

“All-in!”

Presentation Handout

Missing in Action...

March 1, 2023, started out like many other days for volunteer mission pilot Daniel Lui and volunteer mission nurse Janelle Alder as they served the people near Palawan, Philippines. But...this day was not like the many others before!

On this day, while flying a medevac mission to help a patient in need, they never arrived at Brooke’s Point, Palawan, even though their last GPS signal was received in line with their scheduled route. Within hours of their expected arrival, fellow pilots from PAMAS (Philippine Adventist Medical Aviation Services) were flying over the sea searching for their missing colleagues—pilot Daniel, nurse Janelle, their one patient, and two companions.

Over the next week, fellow mission pilots flew a combined 200 hours combing 5,000 square miles around the suspected crash site, along with Philippine Coast Guard helicopters and boats, and a plane dispatched from the United States Embassy that scanned 7,000 square miles of open sea with high-tech thermal imaging equipment, looking for warm bodies floating in the water.

This was followed up with expert sonar imaging onboard a navy vessel scanning the sea floor at a depth of 300 feet near the suspected crash site, looking for evidence of a sunken helicopter. All, to no avail, except for the pillow of the patient and nurse Janelle’s shoes.

As you can only imagine, their family and friends, fellow mission pilots and mission workers, along with the search-and-rescue personnel, have been left emotionally exhausted with many unanswered questions—the unanswered what-if’s.

Daniel and Janelle belonged to a group of missionaries who sacrificed comfortable lives and lucrative careers to risk everything, even life itself, for the sake of lost people in need of Jesus. They willingly sacrificed and risked what the great majority of us would never risk.

{Report by John Reeves in *Adventist Review* ~ <https://adventistreview.org/commentary/missionaries-lost-at-sea/>}

TAKE-AWAY: What motivates this kind of sacrifice by someone? Why would Daniel & Janelle, two young adults, give up everything to serve others like this? What was the gain for them?

Human language or reasoning can’t answer these questions. There’s something more at play behind why Daniel & Janelle served, why they were willing to risk all for Jesus!

In the end-time of prophetic history God will have, not just a few individuals like Daniel & Janelle, but a collective group of people, young and old—His Church—ministering in different ways for Him, even it means sacrificing all for Christ Jesus—all-in for Him!



So, who are these faithful, end-time followers of Jesus? What motivates them to serve others for Jesus? What will their characters be like? What will they believe? How will they live? The book of Revelation gives us these answers! Let's dive in as we discover who God's end-time people are and His Church they will belong to.

God's End-Time People

- The preaching of the end-time everlasting gospel {*Revelation 14:6-12*} will inflame the ire of Satan, the sea beast & the earth beast as well as dividing the world into two worship camps:
 - Those who follow God with all their hearts/lives.
 - Those who reject God, siding with the satanic godhead—red dragon (Satan), the sea beast (the Papacy), and the earth beast (the United States) (see *Forever 04 & 05*).
- This false trinity/godhead uses a stealth counterassault to deceive the world into worshipping the sea beast/false christ/antichrist {*Revelation 13:8-17*}.
 - However, during these perilous times God has a faithful remnant who remain heart loyal and obedient to Him no matter what the consequences {*Revelation 14:1-5*}.
 - They're called the 144,000 {*Revelation 14:1*}.
 - ❖ These 144,000 in *Revelation 14* are the same group that is described in *Revelation 7:1-8*.
 - ✓ Their number seems to be symbolic based on the fact they're also described as a great multitude in *Revelation 7:9-10*.
 - The symbolism of their number seems to represent the totality of God's end-time people.
 - They are under attack from the red dragon (Satan) who hates them with an uncontrollable, passionate hatred {*Revelation 12:17*}.
 - ❖ This is why Satan "went away" to devise a more successful stealth attack by "joining" the church and not relying on physical persecution and martyrdom alone. *Revelation 13* describes this stealth attack on God's Church/people.
 - They have God's name (and some manuscripts the name of the Lamb Jesus too) written on their foreheads.
 - ❖ In the Bible names are many times associated with character.
 - ✓ With this in mind, God's name here seems to symbolize His character.
 - The 144,000 have the character of God in their lives!
 - Thus, these followers of Christ Jesus are growing in the character of God, becoming more like Him in the world, in contrast to the majority of the world who are becoming like the sea beast.
 - Their spiritual, faith-walk experience is more than a checklist of do's and don'ts—an outward show/form!
 - They symbolically "stand" on Mount Zion with Jesus {*14:1*}.
 - ❖ In the Old Testament Mount Zion stood as the center of God's rule on earth, a place of safety for God's people, and a reminder of their ultimate victory in God from their enemies {*Psalms 48:1-3; Micah 4:6-7, 11-13*}.
 - ✓ This is why they can sing a new song of redemption and deliverance {*Revelation 7:9b-10; 14:3*}, like Israel of old when God delivered them from Pharaoh & the Egyptian army at the Red Sea {*Exodus 15:1-21*}.

- ✓ The song reflects their experience of a close relationship with Jesus, facing Satan’s full rage/wrath, their path through the end-time tribulation as they faced the deceptive, coercive power of the end-time political, secular & religious coalition.
- The 144,000 receive the seal of God on their foreheads only {7:1, 3} in contrast to the mark of the beast, which is received on the forehead or hand {13:16}.
 - ❖ This seal is placed the same place the name of God is located—the forehead, symbolizing they’ve made a mindful-heart choice to follow God out of love for Him because He first loved them {14:4b}!
 - ❖ God’s seal also protects them from Satan’s religious deceptions {9:1-6 (4)}, though they still may experience his wrath through persecution, martyrdom, and/or threats of coercion/force {13:7, 16-17} (see Forever 04 & 05).
- Characteristics/character traits
 - ❖ Virgins {14:4a}
 - ✓ Obviously, this is a symbolic description
 - ✓ Adultery can be used in the Bible as a symbol for spiritual unfaithfulness to God {2 Corinthians 11:2}.
 - God’s people who turn away from Him commit spiritual fornication.
 - ✓ We see this symbolism play out in the book of Revelation when it talks about the great prostitute Babylon (Spiritual Babylon) and her daughters—apostate churches {Revelation 17:5}—who spiritually seduce people into illicit, spiritual relationships with them {Revelation 17:1-5; 18:3, 9}.
 - So, the 144,000 have not spiritually defiled themselves with “women”—Spiritual Babylon & her daughters—but have kept themselves chaste/pure for Christ Jesus—their “Husband” by His grace {Zephaniah 3:9; Matthew 5:8; Hebrews 10:19-(22); 1Peter 1:13-16, 22-23; 1 John 3:1-(3)}.
 - They live all-in for Christ Jesus with their whole hearts, not just with a bragging, “lip-service” type of form!
 - ❖ Follow the Lamb wherever He goes/leads {14:4b}
 - ✓ The 144,000 put Christ Jesus first in their lives by:
 - Choosing to keep their relationship with Him a priority, no matter what.
 - Surrendering to His plans/will for their lives, even when it’s not comfortable or what they expect, or would have chosen.
 - Living lives of heart obedience to Him, even if they are ridiculed by others or suffer for their faithful obedience.
 - ✓ Ultimately, nothing or no one can pry them away from Jesus’ love.
 - They remain “sold out” to Jesus, in contrast to the majority of the world’s inhabitants who follow and worship the sea beast.
 - ❖ Purchased as first fruits to God & the Lamb—Christ Jesus {14:4c}
 - ✓ Their “purchasing” was accomplished by the salvation act of the Godhead through Christ Jesus—His life, death, and resurrection {Psalm 74:2; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 1:13-(14)}.
 - His (Jesus) blood has purchased them as His own!

- As a result they live His gift of salvation by His grace through faith that works, not in their own human works to earn or impress!
- ✓ In the Old Testament the first fruits belonged to God as the best fruits of the harvest.
 - Symbolically, this term is used in the Bible to describe the people of God's complete commitment to Himself through the blood of Jesus {*Jeremiah 2:2-3; James 1:18*}.
- ❖ No deceit or fault {*v. 5*}
 - ❖ No lying fulfills Zephaniah's prophecy {*Zephaniah 3:13*}.
 - "The remnant of Israel will do no wrong..., tell no lies..., nor" have "a deceitful tongue...."
 - This lying is more than basic untruthfulness.
 - The 144,000 truthfulness stands in contrast to Satan's end-time deceptions {*2 Thessalonians 2:9-11; Revelation 13:14*}.
 - While the majority of the people choose to believe Satan's lie, God's end-time people (144,000) receive the love of the truth and are saved {*2 Thessalonians 2:10-11*}.
- ✓ The word "faultless/blameless" does not necessarily denote a sinless perfection but instead fidelity to Christ Jesus, no matter the cost.
 - In the Old Testament, Abraham & Job were blameless but not sinless {*Genesis 17:1; Job 1:1*}.
 - In the New Testament, Christians are called to holiness without blemish {*Ephesians 1:3-4; 5:25-27; Philippians 2:14-16 (15); Colossians 1:21-23 (22); Jude 24*}.
 - This blamelessness means to walk with God completely committed to Him, though still growing and capable of sinning {*Genesis 6:9; 17:1*}.
 - In contrast to the majority of earth's inhabitants, the 144,000 reflect the true character of the true Godhead as they continually wash their robes in the blood of the Lamb (Jesus) and as a result are found "spotless and blameless" before God {*2 Peter 3:10-14 (11, 14)*}.

TAKE-AWAY: As we've studied the 144,000 the logical question is: Does the Holy Spirit give us more specific details who these individuals are and what constitutes God's true Church they belong to? Yes, He does!

The Identifying Marks of God's End-Time People

- End-time "offspring"/remnant of the "woman"—the symbol of God's Church/people {*12:17*}
 - A remnant is the end of something, like the end of a roll of fabric.
 - Though it's at the end it is the same as the beginning.
 - ❖ God's end-time people are like the true people of God throughout the Old & New Testaments and throughout history up to our day.
 - ❖ John the Revelator employs this word "remnant"—"the remaining ones"—to describe the Christians who remained faithful to God in the Church of Thyatira {*Revelation 2:24-26*}.

- ✓ These faithful followers of God were a faithful remnant in a larger church that was not generally faithful.
- ✓ Now in the end of time, as the majority of people in the world side with Satan & his allies (Spiritual Babylon), John the Revelator uses this same word to describe the people who remain faithful to the Godhead and their gospel truths {*Revelation 12:17; 14:12*}.
 - Based on this, God's faithful end-time people may need to leave the churches they are currently members in and/or give up current unchristian philosophies to join God's true remnant Church before Jesus' Second Coming.
- Interestingly, Satan turns his fury on the *remnant* of the woman's offspring *not* the woman per se.
 - ❖ Why? *Revelation 17* tells us the woman—the Church—is no longer a pure woman. She's turned into a spiritual "prostitute" sitting on a scarlet-colored beast, seducing the world away from loyalty to God.
 - ❖ So, in the end-time, the last days, of earth's history the Christian Church eventually turns from faithfulness to Jesus to unknowingly serving Satan.
 - ❖ This is why Satan goes after the remnant of the "woman"—God's true Church/people who remain faithful to Jesus. He wants to destroy any bastion of faithfulness to God so the whole world will worship him through the sea beast.
- **Faithful to God** {*14:12a/c*}
 - God's end-time remnant people live in total dependence—faithful/"all-in"—through the faith of Jesus that creates an unshakeable faith in them for Him {*Ezekiel 36:26-27; Ephesian 1:13-(14); 1 Peter 1:3-(5); 2 Peter 1:2-4*}.
 - This is in contrast to the majority of earth's inhabitants who depend upon themselves and/or the sea beast. This is the attitude/spirit of Spiritual Babylon {*13:4, 6-(8), 14-15 -> Genesis 11:1, 4*}.
- **Keeps God's 10 Commandment Law** {*12:17b; 14:12b*}
 - Including the fourth commandment—the seventh-day Sabbath {*14:6-(7)*}
 - Truly keeping/observing the seventh-day Sabbath means:
 - ❖ One's heart is captured/sealed by God's love through the Holy Spirit {*Ephesians 1:13-14*}.
 - ❖ One worships and obeys God out of a heart of love because they want to, not because they have to {*Exodus 31:12-(13); Ezekiel 20:12-13*}.
 - ❖ He/she is committed to God no matter what happens or doesn't happen to/for them.
- **Has the Testimony of Jesus** {*12:17c*}
 - The prophetic gift/spirit of prophecy—the Holy Spirit speaking through prophets, like John the Revelator—will be in its midst.
 - We'll study this beautiful, interesting truth in more detail in our next presentation—*Forever 07*.

- **Worldwide prophetic movement {14:6}**
 - God commissions His end-time Church/people to share His eternal/everlasting gospel message with the whole world—a worldwide message for every nation, tribe, tongue & people.
 - With this idea in mind, God’s end-time Church must be a worldwide movement to accomplish what God has commissioned it to do.
- **Shares God’s end-time gospel {14:6-12}**
 - This end-time everlasting gospel message is called the three angels’ messages.
 - Briefly this message includes (*for a more detailed description see the next main section below: “God’s End-Time Gospel Message”*):
 - ❖ Christ Jesus as the center of one’s life and every doctrinal belief.
 - ❖ God is inclusive—all ethnic/racial backgrounds, social-economic statuses, locations in the world, etc.—are included in His gospel invitation!
 - ❖ A covenant-relationship, faith-walk that focuses on God, not oneself.
 - ❖ Obedience to all of God’s 10 Commandments, including the seventh-day Sabbath.
 - ❖ God’s end-time, pre-Second Coming judgment.
 - ❖ The understanding of the heavenly sanctuary where Jesus ministers as our High Priest.
 - ❖ A gracious warning against false worship that takes our eyes off of Jesus, which destroys one’s spiritual walk with Him.
- **Identification:**
 - Only one Church/movement seems to fit these above descriptions and historical setting—the **Seventh-day Adventist Church**.
 - **Remnant:** believes in the whole Bible and historically came after 1844/end of time.
 - **Faithful:** struggles here but has been given a gospel message that creates faith.
 - **Keeps God’s Law:** emphasizes all of God’s law including the 7th-day Sabbath (Saturday).
 - **Testimony of Jesus:** we’ll unpack this in the next presentation—*Forever 07*.
 - **Worldwide:** 21,760,000 members with a mission presence in 215 countries/territories.
 - **3 Angels’ Gospel Messages:** shares it but doesn’t fully understand/experience it, not yet.
 - This is stated by the presenter [David] in humility, not in any way to brag/gloat.
 - God has His people in different churches/faiths or no faith that He is calling out by the Holy Spirit to join His end-time remnant movement {*Revelation 18:4*}.
 - With this in mind, there are two aspects of God’s Church/people at this moment:
 - ❖ The **“Invisible” Church**
 - ✓ God’s faithful people who are in different churches/faiths or no faith that He is/will call out before Jesus’ Second Coming.
 - ✓ However, they’re still God’s faithful and committed people though they may not fully understand who God is and/or His biblical gospel truth.
 - ❖ The **“Visible” Church**

- ✓ These are God’s people who are currently members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

❖ *Disclaimers:*

- ✓ Membership in the Seventh-day Adventist Church does not make one more spiritual, loved more by God, or guarantees they’ll be faithful in the end-time.
- ✓ Though Seventh-day Adventists should be foremost in lifting up Jesus to the world—whether in teaching, lifestyle, or attitudes—the reality is they fall short now as they struggle to understand God’s gospel message!
 - At this moment they’re sadly the “church militant, not the church triumphant.” But that will change before Jesus comes again!!
- ✓ Neither does it mean that someone will be lost, not be faithful in the end-times, or not go to heaven if they’re not a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Salvation is not through church membership. But again, one should be mindful to not downplay/reject God’s truth.

TAKE-AWAY: Based on the context of *Revelation 14*, the 144,000—God’s end-time remnant—are transformed into the kind of people they are, in character, lifestyle, faithfulness, etc., because of the Three Angels’ Messages—God’s end-time gospel message! Their supreme love for and heart obedience to God is in contrast to the majority of the world who are disloyal to God, following the false trinity/godhead instead as the world wonders after the sea beast power.

God’s End-Time Gospel Message

- Backdrop/overview of *Revelation 14:6-12*
 - These three angels are not necessarily real angels.
 - The word for “angels” in the original language (Greek) can simply mean “messenger(s).”
 - And one must not forget that the book of Revelation is symbolic prophecy/book, which describes real people, events, places, etc. in symbolic language.
 - Thus, these messengers seem to symbolically represent God’s end-time people who share His end-time gospel message with the whole world {*Revelation 14:6*}.
 - ❖ This fulfills a sign of Jesus’ Second Coming: the gospel will be preached to the whole world, then the end will come {*Matthew 24:14*}.
 - This end-time gospel message is God’s eternal/everlasting gospel, called the three angels’ messages here in the book of Revelation, which reveals:
 - God’s beautiful character of love that initiates salvation for all—though not all will receive it {*14:6a*}.
 - ❖ God sends the angel messengers (His people) to the whole world even though it doesn’t necessarily know Him or believe in Him.
 - God is inclusive—everyone in the world (no matter their ethnic/racial background, social-economic status, location in the world, etc.) is invited to receive His gracious gift of salvation {*14:6a*}.
 - A growing faith-trust experience walks with God in deeper surrender and obedience through the Holy Spirit {*14:7*}. This walk produces:
 - ❖ A life that focuses on God, glorifying and honoring Him, not oneself.

- ❖ A life of heart obedience to all of God’s 10 Commandments, including the seventh-day Sabbath—the day that has been changed by well-meaning human beings, thinking they were helping out God.
- The good news of God’s judgment—His & ours—where not only are human beings’ commitment revealed/validated, but also God’s gives us power to overcome to live faithful for Him {14:7; Hebrews 9:7, 9-10, 11-(14); 8:7-12 (10)}.
- The message of the heavenly sanctuary where Christ Jesus is our heavenly High Priest, interceding for redeemed humanity {14:7; Hebrews 7:25-27; 8”1-5, 11; 9:24-26}.
- A gracious, spiritual warning against the dire consequences of disobedience and/or fighting against God and His gospel {14:9-11}.
 - ❖ If one has this type of attitude, it leads to eternal ruin—being deceived by Satan in this world and lost eternally.
 - ❖ God’s warning here is positive just like in *Genesis 2:16-17*. It protects against Satan’s deceptions and spiritual ruin.
- God’s end-time, true Church will ultimately present every fundamental belief in the light of Calvary—Christ-centered theology and experience in a living, growing faith in Christ Jesus!
 - The focus of God’s end-time gospel & Church shouldn’t be just Sabbath vs. Sunday, but Calvary vs. Mass—the gospel, how one is saved in Jesus alone!
 - ❖ This means Jesus will become all-encompassing/consuming for God’s end-time people in teaching and experience. They’ll “all-in” for Him!
 - ❖ Satan’s studied strategy during the end-time is to remove the focus of every single inhabitant on the earth—Christian or non-Christian—away from Christ Jesus to anything else that effectively keeps Him from being the top priority in one’s life.
 - ✓ Anything—schooling, work, family, relationships, having fun, attitudes, distractions, social media, etc.—that comes between an individual and Jesus is antichrist, because it substitutes something else for His rightful place/role in one’s life.

Our Turn—the Obvious, Unobvious...

- Perhaps some are wondering about this tragedy that happened to Daniel & Janelle, thinking: *What a waste of two committed lives for God*. Yet could it be we that are the ones wasting our lives, not Daniel or Janelle!
 - In “laying down” one’s life for Jesus, being “all-in” for Him, is where one actually “gains” everything! This is real living for Him through His faith and His power.
 - This will take a new level of faith for us! It’s His kingdom way, how God operates. And..., it will never make human sense!
 - It’s how His end-time Church/people will “operate” too!! As it should be!!

LIVING CHOICE: Will you by God’s grace join His end-time prophetic movement, to serve Him wherever and however He leads, no matter the cost to yourself?