

Reformation 2019  
Revelation 14:6-7

THEN I SAW ANOTHER ANGEL FLYING DIRECTLY OVERHEAD, WITH AN ETERNAL GOSPEL TO PROCLAIM TO THOSE WHO DWELL ON THE EARTH, TO EVERY NATION AND TRIBE AND LANGUAGE AND PEOPLE. AND HE SAID WITH A LOUD VOICE, "FEAR GOD AND GIVE HIM GLORY, BECAUSE THE HOUR OF HIS JUDGMENT HAS COME, AND WORSHIP HIM WHO MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH, THE SEA AND THE SPRINGS OF WATER.

John is on the island of Patmos. He has been exiled there because of the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus. And he is in the Spirit on the Lord's Day when he heard a voice like a trumpet say to him, "Write down what you see in a book (Rev 1:11)."

And what an image John saw. John saw a dragon out to attack a woman who had just given birth to a male child and saw that woman and her male child escape. John then saw that same dragon wage war in heaven, only to lose and then be cast down to the earth. On earth, the dragon went after the woman again, but again, she escaped. The dragon then went after the offspring of the woman, that is, those who "keep the Commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus (12:17)."

Martin Luther was in Wittenberg on account of the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus. He was there as a professor and a pastor, so he taught and preached the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

And oh, the things that Martin saw. He saw the pope attack the Church. He did it with things like the sale of indulgences, the invocation of the saints. Martin Luther saw Jesus Christ Himself attacked as the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith alone was replaced with salvation by the works of human beings. Martin saw himself attacked because he kept the Commandments of God and held to the testimony of Jesus Christ. So, he

was declared an outlaw; he was declared a heretic, because he taught and preached grace alone, faith alone, Scripture alone, -- Christ alone.

I. And here you are, gathered together this morning because of the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus. You're here to hear it. You've come to receive the grace of God in Jesus Christ. And what are the things that you have seen? You've seen the Word of God attacked by people doubting and discrediting things like the creation of the world, marriage and even gender. You've seen the Word of God defamed by those who say Jesus is a nice guy, a good teacher, but he's not the only way into heaven. In fact, there are large numbers of those people who do not even believe He even rose from the dead. And they even mock you because you keep the Commandments of God and give testimony to Jesus.

You have seen what John saw. You have seen what Martin saw. Do you see the pattern here? It's always exactly the same. It's the dragon, the devil, that old, evil foe, attacking the woman, that is, the Church; her male Child, that is, Jesus Christ; and attacking the offspring of the woman, that is, Christians who keep the Commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus Christ. In other words, he attacks you sitting in church pews; he attacks you, Dear Child of God.

That's the vision John writes in the book of Revelation; that's what Martin Luther saw at Wittenberg; and that's what you see in 2019.

But, that's not all you see. John says this, "Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people (v. 6)." As you are daily attacked by the devil, and his demons of popes, evil rulers, and false teachers who want to drag you down into the pit of hell for all eternity, John sees an angel, a messenger, who has the eternal Gospel.

And the eternal Gospel says this, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water (v. 7).”

Fear God. Fear God, you who are attacked by the devil. Fear God, you who are attacked by those who reject the Word of God and mock and ridicule you for keeping the 10 Commandments. Fear God, for the hour of His judgement has come!

He comes with the trumpet of God, attended by His angels and archangels. He comes to sit on His throne, to judge the living and the dead, to separate people, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. To those who have been in cohorts with the devil – those who deny the Word of God, mock those who keep the 10 Commandments, those who sin in thought, word, and deed, and are unrepentant in their sin -- Christ says this, “Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels (Mt 25:41).”

But to John, Martin, to all those who keep the Commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus Christ, He says this, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world (Mt 25:34).”

II. Jesus says that because He has saved you from the devil.

Jesus did that by becoming a man, becoming a man like any man from any nation, tribe, language, and people. And as He walked this earth as a man He went around doing good, fighting the devil. He did that by casting out demons, by forgiving sin, by raising the dead, by making the lame walk, the mute speak, the deaf hear, and the blind see. And because of what He did, the devil attacked Him. The devil went after Him forming alliances and allegiances with the high priest and Sadducees, the Romans,

and even one of Jesus' own. Jesus is betrayed and tried on a charge of blasphemy and insurrection. He was convicted by Jew and by Roman and sentenced to die. And die He did upon a cross where He suffered and bled and died. The devil and his demons and his allies thought they had destroyed Jesus. They thought they had destroyed the Word of God. They thought they had destroyed the Church. But, they didn't. Here's why: Jesus went to that cross having been found guilty of blasphemy and insurrection; but the truth is He goes to that cross carrying all kinds of sins; but they're not His own. They are the sins of every nation, tribe, language and people.

They are your sins. All your blaspheming of God, all your insurrection against God; all your corruption against the life God wants you to live, hung upon the Son of God on that cross. There, on that cross, He bleeds, He dies for them. Because He suffered and died for you, death and the devil could not hold Him. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, He rises again in victory over the devil and hell and all their allies.

III. And He comes and brings that victory to you, to every man and woman of every nation, and tribe, and language, and people; to John, to Martin, and to you. And He does it by His Word. That Word proclaimed; that Word read; that Word joined to water; and that Word joined to bread and wine. That Word brings His victory into your life, so that you can "Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come, and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water (v. 7)."

And you pray, "Thy Kingdom Come," for that hour of judgement to come. For in that hour, Jesus will take you to be with Him forever. On the great day of His judgment, He will raise your body, and you, in body and

soul, will join together with the whole host of heaven crying out, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing (Rev 5:12!” That’s what awaits you, Dear Saint of God.

But, in the here and now of today, a wounded, defeated devil is still going to come after you. He’s going to attack Jesus, the Word of God, the Church, and all her members. But clinging to the eternal Gospel, that Gospel that tells you this,

Though devils all the world should fill,  
All eager to devour us,  
We tremble not, we fear no ill;  
They shall not overpower us.  
This world’s prince may still  
Scowl fierce as he will,  
He can harm us non. He’s judged; the deed is done;  
One little word can fell him {*LSB* 656:3}.

That one, little Word is Jesus and His eternal Gospel.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.