Three Angels, One Message God's Everlasting Gospel



By Pastor and Author John T. Anderson



Welcome & Announcements







For God So Loved the World, that He Gave His Only Begotten Son, that Whosoever Believeth in Him Should Not Perish, but Have Everlasting Life.



For God Sent Not His Son Into the World to Condemn the World; But that the World Through Him Might Be Saved. John 3:16-17



"God's Everlasting Gospel" Evangelistic Series Sermon One

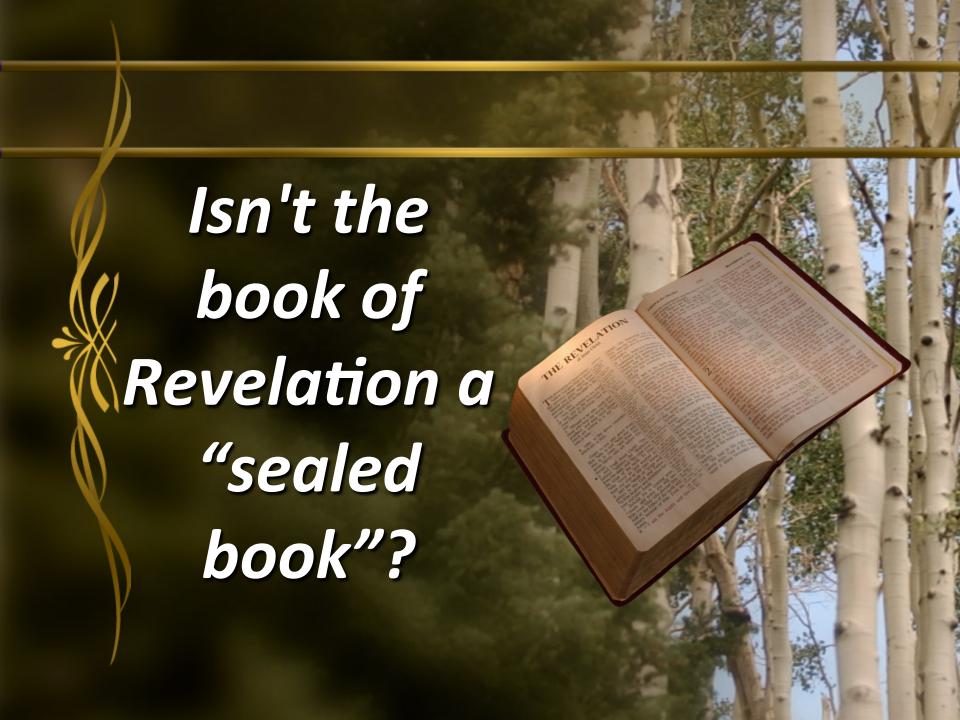


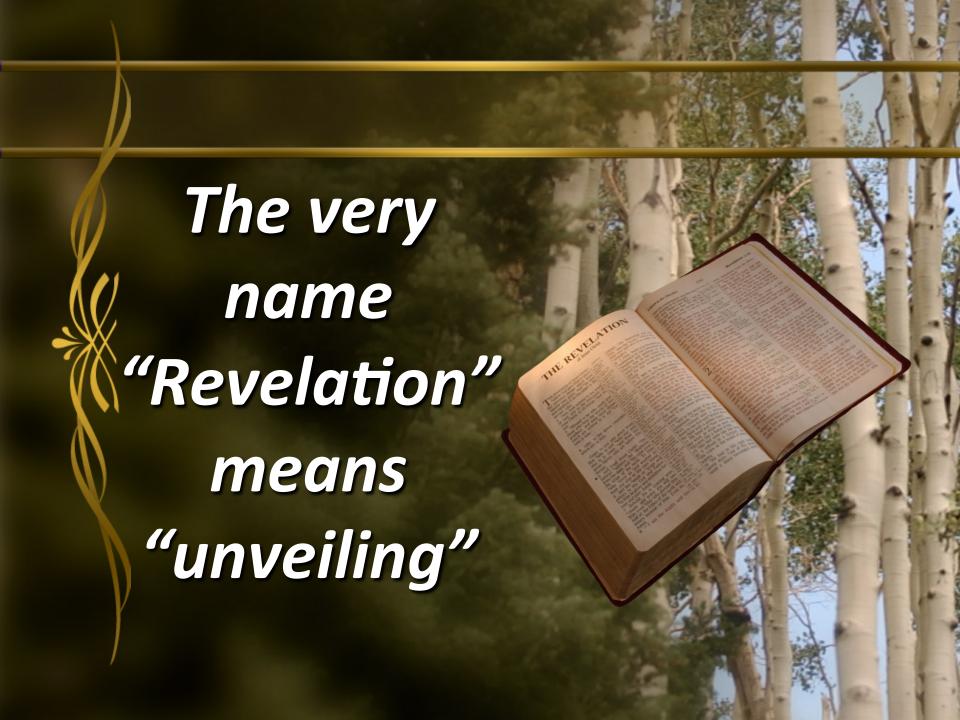




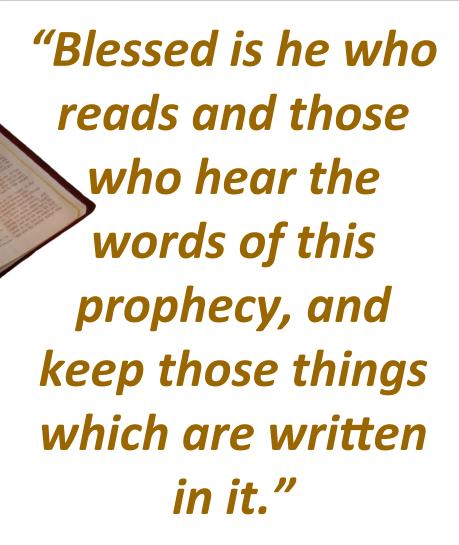
What are the

"Three
Angels'
Messages"?

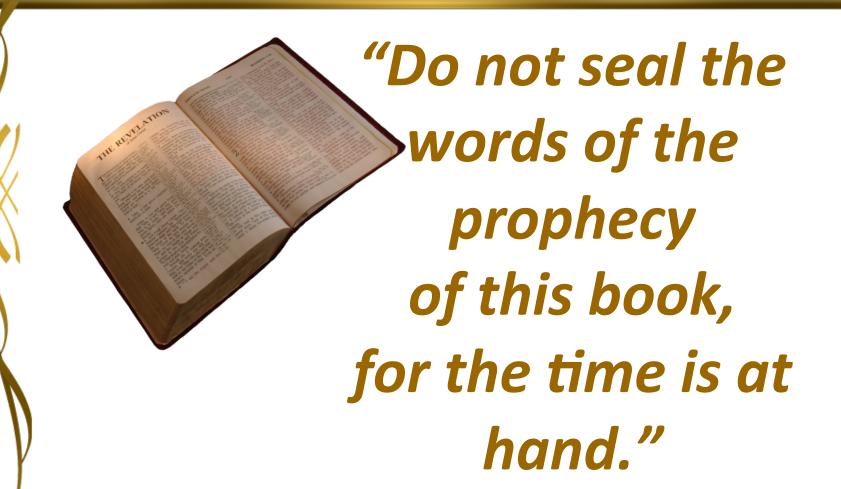




Revelation 1:3



Revelation 22:10



Revelation 1:19

"Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this."



The format of the Bible's "outline prophecies" has been from "here" to "the end." The "statue dream" of Daniel 2 The "wild beast" vision of Daniel 7







What was the most important victory of the Second World War?



The "breaking of the code" of the Enigma Machine





"He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John."
Revelation 1:1



God has given us the "code" to understand His messages

Habakkuk 2:2

Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it."





Of all the important messages that Revelation contains, indeed the entire Bible, no passage is of greater



significance today than the messages of the Three Angels given in Revelation 14, in the heart of the last book of the Bible.





"Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel 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 glory to Him,



for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him Who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.'





"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.'



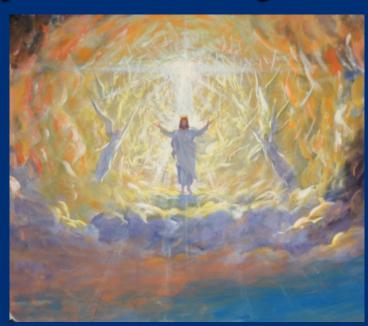
"Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, 'If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, *** * * * * * 666



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.



And 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, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.





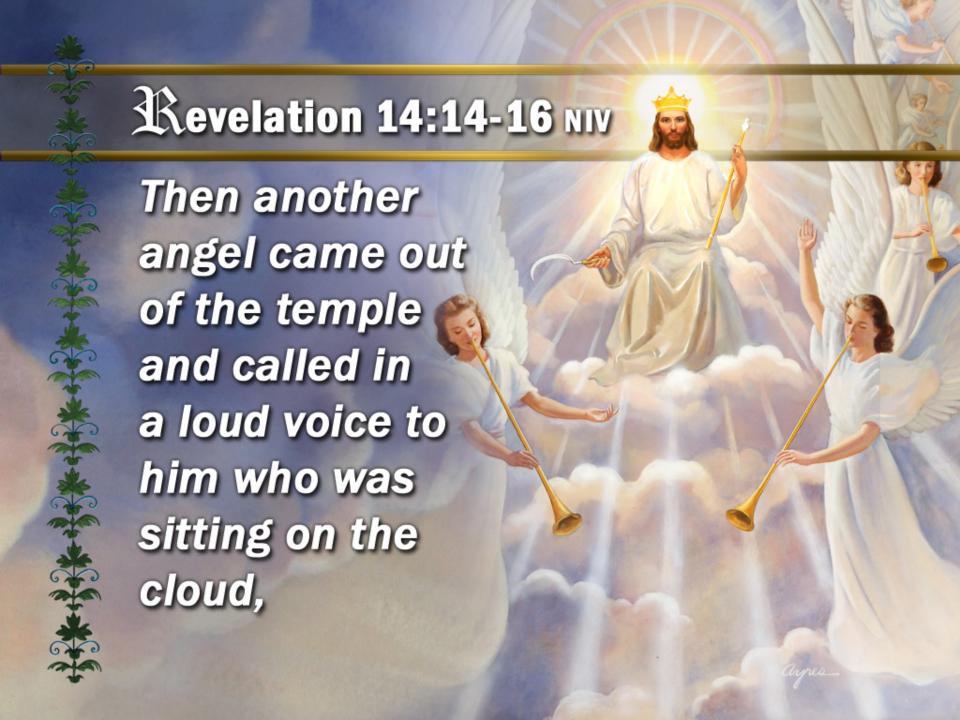
To Whom Are These Messages Directed?



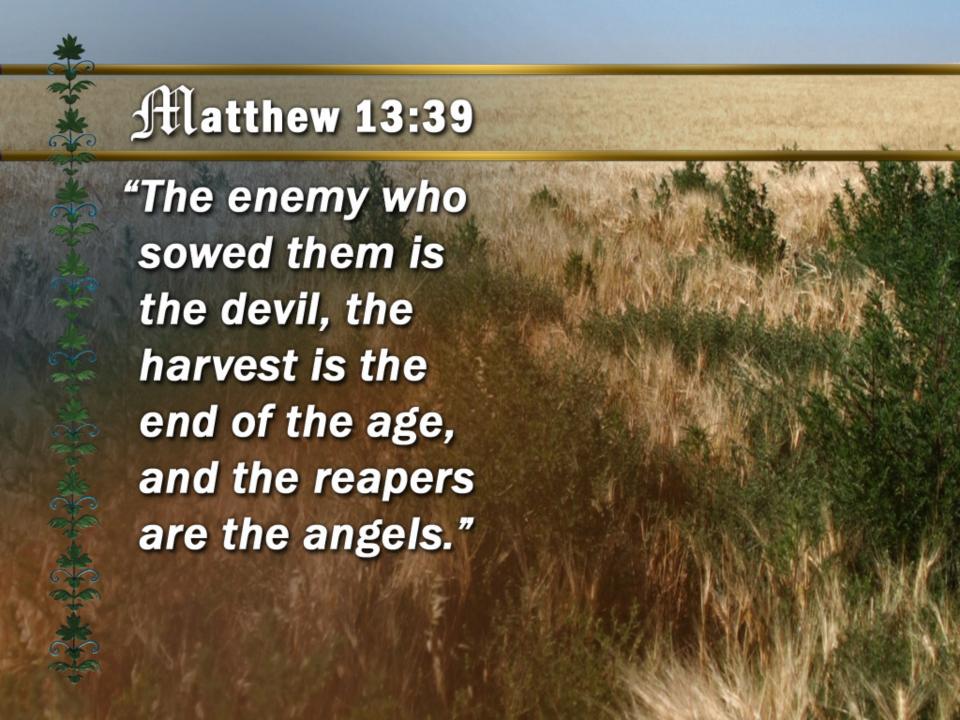
These messages precede the description of Jesus returning to this earth.













Understanding these messages will give us a different way of thinking; a different way of looking at life.



These messages make it clear that God has an agenda for this world. He has a plan for Planet Earth.



To know the issues that face this earth at the end of time is crucial! The Three Angels' messages focus on these very issues.

Suppose you came up to Adam in the Garden of Eden before sin, and asked him, "Have you heard about the two trees, the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?"



But how many know about the messages of the Three Angels today?

Be advised: they are just as crucial in our time as was the message of the two trees in Adam's time!



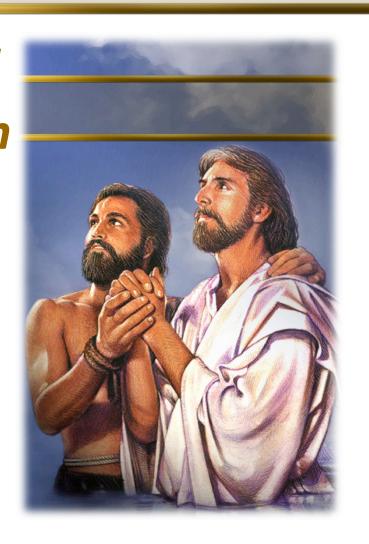
Who are the "angels" that are spoken of in Revelation 14?



The word "angel" in Greek (angelos) means "messenger."

Luke 1:17

The Scriptures call John the Baptist an "angel"? He was commissioned to "make ready a people for the coming of the Lord."



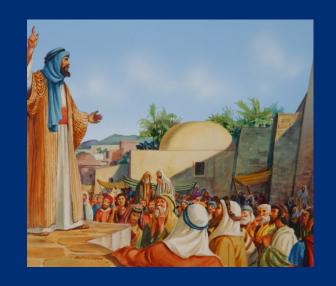
"What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

"But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. For this is he of whom it is written, 'Behold I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You." Matthew 11:7-10



"Behold I send My angelos, (My 'angel') before Your face."







These are the last day "John the Baptists" or "angels" who give to the world God's last warning message. They are human beings doing a heavenly work.



In a literal sense, there were "angels in the sky" who sang their announcement of the first coming of Jesus to the shepherds of Bethlehem.





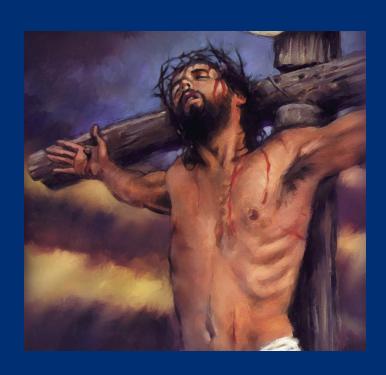
In a figurative sense, there are "angels in the sky" depicted in Revelation 14 who are actually human beings, God's last day messengers, who bear the final warning message to Planet Earth announcing His second coming.



"Having the everlasting gospel" is the way the first angel is initially introduced.



It all begins with God's love.







God sent His Son to die, not for "saints," but for the "world," a word which described the ungodly, the unlovable.











God has a plan for this planet, and a plan for your life!

The messages of the Three Angels is really one message, a message of God's love for a dying world.

God's plan of salvation takes care of the mistakes of the past, the trials and temptations of today and provides for a future in which sin will be forever banished.





"For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." **Romans 5:10**

"He Who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"

Romans 8:32



"The mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting."

Psalm 103:17

We can't conceive of eternity in the past, but God's mercy was there.



Jesus was the Lamb slain "from the foundation of the world." Revelation 13:8

The plan of salvation was not an after-thought, but was there in God's mind from the very beginning.



It was first announced to fallen man in Eden, when God promised He would "put enmity between you (the serpent) and the woman." Genesis 3:15



The problem of sin began when a snake hung in a tree.
The solution for sin came when a Savior hung on a

tree.







This Good News is identified as the "everlasting Gospel." The import of the adjective "everlasting" is that the Gospel has never changed; it is the same from beginning to end, from Genesis to Revelation.



But weren't the people in the Old Testament saved in a different way than the persons in the New **Testament?** Not in principle.

Ephesians 2:8

By putting two simple texts together, we obtain the divine formula for redemption. Paul declared, "For by grace you have been saved through faith."



To the Galatians he wrote, "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love."

Galatians 5:6 ("faith which works by love" KJV).



How does salvation become ours? It is by grace through faith which works by love. That's simple, isn't it?

Grace is God's wonderful gift of eternal life bestowed through the sacrifice of Christ. Faith is our appreciation of this great gift and laying hold on the promise.



Having done so, we walk in the Spirit and live by His precepts. "Works" are the fruit of our relationship with Christ. They do not earn us salvation, but they attest that we are truly connected with Him, as the branch is to the Vine.



All this is within the context of "love." We don't obey Him for fear of being lost, but in wondrous admiration for His great gift. Thus salvation comes to us "by grace through faith which works by love."



The New Testament makes it abundantly clear that this same formula was the means by which people in the Old Testament were saved, "By grace through faith which works by love."



A brief examination of Romans 4 and 5, along with Hebrews 11 confirms that the saints of old were saved by grace through faith, and their works testified of their righteousness in Christ.



"For what does the Scripture say? 'Abraham believed God (that is, he exercised faith in God), and it was accounted to him for righteousness.'



Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does not work (in order to obtain favor with God) but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness." **Romans 4:3-5**



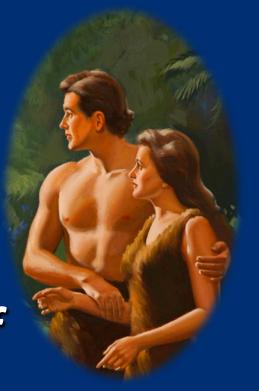
What "Scripture" did Paul quote when developing his thesis on salvation by faith?

Genesis 15:6!

This way of obtaining salvation is embedded in Scripture from the very beginning!



How did Adam and Eve become "covered" after their Fall? It was by God providing the tunic of "skins" to hide their nakedness. Genesis 3:21





The point is clear: the Old Testament teaches salvation by grace. Pharisaical legalism is not the religion of the Old Testament; it is a corruption of God's plan of salvation.



Adam's salvation came by grace, as did Abraham's, David's and all the other saints of the Old Testament period.



Their "works" didn't earn God's favor; they verified that their faith was true. They were saved by the very same mechanism that we are today; by grace through faith which works by love.



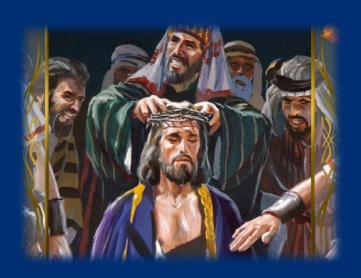
It is true that we in New Testament times no longer express our faith in a coming Redeemer by the offering of an animal sacrifice, for the true Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, came and died on the cross for our sins.



The Lord gave clear indication that the system of types and shadows of the ceremonial economy are no longer required, by ripping the curtain of the temple



from top to bottom at the time of Jesus' death. Matthew 27:51



How do we receive the Gift of salvation?



The Scriptures emphatically draw a line of distinction between the law of ceremonies which came to its end at the cross, and the moral law, the Ten Commandments, which endure forever.



Paul sums it up eloquently by stating, "Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God." I Corinthians 7:19



This distinction between the moral and ceremonial laws was recognized and taught by the early Protestant churches. It appears that in the last century this line has become somewhat hazy and ill-defined.



It is by exercising what the Bible calls faith, which is the capacity to believe. Faith itself is a gift from God: "He has given to all a measure of faith." Romans 12:3



By continuous growth in this faith experience, one becomes "full of faith," which leads to becoming faithful.

Through the grace of God He forgives our sins. The Bible uses several illustrations to help us understand His gracious act.

HOLYBIBLE



Our sins are "cast into the depths of the sea." Micah 7:19

They are "cast behind His back."

Isaiah 38:17



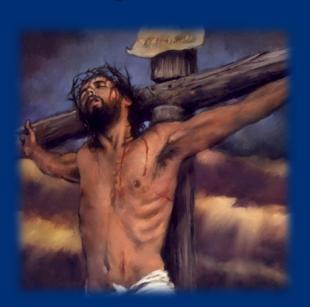
They are "blotted out, like a thick cloud." Isaiah 44:22

They are "sealed up in a bag," and "plastered over."

Job 14:17, margin.



God's program of salvation has three parts. It not only deals with the past, but with the present and the future.







Thus Paul could say that God "delivered (past tense) us from so great a death and does deliver (present tense) us; in Whom we trust that He will still deliver us (in the future kingdom of glory)." **II Corinthians 1:10**



We need, through the Gospel, to put away sin, to think and live as did Christ; to pursue that "holiness, without which no one shall see the Lord." **Hebrews 12:15**



Human nature wants to cling to sin and to salvation at the same time!

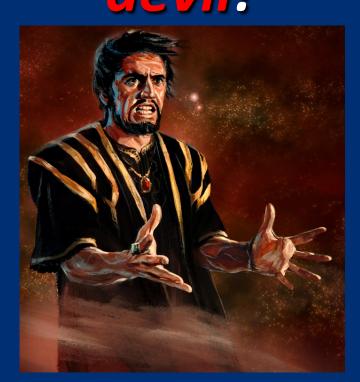
That's not possible!

Light and darkness cannot coexist.



Grace is stronger than sin! Jesus is stronger than the devil!







Originally, man was made "in the image of God." Genesis 1:26

He was made "upright." Ecclesiastes 7:29



One of the saddest verses in all the Bible is Genesis 5:3, which speaks of Adam who, "begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth."

Matthew 1:21



Jesus came to "save us from our sins."



According to the grand purpose of the Gospel, He works within us to restore our characters to be like His; to bring us back to holiness in thought and deed. We can't do that on our own; it's impossible. But He can.



Why is that so important?
Because it does us no good
to know what's coming
unless we're prepared for it.



He's coming back to transform our bodies, not our minds or characters. Philippians 3:20, 21



"And the temple, when it was being built, was built with stone finished at the quarry, so that no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built." I Kings 6:7



All of the shaping and polishing of our characters is to be done here, on this earth. This is the quarry; Jesus is the Sculptor; now is the time.

"Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; indeed I shall observe it with my whole heart.



"Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it. Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way."

Psalm 119:33-37



As if in answer to David's prayer, the New Covenant promises that He will indeed write His laws in our heart and within our minds. **Hebrews 8:8-10**

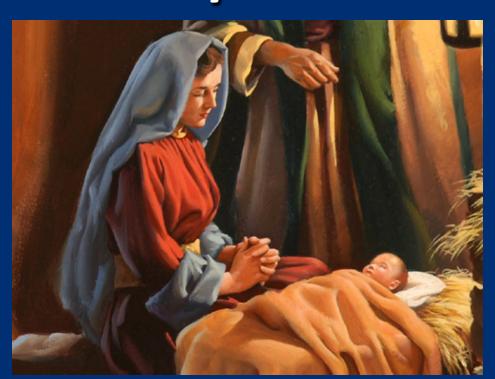


When Christ comes into our lives and we are re-born, a new nature is born within us.

When we become "born of God," in a new and special way, we partake of His nature.



That's a principle of life; that children share the nature of their parents.





"As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him Who called us by glory and virtue,



by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." II Peter 1:4

"As many as received Him (we have to consent for this to happen), to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name;



"who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:12, 13

Romans 12:2





The heavenly invitation is to "let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:5



"We have known that the Son of man is come, and hath given us an understanding (or "mind"), that we may know Him Who is true." I John 5:20, KJV.



Through the power of the Holy Spirit He can "bring every thought into captivity to Christ."

Il Corinthians 10:5





It follows that when the thoughts and attitudes are changed, behaviors and actions will follow, and thereby our habits, characters and destiny.

"I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek." Romans 1:16



Someday the third part of God's Gospel will become reality. "All its sighing I have made to cease (shabbat)."

Isaiah 21:2

Sorrow, sighing and the work of the enemy will be on permanent sabbatical!



