

## Surprising Facts Series 2

### 16. Angel Messages from Outer Space!

Some have wondered why God doesn't say something very special to the worried, harried people in this mixed-up end time of the world's history. Ah, but He does. God's awesome, yet loving messages for modern last-day people are found in the book of Revelation (chapter 14) under the symbolism of three flying angels. This first Lesson presents an overview. It's not possible to study anything else nearly so important. God's messages from Revelation 14 are for you personally.

1. Why are we studying Revelation? Isn't it sealed?

Answer: There are six crucial reasons to study Revelation:

A. It never has been sealed (Revelation 22:10). The agelong controversy between Christ and Satan, plus the devil's strategies and last-day devious plans, are exposed in Revelation. Satan cannot easily trap people who are aware of his lying deceptions in advance, so he hopes people will believe that Revelation is sealed.

B. The very name "Revelation" means "unveiling," "opening," or "revealing" the complete opposite of being sealed. It always has been wide open.

C. Revelation is Jesus' book in a unique way. It begins, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ." It even gives a word picture of Him in **Revelation 1:13-16**. **"And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters."** No other book of the Bible reveals Jesus and His last-day instructions and plans for His work and His people as does Revelation.

D. Revelation is primarily written for and geared to the people of our day, just before Jesus' return (Revelation 1:1-3; 3:11; 22:6, 7, 12, 20).

E. A special blessing is pronounced upon those who read Revelation and heed its counsel (Revelation 1:3; 22:7).

F. Revelation describes God's end-time people and church with startling clarity. It makes the Bible come to life when you see the last-day events depicted in Revelation taking place. It also tells precisely what God's true church will be preaching in the last days (Revelation 14:6-14). Here we will give an overview of that preaching so you will recognize it when you hear it. The book of Revelation reveals Jesus in a unique manner.

Note: Let's open the Bible and read Revelation 14:6-12. **"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, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.**

**And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."**

2. God commissioned His church to take the gospel to every creature. **"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."** Mark 16:15. How does He symbolize this sacred work in Revelation?

**"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach. ... And there followed another angel, saying .... And the third angel followed them, saying... ." Revelation 14:6-9.**

Answer: God uses angels to symbolize His final three-point message. The word "angel" literally means "messenger," so it is fitting that God uses three angels to symbolize the preaching of His three-point gospel message for the last days. God uses the symbolism of angels to remind us that supernatural power will accompany the messages.

3. What two crucial points does God's message for the last day reveal?

**"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.**

Answer: The two crucial points are: (1) that it is "the everlasting gospel," and (2) that it must be preached to every person on earth. The three angels' messages stress the Gospel which makes it plain that people are saved by faith in, and acceptance of, Jesus Christ alone (Acts 4:12; Mark 10:26, 27). Since no other way to salvation exists, it is evil to claim that there is some other way.

Satan's counterfeits, while many, include two very effective ones: (1) salvation by works, and (2) salvation in sin. These two counterfeits are uncovered and revealed in the three angels' messages. Many, without realizing it, have embraced one of these two errors and are trying to build their salvation upon it, an utterly impossible feat. We also must stress that no one is truly preaching the gospel of Jesus for the end time who does not include the three angels' messages. God's end-time message of hope must be delivered to every person on earth.

4. What four distinctive points does the first angel's message cover?

**"Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." Revelation 14:7.**

Answer: A. Fear God. This means we should revere God and look upon Him with love, trust, and respect, eager to do His bidding. This keeps us from evil. **"By the fear of the Lord men depart from evil." Proverbs 16:6.** Solomon, the wise man, also said, **"Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." Ecclesiastes 12:13.**

B. Give glory to God. We fulfill this command when we obey, praise, and thank God for His goodness to us. One of the major sins of the last days is unthankfulness (2 Timothy 3:1, 2).

C. The hour of His judgment is come. This indicates that everyone is accountable to God, and it is a clear statement that the judgment is now in session. A number of translations say "has" come instead of "is" come.

D. Worship the Creator. This command rejects idolatry of all kinds, including self worship, and totally repudiates evolution, which denies that God is Creator and Redeemer. (Many books and radio talk shows today over stress self-worth, which leads to self-worship. A Christian's self-worth is in Christ, who makes His children sons and daughters of the King of heaven.)

The gospel includes the creation and redemption of the world by the Lord God of heaven. Worshiping the Creator includes worshiping Him on the day He set aside as a memorial of Creation (the seventh-day Sabbath). That the reference in Revelation 14:7 is to the Sabbath is made clear by the fact that the words "made heaven, and earth, and the sea" were lifted right out of the Sabbath commandment (Exodus 20:11) and used here. Our true roots are found in God alone, who made us in His image in the beginning. Those who do not worship God as Creator, no matter what else they may worship, may never discover their real roots.

Those who revere God will find pure joy in serving Him.

5. What solemn statement does the second angel make about Babylon? What does the angel of Revelation 18 command God's people to do?

**"And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen." Revelation 14:8. "I saw another angel come down from heaven. ... And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen. ... And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people." Revelation 18:1-4.**

Answer: The second angel solemnly states that "Babylon is fallen," and the voice from heaven urges all of God's people to come out of Babylon at once. Unless you know what Babylon is, you could easily end up in it. Think about it. Could you possibly be in Babylon now? God's people must come out of Babylon.

6. Against what does the third angel's message solemnly warn?

**"And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God." Revelation 14:9, 10.**

Answer: The third angel's message warns people against worshipping the beast and his image and receiving the mark of the beast in their foreheads or hands. The first angel commands true worship. The third angel tells of the awesome consequences connected with false worship. Do you know for certain who the beast is? And what is his mark? Unless you know positively who the beast is and what his mark is, you may end up worshipping him without realizing it. Those who worship the beast and receive his mark will be destroyed by God.

7. What four-point description does God give in Revelation 14:12 of His people who accept and follow the three angels' messages?

**"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:12.**

Answer: A. They are patient, persevering, and faithful to the end, a big order for a "do it now" generation. God's people reveal Him by their patient, loving conduct.

B. They are saints, or holy ones, because they are fully on God's side.

C. They keep the commandments of God. These people of God happily obey His Ten Commandments and all other commandments He has given them. Their first aim is to please Him, whom they love.

**"And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." 1 John 3:22.**

D. They have the faith of Jesus. This also can be translated "faith in Jesus." In either case, God's people fully follow Jesus and fully trust Him. The Lord's end-time saints will find their greatest happiness in pleasing Him.

8. What happens immediately following the teaching of the three angels' messages to all people?

**"And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown." Revelation 14:14.**

Answer: Immediately after the teaching of the three angels' messages to every person, Jesus will return in the clouds (His second advent) to take His people to their heavenly home. At His appearing, the great 1,000-year blackout of Revelation chapter 20 will begin, the 1,000 years. When all have heard Jesus' end-time message, He will return to earth to take His people with Him to heaven

9. In 2 Peter 1:12, the apostle speaks of 'Present Truth'. What does he mean?

**"Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth." 2 Peter 1:12.**

Answer: Present truth is an aspect of the everlasting gospel that has particular urgency for a certain time. Examples are:

A. Noah's message of the Flood Genesis 6 and 7; 2 Peter 2:5. Noah was a preacher of righteousness. He taught God's love as he warned of was a coming flood that would destroy the world. The Flood message was "present truth" for that time. Its urgent cry was "get into the boat." And it was so important that it would have been immoral not to preach it. The special emphasis of Noah's "present truth" was a coming flood.

B. Jonah's message to Nineveh (Jonah 3:4). Jonah's "present truth" was that Nineveh would be destroyed in 40 days. Jonah also uplifted the Saviour, and the city repented. To omit, however, the 40-day warning would have been unfaithful and unforgivable. It was present truth. It fitted that time in a special way. Jonah's "present truth" was that Nineveh was to be destroyed in 40 days.

C. John the Baptist's message (Matthew 3:1-3; Luke 1:17). John's "present truth" was that Jesus, the Messiah, was about to appear. His work was to present the gospel and prepare people for Jesus' first coming. To have omitted that first-coming element of the gospel for his day would have been unthinkable. John the Baptist's "present truth" was that the Messiah would soon appear.

D. The three angels' messages (Revelation 14:6-12). God's "present truth" for today is contained in the

three angels' messages. Of course, salvation through Jesus Christ alone is central to these messages. However, the "present truth" of the three angels also has been given to prepare people for Jesus' Second Coming and to open their eyes to Satan's brilliant and highly convincing deceptions. Unless people understand these messages, Satan will indeed capture and destroy them. Jesus knew we needed these three special messages, so in loving kindness He has given them. They must not be omitted. Please pray earnestly as you examine them point by point. Some of your discoveries may be almost shocking. But all will be satisfying. Your heart will be tremendously stirred. You will sense Jesus speaking to you! After all, they are His messages. The three angels' messages are God's present truth for today.

10. Who does the Bible say will come to give a "present truth" message before the great day of the Lord?

**"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord." Malachi 4:5.**

Answer: Elijah the prophet. There is something significant about Elijah and his message, as we shall see in the next few questions. God's end-time messages are also called the "Elijah" message. They call for a decision.

11. What did Elijah do that caused the Lord to focus on him?

Note: Please open your Bible and carefully read I Kings 18:17-40 before answering this question.

Answer: Elijah urged the people to make up their minds whom they would serve (verse 21). The nation was almost wholly idolatrous. The people had forsaken the true God and His commandments. There was one prophet of God, Elijah, and 450 heathen prophets of Baal (verse 22). Elijah suggested that both he and the idolaters build altars and place wood and a bull on them. He then suggested they ask the true God to reveal Himself by setting fire to His altar. The heathen god did not answer, but the true God of Elijah sent fire from heaven and burned up Elijah's sacrifice.

The Message Demanded a Decision: Elijah's message came at a time of deep spiritual crisis and national apostasy. It came with such power from heaven above that it stopped "business as usual" and drew national attention. Elijah then insisted that people decide whom they would serve, God or Baal. Deeply moved and fully convinced, the people chose God (verse 39).

12. The Elijah message has a twofold application. It applies to a "present truth" message to prepare people for Jesus' first advent and a "present truth" message to prepare people for Jesus' second advent. Who did Jesus say preached the Elijah message to prepare people for His first coming?

**"There hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist." "And if ye will receive it, this is Elias [Elijah], which was for to come." Matthew 11:11, 14.**

Answer: Jesus called John's preaching to prepare people for His first advent "Elijah," or the Elijah message. John's message, as in Elijah's day, made truth very clear and then insisted on a decision. The Bible says of John the Baptist, **"He shall go ... in the spirit and power of Elias [Elijah]."** Luke 1:17.

13. How do we know the prophecy has a second application to our time, just before the second advent?

**"I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord."**

**Malachi 4:5. "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come." Joel 2:31.**

Answer: Please take note that two events will occur before the coming of "the great and terrible day of the Lord" mentioned in Joel 2:31. One, the coming of Elijah. And two, the tremendous signs in the heavens. This helps us locate both events. The dark day occurred May 19, 1780. That same night, the moon appeared as blood. Matthew 24:29 includes one more sign, the falling of the stars, which took place November 13, 1833. From this, we know the end-time Elijah message must begin some time near or after 1833 before the coming of the great day of the Lord. John the Baptist presented the "Elijah" message of His day. Those who preach Revelation 14:6-14 have the Elijah message for today.

#### Second Elijah Message After Sky Signs

It is obvious that John's "Elijah message" does not apply to the second "Elijah message" because God's great sky signs appeared over 1,700 years after John preached his message. The Elijah message of Joel 2:31 had to begin after those sky signs in 1833 and must prepare people for Jesus' second advent. The threefold "present truth" message of Revelation 14:6-14 fits perfectly. It began around 1844 and is preparing people worldwide for Jesus' second advent (verse 14), which will take place after the threefold message has reached every person on earth. (Details on the 1844 date are given in later lessons.)

The Message Demands a Decision: Elijah insisted evil be met head-on and that all decide whom they would serve. So it is with God's threefold message for us today. A decision must be made. God's threefold message unmask Satan and his plans. It clearly reveals God's love and His requirements. God is calling people today back to true worship, worship of God alone. To knowingly serve and worship anyone or anything else in this crucial day amounts to disloyalty and will result in eternal death. God miraculously reached hearts in Elijah's day (1 Kings 18:37, 39) and in the days of John the Baptist. He will do the same in these last days as people respond to the three angels' messages (Revelation 18:1).

4. What other wonderful blessing will the preaching of the Elijah (or the three angels' messages bring?

**"Elijah ... shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers." Malachi 4:5, 6.**

Answer: Praise God! The Elijah message, or three angels' messages, will bring family members together in a loving, close, joyous, heavenly relationship. What a blessed promise! God's final Elijah message will bring families together in joy, love, and happiness.

15. The word "gospel" means "good news." Do the three angels' messages of Revelation chapter 14 provide good news?

Answer: Yes indeed! Let's review the good news we have found in this overview of the three angels' messages:

A. Every person will have an opportunity to hear and understand the last-day gospel. Not one will be passed by.

B. The devil's brilliant, powerful plans to trap and destroy people will be revealed to us, so we need not be ensnared.

- C. Heaven's supernatural power will accompany the spreading of God's message in these last days.
- D. God's people will be patient. He calls them "saints."
- E. God's people will have the faith of Jesus. The Three angels' messages focus upon Jesus.
- F. God's people will, out of love, obey His commandments.
- G. God loves us so much that He has sent a very special message to prepare us for Jesus' Second Coming.
- H. God's message for these last days will bring family members together in love and unity.
- I. The major emphasis of the three angels' messages is that salvation has been provided for everyone through Jesus Christ alone. He gives His righteousness to cover our past and miraculously imparts His righteousness to us daily so we will grow in grace and truly become like Him. With Him, we cannot fail. Without Him, we cannot succeed.

A Further Word: Points of the three angels' messages that will be explained later are:

- A. God's judgment hour has arrived!
- B. Come out of fallen Babylon.
- C. Don't receive the mark of the beast.

Much more good news will be revealed as you prayerfully study these subjects. You will be surprised and gladdened at some things, shocked and saddened at others. Some points may be very hard to accept. But since Jesus sent a special message from heaven to help and guide each one of us personally in these last days, surely nothing could be more important than to hear it, understand it fully, and follow it.

16. Do you feel thankful to learn that Jesus has a special three-point message to guide and assist His people in these last days of earth? Your Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Your Thought Questions Answered:**

1. Will every person on earth be reached with the three angels' messages before Jesus returns? With billions of people now living, how can this be possible?

ANSWER: Yes, it will happen because God promised it (Mark 16:15). Paul says the gospel went "to every creature which is under heaven" in his day (Colossians 1:23). Jonah, by God's grace, reached the entire city of Nineveh in less than 40 days (Jonah 3:4-10). The Bible says God will finish the work and cut it short (Romans 9:28). Count on it. It will happen very quickly and in our day.

2. Did Moses and Elijah actually appear with Jesus at the transfiguration (Matthew 17:3) or was it only a vision?

ANSWER: The event was literal. The Greek word "horama," translated "vision" in verse 9, literally means "what had been seen." Moses was raised from the dead and taken to heaven (Jude 1:9), and Elijah was later translated without seeing death (2 Kings 2:1, 11, 12). These two men, who had been on earth and suffered terribly from the onslaughts of the devil and the rebellion of God's people, understood what Jesus was passing through. They came to encourage and remind Him of all who would be translated into His kingdom without seeing death (like Elijah) and raised to life from the

grave to enter His kingdom (like Moses) because of His sacrifice for our sins.

3. Why did John say he was not Elijah (John 1:19-21) when Jesus said that he was (Matthew 11:10-14)?

ANSWER: The answer comes from Luke 1:3-17. The angel who announced John's coming birth said, **"Thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. ... He shall be great in the sight of the Lord. ... And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Verses 13-17.** When Jesus referred to John as Elijah, He was referring to his life, spirit, power, and work being like that of Elijah. The same is true of the Elijah message of these last days. The emphasis is on the message, not the man. So John was not Elijah in person, but he was presenting the Elijah message. ("Elias" is the Greek form of "Elijah.")

4. Is it possible for someone to be preaching Jesus' full end-time truth for today without including the three angels' messages?

ANSWER: No! The three angels' messages must be included. In the book of Revelation, Jesus Himself reveals or stipulates His end-time message (Revelation 1:1) and says clearly that His people must keep on following what He has revealed in the book (Revelation 1:3; 22:7). So faithful end-time clergymen must be preaching Jesus' messages from the book of Revelation. This, of course, includes preaching His special three-point message of Revelation 14:6-14. Notice that Jesus calls these messages the "everlasting gospel" in verse 6. He also says they must be taken to every person on earth before He returns for His people. Here are three solemn thoughts: A. No one is truly preaching Jesus' "everlasting gospel" unless he includes the three angels' messages.

B. No one has the right to call his messages the everlasting gospel if he omits the three angels' messages.

C. The three angels' messages prepare people for Jesus' second coming (Revelation 14:12-14). Unless you hear, understand, and accept Jesus' three-point end-time messages, you may not be prepared for His second coming.

Special Messages for the End-time: Jesus, who knows what we need, gave us three special messages for the end-time. We must understand and follow them. The next lessons will make these messages clear to you.

5. Luke 1:17 says the Elijah message was to turn "the disobedient to the wisdom of the just." What does this mean?

ANSWER: "The just shall live by faith." Romans 1:17. The just have the wisdom to rest their salvation upon faith in the Saviour. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12. John's message was to make this crystal clear to all. A faith that is anchored to anyone or anything other than Jesus Christ can never save people from sin and lead to a changed life. People must hear and understand this great point of truth. This truth is also the very heart of God's three-point Elijah message for today.

### **Summary Sheet. Place a check beside the correct answers.**

1. The three angels of Revelation 14:



Are literal and must shout loudly to be heard.

Represent God's last-day message moving with speed and power.

Are a figment of someone's imagination.

2. Which items below tell the truth about Revelation?

The book is sealed.

The name means "unveiling" or "revealing."

It tells what message God's people will preach in the last days.

It contains a word picture of Jesus.

God pronounced a curse on those who study it.

3. The message of the three angels must go to every person before Jesus returns.

Yes.  No.

4. The first angel's message stresses the following:

It is the everlasting gospel being presented.

It can't be understood.

Evolution is a fine Christian theory.

The judgment is now in session.

We should respect and truly trust God.

Each person should worship whatever he wishes.

5. The second angel's message says Babylon is fallen, and the angel of Revelation 18 urges everyone to get out of Babylon.

Yes.  No.

6. The third angel's message urges all of God's people to receive the mark of the beast.

Yes.  No.

7. How does Revelation 14:12 speak of God's people?

They are patient.

They are saints.

They do not believe in the Ten Commandments.

They have very little faith.

8. What happens immediately after the gospel has reached every person?

The nations are all converted.

God rebuilds New York and London.

The second coming of Jesus takes place.

9. Which of the following are "present truth" messages for today?

Jonah's message to Nineveh.

Noah's message before the Flood.

The three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12.

10. Which items are true about the three angels' messages?

These messages are being preached now.

These messages stress salvation through Jesus Christ alone.

They can also be called the "Elijah message."

Elijah will appear in person to help present them.

They stress the Christian values of evolution.

Most people will never hear about them.

They will bring family members together in a close, loving relationship.

Supernatural power will accompany them.

They help prepare people for Jesus' second coming.

11. John the Baptist was called the Elijah of his day because:

He liked to call down fire from heaven.

The high priest preferred that name.

His preaching, with the spirit and power of Elijah, prepared people for Jesus' first coming.

12. The word "gospel" means "good news."

Yes.  No.

13. Jesus promises to bring family members close together in love and unity in these last days. Are you praying for this experience in your family?

Yes.  No.

14. Are you relieved and thankful that Jesus has a special message to guide His people through the end-time?

Yes.  No.