of priestly intolerance, rapacity, and bloodshed. After  
the world’s fit of drunkenness is over, Satan’s last  
snare is spread. Rome paves the way for infidelity  
by her superstitions—her immorality, doctrinal and  
practical—and her persecution. But if Rome’s idolatry  
be so awful, and so visited by God, how much more  
that of the Wild Beast? Rome’s sin is the worship of  
others beside God and Christ: Antichrist denies and  
blasphemes the true God. The Great Harlot corrupts  
what is good: Antichrist denies it.

THIRD ANGELIC MESSAGE.

9. “And another angel (the third) followed them, saying with  
great voice:—  
 “If any worshippeth the Wild Beast and his image, and takes  
(his) mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10, he shall both drink  
of the wine of the wrath of God, the mixed unmixed in the cup of  
his indignation; and he shall be tormented in fire and brimstone  
in the presence of holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb;  
11, and the smoke of their torment goeth up for ever and ever, and  
they have no rest day or night who worship the Wild Beast and  
his image, and whoever takes the mark of his name.  
 12. “Here is the patience of the saints, who keep the commands of God, and the faith of Jesus.”  
  
 The three angels flying in mid-heaven, each with a  
distinct message to men on earth, present words of most  
momentous practical import for those of that day.  
This angel’s soul is aroused to give his warning with  
the utmost energy; hence he speaks “with loud  
voice.” That is not said of the tidings concerning Babylon: for that was merely explanatory of the cause of  
her fall, lest any should be stumbled at it. But on  
obedience to this cry hangs eternal life, or everlasting  
damnation.  
 After Babylon is destroyed the Wild Beast rises into  
his full powers; and God’s energetic warning against  
him, as then at his height of dominion, goes forth.