Christmas & Easter

A Study Revealing the Mixed Origins of “Christian” Holidays and How God’s Remnant Should Recognize them

Presented by: Mark LaRose
Date: 02/13/18 Draft
File: ChristmasEaster
Relationship with Christ

• The Most Important Understanding about our Salvation:
  – We believe eternal life is a gift from God in Christ Jesus and we are justified by His grace and His faith who paid the price; death, for our transgressions.

Romans 3:21-26; 4:4-5,25; 6:23; Ephesians 2:4-10; Titus 3:4-7 (Is 53; Eze 36:25-27; John 3:3-8,16; 16:8; Rom 5:6-10; 8:1-4, 14-17; 1Cor 15:3-4,20-22; 2Cor 5:14-15,19-21; Gal 1:4; 3:13-14,26; 4:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Col 1:13-14; Heb 8:7-12; 1Pet 1:23; 2Pet 1:3-4; 1John 2:2; 4:10)

• God “sent his angel to show his servants” the future (Rev 22:6) “Do not despise prophecies.” 1Thess 5:20
  – Purpose: To share the vital necessity of a character transforming relationship with Christ, namely the Gospel of His sacrifice for all who call Him Lord and Savior (Ps 1:1-2; Matt 20:25-28; Luke 19:17-20; John 20:21; Rom 12:2; 2Cor 3:17-18; Gal 5:22-25; Eph 5:19-21; 6:12-18; Phil 3:7-14; Col 2:6; 1Thess 5:16-23; Heb 10:25; 2Pet 2:9; 3:18; 1John 4:4)
Principles of Bible Study

• Paul’s counsel to Timothy:
  – 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for
doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every
good work. 2Tim 3:16-17 (Ps 119:105; Prov 30:5-6; Is 8:20; John 17:17; 1Thess 2:13; Heb 4:12)
  – for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke
as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. 2Pet 1:21

• Bible versions:
  – Use versions with the closest translation to the original language
    • Recommend comparing NKJV (used here), NASB95, KJV, and ESV
  – Concordance sources: www.abibleconcordance.com; www.blueletterbible.org

• Use of Expository study methods (versus Thematic study)
  – This method explores the literal meaning of each word in Scripture and its
    relationship to other words in its context (exegesis)
Origin of Christmas

• “Sol Invictus ("Unconquered Sun") was the official sun god of the later Roman Empire and a patron of soldiers. In 274 AD the Roman emperor Aurelian made it an official cult alongside the traditional Roman cults. Scholars disagree about whether the new deity was a refoundation of the ancient Latin cult of Sol, a revival of the cult of Elagabalus or completely new. The god was favored by emperors after Aurelian and appeared on their coins until Constantine I...The theory dating from the 12th century, that the near-solstice date of 25 December for Christmas was selected because it was the date of the Roman festival of Dies Natalis Solis Invicti (Birthday of the Unconquered Sun) is challenged by some Christian scholars.” “It was a custom of the Pagans to celebrate on the same 25 December the birthday of the Sun, at which they kindled lights in token of festivity. In these solemnities and revelries the Christians also took part. Accordingly when the doctors of the Church perceived that the Christians had a leaning to this festival, they took counsel and resolved that the true Nativity should be solemnised on that day.” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sol_Invictus (12/2016)
Origin of Christmas

- “Constantine decreed (March 7, 321) *dies Solis*—day of the sun, "Sunday"—as the Roman day of rest: On the venerable day of the Sun let the magistrates and people residing in cities rest, and let all workshops be closed. In the country however persons engaged in agriculture may freely and lawfully continue their pursuits because it often happens that another day is not suitable for grain-sowing or vine planting; lest by neglecting the proper moment for such operations the bounty of heaven should be lost.”

✔ Article detailing the history of sun worship, Mithraism, and December 25:

✔ Documentary Video, “Christians Should NOT Celebrate Christmas/Saturnalia The Pagan Holiday” (53:43):  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SA8m6Lo7PBM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SA8m6Lo7PBM)
Origin of Christmas

• “Although it is not known why December 25 became a date of celebration, there are several factors that may have influenced the choice. December 25 was the date the Romans marked as the winter solstice, and Jesus was identified with the Sun based on an Old Testament verse. The date is exactly nine months following Annunciation, when the conception of Jesus is celebrated. Finally, the Romans had a series of pagan festivals near the end of the year, so Christmas may have been scheduled at this time to appropriate, or compete with, one or more of these festivals.” “Various factors contributed to the selection of December 25 as a date of celebration: it was the date of the winter solstice on the Roman calendar; it was nine months after March 25, a date linked to the conception of Jesus; and it was the date of a Roman pagan festival in honor of the Sun god Sol Invictus.” “As Christmas was unknown to the early Christian writers, it must have been introduced sometime after 300. Irenaeus and Tertullian omit it from their lists of feasts, and Origen writes that in the Scriptures sinners alone, not saints, celebrate their birthday. Arnobius can still ridicule the "birthdays" of the gods. The first recorded Christmas celebration was in Rome in 336.”

Origin of Christmas

• “A second element which fundamentally influences the Christian calendar and which, though less primitive than the Easter celebrations, is also of early date, may be described as the Nativity Cycle. Of the origin and history of the feast of Christmas, dealt with in a separate article, little need now be said. We may take it as certain that the feast of Christ's Nativity was kept in Rome on 25 December before the year 354. It was introduced by St. John Chrysostom into Constantinople and definitively adopted in 395.”


• “The well-known solar feast, however, of Natalis Invicti, celebrated on 25 December, has a strong claim on the responsibility for our December date. For the history of the solar cult, its position in the Roman Empire, and syncretism with Mithraism...”

http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=2933

– Mithraism: A mystery religion centered in Rome, inspired by Persian worship. Archaeological finds show “Mithras being born from a rock, slaughtering a bull, and sharing a banquet with the god Sol.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mithraism

– The exchange of gifts had origins in the Roman festival, Saturnalia

True vs False Worship

• “Hear the word which the Lord speaks to you, O house of Israel. Thus says the Lord: “Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; Do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, For the Gentiles are dismayed at them. For the customs of the peoples are futile; For one cuts a tree from the forest, The work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. They decorate it with silver and gold; They fasten it with nails and hammers So that it will not topple. They are upright, like a palm tree, And they cannot speak; They must be carried, Because they cannot go by themselves. Do not be afraid of them, For they cannot do evil, Nor can they do any good.” Jer 10:1-5

– This counsel was literally for Judah (after the northern kingdom had been wiped out by Assyria), and spiritually differentiates two groups today; those claiming the true God (today’s Christians), and those who deny Him

– The problem then was false worship via idols; today it’s false worship
True vs False Worship

• The combining of pagan holidays and rituals with Christian themes was justified as a way to “convert” pagans to Christianity
  – “When the Lord your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land, take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.’ You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way; for every abomination to the Lord which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods. “Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.” Deut 12:29-32

• Merrymaking: Included otherwise illegal gambling, card playing, dancing, and drinking, lavish and elaborate feasts and pageants, gaming
• Gift giving: “Santa Claus”
• Green trees/wreaths: Symbol of eternal life (festival of Saturnalia)
• Holly: A protection against pagans and witches
• Mistletoe
• Yule logs
Mistletoe

• “While mistletoe played an important part in some later Greek and Nordic myths and legends, its relationship with the ancient Celts, who lived in ancient Gaul, Britain, and Ireland, is one of the earliest known examples of the importance of mistletoe. The Druids, who were the priests of a Celtic religious order, regarded the leafy mistletoes as having mystical properties and worshiped them. This belief in mystical properties was due, at least in part, to the fact that mistletoes often grew on the branches of the revered oak tree. In the autumn, as the length of the day decreased, religious significance was focused on the winter solstice, the shortest day of the entire year. The people observed that the mistletoe plants growing on the oaks retained their leaves while at the same time the oaks lost theirs. During the winter, the golden boughs of the mistletoe plant, with its yellow-green leaves and large white berries, seemed to be a remarkable phenomenon, and thus, the mistletoe plant was believed to have mystical properties.”

http://www.apsnet.org/publications/apsnetfeatures/Pages/Mistletoe.aspx (12/2016)
Yule Logs

- “The events of Yule are generally held to have centered on Midwinter…and feasting, drinking, and sacrifice were involved. Scholar Rudolf Simik comments that the pagan Yule feast “Had a pronounced religious character” and comments that “it is uncertain whether the Germanic Yule feast still had a function in the cult of the dead and in the veneration of the ancestors…”

The War on Christmas

• The following link provides a summary of a book, “The War on Christmas: Two Thousand Years of Denouncing and Defending the World’s Most Celebrated Holiday,” confirming the spiritually flawed traditions of Christmas:

✓ It seems plausible that God’s remnant people will, increasingly, find it difficult to defend “celebration” of so called “Christian holidays” based on historical facts showing the blending of pagan rituals with Christian tradition
Origin of Easter

- “Easter isn't a Christian or directly biblical term, but comes from a form of the name Astarte, a Chaldean (Babylonian) goddess known as "the queen of heaven." (She is mentioned by that title in the Bible in Jeremiah 7:18 and 44:17-19, 25 and referred to in 1 Kings 11:5, 33 and 2 Kings 23:13 by the Hebrew form of her name, Ashtoreth. So "Easter" is found in the Bible—as part of the pagan religion God condemns!”
  
  http://exposingdeceptions.org/easter.html

- “In vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.” Matt 15:9

- Should Adventists Celebrate Passover Or Easter? Samuele Bacchiocchi, Ph. D.

- 1st Council of Nicaea (AD325) agreed on a uniform observance of Easter. Origin of symbolism of eggs, pigs, and rabbits is with Nimrod (founder of Babylon) who traditionally became the sun god, Baal (the rising sun). Ishtar claimed Baal impregnated her and she birthed Tammuz. Sun(day) worship has permeated many religions along with facing east during worship. The earthly tabernacle entrance was on the east side (Ex 27:13) to position the back of men to the sun. (note apostasy/rebellion in Ezekiel 8:14-16)
True vs False Worship

• “Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord’s table and of the table of demons.” 1Cor 10:20-21

• “Prior to the Victorian era, Christmas in the United States was primarily a religious holiday observed by Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, and Lutherans. Its importance was often considered secondary to that of Epiphany and Easter. As was the case with other Christian holidays, Christmas borrowed elements from pagan peoples, including yule logs and decorations such as candles, holly, and mistletoe. Christmas trees were seen as pagan in origin. During the various Protestant reformations, these paganizing elements were a source of controversy. Some sects, such as the Puritans, rejected Christmas as an entirely pagan holiday. Others rejected certain aspects of Christmas as paganizing, but wanted to retain the "essence" of the holiday as a celebration of the Christ's birth. This tension put in motion an ongoing debate within some Protestant denominations about the proper observance of Christmas.”

True vs False Worship

- “Christian sects and communities that reject the observance of Christmas for theological reasons include Jehovah’s Witnesses; some adherents of Messianic Judaism; most Sabbatarian denominations, such as the True Jesus Church and the Church of God 7th-Day); the Iglesia ni Cristo; the Christian Congregation in Brazil; the Christian Congregation in the United States; and certain reformed and fundamentalist churches of various persuasions, including some Independent Baptist, Holiness, Apostolic Pentecostal, and Churches of Christ congregations.” [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_controversy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_controversy) (12/2016)
  - A clear minority of religions have concern with the origins of “Christmas”
Sabbath...Holy & Delightful

- **Is 58:13-14** “If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, From doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, The holy day of the Lord honorable, And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking your own words, Then you shall delight yourself in the Lord; And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

- The Lord commands Isaiah in 58:1-2 to tell the people how they have turned away from God, **while they still seek him**!
- Isaiah 58:3-5 describes what the people **were** doing
- Isaiah 58:6-10 indicates what God asks His people **to do**
Our Mission as the Remnant

• “Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” (Rev 19:10)
  – The understanding of prophecy is a call to action; to share the gospel of everlasting life through a relationship with Jesus, proclaiming the 3 angels’ message of Rev 14:6-12

• “...obey God’s commandments” (Rev 12:17) and “Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.” (Rev 14:7)

• “...Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And holds fast My covenant—Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. (Is 56:6-7)

• “Be holy...blameless” (1Pet 1:16-19; 2Pet 3:10-14)
Additional Information

For an excellent verse by verse commentary see: http://www.bibleexplained.com

Ellen Gould White was a prolific author and an American Christian pioneer. Along with other Sabbatarian Adventist leaders such as Joseph Bates and her husband James White, she formed what became known as the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Smithsonian magazine named Ellen G. White among 100 Most Significant Americans in an acknowledgement of her influence on religion. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ellen_G._White

For a discussion about Easter by author, George Reid:
Ellen White Comments

“The twenty-fifth of December is supposed to be the day of the birth of Jesus Christ, and its observance has become customary and popular. But yet there is no certainty that we are keeping the veritable day of our Saviour’s birth. History gives us no certain assurance of this. The Bible does not give us the precise time. Had the Lord deemed this knowledge essential to our salvation, he would have spoken through his prophets and apostles, that we might know all about the matter. But the silence of the Scriptures upon this point evidences to us that it is hidden from us for the wisest purposes. In his wisdom, the Lord concealed the place where he buried Moses. God buried him, and God resurrected him, and took him to heaven. This secrecy was to prevent idolatry. He against whom they rebelled while he was in active service, whom they provoked almost beyond human endurance, was almost worshiped as God after his separation from them by death. For the very same purpose he has concealed the precise day of Christ’s birth; that the day should not receive the honor that should be given to Christ as the Redeemer of the world,—one to be received, to be trusted, to be relied on as he who could save to the uttermost all who come unto him. The soul’s adoration should be given to Jesus as the Son of the infinite God.” {RH December 9, 1884, par. 2}
Ellen White Comments

✓ “There is no divine sanctity resting upon the twenty-fifth of December; and it is not pleasing to God that anything that concerns the salvation of man through the infinite sacrifice made for them, should be so sadly perverted from its professed design. Christ should be the supreme object; but as Christmas has been observed, the glory is turned from him to mortal man...” {RH December 9, 1884, par. 3}

✓ “Now, brethren, let us on Christmas make special efforts to come before the Lord with gifts and grateful offerings for the gift of Jesus Christ as a Redeemer to the world. Let nothing now be spent needlessly; but let every penny that can be spared be put out to the exchangers. Satan has had his way in managing these occasions to suit himself. Now let us turn the current heavenward instead of earthward. Let us show by our offerings that we appreciate the self-denial and sacrifice of Christ in our behalf. Let God be brought to remembrance by every child and parent; and let the offerings, both small and large, be brought to the store-house of God.” {RH December 9, 1884, par. 15}
Ellen White Comments

✓ “You that have means, who have been in the habit of making donations to your relatives and friends until you are at a loss to know what to invent that will be new and interesting to them, seek to put your ingenuity to the test, as well as your influence, to see how much means you may gather to advance the work of the Lord. Let your skill and your capacities be employed to make the coming Christmas one of intense interest, paying your addresses to the God of heaven in willing, grateful offerings. Follow no longer the world’s customs. Make a break here, and see if this Christmas cannot show thousands of dollars flowing into the treasury, that God’s store-house may not be empty. You may not be recompensed on earth, but you will be rewarded in the future life, and that abundantly. Let those who have so long planned for self now begin to plan for the cause of God, and you will certainly have increased wisdom. Let the conscience be enlightened, and the love of truth and of Christ take the place of idolatrous thoughts and love of self. Will you not arise, my Christian brethren and sisters, and gird yourselves for duty in the fear of God, so arranging this matter that it shall not be dry and uninteresting, but full of innocent enjoyment that shall bear the signet of Heaven? I know the poorer class will respond to these suggestions. The most wealthy should also show an interest, and bestow their gifts and offerings proportionate to the means with which God has intrusted them. Let there be recorded in the heavenly books such a Christmas as has never yet been seen, because of the donations which shall be given for the sustaining of the work of God and the upbuilding of his kingdom.” {RH December 9, 1884, par. 16}
“We are now nearing the close of another year, and shall we not make these festal days opportunities in which to bring to God our offerings? I cannot say sacrifices, for we shall only be rendering to God that which is his already, and which he has only intrusted to us till he shall call for it. God would be well pleased if on Christmas, each church would have a Christmas tree on which shall be hung offerings, great and small, for these houses of worship. Letters of inquiry have come to us asking, Shall we have a Christmas tree? will it not be like the world? We answer, You can make it like the world if you have a disposition to do so, or you can make it as unlike the world as possible. There is no particular sin in selecting a fragrant evergreen, and placing it in our churches; but the sin lies in the motive which prompts to action, and the use which is made of the gifts placed upon the tree.” {RH December 11, 1879, par. 15}
Ellen White Comments

✓ “Our birthday anniversaries, and Christmas and Thanksgiving festivals, are too often devoted to selfish gratification, when the mind should be directed to the mercy and loving-kindness of God. **God is displeased that His goodness, His constant care, His unceasing love, are not brought to mind on these anniversary occasions.**” —The Review and Herald, December 23, 1890. {CSW 143.2}

✓ “As a people we have backslidden from God; let us return unto him, and he will return unto us, and will heal all our backslidings. **Let us, upon the coming Christmas and New Year’s festivals, not only make an offering to God of our means, but give ourselves unreservedly to him, a living sacrifice.**” {RH December 26, 1882, par. 4}

✓ “Let us celebrate Christmas by remembering God, *instead of remembering our friends and relatives with gifts which they do not need.*” {RH December 11, 1888, Art. A, par. 20}
“In every church, however small, special efforts should be made to show our gratitude to God by bringing our offerings for his cause. Let those who desire a Christmas tree make its boughs fruitful with gifts for the needy, and offerings for the treasury of God. And let the children learn the blessedness of giving by bringing their little gifts to add to the offerings of their parents.” {RH December 26, 1882, par. 15}

“While urging upon all the duty of first bringing their offerings to God, I would not wholly condemn the practice of making Christmas and New Years gifts to our friends. It is right to bestow upon one another tokens of love and remembrance if we do not in this forget God, our best friend. We should make our gifts such as will prove a real benefit to the receiver. I would recommend such books as will be an aid in understanding the word of God, or that will increase our love for its precepts.” {RH December 26, 1882, par. 18}
“This spirit of self-sacrifice has become feeble in the hearts of Christ’s professed followers. Instead of gratefully inquiring, “What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?” how many of those who claim to have been redeemed by the blood of Christ, seem bent on self-pleasing. Even Christmas, the day observed professedly in honor of the birthday of Christ, has been made a most effective means of turning the mind away from Christ, away from his glory. If Christmas is kept at all, it should be kept in a way that will be in harmony with its significance. Christ should be remembered, his name honored; the old, old story of his love should be recounted. Instead of saying by our actions that we are putting Christ out of our minds and hearts, we should testify to men, to angels, and to God, that we remember our Redeemer, by following his example of self-sacrifice for others’ good. But the day chosen to honor Christ is devoted by the many to honoring and pleasing themselves. Appointed to keep the Saviour in remembrance, it is spent in causing him to be forgotten.” {RH December 9, 1890, Art. A, par. 3}
“Let your Christmas tree be dedicated to God, and let its boughs be laden with offerings for Christ. Do not give as though it were a task, doling out your donations with a niggardly hand. Good works are no drudgery. In giving to us his Son, God has poured out to us all Heaven in one gift. Let us with an overflowing heart, with gratitude and joy because of Christ’s matchless love, bring him our offerings. Teach your children by your own example the blessedness of doing for Christ. Train them to go on errands of love for him, and in all their gifts to remember the gracious Giver.” {ST December 8, 1887, par. 16}

“We do not want the cause of God to go crippling along for want of means that are needed upon the right hand and upon the left. We want the little rivulets to be turned into the treasury. Let every one bring in an offering to God. Don’t you think that this is the way to observe Christmas? Don’t you think it is the best way, rather than that means should go into the treasuries of the ungodly?” {Ms8-1880.17}
“Yesterday was Christmas. Did you do as the wise men did by offering your gifts to Jesus? Or has the enemy changed the order of things and directed the worship to himself? The gifts are now bestowed upon friends instead of Him who has made so great a sacrifice for us. All the gifts should flow in another channel, where they could be used in the salvation of men.” {Ms60-1886.22}

“Why are children and those of mature age educated to put their inventive powers to work to contrive gifts for one another, while the Lord God of heaven, who has made the gift of Himself to the world in His only begotten Son, is left out of the question? How the Lord is dishonored in the celebration of Christmas! How He is robbed, both of talents of means and of thanksgiving and praise which should well up in every heart and flow forth from every voice! Let the thank offerings come in, small and large. Let the treasury be well filled.” {Ms52-1890.12}
Ellen White Comments

✓ “as a satisfaction for all this worldliness, Christians are making a great deal of Lent and Easter and church ornamentation. It is the old trick of Satan. The Jewish church struck on that rock; the Romish church was wrecked on the same; and the Protestant is fast reaching the same doom.” {GC88 386.3}

✓ “The Council of Nice, “out of complaisance to Constantine the Great, ordered the solemnity of Easter to be kept everywhere on the same day, after the custom of Rome.” [Bower’s History of the Popes, Vol. 1, pp. 18, 19.] This decree, “backed by the authority of so great an emperor,” was decisive; “none but some scattered schismatics, now and then appearing, that durst oppose the resolution of that famous synod.” [Hevlyn, History of the Sabbath, part 2, chap. 2, secs. 4, 5.] {GC88 686.2}
Ellen White Comments

✓ “I saw that our holidays should not be spent in patterning after the world, yet they should not be passed by unnoticed, for this will bring dissatisfaction to our children. ... Let several families living in a city or village unite and leave the occupations which have taxed them physically and mentally, and make an excursion into the country to the side of a fine lake or to a nice grove where the scenery of nature is beautiful. They should provide themselves with plain, hygienic food, the very best fruits and grains, and spread their table under the shade of some tree or under the canopy of heaven. The ride, the exercise, and the scenery will quicken the appetite, and they can enjoy a repast which kings might envy. On such occasions parents and children should feel free from care, labor, and perplexity. Parents should become children with their children, making everything as pleasant for them as possible. Let the whole day be given to recreation. Exercise in the open air for those whose employment has been withindoors and sedentary will be beneficial to health. All who can, should feel it a duty to pursue this course. Nothing will be lost, but much gained. They can return to their occupations with new life and new courage to engage in their labor with zeal, and they are better prepared to resist disease.” {1T 515.1-3}
Call to Personal Action

- “24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. 26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins” Heb 10:24-26

(Repent: 2Chron 6:37-39; Eze 14:6; Matt 3:2; Luke 24:47; Acts 17:30)

- The **Bridegroom** of Matt 25:1-13 is returning from the wedding, soon. Prepare by storing oil (The Spirit) in our lamps now:
  1. Accept and invite Jesus daily (the Altar of Sacrifice)
  2. Wash in the baptism of the Spirit (the Laver)
  3. Keep a prayer in mind, constantly (the Golden Altar of Incense)
  4. Read God’s Word daily (the Table of Showbread)
  5. Share the gospel of Jesus; the 3 angels’ message (the Lampstand)
  6. Dwell on the goodness of His law (the Ark of His Covenant)
Call to Public Action

• The 4th angel of Rev 14:15, the illuminating angel of Rev 18:1-3, is the proclamation of the interpretation of the mystery of Rev 17:8-11. God’s remnant will repeat the 2nd and 3rd angel messages (Rev 14:8-13) with much greater power than during the “midnight cry” in 1844. (Hab 2:14)

  1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.
  2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! 3 For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.” Rev 18:1-3

– This is a warning for all of God’s people to come out of spiritual Babylon, the counterfeit trinity (spiritualism, the papacy, apostate Protestants/false prophet) (the abyss beast, the sea beast, the earth beast)
Final Plea before Michael Stands

- The 5th angel of Rev 14:18 (Jesus, Himself), corresponds with the warning voice of Rev 18:4:
  - And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.”  
  - Speaking of the 2 Witnesses, “…And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.”  

- The Word/witness of the Old and New Testaments, including the law and the prophets, are known to all, so that each one will make an informed decision on Whom to Worship

- This is the very last warning to accept salvation through Jesus Christ before the pre-advent “investigative” judgment closes (Dan 12:1), followed by the plagues of Rev 16  (Rev 14:17-20; Eze 9:5-10)