

WHO IS THE ANGEL WITH THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL?

Rev 14:6 "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth."

The celestial spirits of the invisible world are called "angels", or "messengers." But the term is also used in a different sense to denote pastors or preachers. Thus in the second and third chapter of The Revelation, Jesus directs His letters to the "angel of the church", namely, the pastor or bishop.

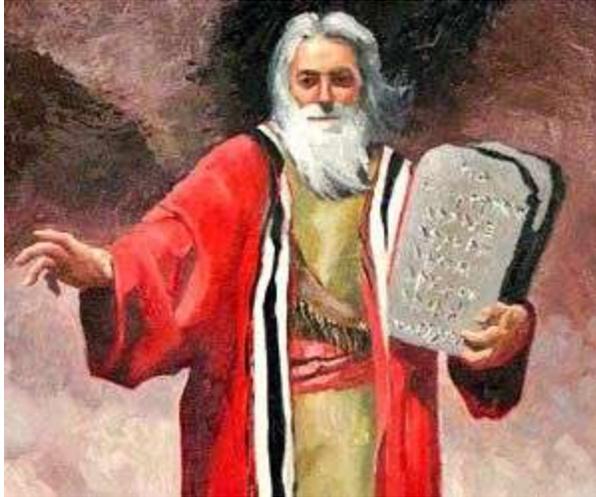
Our text also speaks of an "angel, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth." This description should fit every true preacher of God's Word. What else should a pastor tell his people? What other message is there, except the sweet story of the love of God which gave His only-begotten Son to die for the sins of the world? There is only one message that can save us, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved," (Acts 16:31).

However, it is evident that our text refers to an outstanding preacher at a time of great importance. Who is this angelic preacher? We shall endeavor to answer that question.

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1. THE LABOR OF MOSES IS PORTRAYED

Moses was born in trying times and was hid, for a while, on the Nile river until discovered by Pharaoh's daughter. Because she adopted him, he spent the first forty years of his life in the courts of the Egyptians. His future was very secure and he may have become the next ruler of the land.



But there came a day of decision when he had to choose between God's people and the Egyptians. He chose his own people and fled from Egypt and spent the next forty years caring for sheep. At the age of eighty years the Lord appeared to him in a burning bush and called him to be the leader of the Israelites. He was called about 1500 B.C.

The Lord often deals with us in a strange way. God permitted Moses to be schooled in the camp of his future opponents, and then called him to be one of the greatest men of the Old Testament. Moses gave us the first revelation of God for he wrote the first five books of the Bible. Although he might have been a great man in the courts of Egypt, God gave him a far greater role in his new calling.

There are two main reasons why Moses was such a great man of God. First, by giving us the law he showed us our sins and wickedness and thereby showed us the need of a Savior. Secondly, he gave us the first promise of the Savior to come, the "Seed of the woman." Even the Passover, instituted by Moses under God's direction, was a picture of the "Lamb of God" to come. Moses was great in the eyes of the Lord because of his teachings on sin and grace, he taught that we are saved by grace, by faith in the coming Redeemer. Being saved by grace through faith in the Messiah, Moses taught that we should show our thanks by our good works, and, like Enoch, we should "walk with God."

Now about 1500 years later we find a strange parallel to the life of Moses in the life and ministry of the Apostle Paul. He, too, was called from bondage to freedom.

2. THE MINISTRY OF PAUL IS DESCRIBED

Paul, like Moses, was also raised in the camp of his future opponents, for he was born and raised as a strict Pharisee. He was taught that a person could be self-righteous and holy, that a Savior from sin was unnecessary. The energetic Paul was not satisfied to be a mere member of the Pharisees, he became their leader. Had he remained with them he would have reached even greater heights, no doubt. He was the guiding spirit of his sect and traveled to far away Damascus to arrest the Christians in that city.



As the Lord appeared to Moses in the burning bush, so Jesus appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus and converted him from bondage to freedom. Jesus said of Paul that he was to be "a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel" ([Acts 9:15](#)). From that time on Paul worked and fought for Jesus with an amazing zeal and energy. He is perhaps the most famous man of all time and stands at the head of the New Testament, as Moses stands at the head of the Old Testament. Paul wrote more of the New Testament than any other Apostle and he is the chief teacher of the Church until the end of time.

The real greatness of Paul, like Moses, can be summed up in Paul's words to Timothy, "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners: of whom I am chief" ([1Tim 1:15](#)). Saved by grace, saved by faith is the chief teaching of the Apostle which he emphasizes in [Romans 3:28](#), "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law." Does Paul teach that the law is of no more use or benefit? **He rejects that thought** in the last verse of [Romans 3](#), "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid; yea, we establish the law."

[1 Cor 2:2](#) expresses Paul's guiding theme of life, "I determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." This is what we mean when we say that Paul was called from bondage to freedom. Paul was under the bondage of the law as a Pharisee, but when he was converted by grace he became free to serve his Lord and Savior. May the life of this great man of God inspire us all to greater faith and love and zeal.

Who is the angel with the everlasting gospel sent to preach unto them that dwell on the earth? This description especially fits another man whom the Lord used in His kingdom.

3. THE REFORMATION BY LUTHER IS FORETOLD

Martin Luther was born about 1500 years after Paul. Moses and Paul and Luther are, oddly enough, about 1500 years apart in history. As

Moses and Paul, so Luther was reared and schooled in the camp of his future opponents. Luther, like Moses and Paul, gave his heart and soul to his work, and was so zealous that he was given the title of "Doctor" by the church of his day and became a professor at one of the universities. Who knows to what heights this man might have risen had he remained with the church of his birth? In any case, he was a leader of the Roman church.



Through the study of the Bible, and in particular the writings of Paul, Luther began to see the hopelessness of ever making satisfaction to God for sin and wickedness by one's own deeds and works. With what wonder and amazement did he not read of the love of God to fallen sinners, and how sins are freely forgiven through faith in the dear

Savior. [John 3:16](#) suddenly took on a new and glorious meaning for Luther. He, too, passed from bondage to freedom.

Like Moses and Paul, Luther's greatness was in his teachings on sin and grace. There is, perhaps, no more beautiful sentence in any language, written by an uninspired man, than Luther's explanation to the second article of the Apostle's Creed. It beautifully sums up the whole teachings of Moses and Paul on sin and grace and the Savior. Truly our text prophesies of the Reformation of the Church by Luther. These three men were great in the eyes of the Lord and the Church because they glorified Jesus Christ as the only "Way, Truth, and Life" for our lost world.

Every true child of God confesses with Paul, "I am the chief of sinners." Every true child of God accepts what Jesus says in [John 6:40](#), "This is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son and believeth on him, may have everlasting life; and I will raise him *up* at the last day." Every true child of God believes what Jesus says in [John 15:5](#), "I am the vine, ye are the branches; he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing." If this is our description then we have the same faith as Moses and Paul and Luther, then we also have been called and converted from bondage to the glorious freedom of God. Then we can also say with firm conviction and joy—

Moses' and Paul's and Luther's doctrine pure, Shall to all eternity endure. Hallelujah! AMEN.

PRAYER. O holy and blessed Trinity, we thank Thee again for having given us the pure Gospel through Thy servant Luther. We truly marvel at Thy grace and mercy to us in these last days of the world. May the saving Gospel of our crucified Savior be our most precious possession and help us to spread Thy Truth throughout all nations so that many more blood-bought souls might be converted from the bondage of sin to the freedom of the Gospel. Hear us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Savior and Redeemer. AMEN.