

Sabbath School Lesson

THE THREE ANGELS' MESSAGE



FOURTH ANGEL
ULTIMATE WARNING
MINISTRY

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LESSON 1 – THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL

Golden Verse:

“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 tribe, and tongue, and people.” (Revelation 14:6)

Sunday

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of Heaven, having the everlasting Gospel” (Revelation 14:6)

The word “gospel” means “good tidings”. It is the same term of the original translated as “evangelize”, when Jesus said: “The spirit of the Lord...He hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor” (Luke 4:18), which is the same as “good tidings” in other passages: “The angel said unto them, fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto us is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:10, 11). The angel has summed up the good tidings in this way: “in the city of David, for unto you is born this day, which is Christ, The LORD”. “for He shall save his people from their sins” (Mat. 1:21). Therefore, the gospel announces Jesus as the Christ who comes to save us from our sins. “for sin is the transgression of the law” (I John 3:4). Thus, we understand that Jesus came to save us from the transgression of the law and lead us to become obedient to it. It is necessary that we receive the power that we do not have for it becomes real. Paul said: “but I am...sold under sin” (Rom. 7:14). The power that make us free from the sin is “Christ the power of God” (I Cor. 1:24). Therefore, the Good Tidings of the Gospel are the announcement of the coming of Christ, i.e., the power of God to save us from the transgression, disobedience of the 10 commandments.

1) What does gospel mean? (Rom. 1:16)

R.: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth”

2) In whom should we believe to receive the Power of God and be saved? (Acts 16:31; Acts 4:12)

R: “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house”; “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”;

Monday

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of Heaven...” (Revelation 14:6)

1) Where the gospel should be preached? (Mat. 24:14)

R.: “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations...”

John has seen an angel flying in the midst of Heaven to preach the Gospel. It means that if something goes through heaven, everyone is able to see it. In other words, God reveals His wish that the Good Tidings of the Gospel, i.e., Christ as a power of God to make us free from sin be announced to all.

“God...Who will have all men to be saved” (I Tim. 2:3, 4). Jesus says to each one of us: “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mar. 16:15). He expects us to be engaged in this cause in this Holy work.

“But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Mat. 10:6). The Israelites were the keepers of the Sabbath. The Gospel should be firstly preached to this class of people. Then, to the others. “And ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8). The apostles, in the past, responded to the call of Christ: “their sound went into all the earth and their words unto the ends of the world” (Rom. 10:18). Paul said that, in those days, “the gospel...was preached to every creature which is under heaven” (Col 1:23). And Jesus calls us to the same Work. The angel of Revelation Book had the duty to preach the gospel “to every nation, and tribe, and tongue, and people.” (Revelation 14:6). The word angel is the translation of the original that means “messenger”. We are called to be this messenger. Will we attend to His invitation?

Tuesday

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of Heaven, having the everlasting Gospel” (Revelation 14:6)

The word everlasting means something that is forever, but never changes. The Bible, referring to God as the Everlasting, states: “which is, and which was, and which is to come” (Rev. 1:8). The Gospel is just the same: today is similar to the time of Genesis and to the time that is coming; i.e., the one which will be preached in the last days. In the time of the New Testament, Paul declared that “the Scripture, foreseeing the gospel unto Abraham” (Gal. 3:8). Abraham lived closed to 2000 years before Paul. And he received the same gospel.

In the Sunday’s lesson, we studied that the gospel is the announcement of Christ as the Power of God to make us free from sin. The Genesis shows that Good Tidings had already been told in the Eden, just after the falling of Adam. Jehovah, God, said to the serpent: “And 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” (Gen. 3:15). This was the announcement that would come someone of the seed of the woman, who would defeat the serpent, Satan: it shall bruise thy head. The seed was the man, Jesus Christ. In Luke, Chapter 3, Jesus’ parents on behalf of his mother are mentioned one by one, starting from his grandfather Joseph, Mary’s father, your mother. The text leads us to the first father, Adam (Luke 3:38). Jesus bruised the head of Satan on calvary's cross. "And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of

them openly, triumphing over them in it" (Col. 2:15). Suffering as a silent sheep openly showed the wickedness of Satan and the true principles of his government, plucking out of the holy beings all feelings of sympathy in favor of their cause. The government of God was justified as being better, wise and righteous in the cross of Christ. In this sense, Jesus bruised the head of Satan. However, intending to bruise the enemy's head, Jesus had to endure the sufferings of the cross, so in figurative language God said that the serpent would bruise his heel. A temporal wound, but that wound would be healed by the glorious resurrection of Christ.

The gospel of Christ announced in Genesis remained the same until the time of the apostles. And God has not given us any encouragement for us to think that it would be changed at the end of times.

1) Has God changed the gospel sent to men when the modern times came?

R.: "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed" (Mal 3:6)

Wednesday

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of Heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on earth, and to every nation, and tribe, and tongue, and people." (Revelation 14:6)

God wants that the gospel be preached, but not be kept in secret. Once it is received, He expects that we teach it to others. Since the gospel is the announcement of Christ, i.e, God's power, to preach it is to preach Christ as the deliverer of the sins. Do not preach it means fail to confess Christ. "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 10:32, 33). Thus, all who is confessed by Christ in heaven will have preached Him as the Saviour on earth. The true Christian is born as a Missionary. His encouragement to preach Christ is not related to the wages, but the desire that others also could find the Saviour who he found in Jesus. He works for the Master "not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind" (I Pet. 5:2)

1) What will be the part of the fearful, who refused to confess Jesus?

R.: "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters and all liars, their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death "(Rev. 21:8).

Jesus was not ashamed of us, although we have committed so many horrible sins. Would we be ashamed of Him? What a dishonour to heaven that is a human being who was saved by a worthy price of the sacrifice of Jesus refuses to preach the name of his Saviour! This is the greatest proof of neglect of all the sacrifices made in our favor. Hopefully that no one be found in this situation! Paul has admonished the Ephesians that they were "Praying always... watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak" (Eph. 6:18-20). We also need to do the same. On trusting in our efforts to preach

Jesus will only lead us to deny Him, as Peter did. All our strength is weakness in ourselves. On simply getting strength from God we will have the necessary courage to preach the gospel as we are supposed to do.

Thursday

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of Heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on earth, and to every nation, and tribe, and tongue, and people.” (Revelation 14:6)

Those who dwell on the earth are mentioned as those who persecute and kill the saints in Revelation of Revelation 6: "And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth" (Rev. 6:10). In chapter 8, they are seen as celebrating the death of God's witnesses: "And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth" (Rev. 11:10). It is the class of people that God commands us to preach the gospel in the last days. It is note that the work does not seem very promising, i.e, the act of preaching to people who intend to kill the preachers. However, Jesus, our Master, did the same: "He came unto His own, and his own received Him not" (John 1:11). Once He told to the leaders of Israel, "But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham" (John 8:40). And He states to us as follows: "The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also" (John 15:20)

God's point of view is not the same of us. He sees - not what man is today: a persecutor and a refuser of the grace, but what he may be by His power - holy. He wants us to preach the Good Tidings, because although many people would reject the invitation of the gospel of salvation, many other people would receive it. The prophecy of Isaiah says that Jesus will "see the travail of His soul and be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant will justify many, for he shall bear their iniquities" (Isa. 53:11). He demonstrated love for the ungrateful, and this love would change many of them, giving them power to become God's children. Thus, we are invited to work for souls just like Him, to love the mortal enemies as He did. So, after all, we will share His joy of seeing souls eternally saved, and we will hear His words: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Mat. 25:21). Hopefully that we all share this joy with Christ!

Friday

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of Heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on earth, and to every nation, and tribe, and tongue, and people.” (Revelation 14:6)

Summary:

God has sent an angel, who was represented by flying through the midst of heaven, because he is having a message that should be known by all. This is the everlasting gospel, the Good Tidings that the Father has sent us a Saviour, Jesus Christ, and He is the power of God for salvation. He will save all who believes in Him of their sins, their disobedience to God's law. Indeed, everyone who believes in Jesus Christ will lead to be obedient to the Ten Commandments by God's power provided by Jesus. Therefore, it will be restored the condition from where the human race one day fall down – from the holy and happy condition, in which Adam and Eve have lived. For receiving the Gospel, it will be fulfilled the promise of God to us: “ye shall therefore be holy, for I Am holy” (Lev. 11:45).

The angel does not preach the gospel directly to all men, but he works for people to wake up and be like angels, as messengers of God, and preach it. God command men to preach the gospel. Paul told the Galatians, "received me as an angel of God" (Gal. 4:14). The Lord expects us to be announcers of the good tidings and preach courageously, even to the persecutors, enemies and despisers of the grace, to people like us, to those who dwell on the earth. And that we make an effort, trusting in His power to lead this gospel to every nation and tribe and tongue and people. Paul obeyed the calling: “But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me” (I Cor. 15:10). Hopefully that God bless us and make us faithful to this charge; that by His grace we would be His messengers. Amen!

LESSON 2 – THE FIRST ANGEL’S MESSAGE

“Fear God and give glory to Him!

Golden Verse:

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of Heaven...Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour os his judgement is come: and worship him that made heaven and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters” (Revelation 14:6,7)

For meditation: “In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the Word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn importance: the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels’ messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention” (Final Events, pages 45 and 46)

Sunday

The announcement of the judgment

1) We will give account of our life to someone?

R.: “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God”; “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do” (Rom 14:12, Heb. 4:13).

“I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: His throne was like the fiery flame and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him: thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened” (Daniel 7:9, 10).

Daniel saw the judgement being set on heaven and the books being opened. The Scripture says, “For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.” (Eccl. 12:13, 14). Every work of everyone will be judged. And the judgement will not be superficial: “God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ” (Rom. 2:16). Thoughts, intentions and motives, words and actions, everything will be thoroughly investigated, since “for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart” (I Sam. 16:7).

All of our known and covert works are faithfully recorded in books. The psalmist said: “Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?” (Ps. 56:8)”. “Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.” (Ps.139.16). “Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God” (I Co 4:5). The good and bad works are equally recorded: “the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon His name” (Mal 3:16); “Behold, it is written before me... Your iniquities, and the iniquities of your fathers together, saith the LORD” (Isa. 65:6,7).

The rule, the standard of justice to which all of the works will be compared in order to be justified or condemned is the holy law of God, the Ten Commandments. “All who have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified” (Rom. 2:12, 13) Therefore, we note that to be approved in the judgement, we need to be prepared to go through it. So the angel says: “Fear God and give glory to Him!” We will study this message of being able to the judgement during the week.

Monday

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of Heaven...Saying with a loud voice” (Revelation 14:6, 7)

1) What happened to Elizabeth after receiving the Holy Spirit?

R.: “And Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.” (Luc. 1:41-45).

After being filled with the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth has been empowered to speak with a loud voice, and spoke words inspired by God, which have been recorded in Scripture and preserved until today. To speak in a loud voice means by the power of the Spirit. We, like Elizabeth, when we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we will be empowered by God to carry out the role played by the angel who says in a loud voice.

Preaching in a loud voice also means no shyness. On the cross, “Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost” (Matt. 27:50). The Jews, before killing Stephen, “they cried out with a loud voice...and ran upon him with one accord”; Then, he, in his turn, “kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge” (Acts 7:57, 60). In loud, so everyone can hear, with courage. This courage can only be given by the Holy Spirit of Christ. Only this agent may enable us to speak with a loud voice with power and courage. For that to happen, we should not seek to guide the Spirit in our good works. He is who should serve of us: “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God” (Rom 8:14). Let’s ask HIM for pouring out HIS SPIRIT and be submitted to His guidance so as to be instruments of God to deliver the message with power and courage!

Tuesday

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of Heaven...Saying with a loud voice, Fear God”. (Revelation 14:6, 7)

1) What does the Fear of God mean?

R.:“The fear of the LORD is to hate evil”; “by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil” (Prov. 8:13; 16:6)

Fear the Lord means to observe the law, for it is written: “fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this Law” (Deut. 31:12,13). “Therefore love is the fulfilling of the law” (Rom 13:10). Therefore fear God means to love one another: “Ye shall not therefore oppress one another; but thou shalt fear thy God” (Lev 25:17)

Since the rule of the judgement is the law, the first angel of Revelation points out to men the need to be in harmony with its concepts. Our heavenly Father has left us an example of a man who feared God: Jesus: “And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch [Jesus] shall grow out ... And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD” (Isa. 11:1, 3). He delighted himself in the Fear of Lord with joyfulness to observe the law. And His life can be ours. For it we shall believe in Him as our Saviour. God has promised: “And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts” (Jer 32:40,41). Jesus is the Mediator of this covenant: “But now hath He obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also He is the mediator of a better covenant” (Heb. 8:6). He makes intercession before

God, pleading that the covenant would be fulfilled with us, i.e, that God put His fear, the joy of observing His commandments in our hearts. And He does not work in vain, since His death on the cross is the guarantee that the Father will attend him and fulfill the covenant. This covenant is compared to a testament, in which the death of the testator is a guarantee of the fulfillment of the promise. Jesus “is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions...they which are called might receive the promise... a testament is of force after men are dead” (Heb 9:15,17). Since Jesus has already died, the testament, the covenant shall be fulfilled indeed. In Him, God says: “I will put My Fear in his heart”. If we believe in Jesus as our Saviour, He makes intercession for us in heaven, and God will fulfill His covenant, putting his fear in our heart. So we shall keep His commandments and be approved in the judgement. Then, Will we fear the judgement? No way, because we will be prepared for it!

Wednesday

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of Heaven...Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him” (Revelation 14:6, 7).

1) Why, according to Revelation, men did not give glory to God?

R.: “blasphemed the name of God...and they repented not to give him glory” (Rev. 16:9)

They could have given glory to God if they had repented. The first angel's message firstly highlights the importance of obeying the commandments, by the words: "Fear God". Then, when he says “give glory to Him”, he invites us to be repented of our transgressions. The repentance means the sorrow for the sin and the abandonment of it. Paul mentions the Corinthian believers as they have experienced the true repentance: “Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. “For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter” (II Cor 7:9-11)

2) When David experienced the true repentance, only regretted the misconduct or also asked for a new obedient heart?

R.: “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions... Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow... Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. (PS. 51:1-12)

Repentance like this that leads us to hate of the whole heart the sin and to wish to proceed appropriately can only be given by God. He invites us to look at His goodness in providing for us a Saviour, His Son, who has died in our place, for we might live. “The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance” (Rom. 2:4)

Thursday

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of Heaven...Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him”. (Revelation 14:6, 7)

1) How could Achan give glory to God?

R.: “And Joshua said unto Achan, My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me” (Joshua 7:19)

We give glory to God by confessing our sins. Doing this, we testify that God should not be blamed for our failures. The problem is not in Him, but in us. He, His law and His government are justified. Therefore, the confession should not be accompanied by an excuse to sin. “Sin is the transgression of the law” (I JN 3:4). An excuse to sin means to justify it and justify it means to justify the transgression, and consequently to condemn God and His law. If the transgression is right, then the law is wrong, and The Donor as well – it would be an obvious conclusion.

The confession must be clear, i.e, goes straight to the point. By recognizing his fault, “And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto the LORD thy God, that we die not: for we have added unto all our sins this evil, to ask us a king” (I Sam 12:19).

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us from our sins and to purify us from all unrighteousness" (I John 3:4). In the time of judgement, what we need most is to be purified, since then, when judged, we will be approved. And the first angel's message, says: "Fear God" invites us to confess our sins. Note that is a message of salvation, because once believed and obeyed, he puts us in a position to be approved in the judgement. Let's observe it for our well-being!

Friday

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven... Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him” (Revelation 14:6, 7).

1) How did Abraham give glory to God?

R.: “Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God” (Rom 4:18-20)

Abraham believed in God's promise, once he did not take into consideration the circumstances, which were all opposed to the promise. His wife had ceased to ovulate, and he had a dead body for he was about an hundred years. Of all the point of views of humans, it was impossible for them to be born a son. But Abraham believed in what God is able to do and nothing is impossible to Him. The inability of the man was just converted into an opportunity for God to show His endless power. And that was what he did. For instance, Isaac was born as the son of promise, i.e; it was not through the will of the flesh, but of God. Likewise, Jesus, “But as many as received

him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12, 13). Men who believe in Jesus will be changed into harmony with Him, not by his own strength or efforts to comply, but by His power. By requiring man's perfect obedience to His law, He asked him what it would be impossible by the man's nature. “For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin” (Rom. 7:14). However, taking into consideration Abraham, the inability of man also creates the opportunity for God to reveal His power and manifest His glory. When the man believes in Jesus, he accepts that Jesus changes his heart and makes him observe the law. Abraham gave glory to God by faith, and everyone who believes in Jesus and in His power to restore, also gives glory to God. In this sense, he is made a keeper of the commandments and is being prepared for the judgement.

Sabbath

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of Heaven... Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him”. (Revelation 14:6, 7)

1) What should be our goal of life?

R.: “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God”. (I Cor. 10:31)

We may give glory to God or not through our works. The Lord invites us to know how to glorify Him through what we eat. And we may find advices through the God's Word in this regard: “It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine” (Rom 14:21). Vegetarian diet honours God. Here we learn that whenever we can, we should avoid the use of meat of dead animals of any kind such as: cattle, sheep, lamb, chicken, fish, seafood and so on. “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body” (I Cor. 6:19, 20).

The opening verse is still further of comprehensive understanding. If doing anything else, do all to the glory of God. It means having as the supreme goal of life to please God and honour His name in our lives. It means living for Him, but not for ourselves. How can we go through this experience? Paul explains: “For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again” (II Cor. 5:14, 15). The love of Christ for us, on giving His life for us to live is a major encouragement to give us for Him as well. The words of the Gospel: "Give glory to Him" is an invitation to live forever with this encouragement and so our labor gives glory to him. In the judgement, men “were judged...according to their works” (Rev. 20:12). Those who believe and observe the words give glory to Him do not fear the judgment, since it will demonstrate that their works are in harmony with His will.

In this week, we understood that the belief and the obedience in the words of the gospel, "Fear God and give glory to Him" make people for being able to be approved in the judgement. Hopefully that we also may believe and obey this wonderful gospel, for our temporal and eternal well-being. Amen!

LESSON 3 – THE TIME OF HIS JUDGEMENT IS COMING...

Golden Verse:

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven..., 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 14:6, 7).

Sunday

The prophecy that points to the judgement

1) What is the major event that is announced in the first angel's message?

R.: “And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven..., Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come” (Revelation 14:6, 7).

The first angel’s message announces to the world the first judgement started in heaven. And what gives certainty to the servants of God concerned the event is the Word of prophecy. Peter said: “We have also a more sure word of prophecy” (II Pet. 1:19). We can find the report of the vision on the judgement in the Book of Daniel: “I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: His throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. “A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened” (Dan 7:8-10). Here is not indicated the time, in which it starts. In Chapter 8, there are further explanations about the vision and there is reported the start time of the judgement: “a vision appeared unto me...after that which appeared unto me at the first; Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision? And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed” (Dan. 8:1, 13, 14).

A brief look at the visions of chapters 7 and 8 shows that both treat the same theme - a power that persecutes the saints, and after its fall sits the court of heaven to the judgement. In Chapter 7, the Angel says: “And 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 until a time and times and the dividing of time; But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion” (Dan. 7:25, 26). And in the 8, “How long shall be the vision concerning ...daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?” (Dan. 8:13)

Dan 7:25: “They (the saints) shall be given to his hand”

Dan. 8:13: “to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?”

Both phrases refer to the persecution of the saints. The history reveals that the prosecution was conducted by the medieval papacy. He had his supremacy from the year A.D. 538 to A.D. 1798 when the pope was took into prison and lost his temporal power. For the prophecy, after this, would come the judgement: “But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion” (Dan. 7:26). Therefore, the judgement in heaven would begin in anytime after the year 1798. The additional information comes in Chapter 8, when the time of the judgement is more accurately indicated: “And he said unto me, unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed” (Dan. 8:13-14). Other translations show: "Unto two thousand and three hundred days, then the sanctuary will be justified." Here, there is a clear connection with the work that is done in the sanctuary. And by the Chapter 7, we see that the appointed job is the judgement: “The judgment was set, and the books were opened” (Dan 7:10). Therefore, the prophecy of Daniel 8 indicates the judgement in heaven. The announcement of the first angel: "the time of his judgement is coming" refers to the fulfillment of this prophecy.

Monday

The prophecy that indicates the Judgement – continuation

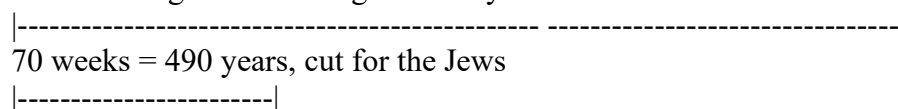
The prophecy that indicates the judgement was not understood by Daniel and his contemporaries. The angel said:

“And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days... and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it” (Dan. 8:26, 27). Many years later, "in the first year of Darius son of Ahasuerus, the seed of the Medes" ... Daniel began to cry out to God, and reports: “Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation; And he informed me, and talked with me, and said...“therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision; Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy”. (Dan. 9:21-24). The angel begins to explain a part of the period of 2300 evenings and mornings or 2300 days. “Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people”, Israel, to which Daniel belonged. The word translated as determined and the original "chatak", which literally means: cut. The seventy weeks are cut out of a total period of 2300 days. Since it was not indicated which part of the period of 2300 days they belong to, it is presumed that they are the beginning of the time, the first seventy weeks of time counted from the 2300 days.

70 weeks x 7 days a week = 490 days

We saw that in Bible prophecy a day equals to one year. Then time separate time to the people of Israel amounted to 490 years. Follows the understanding by the graph so as to facilitate it:

2300 evenings and mornings = 2300 years

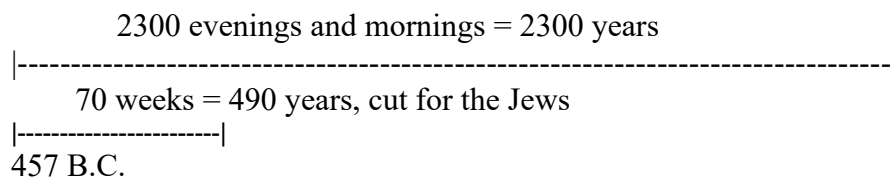


Considering the 70 weeks as the first part of the total period of time, the beginning landmark of their counting will be also the same of the counting of the 2300 days.

1) When should the 2300 evenings and mornings start?

R.: "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem" (Dan. 9:25).

This is the beginning landmark of the counting. The order to restore and build Jerusalem gives the starting point. The history shows that there were two decrees to rebuild Jerusalem, i.e, by Cyrus and Darius. However, the prophecy indicated an order with a double purpose: to restore the independent government and build the city of Jerusalem. This was given by Artaxerxes, as quoted in Ezra, Chapter 7: "Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect peace, and at such a time"; "And whatsoever more shall be needful for the house of thy God, which thou shalt have occasion to bestow, bestow it out of the king's treasure house"; "And thou, Ezra, after the wisdom of thy God, that is in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that are beyond the river...; "And whosoever will not do the law of thy God, and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily upon him" (Ezra. 7:12, 20, 25 e 26). This order was given in the year 457 B.C. Then, it was when it started the counting of the seventy weeks and 2300 days.



Tuesday

A last week

"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto The Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threecounting and two weeks" (Dan. 9:25). The angel instructed Daniel to count 7 + 62 weeks after the departure date. They sum up 69 weeks. For seventy, there is one missing. Why did He split the last one? Because it is a kind of seal of guarantee of the prophecy. He said: "Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the Prince, there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks." The Prince of heaven, Jesus, would be "anointed" to the end of 7 + 62 weeks of the prophecy. The history shows how it was met with perfect accuracy.

69 weeks are:

- 69 weeks x 7 days = 483 years

The counting of the prophecy began in A.D. 457, adding 483 years, we have as follows:

483 years
|-----|
A.D 457..... 27 B.C.

When you do the sum, you might think that the sum was wrong, because $457 + 27 = 484$ years. However, it occurs that when counting dates, goes to the time before Christ and then, it must be remembered that there is no year ZERO (0). Therefore, the counting is as follows: B.C. 2, B.C. 1, 1 A.D., 2 A.D. (without the zero). When it starts in 457 sums up 483 years of time, resulting in as follows:

$$483 - 457 = 26$$

However, since there is not zero, the counting goes forward a year: $26 + 1 = 27$ B.C.. Now, without taking into account the mathematics issue, if only we have faith in God's Word, we'll also see how the prophecy was indeed fulfilled. In the A.D. 27, according to the angel, the Prince should be anointed. The anointing was done with the oil, it was a symbol of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. And the history tells us that Jesus was exactly anointed in A.D. 27, which gives exactly the time appointed for the arrival of the anointed one in the prophecy of the seventy weeks. What is the foretold by God about 500 years before, it was strictly followed. Our God is wonderful!

Wednesday

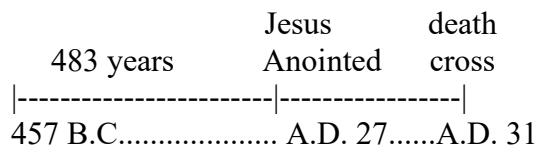
A last week – continuation

Speaking about last week, the angel says: "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease" (Dan. 9:27). Jesus was who would make the pact. Paul points out Him as the "He is the mediator of a better covenant" (Heb. 8:6). The prophecy says that in the middle of the week, He would cease the sacrifice. The sacrifice made was the animals at the time of Daniel, especially lambs, in the sanctuary. When Jesus was about to start His ministry, John Baptist pointed to Him and said: "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). He was the true sacrifice. The animals were set only to keep alive in people's mind the divine promise of giving the Son as a Lamb to die for their sins. When the Son would be killed at the altar of the cross, animal sacrifices would no longer have any reason to continue. There was no need anymore to fulfill a ceremony in order to keep the faith through a sacrifice. The real one had already been done, and it was enough to investigate the history to confirm it. The angel foretold this to Daniel in words "and in the middle of the week will cease the sacrifice". The last week of the seventy years began in A.D. 27 Thus, the half of the last week, three and a half years forward, brings us to the A.D. 31. The history confirms that Jesus died on the Calvary's cross in this year exactly. The angel's prophecy was fulfilled at the time appointed and the cross confirmed its accuracy.

The oblation that would be also cease, was the name given to the offerings of bread and wine, which also represented Christ. Referring to them as symbols when he was taking the last supper, Jesus said, regarding the bread: “He brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is My body” (I Cor. 11:24). And referring to the wine: “He took the cup, saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood:” (I Cor. 11:25). Both, bread and wine represented His sacrifice. On the cross, the real bread and the real wine were offered in Christ. These were offered on the altar of the sanctuary as an oblation. Therefore, it would be out of sense to insist on presenting such offerings on the altar of the sanctuary, as if the Saviour was still to come. Thereafter, the remembrance of the sacrifice would be made by the ceremony of the Last Supper, celebrated by Jesus before His death, no more for the sacrifices of the Hebrew sanctuary. That's the reason why, when Jesus died on the cross, “the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom” (Mat. 27:51).

Paul said that Jesus said to the Father: “Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second” (Heb. 10:8,9)

The sanctuary of the Hebrews and their services were taken away and it was established the service of heavenly sanctuary, in which Christ would submit to God, not the sacrifice of animals, but the merits of His shed blood in favor of the sinners.



Thursday

The end of the seventy weeks

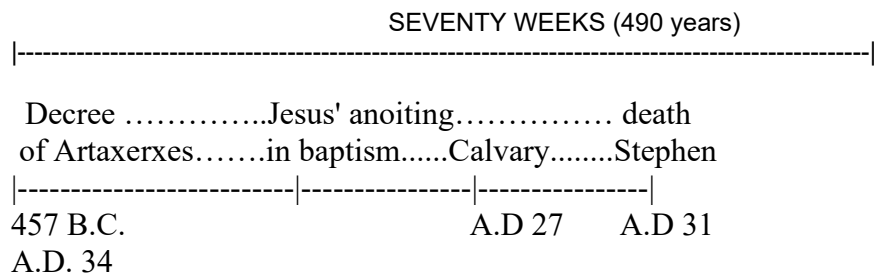
1) How many weeks of time were separated for the Jews?

R.: “Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city” (Dan. 9:24)

We noted that the seventy weeks correspond to 490 years. Note that the text says they were determined...on your city. Daniel was a Jew, his city was Jerusalem. At the end of the time appointed, the gospel message would be banished from Jerusalem.

The last of the seventy weeks would begin in the baptism of Jesus. He would preach for three and a half years, dying in the middle of the week in the A.D. 31. When Jesus, during His ministry, he commanded his disciples to preach the gospel, said: “But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Mat. 10:6). This order was in harmony with the words of the prophecy. They were in the last week, the last seven years apart as indicated in the prophecy for the Jews. There was still time for the gospel be presented in a special way to them. They were the chosen people of God on earth. However, after His resurrection, Jesus announces to His disciples that soon preaching the message would no longer be restricted to the chosen people: “But ye

shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8). It was a landmark, the moment after Jews were no longer the people especially favored and preaching widely spread all over the world by the Stephen's death: "And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep... And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. Therefore they that were scattered about went every where preaching the word" (Acts 7:59-60; 8:1, 4). He died in A.D. 34 precisely when it was completed 490 years or seventy weeks foretold in Daniel 9. Then, the gospel preachers were expelled from Jerusalem by the Jews themselves. Thus, ended the period to separate them as a special people. The prophecy was fulfilled. By their own choice, the invitation was given to them and rejected was now extended to all parts of the earth. Years later, Paul said that the gospel was "preached to every creature which is under heaven" (Col. 1:23).



Until now, the prophecy was strictly fulfilled. It gives us the certainty that the interpretation regarding the time is right. Therefore, we can point with certainty when would be the end of the 2300 evenings and mornings.

Friday

The end of the 2300 evenings and mornings

1) What would occur in the end of the 2300 evenings and mornings?

R.: "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."
(Dan. 8:14)

We have studied the first part of this period. The seventy weeks are determined upon thy people, the Jews. They finished in A.D. 34. To finish the 2300 days, would miss 1810 days:

$$2300 - 490 = 1810 \text{ days / years}$$

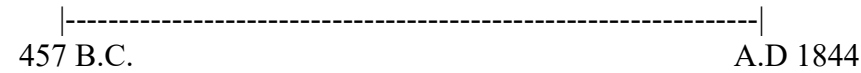
The seventy weeks ended A.D. 34. So, the 2300 evenings and mornings would be ended on:

$$A.D. 34 + 1810 = A.D. 1844$$

At this time, as the prophecy says: "then shall the sanctuary be cleansed" (Dan. 8:14):

Decree ofAnd the sanctuary

Artaxerxesuntil 2300 evenings and mornings.... will be purified



We recommend that you read again the lesson in this Sunday. Then, comparing Daniel 7 and 8, we verified that the 2300 days also appoint to the time at which the court would sit down to start the judgement, "the court sat, and opened the books." The 2300 evenings and mornings were fulfilled in 1844. Therefore, it was in this time that the books started to be opened in heaven and began the judgement. For it God sent the first angel of the Revelation with the message: "Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come" (Rev. 14:7). That time came in 1844. Since then, the first angel's message has echoed with a loud voice throughout the world, calling attention to many people concerning the need to be prepared to appear before the tribunal of God. He invites you to join the work of this angel and to preach to men the arrival of the Judgement. Hopefully that we may all be engaged with the work of this angel that is the desire of heaven!

Sabbath

"Then shall the sanctuary be cleansed" (Dan. 8:14)

The word sanctuary firstly refers to the building in heaven, in which Jesus works. He is "A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man; For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands...; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us"(Heb. 8:2; 9:24). At the beginning of the cleansing of the sanctuary in heaven, begins the work in order to remove our filth. And what does contaminate it? The sins of men, recorded in His books. When the court sits and open the books, God and Christ are in charge to blot out the records of the sins of believers. This work is being conducted to this day – the blotting out of sins. But Jesus can not blot out our sins without our permission. Through repentance and faith, we must move away from sins on earth, so that they may righteously be deleted at the heaven. Would it make sense to delete a sin today, just to register it again tomorrow? Since 1844, Jesus has worked trying to send His Spirit to His people to move away permanently from every sin. To be repented so as to not do it again. God promised to establish a covenant with His people, in which He would blot out their sins: "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know Me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more" (Heb. 8:10-12). This covenant will be fulfilled in recent days. All those who embrace the promise of the covenant will have their sins blotted out. God invites us today to embrace Him and participate in this blessed work. How to do it? Receiving Jesus as our Saviour, for it is written: "For the Son of God, Jesus Christ...was not yea and nay, but in him was yea...For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us" (II Cor 1:19, 20). Amen means "be it so"; the promise of the new covenant is in Jesus

"be it so". Everyone who believes in Him of whole heart and persevere on believing will see in your life the Amen of God. He will have the promise in itself as well as their sins will be blotted out. Amen! We received Jesus! Do it for us, Lord!

LESSON 4 - THE INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT

Worship the Creator

Golden Verse: "For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ" (Rom. 14:10)

Sunday

The cleansing of the Sanctuary

1) What would happen at the end of two thousand and three hundred days? (Dan 8:14)

R.: "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed"

In the last week, we found the time appointed by the words: "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed" (Dan. 8:14). Here we will focus on the foretold event: "then shall the sanctuary be cleansed". The word sanctuary is firstly considered as the tabernacle, which was built by Moses. God said: "And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them" (Ex. 25:8) The Bible tells us that it is a faithful copy of the true sanctuary, which is in heaven. Moses was commanded: "thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount" (Heb. 8:5). Purification means cleansing. The purification of the sanctuary which is announced is, therefore, the cleansing of it.

We have seen that the two thousand and three hundred evenings and mornings ended in 1844. At this time, the sanctuary of the Hebrews has not existed anymore for a long time ago. It was destroyed in A.D. 70, by the Roman army, so that there shall not be left one stone upon another, fulfilling the words of Jesus. Thus, it can not be the building that would be cleansed. The sanctuary that would exist and would be in full operation at the time appointed would be heavenly sanctuary. Christ, after being resurrected, ascended into heaven and was made by God: high priest and "minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man" (Heb. 5:10; 8:2). He would remain there until the time "of restitution of all things", when then He will return to earth and redeem His faithful people forever (Acts 3:21). John, in visions of Revelation, saw that Jesus performed in the sanctuary of heaven, beside the golden candlesticks: "And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man" (Rev. 1:12, 13). Therefore, the sanctuary in which the purification was appointed in the prophecy could only be heavenly sanctuary. What would contaminate the sanctuary of heaven, making necessary the work of cleansing? We can not conceive the idea that heaven has any kind of physical impurity - wastes, pollution or viruses. However, we are taught to ask for the forgiveness of our sins to God, in Jesus' name. And He, ministering in this place, receives forgiveness and executes justice for our sins. Therefore, they should be of somehow what defile the sanctuary of heaven. Thus, it must be purified.

- 2) What is the sanctuary in which Jesus minister that must be purified? Heb. 9:24; 8:2

R.: “For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself; “A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not ma”.

Monday

The period when the Investigative Judgment has started.

- 1) What did God promise to do in favor of those who would repent and be converted from sin? (Acts 3:19).

R.: “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out”.

- 2) What was the request of David when he confessed his sin to God? (Ps. 51:1)

R.: “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions”

If sins must be blotted out, it is because they are written in somewhere. The Bible says that our works are all recorded in books, which can be found in heaven. “Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?” (Ps. 56.8). “A book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name” (Mal. 3:16). Thus, God’s promise to blot out the sins involves removing their records of these books. And because they are what today pollute heaven, when they are blotted out, the sanctuary shall be cleansed. The cleansing of the sanctuary involves blurring the sins of the books.

Daniel, taken in vision into heaven, reported: “The court was seated, and opened the books”. The context of the passage shows that this scene took place where God, the Eternal, therefore described as the Ancient of days, dwells: “I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame...., thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened” (Dan 7:9, 10). Daniel saw when the judgement began in heaven and before God, the books containing the record of the sins of men, were opened. It would begin the work of investigation of the books and of the blotting out of sins of those who sincerely had repented and were converted. The judgement begins with the work of cleansing of the sanctuary. Both go together. We saw that the 2300 evenings and mornings ended in 1844 when began the work of purification. Thus, we conclude that in this day began the Investigative Judgment. The Father “hath committed all judgment unto the Son” (John 5:22). It is up to him to determine the sentence for each one: “the blotting out of sins and eternal life”, or “condemnation to the eternal death” “We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ” (Rom. 14:10). What will He say when he judges your case?

Tuesday

What cases will be judged in the Investigative Judgment?

1) What is the situation of those who do not believe in Jesus?

R.:“He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:18).

“For the wages of sin is death”; “So death teached upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Rm. 6:23; 5:12). Therefore, unless they refuse to believe in Jesus they are condemned. Therefore, they have no need to have their cases judged in the investigative judgment, which began in 1844. In this regard, it will be only take into consideration the cases of those who believed in Jesus. The Bible reveals that the case of the wicked shall be treated in other occasion. At the end of the thousand years of Revelation, Jesus will resurrect and gather them around the great white throne in order to make them hear the proclamation of the final sentence against them and suffer the punishment. “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: And I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead [wicked] lived not again until the thousand years were finished...And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nation [if they are deceived by him, it is because they were resurrected]...And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them; And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. “And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works...And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (Rev. 20:4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13 and 15). This is the final judgment. Therefore, the Judgment of the wicked is a distinct and separate work of investigation.

What:	Investigative Judgement	The Final Judgment
When:	since 1844	after the thousand years
Who is judged:	believers	wicked

The case of those who believed in Jesus is being judged in the Investigative Judgement, which began in 1844, while the wicked will be taken into consideration later. As quoted in the Revelation, they will appear personally before the white throne after the thousand years. Today our choices determine of which judgement we will take part. Where will you be? Hopefully we may choose Jesus and His grace today, as it is offered to us, so as to have luck with the righteous!

Wednesday

The rule of the judgment

1) Why will we be judged?

R.: “So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty” (James 2:12)

In any judgment, the defendants are judged according to the law. It is the instrument that determines whether they are guilty or not. The transgressors are condemned. The same happens in the judgement of heaven. Similar to the courts of the land, the rule of God’s Judgment is His law, the Ten Commandments. God has always expected from human beings loyalty towards His law. Speaking to Moses on the disobedience of Israel, He said: “How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?”(Ex. 16:28). Jesus has given an example of obedience to it. He said: “I have kept my Father's commandments” (John 15:10). And he confirmed that it would forever remain in effect. “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil; For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth teach, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise teach from the law, till all be fulfilled.” (Mat. 5:17, 18)

The Lord declares that all will be judged by His law: “For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.” (Rom 2:12, 13). And the words of God are able not only to judge our behavior: “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Heb. 4:12). Therefore, only those who have a purified heart will be considered worthy of eternal life in the judgement. The purpose of the Word of Christ is exactly this: preparing ourselves for the judgement: “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man”; “For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil” (Eccles: 12:13, 14). Hopefully we are submitted to the God’s Word, so as to be ready!

Thursday

How will we be approved in the Judgment?

We saw yesterday that we need a pure heart to be considered able to eternal life in the judgement of heaven. However the fact is that today all men have a filthy heart. And on seeing the evil spread among men, many people state as Job: “Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Not one. ” (Jo 14:4). However, the things which are impossible with men are possible God. “For with God nothing shall be impossible” (Luke 1:37). The story of Mary Magdalene is an objective lesson in how Jesus can change sinners and justify them in the Judgment. She was taken in the act of adultery, and then she was taken with violence for the angered rabbis, who were eager to once again challenge the Master Jesus. “and when they had set her in the midst, They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act; Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? (John 8:4,5). Nothing else she could expect beyond the execution of the sentence. The law was clear. There were many witnesses of her transgression. There was nothing she could perform in his favor. No excuse.

The poor woman did not open his mouth. With a contrite heart, your only hope is the mercy and love of the Saviour. She was not disappointed. He has acted to disperse

the accusers. He said: "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard it, being condemned by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more." (Jo 8:7-11). By His mercy, Jesus acted as a wise lawyer, defended and acquitted the woman who was repented. His love was felt by her and turned it into one of his most loyal followers. "What was is what it is". "Jesus is the same of yesterday and of today. If today we are very sinful, He is still our defender and lawyer. And not only ours, but all who believe in Him.

1) What is the position that Jesus takes in the judgment of heaven in our favor?

R.: "We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world." (I John 2:1, 2)

2) How do we make Jesus our Advocate?

R.: "He that believeth on him is not condemned" (João 3:18).

All who sincerely believe in Jesus as their only hope of eternal life will not be disappointed. The Saviour will defend their cause; He will win and save you. Amen!

Monday

Confessing Jesus

It is true that we should only believe in Jesus for His acts as our Advocate. However it is necessary to understand the fruits of the true belief. Thus, we avoid feeding a false hope. A father and a mother, who really love their son, confess him before the society. So does the child to his parents. He confesses to be his child, being not ashamed of them. Even if they are poor, he does not deny before their rich friends for being ashamed of them.

Jesus received us as children. And as such, He hopes that we confess Him as the Father of our eternity, Author of our faith and reason of our hope. If we love Him and believe in Him, surely we will recognize our connection with Christ towards all people with whom we have relationship. And Jesus said: "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven" (Mat. 10:32). Through our words and actions, we may confess Him or deny Him. Even if today we are ashamed of Him and hide our faith, being afraid of going through an embarrassing situation with our friends or any persecution and discrimination of our relatives, we can not expect Him to confess us in heaven. If we do not have any hope to walk with Him here on land how would we appreciate his company in heaven? Jesus understands and respects our wishes, and that is the reason why He does not confess in the Judgement of heaven the name of those who refuse to confess Him on earth. If they prefer the things of this world, he respects her right to

choose. He just accepts the voluntary service, encouraged by love. Therefore, those who confess Him on earth will be defended by him in heaven.

Sabbath

Those who win

The Bible is full of promises of reward for the winners. Although we do not deserve it, God has prepared rewards for all who are faithful on earth. Not all the saved will have the same position and work in heaven. Jesus said: "My reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." (Rev. 22:12). Taken to the future, John reported that even the wicked "they were judged every man according to their works" (Rev. 20:13).

The works of men are recorded in books, so that they could be measured in the judgement: "a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name." (Mal. 3:16).

The name of all believers in Jesus is written in the book of life. In the Judgement event, it is determined whether our names are kept or blot out. "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." (Rev. 3:5)

We are not saved by works, but we are judged by them. For it the works are the result or the fruit of faith. God once spoke to Moses to go to Egypt because He would use him as a tool to set the people of Israel free. The Proof that he believed in the word was given when he traveled there. Those who really believes, obeys Jesus. Therefore, whether someone does not obey Him it means that he does not believe in Him. The apostle James wrote: "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works" (James 2:20, 18). Faith is not just a profession, saying "I believe", but the rooted belief into heart that moves man to make Jesus his only hope and to obey whatever He orders. For a faith like this, the blind who received the command of Jesus to wash his eyes in the Pool of Siloam was healed. He believed in the Word, obeyed and God restored him.

The Judgement of God does not cancel the gospel. It does not change the teaching that we are saved by faith. It only determines who had the true faith for salvation.

1) What kind of people will enter in the kingdom of heaven?

R.: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Mat. 7:21).

The doers of the Word will be saved. And we can only obey it if we believe in Jesus, in the power that He gives us to fulfill it in our lives. Hopefully that we may believe in the Word and our works testify it! Let's be winners by faith in Him!

LESSON 5 - THE FIRST ANGEL'S MESSAGE - WORSHIP THE CREATOR

Golden Verse: "Worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." (Rev. 14:7).

Sunday

Who is the Creator?

The first angel's message commands us to worship the Creator. According to the Bible, a Being created alone all things: "thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself" (Isa. 44:24); "Which alone spreadeth out heavens...Which maketh Arcturus, Orion, and Pleiades, and the chambers of the south; Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number" (Jó 9:2, 5, 8, 9). "In the beginning God created heaven and the earth" (Gn. 1:1)

Though he had alone created all things, God had with Him a partner - Christ. "The same was in the beginning with God, without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:2,3) "When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not teach his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: Then I was by him, as one brought up with him" (Prov. 8:29, 30). The Son of God was with His Father, taking part of the process of creation. "the world was made by Him" (John 1:10), but he was not the Creator, but an instrument - a "mediator", in which God made all things. "All things were made by Him" (Jo 1:3). The Son of God was with His Father, participating in the process of Creation. "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not." (John 1:10), but he was not the Creator, but the instrument for "intermediate" which God made all things. "All things were made by him" (John 1:3). He is the Word or Word (John 1:14). The creative Word of the Father was in his mouth and the creative power was at His disposal. For it the Bible says that "In Him" in Christ, "all things were created" (Col. 1:16). However, the reference of all was God. He is the Creator, Who alone made all things through Christ. The dwells of heaven declare: "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." (Rev. 4:11). Jehovah, the eternal Being, the Creator of all things, is worthy of our ultimate worship and adoration. "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker" (Ps. 95:6).

Who is the Creator?

R.: "In the beginning God created heaven and the earth" (Gn. 1:1)

Monday

1) How many Gods are there?

R.: "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well" (James 2:19)

From Genesis to Revelation, references to God found in the Scripture are always made in the singular, i.e., to a single person. For instance, in the first verse of the Scripture: "In the beginning God created" (Gn. 1:1). It does Not say "created them" (in plural), but God created - singular. This is repeated throughout the Scripture:

“Said God: Let us make man in our image” (Gn. 1:26). Note that Scripture says: “And God said” and does not say “they said”. The verse shows how a person, God, calls attention to someone else: “Let us make man in our image”. Yesterday we learned that Christ who takes part with God in the creation. So we understand that the verse shows God, a single person, who says to Christ, His Son: "Let us make man in our image."

When delivered His law to people, God has also performed as a single person, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” (Ex. 20:3). He did not say “before us” but “before Me”. If one looks at a glass, for example, and say: “it is for me”, nobody will think that the glass is for a group of three people. It is for only one person. This concept that God is a person, not two or three, it was so clear to the apostles, who several times repeated in his writings:

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (I Tim. 2:5)

“One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Eph. 4:6).

“There is but one God, the Father (I Cor. 8:6). And about you?

Twesday

1) Who is the only God?

R.: “Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son...and this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent (Jo 17:1; 3).

Jesus firmly said that His Father is the only God. The word "only" lead us to understand that there is not anyone else. Apart from the Father, there is not any God. Speaking to the Pharisees, Jesus said, “I said, I am the Son of God?” (John 10:36). There is not anyone better than He to define who he is. Therefore, by His own words, we understand that:

“There is one God, the Father”

“There is a Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.” This was the faith of the apostles:

“But to us there is but one God, the Father” (I Cor. 8:6)

“Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father” (II John 1:3)

We can not use other verses of God's Word in an attempt to deny the revelation of Jesus. We refer here to the biblical verses in which the word "God" is connected with Jesus. The careless reader can understand that the Bible reveals that Jesus is one God. But the inspired Scripture does not deny itself. It happens that, when performing the different Bible translations, the authors chose the words, which in their view would fit better by being in harmony with their belief. As a consequence, there was a contradiction from the original text, which was clear. Then, translations in general

ended up having small differences from the original Bible, leading the reader to misunderstand it. But anyone who hears Jesus' words on this subject will understand it clearly. Jesus said: "I am ... the truth" (John 14:6). He is the speaker of the truth. And then remember what He said:

Concerning the father:

“Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son... And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” (John 17:3)

Concerning himself:

“I said, I am the Son of God” (John 10:36)

Jesus answered: “my Father is greater than I”

Many think that Jesus was God just like the Father. However, Jesus usually stated that the Father was greater than him. See quotation in Jo 14:28.

“Jesus answered... “my Father is greater than I” (Jo: 14:23, 28)

Wednesday

The modern translations and the misunderstanding concerning the current days

In the study of yesterday we learn the revelation of Jesus on His Father to be the only God and He, His Son. We commented on the existence of texts that appear in some translations of Scripture, which lead us to the misunderstanding as follows:

- I John 5:7
- Romans 9:5
- Titus 2:13
- Jude 4
- John 1:1
- John 1:18
- Hebrews 1:8.

We will comment some of them and will present their most faithful translation, i.e., closer to the original. And it is in harmony with Christ's teachings on the subject.

I John 5:7:

The phrase that appears in verse, which reads as follows: “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.” – it does not exist in the original Scripture. Possibly, this text appears in the Bible that you have on hands in brackets (i.e., [_ _]). And the comment from the Jerusalem Bible makes clear that the text does not belong to the original – see below:

"The text of verses 7-8 is added in Vulg. of an item (here below in parentheses) absent from the ancient Greeks mss. (Manuscripts), of the old versions and of the best mss Vulg. (Vulgate), which seems to be a marginal gloss introduced later in the text: "Because there are three testifying (in

heaven: the Father, the Word and Holy Spirit, and these three are one, and there are three that bear witness in earth), the Spirit, water and blood, and these three are one. "Bible Jerusalem, the third printing, 2004, pp. 2132, 2133 (footnote comment on I John 5:7 - emphasis added)

See Below the text according to the most faithful version to the original, without the addition of the phrase above:

"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." (I John 5:7)

The text of I John 5:7 with the part added by man, which does not belong to the original, is presented by many as evidence that the doctrine of the Trinity is biblical. But when we read the verse without the added text, it becomes very clear that it does not prove that there is a trinity. It only speaks of God's Spirit, water and blood. We present a more faithful translation to the original of other controversial texts, for your reference. Studying harder on this issue and commenting on all the verses below in the light of the originals, we recommend the study of the book "But to us there is but one God, the Father", published by the Publisher 4 Angels.

"Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen." (Rom 9:5)

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." (Tit 2:13)

"No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father." (John 1:18)

"For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Judas 4)

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God". The same was in the beginning with God." (John 1:1-2)

"Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever" (Heb 1:8 – transcription of Ps 45:6).

Thursday

The Holy Spirit

The common belief of Christianity is to be the Holy Spirit one God, the third person of the trinity. But what many do not know is that the word "trinity" does not even appear in the Bible. Its origin is pagan. It comes from the worship of the Egyptians, Babylonians, Assyrians, Persians and Romans, and was introduced by the Romans in the Apostolic Christian church, after the Emperor Constantine changed the Christianity as the official religion of the empire. Since then the Christian church became Catholic (i.e, universal), keeping the name "Apostolic" and "Roman" because it is the religion of the Romans. That is the reason why the name Roman Catholic Church, which remains up today. It is the result of the mixing between the pagan religion, which ordered the terrible atrocities (even the sacrifice of children to the

gods), and the worship of the sun, with the pure Christian religion. Here is its basic doctrine:

"The mystery of the Trinity is the central doctrine of the Catholic faith. Herein are based on all the other teachings of the Church." (Handbook for Today's Catholic, pg. 11).

"Our opponents (Protestants) sometimes claim that no belief should be dogmatic that is not explicitly stated in the Bible ... But the Protestant churches by themselves have accepted such dogmas as the Trinity in which there is no precise authority in the gospels." (Life Magazine - Catholic, 30/10/50).

Indeed, the Bible does not authorize the belief in the Holy Spirit as one God. It firmly states on its existence. However, nowhere it is presented as person or a God. Jesus compared it to a blow:

"And when he said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost" (John 20:22)

Jesus identified Himself as the Holy Spirit:

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me... He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (Rev. 3:20, 22)

Paul, commenting on the situation of Jews who did not accept the Saviour, said that Jesus is the Spirit:

"But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the Old Testament; which vail is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart; Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away". Until now, states that when the Jewish converts to Jesus Christ, the veil which obscured the view is taken. Then explains: "Now the Lord is that Spirit" (II Cor. 3:14-17). The Lord Jesus is the Spirit".

Friday

The Comforter

"And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." (John 14:16,17)

Jesus told his disciples that they had already known the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, and explains this:

"but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" (John 14:17)

Jesus was who lived with them. He hinted to his disciples that, when speaking of the Comforter, was speaking of Himself. The words that follow reinforce this idea:

“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you” (John 14:18)

Here Jesus made it clear to the disciples that He would return as the Comforter. But someone might still think that he had referred to his second coming. In order to prevent the disciples to come to that conclusion, Jesus states:

“Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also” (John 14:19)

The Bible declares that when Jesus comes to earth in a second time, "every eye will see Him" (Rev. 1:7), it includes all who are in the world. But speaking of the coming of the Comforter, Jesus said: "The world seeth me no more, but you, see Me." It is evident that he was not referring to His second coming to earth, but His coming as the Comforter. Then it would be only when the believers would receive Him. The word spirit is used with different meanings, depending on the context of each passage. However, when applied to the promised Comforter, it does not refer to a God named "Holy Spirit," but to Christ himself. The Spirit is not a "third God," nor a "person of the trinity." "There is one God," one person, "the Father" (I Cor. 8:6). Not two, not three.

Sabbath

The true baptism and the only one God

Many insist on the idea of a Trinity based on Matthew 28:19: "Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." It happens that this text does not match with the original. According to the more accurate survey of the originals, the correct text is the one found in the quotation of the writer of the third century, Eusebius of Caesarea. He quotes Matthew 28:19 as follows: “Go ye therefore, and make disciples, baptizing them in My name” (Matt. 28:19), according to the original.

Any student of the Bible that compares with a humble spirit the evidence can confirm that the above version is the correct one, for it is the only one that is in harmony with the references to the baptism mentioned in the book of Acts. All point to the baptism in the name of Jesus. We cite as an example, Acts 2:37, 38:

1) In what name the apostles baptized, obeying the command of Jesus?

R.: “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost...Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls...and fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.” (Acts 2:38, 41, 43)

2) How many baptisms are there?

R.: “One Lord, one faith, one baptism” (Eph. 4:5)

God blessed the preaching of the baptism in the name of Jesus so that three thousand souls were baptized. It is obvious that God put His seal of approval on the preaching.

This was the baptism of the Lord's approval, and all other baptisms of Acts were also made in this name - the name of Jesus. Therefore, all who are spiritual can safely conclude that it was the baptism announced in Matthew 28:19. Jesus commanded the baptism "in my name", following His example, the apostles obeyed and preached the baptism in the name of Jesus. And God blessed the preaching of this baptism, already adding three thousand souls in the first time He had announced. Thus, we note that the text "baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit", which appears in our modern Bibles, it is a rude misrepresentation, because it has nothing to support in any other part of the Word. It's like a note out of the tune music: jars of all the verses that deal with this matter in the Scriptures.

As seen by the study of Scripture, falls to the ground the argument that there is a trinity, based on Matthew 28:19, and shines just the truth revealed by Christ and preached by the apostles. They said: "For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many); But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him. (I cor. 8:5,6); And the calling of the message of the first Angel: "worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters" (Rev. 14:7). We note an invitation to worship the one Creator God, the Father. We worship Jesus as our Saviour, many worshiped Him without sin, and we can do it, but we only worship the Father as the Creator.

3) To whom will the true worshipers worship?

R.: "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him." (John 4:23) Will be you among them?

LESSON 6 - THE SECOND ANGEL'S MESSAGE

Verso Aureo: "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." (Rev. 14:8)

Sunday

1) What does it happen when the first Angel announces his message?

R.: "And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city"(Rev. 14:8)

Following the first angel, who sent a message to all the dwellers of the earth, appears a second angel. The fact of he is coming after the first, shows that his message is added to the first. In other words, it would be understood by those who had accepted before the first angel's message. We can compare it to a rung ladder. We can not reach the second step until we have walked the first. Last week we tried to know the first step. The message taught us several important points, such as:

- Note that the judgement is ongoing in heaven, and we must prepare ourselves for it, since we will be also judged;

- God hopefully expects us to recognize Him as the only true God, excluding any other.

These two truths test the Christian world. This is because they are against the deeply rooted beliefs in the modern Christianity. The easiest case to be noted is that concerns the second part of the first angel's message: "Worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters" (Rev. 14:7). We learned in the study last week that the Creator is one - the Father. This is the only God. But the Christian world, almost entirely, believes in a trinity. The true baptism is in the of Jesus, but the Christian world baptizes "in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." The sincere believer who compares these common beliefs with the Bible naturally say about the churches: "is fallen", i.e, there was a spiritual fall. The biblical truth was abandoned and was replaced by the concepts of men. "But they are only able to see that those who the first angel's message, revealing the existence of one God, the Father" (I Cor 8:6), and one baptism - in the name of Jesus. Those who note that their church is in error are the only ones who may say that it has fallen. Others will see no light in such a message and will call them as separatists or divisive people. So, there is a shaking. Therefore, we note that the light of the message of the angels of the Revelation 14 is progressive and it is necessary to progress according to what is being revealed to us.

Monday

"Is fallen, is fallen, that great city"(Rev. 14:8)

The origin of Babilon

Babylon comes from the word Babel, which means "confusion." The first time I found this Term on Bible is in Genesis. The story says that Nimrod, whose name means "rebel" or "he rebelled," sought to guide the people to act in direct opposition to God. He lived shortly after the flood. He knew the desire of the Creator that men should live, not gathered in cities, but well distributed throughout the land: "And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." (Gen. 9:1). Against His will, Nimrod built several cities so that people did not spread throughout the land. The Bible says "And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

GEN 10:11 Out of that land went forth Asshur, and builded Nineveh, and the city Rehoboth, and Calah, And Resen between Nineveh and Calah: the same is a great city." (Gen. 10-12).

1) What was the first city built by Ninrode?

R.: "And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel" (Gn 10:10)

In the first city that he built, Nimrod tried to build the monument which would be the ultimate example of defying the orders of the God of heaven. In order to do the opposite to what God said – spread them over the earth; he proposed the construction of the tower that bears the name of the city: "And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the

face of the whole earth. And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth” (Gn. 11:3-9)

Babel, the name of the tower and the city built in opposition to God; it became a symbol not only of confusion, but also of open rebellion against His commands.

For meditation:

What was the impact of the construction of cities by Nimrod on society until this day? What is the quality of human life in cities? Was God right when he said to man to spread over the earth? Was it an unreasonable order or an expression of love?

Tuesday

The old Babylon

The ancient wicked turned away from God in such a way that they used to worship Nimrod as a God. But not only that, also deified his wife, Semiramis, and the son of this union, named Tammuz. Thus, all three, father, mother and son came to be worshiped. The worshipers of this trinity of three people founded a town called something similar to Babel - Babylon. It has become a symbol of oppression, tyranny and challenge to the God of Heaven and His government. The prophet said, speaking of the subsequent fall of this city: “Put yourselves in array against Babylon round about; all ye that bend the bow, shoot at her, spare no arrows: for she hath sinned against the LORD...Cut off the sower from Babylon, and him that handleth the sickle in the time of harvest: for fear of the oppressing sword...How is the hammer of the whole earth!...Call together the archers against Babylon: all ye that bend the bow, camp against it round about; let none thereof escape: recompense her according to her work; according to all that she hath done, do unto her: for she hath been proud against the LORD, against the Holy One of Israel”. (Jer. 50:14, 16, 23, 29)

In Babylon, Nimrod and his family were worshiped under the names of Baal, Ishtar and Marduk, the Babylonian gods. The service was conducted by means of graven images. The chief, king of Babylon, came to be regarded as representative of God on earth. Not content to rule against the God of heaven, Babylon sought to persuade and compel all nations of the world to adopt its form of religion. This action is described in symbolic language in the words of Jeremiah. “Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD's hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.” (Jer. 51:7)

1) What God promised he would do to Babylon?

R.: “And I will render unto Babylon and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, saith the LORD” (Jer. 51:24)

Babylon would be visited with the judgments of God. It would be completely destroyed as a retribution for the evil that was done, turning away men to God and ruling over the nations with tyranny. Commenting on the destruction to come upon that city, the prophet said: “As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour cities thereof, saith the LORD; so shall no man abide there, neither shall any son of man dwell therein.” (Jer. 50:40)

In fact, Babylon was destroyed and until today it has never been rebuilt. Recently, Dictator Saddam Hussein began a work of rebuilding the city, but his effort was stopped when he was deposed from the throne by the American armies. The Word of God does not fail. Babylon will never be built again.

For meditation:

Was there, at any time, a government that is opposed to God and prospers forever? What would be of the world today if Babylon had not been destroyed at that time? Was the destruction of Babylon an erratic act of God or an act of love for the mankind?

“Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city” (Rev. 14:8)

The Modern Babylon

In Revelation, God reveals that, although the city of Babylon should never be built, a false religious system, similar to the ancient city would stand up and fulfill a similar role in the modern times. In order that nobody be deceived for it and be lead to the destruction that awaits it, revealed features, using symbols that allow us to identify it.

1) Who is “Babylon the Great” in the Revelation?

R.: “So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.” (Rev. 17:3-6)

Babylon is introduced as a woman. In the biblical symbolism, woman means church. Paul told the Corinthians:

“For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ” (2 Co 11:2). A virgin woman represents a faithful church to Christ. On the other hand, the prostitute should represent the contrary - a church that betrays Christ and His truth. How? In the way, she teaches doctrines in opposite to the teachings of His word. Babylon the Great is a church like that, for she is represented as labeled, on her forehead, “the mother of harlots.” She is called "mother." For her, the other churches are not its sisters, but daughters. What is the church that uses the title of “Holy Mother Church?”

If the symbol was not yet clear enough for some, so to be perfectly identified to Babylon the Great, yet it was said of him: “the woman drunken with the blood of the saints and the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.” The symbol does not let us in doubt. A single church that teaches dogmas in opposite to God's word and also bears in its history the stain of the record of the murder of over one hundred million believers in the Bible: the Roman Catholic church. She is the one that fulfills all the characteristics listed in the symbol. She is "Babylon the Great."

Thursday

“Babylon is fallen, is fallen” (Rev. 14:8)

Babylon – The Mother and the Daughters

The Old Testament named other people, especially those which supported it and its system of government as “daughters” of Babylon. For example, in Psalms:

“Remember, O LORD, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, Rase it, rase it, even to the foundation thereof. O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed; happy shall he be, that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us.” (Ps. 137:7, 8). The Edomites were descendants of Esau, Jacob's brother. Jacob was renamed Israel by Christ, and led the people to bear this name. Therefore, the Edomites and the Israelites were descendants of two brothers - were fraternal people. However the Bible here calls the Edomites - daughter of Babylon. It does not call them "daughter" because they had been descendants of the founders of Babel after the flesh. They were descendants of Abraham and Isaac, as the Israelites. However, for their support of Babylon in her tyranny against the people of God and their conduct similar to her, they are called here as children of Babylon in a spiritual sense. Thus, in the ancient times was Babylon - the mother, i.e, the wicked city that used to impose the false religion to other people, and the daughters, which were her spiritual daughters, for they followed her conduct.

1) How many times the word "fallen" appears in the second angel's message?

R.: “Babylon is fallen, is fallen” (Rev. 14:8)

The Babylon did not fall twice. The history points to a single and definitive fall. “The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be...and there is no new thing under the sun” (Ecle. 1:9). There shall not be "two falls" of Babylon. How can we understand the repetition of the word "fallen" in the second angel's message? God does not write anything by chance. In the original Bible the word appears twice: “fallen, fallen.” If does not mean two falls, this term means not only the fall of Babylon, but someone who can be called by the same name. We studied about who is “Babylon the great” in the lesson of yesterday. But today it is easy to note that there are other religious organizations, which teach the same doctrines and follow the same principles of the mother, Babylon. Following the example of Edomites, all of them that preach the Sunday, the Trinity, the immortality of the soul and other doctrines preached by the mother Babylonian church, are their daughters. And their fall is also announced in the second angel's message.

2) When I discover, after studying the message of the second angel, that the religious organization, which I belong follows the principles of Babylon, what should I do?

R.: “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen...Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues”(Rev. 18:2, 4).

Friday

Is the sinner's soul immortal or mortal? Is there consciousness after death?

Yesterday we mentioned that one of the errors preached by the modern Babylonian church is the immortality of the soul. Today we are focusing on this important issue in light of the Bible. God created man immortal. He would lose this condition only when he disobeyed his command “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Gn 2:16, 17). We know the story of the disobedience of Adam and Eve, their expulsion from the garden and the fulfillment of the sentence: “And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died.” (Gn. 5:5).

1) Was there some immortal man after the fall of Adam or the death came to all men?

R.: “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death taught upon all men” (Rom. 5:12).

Therefore, there is not an immortal sinner. God said: “The soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Ezek. 18:20). The sinner’s soul is not immortal. To return the lost immortality to the sinner, God had to send his Son, Jesus, to die for he sinner man. “Our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” (II Tim. 1:10). By the death of our Saviour, we can live. This is the only way to regain immortality. However, today the popular churches teach that after death the soul of man still remains in the conscious state, in places like heaven, hell or limbo. Such teaching has no biblical support. Speaking of death, the Lord says: “His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.” (Ps. 146: 4). Therefore, there is no consciousness in death. Jesus compared it to a sleep, referring to the death of Lazarus, He said: “Our friend Lazarus sleepeth...Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.” (Jo 11:11-14).

Sabbath

Summary

In this week, we saw that the second angel's message comes after the first one, adding to it. We find that God expects us to walk in its light gradually. In order to properly understand the message of the second, we should have the experience of obedience by faith in the first angel's message. We understand that the modern Babylon is the continuation of the former, a false religious system that imposes the worship of images, the worship of the trinity as well as the status of her king as a substitute for

God on earth. He is currently embodied in the Roman Apostolic Catholic Church. However, she is not the only one, but she has daughters, churches that following her example have fallen to the eyes of God, teaching false doctrines and turning away people from the Bible. All of them are called the daughters of Babylon and their fall is also announced at the second angel's message.

We also have studied that the state of dead, according to the Bible, and how this truth is in contrast to the teachings of the spiritism and of the popular churches of the dead having a second chance to redeem their mistakes after death. The Word of God is clear: "For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.

Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun" (Eccles. 9:5,6). "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27). It is in this life that we decide our eternal destiny. The teaching that men have a second chance after the death is the most dangerous because it leads man to not be prepared for eternal life in this time of judgement, losing his soul forever. This is the wish of the enemy of our soul. But thanks God who gave us by His Word the warning, to avoid us of being deceived and to save us! Hopefully that we obey the advice of God and heaven, realizing that we are connected in any way with the organizations that teach this and other errors: "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues"(Rev. 18:2, 4). God bless you!!!

LESSON 7 – THE SECOND ANGEL’S MESSAGE - CONTINUATION

Golden Verse:

"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." (Rev. 14:8).

Sunday

"Babylon...because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication" (Rev. 14:8)

The verse shows a time, in which Babylon will have drunk all nations with the wine of wrath. In order to understand the time we need to know what the wine is.

1) To What Jesus compared His doctrine?

R.: "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:14)

As the water that cools the weary is the doctrine of Christ to the soul burdened with sin and thirst for the eternal life. His pure words, bearing good tidings of hope and forgiveness are compared to water, which is also pure and healthy. Wine, in contrast to water, drunk and pervert man's mind of those who makes use of it. The Scripture says that Noah "And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent." (Gen. 9:21). "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and

whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.” (Prov. 20:1). And God Commanded Aaron: “Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die” (Lev. 10:9). Since water is the pure doctrine of Christ, the wine must represent the false doctrines that pervert the spiritual understanding and turn away the person from the eternal life. The Revelation makes use of this comparison. For it says that Babylon “made all nations drink” of the wine.

We learned with the lesson of last week that Babylon is the church that teaches doctrines and dogmas of men instead of the pure Word of Christ. On instructing others with their mistakes she is making them drink of wine. This is the meaning of the term "made all nations drink of the wine."

Monday

“Babylon... she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” (Rev. 14:8).

We have already heard the stories of ordinary people who, after getting drunk, became very violent. God uses the facts of our daily life to teach us the spiritual truths. The same that occurs in our physical life also occurs in the spiritual sense. The teachings in opposite to God's Word are created by Satan himself, who is anxious for bearing our eternal ruin. Those who receive them are ultimately inspired by his spirit and, as he and his angels were angry against Christ, the Giver of truth, they will be anger against the saints of God, too. Therefore, they will chase and seek for killing them.

The text of Revelation says that Babylon gives the drink the wine of the wrath. It is not difficult to understand it. The leaders of the Catholic Church in the past got angered against those who did not accept their doctrines in opposite to God's Word. For it they persecuted and killed the saints. And Babylon "will give to drink" to nations of the same wine of the wrath. It means that there will come a time in which the leaders of different nations will be imbued with the same spirit of religious intolerance. They will be angered and will seek to kill those who believe and preach the truth. There will be decrees of the legislative courts ordering the persecution and death of those who follow Christ. The Scripture says. What should be the attitude of the servants of God in this terrible time? “Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment” (Ex. 23:2)

Tuesday

“Babylon, she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” (Rev. 14:8).

The Bible compares the pure church of Christ to a virgin, pure woman, who is faithful to her spouse. Referring to His people, God says: "Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel" (Jer. 31:4). For the other hand, the prostitute, unfaithful wife, should be the church that professing to serve Christ is not faithful to Him and His word, but teaches false doctrines. The word "prostitution" is the expresses the act of betrayal and infidelity in marriage. Spiritually, it has the same

meaning. The church usually formulates false doctrines. There are several doctrines created by the Church of Babylon, and introduced into Christianity as well. All these are acts of prostitution by the divine point of view. The Sunday as a day of rest and the immortality of the soul are two good examples of this.

The Revelation shows the time, in which all nations drink of the wine... of her fornication. This means that the world will receive false doctrines that were not only brought by Babylon, but made for her. She was the one who committed the act of prostitution and then presented the wine of her prostitution - the dogmas of men who were invented by her, so that the world would accept them.

1) What will be the condemnation of the harlot church?

R.: “And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done...and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath...And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great” (Rev. 16:17, 19, 21)

The penalty for the sin of prostitution determined in the Old Testament was the stoning. The Revelation shows that, in the condemnation of Babylon, men will be stoned with stones weighing a talent. A talent is equal to about 34 kg. God does not want anyone to perish, but all are saved. Therefore, He now sends the second angel's message so as to avoid that anyone falls into the error by following Babylon and drinking the wine of her fornication as well. Should we do not accept their false doctrines and do not follow her to chase and kill the keepers of the true day of rest - the Sabbath. Hopefully we may follow His advice!

Wednesday

“Babylon, she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” (Rev. 14:8).

The union of the religious world

The prophecy points to a time when there will be an apostate world. Today we live in a context where it seems that the most of the inhabitants and rulers of the land have no interest in religious matters. Thus, the fulfillment of the above words may sound like something very distant. However, it is not true. In recent years, the religious interest has been growing steadily, even in pagan lands. We have seen a movement of unity among different sects and religions, known as ecumenism. And a worth notice for us is that the one, which is ahead of the movement, is exactly the same denounced as the Babylon of the Revelation, which “will give all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication”. The religious world is going to be submitted to one head, turning into a flock of an only one shepherd – the Pope. This is the unfolding of the events that points to the exact fulfillment of the words the second angel - Babylon will give to all nations drink of her wine - her doctrines.

The Pope takes into account the members of all other churches as separated brothers, who will be united to his church – the Catholic Church, so that they will become one body, one worldwide church:

“When the brothers who are not in perfect communion with each other, come together to pray, the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council defines their prayer is as the soul of the whole ecumenical movement. This common prayer is a - **“a very effective means to petitioning for the grace of unit”** – “a genuine manifestation of the expression of the ties which even now bind Catholics to **their separated brethren**” (43). Even when prayer is not specifically offered for Christian unity, but for other intentions **such as peace**, it actually becomes an expression and confirmation of the unit...When Christians pray together, the goal of unity seems closer.” (Encyclical letter UT UNUM SINT - Page 28.)

By the way, the word "catholic" means "universal." Thus, the ecumenical movement suggests the union of all churches into one - Catholic. The ecumenical movement is now promoted by the World Council of Churches (WCC), which provides information and updates on the Internet. When your goal is reached there will be only two classes of people on earth. One will be next to the official religion of the land. The other is pointed to by an angel from heaven:

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Rev. 14:12)

In which one will you be?

Thursday

“Babylon, she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” (Rev. 14:8).

The union of the civilian governments

And the prophecy confirms that not only the religious world will be united, but also the civilian government, for it says that "all nations" will drink of the wine. In Revelation 17, this truth is also presented in clear lines:

“And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast” (Rev. 17:12, 13)

Speaking in parables, Jesus represented the entire Christian church as being the ten virgins. The number was not given by chance. Then, we understand that "ten" refers to whole, the totality of man. Ten virgins = the whole church. The major degree that we may take at the school is ten. Ten represents the whole of humanity. The fact that the Revelation denounces the ten kings who will deliver their power to the beast means that all the kings of mankind, the earth, shall give their power unto the beast, which is a power that persecutes and kills the Saints.

In many countries the government has not taken an official position in favor of a religious belief – they are considered as secular states. However, this situation has changed quickly. More than one hundred countries have signed cooperation agreements with the Vatican, and soon the whole world will be submitted to his

authority. The movement of the world politics moves towards the fulfillment of prophecy. Today, Babylon has not made all nations drink. Not all have been subjected to the influence of the Catholic Church yet. But this situation will change quickly. We will see it soon. Those who live will see it. And, while the instruments of this world have united under the banner of the enemy of our soul for the ultimate battle against Christ and His truth, what shall we do? Are we awaked to the consecration to God and the work for Jesus, or have we slept as the Ten Virgins?

Friday

“Babylon, she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” (Rev. 14:8).

All the nations will drink the wine of Babylon. It means that the Saints will not be free of persecution in anywhere on earth. Each one will be tested like no other on earth. Knowing that now must be our encouragement for studying hard His word, as well as to devote us for the fervent, constant and unceasing prayer, so that God will prepare us for this terrible time. Peter, when for the first time faced the possibility of appearing in court for his faith, denied Christ. He was not prepared to face such a situation. His faith had not developed, although there were past three and a half year with Christ. Peter's experience shows that a mere profession of Christianity does not guarantee us that we will be winners at the time of the trial. Through a life of a holy consecration and effort along with Christ, we must develop our faith with fear and trembling before God, so that at the hour of the supreme trial we shall not be found blamed. The trusting in God's power to free us from the emergency situations does not develop from day to night. It is a result of years of walking with the Saviour.

1) What advice and promise Jesus has made to those who will face the threat of death for their faith?

A: “Behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation... be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life...He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death” (Rev. 2:10, 11)

“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Mat. 10:28)

Amen!

Sabbath

The angel that points to Christ

The videos and articles that show the plans of the richest and important people of the world on controlling and operating all manner of evil against the poorer classes are well-known today. Even among Christians, many get feed on this information, believing that they are being awakened by these messages. It is true that such information open our eyes to what enemies are doing. But they do not prepare us for what will come. If the second angel of the Revelation would only show the work that Satan is doing, a little or even no encouragement would be given to us. However, we have learned through the Bible that the second angel do more than that. But before

pointing the passage, we clarify that the Bible has deeper treasures, apart from the truths that lie on the surface. Indeed, while bringing messages that are absorbed in the first reading, has others that require more research to be understood. This is the case of Genesis. "And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him" (Gen. 18:2). The story tells us that two of them were angels and the third was Christ, also known as the Angel of Jehovah. The three messengers announce to Abraham the birth of the child and the destruction of Sodom. In the Revelation, the history repeats itself. Three angels announce the second coming of the promised Son, Jesus, and the destruction of Babylon. The three angels of the Genesis appoints to the three of the Revelation. Who was the third? Christ. The two angels came to Abraham with Christ, but finally left Him alone with Him "And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD." (Gen. 18:22). Thus, both angels were instruments for conducting Abraham to Christ. And we may understand that the same happens in the Revelation. The second angel announces the fallen of Babylon, has further the task of leading God's servants for Christ and leads them to have a personal and close experience with Him, as Abraham in his interview.

The same also happens in the case of the angels who announced to the disciples the resurrection of Jesus. Two angels personally guide the servants so as to find the Saviour. "Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulcher...And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments...They said unto them, why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen" (Luke 24:1-6). And one of the angels clearly told them where they would find Jesus: "And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you" (Mat 28:5-7). And today, the second angel of the Revelation also points to where we may find Jesus now. Pointing to the fallen of Babylon, he shows that we shall not find the Master in any church officially established, linked to the ecumenical movement, for all these prostituted themselves and betrayed the Lord, Jesus Christ. We shall see Him out of them. We would only see Him, if we wish to serve Him, not only in sincerity of heart, but in obedience to the truth written in His Word. So, there you will see Him. Thus, the word of the second angel echoes the prophecy of Jesus:

"Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain (traditional church); and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship (officially established church that observes the Sabbath – Adventist. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father...But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. (John 4:19-23)

God bless you!

LESSON 8 – THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE

Golden Verse: “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” (Rev. 14:9-12)

Sunday

“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice...”(Rev. 14:9)

Through the term "followed them", we see that the third angel's message follows the first two messages and for it we understand that the last one is an addition to the first ones.

The messages from the first, second and third angels form a whole. Referring to the first, John says, "I saw another angel ... and he had the everlasting gospel to preach" (Rev. 14:6). Since the third angel's message is add to the first, it is also part of the everlasting gospel. The three angels' message is the gospel sent to the world. Therefore, to receive the gospel of heaven means to receive the message of the three angels. There is no way to receive one and reject the other one.

Taking into consideration that the second angel follows the first and the third follows the second, it means that the messages guide those who receive them in a progressive experience. The person who accepts the first message: "the hour of His Judgement is coming", seek to fear God, which means to keep His commandments (Eccl. 12:13). In doing so, he realizes that the fallen religious corporations teach the error and to respond to the gospel he received, he has to break his connection with them. He necessarily means the second angel's message: “Babylon is fallen, is fallen.” “My church has fallen” - says. For this small example, we note that the second angel's message leads to an increase in the spiritual experience initiated by receiving the first one. Those who do not believe in the first angel's message shall not seek to fear God, and consequently, shall not realize that the religious corporations that teach “the error has fallen”. For it they shall not see the light at the second angel's message, which points to the spiritual fall of the churches. The three angels' messages can be properly compared to a ladder of three steps. You must climb up them one by one.

1) What do the three angels' messages given by the prophecies of Revelation mean mean to us?

R.: “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts. (II Ped. 1:19)

- Will we attend to this message? Will we walk in its progressive light?

Heaven is eagerly waiting for our response.

Monday

“And the third angel followed them, saying...” (Rev. 14:9)

Good Tidings?

Yesterday, we learned how the third angel's message is the last part of the Gospel sent to the world. The word gospel means Good Tidings. The third angel has a burden of presenting the final part of the Good Tidings from heaven, which was sent to the world. It's like the last chapter of the book. It presents the outcome of everything and the solution of the drama. It announces what will be the end of those who reject the Good Tidings of the gospel, and gives the characteristics of those who receive them in the last days. He says: “here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Rev. 14:12) (Corrected and Revised Version).

It is possible that many will ask: How can a message that announces the outpouring of God's wrath, the lake of fire and the destruction of the wicked be Good Tidings? The answer is simple. It depends on the point of view. By the eyes of the world is a threat of punishment. On the other hand, in the divine point of view, it is a right plaque at the right point. It is common to see fixed on the fence that protects the transformers of the power network, plaques with the inscription: NO ADVANCE RISK OF DEATH. When we see these signs, do we curse the technicians who put them? No! But we will be satisfied, if not grateful to see it. His message saves us the life! Prevents us to put hands and die due to high voltage electrocution. While announcing the death to those who disobey, for those who receive His message, the plaque saves lives. So, there is good news, the right message at the right time. Well, the message of the third angel announces to the worshipers of the beast that "if they touch the electric fence", they will lose their lives:

“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” (Rev. 14:9-11)

1) How should we consider this message – is it a good news to save us in time or not?

To worship the beast and her image means to follow a path that leads to eternal death. The message opens everyone's eyes to this. But to assure us that we left this road it is necessary to keep an eye on it to see if we are there or not. If we worship the beast and her image and receive her mark, we would be there. How will we know if we are on the way to worship the beast? We will study this in tomorrow's lesson.

Tuesday

“If any man worships the beast” (Rev. 14:9)

Who is the beast of Revelation? The term "beast" describes a mysterious animal with seven heads and ten horns:

“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy” (Rev. 13:1)

Nobody expects to see such a creature in a national park or zoo. An animal like this has ever existed. The term is a symbol. The "beast" represents someone. But forward, in the chapter, God gives us some peculiar characteristics of the beast that allow us to identify who he is, "and worshiped the beast" (Rev. 13:3). If he is loved, means a religious power. "He was allowed to make war with the saints and to overcome them" (Rev. 13:5). Then, we understand that he is a persecuting power of the saints of God. "And gave to him authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation" (Rev. 13:7). He had authority over kings. Only one power fulfills all the features - The medieval papacy. He was a religious power that used to persecute and kill the saints, who he called "heretics" and had authority over the Kings. The pope has in his tiara the enrollment: VICARIVS FILII DEI, which means "Vicar" or "Substitute of the Son of God." He states that he is the divine representative on earth, the substitute of Christ himself. However he orders to kill those who do not accept his doctrines. On the other hand, Christ had never done this. Instead, He died for those who rejected Him. The third angel's message shows that the part of those who worship the beast or be associated with him will suffer the wrath of God and be destroyed in the lake of fire: "If any man worship the beast...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." (Rev. 14:9-11). "The beast...go into perdition" (Rev. 17:8). The third angel's message gives a warning to all sincere not to follow and not to share the same fate. Thanks God that it comes to us in time to change the course! Thus, we can break any connection with the beast and save our soul.

- 1) Considering who the beast is and where he will lead the ones who follow him, can we feed any sympathy for him? May we join him?

Wednesday

“If any man worship the beast and his image”(Rev. 14:9)

When we look at a mirror, it shows our picture. The image is not the person, but a faithful copy of her. In the spiritual sense, God says that the beast has a picture. A power that is a faithful copy of the power called "beast", but that is not quite the beast. We confirmed in the study of the Bible of yesterday that the beast is the papacy. We also learned that this symbol (beast) represented the union of the religious power with the government. As a result of this union, the state power was used to kill the Saints. A note taken from the internet that depicts it with accuracy:

"IX, on April 20, 1233, published two bulls that mark the resumption of the Inquisition. In the following centuries, it dismissed, acquitted or **condemned and handed to the State (which applied the "penalty"**, as was common at the time) **several of his enemies propagators of heresy**. "Reference: <http://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inquisi%C3%A7%C3%A3o> - accessed on 09.27.2007 (emphasis added).

Therefore, we understand that the beast is the result of union of the "religious" and "civilian" power. The image of the beast is not itself, but a copy of it. Thus, he must represent the union of the religious power with the the civilian power, to chase and kill the Saints. It is not difficult to understand who represents the image of the beast. Following the example of the Babylonian church, which has concluded agreements of partnership with governments of the countries to obtain benefits, he is coming from the Protestant and evangelical churches. The Babylonian church seeks to unite with the civil power and the politics. The Protestants are following the same path. Through the ecumenical movement, Catholics and Protestants are uniting in one body, seeking to achieve the same goals. The Christian Coalision, for example, a union of members of the Protestant churches in the United States has already adopted the practice of lobbying - offer money to agree on laws that favor their churches. As the image of the beast one copy of the union: church-state that characterized the papacy in the past, he is at the present time the union of Protestant churches of the state.

Beast = papal church union with the governments of the earth

Image of the Beast = union of Protestant churches with the governments of the earth.

1) What happens to those who worship the image of the beast?

"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...and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb" (Rev. 14:9, 10)

God warns us today not to follow the path of the churches that were corrupt and fallen. The message says not to "worship" the beast and his image. And how will we be assured that we're not doing it? We will see it in tomorrow's lesson.

Thursday

"If any man worship the beast and his image" (Rev. 14:9)

The word "worship" in the Bible relates to "service." In Ex. 32, the Lord told Moses that the people were worshipping an idol and sacrificing for him, "They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said: These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt." (Ex. 32:8). Paul says that similar to the ancient sacrifices is the "service": "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." (Rom. 12:1). Therefore, worship is related to service. Worshipping the beast and his image is related to accept the service, which they would make. Jesus used to go to the house of worship to God on Sabbaths: "And 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 for to read.” (Luke 4:16). On contrast, the papacy makes service on Sundays. The Protestant churches of today also do the same. Therefore, to worship the beast and his image is related to make service on Sundays.

We have already studied that the “beast” symbol means the union of the church and the governments to persecute and kill the saints. The papacy has done it in the past. It was "the beast". However, at the present time, no longer does so openly. Then, he used to be the beast, but he is not today. According to the Revelation 17:8 “The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit...” The prophecy foretells the return of the papal power to persecute and kill the saints. This will happen again when the church influences the governments of the countries to the point of making them to make laws to persecute and to kill God's people. When such laws are enacted, we will be aware that the “beast ascended out”, or “came to be”. At this time, those who will adopt the way of worship promoted by him will be worshipping the beast. Especially today the beast and his image, the papacy and the Protestant churches are promoting the worship on Sundays. Therefore, those who accept to worship God on Sundays will be worshipping the beast and his image as well.

1) What is the day to accomplish the worship service, according to the word of God?

R.: “and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD” (Is. 66:23)

Friday

“If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand” (Rev. 14:9)

The mark of the beast

We have already studied who he is the beast - the papacy. What is the mark or sign of his authority?

"Sunday is the mark of our authority. The church is above the Bible and this transfer of Sabbath observance from Saturday to Sunday is proof positive of that fact. "Reference: The Catholic Record, London, Ontario, September 1, 1923 (emphasis and italics added).

"However, Protestants do not seem to realize that ... **keeping Sunday ... are accepting the authority of the church spokesman, the Pope.** "Reference: Our Sunday Visitor, Catholic weekly, 5 de February, 1950 (emphasis added).

The third angel's message explicitly warns everyone to not receive the mark of the beast; otherwise they would suffer the worst judgments threatened against men. The observance of Sunday as a day of resting is the Mark. It can be received in the hand or forehead. The language used here is symbolic. The Jews have already been familiarized with it since the Old Testament. It was used to indicate obedience. Speaking on the need of obeys the words of the divine statutes, the Scriptures point out: "You thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes" (Deut. 6:8). Those who used to put the law as a "sign on the hand and forehead, between the eyes" obey it. The forehead indicates the mind, the consciousness. On the other hand, the hand indicates work. Having the sign on

hand, means to stop working on Sundays, in obedience to the commandment of the church. As a matter of fact, having it on the forehead means to believe that it is the Lord's Day, rather than the seventh day, i.e, the Sabbath of the fourth commandment.

Since there are clear evidences revealed by the Scriptures in favor of the Sabbath, today it may seem difficult to imagine the reason why people will believe indeed on Sunday as the Lord's Day. However, the Bible clearly warns that soon will be manifested the strong delusion, a huge system of error, accompanied by great manifestations of power of the enemy of our soul. "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders; And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved." (II Thess. 2:9, 10).

1) Who will be led by the strong delusion and will believe a lie?

R.: "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie; That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (II Tes. 2:11, 12)

2) Has God chosen us to believe a lie or a truth?

R.: "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (II Tes. 2:13, 14)

Let us accept God's choice for us. Let's believe in the truth of His Word and let's abandon the injustice. Amen!

Sabbath

Preparing to receive God's seal or the mark of the beast

In contrast to those who will receive the mark of the beast are those who receive the seal of the living God. "And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads." (Rev. 7:2, 3). God's seal is the Sabbath: "And hallow my Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God." (Ezek. 20:20). Therefore, those who will finally receive the seal of the living God will sanctify the Sabbath. Therefore, they rejected the mark of the beast, Sunday, in obedience to the third angel's message. Then, we note that the third angel has the goal to prepare a people to receive the seal of the living God by his message. All who wish to be among the privileged people, who will receive the divine seal, must believe in the words of the angel and make a practical application of them to their lives.

The time is urgent! Soon, no one knows exactly when, we are facing the final scenes of conflict between the people of God and the beast and his image. Therefore, the persecution against the Saints will begin in a short future. Satan will work his lying wonders. We are prepared to stand in faith at this time? In the parable of the Ten

Virgins, Jesus represented the church as if asleep shortly before his final test. All had slept. But some had oil reserves, the Holy Spirit, which was received in response to the fervent prayer and diligent study of God's word. How is your life today? Are you accumulating oil reserves, or neglecting the necessary preparation? Will you be among the foolish virgins that in the time of trial, when they hear the message: "Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him" (Matt. 25:6) they realize that have not accumulated enough oil? Today our choices determine in which group we will be joined. Let's take into consideration that the prayer and the study of the Word as the real privileges and priorities in our lives. Let's lose all interest for the things in the world, and that our only concern is to reflect the character of Jesus on the earth, by His Spirit dwelling in us, and bear the gospel to the world. Let us become an awake, alive and active church, ready to receive our loving Saviour who will come in the clouds of heaven to seek His faithful and obedient people! Hopefully that the third angel's message may be not a merely theory, but an appreciated and cherished warning in our hearts as well as alive so as us to be firm beside Christ in the final conflict. Amen!

LESSON 9 - THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - CONTINUATION

Verso Áureo: "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" (Rev. 14:10, 11)

Sunday

The consummation of wrath

The wrath of God. "And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them is filled up the WRATH OF GOD", (Rev. 15:1). This testimony is sufficient proof that the wrath of God, threatened by the third angel, is the SEVEN LAST PLAGUES. These plagues are evidently shadowed forth by the plagues of Egypt, and will be as real and literal as those were. Compare Ex. 7-12, with Rev. 16.

The plagues of Egypt were just prior to the deliverance of Israel. The seven last plagues will be poured out just before the final deliverance of the saints. The deceptive power of Satan was manifested by the magicians that withstood Moses, just before, and in connection with, the plagues of Egypt. And prior to, and in connection with, the last plagues, the worshipers of the beast and his image are to be deceived by the "wonders" and "miracles" performed by the two-horned beast.

The wrath of God in the 7 last plagues will constitute the "time of trouble such as never was", after Michael stands up. Dan. 12:1. The mediation of Jesus in the Heavenly Sanctuary prevents the wrath of God from coming on a guilty world. The four angels [Rev. 7, 1-3] hold the four winds until the servants of God are sealed by the last warning message. When that work is done, Christ will lay aside his priestly attire, put on the "garments of vengeance" [Is. 59:17] and take his position on the "white cloud" [Rev. 14:14,] with "a sharp sickle" to reap the harvest of the earth. Then the four angels will cease to hold the four winds [Rev. 7:1-3,] and the wrath of God, in the seven last plagues, will be poured out.

It is clearly demonstrated that the period of pouring out the vials of the wrath of God (Rev. 11:18) is under the sounding of the seventh angel.

Reference: (James White, A Brief Exposition of the Angels of Revelation XIV).

Monday

No mixture of mercy

“I saw four angels who had a work to do on the earth, and were on their way to accomplish it. Jesus was clothed with priestly garments. He gazed in pity on the remnant, then raised His hands, and with a voice of deep pity cried, "My blood, Father, My blood, My blood, My blood!" Then I saw an exceeding bright light come from God, who sat upon the great white throne, and was shed all about Jesus. Then I saw an angel with a commission from Jesus, swiftly flying to the four angels who had a work to do on the earth, and waving something up and down in his hand, and crying with a loud voice, "Hold! Hold! Hold! Hold! Until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads."

“All the judgments upon men, prior to the close of probation, have been mingled with mercy. The pleading blood of Christ has shielded the sinner from receiving the full measure of his guilt; but in the final judgment, wrath is poured out unmixed with mercy.”

“Those who are living upon the earth when the intercession of Christ shall cease in the sanctuary above are to stand in the sight of a holy God without a mediator. Their robes must be spotless, their characters must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling. Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort they must be conquerors in the battle with evil. While the investigative judgment is going forward in heaven, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is to be a special work of purification, of putting away of sin, among God's people upon earth. This work is more clearly presented in the messages of Revelation 14.”

“Jesus withdrew himself from the most holy place, I heard the jingle of bells on his garments, and, on leaving him, a cloud of darkness covered the earth's inhabitants. There was then a mediator between the guilty man and God, who had been offended. “While Jesus remained between God and the guilty man, people were under repression, but when he came out from between the man and the Father, this restriction was removed, and Satan had full power over those who did not ultimately repent. While Jesus officiated in the sanctuary, it was impossible to shed the pests, but on finishing his work there, and ending the intercession there was nothing to stop the wrath of God, and she erupted with fury over the homeless head of the guilty sinner, who disdained the salvation and hated the covenant. In that terrible time, after the final mediation of Jesus, the saints had to live in the holy God's presence and without an Mediator. Each case was decided and every jewel was numbered. Jesus took a moment in the outer compartment of the heavenly sanctuary, and the sins which had been confessed while He was in the most holy place were placed upon Satan, the originator of sin, who must suffer his punishment. The death of Christ bears on those who rejects his mercy the wrath and judgments of God, without mixture of mercy.

This is the wrath of the Lamb. But the death of Christ is hope and eternal life to all who receive Him and believe in Him.”

1) What does prevent the Father on pouring out His wrath against sin? When the wrath of God was about to spill?

2) What will happen when Christ finishes His mediation work? How will be condition of those among us who live at this time? What is the wrath of the Lamb, and why do people receive it?

References: PE 38, CS 687, CS 114, HR 423, TM 136 (pagination of books in Spanish)

Twesday

The Cup of Wrath

“And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”(Matt. 26:39)

“He went a little distance from them--not so far but that they could both see and hear Him--and fell prostrate upon the ground. He felt that by sin He was being separated from His Father. The gulf was so broad, so black, so deep, that His spirit shuddered before it. This agony He must not exert His divine power to escape. As man He must suffer the consequences of man's sin. As man He must endure the wrath of God against transgression. Christ was now standing in a different attitude from that in which He had ever stood before. His suffering can best be described in the words of the prophet, "Awake, O sword, against My shepherd, and against the man that is My fellow, saith the Lord of hosts." Zech. 13:7. As the substitute and surety for sinful man, Christ was suffering under divine justice. He saw what justice meant. Hitherto He had been as an intercessor for others; now He longed to have an intercessor for Himself.”

“Again the Son of God was seized with superhuman agony, and fainting and exhausted, He staggered back to the place of His former struggle. His suffering was even greater than before. As the agony of soul came upon Him, "His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." The cypress and palm trees were the silent witnesses of His anguish. From their leafy branches dropped heavy dew upon His stricken form, as if nature wept over its Author wrestling alone with the powers of darkness.”

“Those who do not accept Christ's sacrifice should not have paid this debt and will have to drink it themselves. Christ experienced a lot of what sinners will feel when the bowls of God's wrath are poured over them. The black despair will retain as a robe their guilty souls, and then they will understand the fullness of its length, the sinfulness of sin. The salvation was bought for them by the suffering and death of the Son of God. It would belong to them, if they willingly and gladly accepted it; however, no one is obliged to render obedience to God's law. If they refuse the heavenly benefit, preferring the pleasures and deceitfulness of sin, they would have their choice, but in the end they shall receive their salary, which is the God's wrath

and eternal death. They will be forever separated from the presence of Jesus, whose sacrifice they have despised. They will have lost a happy life and will have sacrificed the eternal life for a little time of the pleasures of sin.”

- 1) What does the cup of wrath symbolize?
- 2) Why wouldn't drink the righteous of this cup?
- 3) What does the fact of Christ having drunk the cup of God's final wrath mean?

References: Mat 26:39; DTG 637; DTG 640; 1JT 227 (pagination of books in Spanish).

Wednesday

Tormented with fire and brimstone

VI. THE TORMENT IN THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY ANGELS AND THE LAMB, mentioned in the message of the third angel, we think, refers to the second death, at the end of the 1000 years of Rev. 20. It cannot possibly be inflicted upon wicked men in their present state, for they could not stand one moment in the presence of angels and the Lamb, much more, for a length of time, as described in the message, Rev. 14:10, 11.

The presence of one angel, at the resurrection of Christ, caused the Roman guard to “shake” and to become “as dead men.” And when the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father, and all the holy angels with him, when the whole heavens shall blaze with glory, and the earth shake at the presence of the Lord, then those who are not cut down by the seven last plagues, will not be able to stand a moment before the burning glory of that scene. Speaking of “the man of sin” Paul says, “whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming” (II Thess. 2:8). We therefore conclude that the message of the third angel contains not only a warning of the terrors of the first death of the worshipers of the beast and his image, by the seven last plagues, but, also, of that scene of torment at the second resurrection, when the wicked dead will be raised with bodies capable of standing in the presence of the Lamb and the holy angels. And as the host of “Gog and Magog” gathers up around the Beloved City the final execution of the judgment will take place. “Fire from God out of heaven” will “devour” them.

Reference: (ND James White, A Brief Exposition of the Angels of Revelation XIV; BEARF 23).

- 1) To what does the torment mentioned by the third angel refer?
- 2)
- 2) Why can not it be inflicted on men today?
- 3)
- 4)3) How will this torment be?
- 5)
- 6)4) To whom does the term “Gog and Magog” refer?
- 7)

Thursday

The Lake of Fire

“For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire.” “For the indignation of the LORD is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter.” “Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.” (Isaiah 9:5, 34:2, Psalm 11:6). Fire comes down from God out of heaven. The earth is broken up. The weapons concealed in its depths are drawn forth. Devouring flames burst from every yawning chasm. The very rocks are on fire. The day has come that shall burn as an oven. The elements melt with fervent heat, the earth also, and the works that are therein are burned up. (Malachi 4:1; 2 Peter 3:10). The earth's surface seems one molten mass, a vast lake of fire. It is the time of the judgment and perdition of ungodly men “For it is the day of the LORD's vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion.” (Isaiah 34:8).

The wicked receive their recompense in the earth. (Proverbs 11:31). They “shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts.” (Malachi 4:1). Some are destroyed as in a moment, while others suffer many days. All are punished “according to their deeds.” The sins of the righteous having been transferred to Satan, he is made to suffer not only for his own rebellion, but for all the sins which he has caused God's people to commit. His punishment is to be far greater than that of those whom he has deceived. After all have perished who fell by his deceptions, he is still to live and suffer on. In the cleansing flames the wicked are at last destroyed, root and branch - Satan the root, his followers the branches. The full penalty of the law has been visited; the demands of justice have been met; and heaven and earth, beholding, declare the righteousness of Jehovah.

1) In what does the lake of fire consist?

2) When and for how long will this lake of fire last?

3) Why is impossible that the wicked will be burned in an eternally burning hell?

Reference: CS 730 (pagination of book in Spanish).

Friday

The second death

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23). While life is the inheritance of the righteous, death is the portion of the wicked. Moses declared to Israel: “I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil” (Deuteronomy 30:15). The death referred to in these scriptures is not that pronounced upon Adam, for all mankind suffer the penalty of his transgression. It is "the second death" that is placed in contrast with everlasting life.

In consequence of Adam's sin, death passed upon the whole human race. All alike go down into the grave. And through the provisions of the plan of salvation, all are to be brought forth from their graves. “There shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust”; “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive”

(Acts 24:15; I Corinthians 15:22). But a distinction is made between the two classes that are brought forth. "All that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." (John 5:28, 29). They who have been "accounted worthy" of the resurrection of life are "blessed and holy." "On such the second death hath no power". (Revelation 20:6). But those who have not, through repentance and faith, secured pardon, must receive the penalty of transgression – "the wages of sin". They suffer punishment varying in duration and intensity, "according to their works", but finally ending in the second death. Since it is impossible for God, consistently with His justice and mercy, to save the sinner in his sins, He deprives him of the existence which his transgressions have forfeited and of which he has proved himself unworthy. Says an inspired writer: "For yet for a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be." "They shall be as though they had not been." (Psalm 37:10; Obadiah 16). Covered with infamy, they sink into hopeless, eternal oblivion. Thus will be made an end of sin, with all the woe and ruin which have resulted from it. Says the psalmist: "Thou hast rebuked the heathen, thou hast destroyed the wicked, thou hast put out their name forever and ever. O thou enemy, destructions are come to a perpetual end." (Psalm 9:5, 6). John, in the Revelation, looking forward to the eternal state, hears a universal anthem of praise undisturbed by one note of discord. Every creature in heaven and earth was heard ascribing glory to God. (Revelation 5:13). There will then be no lost souls to blaspheme God as they writhe in never-ending torment; no wretched beings in hell will mingle their shrieks with the songs of the saved.

1) What is the death paid for sin?

2) Why do we die the first death? Why all will be resurrected, the righteous and the wicked?

Reference: CS 599 (pagination of the book in Spanish)

Sabbath

The smoke rises up for the centuries of centuries

"For it is the day of the LORD's vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion; And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch; It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever: from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall teach through it for ever and ever." (Is 34:8-10)

3. But this terrific scene of final conflagration is not to last throughout unlimited duration. For the earth having been burned, and all its elements melted, new heavens and a new earth are to follow, as the present earth succeeded to that which was destroyed by water. And in the earth thus made new the righteous are to be recompensed. "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness; looking for and hasting unto the coming of the

day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless, we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.” (2 Pet. 3:10-13). “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.” (Rev. 21:1).

4. Thus, however dreadful and long-continued the punishment of the wicked will be (for each is to be punished according to his deserts), that punishment will finally result in the utter destruction of all transgressors. All the wicked will God destroy. (Ps. 145:20.) They shall die the second death. (Rev. 21:8; Rom. 6:23; Eze. 18:4, 20). They shall perish, being consumed into smoke. (Ps. 37:10, 20, 38). They shall be punished with everlasting destruction, being burned up in unquenchable fire. (2 Thes. 1:9; Matt. 3:12). And thus, having been consumed, root and branch, they shall be as though they had not been. (Mal. 4:1. Obadiah 16).

Reference: {1855 JNA, TAR 130}(The Three Angels of Revelation 14:6-12; BY J. N. ANDREWS. 1855).

- 1) Are the smoke and fire eternal in his duration?
- 2) How long will the punishment last for each one?
- 3) What does the fact that they will be as they had not ever been mean?

LESSON 10 – THE THIRD ANGEL’S MESSAGE – CONTINUATION

Golden Verse: “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.” (Rev. 14:11)

Sunday

“And they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.” (Rev. 14:11)

The rest of God

Worshippers have not “rest”, neither day nor night. On this statement, many understand that the wicked will be in a state of eternal suffering. Last week we studied that it is not the case. The lake of fire will put an end to all sinners - root and branch, Satan and his followers. So, how should we understand the angel's words? What is that rest, in which the wicked will never have? Since the wicked are those who reject God, the rest which they do not have must be the same that God offers.

Paul wrote in Hebrews: “There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God”; For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works; For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his” (Heb. 4:9, 4, 10). Entering into God's rest means to rest from our works on Sabbath, as he rested.

- 1) When did God institute the rest of the seventh day?

R.: “And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made... These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created.”(Gen. 2:2, 4)

When God created heavens and earth He instituted the Sabbath. The man was created on the sixth day, God rested on the seventh. Not because He needed resting, but for the benefit of man on this day God rested. “The sabbath was made for man” (Mar. 2:27). It is the God’s rest.

Monday

A blessing rest

1) Why did God bless the seventh day?

R.: “And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made” (Gen. 2:3)

2) What is the seventh day?

R.: “But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God”(Ex 20:10)

God blessed the Sabbath because He rested in it. Everyone who enters into God's rest also receive the blessing that is on this day. Is not it wonderful to be sure that we are blessed by God? We would have it, if we rest on the seventh day.

3) What is the blessing received by the Sabbath observers?

R.: “Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them” (Eze. 20:12).

The divine purpose is that by resting on the Sabbath, His children know Him as the Lord who sanctifies them. A deeper revelation of Himself is promised to the keepers of the Sabbath. This is a day on which man should learn more of the divine character, contemplating the works through which He is revealed. This revelation is found in nature, and especially in the person of Jesus, for He said: “he that hath seen me hath seen the Father” (John 14:9). And when we contemplate Him, God will reveal Himself to us as who sanctifies us. Thus, we conclude that the blessing given to all who rest on Sabbath is the blessing of sanctification. God imparts His holiness, His character to us. We may not know how, nor is it necessary that we know. In fact, the point to be outlined is to believe that He does it because He promised to do it. Sanctification - this is the Sabbath blessing. And this blessing enables us to enter into the eternal blessing, for it is written: “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord” (Heb. 12:14).

Tuesday

A sanctified rest

1) Besides blessing the Sabbath day, what did God?

R.: “And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it” (Gn. 2:2)

“Sanctify” means to separate for a sacred purpose. That's what God made on the seventh day. He took into account that we are so important that He separated this day to take care specially of the work of promoting our sanctification. On Sabbath, we are object of special attention from God and Jesus. The prophet says, commenting on what would happen in the sanctuary “The gate of the inner court that looketh toward the east shall be shut the six working days; but on the sabbath it shall be opened...And the prince shall enter by the way of the porch of that gate... and shall stand by the post of the gate...and he shall worship at the threshold of the gate... the people of the land shall worship at the door of this gate before the LORD in the Sabbaths.” (Ez. 46:1-3)

The shrine's land was an example, figure and shadow of the sanctuary in heaven (Heb. 8:5). The prophet says that on Sabbaths, the doors of heavenly sanctuary are opened. This is therefore what happens in heaven, where Jesus ministers in our favor. So, the Prince enters. Who is the ruler of heaven? Jesus: “Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins” (Acts 5:31). Then, through the same door, dwellers on earth come and worship Him. Then, there is a meeting between the Prince and the dwellers on earth. And the Sabbath is the day separated by Christ and God, so that He meets to the people who gather to worship Him on this day. Every Sabbath Jesus has a personal meeting with us. And what do God and Christ expect from us? Well, we are supposed to appear in the day of the meeting.

“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy” (Ex. 20:8). God expects us that we follow His example on separating the Sabbath for a sacred purpose, which is the meeting with the Holy One of Israel. Oh, what a great honour is conferred on this day! How despised is it today by the most men! The Sabbath is considered a typical day of work, like any other. Hopefully we can give to God and Jesus the satisfaction of being found ourselves prepared on this day, i.e., ready for the meeting with Christ. And how do we prepare ourselves? We will study it tomorrow.

Wednesday

1) How should we prepare ourselves for the Sabbath?

R.: “But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates” (Ex. 20:10)

During the six days of work, we may run our business so that nothing remains to be done on the Sabbath. Cleaning the house, doing cook, reading the newspaper, studying for the exam, cultivating the land, planting, harvesting and other activities should be done during the six days, in which we do our work. But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God. On that day shalt not do any work. We would not properly receive Jesus as a guest in our home, if we are busy with other activities, at the same time. It is necessary to give full attention to the visit. For this, all preparations should have been done before. The Friday - the day that precedes it, should be the special day of preparation. God taught it through the history of manna. This bread of heaven was given to the people every morning. It was enough to leave

the tent and gather it. It lasted only one day. In the second, there were worms and stink as well. However, on Friday, the Lord used to give a double portion, so that the people would cook and would not have to do it on Sabbath. "And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one man...And they laid it up till the morning...and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein." (Ex. 16:22-24). God worked a miracle every week, keeping the manna gathered on Friday for two days so as to teach important spiritual lesson. On the Sixth day the food is prepared and cooked; so that the Sabbath is the resting day. The clothes for Sabbath worship must also be ready on Friday. Everything that is not strictly required should not be done on Sabbath. Since that worthy of notice is the guest who visits us on the holy day, it is fair to say that the preparation for next Sabbath should begin on the first day of the week. Should not be planned so many activities so that in the end of Friday the servants of God are exhausted, and unwilling heart to receive Jesus, to praise and worship God. And a promise is given to all who sanctifies the sabbath day:

"If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it." (Is. 58:13,14)

Thursday

I, the Lord, do Not change

We studied on this week how God has blessed and sanctified the Sabbath day. The blessing of sanctification is found in this day. We will not find on any other day, nor even on Sunday. The Giver of blessing has chosen the day when He will give it, and it is up to us to decide if we will receive it or not. Man can not change what God has done, nor can we expect God to change, or even imagine that he would authorize anyone to change what He had maden. For it is written: "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." (Mal. 3:6). The Lord's Day is the Sabbath, in Genesis, and it remains at the time of Revelation.

The rest of the Sabbath was instituted at the creation and reminded to man when God gave the commandment at the Sinai. The forth says: "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy" (Êxod. 20:8). The psalmist had said that all the commandments are eternal, so the Sabbath as well. "The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure; they stand fast for ever and ever."(Ps. 111:7,8 – Revised and Corrected Version by King James). And Jesus, when he came to the earth, confirmed that they would not be changed: "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." (Mat. 5:17, 18).

The New Testament does not present again the Sabbath commandment, since it predicts the validity of what was already established in the Old Testament. It is based on the premise that God does not change. Considering that He does not change what he says, it would not need to say it twice, wouldn't it? Jesus said, "I have kept my

Father's commandments”, it obviously includes the Sabbath (John 15:10). And He commands that His true disciples to teach all people do the same as him: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:19, 20). He expects us to obey His voice to preach the Sabbath as the seventh day - the God's rest, a day of meeting with our beloved Saviour. Hopefully we may do it!

Friday

Those who have no rest

O terceiro anjo diz: “And they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name” (Rev. 14:11).

The worshipers of the beast choose the Sunday to replace the Sabbath of God, as a day of rest. The rest and blessing of sanctification was not promised to this day. Therefore, they can not enter into the promised rest. And since the decision of the worshipers of the beast is firm and definitive, it is certain that they will never enter into the God's rest. And that's why they decided to never accept it. On the other hand, God can not compel them to keep the Sabbath, for it would be against His character. However, he warns through the angel that they will not enter into His rest.

The text says it has no rest day nor night. Consequently, we understand that they will not rest continuously. It happens because, in rejecting the Sabbath, they reject the author of the Sabbath. They remain without the pleasant presence of the Spirit of God and of Christ in their lives. Paul describes a state of lack of rest that can help us to understand what the worshipers of the beast will feel: “For, when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears.” (II Cor. 7:5). The worshipers of the beast will feel insecure about everything. The Bible says, those who reject Jesus and the truth:

“Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken”; And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life” (Luke 21:26; Deut. 28:66).

For meditation:

What are the benefits of accepting the God's rest? What do we gain and avoid after receiving it?

Sábado

The condition of resting

We study in this week that the Sabbath is God's rest. We also learned that it is recorded in the fourth commandment of God's law. However, entering perfectly into rest means more than the ordinary reader of the Bible can imagine. A man is not a perfect keeper of the Sabbath until he observes all the commandments. The apostle James says, "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all" (James 2:10). Only those who keep all the Ten Commandments enter into the perfect “rest” on Sabbath. So, how can we come in? Jesus said, "Take My

yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest for your souls" (Matt. 11:29). Learning from His teachings and example is what we need in order to find the rest. He perfectly obeyed the commandments, and if we follow Him closely, we would walk as He walked. Thus, we would find the rest. The text mentions that there are two specific qualities of Jesus that we must pay attention to: "meekness" and "humility." The gentle Lamb, supported all the contempt, insult, mockery, beatings, whippings and shovings of the mob of angry men, without complaint. He quietly suffers and takes upon Himself the sins - the guilt of all those who beat Him. "He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb that to the slaughter, and as a sheep before hers shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth" (Isa. 53:7). The humble Saviour, stooping to wash the feet of His betrayer on the night he was arrested. He possessed those qualities, which are fruits of a perfect love for us. Contemplating this love, we'll absorb it and be changed by it. Thus, we will be like our Saviour was.

1) According to Paul, What is the fulfillment of the law of the Ten Commandments?

R.: "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." (Rom. 13:10)

On receiving the love of Jesus in our hearts, we will be fulfilled by it. Therefore, we will be also doers of the law because love is the fulfillment of God's law. Thus, we will be also doers of the Sabbath commandment and will get into God's rest. "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any fall after the same example of unbelief." "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Heb. 4:9, 11, 12)

LESSON 11 – THE THIRD ANGEL’S MESSAGE - CONTINUATION

Golden Verse:

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" (Rev. 14:12).

Sunday

In defense of the liberty

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

The third angel points to a terrible time, in which the beast and his image will seek to impose on all people his disobedience mark. We have already studied that the beast is the union of the religious and civil power to persecute the saints. We have also learned that the Papacy has fulfilled this role in the past – he was the beast, and will soon be it again: "The beast ... shall ascend out of the bottomless pit" (Rev. 17:8). His mark of authority is the Sunday as the day of rest. Thus, we understood that the beast's attempt to impose his mark on the world will be fulfilled through the church's effort to lead the state to enact laws, supporting his dogmas. Through restrictive laws,

Sunday will be imposed as the day of rest. So, those who believe in God's law will have his faith sorely tested. They know that "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). Therefore, they will realize the need to stay in defense of the religious freedom, so they can continue to worship God, according to the commandments of His word.

The third angel points to a group of people who will defend freedom, saying: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Rev. 14:12). We can find through other versions the word "perseverance" rather than "patience", which is appropriate since they will have to persevere, indeed. Perseverance will be against to all opposition, i.e, the point is to remain firm in defense of their right to keep the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. This defense will not be done with the force of weapons, since the soldiers of God will be a tiny minority wheather compared with the army of disobedience. Governments will be united with the popular churches in opposition to God's law. The Word of God and prayer will be the only weapons used by them.

The period, when the mark of the beast will be enforced, has been approaching quickly. For it is God's will that we know the principles that the religious freedom are based, i.e, those taught by the Bible, since we will need to defend them soon.

Monday

The principle of the religious liberty

"Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk. And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men. Tell us therefore, what thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, whose is this image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."(Mat. 22:15-21)

The Pharisees represented the religious power, while the Herodians of the governor Herod, the civil power. Jesus was asked whether it was lawful to give tribute to Caesar. So, Jesus clearly told them they should give to Caesar what is Caesar's and unto God what is God's. In this concept, we are not supposed to stop giving the tax due to Caesar, i.e, the government, with an excuse of giving offerings to God, as well as we should not take away what belongs to God. And the observance of the days of rest is something that should be given to God. The commandment says, "the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God" (Exodus 20:10). It does not belong to Caesar, it was not established by Caesar, and it does not belong to the jurisdiction of Caesar. And Caesar, the government, has no right to interfere in what God has established as His. The day of rest is a duty between man and His Creator. Father,

mother, family, bosses and so on. No one has the right to interfere in an individual's right to give God what He requires of him.

Therefore, Caesar has no right to legislate as to what the man must render to God. Therefore, He has no right to interpret the Bible so as to say what the day of rest is. Therefore has no right to enact laws enforcing the observance of Sunday. Any law to do so is contrary to the Bible, and the son of God has the right to dismiss it in order to honour God, i.e, obey Him according to their concepts on God's word. As a matter of fact, Caesar has no right to enact any religious law. The duties of man to God should be determined by Him, on the other hand, Caesar, the government, should be in charge of the civil law and the civil behavior of the citizens. This is the principle established in the words of Jesus. We will study harder at tomorrow's lesson.

Tuesday

Duties in respect of God and Men

1) According to what Paul wrote, what should be our position towards the authorities of the earth?

R.: "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing" (Rom. 13:1, 2, 6).

2) In what terms should we be subjected to the higher authorities?

R.: "Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour. (Rom. 13:7)

We must be submitted to the authorities of this world, according to the requirements of law. The law of God is separated in two parts. Its text shows that the first four commandments concern the duty of man to God, while the last six commandments, of his duty to neighbour.

It is related to the duties of God:

- 1 - Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.
- 2 - Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image ... for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God.
- 3 - Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
- 4 - ... the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God.

It is related to the neighbour:

- 5 - Honour thy father and thy mother
- 6 - Thou shalt not kill
- 7 - Thou shalt not commit adultery
- 8 - Thou shalt not steal
- 9 - Thou shalt not bear false witness

10-Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house ... nor anything that is thy neighbour's.

Paul, in Romans 13, when he speaks of submission to the authorities, only mentions the commandments that are related to the neighbour. His teaching was in harmony with Jesus'. Caesar, the governments, may act towards the man's relationship with his neighbour. However, he should not surpass and legislate on the first four commandments, which regulate the duties of man towards God. On these, God has reserved for Himself the right to legislate. Those who receive the third angel's message, they persevere in maintaining this principle exposed before the people and apply it to their lives. Thus, even before the civil laws that enforce the observance of Sunday, they will persevere in keeping the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. "Here is the patience (perseverance) of the saints, here are they that keep the commandments of God" (Revelation 14:12). Hopefully that the angel may say that from us!

Wednesday

When God acts in favor of His people

The story of Daniel's book shows how God takes upon himself the responsibility to preserve the right to religious freedom of every individual. The Creator does not allow Caesar to persuade man to give up worshipping Him according to his conscience. There is a clear example in chapter 3. The king of Babylon built an idol, a golden image, and waited for everyone to worship it. "O people, nations and languages, that at any time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up. And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace." (Dan. 3:4-6). However, such order was contrary to the second commandment. It forbids the worship of images. The three friends of Daniel served the living God and they honoured His commandments as well. Therefore, they had not bowed before the image, and when brought before the king, they said: "O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not to careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up" (Dan. 3:16, 17). His answer was not a defiance. By saying "we are not to careful to answer thee in this matter", they only stated the divine principle that the government of the earth has no right to interfere between man and God. It has no right to issue decrees on religion matters. Religion and state should be eternally separated.

1) What happened when the King of Babylon, launched the friends of Daniel into furnace, for disobeying his religious decree?

R.: "Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." (Dan. 3:24, 25)

God had sent Jesus from heaven to follow His servants at this time of testing. He saved their lives, and then He revoked the death sentence of the pagan king. God revoked the decrees of the earth related to religion. He takes the responsibility for himself and the right to do so. Therefore, there is no reason for any servant of God fear to disobey the religious decrees, which will soon be issued, such as the Sunday decree. At the end of time, when the world turned against His obedient servants to the law and the keepers of the Sabbath, God, on the due time, will revoke its decrees and release His people. Thus, it will be forever established that Caesar can not interfere in God's matters. "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's" Amen!

Thursday

"Here is the patience of the saints" (Rev. 14:12)

If the angel says that the saints would have patience, it is because it will be tested. The final conflict between God's servants and the beast and his image will not last a few days. In Revelation 13, it is mentioned that, in the period in which the beast will take its supremacy - "and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months" (Rev. 13:5). It is equal to three and a half years. During this period, the Saints will have to practice their patience and trust in God. The deliverance was promised. The beast will be finally defeated, at the end of the tribulation: "shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. (Revelation 17:13, 14). However, until then, the Saints will await in faith. Therefore, it is not by chance that today God is allowing that the members of His church on earth face problems that last long to be solved. Nowadays, God is working on developing patience in His people in order to prepare them for the final test of their faith.

1) How should be our behavior towards tribulations?

R.: "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope" (Rm. 5:3,4)

We should give glory in tribulations since through them God gives us the experience that is necessary to face the last conflict. Going through them means that God chose us to stand firmly at the end time, to glorify His name and justify His government on earth.

Job had been unaware that his obedience on earth was discussed in the heaven. While he was being proved on earth, he justified God. "And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? And still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause." (Job 2:3). Furthermore, those who attend the third angel's message will have the opportunity and the privilege to justify God like Job. And with the grace of God they will be victorious as he won!

Friday

Perfects, on this earth

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” (Rev. 14:12)

The third angel declares positively that here on this earth, there will be a people who perfectly keep the commandments of the law of God. And since the book of Revelation is a revelation of what will happen at the end of time, we know that is in this time that will be dwellers on earth who will keep the commandments of God. Satan has usually accused the men of not keeping the law. He is “the accuser of our brethren” (Rev. 12:10). In this way, he also accuses God of being unfair, for ordering men to keep a law that they can not fulfill. Obviously, he omits that he attempts them to disobey it. Thus, the accusation remains in effect until the moment when God’s people still live on earth - those who keep all the commandments. So, the claims of Satan shall fall down. He is defeated and God justified. Paul predicted this time, saying: “That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.” (Rom. 3:4).

God gave men a special role in this work to justify Him before the universe. They can only give the universe the definitive answer to the question: “Is God unjust to require the man his perfect obedience to His law?”. So, firstly, before doing it, they should “believe that they can.” Paul says that we will reach this point: “Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.” (Eph. 4:13). And the third angel leads us to have this faith - believing that we can be perfect while living on this earth. For it points to the earth and confirms: “Here they are.” Yes, here they are, in this earth and in this time, those who keep all the commandments of God. We may lift up our voice to heaven and say: “Lord, I want that the angel's words are fulfilled in my life because I know they will be fulfilled.” Hopefully he will point us by saying, “Here are they that keep the commandments of God!”

Sabbath

Raising up the standard

Nowadays, Christians in general are content with a low standard of moral conduct. Sins, which had been appointing as pertaining to the mundanes, are now the most common. The churches echo the words of Satan, through his ministers and pastors, telling the people that while we are living in this earth, we remains as sinners. It is practically declare the victory of the enemy. However, God by His word has a much higher standard. “Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? Do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” (Matthew 5:43-48). The perfect resemblance to the character of God - it is our goal. We should not be satisfied with anything less.

Jesus said, “Jesus saith unto him...he that hath seen me hath seen the Father?” (John 14:9). We can only get an accurate understanding of the character of the Father on

contemplating Christ. “The love of God is in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:39). It was fully demonstrated in the sacrifice of the Cross of Calvary by Him. The cross is the science and the song of the redeemed. On meditating in the condescension of the Son of God in giving all for love of us as well as of the Father in delivering everything through the person of the Son, our hearts are filled with the divine principle of life. Such love constrains, breaks, tenders and converts the heart of everyone who contemplates it and does not resist to its influence. In this great gift of love stands the certainty that we are forgiven and received by God. On absorbing this love, our heart will be enlarged. The words of the apostle will be fulfilled in our lives, namely, “May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God” (Eph. 3:18, 19). Then, we will love God and our brothers until the death.

1) What did Moses say to God when he made intercession for the rebellious Israel?

R.: “Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written” (Ex. 32:31, 32)

Moses was willing to have his name blotted out from the book of life, and suffer the second death in favor of the rebels. He had absorbed the love of God. This love is the fulfillment of the law. On considering that the third angel clearly states that at the end of times there will be a people who keep all the commandments of God, as a result there will be a people with this love improved in their lives as manifested by Moses. Hopefully we may accept, therefore, the gospel of the third angel in our lives, so it leads us to perfection, according to the plan of heaven. Thus, we are also willing to have our name blotted out from the book of life for the salvation of our enemies. We will be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect. Amen!

LESSON 12 – THE MESSAGE OF THE THIRD ANGEL

The purification of the Sanctuary

Golden Verse: “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (Heb. 9:14)

Sunday

The Purification of the Sanctuary

“Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Rev. 14:12)

The third angel declares that the God’s people “keep” the commandments. This word is understood as meaning “to preserve a deposit, which was received.” We can only keep what we received. The angel did not say that we bought the deposit. “We kept.” And how was it received? For Centuries ago the Lord had already promised to give it. “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah...But this shall be the covenant that I will

make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts” (Jer. 31:31-33). God would put the law in His people’s mind and heart. Thus, He would give it as a deposit for them to keep it.

Paul says that this promise would be fulfilled through the work of the priesthood of Christ. Jesus would live a holy life on earth. He would die for our sins. Then, He would win the right to become our intercessor, being appointed by God as the “High Priest”. As such he would practice the priesthood. And as a priest he would be the "Mediator of a better covenant" (Heb. 8:6).

1) What is the new covenant mentioned by Paul in Hebrews?

R.: “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people” (Heb. 8:10)

Note that the covenant is the same as announced in Jeremiah. Through the priesthood of Christ preached in Hebrews, the covenant would be fulfilled. The "deposit" would be placed in human hearts by the ministry of Christ in heavenly sanctuary.

The system of the Hebrew’s ceremonial of the sanctuary taught that the High Priest’s ministry was divided in two parts. The first was the continued service; it was made in favor of all sinners. The last occurred on the last day of the religious year, and the ceremony was called the Day of Atonement. The Scripture says, “For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD” (Lev. 19:29). “For sin is the transgression of the law.” (I John 3:4). To be cleansed from sin means to not transgress the law anymore. Thus, the work of the priest to purify the man is the work of making him obedient to law. In other words, it means the work of writing the law in people’s mind and heart. The purification was the final work of the religious year. Therefore, the purification is the final work of Christ in the great plan of redemption in favor of the sinners. Jesus, serving as High Priest and Mediator, will obtain in favor of the penitent men the fulfillment of the covenant of God, writing the law in believer’s minds and hearts. God gives the "deposit", through the intercession of Christ. How does it do? We will study it tomorrow.

Monday

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Rev. 14:12)

In the sanctuary of Israel was taught that people were sanctified, or purified from their contamination of the blood that was sprinkled on them. This was the blood of the sacrificed animal for sin. The sinner used to bring the blood, which was sprinkled on him by the priest who officialized the ceremony. It was a living lesson. The sacrificed animal represented Jesus, the Lamb of God. The blood of the animal represented His merits gained by His atoning death. The act of the priest sprinkling the blood of the animal on the worshiper to sanctify him represented the work of Jesus, the true High Priest - of presenting to us His sacrifice, the shedding of His blood on Calvary's cross.

As the worshiper of the earthly sanctuary, on seeing the priest sprinkling the blood upon him, he was assured that was sanctified, today we contemplate Christ, our High Priest at the holy, focusing attention on our faith to His blood shed on the cross Calvary, as a guarantee that He sanctifies us. As we look at and appreciate the merits of Jesus who gave His life for us, we trust Him as Saviour and Purifier of our soul. The, we receive His Holy Spirit and we are sanctified, cleansed of our sins, for the Spirit of God sanctifies us. Paul summed up this truth in the words he wrote to the Hebrews:

For if the blood of bulls and of goats...sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Heb. 9:13, 14)

Christ in His sanctuary shows us his sacrifice on the cross. There we see that we were forgiven, received, and if we receive His grace in our hearts, we are sanctified, cleansed of our sins. The salvation is complete, could be compared to the pure water you can drink all you want.

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." (Rev. 22:17)

Let's praise the name of Jesus for so great a salvation!

Tuesday

Receive the faith

We have learned that God's commandments are a "deposit", a gift we receive. God has promised to give us this gift, in the covenant, a new concert, which he made with all of us. Jesus the Mediator of the covenant gives us the gift. He does it by presenting us with his sacrifice on the cross in our favor. If we receive Him through His Spirit he gives us the gift - the commandments are written in our mind and heart. Now, how do we say yes to this gift? How do we receive him? The third angel says that the Saints of the latter days would have - "faith". "Here are they that keep the faith ..." (Revelation 14:12).

"Now faith is...the evidence of things not seen." (Heb. 11:1). The word of God teaches us that Christ forgives us our sins and purifies our lives. We believe on it, and then it becomes real in our lives. It's just simple. We must believe in His sacrifice for us. Then, we must believe in his right to save us by the merits he has acquired on the cross. And when we take into consideration that He loved us so much as to give His life for us, must we believe that he really wants us to be with Him forever. However, we can only be always with Him if we are cleansed of our sins, for the city where he will live with us "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth." (Rev. 21:27). Therefore, He will cleanse us from all impurity, obviously.

1) What is the assurance that Jesus give us for the words of Paul?

R.: “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Fil. 1:6).

Wednesday

“Keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Rev. 14:12)

We have learned yesterday that is by faith (in Jesus) that we receive the forgiveness and the sanctification. The third angel says that the saints "keep" the faith. Our task is not to buy it, but take care of it after receiving it. The faith is a "gift of God" (Eph. 2:8). God sends His spirit to the whole world, trying to convince him of sin (John 16:8). And this spirit is the spirit of faith: "but we have the same spirit of faith" (II Cor. 4:13). Since a person surrenders to the awareness of sin as a result of the Spirit of God on his consciousness, the same spirit acts on his mind, leading her to believe. The Bible says that the Spirit "intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings" (Rom. 8:26). He is the one who impresses our minds with the trials of love and goodness of God so that we learn to create it.

It is through faith that we receive forgiveness and sanctification. One might say that can not be saved, since it has no faith. But it is God who gives faith. And no one leaves the store so we have to drive there to pick us up. He constantly gives us by His Spirit. So to not have faith is not enough to stop chasing it. We must actively reject the gift so insistently offered. It is impossible to understand God's love and good will towards us. It is beyond of our understanding His love - that after having paid so high a price for us insists to save us, trying to firmly persuade us to abandon the unthankfulness and the unbelief. It is an unceasing work that is illustrated by the book of Revelation.

1) What is Jesus unceasingly doing?

R.: “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Rev. 3:20).

If today we hear His voice and open our hearts to Him, we certainly would have faith to believe in forgiveness and sanctification that He gives us. Therefore, there remains is to enjoy the gift of faith that we have received and keep it in our hearts. We should not replace it for anything else of this world. Paul follows this way. He considered as dung in relation to everything of the world, and he did not exchange it for the faith he had received from Christ. He said at the end of his life: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept my faith” (II Timothy 4:7). The Saints of the latter days will do the same. Hopefully that we will be among them!

Thursday

“Keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Rev. 14:12)

Many declare to have faith in Jesus. They believe in Him, but in practice such faith seems to be limited – when they face with the test, they do not succeed. It was not like that with Christ. In other words, nothing that Satan could do was enough to change His faith. His faith was so strong that indeed He felt the Father's presence beside Him. “And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone” (John 8:29).

And the fact of being in the presence of the eternal God means that there could be no such thing as a defeat. He was the champion of the faith. At the end of His ministry, He could say, "for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me." (John 14:30).

Jesus was so assured that the promises of the Father would be fulfilled in His life, that He talked as if they had already fulfilled. Before being arrested to be killed, He spoke as if he had already won and should go to heaven. He said: "And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee." (John 17:11). If sinned, not only would not go to heaven, but would die forever. Nevertheless, still awaiting the worst part of the battle to be waged against Satan in the Gethsemane; Jesus stated that He would go to the Father. He did not consider the possibility of defeat. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Heb. 11:1). Jesus lived the faith. If we look to Him - towards His faith, we would have it. Furthermore, from now on we should not consider the possibility of being defeated by Satan, but just look to Jesus and follow His example, i.e, walk as he walked. So did Peter when he walked on water to go to Jesus. While he remained so, he did what no other man had ever done. However, when he looked away from Him, he fell down. The third angel declares that the Saints of the latter days will not only have faith in Jesus, but the "faith of Jesus". And since it is only possible whether we keep our eyes on Him, we understand that the Saints will keep the eyes of faith in Christ continually. And the third angel's message calls us to do exactly this.

Friday

1) What is the connection between Jesus and our faith?

R.: "Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Heb. 12:2)

To overcome sin, we must have the same faith that Jesus had. The text above is a promise that He will give this faith to all who wish it. He is the Author and Finisher of faith. Do you have any doubts if you have enough faith to salvation? Look to him and forget them. He takes care of putting faith in our heart. The certainty rooted in the heart that the Lord will not forsake us in time of testing, will encourage us to persevere in the path of obedience. "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Rom. 10:10).

And how should we contemplate Christ? Reading the Bible. Yes. Jesus said: "I am...the the truth (John 14:6). And in other passage: "thy word is truth." (John 17:17). So, Jesus is the truth. He is the Word of God. "And his name is called The Word of God." (Revelation 19:13). We contemplate Christ on studying His word. He said: "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." (John 6:63). Therefore, how important is to devote all possible time to study the Scriptures! In every spare time we have we may treasure some additional promises of His Word. Says Paul: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." (Col. 3:16).

Jesus had the Scriptures on memory, and this enabled Him to overcome the devil in the wilderness. "It is written" - it was His answer to each of the wiles of the enemy. We can do the same. And on studying the Word, our faith will be quickened and increased. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God". (Rom. 10:17).

Sabbath

Orders or promises?

"And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked." (John 5:5-9)

Here is an example of an unenforceable order. Jesus commands a paralyzed patient for 38 years to rise and walk. However, if he was unable to walk, how would he obey the order? Similar to this seem the orders contained in the Ten Commandments. Many echoed the cry: "it is impossible to obey them." Then, they come to the conclusion that Jesus must have completed by them, and therefore no longer need to obey them, since God would not oblige them to do something impossible. However, history shows us something very different. The man did not consider the words as an order, but as a promise. Thus, he believed, made an effort on being assured that he was now able to walk, and walked indeed. Christ gave him the faith. Since then, his order has become a promise fulfilled. It was clear that the power of Christ who made the lame to fulfill the order, he had no condition to do so by his own merits. The same happens to us. We can not do justice by our own, observing the commandments. Since we believe in Jesus, the orders of His commandments are promises. As the lame, we can make an effort to obey them, confident that we are already empowered by Christ to do so. And then we will "walk". The power that leads us to obey is from Christ, and so we will obey the commandments, even if it seems impossible. Christ has received "all power" from God, and communicates it to us (Matt. 28:18). And for God nothing is impossible. So it is not impossible for us to obey. It is as easy as it was to the paralytic, who was not paralytic anymore since then. For those who believe in Jesus, all the commandments of the Word are enablings.

LESSON 13 – THE MESSAGE OF THE THIRD ANGEL - CONTINUATION

The justification by faith

Golden Verse: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Rev. 14:12)

Sunday

The justification by faith

The third angel's message points to people who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Whereas it is a message from God it means a promise to be fulfilled in the lives of believers. Therefore, it is a message that announces an experience that will be given to every man who receives it. This experience has also been called in the Bible by the name of "righteousness by faith." The Psalmist says, "all Thy commandments are righteousness" (Psalm 119:172). Thus, "righteousness by faith" equals to "obedience to the faith." But nobody has been obedient since birth. "All have sinned" (Romans 5:12). So God looked to the earth and could say, "there is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10). So, how is it possible that someone have the experience of righteousness by faith? The answer is: for the work of "justification by faith". Justification and forgiveness are only one thing and the same thing. "For All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God, being justified (forgiven) freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 3:23, 24). The only way for the sinful man to be reckoned among the keepers of the commandments is: "God forgive him." God offers forgiveness to the man "by faith" (Rom. 3:25). This is the work of justification by faith. By faith, from the condition of sinner man becomes a keeper of the commandments of God. Therefore, since the third angel points to people who are obedient to the commandments, we conclude that his message includes the justification by faith. Therefore, it is not by chance that the servant of the Lord declared:

"Several have written to me, inquiring if the message of justification by faith is the third angel's message, and I have answered, "It is the third angel's message in verity." (Final Events, pgs 199-200, EGW.)

We are studying this issue next week

Monday

Provide the righteousness for sins - the divine proposal

We can not pay for our sins with good works. "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). "Sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). The law does not predict that the good works of today pay for the sins of yesterday. There is nothing in it to justify the sinner. Nevertheless, God does for man what he can not do by himself. He assumed himself the debt on giving His Son to die in the place of the sinner. Note that God can not die because "God is immortal" (I Tim. 1:17). However, His Son can die. For his suggestion and also for His own initiative He accepts to die for paying the debt that the law requires. We are "justified freely by his grace." "God had set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood"(Rom. 3:23,25), we could be forgiven. So, the debt we owe to the law is settled. Christ has paid the price. His just life replaces our unjust lives. The penalty fell on the sinless Son, and we went out cleared and free. And the justice of law is maintained for the payment required by it was paid. Through the sacrifice on the cross, God is just and the justifier of those who believe in Jesus.

The Father and the Son love us, for they did this great sacrifice. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). We, on tenderly for His forgiving love, accept the proposal in heart, grateful for the undeserved forgiveness. Ashamed of our sins that cost so much suffering to God and His Son, we humbly ask to forgive

us. Nevertheless, at the same time, relieved by the pardon we have received, we left the foot of the cross motivated to honour the One who saved us, rendering Him obedience. On establishing this relationship of love and trust between us and God, He declares us righteous. He looks to us and see the robe of the righteousness of Christ, to whom we have accepted. The prophte says, “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.”(Isa. 61:10). Jesus is between us and God as the Mediator, and in Him we are accepted. Therefore, there is nothing in us to deserve such a statement. We are declared righteous because Christ's righteousness covers us.

1) Where is the boasting of man concerning the work of justification by faith?

R.: “Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? Nay: but by the law of faith” (Rm. 3:27)

In the work of justification, the boasting of man is completely excluded (Rom. 3:27). It was by faith, but not by the works he did that was forgiven. The thought that we are justified by the righteousness of Christ as a gift, and not by the works we did, is a precious thought. Satan wants to obscure the mind of men so as to not understand this simple and wonderful truth, because he knows that is the reference of our strength. Nevertheless, the Bible is very clear when it makes reference to it.

“For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness” (Rm. 4:3-5)

Twesday

The death of “I’m”

The life of the sinful man is in opposite to that of Christ. On remembering the sinner’s life before receiving Jesus, Paul says, “We all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.” (Eph. 2:2; 3). Christ and sin can not co-exist. For him to live in our hearts, we must die to our former life, i.e, to the sin. “No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other” (Luke 16:13).

1) Who is truly justified from sin in the Bible, according to the Bible?

R.: “God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?... For he that is dead is freed from sin.” (Rom. 6:2, 7)

When, at the foot of the cross, we receive forgiveness and are justified, we gone through the experience that Jesus have already had. We died for our life of sin; we no longer want to have any dealings with it. We also received a new life from heaven. The same power that had risen up Christ is sent by the Father to us. “If ye then be

risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.” (Col. 3:1-3). How is this death? “Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Rom. 6:11). There will be a struggle. The spirit of God sent to us will impress us to obey the Bible, while our natural inclination forces us to resurrect the "old man" and return to old practices. On the other hand, if we always be submitted to the guidance of the Spirit, we will continue be dead for our past life and alive to God. We will act in accordance with the principles of His Word. That was what Paul said to the Galatians: “For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.” (Gal. 5:17, 18).

Wednesday

The righteousness as stated by Christ

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God” (Rom. 5:1). We rejoice on what He did for our favor, and rejoice in it. God, in his turn, on having won our hearts and making us love him, He knows that made us obedient to His law. For it love and desire to serve Him that grew in our hearts for being forgiven is the fulfillment of the law: “Love is the fulfilling of the law” (Rom. 13:10). Thus, God, when justifies man, completely forgives the man, i.e, He would not leave him in such a helpless state in which he returned to transgress the commandments, according to the inclination of his flesh. Rather than that, He establishes the law into his heart and encourages him to become obedient. “Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.” (Rom. 3:31).

The Bible states that in addition to credit Christ's righteousness on our favor, God gives us righteousness. “When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment” (Isa. 4:4). The spirit of judgement is given by Jesus: “Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you...And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:” (John 20: 21, 22). By His Spirit, Jesus gives us His righteousness.

1) What is the Spirit that Jesus sends us?

R.: “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter...Even the Spirit of truth”(John 14:16)

Jesus said, "thy word is truth" (John 17:17). And the Spirit of truth will always be in harmony with the Word. Many say they are guided by the Spirit of God but walk in opposite to the Word. The true Spirit of God will always guide the man to walk in harmony with His will revealed in the Bible. The Psalmist, being more specific, says: "Thy law is the truth" (Psalm 119:142). Then, we conclude that the Spirit given by Jesus will enable and guide the believer to always obey the commands of his law. If it is fulfilled with the Holy Spirit, those whose life is in a greater conformity with His commandments.

For meditation: Are you fulfilled with the Holy Spirit? Should we not, given the urgency of time, cry even more insistently to God, so that Jesus would pour out the Holy Spirit upon us?

Thursday

The promise of the Spirit

“Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth”(Ose. 6:3)

The Holy Spirit is compared to the water. Jesus said, “He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive) (John 7:38, 39). Thus, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon men is compared to rain water on the earth.

The planting of wheat in the land of Israel, was made shortly before the first rains, called "former rain". The plants grew and formed spikes. Then, came the last rain before the harvest, which served to ripen the grain. It was called "latter rain". After it came the harvest. It all refers to a lively instruction on the plan of salvation. Shortly after ascending to heaven, after being resurrected, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to His church on earth. This was the “former rain” that was sent in the early Christian era, to promote the spiritual growth of the church. At the time of the end, shortly before Christ having done the great harvest, seeking His saints on earth, He will pour out his Spirit again in an abundance way. This will be the “latter rain” that will ripen the harvest of people on earth, so that Christ can come to get the wheat - people who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

Paul shows that the spirit is poured out upon those who receive Jesus by faith. On writing to the Galatians, reminding them of the preaching of the crucified Christ, who they listened to and the gift they had received on believing in the message, said: “Foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?” (Gal. 3:1, 2). The Spirit was received on contemplating the crucified Saviour and accepting Him. Hosea instructs us to follow on to know the Lord Jesus. Doing it, “his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth” (Hosea 6:3). The final and most abundant outpouring of the Spirit is promised to those who persevere on knowing the character and the work of Jesus, which is revealed in His Word. Those who receive it will be finally ready for the harvest. They will be counted in the group pointed by the third angel - “here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” (Rev. 14:12). They will be prepared and Jesus will come and to seek out them as His own. These shall not taste the death, but shall be translated to heaven alive. The instruction of Hosea is an invitation to the preparation, so that we are among them. Therefore, let us follow on to know Jesus more and more, for he comes to us like the rain! Amen!

Friday

“Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD” (Ose. 6:3)

How would we take into consideration Jesus Christ?

The Bible reveals us the different stages of the life of Christ. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God” (John 1:1 - faithful to the original version of Tyndale). Then, the Bible records His birth: “Before the mountains were settled, before the hills I was brought forth, while as yet he still had not made the earth nor the fields, not highest part of the dust of the world” (Prov. 8:25-26). This birth occurred “from everlasting” (Micah 5:2). Since then He subsisted “in the form of God” (Phil. 2:6), until about two thousand years ago, when “the Word became flesh” (John 1:14). There He “But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name” (Phil. 2:7-9). And ascending up resurrected to heaven, “And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; called of God a high priest” (Heb. 5:9-10). There remains today as one mediator between God and man (I Tim 2:5), interceding for us and giving us all the gifts of the Spirit so as to perfect us. In all these themes, we can further proceed to know the Lord.

Christ in His glory and goodness in the form of God and equal to God, condescending to humble himself to the level of our sinful humanity because of His love for us. He descends further down to humble himself before men. Still going further down on taking the sins of all men upon himself as well as being considered as the worst of sinners. Then going down, going through the death - experiencing not only the rest of the first sleep of death, but the second death, meaning the lake of fire for sinners. Step by step the meek Lamb went down the ladder of humiliation because of His love for us, for restoring us. Then, as it would not be enough, He ascended up to heaven to keep working for us, suffering our pains as well as to help us win so as to give us all the glories, which are promised in His word, although we do not deserve them. All these topics are for our meditation. While we get lost in meditation of a such sublime truths, we absorb His love, we are fulfilled with his love, and we will be like Him “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” (II Corinthians 3:18).

Sabbath

Summary

This week, we studied the main truths of the gospel, which are contained in the third angel's message. They are as follows:

We are justified by God through the faith in Jesus, not by works. The righteousness of Christ is given as a gift. This precious thought should never escape of our minds. For this blessed experience occurs, we must die for the sin. Through the meeting with Christ, the world loses its charm and we are won for love and righteousness.

However, we shall have struggles to overcome our inclination to return to the old life of sin. Therefore, besides God gives us the Christ's righteousness on our favor so that we are forgiven, justified, he gives us the righteousness of Christ by His Spirit so as to act us against sin and give us victory over it.

As far as we know more and more of Christ and His righteousness, we go on being changed into His likeness, until he comes to us "as the latter rain", pouring out His Spirit abundantly, preparing us to see Him in the clouds of heaven without going through by death. All those who would be translated at the coming of Christ will have experienced all these steps. And as far as they know Christ, they shall communicate their knowledge to the world.

“The last message of mercy to be given to the world is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. The message of Christ's righteousness is to sound from one end of the earth to the other to prepare the way of the Lord. This is the glory of God, which closes the work of the third angel. (Final Events, pg. 173, EGW). Amen!