

8B

RELIGION

Life 1B



Everlasting Gospel

Revelations 14: 6-8

A. Message to everyone (vv.6,7)

Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people.

The scene focuses on a series of angels and their messages. We need not try to identify these angels concerning whether or not they already have had a ministry in connection with the Revelation of Jesus Christ. After all, god has a great host of angels to assist in his purposes. Remember that Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, said that he could call on "twelve legions" of angels. (Matthew 26:53)

The series of angelic messages has to do with the eternal gospel. In Revelation 14:3, 4, just before our text begins we can see what this gospel means for those who have been redeemed "from the earth" and "from among men." These are the ones who sing the "new song," knowing the quality of life with the Lamb. Their faithfulness is one side of the gospel. The flip side is the judgment of the unfaithful. This is something of a repeat of the opening of the fifth seal in Revelation 6:9-11. There we see the protected position of the slain servants under the altar, calling out for the judgment of the wicked. (See also Matthew 12:41, 42 and 2 Thessalonians 1:4-10)

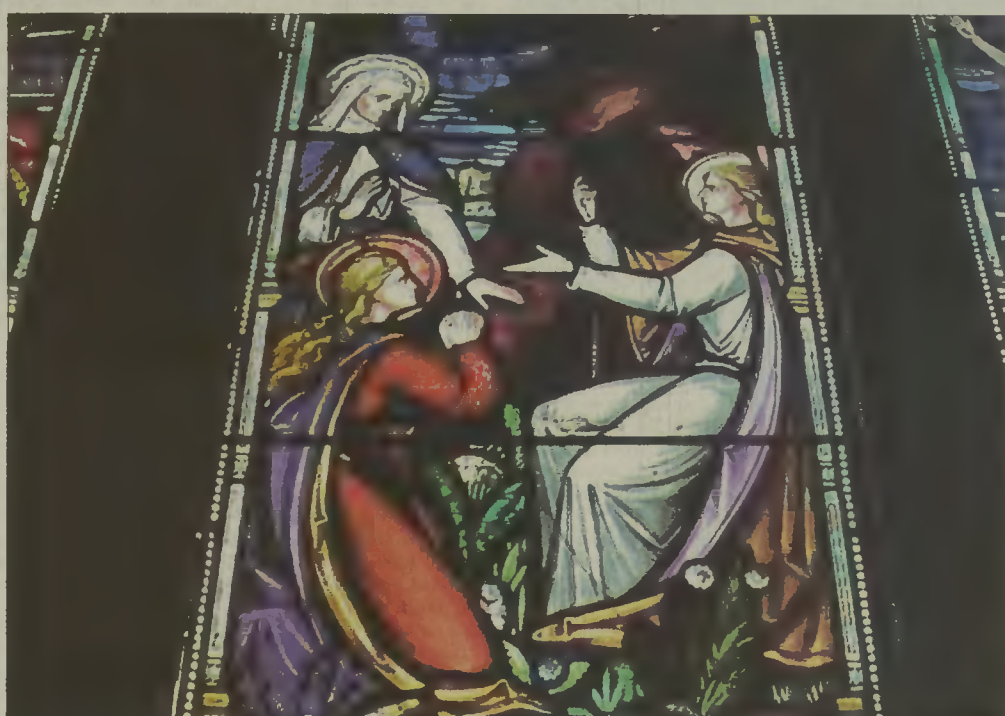
The gospel message of the glorified Christ is a two-edge sword (Revelation 1:16; 2:12), even for Christians; the gospel corresponds with the messages of "the little scroll" that John was both sweet and sour (10:9-11). Throughout the book of Revelation we have occasion to see both sides of the gospel in the lives of the faithful: it means both protection and suffering for God's people. The suffering is brought by sin, which comes from various directions.

But the gospel requires also that this suffering not go unavenged. This message before us shows the just recompense in the eternal gospel. This is a message to all who live on earth.

He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

Those hearing the message must worship God. They must fear God and give him glory. He is Almighty God, the powerful Creator (Exodus

Please see THE GOSPEL/7B



PHOTO/TRINITY LINE ROCK.ORG

Images of Mary Magdalene vary through out the world as well as the legend of her life. Bible scholars struggle to find facts about Mary Magdalene.

Mary Magdalene has quite a run in fiction, but what are the facts?

Legends abound about her life, but facts are hard to come by

By Richard N. Ostling
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The huge-selling novel "The Da Vinci Code" has given Mary Magdalene more fame lately than any biblical personality except Jesus. There's even a "Complete Idiot's Guide" to Mary and a forthcoming film version of the "Magdalene" comic books' woman warrior.

"Da Vinci" said Mary was Jesus' wife and their offspring formed a royal

French bloodline. So much for fiction; what are the facts?

Legends about Mary in France appeared eight centuries after Jesus' time and aren't serious history. The Jesus-was-married theory says Jews expected men to wed. That's generally true, but modern rediscovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls confirmed that some Jewish holy men in ancient times remained celibate.

There's also this, raised

by Bruce Chilton of Bard College in "Mary Magdalene: A Biography" (Doubleday): Judaism's Talmud said a husband cannot move his wife from place to place. Couples usually resided with the wife's parents. Jesus' "constant travel, irregular birth, and unstable economic status made him nobody's ideal husband or son-in-law," Chilton comments. "If Jesus were to have had a sexual partner, Mary remains the best

candidate," he thinks. But there's no historical evidence Jesus did.

Chilton chides feminists and New Agers who cite depictions of Mary to claim ancient Gnosticism exalted women and is therefore preferable to orthodox Christianity.

The earliest Gnostic text, the second-century Gospel of Thomas, says women must make themselves males to enter the kingdom of heaven. That gen-

Please see MARY/7B

Oyster shells add touch of history to church

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, S.C. — James Island's newest church looks like it has been in the Lowcountry for centuries.

Retirement community Bishop Gadsden wanted its new chapel to look like something from the 1700s. So the community gathered oyster shells from a nearby restaurant and built the church in a style called tabby.

Tabby is a highly textured cement that the Spanish first used in North America in the early 16th century, more than a century before the English found a place then called Charles Towne.

The style uses the lime from burned

seashells to mix with sand and more shells. The mixture is channeled into wooden molds to form walls and pillars.

The new church isn't true tabby. The material is unreinforced and too vulnerable to earthquakes.

Instead, architect Dan Beaman used eight massive concrete slabs to create the shell of the church.

Before the slabs were poured, workers washed thousands of shells then placed them in the sand. A timer went off every 10 minutes to tell the crew to move to a new spot so the shells would be spread randomly.

"The big challenge was to convince these workers that we wanted it to be imperfect," Beaman said.

Once the walls were poured, it took less than two days to build the church's frame, Beaman said.

Beaman's design was based on two Beaufort County ruins. The material makes the chapel look like the ruins on St. Helena Island, but its proportions are similar to the Prince William's parish church.

"Modern architects they'd roll their eyes at something like this, but I think it's interesting," Beaman said.

Bishop Gadsden's executive director Bill Trawick also liked the work.

"Our goal was to have the chapel look like it had been here first and that the Bishop Gadsden community was built up around the chapel," Trawick said.

Vatican says homosexuals are unwelcome

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican says homosexuals who are sexually active or support "gay culture" are unwelcome in the priesthood unless they have gotten over their homosexual

tendencies for at least three years, according to a church document posted on the Internet by an Italian Catholic news agency.

The long-awaited document is scheduled to be released by the Vatican on Nov. 29. A church official

who has read the document confirmed the authenticity of the Internet posting by the Adista news agency.

The document said that "the church, while deeply respecting the

people in question, cannot admit to the seminary and

the sacred orders those who practice homosexuality, present deeply rooted homosexual tendencies or support so-called gay culture."



Huff's 'Miracles' a so-so debut

George Huff
Miracles
Otto Price,
Executive producer
Word/Curb/Warner Bros.



If you spent 16 seconds on "American Idol," apparently you can get a record deal. George Huff did spend more time than that, but goodness, will the litter of forgettable CDs by that show's contestants ever end?

Huff is the latest, but certainly not the worst, to throw his voice into professional music. His voice is pleasant, even interesting at times. But there's nothing to distinguish him from any of his "Idol" cohorts or just about any other male singer for that matter.

Huff skips pop and goes for gospel, or so his label said. Not quite gospel or Contemporary Christian, Huff is more of a message music person. He mentions God specifically every now and then, but you get the impression that's who he's singing about even if He's not mentioned.

Whoever Huff is singing about, he's not doing it with much emotion. None of the songs have peaks or valleys — each is simply flat. That's not an easy feat for a gospel singer, but more and more of them are achieving that outcome. There's nothing that sticks to memory. Each song was forgotten before the track advanced.

It's not much Huff's fault. He isn't given much to sing. "A Brighter Day" has a rhythm that struts, giving Huff a chance to stretch his voice. "Miracles" is sappy, but not so much to completely ruin the song. "Hold On To Love" sounds as if it were written for Hurricane Katrina victims. It's the most powerful song on the CD.

Too bad there's not more songs like "Hold On To Love." Huff may get the chance to make another CD. If so, he needs more songs with meat. This is sizzle with precious little steak.

Ratings

Classic	★★★★★
Excellent	★★★★
Good	★★★
Fair	★★
Why?	★
No stars — A mess	

CHURCH NEWS

The deadline for announcements is 5 p.m. on Fridays. Fax your announcements to (704) 342-2160 or e-mail your announcement to cheris.hodges@thecharlottepost.com.

Ongoing

New Outreach/Hoskins Community is seeking donations of turkeys for Christmas Dinners. Donations are being accepted at 3900 Gossett Ave. For more information call Pastor Brenda Stevenson at (704) 398-1777.

December 3

Pineville Church of the Nazarene Students Ministries presents the seventh annual "Bethlehem Revisited" from 6-9 p.m. through Sunday. The outdoor experience recreates an ancient Bethlehem marketplace. The church is located at 8614 Pineville-Matthews Road. For more information call (704) 542-3618.

The congregation of Peace Moravian Church

will hold its annual Candle Tea and Christmas Bazaar on its campus at the corner of Rea Road and Colony Road from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will include demonstrations of Moravian Christmas traditions including candle tea served by church members in colonial Moravian costume, a display of nativity sets and the presentation of the Christmas Story.

For more information, call Peace Moravian Church at (704) 759-9939.

December 5

University Park Baptist Church, 6029 Beaties Ford Road, will host its annual Vision & Victory Conference through Wednesday. Services begin nightly at 6:30 p.m.

The guest speakers are: Monday - Pastor John Jenkins, of First Baptist Church Glenarden, Landover, MD; Tuesday - Dr. Carolyn Showell, God First Ministries, Baltimore; and

Wednesday - Bishop Oscar Brown, First Mt. Olive Freewill Baptist Church, Baltimore. Pastor Jenkins will also serve as the guest lecturer on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. He will lecture on "Stewardship and Investing in the Vision." The conference is free and open to the public.

December 6

Liberty Baptist Church, 3000 Sam Wilson Road, will host Jon Jenkins through Tuesday night. Jenkins is from Grace Baptist in Gaylord, Mich. Services begin at 7 p.m.

December 8

Divine Praise and Deliverance Ministries will host its first Youth in Action Prophetic Conference through Friday. The services will be held nightly at 7:30 p.m. at Remnant Outreach Ministries, 3819 S. Tryon St. There will be praise dancers, choirs and speakers.

For more information, call (704) 492-2566 or (704) 492-1337.

December 9

Hickory Grove North Worship Department presents "An Angel's Story" a cosmic Christmas. The production centers around best-selling author Max Lucado, who imagines the spiritual conflict surrounding the coming of Christ. Tickets are \$15 and include dinner.

Show times are 7 p.m. Friday and 6 p.m. on Sunday. For information, call (704) 531-5333.

December 11

Our Children's Memorial Walkway will hold its annual memorial service at Frazier Park, 1201 West Fourth St., to remember children who have departed from this life. This service is specifically aimed at giving grieving people of all faiths and races the chance to come

Please see UNITED/6E

