

Series: "People Get Ready"

C.R. 10-10-21

"The Message of the Angels"

Text: Revelation 14: 6-13

Intro: If you will remember last week, we talked about the fact that Revelation 14 is like a movie trailer. It is showing us the things that are to come in the time of Tribulation. Last week we got to see the snapshot of hope. The 144,000 who faithfully executed their job even under the greatest hardships the world has ever known. They stood next to the Lamb on Mount Zion singing their song.

Today we will see other parts of the movie trailer. We are going to focus our attention on verses 6-13. This passage speaks about the future that awaits two distinct classes of people. Verses 6-11 deal with the future of the lost sinner, while verses 12-13 speak to the future of the faithful saint.

While these verses speak about future events, they are still relevant to us today. Every person in this room will reach the end of your earthly journey someday. There will be an end of the road for each of us! We do not like to think about it, but we need to know what is coming so that we can be properly prepared for that hour. When the end comes, you and I need to be ready! When the end comes, there will be no more time to prepare. When the end comes, how we leave this world will be how we enter eternity. In Eccl. 11:3, Solomon said, "...if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be." The same is true about your life and mine. However the end finds us, whether saved or lost, is how eternity will preserve us. We must be ready!

1) The First Angel: "Fear God" (v.6-7)

- a. I realize that the message in church is most often fear not, and the Bible does declare that many times, but we are to fear God.
- b. **Macarthur:** "To Fear God is to live in the reality of his holiness, His sovereignty, and his judgment of sin. It is to love God, respect him, reverence Him, adore Him, hold him in awe, and worship Him. And that can only be done loving His Son the Savior.
- c. In this day of grace that we are living in, this church age if you will, the proclamation of the Gospel has been entrusted to each of us.
- d. In the tribulation the Gospel is given to the 144,000, and now we see an angel flying around the world and proclaiming the gospel to every tongue, every tribe and every nation.
- e. Note how John wrote this down. "The everlasting gospel". This is not a different gospel, but the everlasting gospel.

- f. Galatians 1:6-9. 6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.
- g. We are assured that this is not a different gospel, but the same gospel that has been preached for over 2000 years. It is the unchanging message that only Jesus saves.
- h. **Note:** the angel speaks loudly, the angle speaks to every tongue, every tribe, and every nation.
- i. Also take note that the message is not only of salvation, but of adoration. Give glory to God and to God alone. Worship only Him. He is the giver of all life and all sources of life.
- j. **Illustrate:** C.S. Lewis before his salvation had trouble with the demand of religious people that we “praise God”. He found the psalms very troublesome because of the frequent exhortations to praise the Lord. After he was saved he came to see how mistaken he was.
- k. Giving glory to God is the evidence of our conversion. It is proof that we have entered into a new world.
- l. Isn't it just like God to once again plead with mankind to turn to Him. What mercy and what grace.

2) The Second Angel: Prepare for Judgment

- a. Unlike the first angel, this angel does not preach the good news of the gospel, but lays out the guarantee that Babylon is fallen, is fallen.
- b. The repetition of the word fallen indicates the surety of the act.
- c. **Note:** When the angel proclaims this, it has not happened yet, but it is sure to happen.
- d. We will consider Babylon in greater detail when we come to Rev. 17-18. Today, we will try to understand why this city, above all others, is singled out for a special pronouncement of judgment.
- e. Babylon is more than a city, Babylon is a philosophy! Babylon represents everything the world is. Babylon represents everything that stands opposed to God and His perfect will. Babylon represents a system of unbelief.
- f. We may be for certain of the place of Babylon but we are certain of the symbolism of it. The two key ingredients of Babylon are false religion, and materialism.
- g. It will fall. That is certain. Are we living as if Babylon is fallen?
- h. People are constantly hoping for a better day. Politicians promise to bring in better times if they are elected. World leaders strive to find common ground between nations, seeking to bring about peace and harmony. Everyone would like to see the stock market up, the crime rate down, poverty and disease

eliminated, the environment preserved, and an end to hatred and strife. But man's efforts to bring about a better world, however well intended, are ultimately doomed. They amount to little more than rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic to give everyone a better view as the ship sinks. The truth is that not a better day, but an unimaginably worse day lies ahead for man and his world. MacArthur, John.

- i. In this verse, Babylon is pictured as a harlot. She is seen seducing the foolish sinners of this world. She has lead them away from God with her lies and she is about to pay a terrible price. The judgment of God is coming upon her and her heresies and none can stay His hand of judgment. The philosophy behind all of mankind's religious heresies and rebellion against God will be destroyed. Their foundation will be shattered by the wrath of God.

3) The Third Angel: The Punishment of God (v. 9-11)

- a. **Adrian Rogers:** It is decision that determines destiny.
- b. In the time of tribulation mankind is forced to decide between the beast and the lamb.
- c. These verses make it very clear what happens to those who align with the beast.
- d. The wrath of God poured out full strength, tormented with fire forever and forever, no rest day and night.
- e. If you do not receive the mark then death is all but sure, persecution is certain.
- f. Those are the choices.
- g. They will either defy the best or deify the beast, and God makes it plain what the consequences are for the choices made.
- h. Many want this language to be symbolic, but it is not.
- i. The wrath of God is real, hell is real, and it is forever and ever.
- j. We must keep in mind that the first two angels have warned the people, and invited them to turn. If they ignore the message they only have themselves to blame.
- k. We may not like the word "torment" but it is here just the same.

Conclusion: I conclude with the contrast of verses 11 and verse 13. **Warren Wiersbe** said "Better to reign with Christ forever than with Antichrist for few short years! Better to endure persecution patiently now than to escape it and suffer throughout eternity."

There is a day for us coming that we will rest from our labors. A place of peace, and joy, and a place that also last for ever and ever.