

Why Jesus Waits



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Is There a Delay?

- ❖ James 5:7, 8
- ❖ Husbandman (Jesus) is waiting for the fruit of the earth to ripen
- ❖ Early Rain and Latter Rain are necessary



The Delay Described

Had the purpose of God been carried out by His people in giving to the world the message of mercy, **Christ would, ere this, have come** to the earth, and the saints would have received their welcome into the city of God. — *Testimonies For The Church* Vol. 6, p. 450 (1900)

The Delay Explained

Had Adventists, after the great disappointment in 1844, held fast their faith and followed on unitedly in the opening providence of God, receiving the message of the third angel and in the power of the Holy Spirit proclaiming it to the world, they would have seen the salvation of God, the Lord would have wrought mightily with their efforts, the work would have been completed, and **Christ would have come ere this** to receive His people to their reward. — EV 695.2

The Delay Explained

“For forty years did unbelief, murmuring, and rebellion shut out ancient Israel from the land of Canaan. The **same sins** have delayed the entrance of modern Israel into the heavenly Canaan. In neither case were the promises of God at fault. It is the unbelief, the worldliness, unconsecration, and **strife** among the Lord’s professed people that have kept us in this world of sin and sorrow so many years.”—

Manuscript 4, 1883. (Ev 696.2)

Insubordination and Delay

“We may have to remain here in this world because of **insubordination** many more years, as did the children of Israel; but for Christ’s sake, His people should not add sin to sin by charging God with the consequence of their own wrong course of action.”—Letter 184, 1901. (Ev 696.3)

The Harvest and the Last Generation

- ❖ Revelation
14:14-16
- ❖ There will be a
fully ripened
harvest when Jesus
comes back
- ❖ Mark 4:28, 29



“The wheat develops ‘first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.’ The object of the husbandman in the sowing of the seed and the culture of the growing plant is the production of grain. He desires bread for the hungry, and seed for future harvests. So the divine Husbandman looks for a harvest as the reward of His labor and sacrifice. Christ is seeking to reproduce Himself in the hearts of men; and He does this through those who believe in Him. The object of the Christian life is fruit bearing—the reproduction of Christ’s character in the believer, that it may be reproduced in others.” (COL 67.1)

“‘The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.’ Galatians 5:22, 23. This fruit can never perish, but will produce after its kind a **harvest** unto eternal life.” (COL 68.1)

“‘When the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.’ Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.” (COL 69.1)

“It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, (2 Peter 3:12, margin). Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain.” (COL 69.2)

How is the Harvest Developed?

- ❖ John 12:23, 24
- ❖ Jesus and His death is the seed for the harvest



Seed Germination and Growth

It would be well for us to spend a **thoughtful hour** each day in contemplation of the life of Christ. We should take it point by point, and let the imagination grasp each scene, especially the closing ones. As we thus dwell upon His great sacrifice for us, our confidence in Him will be more constant, our love will be quickened, and we shall be more deeply imbued with His spirit. If we would be saved at last, we must learn the lesson of penitence and humiliation at the foot of the cross. (DA 83.4)

Jesus and the Last Generation

- ❖ Revelation 14:12
- ❖ **Patience of the Saints**
- ❖ Hebrews 12:2
- ❖ Jesus **Endured** the Cross



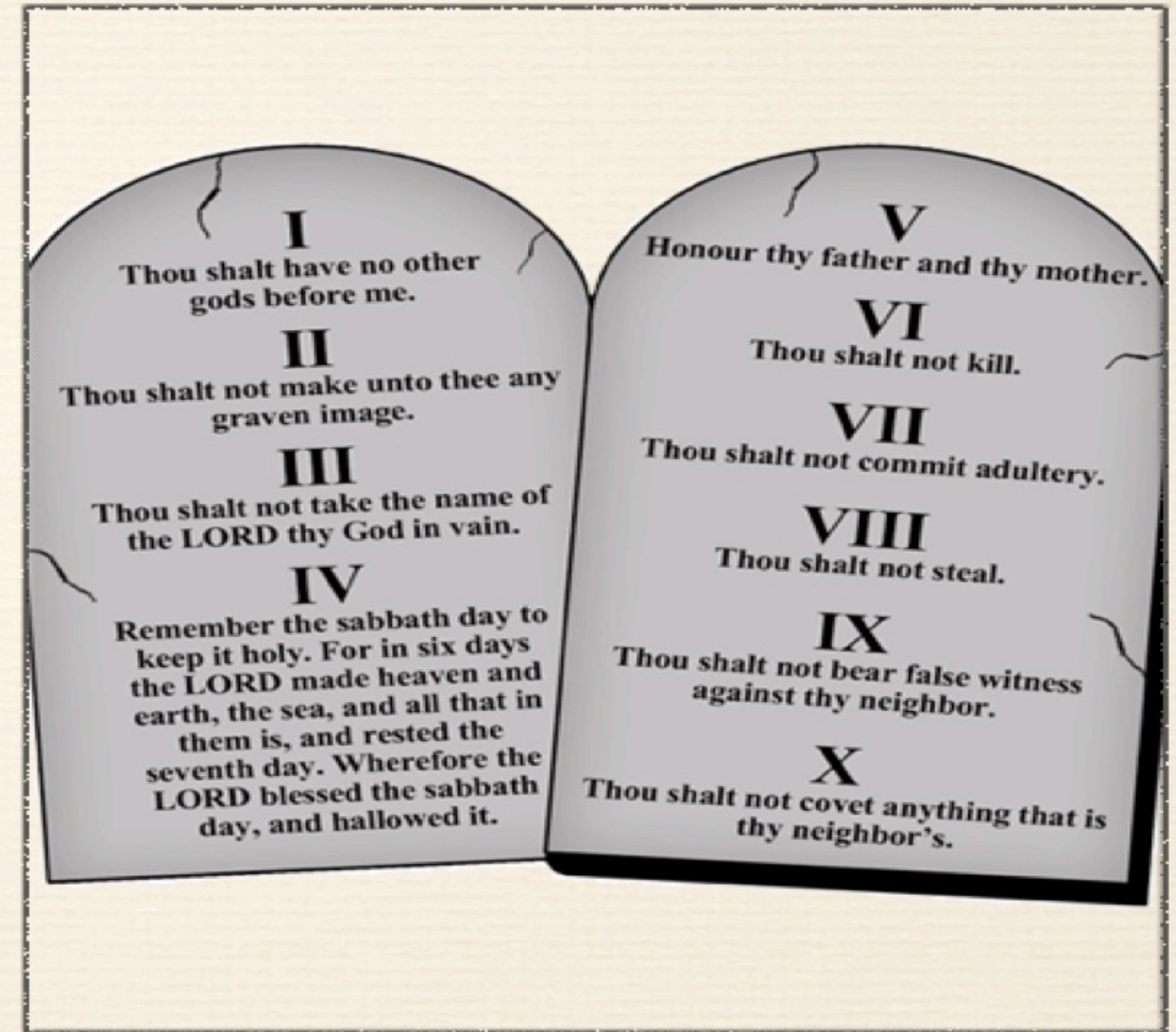
Third Angel's Message

❖ Revelation 14:12

❖ **Keep the
Commandments
of God**

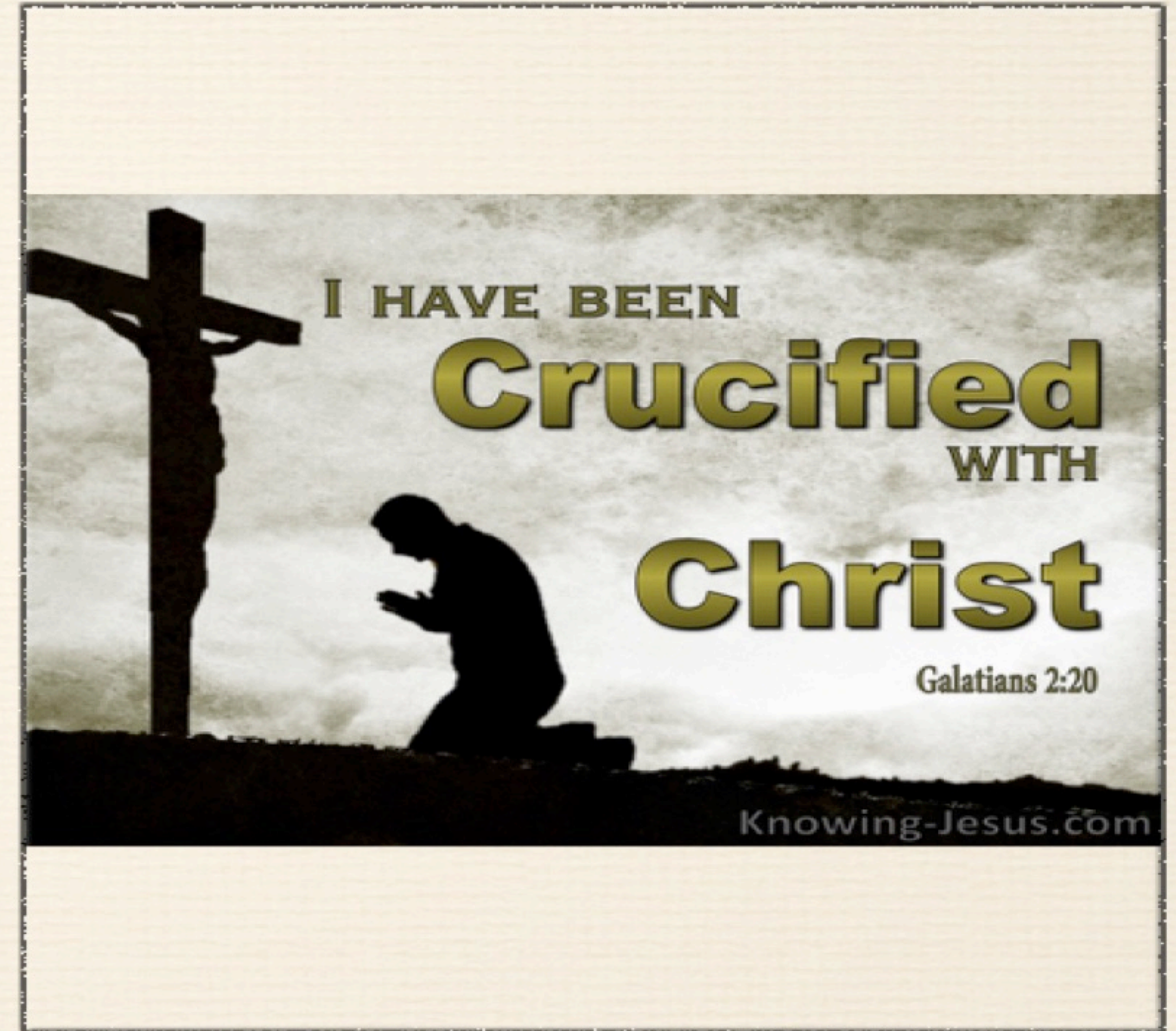
❖ Hebrews 10:5-7

❖ Psalm 40:7, 8



Third Angel's Message

- ❖ Revelation 14:12
- ❖ **Faith of Jesus**
- ❖ Galatians 2:20



“The Saviour could not see through the portals of the tomb. Hope did not present to Him His coming forth from the grave a conqueror, or tell Him of the Father's acceptance of the sacrifice. He feared that sin was so offensive to God that Their separation was to be eternal.”

“Christ felt the anguish which the sinner will feel when mercy shall no longer plead for the guilty race. It was the sense of sin, bringing the Father's wrath upon Him as man's substitute, that made the cup He drank so bitter, and broke the heart of the Son of God.” — Desire of Ages, p. 753

“Suddenly the gloom lifted from the cross, and in clear, trumpetlike tones, that seemed to resound throughout creation, Jesus cried, ‘It is finished.’ ‘Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit.’ A light encircled the cross, and the face of the Saviour shone with a glory like the sun. He then bowed His head upon His breast, and died.”

— *Desire of Ages*, p. 756

“Amid the awful darkness, apparently forsaken of God, Christ had drained the last dregs in the cup of human woe. In those dreadful hours He had relied upon the evidence of His Father's acceptance heretofore given Him. He was acquainted with the character of His Father; He understood His justice, His mercy, and His great love.”

“By faith He rested in Him whom it had ever been His joy to obey. And as in submission He committed Himself to God, the sense of the loss of His Father's favor was withdrawn. **By faith, Christ was victor.**”

— *Desire of Ages*, p. 756

Third Angel's Message

- ❖ Patience, Obedience, and Faith in Revelation 14:12 describe the 144,000 and also Jesus on the Cross
- ❖ It is the character of Jesus and it is the third angel's message. This is to be proclaimed and demonstrated with a loud voice

Third Angel's Message

- ❖ When Adventism gains this experience, we will see the Loud Cry of Revelation 18

Loud Cry of Revelation 18

- ❖ Revelation 18:1-5
- ❖ Earth illuminated with glory of God's character



Loud Cry/ Sunday Law

- ❖ When do her sins reach unto heaven [Revelation 18:2-5]?



Loud Cry/ Sunday Law

- ❖ When the law of God is finally made void by legislation.—The Signs of the Times, June 12, 1893. (LDE 198.5)



Earth's Final Warning

- ❖ We will be able to proclaim the final fall of Babylon when we fully have the character of Jesus



Earth's Final Warning

- ❖ Then God will allow the National Sunday Law and the final events of Earth's history



The Three Angels' Messages and the 144,000

- ❖ God uses the three angels' messages to produce the 144,000 of Revelation 14:12
- ❖ The 144,000 are a reproduction of Christ's character



The Three Angels' Messages and the 144,000

❖ The 144,000 are able to give the Loud Cry with power because they are like Jesus



The 144,000 and the Vindication of God

- ❖ Ezekiel 36:20-23
- ❖ “I shall be sanctified in you”
- ❖ *Qdash* - to be sanctified, purified, dedicated, consecrated
- ❖ God Vindicates Himself Through the 144,000



Vindication of God

The Saviour came to glorify the Father by the demonstration of His love; so the Spirit was to glorify Christ by revealing His grace to the world. The very image of God is to be reproduced in humanity. **The honor of God**, the honor of Christ, is involved in the **perfection** of the character of His people. (DA 671.3)