

The Remnant and the Three Angels' Messages (Part 1)



11 in a series

Introduction

The classic science fiction movie “On the Beach” is over fifty years old and imagines the survivors of World War Three and the subsequent nuclear holocaust. The movie is essentially about the different ways people deal with the fact that they are the remnant of humanity - and how they deal with the world as they know it coming to an end.

In the book of Revelation, we see similar circumstances where a ‘remnant’ of God’s people find themselves on the edge of the world coming to an end. This remnant look expectantly towards their rescue at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. These faithful believers at the end of time are the minority of Earth’s inhabitants and - despite great opposition and extreme difficulties - they maintain a steadfast faith in their Saviour and obedience to His commandments (Revelation 14:12).

Overview for Session #11

1. **The Story So Far**
2. **Review of the Remnant**
3. **Message of the First Angel**
4. **The Seventh Day in Scripture**

1. The Story So Far

Revelation chapters 12 to 14 are the very heart of the book of Revelation. We see here the cosmic battle between good and evil being fought in Heaven and also on Earth. Satan lost this battle when Jesus gave His life on the cross of Calvary. By this sacrificial act Jesus has saved anyone who places their faith in Him and surrenders their life to their Saviour (John 3:16). Christ’s resurrection on the third day after His death showed that He has victory over death (1 Corinthians 15:20) – and placed Him as King of kings and Lord of lords in a kingdom that will continue for all eternity.

Even though victory is assured the battle is not yet completely over. Satan is permitted for a time to continue his evil work and he focusses on the followers of Jesus. Satan’s final assault is on the faithful people who will be living on the Earth towards the end of time (this is the group of believers often known as ‘the remnant’ – see Revelation 12:17).

The ‘great tribulation’ of earthly difficulties at the end of time is led by Satan and his earthly supporters who are identified as an unholy trinity consisting of The Dragon, The Sea Beast and The Land Beast (Revelation chapters 12 & 13) – this trinity is known in Revelation as “Babylon” (Revelation 14:8 and chapters 17-18).

During these significant difficulties it is allegiance to the biblical Ten Commandments that is a key issue in this battle between good and evil – and the mark of the beast is identified as keeping a man-made substitute for God’s commandments (Revelation 13:16-17, 14:9-10).

2. Review of the Remnant

At the end of Revelation chapter 12, we are introduced to a group of people who ‘keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ’ (Revelation 12:17). The King James Version translation of the Bible refers to this group as “the remnant”. This is the group of believers alive at the end time just prior to Christ’s ‘second coming’.

The remnant are they who obey God’s will. They keep His commandments and are genuine believers in Jesus, symbolised by the ‘144,000’ referred to in Revelation (Rev. 7:4, 14:1-5).



These end-time followers of Christ known as “the remnant” honour their Lord not only with their lips but also with how they live their lives – such as their unwavering obedience to His commandments.

Question 1: Can you identify being a part of this faithful group? _____

These believers rejoice at Jesus’ Second Coming and will receive an eternal reward - they will live forever in God’s everlasting kingdom (Revelation 21:4-5). It’s important to keep in mind that a person’s intentional delays and procrastinations in making a decision to follow Christ may result in that person missing out in the Lord’s eternal kingdom.

3. The Message of the First Angel

The “Remnant” are given a vital role in the plan of salvation. They have an important message to share with the people of the entire world in the closing period of Earth’s history. It is referred to as the message of the three angels.

Revelation 14:6-12 - The Proclamations of Three Angels

*⁶ 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—
⁷ 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.”*

⁸ And another angel followed, saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”

⁹ Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”

¹² Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

Question 2: What is the work of the first angel? _____

Question 3: What attitude do the saints have toward God’s commandments? _____

The word here translated as ‘angel’ can also be translated as ‘a messenger’ (see Revelation 1:20) and Revelation says this message for the entire world (Revelation 14:6). This message is delivered to the people of Earth through this end time “remnant” people - and relates to a key theme in Revelation – “worship”. The word worship is continually used in these middle chapters of Revelation and often contrasts false worship with the true (see Rev. 14:4, v8, v12 and compare with Rev. 14:7). Therefore, worship is a central issue in God’s final message – and the messages of the Three Angels show who is the One worthy to be worshipped.

Looking at the first angel’s message, it states, **“Fear God and give glory to Him”**. Fearing God does not mean to be scared of Him, but instead is a call to take Him seriously and to choose God as the Guide of your life. Then the verse states that **“the hour of His**

judgment has come". Judgment is a solemn time – a time of decision – a time to be prepared for. This issue, and the other two angels' messages, will be dealt with in more detail later.

The command is then given to **"worship Him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and the springs of water"**. The book of Revelation says the Creator of the universe is worthy of worship based on who He is and what He continues to do. It is in this verse we see something of significant interest – while Revelation often alludes to the Old Testament writings, it doesn't actually quote from them. But in Revelation 14:7 we see a direct quote from the Ten Commandments and in particular – the fourth commandment. In verse 11 of **Exodus 20:11**, we read – *For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, but He rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.*

So, the call to worship the true God here in Revelation is associated with the fourth commandment which commands us to keep holy the seventh-day Sabbath day. Here God is calling his remnant back to God's original truth. This is why we see them as keeping the commandments of God, which would include the command to keep the Sabbath day holy. The worship of God on His true Sabbath is a key part of end time issues.

Question 4: Do you see the connection between the first angel's message in Revelation 14:7 and the Fourth Commandment in Exodus 20:11? _____

We noted the importance of the Ten Commandments in Revelation in our previous lesson. We have also seen a move away from God's original commands having been changed by church leaders during medieval times. The true Sabbath has also been 'tampered with' by those not authorized to do so. There is no biblical reference to change the Lord's Sabbath other than the traditions and commands of men.

4. The Seventh Day in Scripture

- The Sabbath was made by God at the creation of the earth (Genesis 2:2-3).
- Recognition of the Sabbath was given before the Ten Commandments were given (Exodus 16:29,30).
- Worshipping on the Sabbath day is one of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:8-11).
- Importantly, Jesus honoured the Sabbath day in His weekly customs of worship (Luke 4:16).
- Jesus established His own authority on the on-going authority of the Sabbath (Mark 2:27,28).
- Jesus rested in the tomb on the Sabbath at the 're-creation of the world' (Matthew 15:32 – 16:2).

- The Apostle Paul honoured the seventh-day Sabbath in His weekly customs of worship (Acts 17:2 & 18:4).



- The New Testament book of Hebrews states that there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God and encourage God's people to enter that rest (Hebrews 4:9-11).

“Which day of worship should Christians keep?”

Revelation 1:10 I was in the Spirit on THE LORD'S DAY, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet.

One thing is certain, Christ has a special day in the New Testament era and here it is referred to as the “Lord’s Day”. Which day is the Lord’s day? This text does not say; it simply states that He has a day. The answer becomes clear in other texts of Scripture.

Matthew 12:8

For the Son of Man is LORD EVEN OF THE SABBATH.

If Christ is the Lord of the Sabbath as this text states, then the seventh-day Sabbath is the “Lord’s Day”. No other day has been set aside for worship other than the seventh-day Sabbath that begins at sunset on Friday and concludes with sunset on Saturday.

In Isaiah 58:13, the Sabbath is called “MY HOLY DAY”

Exodus 20:8-11

REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but THE SEVENTH DAY IS THE SABBATH of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. FOR IN SIX DAYS THE LORD MADE THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Question 5: Which day do you believe is the “Lord’s Day” _____

There are some who say it’s OK as long as we worship one day in seven, but God is specific. He says; “Remember the SABBATH day”, not any other day.

JESUS IS OUR CREATOR: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and THE WORD WAS GOD. He was in the beginning with God. ALL THINGS WERE MADE THROUGH HIM, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” (John 1:1-3)*

The “Word” referred to in John chapter 1 is Jesus Christ (see verse 14). In the opening chapter of John’s Gospel we see that nothing was made without Christ. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit all co-operated in the creation of this world (Genesis 1:26).

JESUS CREATED THE SABBATH: If Christ is responsible for the existence of all things then He also made the Sabbath. Some say the Sabbath is a holy day for the Jewish religion only - but the Sabbath came into existence as a 'holy day' before any religions/denominations. In fact, it came into existence before there was any sin and therefore a need for salvation through Christ.. Because Christ made the Sabbath at creation - it is fair to say this holy day is for **“every nation, tribe, tongue, and people”** (Rev. 14:6).



It was the practice of Jesus to attend church on Sabbath all His earthly life.

JESUS HONOURED THE SABBATH: *“So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And AS HIS CUSTOM WAS, HE WENT INTO THE SYNAGOGUE ON THE SABBATH DAY, and stood up to read”* (Luke 4:16)

How did Jesus regard the Sabbath? This text shows Christ’s habit of Sabbath observance and church attendance. He made the Sabbath and He also kept it. He is our example.

Question 6: If Jesus kept the seventh-day Sabbath should we also keep it today? _____

Hebrew 13:8. JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME yesterday, today, and FOREVER.

Humans change their views and ideas, but God is perfect – He never changes. In His sight good is always good and evil is always evil. His principles of righteousness are eternal.

Genesis 2:1-3 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and HE RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY from all His work which He had done. Then God BLESSED the seventh day and SANCTIFIED it, because in it He RESTED from all His work which God had created and made.

Here at the creation of the world we see our first Sabbath. God set the example by working six days and resting on the seventh. Notice how He blessed this day. To bless means to make happy but obviously it has a deeper meaning than the mere surface happiness – it involves real satisfaction. Secondly, God sanctified the seventh day, or “set it apart” for a holy use. It was a day different from all other days. No matter how sincerely a person may keep another day other than the Sabbath, it does not make it a holy day. Only God can make a day holy. Thirdly, it is to be a day of ‘rest’ from normal issues and routines in our lives.

Question 7: How did God make the Sabbath day different from other days of the week?



God gave the Sabbath to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Mark 2:27 And He said to them, THE SABBATH WAS MADE FOR MAN, and not man for the Sabbath.

At the time of Christ, the Jewish religious leaders had placed many man-made requirements on Sabbath observance and made it a burden instead of a day of blessing. Jesus came to show humanity how to honour the Sabbath. He pointed out that it was made FOR humanity and was to be a blessing to them - not a burden. Jesus also said it was made for MAN. It was not made for the Jewish nation only but for all of humankind.

HAVE THE ORIGINAL DAYS OF THE WEEK BEEN LOST?: It has been said by some that through the centuries the historical days of the week have been lost. Therefore, we can't be certain exactly which is chronologically the seventh day. Let's consider the following in establishing that the seventh-day Sabbath of today is the same from antiquity....

1. Archaeologists have uncovered Babylonian clay tablets related to the recording of eclipses. Modern-day astronomers can tell with split second timing the occurrences of solar and lunar eclipses in the past and the future. When examining these ancient Babylonian tablets it can be calculated that we have not lost one thousandth of a second in time - let alone a whole day.
2. Our calendar underwent a change when transferring from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar system. A number of "days" were omitted in the transition to the new calendar, thus changing the dates – but the SEQUENCE OF THE DAYS OF THE WEEK DID NOT CHANGE. The same weekly cycle continued from Sunday as the first day of the week through to Saturday as the week's seventh day.
3. The Jews have always been very strict regarding Sabbath observance and would never change. Today, they still observe the seventh-day Sabbath as their worship day. They were wrong in rejecting the true Messiah – Christ, but are right regarding the day of worship.
4. Jesus was present at creation and created the Sabbath day and declares Himself "Lord of the Sabbath" (Mark 2:28, Matthew 12:8). If the original sequence of the weekly cycle had been lost in antiquity Jesus would have corrected us – such was the importance He gave the day.



Even when Jesus was crucified, they waited until after the Sabbath to embalm His body.

“Moreover I also gave them My SABBATHS, TO BE A SIGN BETWEEN THEM AND ME, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them.” (Ezekiel 20:12)

To keep the seventh-day Sabbath is a sign that we belong to the true God of heaven. Honouring the Sabbath in our worship and weekly routine indicates to the world that we are giving our allegiance to the Creator. It was true of literal Israel and is true of “Spiritual Israel” – those who accept Christ (Galatians 3:29.) - since no change in the day of worship has been recorded.

Isaiah 66:22-23 “For as the new heavens and the NEW EARTH Which I will make And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and FROM ONE SABBATH TO ANOTHER, ALL FLESH SHALL COME TO WORSHIP BEFORE ME,” says the LORD.



It would seem from the above biblical text that in the new Earth which God has promised to create - the Sabbath will be observed. The Sabbath was made before Adam sinned and was honoured by sinless people. When Adam and Eve sinned, they still kept the day holy. The Israelites kept it. Jesus Christ kept it and so did His followers. There is no record of a change. Then when sin is finished forever, the redeemed will still be keeping the seventh-day Sabbath holy.

We will keep the Sabbath in the New Earth.

Question 8: If the seventh-day Sabbath is to be kept in the New Earth should we keep it holy today? _____

Many people follow the crowd. They keep Sunday as a day of worship because most others do. Surely it is better to follow biblical truth. We need to **“obey God rather than men”** (Acts 5:29). What does Christ want us to do with His holy day? He asks us to remember it and to honour it. He is the Creator, the Lawgiver and the Redeemer, and He said, **“If you love me, keep my commandments”** (John 14:15).

Question 9: Can you see the blessing that comes to each of us when we honour God’s holy Sabbath day? _____