

Revelation #37**April 30, 2023****Series Title: The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Behold I Am Coming Soon****Today's Message: Messages of Mercy, Wrath, and of Blessing; Revelation 14:6-13**

Remember that Revelation 12-14 forms another interlude in our study of Revelation. Chapters 12-13 cover the tribulation period of seven years covering Satan's career: his fury and his failure. Chapter 14 shows us what God is doing and going to do. Revelation 14:1-5 was like a welcomed oasis. Satan's fury and wrath and his unholy trinity is abruptly ended as seen by the abrupt shift in focus. All of a sudden, seemingly in the twinkling of an eye we see Jesus, the Lamb standing on Mt. Zion with the 144,000 faithful witnesses who came through the tribulation alive standing with Him!

Why were we given the glimpse of the dawning of the Millennial Kingdom reign of Christ right then? I am certain that the vision was written for our encouragement and endurance so that we might have hope! To see a vision of our Lord standing on Mt. Zion is like a drink of cool refreshing water to everyone who longs for His appearance, whose souls thirst for Him and His return in victory!

So, what are we to make of the remainder of Revelation 14:6-20?

Having seen a glimpse of the inauguration of Christ's millennial reign in 14:1-5, we return once again to the seven year period of the Tribulation, just preceding the bowl judgments. In 14:6-11 the three angels are sounding the final warnings to the inhabitants of the earth to repent and believe the Gospel! Once the bowl judgments begin it will be too late; for at that time the opportunity for repentance will come to an end! 4:12-13 encourages the remaining believers to be faithful unto death, providing eternal blessings for their faithfulness and obedience even unto death! Then, 14:14-20 takes us to the Great Day of the Lord and the final judgment against Satan, his unholy trinity and all who hated the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Here is probably a good summary for chapters 12-14. In chapters 12-13 we saw Satan, the usurper, failing in his attempt to undermine the promises of God. We saw Satan, through his unholy trinity, take the temporary seat of authority in Jerusalem as world leader. We saw Satan supplant and persecute God's people by tormenting them day and night. But in chapter 14:1-5, indeed, it is God Himself who will install His King on His holy hill who will rule on David's throne for 1,000 years. In 14:6-13 We see God's angels warning the inhabitants of the earth to repent or suffer judgment and final condemnation. And in 14:14-20, we see the wrath and judgment of God poured out with speed and finality against Satan, that dragon, and all who followed the dragon! There will be no resistance to the will of God!.

So, there is a lot to look at in Revelation 14. We will look at 14:6-13 today.

I. (14:6-7) A Message of Mercy to the inhabitants of the earth sent by an angel.

- A. (14:6a) John saw an angel flying in midair– proclaiming the eternal gospel
1. The angel is a special messenger: the final messenger of the gospel
 - a) God has used a variety of means to communicate the Gospel to people on earth.
 - (1) From Christ Jesus to the Rapture
 - (a) The Lord Jesus Christ in His earthly ministry
 - (i) He quoted Isaiah 61:1-2: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me...to preach **good news** to the poor...”
 - (b) The Apostles and first believers
 - (i) Luke 9:1-2; Luke 10:1-17
 - (c) The Church/ Body of believers who believed ever since Christ ascended and the Spirit established the Church.
 - (i) All believers are messengers from the Day of Pentecost up to the Rapture. (2 Cor. 5:18)
 - (2) From the Rapture up to and including the final angel/messenger in Revelation 14:6-7
 - (a) The 144,000 divinely sealed Jewish Evangelists (7:3-8; 14:1-5)
 - (b) The two witnesses with supernatural power (11:1-12)
 - (c) The angel/ supernatural messenger(14:6-7)
 2. The angel flying in mid air, or “flying in the midst of heaven”, or “midheaven”
 - a) In the Dragon’s realm. Having been cast from heaven, Satan/ the Dragon has access to the earth and the atmosphere surrounding earth.
 - b) The angel is flying in the midst of the realm of Satan
 - (1) Can you see the **divine audacity** of God to proclaim the Gospel in the midst of the realm of the ruler of the kingdom of the air (Ephesians 2:2)
 - (a) And, are we to be any less audacious in proclaiming the Gospel all over the earth! (See Matthew 28:18-20!!)
 - (2) Proclaiming the **Eternal Gospel** to ALL the inhabitants of earth.
- B. (14:6b) What is the Eternal Gospel, which the angel proclaimed?
1. MacArthur describes various ways the Gospel is described in Scripture
 - a) The Gospel of the kingdom (Matthew 4:23)
 - b) The Gospel of Jesus Christ (Mark 1:1)
 - c) The Gospel of God (Mark 1:14)
 - d) The Gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:24)

- e) The Gospel of the glory of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- f) The Gospel of salvation (Ephesians 1:13)
- g) The Gospel of peace (Ephesians 6:15)
- h) The Gospel of glory (1 Timothy 1:1)
- i) The **Eternal Gospel** (Revelation 14:6)
 - (1) No doubt the angel proclaimed every facet of the Gospel
 - (2) At its core the Gospel is good news of forgiveness of sins and eternal life in Christ Jesus.
 - (a) **But God** in Christ Jesus provided the only hope for sinners who are facing eternal judgment in hell
 - (b) **But God** in Christ provided the only acceptable sacrifice of atonement for the sinners for the removal of guilt!
- j) A Global Gospel ("To every nation, tribe, language and people")
 - (1) Here, in Revelation 14:6-7 the angel fulfills the promise of the Lord Jesus who promised in Matthew 24:14, that "this gospel of **the kingdom** will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."
 - (a) This message must necessarily include the Good News to the inhabitants of the earth that Jesus Christ is the True and Rightful King and Sovereign!

C. (14:7) The Command of the Gospel from the angel to the inhabitants of the earth

- 1. "Fear God and give Him glory"
 - a) The inhabitants of the earth have **devoted their allegiance** to the Dragon, the Beast and False Prophet.
 - b) The angel commands everyone to REPENT and turn from the worship of Satan to the **Lamb**!
 - (1) God alone (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) is to be worshiped!
 - (a) Exodus 20:3-7; Is. 42:8; 48:11; Matt. 4:10; Rev. 22:9
 - c) The totality of the sinful nature of man falls under the umbrella of "No fear of God," and a refusal to glorify Him as God
 - (1) "No fear of God"-- Psalm 36:10; Romans 3:18
 - (2) The refusal to glorify Him as God-- Romans 1:21
- 2. To Fear God and to give Him glory means:
 - a) To be in awe of His holiness, His sovereign right to rule and to judge; to love Him, and respect Him; adore and honor Him **through Jesus Christ!**
- 3. A command to be obeyed **immediately!**
 - a) "Because the hour of His judgment has come."

b) "Worship Him [**NOW**], He who created the heavens and the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

(1) Fear God who is both Creator and Judge.

(a) All who listen and repent will be saved **immediately!**

(i) Brought out of Satan's domain of darkness and into the Kingdom of the Son of God's love!

(a) Colossians 1:13

II. (14:8-11) A Message of Judgment and of Wrath to the inhabitants of the earth sent by two angels.

A. (14:8) The Second angel: The Judgment is **non-negotiable** and final (though yet future)

1. "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great,..."

a) Imagine the audacity of the pronouncement of the fall of Antichrist's global empire— this divine claim in the present tense of something yet future!

(1) This Babylon is possibly a new, resurrected Babylon of old.

(2) This Babylon will be the most powerful empire ever in the history of mankind.

(a) Babylon is a reference to Antichrist's worldwide dominion.

2. "...which made all the nations drink the wine of the **passion** of her immorality."

a) The power of Antichrist and of his empire seduced the people by the consuming immoralities of the empire of Antichrist.

(1) The inhabitants of earth passionately pursue godlessness, rebellion and hatred toward the God of Creation and of judgment.

B. (14:9-11) The Third angel: A final warning of non-negotiable damnation to the unrepentant.

1. (14:9) A "loud voice" of warning

a) All who receive the **mark of the beast** (a sign of loyalty to the beast)

(1) To **refuse** the "mark" will bring death

(2) To **receive** the "mark" will bring eternal punishment and wrath

2. (14:10) The certainty of the wrath of God to the unrepentant

a) Undiluted wrath and fury

(1) Complete vengeance of God without a trace of compassion

b) The unrepentant will suffer the eternal torment of burning sulfur

c) "In the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb."

- (1) Robert Mounce comments: "To suffer in the presence of the host of heaven is not to lessen the fierceness of the judgment but to make it more grievous. **Christians had borne the shame of public derision and opposition; so their antagonists will suffer before a more august gathering.**"

(a) They will be banished relationally from God, never to enjoy His grace, blessings, mercy and love. **Forever!**

3. (14:11) "And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever..."
- a) Hell is a real place
 - b) Everyone who refuses the Lordship of Jesus Christ will suffer separation from God (The Father, Son and Holy Spirit) forever.

III. (14:12-13) A Message of Blessing to the faithful suffering tribulation saints directly from the Voice in heaven.

- A. (14:12-13) A promise of eternal comfort to the faithful tribulation saints who die in the Lord

1. The saints who persevere (endure patiently) in suffering unto death
 - a) Will be rewarded with eternal rest from their labors
 - (1) Because they obeyed God's commands
 - (2) And they remained faithful to Jesus, despite severe suffering even unto death!
2. I think that we can see here that saving faith is indeed a persevering faith
 - a) These saints suffered more than at anytime in church history
 - (1) More will die during this time than ever before in history
 - (a) Perhaps hundreds of millions will die.
 - b) But **glory to God!**
 - (1) If the most tested and tried believers, like these, can remain faithful and maintain saving faith, then, certainly, so shall we!
 - (2) God has promised to **preserve** the saving faith of believers, by **preventing us from being tempted/ tested beyond what His grace will support!** (Certainly God's grace is inexhaustible!)
 - (a) I Cor. 10:13: "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted/ tested beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way of escape so that you can stand up under it."
 - (i) This is the doctrine of **perseverance of the saints!**

- B. (14:13) The two-fold blessing of God to His faithful tribulations saints

1. The voice from heaven: The Father speaks to those who trust in Christ:

- a) "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."
- 2. The Holy Spirit speaks to those who trust in Christ
 - a) "Yes, they will rest from their labor, for their deeds follow them."
 - (1) Their faithfulness was noticed, remembered and rewarded!
- C. Application: **Do not be discouraged: the Lord notices, remembers and rewards your faithfulness!** **Read HEBREWS 6:10:** "God is not unjust; He will not forget..."