The three angels' messages in Revelation 14:6–12 are God's last message of mercy to the world just before the second coming of Christ. They emphasize worshipping God the Creator, rejecting false religious systems, and keeping His commandments through faith in Jesus.

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

The message proclaimed by the angel flying in the midst of heaven is the everlasting gospel, the same gospel that was declared in Eden when God said to the serpent, *"I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel"* (Genesis 3:15).

Here was the first promise of a Saviour who would stand on the field of battle to contest the power of Satan and prevail against him. Christ came to our world to represent the character of God as it is represented in His holy law; for His law is a transcript of His character.

Christ was both the law and the gospel. The angel that proclaims the everlasting gospel proclaims the law of God; for the gospel of salvation brings men to obedience of the law, whereby their characters are formed after the divine similitude." (2SM 106.2).

"Christ is coming the second time, with power unto salvation. To prepare human beings for this event, He has sent the first, second, and third angels' messages. These angels represent those who receive the truth, and with power open the gospel to the world." (7BC 978.11).

THE FIRST ANGEL

"By the first angel, men are called upon to *"fear God, and give glory to him,"* and to worship him as the Creator of the heavens and the earth. In order to do this, they must obey his law. Says the wise man, *"Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man."* [Ecclesiastes 12:13.] Without obedience to his commandments, no worship can be pleasing to God. *"This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments." "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination."* [1 John 5:3; Proverbs 28:9.] (GC88 436.1).

THE SECOND ANGEL

"Babylon is said to be *"the mother of harlots."* By her daughters must be symbolized churches that cling to her doctrines and traditions, and follow her example of sacrificing the truth and the approval of God, in order to form an unlawful alliance with the world. The message of Revelation 14, announcing the fall of Babylon must apply to religious bodies that were once pure and have become corrupt.

Since this message follows the warning of the judgment, it must be given in the last days; therefore it cannot refer to the Roman Church alone, for that church has been in a fallen condition for many centuries. Furthermore, in the eighteenth chapter of the Revelation the people of God are called upon to come out of Babylon.

"According to this scripture, many of God's people must still be in Babylon. And in what religious bodies are the greater part of the followers of Christ now to be found? Without doubt, in the various churches professing the Protestant faith. At the time of their rise these churches took a noble stand for God and the truth, and His blessing was with them. Even the unbelieving world was constrained to acknowledge the beneficent results that followed an acceptance of the principles of the gospel. In the words of the prophet to Israel: *"Thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it was perfect through My comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord God."* But they fell by the same desire which was the curse and ruin of Israel—the desire of imitating the practices and courting the friendship of the ungodly. *"Thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown."* Ezekiel 16:14, 15." (GC 382.3).

Many of the Protestant churches are following Rome's example of iniquitous connection with *"the kings of the earth"*—the state churches, by their relation to secular governments;

and other denominations, by seeking the favor of the world. And the term *"Babylon"*—confusion—may be appropriately applied to these bodies, all professing to derive their doctrines from the Bible, yet divided into almost innumerable sects, with widely conflicting creeds and theories. Besides a sinful union with the world, the churches that separated from Rome present other of her characteristics." (GC 383.1-2).

WHAT IS THE WINE OF BABYLON?

"The great sin charged against Babylon is that she *"made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."* This cup of intoxication which she presents to the world represents the false doctrines that she has accepted as the result of her unlawful connection with the great ones of the earth. Friendship with the world corrupts her faith, and in her turn she exerts a corrupting influence upon the world by teaching doctrines which are opposed to the plainest statements of Holy Writ." (GC 388.2).

"The world is soon to be left by the angel of mercy, and the seven last plagues are to be poured out. Sin, shame, sorrow, and darkness are on every side; but God still holds out to the souls of men the precious privilege of exchanging darkness for light, error for truth, sin for righteousness. But God's patience and mercy will not always wait. Let not one soul think that he can hide from God's wrath behind a lie, for God will strip from the soul the refuge of lies.

The bolts of God's wrath are soon to fall, and when He shall begin to punish the transgressors, there will be no period of respite until the end. The storm of God's wrath is gathering, and those only will stand who are sanctified through the truth in the love of God. They shall be hid with Christ in God till the desolation shall be overpast. He shall come forth to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity, and *"the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain."* (TM 182.2).

THE THIRD ANGEL

The beast with two horns *"causeth [commands] all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."* Revelation 13:16, 17. The third angel's warning is: *"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." "The beast"* mentioned in this message, whose worship is enforced by the two-horned beast, is the first, or leopardlike beast of Revelation 13—the papacy. The *"image to the beast"* represents that form of apostate Protestantism which will be developed when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power for the enforcement of their dogmas. The *"mark of the beast"* still remains to be defined. (GC 445.2).

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

Revelation 14:12

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