Three angels—simplified, modernised, and diversified—let's get it right

Jeffrey O. Brown, Associate Secretary

General Conference Ministerial Association



Ideal
Ordeal
New deal

Ideal—Creation

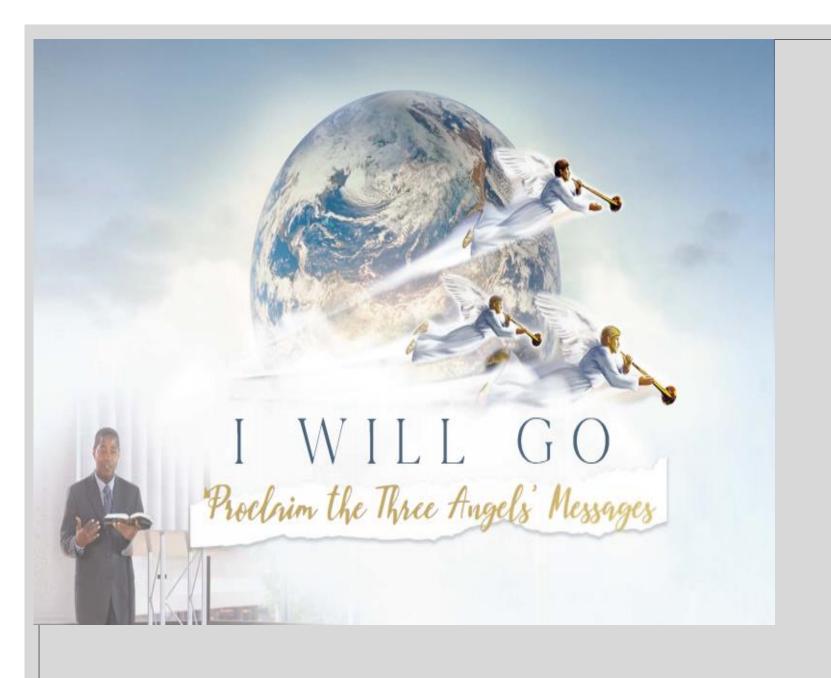
Ordeal—Fall

New Deal— Restoration Ideal—Creation

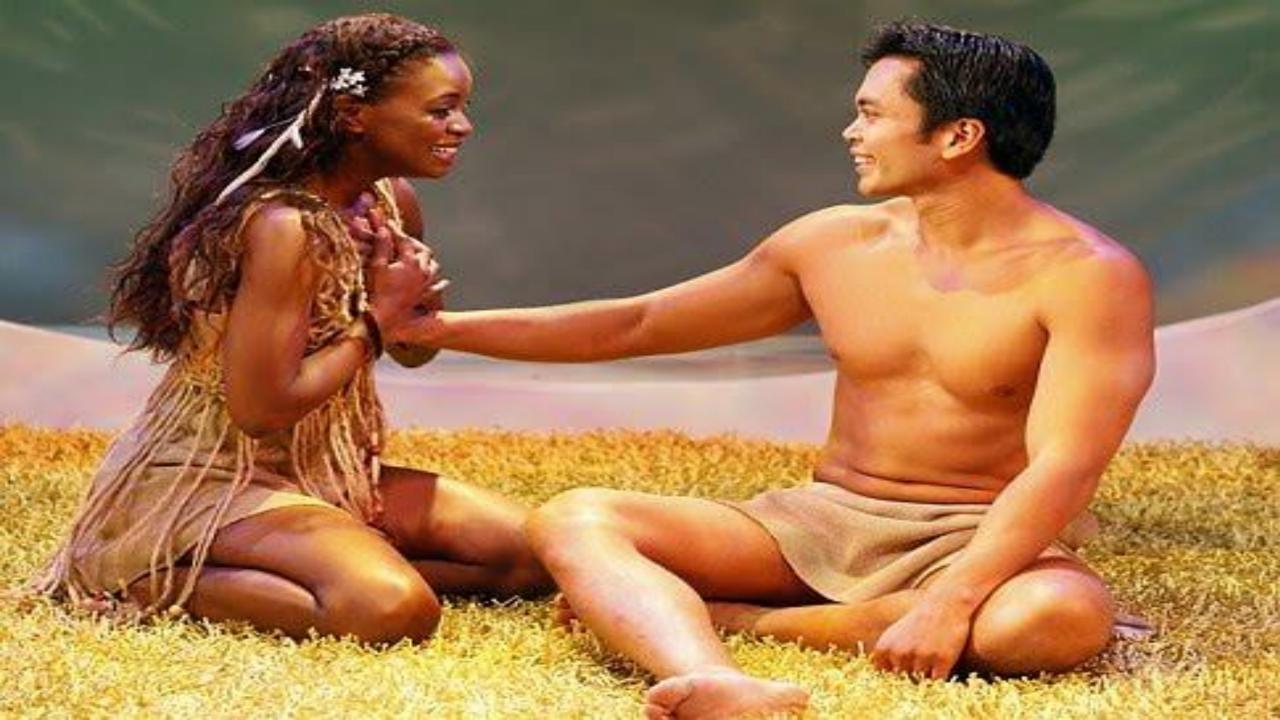
Ordeal—Fall

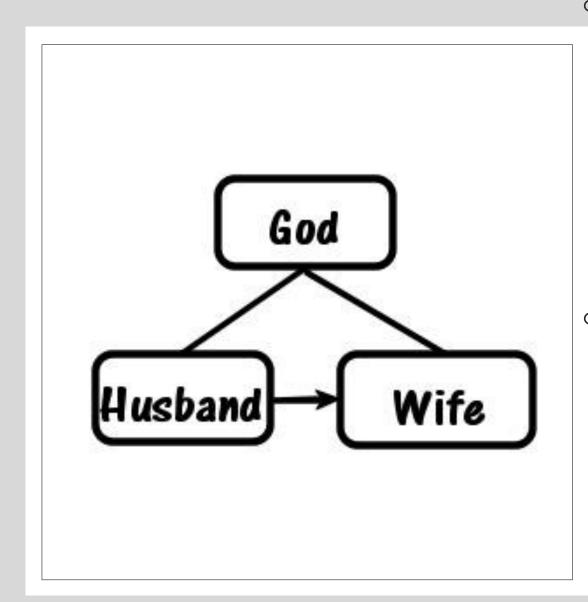
New Deal— Restoration

In order to understand what is comprehended in the work of education [redemption], we need to consider both the nature of man and the purpose of God in creating him. We need to consider also the change in man's condition through the coming in of a knowledge of evil, and God's plan for still fulfilling His glorious purpose in the education of the human race. Education, 14



Ideal





- When God created Eve, He designed that she should possess neither inferiority nor superiority to the man, but that in all things she should be his equal. Testimonies 3, 484
- o In the creation God had made her the equal of Adam. Had they remained obedient to God—in harmony with His great law of love—they would ever have been in harmony with each other. Patriarchs and Prophets, 58

"Genesis 1 teaches us that male and female participate equally in the image of God. 'So God created man (Heb. ha'adam 'humankind') in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them'... Both have been commanded equally and without distinction to take dominion, not one over the other, but both together over the rest of God's creation for the glory of the Creator."

Richard Davidson, Flame of Yahweh: Sexuality in the Old Testament

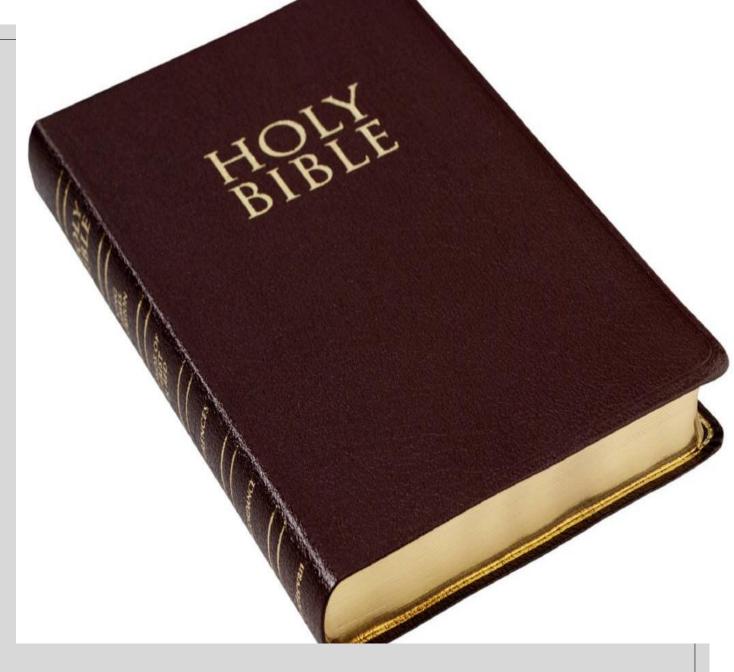


Ideal Ordeal



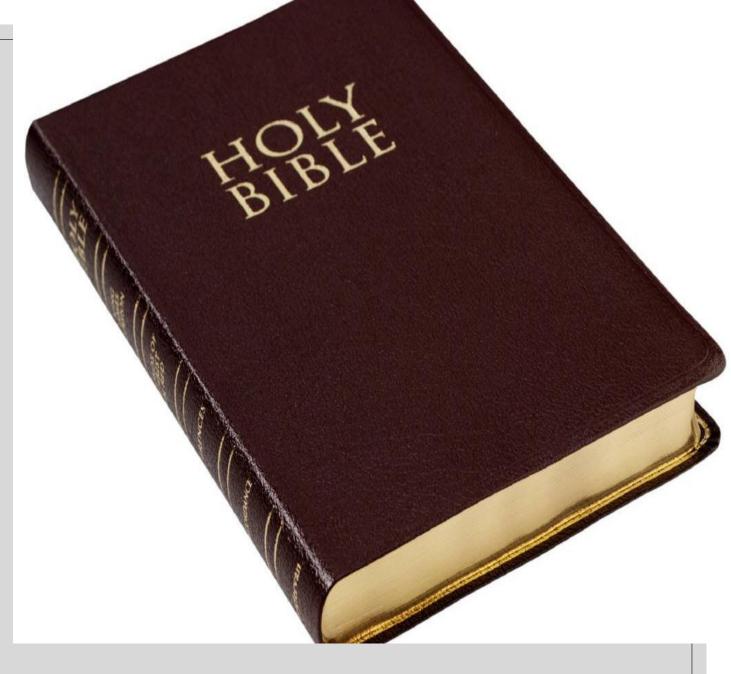
Genesis 3:6

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye and also

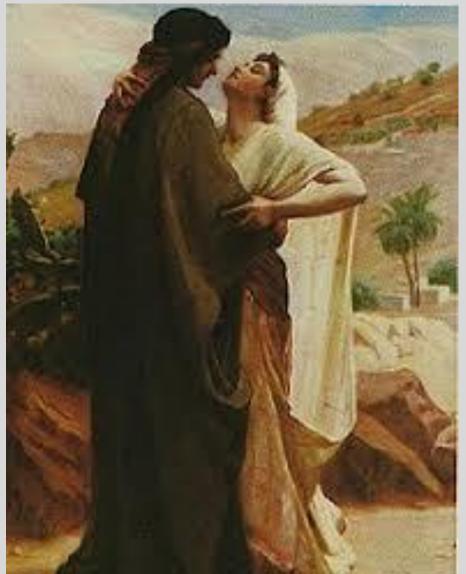


Genesis 3:6

desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, and he ate it.



1. Passion [appetite]



good for food

"When men, standing 'in Christ's stead' (2 Corinthians 5:20) to speak to the people God's message of mercy and reconciliation, use their sacred calling as a cloak for selfish or sensual gratification, they make themselves the most effective agents of Satan."

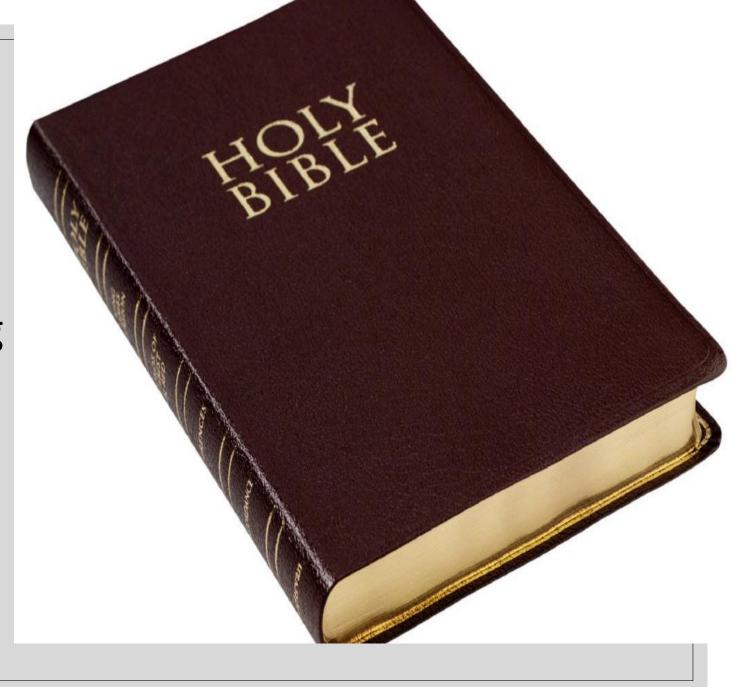
Patriarchs and Prophets, 580

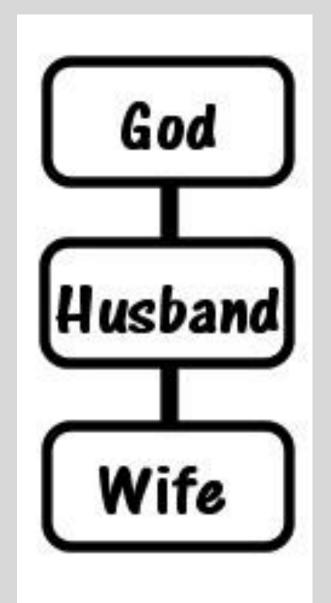
2. Power



Genesis 3:16

To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."



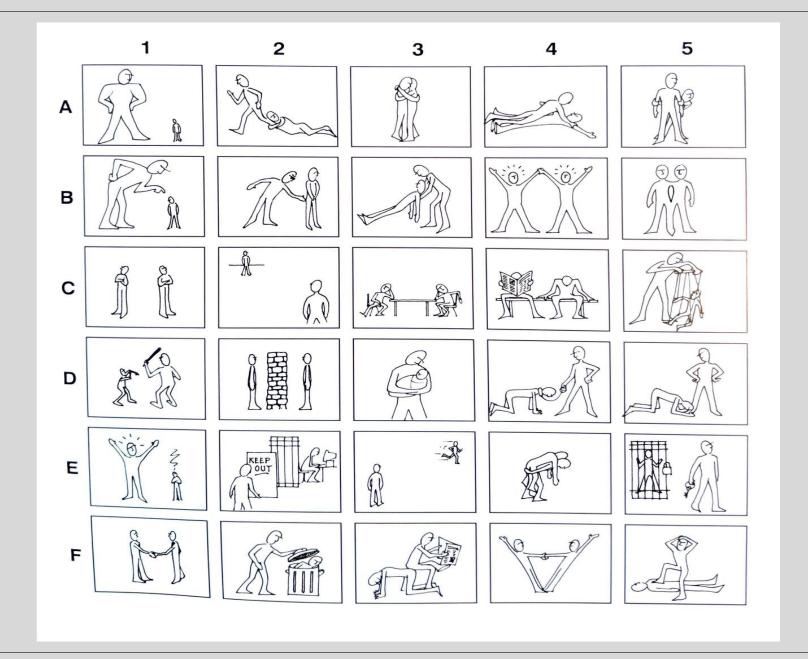


Sin had brought discord, and **now** their union could be maintained and harmony preserved only by submission on the part of the one or the other ... It was by her solicitation that Adam sinned, and she was now placed in subjection to her husband.

Patriarchs and Prophets, 58

Had the principles joined in the law of God been cherished by the fallen race, this sentence, though growing out of the results of sin, would have proved a blessing to them ... but man's abuse of the supremacy thus given him has too often rendered the lot of woman very bitter and made her life a burden. Patriarchs and Prophets, 58





3. Pride



The whole chapter [of Isaiah 58] is applicable to those who are living in this period of the earth's history. Consider this chapter attentively; for it will be fulfilled. The house of Jacob, at the time this warning was given to Isaiah, appeared to be a very zealous people, seeking God daily, and delighting to know His ways; but in reality they were filled with presumptuous self-confidence. They were not walking in the truth. Goodness, mercy, and love were not practiced.

While presenting an appearance of sorrow for their sins, they were cherishing pride and avarice ... They despised and oppressed the poor. And their fasting only gave them a higher opinion of their own goodness. There are sins of this same character among us today, and they bring the rebuke of God upon His church.

4 Bible Commentary, 1149, 1150

Creation
image of God
developed

When Adam came from the Creator's hand, he bore, in his physical, mental, and spiritual nature, a likeness to his Maker. "God created man in His own image" (Genesis 1:27), and it was His purpose that the longer man lived the more fully he should reveal this image—the more fully reflect the glory of the Creator. ... Face-to-face, heart-toheart communion with his Maker was his high privilege. Had he remained loyal to God, all this would have been his forever... More and more fully would he have fulfilled the object of his creation, more and more fully have reflected the Creator's glory. Education, 15

Fall image of God debased

Through sin the divine likeness was marred, and wellnigh obliterated. Man's physical powers were weakened, his mental capacity was lessened, his spiritual vision dimmed. Ed 15 The bodies of human beings, made for the dwelling place of God, had become the habitation of demons. The senses, the nerves, the passions, the organs of men, were worked by supernatural agencies in the indulgence of the vilest lust. The very stamp of demons was impressed upon the countenances of men ... It was demonstrated before the universe that, apart from God, humanity could not be uplifted. A new element of life and power must be imparted by Him who made the world. Desire of Ages, 36, 37

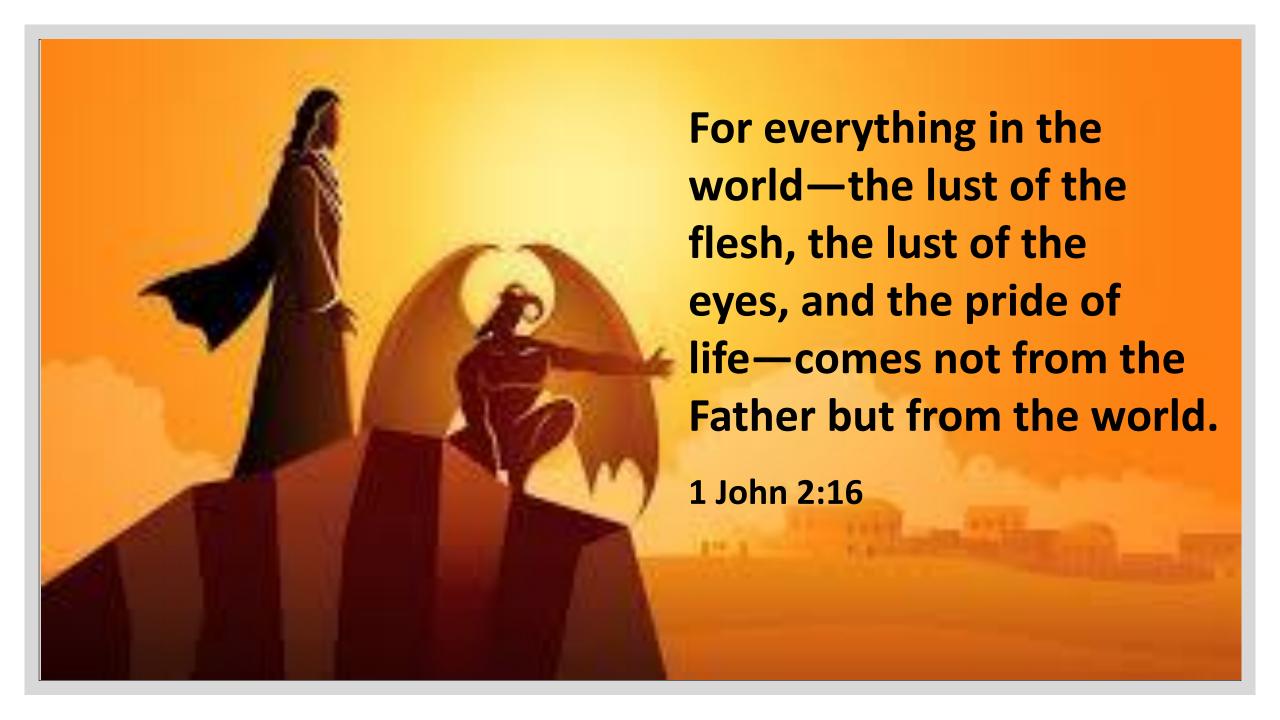
Redemption image of God restored

Satan was exulting that he had succeeded in debasing the image of God in humanity. Then Jesus came to restore in man the image of his Maker ... He came to expel the demons that had controlled the will. He came to lift us up from the dust, to reshape the marred character after the pattern of His divine character, and to make it beautiful with His own glory. Desire of Ages, 37

"To <u>restore</u> in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was created, to promote the development of body, mind, and soul, that the divine purpose in his creation might be realized—this was to be the work of redemption. This is the object of education, the great object of life. *Education*, 15



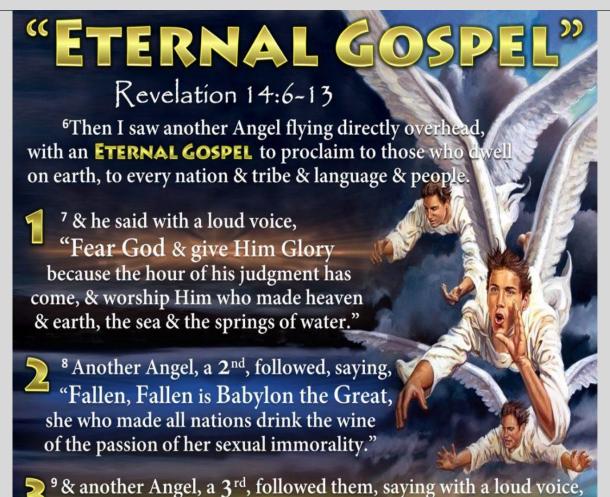
Ideal
Ordeal
New deal



"John [1 John 2:16] summarized the appeal of the world system as threefold. Here is a picture of <u>the infernal trinity, the three faces of the world, three sources of worldly temptation</u> (cf. Genesis 3; Matthew 4)." Thomas Constable, Notes on John

"Every feature of the third angel's message is to be proclaimed in all parts of the world... Received into honest hearts, <u>it will prove an antidote for</u> <u>all the world's sins and sorrows</u>." Ellen White, *Manuscript* 75, 1906, p. 3

ANTIDOTE FOR THE ANTICHRIST the everlasting gospel



"antidote for all the world's sins and sorrows"

Revelation Scriptures.com

"If anyone worships the Beast & its Image & receives a Mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he also will drink the Wine of God's Wrath, poured Full Strength into the Cup of his Anger & he will be tormented with fire & sulfur in the presence of the holy Angels & in the presence of the Lamb."

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13	Remnant Rev 14

1. Love/Worship

Commandments

2. Trust in Jesus.

Babylon is fallen

God. Creator

Rev 14:6, 7

of God

Jesus Mat 4, Lk 4 Church 1 Cor 13 Lucifer Isa 14 Adam/Eve Gen 3 **World** 1 Jn 2:16

2. The lust of the

1. You shall

worship the LORD

your God and

Him only you

2. You shall not

exceedingly) the

Lord your God.

3. You shall not

live by bread

alone, but by

every word of

God.

shall serve.

tempt (test

1. Good for food 1. For all that is in 1. You became the world—the filled with passion lust of the flesh violence within, violence and you sinned. abuse Eze 28:16 insensitivity

eyes

power

2. Pleasant to the

antidote to pride Mk 12:28-31 2. Faith

1. Love

lifted up because of your beauty. Eze 28:17 3. You have said in your heart, "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High." Isa 14:14

2. Your heart was

money/greed appearance/looks inequality 3. Desirable to 3. The pride of make one wise life—is not of the pride Father but is of selfishness the world. prejudice injustice

eyes

Jn 3:16; Mt 6:28-30 25:31-46; Jam 2:1-9 3. Hope antidote to passion *Rom 15:13; Gal 5:* 16-25; Eph 1:13; Col 1:5-8; 3:1-10

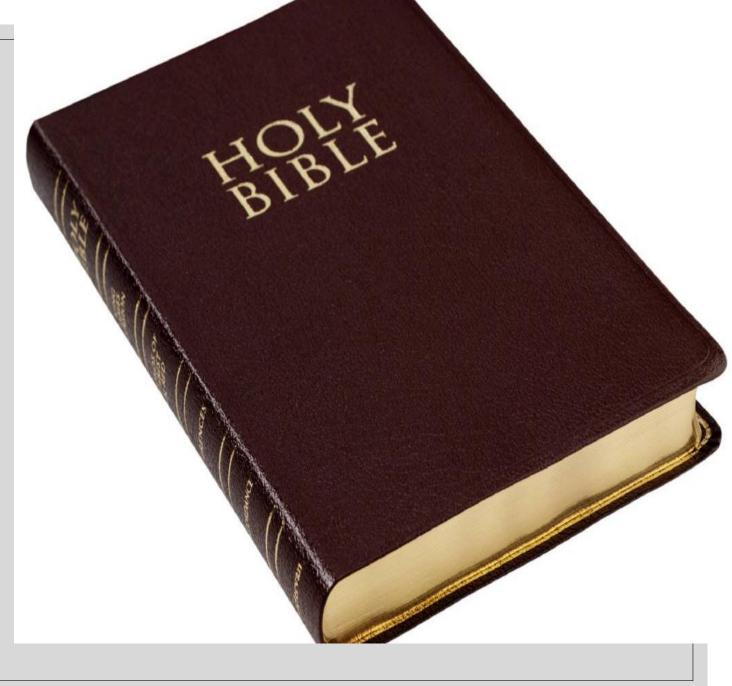
Faith of Jesus antidote to power Rev 14:8, 12; 18:4 3. Live by the **Spirit.** Seal of the Spirit vs mark of the beast Works of the Spirit

Rev 14:9-13

CURSE

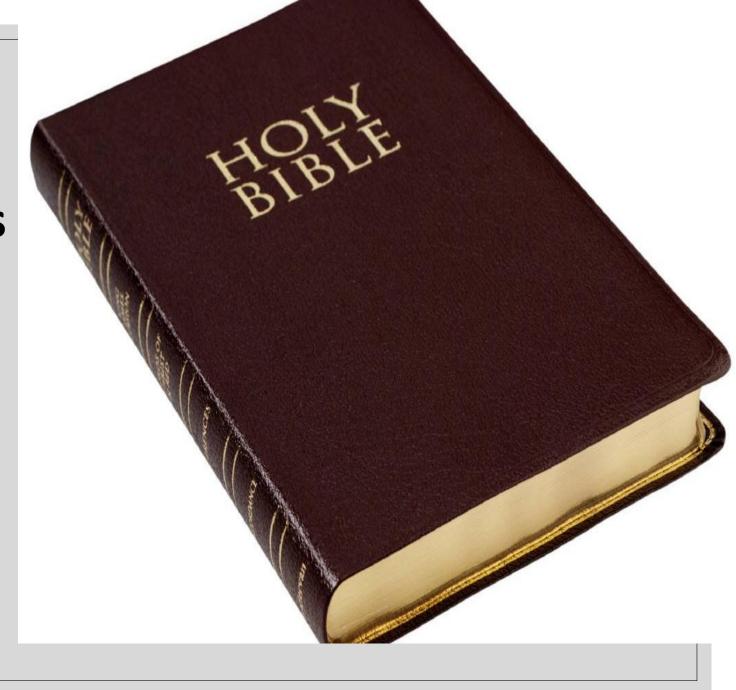
Genesis 3:24

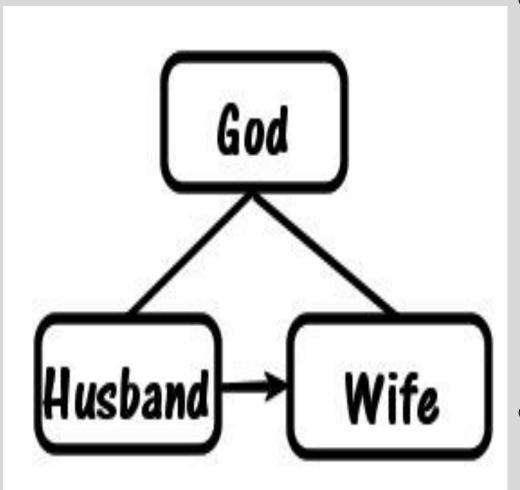
So He drove out the man; and placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.



REVERSE THE CURSE Revelation 2:7

To him who overcomes
I will give to eat from
the tree of life, which
is in the midst of the
Paradise of God.

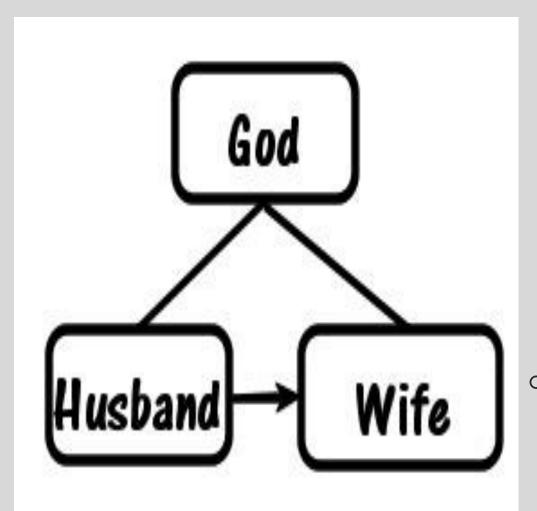




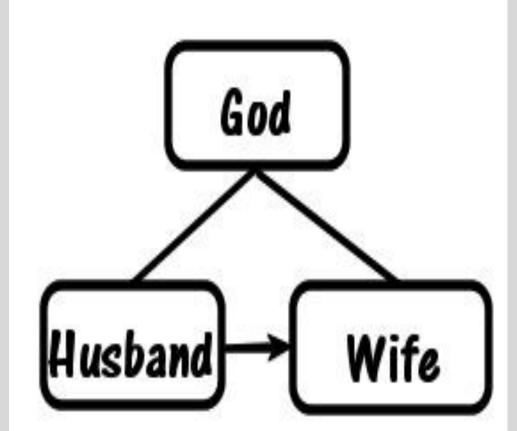
oChrist's work was to restore man to his original state, to heal him, through divine power, from the wounds and bruises made by sin.

Special Testimonies on Education, 22

 The <u>restoration</u> and uplifting of humanity begins in the home.
 Ministry of Healing, 349



- Like every other one of God's good gifts entrusted to the keeping of humanity, marriage has been perverted by sin; but it is the purpose of the gospel to restore its purity and beauty. Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, 64
- "Christ came not to destroy this institution, but to <u>restore</u> it to its original sanctity and elevation." *Adventist Home*, 99



 Woman should fill the position which God originally designed for her, as her husband's equal.
 Adventist Home, 231 Preaching the everlasting gospel

Much more than mere sermonizing is included in preaching the gospel . . . I cannot too strongly urge all our church members, all who are true missionaries, all who believe the third angel's message, all who turn away their feet from the Sabbath, to consider the message of the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah. The union of Christlike work for the body and Christlike work for the soul is the true interpretation of the gospel. Welfare Ministry, 32-33



The basic motive of the threefold message of Revelation 14 is that of restoration! It serves the same purpose as Isaiah's call to a backsliding Israel [in] Isa 58:1.

Hans LaRondelle, How to Understand the End-Time Prophecies of the Bible: A Biblical-

Contextual Approach

1st Angel's Message

worship God

If you go back to our pioneers and their emphasis on the first angel's message, which focuses on ministering to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, that is a fundamental foundation for racial and ethnic equality. If we're trying to reach everyone, and we're not opposing inequality, then what kind of gospel do we have? Nicholas Miller, in "Biblical Justice in a World of Social Unrest." Adventist Review, Nov 2020.

2nd Angel's Message

> trust in Jesus

The glory of heaven is in lifting up the fallen, comforting the distressed. They may be ragged, uncouth, and seemingly in every way unattractive; yet they are God's property. They are members of God's great household, and Christians as His stewards are responsible for them. Christ's Object Lessons, 386

3rd Angel's Message

live by the Spirit

With the work of advocating the commandments of God and repairing the breach that has been made in the law of God, we are to mingle compassion for suffering humanity. The third angel's message is not to be given a second place in this work, but is to be one with it. This work is to be to the message what the hand is to the body. Welfare Ministry, 32

adaptable

Every feature of the third angel's message is to be proclaimed in all parts of the world ...No conditions of climate, of poverty, or ignorance, or of prejudice can hinder its efficiency, or lessen its adaptability to the needs of mankind. *Manuscript* 75, 1906, p. 3



flexible

The third angel's message reveals the great saving truth for this time. Its truths are constantly unfolding ...

Manuscript 67, 1909, p. 3



relatable

The third angel's message reveals the great saving truth for this time ... and it is God's design that even the children and youth shall understand intelligently what God requires.

Manuscript 67, 1909, p. 3





3 Stories to Save the World

by Patrick Johnson

Foreword

'Is this going to be on the final exam?' If, like me, you've been a teacher, you've probably heard those words before. If, like me, you've been a student, you've probably said them.

Nothing focuses the mind more and regulates behaviour better than knowing what's on the final exam. Guess what? We know. Jesus told us in Matthew 25:31-46. Here's a summary:

"When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another." Thus Christ on the Mount of Olives pictured to His disciples the scene of the great judgment day. And He represented its decision as turning upon one point. When the nations are gathered before Him, there will be but two classes, and their eternal destiny will be determined by what they have done or have neglected to do for Him in the person of the poor and the suffering. \frac{1}{2}

While the world seeks a vaccine for the virus, we need an antidote for the antichrist – enter three angels. These messages – termed 'the eternal gospel' – are a call to demonstrate what Jesus modelled: 'love with skin on it'. Patrick Johnson says, 'God's justice is about doing good to all, especially the most vulnerable in society.' May we, as a result of this book, choose faith over futility, compassion over oppression, and love over hate. In the final exam, 'well preached' or 'well believed' won't be enough. What will pass the test is, 'Well done.'

Jeffrey O. Brown, PhD

Associate Editor, Ministry

1Ellen G. White, The Desire of Ages (Grantham, Lincolnshire: Stanborough Press, 1991), p. 637

2Thomas L. Constable, Notes on 1 John; see:

www.planobiblechapel.org/tcon/notes/html/nt/1john/1john.htm.

3Douglas Cooper, Living God's Love (Mountain View, California: Pacific Press, 1975), p. 18

1. Love God

don't worship human traditions "Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the com-

mandments of

God." Rev 14:12



2.Trust in Jesus don't trust in worldliness "Here are those who keep the commandment s of God and the faith of Jesus." Rev 14:12



3. Live by the Spirit don't live for yourself "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may <u>rest</u> from their labors, and their works follow them." Rev 14:13





Woman dies after being struck by train at Hither Green station



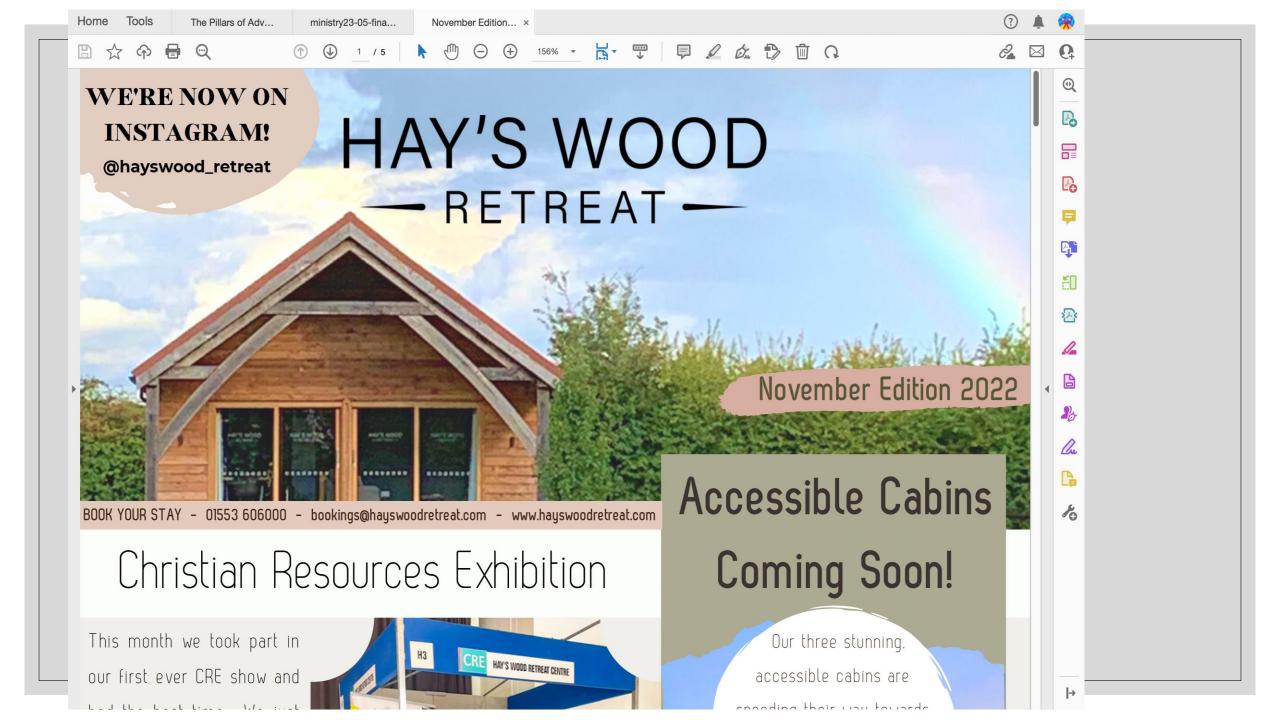














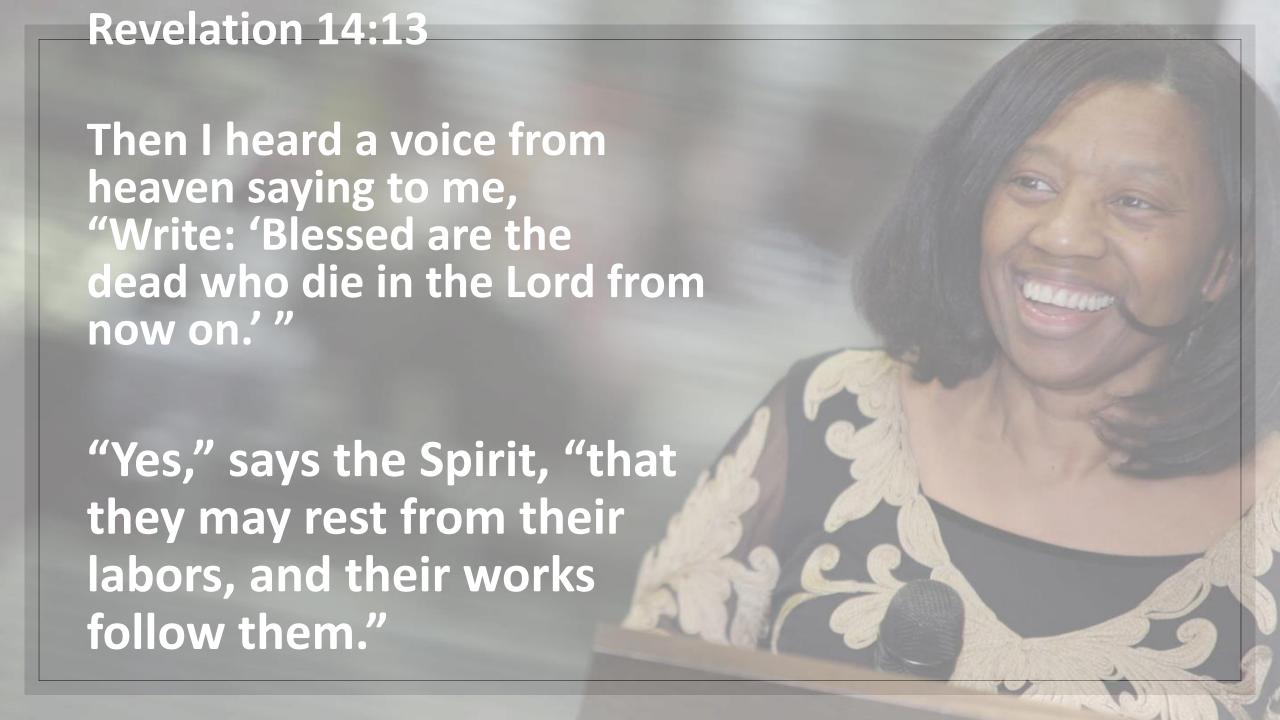












"It is not by chance that the three angels' messages conclude with the Spirit's assurance to God's people: "'They will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them' " (Rev. 14:13b). These faithful are God's inheritance, resting in the Lord until the day of redemption. Salvation was never an anthropocentric but a theocentric endeavor. We cannot take it into our hands. We do not possess salvation; it comes to us as God's prepared gift that we can only accept or reject." Jiří Moskala, "God's two seals: The seal of the gospel and the apocalyptic seal." Ministry, December, 2017.



General Conference Ministerial Association

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