TED N.C. WILSON IN HARMONY WITH HEAVEN

ANSWERING THE CALL



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The Last Warning

"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His.... He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him."

-Daniel 2:20-22

For some time now, the word *unprecedented* has been used to describe recent events, and rightly so. Never have such earth-shaking events converged in such a short period of time, affecting nearly every aspect of life quickly and dramatically. People sense we are on the verge of something stupendous, and fear and uncertainty are everywhere.

Now is the time, more than ever, for Seventh-day Adventists to proclaim with Holy Spirit–inspired boldness the messages of the three angels, found in Revelation 14. We are told that "there is no other work of so great importance" as proclaiming this "last warning for a perishing world."¹

In every age, God has given His people a special mission. And while the specifics of carrying out that mission may vary, the ultimate goal is always the same—to bring people into a saving relationship with God that will last for eternity.

An important mission

More than twenty-five hundred years ago, God called a young man to an important mission—a mission that would last not only through his lifetime but would stretch down the ages into our time and beyond. Standing fearlessly in the courts of kings, Daniel was a bright light as he prophesied to those at the highest levels, while in the presence of the King of kings who "reveals secrets" and has "made known . . . what will be" (Daniel 2:29).

Those prophecies, especially the ones regarding the last days, are identified in Revelation 10 as a "little book," sealed until the time of the end. John is told,

"Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth."...

... "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth" (verses 8, 9).

In this passage, John represents God's people who experienced the Great Disappointment in 1844. The open book is the book of Daniel, containing the 2,300-year prophecy concerning the cleansing of the sanctuary and the coming investigative judgment.

Believing that Jesus was about to come was sweet to the Advent believers, but when Christ did not appear as expected, it was a bitter disappointment. Having preached the message of Jesus' return, their work was not yet complete. In God's plans, there was another message that needed to be given to the whole world. This message, divided into three parts, is outlined in Revelation 14:6–12 and is known as the three angels' messages.

The three angels' messages

Seventh-day Adventists have long understood their unique character and mission to spring from Revelation 14:6-12-the

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three angels' messages. We are to preach and teach these precious messages for this time in Earth's history. Each of those angels has a special message: the first pointing people back to a true worship of God, the second announcing that apostate religion has turned from Bible truth and is fallen, and the third proclaiming the distinguishing marks between God's people and those against God. God's people will worship on the seventh-day Sabbath. The mark of the beast will represent those who worship on the day proclaimed by the beast.

The Spirit of Prophecy tells us the first and second messages were given by the early Advent believers. The third message would be added to the first two and would be given just before Jesus returns. The combination of these three messages would be the final appeal of God to this world.

Theology and mission inseparable

Seventh-day Adventist theology and mission are inseparable, and our mission as God's remnant church is made abundantly clear by Inspiration:

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 import—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.

... The world is to be warned, and God's people are to be true to the trust committed to them.²

Since we are entrusted by God to proclaim these messages to

the world, how important it is that we understand the messages and the importance of sharing them.

We are told that as the conflict between truth and error intensifies and the end draws near, a purging will take place in God's church. Those who hold fast to their Savior and refuse to abandon the truths found in the three angels' messages will realize they must, through God's strength, carry on with His mission, leaving the results with Him.

Servants of God, with their faces lighted up ..., will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven....

The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God.... The truth is seen in its clearness, and the honest children of God sever the bands which have held them.... Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand upon the Lord's side.³

Brothers and sisters, what we are experiencing today is a wake-up call, urging us to look to God's Word and be ready for what is coming. Only by relying completely on Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit will we be able to accomplish anything! God is preparing us for the outpouring of the latter rain, enabling us to proclaim with a loud voice the life-giving messages of the three angels.

Now is the time to study these messages, pray with hearts open to God's leading, and commit ourselves fully into His hands, saying, "I will go to proclaim the three angels' messages!"

May the Lord bless you in a special way as you spend time with Him studying these vitally important, timely, and lifesaving messages.

The Last Warning

1. Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press[®], 1948), 9:19.

2. White, 19.

3. Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press®, 1911), 612.