

Messages from Revelation 3 of 16

Fellowship through Nature

#0464

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—May 18, 1973

Our text this evening is Revelation 14:6–7, as we continue our study of the great message, the three-fold message that God is sending to all the world just before the return of Jesus. This is meat in due season. This is the fruit from the tree of life for *this* time. This is to this generation what Noah's message was to the men before the flood.

“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, 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” Revelation 14:6–7.

Two weeks ago this evening, we studied that expression, “Fear God, and give glory to Him.” This is the keynote of the whole three-fold message. Our eyes are to be turned from men, from fear or favor, and turned to the living God. He is the one worthy of reverence. He is the one to whom to give glory.

Last week we studied this expression: “the hour of His judgment is come.” We found that we are in the harvest time. Every plant is going to seed. *Soon* the Savior is coming with the sickle to reap the harvest of the earth. The harvest does not *make* character, it *reveals* character. The judgment does not make us; it shows what we are. And in this solemn hour of judgment, God is ripening up the harvest. The sun and rain of His love, His truth, is developing a people that will reflect the image of Jesus fully, while the enemy is developing a people who reflect the image of Satan fully.

This evening we're going to study this expression which follows: “and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” Another way of putting this is, worship the Creator. What did He make? He made everything. He made heaven and earth, and all that in them is. He made you and me. He made the angels and everything in the universe. And it is because of this that we *are* to worship Him. “Worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” Note in this same book of Revelation in the fourth chapter and the 11th verse. See how the thought of worship is linked with the fact that He is the Creator:

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power..."

Why?

"...for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created" Revelation 4:11.

What greater right to our worship can He give us than this, friend—that He made us? If *He* made us, nobody else made us. Then no other being in this universe is entitled to our worship.

Turn over to the Psalms. We want to notice a text from the 100th Psalm, the 96th Psalm, and the 95th Psalm. As we pointed out in our first study from Revelation, in this wonderful book of Revelation, all the books of the Bible meet and end. There are golden threads running from each of the other books of the Scriptures, all converging in this great book of Revelation. Now notice these thoughts we've just been reading from Revelation 14 and 4, see how they are an echo of what we're going to read here in the Psalms. The 100th Psalm:

"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture" Psalm 100:1–3.

The call to worship is linked with the fact that we are His, and He made us. We didn't make ourselves; He made us. Now the 96th Psalm:

"For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens" Psalm 96:5.

All the different gods that have been worshiped down through the ages in the different nations and races, they're all powerless. But the God that you and I are called to worship is the living God, and He made everything; that's why we're to worship. Now the 95th Psalm:

"For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In His hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is His also. The sea is His, and He made it: and His hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker" Psalm 95:3–6.

This is why we kneel as we come into His house and begin the meeting, with the solemn worship of God in prayer. "O come," says the scripture, "let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our maker." This act of reverence in kneeling before the Lord belongs to our worship of Him.

You remember that on the plain of Dura, King Nebuchadnezzar, as we noted two weeks ago, built that great image and commanded everybody to do what? To kneel down, bow down and worship it. All the world bowed down, but there were three young men that stood up. Why? Because the law of God says, thou shall not bow down thyself to these images and worship them. Thou shall have no other gods before me. Soon, my dear friends, as we read there in Revelation 13:15–17, there will be issued a command to worship a modern image, an image of the beast. And all who will not worship that image are to be destined for death. But God's people won't bow down then any more than Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego bowed back there. Why? Because they have heard this trumpet call to 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 water. No, *men* are not to be worshipped, *idols* are not to be worshipped, *angels* are not to be worshipped. Let's turn back to the book of Revelation. John became so overpowered with the glory, the grandeur, the splendor of the scene which was shown him by the angel of prophecy, that he fell at his feet to worship him—the angel Gabriel. Notice Revelation 19:

“...I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me,
See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy
brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God:
for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy”
Revelation 19:10.

Don't worship me, the angel said. Worship God. Friends, if you are working for God and people begin to praise you and flatter you and tell you how wonderful you are, the way you preach, or the way you sing, or the way you do anything, you can do no better than what the angel did. Turn the attention away from the creature to the Creator. This will give glory to God. Now, it's all right to express our appreciation of what God's servants do. But in doing it, let's give glory to God, not man. For to every one of us the question comes, “What hast thou that thou didst not receive?” The ability to sing, to play, to preach, to give Bible studies, to treat patients, to wash dishes, to hoe corn, all those are the gifts of God. And whatever God has given us, let's use it to the glory of His name, but let it be to the glory of *His* name, what do you say, friend? “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.”

Now let's go back to Exodus 20, and let's pick up another wonderful thread which runs on down to this last message. You remember this 20th chapter of exodus contains the Ten Commandments written by the finger of God upon the tables of stone; actually copied by God's hand from the great original law in the Ark in the Temple in Heaven, as Revelation 19:10 shows. Right in the heart of this law is the fourth of the Ten Commandments. Will you read with me Exodus 20:8–1, and as we come to the climax of this great commandment, notice the words which are echoed in the angel's message we're studying tonight—Worship Him that made heaven and

earth and the sea, and the fountains of waters. See where the original statement of this is, that the angel echo's down in our time. All together:

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shall thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shall not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it” Exodus 20:8–11.

Why are we to worship God? Because He made heaven and earth and everything in them. What did He give us as a sign of that? Something intimately linked with that act of creation. He took six days to make the heaven and the earth and all that in them is. He rested the seventh day. Now He says to you and me, Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. I worked six days and rested the seventh day. I blessed it and sanctified it. Now I want *you* to work six days and get the blessing that I have put into that day.

Oh friends, I'm so thankful for the Sabbath day. It reminds me every week of the wonderful fact that He is my Creator. He made everything. He made me. This is why I'm to worship Him. It's a good reason, what do you say? It's a wonderful reason.

You know, if people had always kept the Sabbath there never would have been an idol worshiper. There never would have been an infidel. Before man can start worshiping an idol, he has to forget the fact that the God that's due worship is the One who made everything. How senseless the idols look compared with this wonderful view of the character of God as Creator. So the Sabbath comes to us a few minutes this evening, we'll be welcoming these holy hours; for the Bible day begins at sundown. So from Friday sundown to Saturday sundown is the Bible seventh day. What a blessing God has packed into these 24 hours. And worship Him that made it.

Now, as we have noted, this is God's sign of creation. It is this sign of creation that God is putting deep into the minds and hearts of His people in this closing hour.

Turn back once more to the book of Revelation, this time to the seventh chapter. In the first verse, we see the angels holding back the winds of war and strife and destruction. In the second verse, we see the reason:

“...I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal...”

Or sign, or mark.

“...of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads” Revelation 7:2–3.

The creative mark, the sign of God’s creative power—the seventh-day Sabbath—is to be put deep into the soul. The very mind is to be imprinted with the fact that God is worthy of our total worship because He made us. On this point comes the final battle of the great controversy. We shall study that in future evenings, but for tonight note, that here in the forebrain God is putting His mark, His seal, His sign. Notice that it is the seal of the living God—no mark of some idol. It is the God that made *all* things, and that lives today. Someone has well said that the Christian religion is the only religion that has an empty tomb where its founder once was. Go where you will among the religions of earth, and the founder is asleep today, he’s dead. But thank God, we worship the living God, the Creator who came down and took our flesh, went to death for us, and came out of the tomb. It’s empty. He’s gone to Heaven and there He ministers for us at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens. He’s coming soon to take His people to that glorious abode. Oh, I’m thankful for His Sabbath sign of creative power. What do you say?

Now let’s look back at Revelation 14:7, and look a little deeper into this message. “And worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” The message could have been worded, worship God, worship the Lord. But there is something deep, something to be studied in this expression, “Worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” We are summoned in this message to examine, to explore, to study the works of the Creator.

I look at my watch. I can learn something about the man that made it. I know he can count, don’t I? Yes. I know he’s very particular, very careful, very thorough because my watch keeps time. If it was possible for me to take time and become intimately acquainted with all the details of that watch, I probably would have a great appreciation of the skill of the man that made it, what do you say?

When we come to become acquainted with the Creator by examining His works, our sense of wonder deepens, and we worship Him more intelligently. This is what the Sabbath especially summons us to do. On the Sabbath more than on any other day, we are invited to behold the works of Him who made all things.

May I share these thoughts with you concerning this matter of linking together the study of nature, the keeping of the Sabbath, and the worship of the Creator? To adore, we need to admire. To admire, we need to appreciate. To appreciate, we need to understand. To understand, we need to meditate. To meditate, we need to behold. To behold we need to mingle with His created works—the birds, the flowers, the trees, and all the things that He has made. To do all this, we need time and space.

Now, I'd like to go over this again because it's very important in our message tonight. Some of you in this audience are deeply interested in nature. But remember what Sir Isaac Newton, one of the greatest philosophers of history, said at the close of his life. He was the man who discovered the great law of gravitation. He said, "Men speak of me as Sir Isaac Newton. But I seem to myself to be like a little boy along the seashore that has here and there picked up a tiny shell, while before me lies still unexplored, the great ocean of truth."

So I suggest that those here tonight who know the most about nature have still more to learn. And if there are those who have never been particularly interested in nature, here as the angel invites you, nay more, exhorts you, commands you shall I say: worship Him that made heaven and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. This takes in everything around us that we can see and hear and handle. Worship Him. But to worship Him, friends, means to adore Him. And to adore Him means that we must admire His handiwork.

We cannot truly worship *Him* unless we admire what He made. But to do this, we must appreciate it. To appreciate it, we must understand it. The more we understand it, the greater our appreciation will be. Therefore the deeper and higher and broader our worship will be. But to understand it we must meditate on it.

Driving along the freeway 70 miles an hour, we see quite a bit of nature, but we miss a lot too. It's these early Sabbath morning walks, or afternoon strolls through the woods and the fields, these are the experiences that enlarge the dimensions of our worship. As we behold the lilies of the field, consider how they grow, as we behold the fowls of the air and meditate on these works of God, lessons of God's wisdom and God's power and God's love come to us. We may be conscious of them, or they may steal into the soul almost unnoticed by the part of our brain that we're conscious of. Oh friends, there's something that happens when we mingle with what God has made with our eyes and ears and heart open to His love.

It will be good for our health, of course, to be in nature, working with God the six days, and resting with Him the seventh day. It will add to, multiply our happiness, to spend more time with the plants, the growing things in the garden, the field, in the woods. All these experiences add to our health and happiness. But most of all, and most important, it will enlarge the dimensions of our worship. We shall more intelligently, more appreciatively, speak to our father in Heaven, "Oh Lord, how great Thou art! How manifold are Thy works." Out under the stars at night, or looking at the glory of the sunrise, the beauty of the sunset, how the heart can go out more and more in an appreciation to God. This will not only make us happy, it will make *Him* happy.

You remember that gem we were looking at in Revelation 4:11?

"Thou art worthy Oh, Lord to receive glory and honor and power for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created" Revelation 4:11.

What pleasure does God get out of you? I'll tell you, friends, one of His greatest pleasures is just to make you happy. And He'll open a million buds in the hope that you'll find one of them and praise Him for it. He'll make a million trees grow in the hope that you'll see one that especially catches your fancy, and you say, "Lord, what a beautiful Maple, what a beautiful White Oak, what a graceful Dogwood. Lord, I love You; I thank You for making that for me." And worship Him that made. Do you see? Worship Him that made.

Just as last Friday night, I was telling you, when you study the Bible, try, sometimes at least, kneeling down and talking with God about what we read. So when you mingle with the things of nature, cultivate the habit of talking with the Savior as you walk through the woods, as you follow the trails. Talk to Him about what He has made. This is worshiping Him as Creator. And remember, it will make Him happy. As I pointed out, to do all this, to do much of any of it calls for time and space. God has arranged plenty of both; of course the enemy seeks to divert and pervert.

You remember that in the beginning, God placed our first parents where? In a garden, *The Garden of Eden*. Genesis 2:15:

"...the LORD God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it" Genesis 2:15.

Man is the caretaker of the garden of God. What a job He's made of it. Would you turn to Revelation 11, and see how God feels about it? We're going to notice especially the last line, but we'll read the whole verse.

"And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that Thou should give reward unto Thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear Thy name, small and great; and should destroy them which..."

What?

"...destroy the earth" Revelation 11:18.

Are people destroying the earth? Are they polluting the air, polluting the water? And by many practices actually destroying the earth itself? Does that make any difference to God? Yes. God is going to destroy them that destroy the earth.

Tell me friends: Do you worship God? Do you like what He makes? Do you like the way He makes it? Are you working with Him to *keep* what He made? Or are you working with those that destroy what He has made?

Turn over a page to Revelation 9:

“...they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon” Revelation 9:11.

If you have a margin, what does that mean? Destroyer. It means the same in Hebrew and Greek. The Hebrew word “Abaddon” means destroyer; the Greek word ‘Apollyon’ means destroyer. God is the Creator. His great enemy is the destroyer. Which one are you working with? May I read you something interesting from this marvelous volume *Desire of Ages*?

“Satan’s hatred against God leads him to hate every object of the Savior’s care. He seeks to mar the handiwork of God...”

Who does? Satan. What does he seek to do? To mar the handiwork of God.

“...and he delights in destroying even the dumb creatures. It is only through God’s protecting care that the birds are preserved to gladden with their songs of joy” *The Desire of Ages*, page 356.

Think of it friends, if the Devil had his way, if God would permit him, he’d kill every Cardinal, every Thrush, every Warbler, every Mockingbird, every Meadow Lark; I’m sure he’d leave some birds of whose names I won’t mention. My point is anything beautiful and lovely that God made to delight our senses, the Devil would like to destroy. Why? Because it gives us a picture of the Creator’s love.

The Devil has perverted a lot of things. God didn’t make the thorns and briars. The Devil took some lovely plant that God made and twisted and perverted it. He’s done that in the bird and animal creation. He would like to either pervert or destroy everything that God has made.

Now listen, let’s be practical; if all this is so, and here it is, we’ve read it here in the Bible and from these inspired pages, listen, if this is so, and I delight in destroying anything that God has made if I find joy in killing a bird or killing an animal just for sport, what kind of a mind am I developing? Or is that a good question? It’s right on the point, friend. If I’m worshiping God as Creator, then I shall find my joy in *preserving* what He has made instead of destroying it. What do you say?

Do you see, friends? Now I know there are rattlesnakes that need to be killed. Satan, the great serpent, has intruded himself into God’s creation, as I have noted, and he has used certain things. But most of the plants and animals and birds still bear abundant marks of the Creator’s wisdom and love, am I correct? And even in killing some poisonous reptile, I wouldn’t do it for sport. I’d do it to work with God to destroy the works of the Devil. I’d do it to preserve life. Do you see?

But where will I find my joy? Well, I'll find my joy in working with God to grow the beautiful fruits and flowers and vegetables in the garden. I'll find it in seeking to preserve the beauty of the landscape instead of destroying it.

You know we're in a time when a lot is said about pollution—pollution of the air, pollution of the water, and destruction in other ways. Those who understand the three-fold message of Revelation 14 can, more than anybody on this planet, enter in intelligently and enthusiastically in working with God to preserve what He has made. We shall not be found among those who litter the landscape with beer bottles or with any other kinds of bottles or refuse, what do you say? Why? Because we admire the Creator's work. We'd hate to go on the grounds of Buckingham Palace or the White House and throw cans and bottles and papers around.

I'm so glad that the mind of the Creator is being put more and more into His children, so that they love to work with Him to conserve instead of to destroy.

Just this thought, I can only introduce it tonight, another evening, God willing, I want to develop. But I can't wait to put this thought: Of all the things that God has made here in this world, which is the more important to God? Man. Which most reflects the Creator's wisdom? Man. Which do you think you and I will be most interested in studying, meditating on, and working with God to preserve? Which of all the things in creation will we be most interested in if we're worshiping Him as Creator? Human beings. So to study physiology for the purpose so that we may work with God to preserve this body that He made in His image, this is one of the most important things in worshiping *Him* as Creator. This exalts physiology and lifts it to a high level. This exalts hygiene and includes it as a religious duty. Health habits become a part of fellowship with our Lord. We are working with Him as the Creator because we love Him, and we want to keep healthy and happy and holy what He made.

Are you glad for the way God made human beings, plants, animals, birds, stars, mountains, valleys, rivers, lakes, the mighty ocean? Do you like it? Oh, I know there are marks of the enemy, but the Bible explains that—tares among the wheat. But this is my father's world, and to my listening ears, all nature sings and 'round me rings the music of the spheres. Thank God, friends, we're surrounded with 10,000 evidences that the One that made us made us for joy and success, for health and happiness.

Why shouldn't we worship such a One? Why shouldn't our hearts go out in appreciation and love and adoration? And then when we remember that the One who made all this thought so much of His handiwork—you and me—that He came down here and lived among us. Then went to the cross and died for us, that His blood might wash away our sins, and that we might be restored to fellowship with Him. He's coming soon, and eventually, He's going to make this planet over. There won't be any more weeds; no more thorns or briars; no more venomous snakes. No more death, no more strife—only beauty.

“They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain:
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD,
as the waters cover the sea” Isaiah 11:9.

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