

## The Three Angels' Call To Prayer

### DAY 9 — THE MARK OF THE BEAST AND PRAYER

*"After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, 'Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.' Again they said, 'Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!' And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, 'Amen! Alleluia!' Then a voice came from the throne, saying, 'Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!'" – Revelation 19:1-5*

#### A Solemn Warning

The third and last of the three angels' messages is one of the most solemn warnings in the Bible. It is one that many people would like to ignore, yet it reveals life-changing spiritual truths that speak to our deepest needs and draw us closer to Jesus. The apostle John writes, "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 wine 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'" (Revelation 14:9, 10).

The first life-changing principle about this warning is that it comes from the heart of a loving God who wants more than anything else to save us in His kingdom. This is a divine message of warning so God's people will not be caught off guard with the deceptions that are coming.

Secondly, it has to do with worship. The angel says, "If anyone worships the beast." This is in direct contrast to the first angel's message in verse 7 to worship the Creator. Worshiping the Creator leads faithful followers of Christ to respond to His love, trust His saving grace, be obedient to His Word, and keep His commandments. Worshiping the beast leads people to live self-centered lives of independence from God in disobedience to His commands. It focuses on self rather than upon Jesus.

#### The Beast Within Us

This message of the third angel speaks of a time that is coming when church and state will unite under the authority of the papacy to enforce worship on the first day of the week. The final message of the three angels is a call to earnest, heartfelt prayer. The antichrist principle—of pride rather than humility, self-exaltation rather than self-sacrifice for the good of others, and trust in human wisdom rather than the divine inspiration of the Scriptures—is deeply ingrained in our fallen natures. What is the solution to the principles of the beast dwelling in us? There is only one solution, and that is Jesus—His grace, His power, His love filling our hearts and lives. Unless our commitment to Him is stronger than the pull of the world, we will be dominated by the principles of the beast today and will one day accept the beast's mark. The warning against the mark of the beast in the third angel's message should drive us to our knees in humble submission to Christ, pleading for His Spirit to purge us thoroughly from within and work the miracle of divine grace in our hearts. It should also lead us to pray for our family, friends, and neighbors, that they too will have hearts open to Christ's saving last-day message. This message should motivate us to look forward to the day when we will rejoice with Christ around His throne forever (Revelation 19:1-5).

## Prayer Time (30-45 Minutes)

### Praying God's Word – Revelation 14:9, 10

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#### **"If Anyone Worships the Beast and His Image"**

*God, you are a God who cares, a God who desires for all to be saved and not lost. So many people look to false religions, twisted philosophies, and modern-day idols as their source of strength and fulfillment for the brokenness in their lives. We thank You that You care enough to warn them and that we can play a role in leading them to Jesus as the only true Savior worthy of worship.*

#### **"The Wrath of God"**

*God, it gives us great comfort, that You have holy wrath toward sin, evil, and wickedness. Thank You that You desire to destroy sin forever and will reestablish perfect love, peace, and harmony in the universe one day. Thank You that You clearly showed us through Jesus that You do not want to condemn people but to save them. Thank You for giving every human being a choice and opportunity to embrace salvation in Christ. Please save and protect us from following the antichrist principle of self-exaltation and pride. Instead, lead us to follow the Lamb wherever He goes.*

#### **"In the Presence of the Lamb"**

*Jesus, it gives us great comfort to know that in the final judgment it will become evident that Your offer of grace and salvation was not disconnected from justice. Thank You for taking the punishment of all who surrender to You upon Yourself. Thank You that, as hard as it will be to witness the destruction of those who choose to cling to sin, everybody will confess that You have been fair, just, and gracious in all Your dealings.*

## More Prayer Suggestions

**Thanks and Praise:** Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.

**Confession:** Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.

**Guidance:** Ask God to grant wisdom for current challenges and decisions.

**Our Church:** Pray for regional and world church needs (see separate sheet with requests).

**Local Requests:** Pray for current needs of church members, family, and neighbors.

**Listen and Respond:** Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

## Song Suggestions

*SDA Hymnal:* I Sing the Mighty Power of God (#88); O Worship the King (#83); All That Thrills My Soul (#189); All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (#229); Soldiers of Christ, Arise (#616); O Brother, Be Faithful (#602); On Jordan's Stormy Banks (#620); Watch, Ye Saints (#598)