Angelic Messengers Delivering the Everlasting Word
Revelation 14:6–11

Angels are very much involved in the economy of God; they were involved in the giving of the Mosaic law; they announced the birth of Christ; they have and are involved in the care of believers as they minister to the saints; they have a major role in the book of Revelation; they are before the throne of God offering praise; they are involved in sending the judgments of God to the earth; they will gather the elect into the kingdom of God; in fact, they are mentioned in every chapter of Revelation from chapters 4 to 14, with one exception, and that is chapter 13.

Now we come to a text where we find three angels flying in the midst of heaven proclaiming a message of hope and two messages of warning; some wonder if these angelic messengers have replaced the 144,000 evangelists during the second half of the Tribulation; we met the 144,000 for the second time in this chapter, but they were standing on Mount Zion with the Lamb in celebration of His kingdom come to earth; were the 144,000 martyred when their ministry was finished? Where they secretly transported to heaven at the midpoint of the Tribulation? Or were they to prophesy throughout the entire Tribulation? The text does not tell us. If the latter is true, they are joined by three angels flying through the midst of heaven delivering the everlasting Word of God—a word of hope, but also words of warning!

Let’s look at our text and message of the first angel.

The Proclamation of the Everlasting Gospel (14:6–7)

Seen in the presence of the first angel… “Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth…” (14:6a); this is another angel, an angel different from other angels that we have seen in our study; and there are two other angels yet to follow.
Each of these angels speak for God; they are heavenly preachers; the first one is preaching the everlasting gospel; this angel flies in the midst of heaven where he is clearly visible to all on the earth; he has a flying pulpit; even the demons cannot stop him for from his mouth comes the power of God’s Word.

*Seen in the permanence of the Gospel...* They preach “the everlasting gospel;” God’s Word is not only everlasting, it is indestructible! Jesus spoke of the durability of Scripture when He said, “Scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35); the Scriptures have been put to the test; the Bible has been the most persecuted book ever written; ancient and modern are its enemies, yet it still stands!

Diocletian, the third century Roman emperor tried to exterminate it by declaring it illegal and imprisoning those who had a copy; Celsus, a second century pagan philosopher, sought to undermine its message; Porphyry, a third century philosopher, hurled his venomous shafts against Christianity and the Bible; David Hume, a world class Scottish philosopher and skeptic said, “Methinks I see the twilight of Christianity.”

In England, King Henry V made Bible reading a crime; a law was enacted saying: “That who ever there were that should read the Scriptures in the mother tongue, they should forfeit land, chattel, life, and goods from their heyers forever—and so be condemned for heresies to God, enemies of the crown, and more errant traitors to the lande.”

Thomas Paine, one of nation’s founding fathers, tried to drown the Bible in his infidelic ink; Voltaire, the 18th Century philosopher, over 280 years ago shouted, “Fifty years from now people will hear no more of the Bible.”

In 1963 the Supreme Court of our land declared the Bible cannot be read in public schools because it might be “psychologically harmful to our children;” Columnist Cal Thomas wrote: “The Bible is America’s most banned book.”

Bart Ehrman, head of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill has become an outspoken critic of the Bible telling his students there are between 200,000 to 400,000 textual errors in the Greek manuscripts of the New Testament; this is more variants than the 139,162 words in the published Greek New Testament.
Atheist Richard Dawkins wrote: “The best thing to do is to let Christianity die a natural death. When understanding of the universe has become so widespread, the masses will know just how absurd is the Christian doctrine.”

Yet the Bible is still the world’s best-selling book, in spite of all who have ridiculed it, sought to ban it, or destroy it; the Bible still stands unbound; Paul wrote, “I suffer trouble as an evil doer; even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained” (2 Timothy 2:9); the Bible, as the everlasting Word of God is unbound and unbroken; Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but God’s Word shall not pass away” (Matthew 24:35); Jesus placed Scripture on equal footing with His own words; just as Jesus is the eternal Son of God, so Scripture is the eternal Word of God! So this angel flying in the midst of heaven is proclaiming the “everlasting gospel.”

Seen in the preaching of the angel to the nations... “... to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give Him glory, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water” (14:6b–7).

This angel is fulfilling the great commission where Jesus told His apostles to make disciples and take the gospel to every nation (Matthew 28:16–20); Jesus also gave a sign concerning the nearness of His coming when He said, “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14); could this angel fulfill this promise of Jesus? Yes, we send out our missionaries, but there is still a significant portion of the world that is ignorant of the gospel; that should not be the case any longer with this angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth; his message will be heard by all.

What does he preach? There is only one gospel and that is the gospel of Christ; it is the gospel of grace; it is the gospel that offers eternal life; one thing we can conclude with this flying angel and his message to the world: the door to the kingdom is still open; there is still the offer of grace and it is available to “every nation, tribe, and tongue, and people.”

When this angel speaks he does so with a loud voice; in fact he shouts his message; he will be heard by all living on the earth; his message has four elements to it.
1. “Fear God” … Hold God in reverence; He alone is the sovereign One; turn from the Antichrist; stop following Satan and fear God; to fear God and hold Him in awe is a great theme in Scripture; Proverbs 9:10 says, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;” 1 Peter 2:17 gives this pithy statement: “Fear God....”

2. “Give glory to Him” … What does it mean to glorify God? It means to recognize who He is and what He has accomplished; it means to worship Him, for God is seeking true worshippers (John 4:23); don’t fall at the feet of the Antichrist, for his end will be in the lake of fire; worship God and give Him glory and you will have eternal life with Him.

3. “The hour of His judgment has come” … God has a fixed a time for judgment and that time is about to come; here you can see the heart of God; how much warning does the world need? How many judgments does God need to send to wake people up? They already experienced war, famine, earthquakes of great magnitude; the sun darkened, the moon turned to a blood-red color, and meteors falling out of the sky like ripened figs; there have been millions of people that have died unusual deaths; they have seen one third of the vegetation burn up, one third of the sea life die, one third of pure water polluted; one third of the lights in all the luminaries of the heavens go dim; they have experienced painful stings from the demonic locusts that came from the bottomless pit; you would think all of this would get their attention and their need to repent, but so far, they have refused to do so; therefore the first angel gives warning that time is short and the hour of His judgment has come.

4. “Worship Him who made heaven and earth” … Again it is a call to worship the God of creation; whenever the preachers of Scripture approach an unbelieving people, they do so from the viewpoint of creation; when Paul preached to the pagans, whether they were street people or philosophers, he told them that the God you must worship is the one who made the heavens and the earth (Acts 14, 17); the fact is, we live in a massive universe; our earth is a very small plane in the universe for intelligent life to exist; is this not sufficient evidence that there is a God who dwells in a different dimension outside of space and time? It was Paul who said the existence of the universe leaves man without excuse for not believing in God (Romans 1:20); the One who created the universe is the One who will end it; He is the One to fear, so give Him glory, for the hour of His judgment has come!
The Prediction Concerning Babylon (14:8)

“And another angel followed, saying, ‘Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication’ (14:8).

*The clarification of Babylon*... What is Babylon? The original Babylon was a city built by Nimrod near the Euphrates River in what is now the country of Iraq; as the world’s first dictator, he turned Babylon into a one-world government and a one-world religion; it became the center for sun worship, astrology, and the occult, before God scattered the people and confounded their languages so they could not continue their idolatrous ways (Genesis 10:9–10; 11:1–9); later in history, it was Babylon, under King Nebuchadnezzar, that destroyed Jerusalem and took the Jews captive for 70 years after making three invasions into the land (Jeremiah 29:1–14; Daniel 9:1–2); Babylon, to the Jewish people came to represent an anti-YHWH empire that took away their worship at the temple and suppressed their people for seventy years; the psalmist writes that when the children of Israel were in Babylon they sat down and wept and remembered Zion; they hung their harps on the willow trees for there was no song for them to sing (Psalm 137:1–4).

To the Jew, Babylon was not a place of happy memories; in the days of John, living under the Roman Empire and its Caesars, the Jews were once again a persecuted and captivated people as were their forefathers under Nebuchadnezzar; they were even scattered by the Romans to foreign lands; therefore, both Jews and Christians began to refer to Rome as Babylon; it became a code name for Rome because of her persecution of the Church; Peter, writing his first epistle from Rome, refers to Rome as Babylon (1 Peter 5:13); however, the Babylon of Nebuchadnezzar has long been destroyed.

Others see the city of Babylon being rebuilt in the last days to become the center for the coming Antichrist; Saddam Hussein saw himself as a modern-day Nebuchadnezzar and was determined to rebuild the ancient city of Babylon; but he was killed before he could finish the project; yet there are Bible teachers who believe that project will someday be completed, perhaps under the direction of the United Nations and it will become the headquarters of the Antichrist.

A more general definition is that Babylon refers not just to a city, but to the worldwide kingdom of the Antichrist; it is a political, economical, and religious
world empire operated by the Antichrist; this definition of Babylon makes the most sense to me.

*The collapse of Babylon*... “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city…” (14:8a); we won’t learn about the details of the fall of Babylon until we get to Revelation 17–18; the city and its entire corrupt empire is going to face divine destruction; the repetition of the phrase “is fallen” makes that statement with great finality; it shows the intense nature of the judgment; notice also the present tense of the fall: “is fallen;” this is called a prophetic aorist; her fall is future, but it is so certain to happen that it is though it is presently happening; the headquarters of the Antichrist will fall and be no more; God in His wrath will see to that!

*The corruption of Babylon*... “... because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication” (14:8b); there is an interesting study of the word translated “wrath” (*thumoo*); it is a word for “passion;” this evil system has made the nations drink with passion toward God the wine of her immorality; this is immorality in a spiritual sense; certainly, sexual sin will be prevalent, but what is addressed here is spiritual adultery which is whoring after the false god in the Antichrist; their passion for the Antichrist is so strong it is like they are drunk with an orgy of rebellion and hatred toward God.

In our nation today there is a growing hatred toward God; atheist philosopher and scientist Richard Dawkins refers to the OT God as “arguably the most unpleasant in all of fiction: jealous and proud of it; petty, unjust, unforgiving control freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully.”

Not a very pleasant description of our God, is it?

Atheist Sam Harris in his *Letter to a Christian Nation* denies the existence of God based on all the evil in the world; he wonders how “so many otherwise rational men and women” can simply excuse the evil in the world while considering their God to be acting to the height of moral wisdom.

The examples he cites in his book with passionate and dramatic language designed to tug at your heartstrings include the rape, torture, and murder of “a little girl” which he says is happening while you are reading this letter—or if not at that exact moment, in a few hours or days; and he expresses his dismay that statistics suggest the parents of the little girl are likely to believe in an all-
powerful, all-loving God who is watching over them and their little girl even as the atrocity is taking place; then Harris asks the question: “Is it morally right that you and they should believe in this God?”

Harris believes that atheism is the refusal to believe what a rational person should see as obvious: that there is no God; therefore he insists the word “atheism” should not exist; just as no one needs to identify himself as a “non-astrologer” or a “non-alchemist,” one should not see themselves as an atheist.

It is not our purpose to answer completely in this lecture either Dawkins or Harris except to say this: evil exists, but payday is coming; God allows evil to give you a freedom to choose between good and evil and between love and hate; however, the real purpose of giving these remarks from Dawkins and Harris is to remind you today there is a passionate hatred of God that has resulted in a morally corrupt world; it is interesting to note that while atheists deny God because of the evil atrocities that are committed, yet, by far, most evil atrocities have been committed by atheists like Stalin, Hitler, Mao, Pol Pot and the like; in atheism, there is no absolute moral authority; therefore, if God does not exist, anything goes.

It seems to me the modern atheist movement is setting the stage for the coming Antichrist and all the corruption that will be part of his empire known as Babylon.

**The Punishment of the Wicked (14:9–11)**

“Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, ‘If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of his indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever, and they have no rest day and night, who worship the beast and his image, and who receive the mark of his name’” (14:9–11).

*The call of the third angel...* “Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice...” (14:9a); this angel is going to pronounce damnation; notice each angel reinforces the message of the previous angel; these angels come in succession; the gospel is presented and if rejected, then the whole system of the Antichrist
falls, and a judgment of damnation will come to those who did not repent but instead took the mark of the beast.

The cup of God’s wrath... If anyone worships the beast and his image, “he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation;” (14:9b–10a); did you notice that God is as passionate in His hatred for those who worship the beast as they are toward Him? There is in this text an identical expression: Babylon is fallen because “she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication;” next, the text says that those who worship the beast, “shall drink of the wrath of God;” the passion of God toward the unbeliever is every bit as strong as is the hatred directed toward Him.

Then it says that God’s wrath is “poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation;” The word “cup” can refer to a literal cup in Scripture; other times it has a metaphorical meaning; it can be used in a positive sense (see Psalm 23:5–6), indicating divine blessing, or it can refer to the outpouring of God’s judgment and wrath upon those who rebel against Him (see Psalm 11:6; 75:8; Isaiah 51:7; Jeremiah 25:12–17); for most of us, the most familiar use of the word “cup” is when Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, “O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will” (Matthew 26:39); Jesus, on the cross, was going to endure the full indignation of God’s wrath for the sins of mankind; His cup from which He had to drink was not only the cup of death, it was the cup of God’s indignation; that ought to tell you the length that God was and is willing to go to save mankind from sin; that is why Jesus said, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Remember when the mother of the sons of Zebedee, James and John, requested of Jesus that when He inaugurates His earthly kingdom that her two sons be given the chief seats in that kingdom—one on His right hand and the other on His left hand? How did Jesus respond? “‘Do you know what you ask? Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am about to be baptized with?’ They said to Him, ‘We are able.’” Jesus told them they will drink His cup and they will be baptized as He was (Matthew 20:20–23); I am not sure James and John, or their mother quite understood what He was talking about; their answer may not have been thought through; for that cup they were willing to drink was the cup of God’s wrath; the baptism that they were willing to do was that of suffering and death; James was beheaded (Acts 12:2) and John
was tortured and exiled on Patmos for the sake of Christ (Revelation 1:9); knowing this cup that Jesus offered to James and John was the cup of God’s wrath, how many of us would drink of it for the sake of Christ? How many of us would endure the suffering of Christ to atone for the sins of the world? Obviously, we sinners would not qualify, but to suffer and die for Christ might well be a possibility.

The condemnation from the cup of God’s wrath... “He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb, and the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night...” (14:10b–11); these verses teach us about hell; it is a literal place of torment; it is eternal; it is a place where there is no rest, day or night; this is a place reserved for the Devil, the Beast, and the False Prophet (Revelation 19:20; 20:10; 21:18), but for all who take the mark of the beast and all those throughout history who have refused to repent of sin and come to know the only means of salvation that is in Christ Jesus.

Interestingly, those who go there are in the presence of holy angels and the Lord; we are accustomed to believing that hell is a place where God is not; here, the text says the angels and the Lord are present; what could this possibly mean? Our God is omniscient; in hell people are away from His love, His mercy, His grace, His compassion, His forgiveness, but they will not be away from His presence in terms of His omnipresence, or the fact that He and the angels can see them in hell.

Jesus had more to say about hell than about heaven, yet from pulpits across this county, hell is a doctrine that is in denial; Rob Bell, the millennial emergent church leader in his book Love Wins, says that God is all love and He would never send anybody to hell; therefore, hell does not exist except in the hardships we face here on earth; he wrote this, in spite of the fact that Jesus said, “Fear not Him who destroys the body, but fear Him who destroys both body and soul in hell” (Matthew 10:28).

Not only do we have so-called “representatives of God” denying that hell exists but we have celebrities like Madonna singing her popular song containing the line which she repeats over and over again, “I don’t give a damn if I go to hell.”

How strange, while many American pastors deny the existence of hell, ungodly celebrities believe in hell and desire to go there.
People are being programmed for the coming Antichrist not only by the new atheist movement who deny and hate the very idea of the God of the Bible, but by celebrities who think hell might be a pretty neat place to go because you can sin for all eternity and that sounds like a lot of fun; furthermore, no one is there to tell you to repent and get your life right with Jesus.

I am glad that I am among the redeemed; that I have listened to the message of the first angel whose message is one that says God’s grace is still available and I have received His grace; I am glad that I fear the God who created heaven and earth; I am glad that I worship Him and give Him glory and that I will not face the judgment to come; I am glad that I will be able to look down from heaven and watch Babylon burn and not have to drink from the cup of God’s wrath that casts the unrepentant unbeliever into the lake of fire to be tormented forever and ever. How about you? Amen!