

Presentation-2SS, A prophetic message witnessed

The three angel's message is a prophetic message. In the OT Isaiah 40:3-10 is a parallel to the first angel's message; while in the NT Matthew 24:14 sets out the experiential witnessing aspect of the first angel's message.

We believe Isaiah chapter 40:3-10 are precursors or forerunners that precede and predict the heralding of the first angel's message in these last-days.

We also believe Matthew 24:14 defines the manner the three angels' message is to be shared. The emphasis here is on the word "witnessed". The vital tenets in this last-days present-truth are to be "witnessed" as a personal testimony. In reaching out to hearts it is not just professional preaching but the telling of a personal living experience with love that counts most.

Let us now do a quick comparison between Isaiah 40:3-10; and Revelation 14:6&7 and verses 14&15.

It can be seen that Isaiah chapter 40:3- 10 in principle closely resemble that of the First Angel's message.*

3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

6 The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field:

7 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.

8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

9 O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

10 Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

Whilst Revelation chapter 14 verses 6&7, and 14&15 bring to view the beginning of this last-days' work of God's remnant, and terminates with the second coming of Christ. *

Presentation-2SS, A prophetic message witnessed

6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

Now let us examine the close similarities between the prophetic passages in Isaiah and those in the book of Revelation:

Firstly, let us look specifically at Isaiah chapter 40:3-5.

It is the special work of John the Baptist to prepare the way for the first advent of Christ to the earth. We see this work in the life and ministry of John the Baptist.

Likewise, today it is the privilege of God's last-days faithful to "prepare the way of the Lord," through the proclamation of the first angel's message, it is followed closely by the second and third messages, that Christ may return to earth in power and glory.

In order to believe, a man must have something to believe in. The grand objective of John's ministry was to lay a firm foundation for belief that Jesus of Nazareth is indeed the promised Messiah, that He is "the Lamb of God," and "the only begotten Son of God". It is indeed the Messiah who brought "remission" of "sins", but it is John His forerunner who brought knowledge of sin to mankind.*

Matthew 3:2 "... Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"

Likewise, we can see in the First Angel's message, it is the privilege of God's last day remnant as His forerunner who will bring knowledge of sin to mankind.*

Revelation 14:7 "Saying with a loud voice, Fear God..."

Proverb 8:12 states "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil..."

Secondly, in Isaiah verses 6 to 8, God's messengers are to cry loudly that men who have turned away from God may be transformed and renewed in the image of their Creator, but if they resist, they will perish like a flower of the field. The imagery is that all flesh is as grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field, and all the glory of man will perish like grass

Presentation-2SS, A prophetic message witnessed

and flowers of the field. Likewise the first angel's message exhorts man to give glory to God and not to self. Jesus has fought and won the battle for us. The reason why He has fought and overcome for us is that He knows we have no power to fight and overcome for ourselves, but to submit, co-operate, and depend wholly on Him.

Thirdly, in Isaiah verse 9 this message of good tidings which is the everlasting gospel in Revelation, is to be given fearlessly with a loud voice. The voice that cries is to be lifted up with strength, and the crier is to get up upon a high mountain, in order that the sound may reach to the furthest possible extent. The same is clearly spelt out in Revelation 14:7 "Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."

And lastly, in both Isaiah and Revelation, it is revealed that immediately following the completion of giving these messages, the coming of Christ is brought to view. This confirms that both passages are to be looked upon as God's final message of warning to the world.

From the above mentioned points, one cannot but notice the close prophetic relationship between Isaiah chapter 40 verses 3 to 10 with Revelation chapter 14: verses 6&7 and verses 14&15. They clearly establish that the first angel's message is indeed a prophetic message. Since all three messages in Revelation are but one complete message, therefore we conclude that the second and third angels' messages are prophetic too.

A transformed character must come first, and then shall one be willing and able to herald the three angels' message with power.

The statement in Isaiah 40:4 is equally applicable to both the messengers and to the hearers of the word. All who seek to do God's Will, must firstly be reconciled back to Him, give proper reverence, glory, and worship to the one true God.*

Isaiah 40:4 states "Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight and the rough places plain"

Most certainly the Cryer must first be made straight himself.

For without God's righteousness abiding in the heart, it is all but impossible to bring about a personal character transformation, let alone the proclamation of the last-days gospel truth.

As the Apostle Paul strongly emphasized in Philippians 2:12,13, when Christ's righteousness dwelleth by faith in the heart, each individual will cooperate with the will and power of God. One will "strive to enter in", "put off the old man", "lay aside every weight," "run with patience, "resist the devil", and "endure unto the end".

Presentation-2SS, A prophetic message witnessed

In the plan of salvation God demonstrates the way to sow, and He guarantees the harvest. In proclaiming the three angels' message, the emphasis here is on the key word "witness."

The Gospel as a witness is to be preached to all the earth to accomplish its work. It is only appropriate that a "witness" should be borne when the hour of judgment is come. The character of this last proclamation of the everlasting Gospel is essentially in the nature of a personal testimony. It is not professional preaching, but the telling of a living experience. God's messengers must witness and testify to all nations that Jehovah is the strength and deliverance of all who trust in Him. The gospel is to be presented, not as a lifeless theory, but as a living force to change the life.*

The closing work of the gospel will be carried forth not so much by doctrines or arguments as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God.

Sister White wrote in RH June 4 1895 "Righteousness within is testified to by righteousness without"

In Matthew 24:14 "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come".

In these words a special world-wide proclamation of the Gospel is brought to view. It is the same work as recorded in Rev 14:6 "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people..." This correlation is based on the fact that in both passages the next event in the prophecy is the second coming of Christ. This message must be given before the second coming of Christ.

When Jesus Christ preached the Gospel He did not speak as the scribes, quoting the doctrines of the fathers. He drew His wisdom and understanding from God-the-Father and lived by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

In every action of His life here on earth Christ was revealing His Father's character of love. In the same way, so must everyone who earnestly seeks to reveal our Father's character lived by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Wherever Jesus went as He moved among the people, in His attitude toward them, in His speech, in the way in which He set principle above custom, He bore witness to the truth. In the same way, His disciples and those who go forth as witnesses for the truth must bear that witness as Christ did.*

John 20:21 "... as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you"

Presentation-2SS, A prophetic message witnessed

Again we reiterate that in every action of His life Jesus was revealing the character of His Father, and thus declaring the glad tidings. It is "this Gospel," the Gospel as it was made known by Christ, the revealing of His Father's character of love, which is to be preached in the entire world for a witness before the end comes.

Consecrated men are the agent of the Agency of the Holy Spirit chosen to do this work. Angelic power is also connected with the work, and that the preaching occupies a central place among the holy angels, receiving the attention and co-operation of every one of them. In the preaching of the everlasting Gospel, men seem to be doing the work, but John saw the part acted by the holy angels. It is encouraging to remember that those who work for God are not left to toil alone. However, we must caution here that* **although the holy angels are an agent of the Agency of the Holy Spirit, they are assuredly "NOT the Holy Spirit," and we repeat this most significant phrase "they are assuredly NOT the Holy Spirit"**

In Hebrews 1:14 we read: "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"

In Genesis 28:12 Jacob was given an insight of angels working for men's salvation* **"And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it".**

The ladder was a visible symbol of the real and uninterrupted fellowship between God in heaven and His people upon earth through the connecting conduit provided by the body of Jesus. The angels ascend to present men's needs before God, and descend with promises of divine assistance and protection.

This concept is again reiterated by Jesus in the gospel of ***John 1:51 when He said "And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man"** In this figure of speech Jesus envisaged His own ministry for mankind.*

Sister White in Christian Education 155.2 wrote "The ladder which Jacob saw in the night vision, the base of it resting upon the earth, and the topmost round reaching unto the highest heavens, God himself above the ladder, and his glory shining upon every round, angels ascending and descending upon this ladder of shining brightness, is a symbol of constant communication kept up between this world and heavenly places. God accomplishes his will through the instrumentality of heavenly angels in continual intercourse with humanity. This ladder reveals a direct and important channel of communication with the inhabitants of this earth. The ladder represented to Jacob was the world's Redeemer who links earth and heaven together."

Presentation-2SS, A prophetic message witnessed

Working according to Christ's example will be successful, as He was. He had no difficulty in getting the ears of the people. The secret of His success was that "He went about doing good." Christianity has not changed. All the world knows of Christ is what it sees revealed through His representatives, and when their work is entirely different from that of the Saviour, He is not revealed, but His character is misrepresented.*

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven"

While in prison, John the Baptist, hearing concerning the works of Christ, sent two of his disciples to Him to inquire*

"Art Thou He who should come, or do we look for another?" as recorded in Matthew 11:3. Instead of answering him Jesus simply replied as recorded in *

Matthew 11:4,5 " Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: 5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them"

In this case it was the works that testified to the true messiahship of the Saviour. So to-day, it is the "works we do and the words we utter" that tell for or against the Gospel. May they all be wrought in Jesus Christ, so that whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, we may do it to the glory of God.*

Sister White wrote in the book Desire of Ages page 357.1: "As you confess Me before men, so I will confess you before God and the holy angels. You are to be My witnesses upon earth, channels through which My grace can flow for the healing of the world. So I will be your representative in heaven. The Father beholds not your faulty character, but He sees you as clothed in My perfection. I am the medium through which Heaven's blessings shall come to you. And everyone who confesses Me by sharing My sacrifice for the lost shall be confessed as a sharer in the glory and joy of the redeemed"

He who would confess Christ must have Christ abiding in him. He cannot communicate that which he has not received. The disciples might speak fluently on doctrines or prophecies, they might repeat the words of Christ Himself; but unless they possessed Christ-like meekness and love, they were not confessing Him. A spirit contrary to the spirit of Christ would deny Him, whatever the profession.* **Men may deny Christ by evil-speaking, by foolish talking and jesting, by words that are untruthful or unkind. They may deny Him by shunning life's**

Presentation-2SS, A prophetic message witnessed

burdens, and by the pursuit of sinful pleasure. They may deny Him by conforming to the world, by uncourteous behavior, by the love of their own opinions, by justifying self, by cherishing doubt, and dwelling in darkness. In all these ways they declare that Christ is not in them.*

Matthew 10:33 states “But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven”

God’s last-days witnesses are not simply telling others that they are sinners, but because the Spirit of God are so manifested in the individual, that His life is a reproof to those who walk contrary to God’s Word.

It is not necessary that one should stand in a public place and declare to people that they are sinners, in order that the world should be reproof of sin, although words spoken in the power and demonstration of the Spirit will convict, but the individual who has within him the Spirit of Christ will be a witness, whose life without a word will convict of sin.*

In spirit of Prophecy vol 4 1884 p28.1 Sister White wrote “They hated Christ because his purity and holiness revealed their iniquity; and they accused him of being the cause of all the troubles which had come upon them in consequence of their sins”

Again she wrote in RH, April 25, 1893 par 1 “The spotlessness of Christ’s life, the unstained purity of his character, brought against him the most intense hatred”

So it can be stated as fact that all success in working for God in the extension of His kingdom is based upon a person’s own individual experience, and his work is simply to minister to others the experience that God has given him. What more can one do?

Man cannot give of Christ when he does not possess Christ. But when he has Christ, he knows it, and cannot but quickly share his precious gift with others, like the apostle Peter did in*

Acts 3:6 “Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee”

Where one man reads the Bible, a hundred read you and me. As God is, so must his witnesses be.

This is what Paul meant when he said figuratively in **2 Corinthians 3:2: “Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men”**

Presentation-2SS, A prophetic message witnessed

Sermons are worth nothing more than hollow words, if we do not preach Christ by our lives. If we do not commend the Gospel to people by our holy walk and conversation, we shall not win them to Christ.

There are many Gospel workers who are longing to see more fruit from their labors. Let such remember that* **the power to convert men is from God. It depends not so much upon the information they impart, but to a large extent in the life they live.**

The man that practices the truths which he preaches to others carries with him the vitalizing power of God, working through him to convert others from the error of their ways. But every ray of light must be cherished and walked in. Just as soon as we preach one thing and practices another, our words are as the Apostle Paul puts it* "**sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal,**" giving an appearance of great importance but is merely a lifeless emitter of sound. Or in other words as recorded in*

2 Timothy 3:5 "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof", specifically referring to those who identify themselves with Christianity, having all the external characteristics of religion, such as church attendance, church gifts, tithes, holding leadership or sacred positions in the church, and even personal service for the church.

Sadly, these who profess loyalty to God's way of life and yet reveal no tangible evidence of a development in Christlikeness, has become a greater handicap to the progress of the gospel.

In this most perilous time when God's people will be surrounded by enemies who are bent upon their destruction, yet they intercede for their enemies as recorded*

in Great Controversy page 619.3: "Their faith does not fail because their prayers are not immediately answered. Though suffering the keenest anxiety, terror, and distress, they do not cease their intercessions."

It is the goodness, forbearance, and long-suffering of God that lead men to repentance, and so shall it also be manifested in the conduct of His faithful servants towards their enemies. The Apostle Paul confirms this principle in*

Romans 12:21: "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

Notice the contrast between those who trust in the Lord and those who try to "fight their own battles." God's promise to Israel of old was that if they trusted in Him, and kept His commandments, one man should chase a thousand, and two should put ten thousand to flight.*

Presentation-2SS, A prophetic message witnessed

Deut 32:30 "How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?"

Joshua 23:10: "One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the LORD your God, he it is that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you"

But what a change takes place when God is forsaken. Then "one thousand shall flee at the rebuke of one;" and at the rebuke of five ten thousand shall flee. The case is exactly reversed. It needs only a threat to make them flee when they do not trust in the Lord.* **Prov. 28:1 states "The wicked flee when no man pursueth; but the righteous are bold as a lion."**

At the Red Sea crisis an important object lesson is recorded for the benefit of posterity, especially at the time when oppression and persecution by the enemies of God reach a climax.

When pursued by Pharaoh's army and 600 chariots, God's people were greatly alarmed but* **the noble courage and confidence of Moses is surprising. He now remained calm and confident that all would be well.** His own quiet confidence is reflected in his admonition to the people to wait patiently for the Lord to deliver them. Obviously there was nothing else that was in their power they could do. Moses knew not how God might accomplish His will, but his own experience in working with God in the land of Egypt made it certain He was fully able to rescue His people, however unlikely such a prospect might appear at this moment of great danger.*

The Israelites were not to remain completely inactive while the Lord brought about their deliverance. They were to move forward, and as they did so, to witness the mighty power of God. He could have divided the Red Sea without the assistance of Moses, if the lifting up of the rod may be called assistance. God again chose to work through Moses in order that the people might come to trust more fully in their appointed leader. God ever operates in accordance with the principle of utilizing consecrated human agencies, agent of the Agency of the Holy Spirit, to accomplish His work on earth, whenever and wherever possible.*

The guidance of Israel through the sea was designed by God to establish in the hearts of the people reverence and faith in Him. But faith in the Lord was inseparably connected with faith in Moses as His representative, and for this reason the miracle had been wrought through Moses. In the same way,* **God's last-days people shall be His witnesses even as Moses was to the Israelites.**

So shall it be in the final conflict just before Christ's Second Advent. In the hour of utmost extremity, when all seem lost, the Lord God almighty shall interpose for the deliverance of His chosen. Trust in Him.

Presentation-2SS, A prophetic message witnessed

We have as a living witness for our time the experiences of Israel of old recorded in the Song of Moses. It celebrated the deliverance from Egyptian oppression and annihilation. In future the song of Moses will once again be sung by the saints, who bear witness to their deliverance from the tyranny of "Babylon the great", for their experience has made them what they are.

What a great privilege it is that we can draw strength from this song of deliverance as we go forth in witness of God and his great love towards mankind, with the pouring forth of our innermost soul, in praise of God for all His goodness, and power.*

Sister White wrote in Patriarchs and prophets page 289.2 "That song does not belong to the Jewish people alone. It points forward to the destruction of all the foes of righteousness and the final victory of the Israel of God"

The song of Moses is indeed an object lesson to all who shall bear witness to the proclamation of the three angels' message. This song of praise will exalt God's last-days people and all who accepts this last-days message to prepare their hearts to stand in the times of trouble ahead.*

Sister White's exaltation in Patriarchs and Prophets p 289.3 "Let us learn the song of the angels now, that we may sing it when we join their shining ranks"