

Messengers of Hope

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[A NOTE FOR YOU, THE PREACHER]

- This sermon is intended to encourage church members to answer God's call and serve as His messengers. It is based on the mission of the three angels depicted in Revelation 14. This message is not an explanation of the three angels' messages; rather it is a rallying cry based on the mission of the three angels, taking the everlasting gospel "to every nation, tribe, tongue and people."
- Encourage the church to attend the evangelistic meetings during the week and, most importantly, to bring visitors. In this message, you will invite church members to recommit to serve as God's messengers and extend an invitation to those who may not necessarily be baptized followers of Jesus to give their lives to Him.
- In this sermon, there are two places where you are asked to share your personal experience:
 - An opening illustration about a time that you received good news.
 - A closing appeal story, using your experience of deciding to be an ERC missionary.
- The places to include these stories are noted in the script. Read the context to get an idea of how to incorporate your personal story.
- Before the Worship Service, you should be prepared to meet with those who will participate in the program. You will most likely be asked to say a prayer after the Doxology, which is often called "Invocation." It is a short prayer by the preacher to ask for the direction of the Holy Spirit in worship.
- If you are asked about the opening hymn and Scripture reading, here is the information to give them:
 - **Himno Inicial:** "Siervos de Dios, La Trompeta Tocad"
 - **Lectura Bíblica:** Apocalipsis 14:6
- Preach with energy, and don't be afraid to encourage church members to say "Amen!" When you get to the appeal, make sure you present it in a heartfelt and personal way. Apply your own personal experience.
- At the end of the sermon, you will likely be expected to stand at the door and greet members as they leave. Take this time to connect with them personally, even if it's for a brief moment. You can say to them while shaking their hands,
 - "Feliz Sábado!"
 - "Nos vemos esta noche!"
 - "Dios le bendiga!"
- Above all else, be prayerful and preach the Word!!

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- Good morning! It is a privilege to be here with you today.
- My name is _____. I am a student from Southern Adventist University in the United States.
- I want to show you a picture of our campus.
- We arrived yesterday, and I have already enjoyed some of the food here and the hospitality of the people from this beautiful country.
- I am grateful for the opportunity to share God's Word here in _____. Though I am not a well-known preacher, I have come to share a message of hope.

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- This week, we are beginning a special series of messages based on Biblical truths that give us hope to face the challenges of life.
- These messages are for people of all ages and backgrounds.
- We will receive a blessing as we study the Word of God together.
- I encourage you to come and invite your family, friends, and neighbors.
- Our first message will be tonight at ____ pm. Don't miss it!

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- This morning, I have a special message for us as a church.
- As we prepare to invite friends and neighbors for this week's evangelistic campaign, I want to provide some encouragement for us as a church.
- The title of my message this morning is "Messengers of Hope."

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- It is always wonderful to receive good news.
- [Share an experience from your life about receiving good news.]
- Here's a sample: A friend told me a story about when his little brother was born. The baby had several health issues, and had to stay in the hospital for several weeks. At that time, my friend was a little boy. In the daytime, he went to school. In the evenings, his family visited their new baby boy in the hospital. They sang together and prayed for their little one to be able to come home. One afternoon, when my friend was still in the middle of school, his father came to look for him. My friend was surprised; school was not finished yet! But the father took my friend to the hospital early that day because the doctor had good news for the family: the health issues were resolved, and the baby was able to go home.]

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- Today, I would like to talk about good news.
- But this good news is not just for a small group of people; it is not just for people from the United States; it is not just for people from _____ [name the country you are in.]
- This good news is for everyone!
- We can read about it together in the Book of Revelation.
- It is an important message; it is so urgent and important that the messenger is described as flying in the middle of the air.
- Let us read together in our Bibles in Revelation chapter 14 verse 6.

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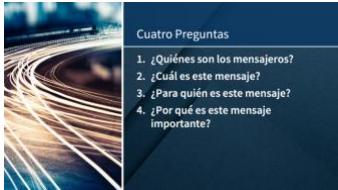
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- “Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people.”
- You see, my friends, this message is for everyone—it doesn’t matter what language you speak, where you are from, or what your culture is. This message is for everyone. It is urgent, it is universal, and it is final.

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- To better understand this message, we will answer four important questions:
- Who are the messengers described in this passage?
- What is this message?
- For whom is this message? ...and
- Why is this message important?

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- Let us begin with the first question: “Who are the messengers described in this passage?”

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- The Book of Revelation is a book of symbols.
- The symbols in this book describe real events.
- To understand these events, we must correctly understand the symbols.

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- The Book of Revelation was written in the Greek language.
- The Greek word that is translated as “angel” can also mean “messenger.”
- The angels that proclaim the gospel in Revelation 14 are a symbol of God’s messengers.
- The question is, who are the messengers that God has chosen to preach the gospel?
- We find the answer in Matthew chapter 28, when Jesus told His disciples to preach the gospel.

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- “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

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- teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” —Matthew 28:19-20.

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- We are God’s messengers! As followers of Jesus, we are called by God to preach the gospel.
- We are the angels described in Revelation 14.
- We are God’s messengers of hope for a broken world.
- We are called to prepare the world for the return of Jesus.
- Let us read what the servant of God says:

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- “The angels are represented as flying in the midst of heaven, proclaiming to the world a message of warning, and having a direct bearing upon the people living in the last days of this earth’s history.

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- “No one hears the voice of these angels, for they are a symbol to represent the people of God who are working in harmony with the universe of heaven.

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- Men and women, enlightened by the Spirit of God, and sanctified through the truth, proclaim the three messages in their order” (Ellen G. White, Life Sketches, p. 429).

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- Each of us is called to share the gospel.
- Some people share the gospel as pastors and teachers.
- Others share the gospel at their jobs.
- Others share the gospel in conversations with neighbors and friends.
- This week, I hope all of us will share the gospel by inviting family, friends, and neighbors to our church.
- This will require some effort for us.
- We may be shy (timid). We may be afraid of what people are going to think about us. We may need to get off from work a little earlier.
- This week, as we share the Word of God and invite people each night, we will have to make some sacrifices.
- But my friends, I can assure you that the rewards are great.
- Scripture says:

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- He who goes out weeping,
- bearing the seed for sowing,
- shall come home with shouts of joy,
- bringing his sheaves with him. —Psalm 126:6

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- There are different ways to share the gospel.
- But we are all called to share the gospel.
- That is why we are having the evangelistic campaign this week.
- You can do your part as I am trying to do mine, and I know that God will bless our efforts.
- (If you agree, say Amen!)

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- Now that we know who the messengers are, let us talk about the message that we are preaching.
- Revelation 14 describes it as “the everlasting gospel.”
- The Greek word that is translated as gospel means “good news.”
- According to Revelation 14, this good news is everlasting (eternal).

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- It is the same good news that was proclaimed to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden: It is the promise of a Savior.

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- It is the same good news that was proclaimed by Noah in the days before the Great Flood: there is salvation from the judgment that is coming.

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- It is the same good news that was proclaimed by the prophets in the Old Testament: God will forgive and transform us when we repent of our sins and turn to Him.

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- It is the same good news that Jesus Himself proclaimed. Mark 1:14 says:

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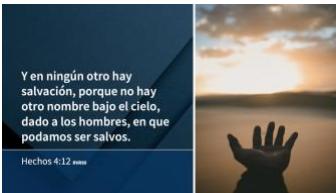
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- “Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.’ —Mark 1:14-15.

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- It is the same good news that was proclaimed by the apostles. Acts 4:12 says:
- “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” —Acts 4:12.

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- And now we find this good news in the last book of the Bible! God’s messengers preach “the everlasting (eternal) gospel” (Revelation 14:6).

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- The good news of salvation is everlasting.
- Many times in our lives, we receive good news that is only temporary.
- We may get a job, but later, we lose that job.
- We may have wonderful friends, but then our friends move away, get sick, or even die.
- Many joys that we experience in life are temporary.
- But, my friends, the joy that God gives is eternal. The everlasting gospel is always good news.

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- In the United States, there are different seasons in the year.
- During the season of winter, many portions of the country become very cold. Many plants dry up and die.
- During this season there are two types of trees.
- For most trees, their bright green leaves turn brown and fall away.

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- But there is another type of tree that remains green the entire year, even during the winter.
- These trees are called “evergreen trees.”
- The everlasting gospel is like an evergreen tree.
- When life changes, you can depend on God.
- When situations come that you do not expect, you can depend on God.
- When the expectations and standards of society change, God’s Word never changes.
- You can always depend upon God. His Word never changes. It is everlasting (eternal).
- (If you agree, say Amen!)

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- That's why Jesus says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." —Matthew 24:35, ESV.
- The gospel is called "everlasting" because it never changes. But why is it called good news?

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- It is the good news that Jesus left His throne in heaven and came to this sinful earth.
- It is the good news that Jesus lived a perfect life.
- It is the good news that Jesus perfectly demonstrated the love of God.
- It is the good news that Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for our sins.
- It is the good news that Jesus died in our place.
- It is the good news that Jesus rose again on the third day.
- It is the good news that because of Jesus our sins can be forgiven.
- It is the good news that Jesus is coming again soon.

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- We are God's messengers. We are called by God to proclaim this good news.
- If we look at our world, we see that there is much sadness and pain; but we have good news.
- You may be suffering with disease, but Jesus is our healer.
- You may be struggling with finances, but Jesus is our provider.
- Your family may be broken, but Jesus brings reconciliation.
- You may be living a life of sin, but Jesus is the Redeemer.
- God has given us a message of good news!
- (If you agree, say Amen!)

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- This leads us to our third question: "Who is this message for?"

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- Revelation 14 says that the angel proclaims the everlasting gospel to everyone: "to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people."

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- The message of the gospel is for everyone.
- All of us face challenges. All of us have problems in life.
- That's why all of us need the hope that the everlasting gospel brings.
- But the everlasting gospel is not only for us here at church.
- It is for your family members, your neighbors, and even your friends at work or school.
- But why does everyone need to hear God's message?

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- In the Book of Revelation, we read about how Satan will try to turn the whole world against God.

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- Revelation describes Satan as the one who "deceives the whole world" (12:9).

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- So many times, we listen to Satan's lies.
- And we experience the pain and suffering that sin brings.
- As we look around our world today, we can see the sadness that comes from sin.

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- In fact, the Bible says in 1 John 5:19 that "the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one."
- Satan does not want people to repent of their sins and turn to God.
- He does not want them to experience the eternal joy that only God can give.
- Jesus said in John 10:10:

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- “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” —John 10:10.
- Even though Satan is trying to deceive the whole world, Jesus wants to save us.
- This is why the three angels take the good news to the whole world.
- John 3:16 says,

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- “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

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- In His love, God sends us as His messengers into all the world.
- We are called to proclaim the good news about Jesus and His salvation.
- We are called to prepare people for the return of Jesus.
- This morning, you may know of someone who is experiencing sadness because they have believed Satan’s lies.
- You may have a child who is involved in drugs.
- You may have a family member who is suffering from a disease because of bad choices in life.
- You may have a friend who has believed Satan’s lies and has left behind a broken family.
- They need to hear the good news; they need to be set free from Satan’s lies.
- This week, we are praying and working for the salvation of those we love.
- We are messengers of hope for a world that is suffering from Satan’s lies.

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- Now, we understand (1) who the messengers are, (2) what the message is, (3) who needs to hear the message...
- Let’s talk about why we must preach this important message.

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- The first angel in Revelation 14 announces that “the hour of His [God’s] judgment has come.”
- The battle between good and evil is almost over.
- Jesus is coming soon, and He will put an end to sin and suffering forever.
- He will come to redeem those who have accepted Him as Savior—those who have listened and accepted the gospel.

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- That is why we preach. We are God’s messengers—messengers of hope to a world full of broken people.
- We are God’s messengers, bringing the news of salvation and eternal life in Jesus.
- We are God’s messengers, preparing people for the return of Jesus.

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- Everyone needs to hear this message.
- How will they hear if you do not share?
- The Apostle Paul asks an important question:

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- “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” —Romans 10:14, NIV.

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- This question is for you and for me. How will they hear without a messenger?
- God calls us to be His messengers.
- Jesus is coming soon. He offers salvation to everyone.
- Everyone needs to hear His message.
- Will you choose to be God’s messenger in your family, in your work, in your school, in your community?

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- Today, God calls us to be His messengers.
- We don't have much time. Jesus is coming soon.
- Everyone needs to hear and receive the good news.
- This week, we will be sharing the Word of God.
- This week, we will be inviting people to our church.
- This week, I will be making appeals; people will be making decisions for Christ.
- But the first decision begins today. Today, you and I must decide to be messengers for God.
- The gospel needs to be shared with everyone, and we are the messengers.
- We are the ones that God has called to share the good news.

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- This morning, I want to make a decision, and I would like you to join me in making this decision.
- This morning, I want to say, "Lord, I will go! I want to be your messenger."
- I am here today because a few weeks ago, God called me to make a decision and say "I will go"—not because I'm the smartest, not because I'm the best, but because God called. (Consider sharing the story of how you joined this ERC mission trip.)
- As we look at our own lives, we can see that we have not always been faithful. We have not always fulfilled our responsibility to share the gospel.
- But this morning, we can renew our commitment to God. If you would like to join me in saying, "Lord, I want to be Your messenger," I invite you to come to the front.

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- I want to make one more appeal.
- For some of us, as we have heard the message this morning, we realize that we ourselves need the good news.
- Maybe you have gone far from God. Maybe you haven't had the correct priorities in life. Maybe you haven't put God first. Maybe you realize that you are not ready for the return of Jesus.
- I know there are areas in my own life that I need to surrender to God. I want God to work in my heart and prepare me for the coming of Jesus. The gospel is for you and me today.
- You can come to Jesus today. He will forgive you. He will transform you. And no matter what your past may be like, He can transform you and make you His messenger. If you want to surrender your life to Jesus today, join me at the front.
- “Father in Heaven, thank you for your love. Thank you for the good news that you have given us. Thank you for the salvation that you give us. Thank you for the promise that Jesus is coming soon. This morning, we ask You to help us to be Your messengers. We ask You to fill us with Your Holy Spirit. We surrender our lives to You. We choose to go wherever You lead us. We choose to obey Your voice. We cannot do this in our own strength. We need Your Spirit. Please fill us with the power to do Your will. Thank You for hearing us. Thank you for answering our prayers. We pray in the name of Jesus; amen.”