



ABLAZE

WITH

GOD'S GLORY

Lesson 13 for June 24, 2023

“After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory”

(Revelation 18:1)



The final crisis is imminent, and God is calling His people to proclaim a threefold warning:

- 1) **Accept the gospel and worship the Creator because the judgment has come**
- 2) **Don't be fooled by Satan, flee from him, and embrace the truth**
- 3) **Stay firm in the final crisis, do not surrender to the pressure**

How can we proclaim that message? How can we prepare ourselves to avoid being defeated by the enemy? Who will be victorious?



Preparation for the final crisis:

- Being alert
- Knowing the truth
- Receiving power



Who will be victorious?

- The glory of God
- The Lamb

PREPARATION FOR THE FINAL CRISIS

BEING ALERT

“So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober.” (1 Thessalonians 5:6 NIV)



Paul shared important information regarding the final crisis (1Ts. 5:1-6 NIV):

We know enough about dates and events (v. 1)

The crisis will come unexpectedly (v. 2-3)

We will not be surprised because we are “children of light” (v. 4-5)

We should be alert (v. 6)

How can we be alert? As Jesus said, we can only be alert if we’re prepared through prayer (Mt. 26:40-41).

“Pray without ceasing” (1Ts. 5:17)



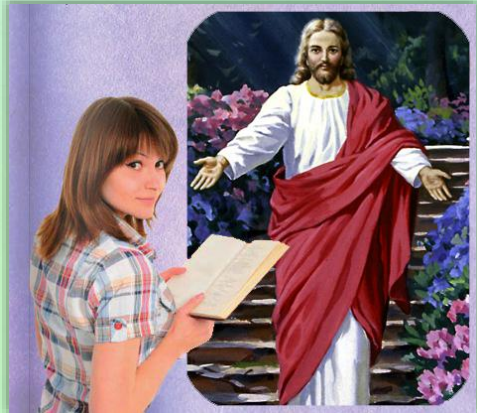


KNOWING THE TRUTH

"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32)

Satan has been introducing many lies in the Church during centuries. We must expose them.

He introduced some of those lies as the base of the Catholic and Orthodox doctrine even before the Roman Empire fell. The Reformation put the focus back in the Bible, but some of those lies were left untouched. In the 19th Century, spiritualism came into play.



Protestantism will eventually join Catholicism and Spiritualism to gain everyone's favor (Rev. 16:13-14). A union based on common lies.

The only way to expose Satan's lies is to embrace the truth. We must study the Bible to understand the One who is the Truth and learn how to obey Him (Jn. 14:6; 17:17).



RECEIVING POWER

“After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority [...]” (Revelation 18:1)



We will be prepared to preach the final message thanks to prayer and Bible study. But that's not enough. We need the power that comes from heaven (Rev. 18:1).

Jesus used the Greek word “*exousia*” to describe to the power that His disciples and the other 70 would receive to preach the gospel (Mt. 10:1; Lk. 10:19).

The Holy Spirit gives this power.

The people who will preach the last message have the following characteristics:



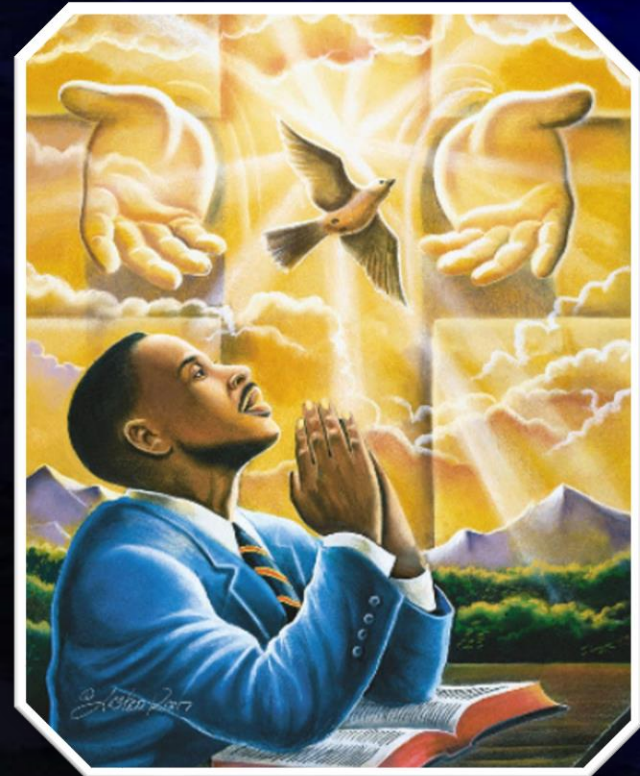
They are united in Christ through prayer



The Bible is their only creed



The Holy Spirit is their only source of strength



WHO WILL BE VICTORIOUS?



THE GLORY OF GOD

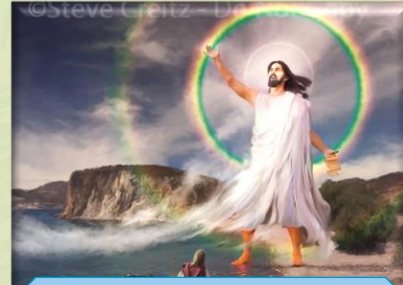
"[...] and the earth was illuminated with his glory." (Revelation 18:1)

The angels [messengers] in Revelation have a symbolic meaning:

Only God can illuminate the earth with His glory (Nm. 14:21; Ps. 72:19; Ez. 43:2).



They represent God's people in Rev. 14:6-11



They represent Jesus in Rev. 10:1



They represent the Holy Spirit in Rev. 18:1

When Moses asked to see God's glory, God showed Him His character (Ex. 33:18-19). The glory of God is His character.

Satan called God's character into question. However, Jesus showed the whole universe His true character on the cross: God is love (Jn. 3:16).

The message that will convince the world is Christ's love and righteousness. All glory to God.



THE LAMB

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!” (Revelation 5:12)



Revelation presents Jesus as “the Lamb” 26 times. He’s the Lamb who was slain. His blood cleanses us from all sin (Rev. 5:12; 7:14).

The main message of the three angels, Revelation, and the whole Bible is Jesus Christ crucified.



No one will be convinced thanks to our purity, our obedience, or how well we know the truth. Victory will be obtained only if Jesus is the center of our message. This is the only way people will be saved from the enemy’s lies in the final crisis.



Only Jesus must be exalted and presented to the world. He is the core of the message of the three angels.

“The only way in which men will be able to stand firm in the conflict is to be rooted and grounded in Christ. They must receive the truth as it is in Jesus. And it is only as the truth is presented thus that it can meet the wants of the soul. The preaching of Christ crucified, Christ our righteousness, is what satisfies the soul's hunger. When we secure the interest of the people in this great central truth, faith and hope and courage come to the heart.”

“There is to be, at this period, a series of events which will reveal that God is Master of the situation. The truth will be proclaimed in clear, unmistakable language. As a people, we must prepare the way of the Lord, under the overruling guidance of the Holy Spirit. The gospel is to be given in its purity [...] The message that means so much to the dwellers upon the earth will be heard and understood. Men will know what is truth. Onward, and still onward the work will advance, until the whole earth shall have been warned. And then shall the end come.”

E. G. W. (Maranatha, July 29)