

epicenter of that conflagration will be the Middle East. But it will not only be literal but also spiritual, as it will also be the battle of Christ, the Lamb. ***“These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.”*** Revelation 17:14. For those who incite that struggle are “three unclean spirits” that come out of ***“the mouth of the dragon”*** (Spiritism, Eastern Religions), ***“the beast”*** (Catholicism), and the ***“false prophet”*** (Apostate Protestantism). Revelation 16:13.

***“And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there... was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth... and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent...”*** Revelation 16:17-21.

A great earthquake, which will divide the mountains and islands of the sea, will be the means used by God to punish the great Babylon and its supporters. Large hail, weighing a talent (21.6 kg) will fall upon men in retribution of the evil deeds and suffering they brought upon the children of God.

***“Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.”*** Malachi 3:18. Even when the impenitent is punished, there are wonderful promises to those who have made peace with the Lord.

Revelation tells us that after the earth is desolate it will be burned and cleansed from sin. The devil and his followers will be thrown into a lake of fire. ***“... This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”*** Revelation 20:14, 15.

God calls the churches that trample on the holy word of God to come out of Babylon. ***“And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”*** Revelation 18:4. Will you respond to that invitation of God by joining the people who teach and keep all the commandments of God?

## PROMISES OF A BETTER WORLD

In the Bible are found the promises that God gives to those who are willing to renounce the world and stand for righteousness. The stories of those who have overcome with the Lord confirm that He is faithful and fulfills His word. We want to remind you of some:

- **Forgiveness:** ***“And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.”*** Malachi 3:17.
- **Security and Peace:** ***“He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.”*** Isaiah 33:16.
- **Eternal life:** ***“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life...”*** John 3:36.
- **A New Heaven and Earth:** ***“For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.”*** Isaiah 65:17.
- **God will very soon fulfill His promises of a better world:** ***“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”*** Revelation 21:4.

You are invited to escape from those plagues, make peace with God, come to Him on your knees, and ask Him to accept you as His child. He’s looking for you. He has asked us to send you this study. He is holding back the plagues that you too may enter into the joy of the Kingdom of God. ***“His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”*** Matthew 25:23.



**THIRD MILLENNIUM BIBLE COURSE**

10

International Missionary Society, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Reform Movement

# THE MESSAGE OF GOD FOR THE THIRD MILLENNIUM

The images of people camped out in Rwanda due to the massacre between the Hutus and the Tutsis shook the world. The bodies of the dead laid strewn along the roadside, their decaying corpses having to be piled and burned due to epidemics. Helpless children without parents wandered through Africa looking for a place to rest from that nightmare.

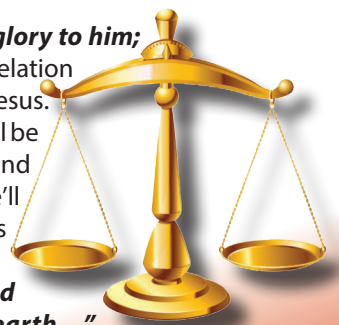
We can look through history and stop at Kosovo, Chechnya, Kuwait, Iran, or World War II; where 50 million victims were killed or wounded in a struggle that horrified the world. Millions disappeared during Latin American dictatorships and thousands were left dead due to injustices, hunger, poverty, and discrimination. Several revolutions have planted the seed of chaos and destruction in many more places around the globe. In a cry of anguish their victims ask, ***“How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?”*** Revelation 6:10. Will God not intervene in human affairs and put an end to this evil?

In Revelation, we find an important message for our time, through which God is calling human beings to reflection and to make the right decisions. It’s the first message of the three angels ***“having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.”*** Revelation 14:6. Please read Revelation 14:6-12.

## THE FIRST ANGEL’S MESSAGE

***“Fear God [that is, respect], and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come...”*** Revelation 14:7. We live before the imminent return of Jesus. God is judging the world, evaluating who will be a citizen of His eternal kingdom of peace and who will be lost forever. The law by which we’ll be judged is the Ten Commandments, just as they’re written in Exodus 20:1-17.

The first angel’s message continues, ***“and worship him that made heaven, and earth...”*** Revelation 14:7. How can we honor our Creator? By dedicating the seventh-day Sabbath to God, as the fourth commandment asks, as a





weekly reminder of creation (Exodus 20:11) and salvation (Deuteronomy 5:15). This is a **“sign”** of loyalty **“between God and [His people]”** (Ezekiel 20: 12, 20).

Many religious leaders have set aside the holy law of God or teach a false law. This is an offense to its author, which is God Himself.

Christianity observes and teaches different human doctrines and commandments that are not written in the Bible, such as the observance of Sunday in place of the Sabbath as ordained by God, has become **Babylon**, that is “confusion.”

### THE SECOND ANGEL

**“And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”** Revelation 14:8. The wine is symbolic of its doctrine with which it has filled the world; fornication is symbolic to its unfaithfulness **“with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication”** (Revelation 17:2), conforming to the politics of the time and mingling it with religion.

This second message draws attention to the religious system led by the Roman Catholic Church that has changed the law of God. Many other churches have also imitated it in part by accepting those human mandates, thus becoming its image.

### THE TERRIBLE MESSAGE OF THE THIRD ANGEL

**“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast... and receive his mark... The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God...”** (Revelation 14:9, 10), that is those who con-

sciously support the universal apostasy of Christendom, accepting Sunday as the obligatory day of rest, thus receiving the mark of the beast, whose identification is the number 666. (See topic 9; “666, Globalization and the Minority Dilemma”).

Here it is making a clear reference to what is being minimized: God will punish those whom He has called continuously in mercy and persist in rebellion against His love. We don't want to sin by omission and much less, leave you without the knowledge that God will give His reward, not only to those who do good, but also to those that despise His love and follow their own designs according to what they have sown.



### TWO DESTINIES

Revelation presents a very beautiful panorama of a better world; it's what the Lord will do in the new millennium. John saw in vision the glory of the Kingdom of God, the inheritance of those that sought Him, accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior, and were faithful to Him. But it also shows the judgment that will fall upon all who conscientiously decided to disobey Him and didn't accept the salvation offered by Him.

**“And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.”** Revelation 16:1. It is evident that the order is not ambiguous; God is willing to judge the world for their tortures, martyrdom, persecution, and contempt they have inflicted on His people. But in their shame, that is their judgment. He will also show what it means to oppose His clear message and to persist in stubborn rebellion due to convenience, whim, or idea. The punishment will be clear and conclusive: every sin in general will have a specific plague.

**“And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.”** Revelation 16:2.

Those who have contaminated their bodies with aberrant sins and have used the energy God gave them to satisfy their perverted appetite and disorderly passions instead of glorifying Him, will suffer from ulcers and tumors as pay for their corruption. A current example is AIDS, because of their high impact on homosexuals and drug addicts for sinning against their body. What is to come will be much worse because they have added onto it their worship to an apostate religious system, keeping Sunday as the day of rest.

**“And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.”** Revelation 16:3.

Let's see how God punishes each perversion at ports and seaside resorts, that in the summer become a debauchery.

Although the bodies of water are already contaminated, the punishment will be greater as men increase their arrogant perversions, crimes, and digression year to year. Everything that fills fashion magazines will be lamentable in the day of His judgment.

**“And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.”** Revelation 16:4-7.

At the beginning of this study, we spoke of massacres, genocides, wars, murders, and all manner of deaths that have filled the earth with innocent blood. Starting with Abel, as God would say, whose **“... blood crieth unto me from the ground”** (Genesis 4:10), continuing with thousands and millions of men that have died due to their ideas, beliefs, skin color, to oppress them, conquer them, subjugate them, etc. Let's not forget the inquisition and its millions of deaths. The groundwater will be contaminated and it will be as punishment for those that have participated in those crimes, but it will also be for those that have supported them in silence and cowardice.

**“And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God... and they repented not to give him glory.”** Revelation 16:8, 9.

Again, sun worshippers receive the pay for what they have believed. The ozone layer problem of today is only a prelude to the much greater plague of the sun to come, which is made worse by the observance of Sunday, the day of the sun, as it is revered and honored by the majority of so-called Christians.

**“And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, and blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.”** Revelation 16:10, 11.

God will punish specific sins up to the fourth plague, but in this one He punishes the political system designed to oppress His people. By throne of the beast we understand the system on which the Vatican relies on to carry out its plans of making civil and economic laws to impose Sunday as the universal day of rest. In previous studies, we have seen that this power is the United States, but the worldwide system where all nations are united is the United Nations. Marshaled by the United States, it offers legal counsel on U.S. impositions. When that political unit breaks down, it will be punished, thus giving place to the rise of the sixth plague.

**“And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.”** Revelation 16:12, 16.

The prophecy describes that God will permit the world to be involved in a terrible universal war, in a confrontation between all nations. The

