

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

LESSON 1: THE TIME OF THE MESSAGE (July 7, 1888)

1. What four kingdoms are represented in Daniel 2:31-40 and Daniel 7:1-7?

Answer: Babylon (Daniel 2:37-38); Medo-Persia (Daniel 5:28); Grecia (Daniel 8:20-21); and Rome (Luke 2:1).

2. What is represented by the ten horns upon the fourth beast?

Daniel 7:7, 24

3. To what date did the kingdom of Babylon continue?

Answer: B.C. 538

4. To what date did Medo-Persia continue?

Answer: B.C. 331

5. Grecia?

Answer: B.C. 168

6. Rome?

Answer: A.D. 476

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

7. When Rome fell, what stood in its place?

Daniel 7:24, first part

8. What was to arise after them and yet among them?

Daniel 7:8, first part, and Daniel 7:24, last part

9. What was the nature of this power as compared with the ten?

Daniel 7:20, last clause

10. What else was peculiar about the horn?

Daniel 7:8 and Daniel 7:20, last clause of each

11. What did he both speak and do?

Daniel 7:25

12. What power of all the earth has done to the greatest extent what is here said?

Answer: The Papacy.

13. Upon the rise of this horn, what was done with three of the ten?

Daniel 7:8, 20

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

14. What three of the ten kingdoms fell?

Answer: The Heruli, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoths.

(See Uriah Smith's *Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation* for comments on Daniel 7:24. Those wishing to study the historical background may consult Edward Gibbon's *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, chapter 39, paragraphs 6–8, and chapter 41, paragraphs 7–12 and 21–28.)

15. At what dates did these fall?

Answer: Heruli, A.D. 493; Vandals, A.D. 534; Ostrogoths, A.D. 538.

16. What then is the date of the establishment of the Papacy?

See Note.

17. How long was the Papacy to have power over the saints, the times, and the laws?

Daniel 7:25

18. Literally, what length of time is this?

Revelation 12:14; Revelation 12:6; Ezekiel 4:4–6

See Note.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

19. Beginning in A.D. 538, when should it end?

Answer: A.D. 1798.

20. What historical event marks the end of the 1,260 years of Papal supremacy?

Answer: In A.D. 1798, the French army under General Berthier abolished the Papacy in Rome, proclaimed a republic there, and carried Pope Pius VI captive from place to place until he died at Valence, France, August 28, 1799.

NOTES

Note on Question 15:

As the little horn power, the Papacy, was to be established by the fall of three of the ten kingdoms, and as the last of these fell in A.D. 538, it is clear that A.D. 538 is the date from which the establishment of the Papacy must be reckoned.

Note on Question 17:

Revelation 12:14 uses the same expression as Daniel 7:25, "time, and times, and half a time." Revelation 12:6 explains this period as 1,260 days. These days are symbolic, and Scripture establishes that one prophetic day represents one literal year (Ezekiel 4:6). Therefore, this period represents 1,260 years.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

LESSON 2: THE TIME OF THE MESSAGE – CONTINUED (July 14, 1888)

1. To what event, and date, were we brought in the previous lesson?

2. In this dealing with the Papacy, what additional prophecies were fulfilled?

Revelation 13:3, first part, and Revelation 13:10

3. How may we know that this prophecy relates to the same power as that in the previous lesson?

Compare Daniel 7:4–8 with Revelation 13:1–2; and Daniel 7:8, 25 with Revelation 13:5–7.

4. Was this captivity and deadly wound to put a total end to the Papacy?

Revelation 13:3

5. When was it that this captivity occurred?

Answer: A.D. 1798.

6. At that time, what else did the prophet see?

Revelation 13:11

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

7. Is it for us to know what this means?

Deuteronomy 29:29

8. Is this a revelation?

Revelation 1:1, 3

9. What part of the world was represented by the symbol of the leopard?

Answer: Grecia.

What part by the bear?

Answer: Media and Persia.

What part by the lion?

Answer: Babylonia.

What part by the beast and the ten horns?

Answer: Western Europe and North Africa.

10. Then, as the characteristics of all these are found in the first beast of Revelation 13, what parts of the world are covered by the description of this first beast?

Answer: The principal parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa.

11. From where was this other beast seen coming up?

Answer: "Out of the earth."

Revelation 13:11

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

12. From where had the first beast arisen?

Revelation 13:1

13. What is meant by “sea,” when used as a symbol?

Revelation 17:15

14. What then is represented by a power coming up out of the sea?

See Note.

15. What is represented by a power coming up out of the earth?

See Note.

16. In A.D. 1798, how much of Europe, Asia, and Africa was occupied by peoples, multitudes, and established and organized nations?

Answer: All the known parts of them.

17. How long had it been so?

Answer: For ages.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

18. Therefore, as the symbols directly connected with the first beast embrace the principal parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa; and as all the rest of the known parts of the Eastern Continent had for ages been occupied by established nations; and as the other beast was to arise where this had not been so; where must this “other beast” arise?

Answer: In the Western Continent.

19. Did the dominion of the first beast, or any of the ten kingdoms, extend to any part of the Western Continent in A.D. 1798?

Answer: It did. Spain, France, Portugal, and Britain then owned all except the possessions of what had been the thirteen British colonies, which then formed the United States of America.

20. What position then did the Government of the United States occupy in A.D. 1798?

Answer: It was the only independent nation then on the earth that had arisen where there had not formerly been, for ages, peoples, multitudes, and established nations.

21. What then is the inevitable conclusion?

Answer: That the United States Government is the power signified in the prophecy of Revelation 13:11–17.

22. What is to be said to the people of this Government?

Revelation 13:14, last part

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

23. When they shall have made an image to the beast, what will he do?

Revelation 13:11, 15

NOTES

Questions 14 and 15:

In his vision recorded in Daniel 7, the prophet says: “The four winds of heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea.” These four great beasts represented the four great kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Grecia, and Rome. Each of these arose by overthrowing the one that had gone before it. As a symbolic sea represents peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues (Revelation 17:15), it is evident how these great powers came up from the sea.

It is equally plain that a power symbolized as coming up out of the earth would arise from a condition of things opposite to that represented by the sea—that is, from a place where, prior to its rise, there had not been peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

LESSON 3: THE TIME OF THE MESSAGE – CONTINUED (July 21, 1888)

1. What warning does God give against the worship of the beast and his image?

Revelation 14:9–11

2. This text says, “The third angel followed them.” Followed whom?

Revelation 14:6, 8

3. The sixth verse says, “I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven.” To what does this seem to direct us?

Answer: To another angel that had been seen previously.

4. Where is the record of John's seeing another angel flying thus?

Revelation 8:13

5. What is the burden of this angel's cry?

6. How many woes?

7. By reason of what?

8. Then with what are these three woes connected?

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

9. To what does the fifth trumpet—the first woe—refer?

Answer: To the rise and spread of Mohammedanism.

“With surprising unanimity, commentators have agreed in regard to this as referring to the empire of the Saracens, or to the rise and progress of the religion and empire of Mohammed.” — Albert Barnes.

10. What did the prophet say should be commanded them?

Revelation 9:4

11. What was commanded them?

See Edward Gibbon's *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, chapter 51, paragraph 10, and Note.

12. For what specific length of time were they to torment men?

Revelation 9:5, 10

13. When did this period begin?

Answer: It was on July 27, A.D. 1299, that Othman first invaded the territory of Nicomedia.

(See Gibbon, chapter 64, paragraph 13.)

14. Then at what time did the first woe end?

Answer: July 27, A.D. 1449.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

15. What followed?

Revelation 9:13

16. How long was the sixth trumpet—the second woe—to continue?

Revelation 9:15

17. Literally, what length of time is this?

Answer: 391 years and 15 days.

18. When did it end?

Answer: August 11, A.D. 1840.

19. What historical event marks the ending of this time at that date?

Answer: On that day the four great powers of Europe—England, Austria, Prussia, and Russia—assumed control of all the foreign affairs of the government of Turkey, and have held it ever since.

(See Uriah Smith *Thoughts on the Revelation* in commenting on Revelation 9:18–19.)

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

Note on Question 11 (quoted from Edward Gibbon, *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, chapter 51, paragraph 10):

“Remember that you are always in the presence of God; on the verge of death, in the assurance of judgment, and the hope of Paradise. Avoid injustice and oppression; consult with your brethren, and study to preserve the love and confidence of your troops. When you fight the battles of the Lord, acquit yourselves like men, without turning your backs; but let not your victory be stained with the blood of women or children. *Destroy no palm trees, nor burn any fields of corn. Cut down no fruit trees*, nor do any mischief to cattle, only such as you will eat. When you make any covenant or article, stand to it, and be as good as your word. As you go on, you will find some religious persons who live retired in monasteries and propose to themselves to serve God that way; let them alone, and neither kill them nor destroy their monasteries. And you will find another sort of people who belong to the synagogue of Satan, who have shaven crowns; be sure you cleave their skulls, and give them no quarter till they either turn Mohammedans or pay tribute.”

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

LESSON 4: THE TIME OF THE MESSAGE – CONTINUED (July 28, 1888)

1. To what date were we brought in the first two lessons?

2. To what date were we brought in our last lesson?

3. What prophetic period then closed?

Answer: The second woe, the sounding of the sixth trumpet.

4. After that what was to come quickly?

Revelation 11:14

5. How many woes were there to be?

Revelation 8:13

6. With what are these three woes connected?

7. Then with what is the third woe connected?

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

8. Then when the third woe does begin, what begins at the same time with it?

Answer: The sounding of the seventh trumpet.

9. When the seventh angel sounded, what were heard?

Revelation 11:15

10. What other notable events are mentioned in connection with the seventh trumpet?

Revelation 11:18, 19

11. What is meant by the wrath of God?

Revelation 15:1

12. When this time of the dead comes, that they should be judged, what is also said to the living?

Revelation 14:6, 7

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

13. When is it that reward is given to saints and prophets, and them that fear the name of the Lord?

Revelation 22:12; Matthew 16:27

14. When is it that there come these lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and the earthquake, and great hail?

Revelation 16:17, 18, 20, 21

15. In what length of time, comparatively, was this woe—the seventh trumpet—to come, after the second woe was past?

Revelation 11:14

16. When did the second woe end?

Answer: August 11, A.D. 1840.

17. Yet what was to come before the seventh trumpet?

Revelation 10:1, 2, 5, 7

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

18. What is it especially that this angel says shall be done in the time of the seventh trumpet angel?

19. What time in his sounding is this to be done?

Answer: *"In the days [the years] . . . when he shall begin to sound."*

20. What is the mystery of God?

Ephesians 3:3, 5–9; Galatians 1:12; Ephesians 6:18, 19; Romans 16:25, 26

21. What is the gospel?

Romans 1:16

22. Then in effect what is said by the angel in Revelation 10:7?

Answer: That in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the power of God for the salvation of sinners will cease to be exercised.

23. As all these things are to follow in quick succession when the seventh angel sounds, is it not, therefore, of immense importance to the world to know when the seventh trumpet angel begins to sound?

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

LESSON 5: THE TIME OF THE MESSAGE – CONCLUDED (August 4, 1888)

1. What was the purpose of the sanctuary and the service of the Levitical priesthood?

Answer: It was a figure of the sanctuary and service of the priesthood of Christ.

Hebrews 9:9, 22, 23, 11, 12, 24

2. In the figure, how often was the service completed?

Leviticus 16:34; Hebrews 9:7

3. In the reality, how often will it be completed?

Hebrews 9:12, 24–26; Hebrews 10:3, 10

4. What was that day's service called which was performed on the last day of the annual service of the earthly sanctuary?

Answer: The atonement, cleansing of the sanctuary, and “reconciling” the sanctuary.

Leviticus 16:19, 20, 33

5. What made it necessary to cleanse, or reconcile, this sanctuary?

Leviticus 16:16, 30, 34

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

6. Is the heavenly sanctuary to be purified, cleansed, or reconciled?

Hebrews 9:23; Colossians 1:20

7. What says the prophecy on this?

Daniel 8:14

8. When did this period of time begin?

Answer: B.C. 456 1/2.

Daniel 9:25; Ezra 7:7–26

9. When did it end?

Answer: A.D. 1844.

(For $2300 - 456 \frac{1}{2} = 1843 \frac{1}{2} = 1844$.)

10. Then when did the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary begin?

11. In the figure, what was done with those who had not their sins taken away by the work of atonement?

Answer: They were cut off without mercy; their probation was ended.

Leviticus 23:29, 30

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

12. As this sanctuary service was all in behalf of sinners, and as all who would not partake of it were cut off without remedy, what, in effect, was that work of atonement?

Answer: A work of judgment.

13. When the seventh trumpet angel should begin to sound, what, among other things, was then to come?

Answer: The time of the dead, that they should be judged.

Revelation 11:18

14. What says the angel of Revelation 14:6, 7?

15. What then is the date of the message of Revelation 14:6, 7?

Answer: A.D. 1844.

16. Was there such a message given at that time?

17. What was the result of the rejection of that message?

Revelation 14:8

18. What was the result of the “falling away” after the first preaching of the gospel?

2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

LESSON 6: THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BEAST (August 11, 1888)

1. What power is represented by the first beast of Revelation 13?

Answer: The Papacy.

2. From what was it developed?

Answer: "A falling away." *2 Thessalonians 2:3*

3. In what was shown the first definite evidence of falling away from the truth of God?

Answer: The adoption of heathen rites and customs.

"The bishops augmented the number of religious rites in the Christian worship, by way of accommodation to the infirmities and prejudices, both of Jews and heathens, in order to facilitate their conversion to Christianity.

For this purpose, they gave the name of *mysteries* to the institutions of the gospel, and decorated particularly the holy sacrament with that solemn title. They used in that sacred institution, as also in that of baptism, several of the terms employed in the heathen mysteries, and proceeded so far, at length, as even to adopt some of the ceremonies of which those renowned mysteries consisted."

— Mosheim, *Church History*, century 2, part 2, chap 4, paragraphs 2, 5.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

4. How early was this manifested?

Answer:

“This imitation began in the Eastern provinces; but, after the time of Adrian [emperor A.D. 117–138], who first introduced the mysteries among the Latins, it was followed by the Christians who dwelt in the western parts of the empire.”

— Mosheim, *Church History*, century 2, part 2, chapter 4, paragraph 5.

5. What worship was the most widely prevalent among all ancient nations?

Answer: Sun worship.

“The oldest, the most widespread, and the most enduring of all the forms of idolatry known to man, viz., *the worship of the sun*.”

— Talbot W. Chambers, *Old Testament Student*, January 1886.

6. When this worship was not directed to an image, how was it performed?

Answer:

“Before the coming of Christ, all the Eastern nations performed divine worship with their faces turned to that part of the heavens where the sun displays his rising beams. This custom was founded upon a general opinion that God, whose essence they looked upon to be light, and whom they considered as being circumscribed within certain limits, dwelt in that part of the firmament, from which he sends forth the sun, the bright image of his benignity and glory.”

— Mosheim, *Church History*, century 2, part 2, chapter 4, paragraph 7.

Ezekiel 8:16

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

7. Was this custom adopted by some who called themselves Christians?

Answer:

“The Christian converts, indeed, rejected this gross error [of supposing that God dwelt in that part of the firmament]; but they retained the ancient and universal custom of worshiping toward the east, which sprang from it. Nor is that custom abolished even in our times, but still prevails in a great number of Christian churches.”

— Mosheim, same reference.

8. What day was especially devoted to the sun?

9. Was that day adopted by these Christians also?

Answer:

“That very day was the Sunday of their heathen neighbors and respective countrymen; and patriotism gladly united with expediency in making it at once their Lord’s day and their Sabbath.”

— *North British Review*, as quoted in *History of the Sabbath*, chapter 16.

10. Upon what is the Papacy built?

Answer: Self-exaltation.

2 Thessalonians 2:4

11. In behalf of what was manifested the first arrogant claims of the Papacy?

Answer: In behalf of Sunday.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

12. By whom?

Answer: By Victor, who was bishop of Rome, A.D. 193–202.

13. What did he command?

Answer:

“He wrote an imperious letter to the Asiatic prelates, commanding them to imitate the example of the Western Christians with respect to the time of celebrating the festival of Easter [that is, commanding them to celebrate it on Sunday]. The Asiatics answered this lordly requisition ... with great spirit and resolution, that they would by no means depart in this manner from the custom handed down to them by their ancestors. Upon this the thunder of excommunication began to roar. Victor, exasperated by this resolute answer of the Asiatic bishops, broke communion with them, pronounced them unworthy of the name of his brethren, and excluded them from all fellowship with the church of Rome.”

— Mosheim, *Church History*, chapter 4, paragraph 11.

14. How early in the second century had this question been made an important one?

Answer:

“About the middle of this century, during the reign of Antoninus Pius [about A.D. 160], the venerable Polycarp went to Rome to confer with Anicetus, bishop of that see, upon this matter.”

— Mosheim, *Church History*, chapter 4, paragraph 10.

15. What is the characteristic of the Papacy as a world power?

Answer: The union of Church and State — the religious power dominating the civil power and using it to further its own ends.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

16. When was the union of Church and State formed, out of which grew the Papacy?

Answer: In the reign of Constantine, A.D. 313–337.

17. What was the condition and work of most of the bishops at this time?

Answer:

“Worldly-minded bishops, instead of caring for the salvation of their flocks, were often but too much inclined to travel about, and entangle themselves in worldly concerns.”

— Neander, *Church History*, volume 2, page 16, Torrey's edition.

18. What had these bishops determined to do?

Answer:

“This theocratical theory was already the prevailing one in the time of Constantine; and ... the bishops voluntarily made themselves dependent on him by their disputes, *and by their determination to make use of the power of the State for the furtherance of their aims.*”

— Neander, *Church History*, volume 2, page 132.

19. What is the “theocratical theory”?

Answer: The theory of government of a State by the immediate power or administration of God.

20. What then is the effect of a man-made theocracy?

Answer: To put man in the place of God.

21. Was this the outcome of the theocratical theory of the bishops of the fourth century?

2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

LESSON 7: THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BEAST – CONCLUDED

(August 18, 1888)

1. What did we find in the preceding lesson was the determination of the bishops of the fourth century?

Answer: To make use of the power of the State for the furtherance of their own aims.

2. What was one of the principal aims of the Western bishops, especially the bishop of Rome?

Answer: The exaltation of Sunday.

3. What did they secure from Constantine?

Answer: An edict, in A.D. 321, in favor of Sunday—the first Sunday law that ever was.

4. What was this law?

Answer:

“Let all the judges and town people, and the occupation of all trades, rest on the venerable day of the sun; but let those who are situated in the country freely and at full liberty attend to the business of agriculture; because it often happens that no other day is so fit for sowing corn and planting vines; lest, the critical moment being let slip, men should lose the commodities granted by Heaven.

Given the seventh day of March; Crispus and Constantine being consuls, each of them for the second time.”

—*History of the Sabbath*, chapter 19.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

5. Who convened the Council of Nice?

Answer: Constantine, A.D. 325.

6. What was one of the two principal decisions rendered by that council?

Answer: That Easter should always and everywhere be celebrated on Sunday.

7. Under what authority were its decrees published?

Answer:

“The decrees of these synods were published under the imperial authority, and thus obtained a political importance.”

—Neander, *Church History*, volume 2, page 133.

8. Who was bishop of Rome during twenty-one years and eleven months of Constantine's reign?

Answer: Sylvester, January 31, 314, to December 31, 335.

9. What did he do by his “apostolic authority” shortly after the Council of Nice?

Answer: He decreed that Sunday should be called the Lord's day.

—*History of the Sabbath*, page 350.

10. What was commanded by the Council of Laodicea, A.D. 363 or 364?

Answer: That if Christians should rest on the Sabbath, “let them be accursed from Christ;” and that they should rest on Sunday.

11. Did Constantine's Sunday law apply to all classes?

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

12. Were other laws demanded by the bishops, which should be more general?

Answer:

“By a law of the year 386, those older changes effected by the Emperor Constantine were more rigorously enforced, and, in general, civil transactions of every kind on Sunday were strictly forbidden. Whoever transgressed was to be considered, in fact, as guilty of sacrilege.”

—Neander, *Church History*, volume 2, page 300.

13. What petition was made to the emperor by a church convention in A.D. 401?

Answer:

“That the public shows might be transferred from the Christian Sunday and from feast days, to some other days of the week.”

—Neander, *Church History*, volume 2, page 297.

14. What was the object of all these State laws?

Answer:

“That the day might be devoted with less interruption to the purposes of devotion.”

“That the devotion of the faithful might be free from all disturbance.”

—Neander, *Church History*, volume 2, pages 297, 301.

15. What was it that so much hindered the devotion of the “faithful” of those times?

Answer:

“Owing to the prevailing passion at that time, especially in the large cities, to run after the various public shows, it so happened that when these

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

spectacles fell on the same days which had been consecrated by the church to some religious festival, they proved a great hindrance to the devotion of Christians, though chiefly, it must be allowed, to those whose Christianity was the least an affair of the life and of the heart.”

—Neander, *Church History*, volume 2, page 300.

16. How was their “devotion” disturbed?

Answer:

“Church teachers ... were, in truth, often forced to complain, that in such competitions the theater was vastly more frequented than the church.”

—Neander, *Church History*, volume 2.

17. What does Neander say of all this?

Answer:

“In this way, the church received help from the State for the furtherance of her ends.... But had it not been for that confusion of spiritual and secular interests, had it not been for the vast number of mere outward conversions thus brought about, she would have needed no such help.”

—Neander, *Church History*, volume 2, page 301.

18. When the church had received the help of the State to this extent, did she stop there?

Answer: No; she demanded that the civil power should be exerted to compel men to serve God as the church should dictate.

19. Which of the fathers of the church was father to this theory?

Answer: Augustine, who lived from A.D. 354 to 430.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

20. What did he teach?

Answer:

“It is indeed better that men should be brought to serve God by instruction than by fear of punishment or by pain. But because the former means are better, the latter must not therefore be neglected.... Many must often be brought back to their Lord, like wicked servants, by the rod of temporal suffering, before they attain to the highest grade of religious development.”

—Schaff, *Church History*, section 27; Augustine, *Epistle 185*, sections 21, 24.

21. What does Neander say of this?

Answer:

“It was by Augustine, then, that a theory was proposed and founded, which ... contained the germ of that whole system of spiritual despotism, of intolerance and persecution, which ended in the tribunals of the Inquisition.”

—Neander, *Church History*, volume 2, page 217.

Thus was formed the union of Church and State out of which grew the Papacy. Thus was developed “the beast,” which made war with the saints of God, and wore out the saints of the Most High.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

A Note on Lesson 8:

Lesson 8 gives us a snapshot of how things looked in 1888. The organizations and people mentioned belong to that moment, and you may not recognize most of them—and that's okay. What matters is not the names, but the **conviction** with which these believers studied prophecy.

Those who worked through these lessons believed Christ's coming was near. They were not careless or naïve; they were attentive. They saw prophecy unfolding around them and responded with urgency. Their confidence was not misplaced—it was grounded in the belief that history was moving toward a decisive conclusion.

And it is still moving. There was more history to come than they anticipated, but the patterns they noticed have not faded. They have grown stronger as society feels increasingly threatened. When people believe something essential is being lost—order, values, identity, or safety—there is a powerful urge to use law to protect what matters most. **Morality begins to feel too fragile to leave to personal conviction alone.** Scripture shows this impulse intensifies as the end draws nearer.

As we study this lesson, we are called to be like those believers in 1888: thoughtful and faithful observers of the world we live in. Prophecy often unfolds not through sudden moments, but through **strengthening currents**—ideas and pressures that build steadily and feel increasingly reasonable as they grow.

During the week, make note of discussions, policies, or cultural movements that seek to shape moral behavior through law or public authority. Pay attention to the language being used and the problems being addressed, and **bring any examples you notice into our Sabbath School discussion.**

Those believers in 1888 watched closely because they believed they were living near the end—and in that, they were right. **We are far closer than they were.** Prophecy has not stalled; it has advanced. Christ's coming is not a distant hope, but an approaching reality.

Let's practice this week looking at the world as they did in 1888—in the bright, urgent light of Jesus' imminent coming.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

LESSON 8: THE MAKING OF THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST (August 25, 1888)

1. What Government have we proved to be represented by the second beast of Revelation 13?

2. What power is to be exercised by this beast?

Revelation 13:12, first clause

3. For what purpose does he use this power?

Revelation 13:12, remainder

4. What is said by him to them that dwell on the earth?

Revelation 14:9, last part

5. What power is represented by the first beast?

Answer: The Papacy.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

6. What have we found to be the great characteristic of the Papacy?

Answer: The union of Church and State—the Church using the power of the State for the furtherance of its own aims.

7. For what then are we to look in this nation?

Answer: For the religious power to exalt itself, to take the place where it shall dominate the civil, and employ the power of the State for the furtherance of its own ends.

8. Is there any effort even now* being made in this direction?

Answer: Yes, a large and influential organization is working to this very end.

**“Now” in this question (and below) refers to the “now” of 1888. As you study, consider how these questions might be answered in the “now” of 2026, and feel free to bring any thoughts, notes, or observations you’d like to share in Sabbath School this week.*

9. What is this organization called?

Answer: The National Reform Association.

10. What, according to their own words, is the object of the association?

Answer:

“To secure such an amendment to the Constitution of the United States as shall suitably express our national acknowledgment of Almighty God as the source of all authority in civil government; of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Ruler of nations; and of his revealed will as of supreme authority; and thus indicate that this is a Christian nation, and place all the Christian laws, institutions, and usages of the Government on an undeniable legal basis in the fundamental law of the land.”

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

11. Of what does the organization consist in itself?

Answer: Of a president, the names of about one hundred and twenty vice-presidents, a recording secretary, a corresponding secretary, a treasurer, seven district secretaries (at present), and the Reformed Presbyterian Church as a body.

12. Who are some of the prominent men actively engaged in favor of it?

Answer: Joseph Cook, Herrick Johnson, D.D.; Julius H. Seelye, president of Amherst College; Bishop Huntington, of New York; Hon. William Strong, ex-justice of the United States Supreme Court; and many others.

13. Of what other important bodies has it gained the support?

Answer: The principal churches, the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and the Prohibition party in many States.

14. What was the prevailing theory of church leaders in the time of Constantine?

Answer: "The theocratical theory."

15. What is the theory of the National Reformers?

Answer:

"Every government by equitable laws, is a government of God; a republic thus governed is of him, and is truly and really a theocracy as the commonwealth of Israel."

—*Cincinnati National Reform Convention*, page 28.

"A true theocracy is yet to come, [and] the enthronement of Christ in law and law-makers, hence I pray devotedly as a Christian patriot, for the ballot in the hands of women."

—*Monthly Reading*, W.C.T.U.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

16. What had the church leaders determined to do in the days of Constantine?

Answer: “To make use of the power of the State for the furtherance of their own aims.”

17. What have the same in our day determined to do?

Answer: The same thing.

18. What came of that in the fourth century?

Answer: The Papacy.

19. What will come of this in the nineteenth century?

Answer: The image of the Papacy.

20. Of what other bodies is the National Reform Association diligently working to secure the support?

Answer: The workingmen and the Catholic Church.

21. What does this association say of the Catholic Church?

Answer:

“We cordially, gladly, recognize the fact that in the South American republics, and in France and other European countries, the Roman Catholics are the recognized advocates of national Christianity, and stand opposed to all the proposals of secularism. Whenever they are willing to co-operate in resisting the progress of political atheism, we will gladly join hands with them. In a World’s Conference for the promotion of National Christianity—which ought to be held at no distant day—many countries could be represented only by Roman Catholics.”

—*Christian Statesman*, December 11, 1884.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

22. What are all Catholics commanded by the Pope to do?

Answer:

“All Catholics should do all in their power to cause the constitutions of States and legislation to be modeled on the principles of the true church; and all Catholic writers and journalists should never lose sight, for an instant, from the view of the above prescription.”

—*Encyclical of Pope Leo XIII*, 1885.

23. Then is not the National Reform Association aiming to form a government modeled after the principles of the Papacy?

24. Then, if professed Protestants under the leadership of the National Reform Association succeed in this, what will there be erected in this government?

Answer: An image of the Papacy.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

Note: Lesson 9 continues the line of thought begun in Lesson 8. Having traced how religious influence seeks civil authority, this lesson examines what happens when that influence moves from persuasion to enforcement. The historical examples belong to the nineteenth century, but the principles they illustrate are not limited to that time.

LESSON 9: THE MAKING OF THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST – CONCLUDED (September 1, 1888)

1. If the influence of the Protestant churches, the Prohibition party, the W.C.T.U., the Workingmen, and the Catholic Church were heartily united in favor of one measure, could not that measure be carried, whatever it might be?

2. Is there now any question upon which all these are united in sentiment, and upon which they are fast uniting in action?

Answer: There is.

3. What is it?

Answer: The enforcement of Sunday-keeping by the State.

4. Who are the sole leaders in this movement?

Answer: The leaders in the churches.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

5. To what extent are they working it?

Answer: They are “working” and lobbying almost every State Legislature in the Union, and the National Legislature also.

6. What do they ask the State to do?

Answer: To stop all Sunday trains, abolish all Sunday papers, and stop all manner of work on Sunday.

7. For what?

Answer: So that their “devotion may not be hindered.”

8. What is there about the Sunday train that hinders the devotion of the church-members?

Answer:

“They get a great many passengers, and so break up a great many congregations.”

—Elgin Convention, Illinois, *Sunday-law Convention*, November, 1887.

9. What is there about the Sunday newspaper that hinders their devotion?

Answer:

“The laboring classes are apt to rise late on Sunday morning, read the Sunday papers, and allow the hour of worship to go by unheeded.”

—Elgin Convention.

10. What was it that hindered the devotion of the church-members in the fourth century?

Answer: Sunday games and theaters.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

11. How?

Answer:

“They got a great many spectators, “and so broke up a great many congregations;” the church-members would go to the games and theaters, and would “let the hour of worship go by unheeded,” and so their devotion was “greatly hindered.”

12. Who were they whose devotion was especially disturbed?

Answer: Those “whose Christianity was the least an affair of the life and of the heart.”

13. What then did they do?

Answer: As they had not enough conscience, nor love of right, to do what they considered to be right, they demanded that the State should take away from them all opportunity to do that which they deemed to be wrong.

14. How is the matter worked now?

Answer: The same way precisely.

15. Was the Papacy content with State laws stopping games and closing theatres?

Answer: No, all manner of work must be stopped.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

16. Will the image of the Papacy be content with laws stopping Sunday trains and abolishing Sunday newspapers?

Answer: "Let a man be what he may—Jew, seventh-day observer of some other denomination, or those who do not believe in the Christian Sabbath— let the law apply to everyone, that there shall be no public desecration of the first day of the week, the Christian Sabbath, the day of rest for the nation. They may hold any other day of the week as sacred, and observe it; but that day which is the one day in seven for the nation at large, let that not be publicly desecrated by anyone, by officer in the Government, or by private citizen, high or low, rich or poor."—*Dr. McAllister, editor Christian Statesman.*

17. Why do they want to compel all people to keep Sunday?

Answer: Because "he who does not keep the Sabbath [Sunday] does not worship God."
—*Elgin Convention.*

18. Then what is the purpose of all their Sunday laws?

Answer: To compel all men to worship.

19. What is it, in reality, that they will compel men, by this means, to worship?

Revelation 13:12

20. What grew out of the Sunday-law movement in the fourth century?

Answer: The beast.

21. What will just as surely grow out of this Sunday-law movement in our day?

Answer: The image of the beast.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

22. What did the beast do?

Answer: He made war with the saints.

Revelation 13:7; Daniel 7:21, 25

23. What will the image of the beast do?

Revelation 13:16, 17

“Resolved, That we give our patronage to such business men, manufacturers, and laborers as observe the Sabbath [Sunday].” --Elgin Sunday-law Convention

24. What further will the image of the beast endeavor to do?

Revelation 13:15

25. Is it in the minds of these National Reformers to do this?

Answer: At the Lakeside National Reform Convention, 1887, a certain person said of the enforcement of Sunday laws:

“There is a law in the State of Arkansas enforcing Sunday observance upon the people, and the result has been that many good persons have been imprisoned, but have lost their property and even their lives.”

And Dr. McAllister replied:

“It is better that a few should suffer than that the whole nation should lose its Sabbath.”

26. Under what plea did the chief priests and Pharisees justify themselves in killing the Saviour?

Answer: *“It is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.” “Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.”*

John 11:50

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

27. Will these in our day accomplish their purpose upon those who refuse to worship the beast and his image?

Revelation 15:2

Note:

In the *Christian Nation*, December 1, 1887, Rev. W. T. McConnell, representative National Reformer, published an "open letter" to the *American Sentinel*, in which he said:

"You look for trouble in this land in the future, if these principles are applied. I think it will come to you if you maintain your present position. The foolhardy fellow who persists in standing on a railroad track may well anticipate trouble when he hears the rumble of the coming train. If he hears the whistle and sees the flaming head-light, he may change his position and avoid the danger; but if he won't be influenced by these, his most gloomy forebodings of trouble will be realized when the express strikes him. So you, neighbor, if, through prejudice or the enmity of unregenerate hearts, you have determined to oppose the progress of this nation in fulfilling its vocation as an instrument in the divine work of regeneration in human society, may rightly expect trouble. It will be sure to come to you."

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

LESSON 10: THE PURPOSE OF THE SABBATH IN THE MESSAGE

(September 8, 1888)

1. What warning does the Lord send to the world against the worship of the beast and his image?

Revelation 14:9–11

2. How widely was the first message of this chapter announced?

Revelation 14:6

3. What is said of the second?

Answer: It followed.

Revelation 14:8

4. And what is said of the third?

Answer: The third angel followed them.

Revelation 14:9

5. If, then, the first one went to every nation and kindred and tongue and people, and the third one follows, what must be the extent to which the Third Angel's Message will go?

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

6. What does the first angel have to preach?

Revelation 14:6

7. What does this angel proclaim?

Answer: "The hour of God's judgment is come."

Revelation 14:7

8. What does he call upon all people to do?

Answer: "Worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."

9. What results from the rejection of this message?

Revelation 14:8

10. What came of the first falling away from the everlasting gospel?

Answer: "That man of sin;" "the mystery of iniquity;" "the beast."

2 Thessalonians 2:2–8; Daniel 7:11; Revelation 19:19, 20.

11. What comes of this second falling away from the everlasting gospel?

Answer: "The image of the beast," and the enforced worship of the beast.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

12. When men refuse to worship Him that made heaven and earth and the sea and the fountains of waters, what are they led to do?

Answer: To worship the beast and his image.

Revelation 13:12, 13.

13. What then do the three messages of Revelation 14:6–12 form?

Answer: One threefold message rather than three distinct messages.

(See Note.)

14. When the first in order tells men that the hour of God's judgment is come, what does the third tell them to do, to be prepared for the judgment?

Revelation 14:12

15. What is to be the rule in the judgment?

Romans 2:12, 16.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

16. When the first angel calls upon all men to worship Him that made heaven and earth, etc., what does the third tell them to do, that their worship may be acceptable to Him, and that they may avoid the worship of the beast and his image?

Revelation 14:12.

17. Is a man's worship acceptable to God if he does not keep the commandments of God?

Proverbs 28:9.

18. Is it possible to keep the commandments of God without faith in Jesus?

Romans 14:23, last part.

19. Is there any part of the commandments of God that points specially to Him that made heaven and earth?

Exodus 20:8–11.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

20. Therefore, in the time of the preaching of the Third Angel's Message, what will be done?

Answer: Every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people will be called upon particularly to keep the fourth commandment.

21. What day is the Sabbath of the Lord?

Exodus 20:10.

22. Of what is a sign?

Answer: "A sign... that ye may know that I am the Lord your God."

Ezekiel 20:20.

23. Why is it such a sign?

Answer: "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day."

Exodus 31:17.

24. Then of what is the keeping of the seventh day a sign?

Answer: It is a sign that those who do so worship the true God—"Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."

25. What is the one great question under the Third Angel's Message?

Answer: Whether men will worship Him that made heaven and earth, or worship the beast and his image.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

26. What is the keeping of the seventh day—the Sabbath of the Lord?

Answer: It is the God-given sign that those who do so are worshipers of Him that made heaven and earth.

27. Therefore what is the inevitable conclusion?

Answer: That the keeping of the Sabbath of the Lord—the seventh day—is the one point above every other that distinguishes the worshipers of Him that made heaven and earth from the worshipers of the beast and his image.

NOTES

The word rendered "*followed*," in Revelation 14:8, 9, is **akolouthēō**, which means "to go with." Liddell and Scott render the word thus: "To *follow* one, *go after* or *with* him." Robinson says: "To *follow*; to *go with*, to *accompany* anyone." It is the same word used in Mark 5:24: "And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him." It is also used of the redeemed one hundred and forty-four thousand, where it is said: "These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth." Revelation 14:4.

In both these places it is evident that the idea intended to be conveyed is that of going together, in company with. So in 1 Corinthians 10:4, where we read of the children of Israel that "they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them," the word "followed" is translated from the same Greek word, and the margin has it, "went with them." From this we learn that the idea in Revelation 14:8, 9 is not simply that the second and third angels followed the first in point of time, but that they went with it.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

Therefore the second and third messages must necessarily be as widespread as the first. As a matter of fact, they are now inseparable; it is impossible properly to preach one without preaching the other two.

Question 13.—It is the rejection of the first message that causes the falling away referred to in the second message. From this falling away the image of the beast and his worship are developed. And the third message warns against the worship of the beast and his image. From this it is evident that these three messages are inseparably connected, and form one threefold message.

Again: The first message calls upon all men to “worship Him that made heaven and earth,” etc. Those who refuse to do this are led to worship the beast and his image. The third angel follows, warning against the worship of the beast and his image, and calls upon all men to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. The fourth commandment points directly to the worship of Him who made heaven and earth; and this is the very thing which the first message calls upon men to do. Therefore it is certain that these three messages are but one threefold message. They are three only in the order of their rise. But having risen, they go on together and are inseparable.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

LESSON 11: THE MARK OF THE BEAST (September 15, 1888)

1. Who will be required to worship the beast and his image, and to receive his mark?

Revelation 13:12, 15–17.

2. In opposition to this what does the Third Angel's Message say?

Revelation 14:9, 10.

3. What are those led to do, who heed the voice of this message?

Revelation 14:12.

4. What does this show?

Answer: That the powers spoken of in *Revelation 13:12–17* will put forth all their strength to compel men to do something that is contrary to the commandments of God.

5. What have we found was the principal object of the Papacy, in the fourth century? and what is the purpose of the Protestantism of to-day?

Answer: To use the power of the State to compel all people to keep Sunday as the Lord's day, or Christian Sabbath.

6. Of what day is Christ the Lord?

Mark 2:28.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

7. What day is the Sabbath?

Exodus 20:10.

8. Then what day is the Lord's day?

9. What does the Lord call the seventh day?

Exodus 20:10; Isaiah 58:13.

10. Is there any commandment of God for keeping Sunday?

Answer: None whatever.

11. What testimonies can you give on this point from eminent first-day authorities?

Answer:

"The \$500 prize-essay of the American Tract Society acknowledges the 'complete silence of the New Testament so far as any explicit command for the Sabbath [Sunday, the first day of the week] or definite rules for its observance are concerned.'" —*Abiding Sabbath*, p. 184.

And the \$1,000 prize-essay of the American Sunday-school Union says: "Up to the time of Christ's death, no change had been made in the day." And, "so far as the record shows, they [the apostles] did not, however, give any explicit command enjoining the abandonment of the seventh-day Sabbath, and its observance on the first day of the week." —*Lord's Day*, pp. 186–188.

See note.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

12. What was the single link that in the fourth century united Church and State, which developed the beast?

Answer: The Sunday institution.

13. What is the single point in a similar movement in our day which develops only an image to the beast?

Answer: The Sunday institution.

14. What does the Papacy set forth as the sign of its authority to command men under penalty of sin for disobedience?

Answer:

“The very act of changing Sabbath into Sunday, which Protestants allow of... because by keeping Sunday strictly they acknowledge the church’s power to ordain feasts, and to command them under sin.” —*Catechism of the Catholic Christian Instructed*.

15. Then what is the mark of the beast?

16. To whom do those pay homage who keep Sunday?

Answer:

“The keeping of Sunday is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the Catholic Church.” —*Plain Talk about Protestantism*.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

17. Then when Protestant churches attempt to compel people by law to keep Sunday, what is that only to do?

Answer: It is only to compel men to worship the Papacy—to worship the beast.

18. But, as in the very act of doing this these churches make an image to the beast, what then will be the enforced observance of Sunday in this nation?

Answer: It will be the worship of the beast and his image.

19. But may not Sunday-keeping be enforced as a civil duty?

Answer: Never. Because Sunday is wholly a religious institution; and the civil power has no right to enforce religious duties.

20. What does Christ command on this subject?

Matthew 22:21.

21. By what power was Sunday-keeping instituted?

Answer: The church.

22. Why were the ancient Sunday laws enacted?

Answer: The church demanded it, and it was done to satisfy and help the church.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

23. Why are Sunday laws now enacted?

Answer: For the same reasons precisely.

24. Is the church Caesar?

Answer: No.

25. Is the church God?

26. Then what follows?

Answer: That as Sunday-keeping belongs neither to Caesar nor to God, there is no power in existence that can, of right, command it.

Note on Question 11: The student is at liberty to present any other testimonies on this point that he may choose.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

LESSON 12: THE LAST MESSAGE OF MERCY (September 22, 1888)

1. How great will be the pressure to compel all to keep Sunday in this nation?

Revelation 13:15–17

2. But what says the word of God against it?

Revelation 14:9, 10

3. In what form is it said this wine will be poured out?

Answer: “Without mixture.”

4. Is there a cup now in the hand of the Lord from which he pours out?

Psalms 75:8

5. What is said of this cup?

Answer: “It is full of mixture.”

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

6. While it is thus full of mixture, what is it to those who accept God's mercy?

Psalms 116:13

7. After salvation has been poured out of this cup, what time is referred to when the wine is "poured out without mixture"?

Answer: The time when there will be no salvation for sinners.

8. If men will not drink of the cup of salvation, of what will they be compelled to drink?

Jeremiah 25:15, 28; Psalm 75:8, last part

9. What is this wine of the wrath of God?

Revelation 15:1, 7

10. What are these seven plagues called?

Answer: The seven last plagues.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

11. Will there be any service in the heavenly temple while these plagues are being poured out?

Revelation 15:8

12. What does this show?

Answer: That then there will be no intercessor, and no salvation for sinners.

13. Who will suffer these plagues?

Revelation 14:9, 10

14. How extensive will be the worship of the beast?

Revelation 13:8

15. What does God do to try to save men from this awful doom?

Answer: He sends them the Third Angel's Message.

16. Then what does this show the Third Angel's Message to be?

Answer: The last message of mercy to the world.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

17. What follows close upon it?

Revelation 14:14

18. What is said to him, and what is done by him, who sits upon the cloud?

Revelation 14:15, 16

19. What is the harvest?

Matthew 13:39

20. Then what follows close upon the Third Angel's Message?

21. Then what again does this show the message to be?

Answer: The last message of mercy to the world.

22. Then is not this message the most important thing in the world?

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

LESSON 13: THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES (September 29, 1888)

1. When the Third Angel's Message shall have done its work, what voice will then be heard from the heavenly temple?

Revelation 16:1

2. In addition to all these plagues, what awful famine will be upon men?

Amos 8:11, 12

3. What will be the first plague? and upon whom will it fall?

Revelation 16:2

4. What will be the second plague?

Revelation 16:3

5. What will be the third plague?

Revelation 16:4

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

6. Why will the rivers and fountains of water be turned to blood?

Revelation 16:6

7. What will be the fourth plague?

Revelation 16:8, 9

8. What will be the further effect of this?

Joel 1:18–20

9. What will be the fifth plague?

Revelation 16:10

10. Will those who love the truth of God be afraid in this time of darkness and dread?

Psalms 91:5–8

11. What will be the sixth plague?

Revelation 16:12

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

12. Does this refer to the literal river Euphrates, or to the nation that dwells in the country of the Euphrates?

Answer: *The nation. See note.*

13. What then does the drying up of the river mean?

Answer: *Evidently the wiping out of the Turkish power,—the nation that now rules the Euphrates country.*

14. What did the prophet see at this same time?

Revelation 16:13

15. What are these spirits?

Revelation 16:14, first part

16. What do they go forth to do?

Revelation 16:14, last part; Revelation 19:11, 15, 19

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

17. When the seventh angel pours out his vial what is heard?

Revelation 16:17

18. What is this voice?

Jeremiah 25:30

19. What will then happen to heaven and earth?

Haggai 2:21, 22; Hebrews 12:26; Revelation 16:18, 20

20. What then falls upon men?

Revelation 16:21

21. What will the people of God do in this fearful time?

Joel 3:16; Isaiah 25:9

22. Will any of these plagues afflict them?

Psalms 91:9, 10

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

23. What will assure to all this perfect safety?

Answer: *The love of the truth of the Third Angel's Message.*

Psalm 91:4; Zephaniah 2:3

24. Then is not that message the most precious boon this world can know?

NOTE on Question 12.—It is not possible that it should refer to the literal river, because never in all history have the waters of the literal river Euphrates been a hindrance to any kings either of the East or of the West. A thousand years before Christ, the kings of Assyria crossed it regularly every spring—at the very time when the waters were the highest—in their campaigns. In the year 269 A.D., Tiridates, king of Armenia, swam it with his armor on.—*Gibbon, chapter 33, part 21.*

The view that the reference is not to the literal river, but to the Euphrates nation, is strengthened by the fact that Isaiah, in speaking of the king of Assyria and his armies, plainly calls them, “The waters of the river.” “Now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them [the people of Judah] the waters of the river, strong and many, even the king of Assyria, and all his glory; and he shall come up over all his channels, and go over all his banks.”—*Isaiah 8:7.*

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

LESSON 14: THE WRATH OF THE DRAGON (October 6, 1888)

1. Just after what notable working will the Saviour come?

2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10

2. How great will be these signs and wonders?

Matthew 24:24

3. Why is it they deceive them that perish?

2 Thessalonians 2:10, last part

4. What special manifestation of the truth have we found that there will be just before the coming of the Lord?

Revelation 14:9–14

5. Are the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus the truth?

Psalms 119:151; John 14:6

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

6. Are the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus righteousness?

Psalm 119:172; Galatians 5:5, 6

7. What is the object of Satan's deceiving, lying miracles and wonders?

Revelation 13:14

8. What is the object of the Third Angel's Message?

Answer: To save men from the worship of the beast and his image.

9. Then with what will be Satan's last conflict before the coming of the Lord?

Answer: With the Third Angel's Message and with those who receive the love of it.

10. What does this message lead men to do?

Revelation 14:12

11. In what manner does the second beast of Revelation 13 speak?

Revelation 13:11

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

12. What power, and seat, and authority, has the first beast?

Revelation 13:2

13. What is the great dragon above all?

Revelation 12:9

14. What then is the source of the dragon spirit?

15. Through what power did he manifest his wrath when the Saviour was on the earth?

Answer: Pagan Rome.

Revelation 12:4, 5; Matthew 2:1, 2, 8, 16; John 18:31; 19:12, 15, 16

16. Through what power did he manifest his wrath in the Dark Ages?

Answer: The beast.

Revelation 13:2, 5–7; 12:14–16; Daniel 11:33, 34; Matthew 24:21, 22

17. Through what power will his wrath be poured out against the last of the church?

Answer: The image of the beast, in association with the beast.

Revelation 13:12, 14

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

18. What will specially excite his wrath against the poor remnant in this last effort?

Revelation 12:17

19. What will the Third Angel's Message do just at this time?

Answer: It will go to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, calling them to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

20. What is it then that will cause the devil to be so particularly wrathful, and to put forth all his power?

Answer: The Third Angel's Message.

21. Which side will get the victory?

Revelation 15:2

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

LESSON 15: THE WORKING OF SATAN (October 13, 1888)

1. What will be said to the people just before the Lord comes?

Isaiah 8:19, with verse 17.

2. What is the object of their seeking unto them that have familiar spirits?

Answer: To obtain communication with the dead.

Isaiah 8:19, last part.

3. What is that doctrine called?

Answer: Spiritualism.

4. Do the dead know anything?

Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6.

5. What are the familiar spirits which these persons have, and with which men are invited to communicate?

Revelation 16:14.

6. What have we found to be one great object of these miracles and lying wonders?

Revelation 13:14.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

7. What does this prove?

Answer: That Spiritualism will act a most important part in making the image to the beast, and enforcing the worship of the beast and his image.

8. When the National Reformers secure their National Constitutional acknowledgment, what do they expect?

Answer:

“Let us acknowledge God as our Father and Sovereign, and Source of all good, and his blessing will be upon us. Crime and corruption will come to an end, and the benign reign of Jesus, our rightful Lord, will be established.” “Either like them [the Jews] we will reject him and perish, or becoming a kingdom of our Lord and his Christ, we shall fill the earth and endure forever.” “And when we reach the summit ... the train will move out into the most glorious light of millennial days, and the cry will be raised, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ.’”

— *New York National Reform Convention, 1873, pp. 49, 75, 47.*

9. When they shall have set up what they call his kingdom, what then do they expect?

Answer:

“When we finish our testimony, then Christ will come and finish his work.”

— *Secretary J. M. Foster, Reformed Presbyterian and Covenanter, December, 1887, p. 403.*

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

10. By whom will there be great signs and wonders wrought to deceive?

Matthew 24:24.

11. Who will finally manifest, and work with, all power?

2 Thessalonians 2:8.

12. As these great wonders are to be wrought by false christs, and as Satan is to work the greatest of them, then in what form will Satan present himself in this?

Answer: In the form of a false christ.

13. When the National Reform kingdom shall have been formed, and Satan, by this great wonder-working power, shall be transformed into an angel of light, and thus shall come personating Christ, then what will be the universal shout?

Answer: "Christ has come;" "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ."

14. Then who will be the king of the National Reform Government?

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

15. Is Spiritualism expecting such a new messiah?

Answer: Spiritualism promises a new messiah, and announces his coming “to this very generation.”

The *World's Advance Thought* is the *avant-courier* of the new spiritual dispensation, and in its issue of April 5, 1886, says:

“Another sun of righteousness is called for on earth, and the messenger cannot be far off whose life mission it shall be to practically illustrate the new truths that will be vouchsafed. He will not be a mere racial messiah, nor a half-world messiah, as was the great Nazarene; but something combining the sudden locomotion and lightning communication, and the harmonizing influences of commercial intercourse, have made a whole-world messiah possible, and such the next one shall be. Though themselves ignorant of the fact, as a body, the great and multiplying army of mediums are his avant-couriers.” “The unanimity of the immortals’ answers may thrill the world with the promise of a new messiah.”

16. What says infidelity?

Answer:

“Now I think I can safely say that if the National Reform movement succeeds, and God will sign and seal his edicts, so that there can be no doubts about their authority, the disbelievers will cheerfully obey them, and if Jesus will come and sit visibly on the throne, where we can see and talk to him, there will be no unbelievers, and all will obey.”

— P. Shu-maker, Flat Creek, La., in a letter to the editor of the *American Sentinel*, Sept. 17, 1887.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

17. What says the National W. C. T. U.?

Answer:

“The Woman’s Christian Temperance Union, local, State, national and world-wide, has one vital, organic thought, one all-absorbing purpose, one undying enthusiasm, and it is that Christ shall be this world’s king. Yes, verily, this world’s king in its realm of cause and effect; king of its courts, its camps, its commerce; king of its colleges and cloisters; king of its customs and its constitutions.”

— *Union Signal*, December 1, 1887, p. 2.

18. Taking all these with the other different bodies that now favor the National Reform movement, and how general will be the acceptance of the king of the National Reform government?

19. What have we found given to save men from this terrible deception?

20. Then who alone will refuse to acknowledge the National Reform king?

Answer: Those who receive the love of the truth of the Third Angel’s Message.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

LESSON 16: THE FINAL CONTEST AND THE VICTORY (October 20, 1888)

1. Who will be the National Reform king?

2. Who alone will refuse to acknowledge him as Christ?

3. What do the National Reformers say will be done with all such?

Answer: “The day is coming when all professed Christians who deny the kingship of Christ over the nations, together with their infidel confederates, will, at Christ’s command, be slain before his face, because they will not have him to reign over them.”—Secretary M. A. Gault, in *Christian Statesman*, January 14, 1886.

4. What did the prophecy say they would do?

Revelation 13:15

5. What then will those be doing?

Revelation 14:12

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

6. What then will be the work of the great false christ?

Mark 13:22

7. What have we found to be the one part of the commandments of God, above all others, that distinguishes those who obey the Third Angel's Message?

Answer: The keeping of the Sabbath of the Lord.

8. What will be done by the great false christ to seduce them from this?

Answer: "In his assumed character as Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and commands all to hallow the day which he has blessed."—*Great Controversy*, Vol. 4, p. 442.

9. What crowning wonder will be wrought to confirm this?

Revelation 13:13

10. What answer may be made by all?

Answer: The seventh day is the Sabbath, even though heaven itself comes down. *Matthew 24:35; Luke 16:17.*

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

11. When they yet refuse to receive the mark of the beast and worship his image, what then will be done?

Answer: "A decree will finally be issued denouncing them as deserving of the severest punishment, and giving the people liberty, after a certain time, to put them to death." —*Great Controversy*, Vol. 4, p. 445.

12. Are any put to death when the time expires?

Answer: No. See Note.

13. Where are they next seen?

Revelation 15:2

14. What song do they sing?

Revelation 15:3

15. Can anybody else learn that song?

Revelation 14:3

16. What was the song of Moses?

Answer: The song of victory that they sang when God gave deliverance from Pharaoh's oppression.

17. What then will be the song of these?

Answer: The song of their deliverance.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

18. Deliverance from what?

Answer: From Satan's oppression through the power of the beast and his image.

19. What was one main cause of Pharaoh's oppressing Israel?

Answer: The keeping of the Sabbath. *Exodus 5:5.*

20. What will be the cause of the wrath of Satan and the tyranny of the beast and his image, upon those who obey the Third Angel's Message?

Answer: The keeping of the Sabbath.

21. Then why is it that only these will be able to sing the song of Moses?

Answer: Because only these, of all the world, will have been delivered from such bitter oppression.

22. What will these have received that they might be saved?

Answer: "The love of the truth."

23. What will be their shield in the time of the seven last plagues?

Psalms 91:4

24. When they approach the glittering gates of the glorious city of God, what will be said?

Isaiah 26:2

25. What else is a part of their song?

Revelation 15:3, last part

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

26. As none others can learn this song, what would this show?

Answer: That these are counted worthy to receive such views of the works and the justice of God, as none others can.

27. How do they obtain these views?

Revelation 14:4, last part

28. Where and with whom shall they dwell?

Revelation 7:15–17

NOTE.

Question 11.—“As the time appointed in the decree against God’s people comes, the inhabitants of the earth unite to destroy the disturbers of their peace. In one night they determine to strike the decisive blow that shall forever silence the voice of the reprover. The waiting ones, in their solitary retreats, are still pleading for divine protection. In every quarter, companies of armed men, urged on by hosts of evil angels, are preparing for the work of death. With shouts of triumph, with jeers and imprecations, they are about to rush upon their prey.

“But lo, a dense blackness, deeper than the darkness of the night, falls upon the earth. Then a rainbow, shining with the glory from the throne of God, spans the heavens, and seems to encircle each praying company. The angry multitudes are suddenly arrested. Their mocking cries die away. The objects of their murderous rage are forgotten. With fearful

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE - 3rd QUARTER, 1888

forebodings they gaze upon the symbol of God's covenant, and long to be shielded from its overpowering brightness. . . .

"The wicked look with terror, and amazement upon the scene, while the righteous behold with solemn joy the tokens of their deliverance.

Everything in nature seems turned out of its course. The streams cease to flow. Dark, heavy clouds come up, and clash against each other. In the midst of the angry heavens is one clear space of indescribable glory, whence comes the voice of God like the sound of many waters, saying, 'It is done.'

"That voice shakes the heavens and the earth. There is a mighty earthquake. The firmament appears to open and shut. The glory from the throne of God seems flashing through. The mountains shake like a reed in the wind, and ragged rocks are scattered on every side. There is a roar as of a coming tempest. The sea is lashed into fury. There is heard the shriek of the hurricane, like the voice of demons upon a mission of destruction. The whole earth heaves and swells like the waves of the sea. Its surface is breaking up. Its very foundations seem to be giving way. Mountain chains are sinking. Inhabited islands disappear with their living freight. The seaports that have become like Sodom for wickedness are swallowed up by the angry waters. Great hail-stones, every one 'about the weight of a talent,' are doing their work of destruction. The proudest cities of the earth are laid low. The costly palaces, upon which the world's great men have lavished their wealth in order to glorify themselves, are crumbling to ruin before their eyes. Prison walls are rent asunder, and God's people, who have been held in bondage for their faith, are set free." —*Great Controversy*, Vol. 4, chap. 35.