2019 Q1 The Book of Revelation - Lesson 10 God's Everlasting Gospel

By Linda Ojala

SABBATH

Memory Text – "Here is the patience of the saints: here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:12

- **Revelation Disclaimer:** Understanding Revelation is not a requirement for Salvation.
- People are saved through a loving relationship of trust/faith in Jesus Christ and an understanding obedience to God's laws that he used to build this universe to operate. Matthew 19:16-26 Story of the Rich young man. Matthew 22:34-40 All the Law and prophets hand on these two commandments Love God supremely and your neighbor as yourself

So, why study it?

"Gospel" means "Good News" and there is plenty of it in Revelation

- Proverbs 24:3-6, "By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. A wise man has great power and a man of knowledge increases strength; for waging war you need guidance, and for victory many advisers."
- So let's look at the good news, guidance and victory contained in Revelation!.

Revelation, even without the prophecies, shows the great controversy and plan of salvation. My summary of each page:

- This calls for taking it to heart.
- He loves us and has freed us from our sins.
- Repent, go back to your first love, do what you did at first and overcome.
- Do God's will to the end. Remember what you received and heard, obey it and repent, be earnest.
- Worthy is the Lamb! He purchased men for God.
- God will lead to springs of living water we will never thirst again.
- Repent of the work of your hands and acts.
- It is time for God to judge.
- Overcome by the blood of the Lamb and your testimony.
- Obey God's commands, hold to the testimony of Jesus.
- This calls for faithfulness, patient endurance and wisdom.

- Stay awake and keep your clothes on He comes like a thief.
- Come out of Babylon so you don't sin or receive her plagues.
- God's judgments are just and true He gives us the righteous acts we do.
- The dead are judged by what they have done.
- God will live with us, wipe every tear from our eyes, and make everything new.
- Worship God "I am coming soon" to give to everyone according to what he has done.

SUNDAY

Read Revelation 14 from the NIV – the Six Angel's messages – three to men, three to heavenly beings

Layers of the three angels' messages:

Personal:

- 1. Give glory to God by worshiping the creator of everything good in this world, including humans
- 2. IF you do, confusion falls away from your life.
- 3. IF you don't, the consequence of following the beast and receiving his mark will be torment with no rest.
- 4. IF you do, you are rewarded by being totally healed/saved and taken out of this world.
- 5. IF you do not, your will not be healed, so that the fire of truth will be too much for you.
- 6. And the full weight of truth on the unhealed life will destroy you.

Church:

- 1. Worship the creator God examine the evidence and use good judgment about Him.
- 2. Babylon is not the world, it's the church! Identify confused and erroneous teachings and rid them from the church of believers.
- 3. What happens to a church group that does not purge erroneous teachings about God? It is marked with error and condemns the group to lack of healing and restless torment.
- 4. IF the church does, the reward is being healed and promoting salvation.
- 5. IF the church does not, the fire of truth will reveal the error.
- 6. And the church members will clearly see that their leaders have taken them to a point of restless torment without true healing.

World outside of the church:

- 1. Discover and worship only the true creator of this world.
- 2. Identify error and replace error with truth.
- 3. If you don't, error isn't harmless; it will destroy you.
- 4. There is escape from the craziness of error and salvation from it through the truth about yourself and God that Jesus reveals.
- 5. Your true life, your decisions and results of them will be revealed, without any ability to hide or manipulate them.

6. The weight of that truth will put an end to your life.

MONDAY and TUESDAY

The First Angel's Message

"Then I saw another angel flying in midair and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth – to every nation, tribe, language, and people. He said in a loud voice, Fear God and give him glory because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water." Revelation 14:6,7

What is the good news here?

- This is for all eternity, not just temporary
- No one on earth is excluded
- God has given us the ability to use good judgment to identify the truth about God
- What gives glory to God is following the truth about this awesome God to the point where you understand, love and worship Him without fear (Luke 1:74 John the Baptist's father, Zechariah's prophecy that part of the mission of Christ is to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.")
- The same judgment we make about God and others, will God make about us as being healed or not healed. Unselfishly loving, or judgmental and misjudging of others and God? He makes an accurate diagnosis. Matthew 7:1,2 Matthew 25: 31-46 Isaiah 11:1-4
- The sign or banner of this creator God is the brilliant choice of a period of time (the 7th day Sabbath), rather than an icon or item (like a wedding ring). He created this 7th day as the last day of creation, where He "rests His case". A day for us to consider how He uses his mighty power, and who we are in relationship with Him. A day to keep ourselves holy through staying connected to and healed by Him. Gen.2:1-3 Exodus 8-11

E.G. White, Desire of Ages, pg 308

"'Till heaven and earth pass,' said Jesus. 'one jot or one tittle shall in nowise pas from the law, till all be fulfilled.' The sun shining in the heavens, the solid earth upon which you dwell, are God's witnesses that His law is changeless and eternal. Though they may pass away, the divine precepts shall endure. 'It is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.' Luke 16:17. The system of types that pointed to Jesus as the lamb of God was to be abolished at His death; the but precepts of the Decalogue are as immutable as the throne of God. Since 'the law of the Lord is perfect,' every variation from it must be evil. Those who disobey the commandments of God, and teach others to do so, are condemned by Christ. The Saviour's life of obedience maintained the claims of the law: it proved that the law could be kept in humanity, and showed the excellence of character that obedience would develop. All who obey as He did are likewise declaring that the law is 'holy, and just, and good.' Romans 7:12. On the other hand, all who break God's commandments are sustaining Satan's claim that the law is unjust, and cannot be obeyed. Thus they second the deceptions of the great

adversary, and cast dishonor upon God. They are the children of the wicked one, who was the first rebel against God's law. To admit them into heaven would again bring in the elements of discord and rebellion, and imperil the well-being of the universe. No man who willfully disregards one principle of the law shall enter the kingdom of heaven."

E.G. White, Desire of Ages, pg 309

"The greatest deception of the human mind in Christ's day was that a mere assent to the truth constitutes righteousness. In all human experience a theoretical knowledge of the truth has been proved to be insufficient for the saving of the soul. It does not bring forth the fruits of righteousness. A jealous regard for what is termed theological truth often accompanies a hatred of genuine truth as made manifest in life. The darkest Chapters of history are burdened with the record of crimes committed by bigoted religionists. The Pharisees claimed to be children of Abraham, and boasted of their possession of the oracles of God, yet these advantages did not preserve them from selfishness, malignity, greed for gain, and the basest hypocrisy. They thought themselves the greatest religionists of the world, but their so-called orthodoxy led them to crucify the Lord of glory. The same danger still exists. Many take it for granted that they are Christians, simply because they subscribe to certain theological tenets. But they have not brought the truth into practical life. They have not believes and loved it, therefore they have not received the power and grace that come through sanctification of the truth. Men may profess faith in the truth; but if it does not make them sincere, kind, patient, forbearing, heavenly-minded, it is a curse to its possessors, and through their influence it is a curse to the world."

E.G. White, Council to the Churches, pg 261

"Great blessings are enfolded in the observance of the Sabbath, and God desires that the Sabbath day shall be to us a day of joy. There was joy at the institution of the Sabbath. God looked with satisfaction upon the work of His hands. All things that he had made He pronounced 'very good.' Genesis 1:31. Heaven and earth were filled with rejoicing. 'The morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.' Job 38:7. Though sin has entered the world to mar His perfect work, God still gives to us the Sabbath as a witness that One omnipotent, infinite in goodness and mercy, created all things. Our heavenly Father desires through the observance of the Sabbath to preserve among men a knowledge of Himself. He desires that the Sabbath shall direct our minds to Him as the true and living God, and that through knowing Him we may have life and peace. When The Lord delivered His people Israel from Egypt and committed to them His law, He taught them that by the observance of the Sabbath they were to be distinguished from idolaters. It was this that made the distinction between those who acknowledge the sovereignty of God and those who refuse to accept Him as their Creator and King. 'It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever,' the Lord said. 'Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.' Exodus 31:17, 16. As the Sabbath was the sign that distinguished Israel when they came out of Egypt to enter

the earthly Canaan, so it is the sign that now distinguishes God's people as they come out from the world to enter the heavenly rest. The Sabbath is a sign of the relationship existing between God and His people, a sign that they honor His law. It distinguishes between His loval subjects and transgressors."

WEDNESDAY

The Second Angel's Message

"A second angel followed and said, 'Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries." Revelation 14: 8

According to the New Oxford American Dictionary, to adulterate means, "to render something poorer in quality by adding another substance, typically an inferior one."

Babylon is the "Church," not the "World"

E.G. White, pg 178, "Concerning Babylon, the symbol of the apostate church, He says to His minister of judgment, 'Her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities."

What is the good news here?

• The errors of Babylon will fall away – only truth will be left!

THURSDAY

The Third Angel's Message

"A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: 'If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name. This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus." Revelation 14:9-12

How are the wicked tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb?

1 Corinthians 15:20-58 talks about the resurrection of Christ and of the dead, and the resurrection body:

"The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable...Flesh and Blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable..."

Why?

Creatures God made that CAN tolerate the intense heat, sulfur and pressure of underwater volcanoes.

• What happens to people in that environment? They would die.

Animals that create light, both on and above the ground and under the water – phosporous

Angels of light

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to the, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified." Luke 2:8,9

God is called "....the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." James 1:17

"At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven." Matthew 22:30

Fire flooding from God's presence. Isaiah 33

We must allow God to change us. We will have different abilities, to play harps, to fly, to see God as He is in his brightness, to see long distances, to live and learn without fatigue.

God is a gentleman – He won't force us to let Him in to make the changes to our spirit, characters, and ultimately our bodies.

- How does God take His world back and live among us, when his presence would consume us?
- People must allow Him to change them.
- The wicked will be resurrected unchanged in spirit and with evidences of decay in their bodies. The Great Controversy, by E.G. White, page 662 says, "The wicked bear the traces of disease and death....As the wicked went into their graves, so they come forth with the same enmity to Christ and the same spirit of rebellion."

We may not be carbon-based beings, because carbon based beings will be tormented mentally in the presence of the fire of truth, and physically in the fiery sulfur of God's presence (which is brimstone). Click to see pictures of burning sulfur

Plague described in Bible:

"This is the plague with which the Lord will strike all the nations that fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths. On that day people will be stricken by the Lord with great panic. They will seize each other by the hand and attach one another." Zechariah 14:12,13

What is the good news here?

- God warns us in time to make the changes needed. RE: Eden, the flood, Israelites in the dessert and those before the end of time.
- Wickedness will end!
- "Therefore the Lord, the Lord Almighty, the Mighty One of Israel, declares: 'Ah, I will vent my wrath on my foes and avenge myself on my enemies. I will turn my hand against you; I will thoroughly purge away your dross and remove all your impurities'." Isaiah 1:24, 25
- "Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, 'Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." Isaiah 35:3,4 What is the best retribution for a person who has been killed, diseased, deceived, etc? Healing and restoration Salvation!

Read Revelation 14 from the Remedy Bible paraphrase.