil spirit,  
a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird.  
For all the nations have drunk  
the maddening wine of her adulteries.  
The kings of the earth committed adultery with her,  
and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.”

Then I heard another voice from heaven say:

“Come out of her, my people,  
so that you will not share in her sins,  
so that you will not receive any of her plagues. (Revelation 18:1-4 NIV84).

Notice, this message is to be repeated but with even greater authority than when it was first given. We must leave the various systems of this world, including the religious organizations that continue to teach that God's law functions like human law and therefore that God is the source of inflicted torment and death for sin, and God is the one from whom we need protection and Jesus is in heaven pleading with His Father to calm down His Father's anger control problems and save us from the punishment God would inflict on us if Jesus wasn't pleading to Him.





Such theology is conditioning the minds and hearts of people to accept a god who will use his power to torture and kill in the name of justice. It is the exact opposite of what Jesus revealed when He was glorified by His Father so that He could glorify His Father. And it is the exact opposite of what God's saints are to do. We are to give God glory by living out His methods and give the true message about God's character of love to the world, for the hour has come for people to make a right judgment about God. And in order to do that they need to have the truth about God presented to them.

Then, with all of this in mind, that God is love, that His laws are design laws, that the imposed law Babylonian penal legal religious concepts that the entire world accepts is a lie, then we can go on to understand the message of the third angel.

And the message of the third angel is the message of reality, of God's design laws coming to bear upon those who refuse to let God heal them, upon those who insist on living out their reimagined view of the world, which is fantasy.

A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone **worships** the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand... (Revelation 14:9 NIV84)

The first reality that comes to bear is the law of worship!

- By beholding we are changed. 2Corinthians 3:18
- Romans 1:18-31 the exchanged the truth of God for a lie and preferred images made with their own hands and their minds became darkened, depraved, and futile.
- They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves. Jeremiah 2:5

This is why we are to "fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith." Hebrews 12:2

"We know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." 1John 3:2

This is what the first angel called us to do, to reject the lies about God, to return to worship the Creator God as Jesus revealed Him to be. But if we do not accept the eternal gospel, the eternal good news about God, if we do not leave Babylon, the system of imposed law with its dictator god, then via the law of worship we will become like that dictator god and will internalize into our minds, hearts, characters, and practices the methods and principles of God's enemy and thereby mark ourselves to be like the beast.

he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. (Revelation 14:10)

And all those reject the eternal gospel and mark themselves in character to be beastly receive God's wrath poured out full strength, no more mercy, no more diluting it. What does this mean?

God's wrath is God letting people go to reap what they have chosen.



This is God's law of liberty. Love only exists and functions in an atmosphere of freedom. If people reject the message of the first angel, the eternal good news about God and His design law of love, and if they reject the message of the second angel and refuse to leave that imposed law system of Babylon and continue to embrace the lie that God's law functions like human law and they worship and prefer a god who will use power to torture and kill. Then they not only mark themselves as beastly in character and conduct, they harden their hearts and sear their consciences, destroying within themselves the faculties that are sensitive to the Spirit of truth and love, and no more truth or love will have any healing impact upon them. Therefore, God sets them free to reap what they have chosen. He stops interfering, intervening, with what they have chosen and lets them go into the care of the false-god they have chosen and that is called God's wrath.

In Romans 1:18-31 Paul specifically says that the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all those who reject the truth, and Paul says three times exactly what God's wrath is, in verses 24,26, and 28 that God gave them up; He let them go and surrendered them to their own choice.

From Intervarsity Press, the book *Hard Sayings of the Bible* we read the following explanation about God's wrath as described by Paul in Romans 1:

The human condition, which Paul describes in Romans 1:18-32, is not something caused by God. The phrase "revealed from heaven" (where "heaven" is a typical Jewish substitute word for "God") does not depict some kind of divine intervention, but rather the inevitability of human debasement which results when God's will, built into the created order, is violated. Since the created order has its origin in God, Paul can say that the wrath of God is now (constantly) being revealed "from heaven." It is revealed in the fact that the rejection of God's truth (Rom 1:18-20), that is, the truth about God's nature and will, leads to futile thinking (Rom 1:21-22), idolatry (Rom 1:23), perversion of God-intended sexuality (Rom 1:24-27) and relational-moral brokenness (Rom 1:28-32).

The expression "God gave them over" (or "handed them over"), which appears three times in this passage (Rom 1:24,26,28), supports the idea that the sinful perversion of human existence, though resulting from human decisions, is to be understood ultimately as God's punishment which we, in freedom, bring upon ourselves.

In light of these reflections, the common notion that God punishes or blesses in direct proportion to our sinful or good deeds cannot be maintained... God loves us with an everlasting love. But the rejection of that love separates us from its life-giving power. The result is disintegration and death. (Kaiser, W., et al., *Hard Saying of the Bible*, Intervarsity Press, 1996, p. 543).

This was taught more than 100 years ago to the SDA church as recorded in this historical quote from the book 1 Selected Messages:

**We are not to regard God as waiting to punish the sinner for his sin. The sinner brings the punishment upon himself.** His own actions start a train of circumstances that bring the sure



result. Every act of transgression reacts upon the sinner, works in him a change of character, and makes it more easy for him to transgress again. **By choosing to sin, men separate themselves from God**, cut themselves off from the channel of blessing, and the sure result is ruin and death. (1Selected Messages 235)

The message of the third angel continues:

He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb... (Revelation 14:10)

We have seen that the third angel's message is the message of reality. It is the outworking of the law of worship, if we worship a false imperial dictator god we become like that god and mark ourselves in character and conduct to be beastly. When this happens and people harden themselves beyond healing we see the outworking of the law of liberty, when God sets them free and stops using His power to protect them from their own choices. God lets the permanently hardened go to reap what they have chosen.

And then the text says they are tormented with burning sulfur, what law of God is involved here?

The Old Testament prophet Isaiah describes this eternal fire:

“The sinners in Zion are terrified; trembling grips the godless: ‘Who of us can dwell with the consuming fire? Who of us can dwell with everlasting burning?’” (Isaiah 33:14).

Who can live in this fire? Who will spend eternity in the flames? And the prophet gives a shocking answer:

“He who walks righteously and speaks what is right, who rejects gain from extortion and keeps his hand from accepting bribes, who stops his ears against plots of murder and shuts his eyes against contemplating evil!” (v. 15).

It is the righteous who will live forever in this fire—and not the wicked!

- When God spoke to Moses from within the bush, the bush burned but did not get consumed (Exodus 3:2–4, Acts 7:30–36).
- When God came to Mt. Sinai, His presence was described as a “consuming fire,” but the elements did not melt (Exodus 24:17).
- When Solomon's Temple was dedicated, the priests couldn't enter because the brightness of God's fiery glory was too great, but the temple did not burn down (2 Chronicles 5:14, 7:1–3).
- Before his fall, Lucifer walked among the “fiery stones” of God's presence (Ezekiel 28:14, 16).
- God takes His throne and “rivers of fire” come out from Him, yet billions stand in this fire without any harm (Daniel 7:9, 10).



- Prior to his crucifixion, in a body still subject to death, Jesus was bathed in heavenly fire, yet no harm came to Him. His clothes didn't even get scorched (Matthew 17:2).
- Hebrews plainly tells us that "our God is a consuming fire" (12:29). The
- Song of Solomon states: "Love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away" (8:6, 7).

The lie that Satan has foisted upon us is this: The place you don't want to go, the place you don't want to be, is the place of eternal burning and consuming fire. But, as amazing as it may seem, that place is God's very presence! The righteous will spend eternity bathed in the flames of God's fiery presence. But the wicked will be consumed in that same eternal fire.

When Christ returns, He doesn't come veiling His glory but in the full splendor of His holy, loving, righteous self—brighter than the sun! Rivers of blazing love surging out from Him, the earth will be bathed in His glory (Isaiah 6:3). The righteous will be transformed by the life-giving fires of His love, just as Moses was transformed after being in God's presence. Remember, he came down off the mountain with his face radiating heavenly fire. But Moses wasn't in pain. He didn't have third-degree burns. His whiskers weren't even singed!

But when the children of Israel—unrepentant, still filled with sin and selfishness—saw Moses' face, they shrank back and begged him to wear a veil. They couldn't stand the heavenly light (Exodus 34:33–35).

This is the fire of love and truth that glorifies God's people while it cleanses the earth of sin.

A fire that consumes sin? What is that? It is not the fire of combustion, which burns material substances—things made out of molecules, like our homes, furniture, and books—for sin is not made of physical matter. Sin is made of ideas, thoughts, concepts, attitudes, beliefs. At its core, sin is composed of two elements: lies (Satan is the "father of lies," John 8:44) and selfishness. Fires of combustion don't destroy ideas. Fires that burn material substances don't consume lies and selfishness.

So, what does consume a lie? The truth! And what does consume selfishness? Love! And the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of both truth and love. Amazingly, when the Spirit fell at Pentecost, they all witnessed two streams of fire over each person (Acts 2:3), yet no one got burned. The building didn't burn down. Their clothes didn't ignite. It was their hearts and minds that were cleansed by that fire—the fire of love and truth. Distortions about God were removed from their minds; envy, strife, and selfishness were burned out of their hearts. Love blazed in them again! Just as was promised, they were baptized with the Holy Spirit and with fire—the fire of love and truth (Matthew 3:11).

But if the fires are the fires of truth and love, why do the wicked suffer and die when these fires burn freely? "They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved" (2 Thessalonians 2:10).

What happens in the mind of those who reject truth and cling to falsehood when the truth of God comes shining through? They suffer torment of mind, anguish of heart, and suffering of psyche. And



what happens to those whose hearts are filled with selfishness when the pure, undiluted love of God comes blazing through? “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink [love him]. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head” (Proverbs 25:21, 22; Romans 12:20). What happens in the mind of the unhealed when they meet pure love and truth face to face? The terrible suffering that unremedied sin causes.

**We can never avoid the truth. We can only delay the day we deal with it.** We can deal with the truth about ourselves, our histories, our characters, our mistakes here and now, under God’s grace, and experience forgiveness, healing, restoration, regeneration, and ultimately eternal life. Or we can delay dealing with the truth—put it off, deny, externalize, project, blame, and scapegoat others. But if we don’t deal with the truth now, one day when Christ returns, such people will come face to face with ultimate truth.

Yes, there will be terrible suffering in the flames of God’s love, but it will not be inflicted as an external penalty. That suffering will not be the torture of melting flesh but the unavoidable torture of the soul that unremedied sin inflicts.

Just as Moses came out from God’s presence with love and favor in his heart, yet the people shrank back seeking to hide from his face, so too, when Christ arrives, He returns with love and favor, but those solidified in the lies about God cannot stand the light of love and truth, so they run to hide from His face (Revelation 6:15, 16).

Aaron’s sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, contrary to his command. So fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. ... Moses summoned Mishael and Elzaphan, sons of Aaron’s uncle Uzziel, and said to them, “Come here; carry your cousins outside the camp, away from the front of the sanctuary.” So they came and carried them, **still in their tunics**, outside the camp, as Moses ordered (Leviticus 10:1–5, emphasis mine).

The fire of the Lord “consumed” them—yet their bodies weren’t charred and their tunics were still intact.

This is what happens to the wicked in the end. They are

“tormented with burning sulfur **in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb**” (Revelation 14:10).

Notice, it is in Jesus’ presence where they suffer. What about the term “burning sulfur”? It comes from the Greek thion and means the divine fire—or the fire of God’s presence.

But Revelation also tells us:

And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever (14:11).



Smoke is what is left after something is burned. This “smoke” symbolizes the memory, the lessons learned of what unremedied sin does to sinners—it torments and destroys. This lesson will never be forgotten by the universe. The righteous will remember for all eternity that the wicked suffered and died, not at God’s hand, but because of their condition and because they refused to allow God to heal them. The righteous will remember for all eternity that every person who is eternally lost is lost only because they prefer non-existence to living in a universe of love and truth.

So the message of the third angel is the message of reality, of God’s design laws:

- If you reject the eternal good news about God and His design laws of love, truth, liberty, and choose to worship a dictator counterfeit instead of our Creator who made the heavens, earth, sea, and fountains of water
- If you refuse to leave Babylon with its imposed law and imperial dictator god and its penal legal theologies
- Then through the law of worship you will become like that false god and mark yourself beastly
- Through the law of liberty God will set you free to reap what you have chosen
- Through the law of truth and love you will suffer the full torment of what unremedied sin does to the sinner and you will die from the sin condition that you have chosen
- And the history of the great controversy, the truth about God and what Jesus accomplished along with the choice of the lost will be remembered by the saved for all eternity so that sin never arises again.

This is the final message, the truth about God’s character and design law methods of love that is to go with power to the world.



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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**New Address:** Come and Reason Ministries is closing our PO Box Address. Please update your records to our building address for all future mail and shipping. Our street address is:

**Come and Reason Ministries**  
4922 LA COLLINA WAY, #100  
OOLTEWAH, TN 37363

**NEW MAGAZINE: Critical Race Theory: Exposing the Lies While Advancing the Gospel,** is now available!

**Podcasts:** We have a weekly podcast about 13 minutes long that is available to be delivered to your device if you sign up for it.

**Materials in Australia:** Simon and Maani Harrison have a Facebook group in Australia and have the following Come and Reason resources available in Australia:

- CIBTS
- God is Love Children's book
- The Heavenly Sanctuary for the Modern World
- The Final Message of Mercy
- The Remedy NT
- The Remedy of the Lord in Song
- First set of tracts

You can email Simon at [australia@comeandreason.com](mailto:australia@comeandreason.com)

**Materials in South Africa:** Jacques van den Heever has materials available in South Africa you can email him at [comeandreason.sa@gmail.com](mailto:comeandreason.sa@gmail.com)

### **Unmasking the Beasts of Revelation 13 & 17 Now Available in South Africa!**

The Final Message of Mercy to the World—The Three Angels, magazine.

You can read a digital version online at our website. Here is a link to the flip version <https://comeandreason.com/files/flipbooks/3Angels/>