

Understanding Our Mission as Seventh-day Adventists

A Bible Study on the Three Angels' Messages, the Spirit of Prophecy, the Sanctuary, and the Closing Work of Christ

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."
— Revelation 14:12

Study Objective

This study examines the distinct mission of Seventh-day Adventists in the closing work of the gospel: to proclaim the three angels' messages, uphold the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, understand Christ's ministry in the heavenly sanctuary, and prepare a people to stand before God during the final crisis.

Study Roadmap

Section	Main Emphasis
1. Foundation of the Mission	Commandments of God and the faith of Jesus
2. Confidence in the Testimonies	The prophetic gift and protection from last-day delusions
3. The Third Angel's Message	The final warning against the beast, image, and mark
4. The Close of Probation	The need for preparation before the time of trouble
5. The Heavenly Sanctuary	Christ's High Priestly ministry and investigative judgment
6. Historical Development of the Work	John, the apostles, early Adventists, and the remnant work
7. The Seven Thunders	The unsealing of Daniel and the first, second, and third angels' messages

1. The Foundation of the Adventist Mission

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."
— Revelation 14:12

Revelation 14:12 identifies the remnant people of God at the end of time. Their distinguishing marks are not vague religious sentiment. They are defined by endurance, obedience, and the faith of Jesus.

- They have patience: steadfast endurance under trial.
- They keep the commandments of God: loyalty to the moral law of Jehovah.
- They have the faith of Jesus: the faith Christ lived by and the faith centered in Christ's mediation.

2. Established by the Word and the Prophets

"Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper."
— 2 Chronicles 20:20

"...If ye will not believe, surely ye shall not be established."
— Isaiah 7:9

The Adventist mission rests upon Scripture as the supreme authority. The prophetic gift does not replace Scripture; it directs the church back to Scripture, exposes deception, and applies the Word of God to the needs of the remnant people.

“Men may get up scheme after scheme, and the enemy will seek to seduce souls from the truth, but all who believe that the Lord has spoken through Sister White, and has given her a message, will be safe from the many delusions that will come in these last days.”

— Letter 50, 1906; 3SM 83.5

“One thing is certain: Those Seventh-day Adventists who take their stand under Satan’s banner will first give up their faith in the warnings and reproofs contained in the Testimonies of God’s Spirit.”

— 3SM 84.3

“The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. “Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18).”

— Letter 12, 1890; 1SM 48.3

“There will be a hatred kindled against the testimonies which is satanic... Satan cannot have so clear a track to bring in his deceptions... if the warnings and reproofs and counsels of the Spirit of God are heeded.”

— Letter 40, 1890; 1SM 48.4

Key Point

The Spirit of Prophecy is not a side issue in the Adventist movement. It is one of God’s ordained protections against last-day delusions. To reject the warnings, reproofs, and counsels God has given is to weaken the very safeguards designed to preserve the remnant people.

3. The Third Angel’s Message

“In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers... They have been given a work of the most solemn import—the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels’ messages. There is no other work of so great importance.”

— Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 9, p. 19; 9T 19.1

“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark... The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God... Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

— Revelation 14:9–12

The third angel’s message is a direct warning against false worship, the beast, the image to the beast, and the mark of the beast. It is not merely a doctrinal statement; it is the final mercy message given to the world before the close of human probation.

The Message Contains

- A warning against worshiping the beast and his image.
- A warning against receiving the mark in the forehead or in the hand.
- A declaration of the wrath of God poured out without mixture.
- A description of the faithful remnant who keep God’s commandments and the faith of Jesus.

4. The Close of Probation and the Need for Preparation

“The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented... Satan watches to catch away every impression that would make them wise unto salvation, and the time of trouble will find them unready.”

— The Great Controversy, p. 594; GC 594.1

The disciples were warned by Christ before His crucifixion, yet they were unprepared because they clung to false expectations. Likewise, the final generation has been warned concerning the close of probation and the time of trouble. The danger is not a lack of information, but a failure to receive and act upon the light already given.

Practical Application

- Study prophecy before the crisis, not after the crisis has already arrived.
- Allow the warnings of Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy to produce repentance and preparation.
- Do not let Satan catch away the impressions that would make the soul wise unto salvation.
- Recognize that the time of trouble will reveal whether preparation has actually been made.

5. The Heavenly Sanctuary and Investigative Judgment

“The subject of the sanctuary and the investigative judgment should be clearly understood by the people of God. All need a knowledge for themselves of the position and work of their great High Priest...”
— Evangelism, p. 221; Ev 221.3

The sanctuary message is central to Adventist identity. It explains the present work of Christ, the meaning of the judgment, the seriousness of sin, and the preparation required of those who would stand in the day of God.

Why This Matters

- Every person has a case pending at the bar of God.
- Christ is not inactive; He is ministering as our great High Priest.
- The investigative judgment requires personal knowledge, not secondhand religion.
- Without understanding Christ’s present work, God’s people cannot occupy the position He designs them to fill.

6. The Historical Development of the Work

A. John’s Work: Pointing to Christ as the Antitypical Lamb of God

John the Baptist pointed sinners to Christ as the Lamb of God, the true sacrifice to whom all the types and shadows pointed.

- John 1:29
- Exodus 12:3–28
- Genesis 3:21
- Proverbs 27:26
- Revelation 13:8
- 1 Peter 1:19–20

B. The Apostles’ Work: Christ as Our Heavenly High Priest

After His resurrection and ascension, Christ sat down at the right hand of God. The apostles proclaimed His heavenly ministry, His intercession, and His authority.

- Mark 16:19
- Colossians 3:1
- Ephesians 1:20
- Hebrews 10:12
- Romans 8:34

Romans 8:34 answers the question: Christ is at the right hand of God making intercession for us.

C. The Early Adventist Work: Christ Enters the Most Holy Place

The early Adventist message centered on Christ’s movement into the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary at the close of the prophetic periods in 1844, beginning the final phase of His priestly ministry.

“I was shown what did take place in heaven at the close of the prophetic periods in 1844... When fully attired, He was surrounded by angels, and in a flaming chariot He passed within the second veil.”
— Early Writings, p. 251; EW 251.2

D. The Seventh-day Adventist Work: Christ Is Ending His Work as High Priest

The remnant work is to proclaim that Christ is completing His High Priestly ministry and that the judgment is now passing in the sanctuary above.

- Acts 7:55–56
- Isaiah 3:13

“We are now living in the great day of atonement... The judgment is now passing in the sanctuary above... Soon—none know how soon—it will pass to the cases of the living.”
— Counsels for the Church, p. 348; CCh 348.5

The Work of Preparation Is Individual

- Afflict the soul before God by sorrow for sin and true repentance.
- Put away the light and frivolous spirit.
- Search the heart deeply and faithfully.
- Subdue the evil tendencies that strive for mastery.
- Seek purity, devotion, and a character without spot or wrinkle.

7. The Seven Thunders and the Unsealing of Daniel

“The special light given to John which was expressed in the seven thunders was a delineation of events which would transpire under the first and second angels’ messages...”
— Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Vol. 7, p. 971; 7BC 971.6

“Daniel shall stand in his lot at the end of the days. John sees the little book unsealed. Then Daniel’s prophecies have their proper place in the first, second, and third angels’ messages to be given to the world. The unsealing of the little book was the message in relation to time.”
— Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Vol. 7, p. 971; 7BC 971.4

The seven thunders relate to the experience connected with the first and second angels’ messages and the unsealing of Daniel. The prophetic movement that arose through the study of Daniel and Revelation was not accidental. It was part of God’s ordered plan for the proclamation of advanced truth in the last days.

Summary: The Adventist Mission in One View

Phase	Message	Primary Emphasis
John the Baptist	Behold the Lamb of God	Christ as the sacrifice for sin
Apostles	Christ at the right hand of God	Christ as risen Lord and intercessor
Early Adventists	Christ enters the Most Holy Place	Beginning of the investigative judgment in 1844
Seventh-day Adventist Remnant	Three angels’ messages	Final warning, judgment, sanctuary, commandments, and faith of Jesus
Closing Work	Christ ends His High Priestly ministry	Preparation to stand in the time of trouble

Closing Appeal

The mission of Seventh-day Adventists is not merely to exist as another denomination. God raised this people to proclaim a definite message for a definite time. The world is to be warned. The sanctuary truth is to be understood. The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus are to be upheld. The warnings and counsels of the Spirit of Prophecy are to be heeded. The three angels' messages are to be proclaimed with clarity and power.

The crisis will not create character; it will reveal character. Therefore, the work of preparation must take place now. Each soul must understand Christ's present work, surrender sin, receive the righteousness of Christ, and stand faithful under the banner of truth.

"Watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is."

— Mark 13:33

Study Questions

1. What does Revelation 14:12 reveal about the identity of God's last-day people?
2. Why is confidence in the prophetic gift important for the remnant church?
3. What is the central warning of the third angel's message?
4. Why must the close of probation be studied before the time of trouble arrives?
5. Why is the sanctuary and investigative judgment message essential to Adventist identity?
6. How did the work of John, the apostles, early Adventists, and Seventh-day Adventists progressively reveal Christ's work?
7. What preparation is required of those living in the antitypical Day of Atonement?

Closing Prayer

Father in heaven, help us understand the solemn mission entrusted to Your remnant people. Establish us in Your Word, strengthen our confidence in the prophetic light You have given, and prepare us to proclaim the three angels' messages faithfully. Teach us to understand the work of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, to repent deeply, and to stand without compromise in the final crisis. Keep us faithful to the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.