

God's Just Response – Part 2

Revelation 14:6-13

I. Introduction

1. We previously noted that chapter 14 is God's direct response to Satan's efforts to make earth evil's permanent dominion.
2. Today, we take special note of God's goodness. *For here in this pause of God's judgments found in the tribulation period, He is under no law or other requirement to reveal His plans...but He does. He has no mandate to share the Gospel...but He does. There is no power capable of compelling him to offer people restoration...but He is.* He is not required to pour out His grace and mercy...but He does.

II. Revelation 14:6-13: Proclaiming an Urgent Message

1. In our day, the church often references **Matthew 24:14** in laying out the conclusion of the great commission (**Matthew 28:18-20**)...that is preaching the Gospel to all the nations. *This is the very heart of Christ...that all will hear and respond to the Good News.* Even now, in Rev 14:6, as we look toward the end of the tribulation period, Jesus remains focused on sharing the Gospel to all nations, tribes, tongues, and peoples...*this time with an angel inviting all to turn from their wicked ways and receive eternal life.*
2. In verse 7, the angel reminds us to be worshipful while further extending the list of righteous things for us to be and do including (1) fearing God and (2) giving Him glory.
 - A. As to why...the hour of His judgment has come. *No more delay's...no more mulligans.* Here in the tribulation period, God has called His people back to Him and is pouring out His wrath on those warring against Him even as He continues to invite repentance with Jesus' imminent 2nd coming.

B. In our day, in this place, I believe the Lord would have us emphasize fearing Him. *At its most straightforward, this kind of fear is a reverent awe.* It means we see Him, even in our limitations, for who He is...His AWESOME power, His holiness, His hatred of sin, His wisdom, righteousness, and transcendence.

This kind of fear may be thought of as a virtue reflecting and resulting with surrender, submission, obedience, humility, and complete trust in Him. *He is our mighty fortress, our safe abiding space, and all else that we need to be content and live a life of victory.* Hebrews 12:28-29 says it this way:

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Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. ²⁹ For our God *is* a consuming fire. - Hebrews 12:28–29

Some of the many references to this kind of fear include:

- i. With fear comes Godly wisdom and understanding. (Proverbs 9:10)
- ii. For sanctification, to know and obey His will, and to please Him. (Philippians 2:12-13)
- iii. This fear turns us away from evil. (Proverbs 8:13, 16:6)
- iv. The fear of the Lord leads us to life, riches, and honor. (Proverbs 19:23, 22:4)

And yet, much of the church gladhands or even avoids teaching the fear of the Lord. *Why?*

I believe it is because man lusts for authority. *Said differently, in our unredeemed state, Mankind does not hate sin and we don't want to give up our place of self-lordship.* For you see to have a

fear (or reverent awe) of the Lord is to call ourselves slaves of another IN the least to the most consequential matters of life.

In our day, too much of the church has moved on from the fear of God as a central tenet of our faith. [To where we might ask?](#) Well...to God accepting us the way we are...[to having a God made in our image](#)...to claiming Godly power to add or change the canon of Scripture, [to making false signs](#), to claiming knowledge which Scripture expressly says none knows, [to hosting podcasts, online channels, deceptive deliverance trainings, and other activities/forums veiled in religion for the purposes of exercising authority in satiating pride and showering man with riches rather than for the purpose of pleasing and glorifying Jesus](#). And this list of false teaching goes on for there is nothing new under the sun...for as we are told in **John 8:44**, the devil's children lust for power, position, and authority knows no bounds.

Truth be told, rejecting God's authority is nothing more than charlatans promoting a cheap grace theology that minimizes God and what Jesus bought at the cross of Calvary in favor of idolatry. [This is nothing more than false teaching that God loves you the way you are so stay that way rather than true teaching that God loves you enough to NOT leave us the way we are.](#)

If we think this is not for "us" today, we fool ourselves. [Fearing God is found throughout the Bible](#)...all the way, as we read in the book of Revelation, to the closing out of the yet-future tribulation period.

Lord, forgive us, we pray!

3. Verse 8 has engendered much disagreement. [Is this a rebuilt Babylon?](#) Is this a spiritual Babylon...perhaps a modern city or the antichrist himself birthed of the Roman empire having its roots in the original Babylon? [Is it solely a political system, a religious system, or a fusion of the two?](#)

While these questions go unanswered here, what seems clear is mankind is, yet again, in organized rebellion against the Creator...as we will see shortly, a rebellion the Lord will crush in His righteous judgment. Please note there is much more to come with respect to Babylon as we study **Revelation 17-19**.

4. In v9-11, two choices stand-out. First, we have the consequences of rejecting God. As we have read, no one will accidentally make the choice to take the mark of the beast. Each person's heart will be known because they will be compelled to choose under threat of death. For those accepting the mark of the beast will seal their own destiny to hell.

Two things to note within this first choice:

- A. First, that God holds the cup of wrath is well established in Scripture as it is presented more than a dozen times (e.g., **Ps 75:8; Jer 25:15**).
 - i. Likewise, one of the most difficult teachings to accept, the reality of hell being an eternal dwelling place of such horror, is also well established in Scripture. Jesus Himself referred to hell and hell fire numerous times. While not speaking the word for "hell", the Apostle Paul speaks of God's wrath for those rejecting Him and no wrath for those receiving Him. Matthew, Luke, and John, along with others, also speak clearly of hell.
 - ii. While it is difficult to grasp, much less accept hell is real, this is what Scripture teaches. No matter the claims that a good God could never allow such a thing AND no matter the numerous attempts to reinterpret Scripture to say hell is not real, that is not what the very words of Christ reveal. Hell is the very real consequence of choosing evil over Jesus...a choice Christ gives all to make.

5. The second choice, receiving Christ, is presented in v12-13. This choice includes the wonderful blessing of eternity in heaven with Messiah.

Yet, Jesus doesn't want us to miss that this blessing is worked out in the here-and-now on this side of heaven. In v12, the word for patience expresses steadfastness and perseverance – meaning, we won't suddenly come into relationship with Christ once we arrive in heaven. No, we are blessed to have an eternal relationship with Him because of our obedience and faithfulness on this side of heaven with SOME of the fruit of this relationship being “rest and recognition” for our faithfulness.

6. There is a second amazing reality presented in these verses today...a reality I want to close with. You can both choose and be secure in your choice to follow Jesus or not. V13 – Blessed are those that die in Christ.

A. First, examine yourself. Consider your steadfastness and faithfulness. Is your faith alive? Do you fear and worship Him? Do you give Him glory? Are you purposing to leave your will at the foot of the cross and instead receive and live out His will in your life?

And likewise, have you joined your church family in sharing Christ's burden and urgency to proclaim the Good News in thought, word, and deed?! Are we making disciples? Are we steadfast and faithful in and to Jesus?

- i. If you answer yes. Even if it's a yes that the Spirit of God has convicted you that Jesus is calling you to do more in loving and obeying Him, then PTL!
- ii. If you answer “no or I'm not sure or I don't think so”, God is inviting you in to the abundant life and fulness of His blessings. [Prayer]

Revelation 16:6-13

Discussion Prompts

Don't be shy or embarrassed, this is a safe place to talk, learn, and grow. All of us should walk with an attitude of grace and Godly love in encouraging one another to contribute to our shared growth in the Lord.

For more discussion questions helping your faith to grow, please download the sermon documents typically posted the day after each sermon on the watch tab of our App or website.

1. We tell people all the time that in Christ there is no fear. Yet, throughout the Bible we are commanded to fear God. How can we help a non-Christian or baby-Christian genuinely grasp the difference? Discuss.
2. Discuss the importance/unimportance of hell in how a Biblical worldview incorporating hell informs faith.
3. Answer the following question and then discuss your reasoning, including hopes, fears, concerns, etc. Given support and good tools, will you agree to lead a discipleship group of high schoolers?

Revelation 14:6-13

God's Just Response – Part 2

I. Introduction: A Personal and Caring God

- Some thoughts about God.

II. Revelation 16:6-13: Proclaiming an Urgent Message

- Worshipful, having a fear of God, and giving Him glory.
- Considering the importance of the fear of God.
- Babylon reintroduced.
- The reality of hell.
- Both salvation and sanctification are in view.

Additional Scripture References: Mt 24:14, 28:18-20; He 12:28-29; Prov 9:10; Phil 2:12-13; Prov 8:13, 16:6, 19:23, 22:4; Jn 8:44; Re 17-19; Ps 75:8; Jer 25:15

5-Day Devotional

Revelation 16:6-13

God's Just Response – Part 2

Day 1: God's Mercy in Judgment

Reading: Rev. 14:6-7

Devotional: As we reflect on God's justice, we're reminded of His incredible mercy. Even in times of judgment, God continues to offer salvation. The angel proclaiming the eternal gospel shows us that God's desire is for all to turn to Him. Today, consider how God has shown you mercy in your life. How can you extend that same mercy to others? Pray for opportunities to share the good news of God's love with someone in your sphere of influence.

Day 2: The Fear of the Lord

Reading: Prov 9:10, Heb 12:28-29

Devotional: The concept of fearing God can be challenging, but it's rooted in awe and reverence for His holiness. This fear leads to wisdom and a life that honors God. Reflect on areas of your life where you may have lost sight of God's holiness. How can you cultivate a deeper reverence for God in your daily life? Ask the Holy Spirit to instill in you a proper fear of the Lord that leads to obedience and spiritual growth.

Day 3: Choosing God's Way

Reading: Josh 24:14-15, Rev 14:9-11

Devotional: We all face choices that impact our spiritual lives. Just as Joshua challenged the Israelites to choose whom they would serve, we too must decide to follow God or the ways of the world. The consequences of our choices are significant. Today, examine your recent decisions. Are they aligned with God's will for your life? Commit to making choices that honor God, even when it's difficult.

Day 4: Perseverance in Faith

Reading: Rev 14:12, James 1:2-4

Devotional: The Christian life isn't always easy, but God calls us to persevere. Our faithfulness through trials demonstrates the reality of our faith. Think about a challenging situation you're facing. How can you remain steadfast in your faith during this time? Ask God for the strength to endure and the wisdom to see how He might be using this situation to refine your character.

Day 5: Rest for the Faithful

Reading: Rev 14:13, Mt 11:28-30

Devotional: God promises rest for those who faithfully follow Him. This rest isn't just about physical relaxation, but a deep spiritual peace that comes from trusting in God's promises. Are you experiencing this rest in your life? If not, what might be hindering you from fully resting in God's care? Take time today to cast your cares upon the Lord, trusting in His faithfulness and love for you.

Small Group Guide

Revelation 16:6-13

God's Just Response – Part 2

Opening Prayer: Pray that the Lord will bless your conversation and guide you to understand His word.

Key Takeaways: Query the group for takeaways first...you may stay with one or more of those.

1. God continues to show mercy and offer salvation even during the tribulation period.
2. The fear of the Lord is crucial for spiritual growth and wisdom.
3. There are eternal consequences for rejecting God and accepting the mark of the beast.
4. Choosing Christ leads to blessings both in this life and eternity.

Discussion Questions: Did the Holy Spirit prompt any questions with you? Start with those.

1. The sermon mentions God's continued mercy during the tribulation. How does this reflect God's character, and how should it impact our view of Him?
2. What does it mean to "fear the Lord" in a biblical sense? How is this different from being afraid of God?
3. The sermon criticizes parts of the modern church for avoiding teaching about the fear of the Lord. Do you agree with this assessment? Why or why not?
4. How can we cultivate a healthy fear of the Lord in our daily lives?
5. The sermon talks about the reality of hell. How do you reconcile the concept of an eternal hell with God's love and mercy?
6. What does it mean to be "steadfast and faithful" to Jesus in today's world?
7. The sermon emphasizes the urgency of sharing the Gospel. How can we, as individuals and as a group, be more intentional about evangelism?

Practical Applications: Query the group for applications first...you may explore one or more of those.

1. This week, reflect on areas in your life where you might be resisting God's authority. Commit to surrendering those areas to Him.
2. Practice giving God glory by keeping a daily gratitude journal, listing specific ways you've seen His goodness.
3. Identify one person in your life who doesn't know Christ. Commit to praying for them daily and look for opportunities to share your faith with them.
4. Examine your own life for evidence of "steadfastness and faithfulness." Where do you see growth, and where do you need improvement?
5. As a group, brainstorm ways you can support and encourage each other in living out your faith more boldly.

Closing Prayer: Thank God for His continued mercy and grace. Ask for His help in cultivating a proper fear of the Lord and for courage to share the Gospel with others.

Discussion Questions

Revelation 16:6-13

God's Just Response – Part 2

1. How does the concept of 'fearing God' as described in the sermon differ from common interpretations, and how might cultivating this kind of fear impact our daily lives and decisions?
2. The sermon mentions God's continued offer of grace and mercy even during judgment. How does this reflect on God's character, and how should it shape our understanding of divine justice and love?
3. What are some ways the modern church might be avoiding or downplaying the teaching of 'the fear of the Lord', and what could be the consequences of this shift?
4. How does the urgency of sharing the Gospel in Revelation 14:6-7 relate to our current mission as Christians, and what might be holding us back from this urgency?
5. The sermon discusses the reality of hell as taught in Scripture. How do we reconcile this difficult doctrine with the concept of a loving God, and why is it important to address this topic?
6. What does it mean practically to 'die in Christ' as mentioned in Revelation 14:13, and how can we live our lives in a way that ensures this blessing?
7. How might the concept of Babylon in Revelation 14:8 apply to our modern world, and what forms of organized rebellion against God do we see today?
8. The sermon critiques 'cheap grace theology'. What are some examples of this in contemporary Christianity, and how can we guard against it in our own spiritual lives?
9. How does the idea of being 'slaves of another' in relation to fearing God challenge our modern notions of freedom and autonomy?
10. The sermon emphasizes steadfastness and perseverance in faith. In what ways can we cultivate these qualities in our spiritual journey, especially during challenging times?

Dinner Conversation Starters

Revelation 16:6-13

God's Just Response – Part 2

1. Understanding God's Mercy

The sermon highlighted that God is not obligated to share His plans, yet He does. Why do you think God's willingness to communicate with humanity is important? How can we apply this in our communication with each other?

2. The Concept of Fear

The sermon discusses the "fear of the Lord" as a form of reverent awe. How do you interpret this kind of fear, and how might it differ from everyday fears we experience? How can this perspective change our relationship with God?

3. Authority and Humility

The message mentioned how humanity often resists submitting to God's authority due to pride. Can you think of a time when admitting you were wrong or needing help actually improved your relationships? How does this relate to our relationship with God?

4. Choices and Consequences

The sermon contrasts the consequences of accepting the "mark of the beast" versus choosing Christ. In what ways do our daily choices impact our future, and how can we make decisions that align with our faith?

5. Living Faithfully

The concept of steadfastness and faithfulness was highlighted in the sermon. What are some practical ways we can demonstrate steadfastness in our faith and lives? How can families support each other in living out these values?

Family Conversation Guide for Children & Early Teens

Revelation 16:6-13

God's Just Response – Part 2

AGES 5-7: SIMPLIFYING THE MESSAGE APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Understanding Right and Wrong**: Talk about the importance of following rules at home and school, as we honor God and follow Him.

Discussion Question: Can you think of a rule at home or school that helps keep everyone safe and happy? Why is it important to follow it?

2. **Fear as Awe**: Introduce the concept of being amazed and respectful, like being in wonder when they see something beautiful in nature.

Discussion Question: Can you remember a time when you saw something so amazing, like a rainbow? How did it make you feel?

3. **Sharing Good News**: Encourage sharing positive stories or experiences with friends and family, much like sharing God's love.

Discussion Question: How can you tell your friends about the good news of Jesus?

AGES 8-12: BUILDING UNDERSTANDING APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Choosing Good Friends**: Talk about choosing good friends who encourage them to follow Jesus.

Discussion Question: How do you decide who is a good friend, and how do they help you make the right choices?

2. **Respecting Authority**: Focus on respecting teachers and parents as a reflection of respecting God.

Discussion Question: Why is it important to listen to and respect your parents and teachers, just like we respect God?

AGES 11-15: DEEPENING THE CONNECTION APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Peer Pressure and Choices**: Discuss peer pressure and how to make decisions that stay true to your faith, not compromising under the pressure.

Discussion Question: Have you ever faced a situation where your friends wanted to do something you weren't comfortable with? How did you handle it?

2. **Responsible Digital Presence:** Discuss how to honor God through our use of social media.

Discussion Question: How do you decide what to post or comment online? How can you look to honor God through your posts?

3. **Engaging in Meaningful Conversations:** Talk about engaging in conversations that build others up and reflect God's love.

Discussion Question: Think of a time you had a meaningful conversation with someone. What made it special, and how did it reflect what you believe?

Tips for Parents

- Be patient and listen: Give your child time to think and respond.
- Relate to everyday life: Use real-life examples and stories familiar to your child to make abstract concepts more tangible.
- Encourage questions: Let your son or daughter know it's okay to ask questions, even if things don't make sense right away.
- Share personal insights: Tell a personal story about a time you experienced these themes, adapting as needed for age appropriateness.

Family Conversation Guide for GenZ

Revelation 16:6-13

God's Just Response – Part 2

1. Standing Firm in Faith

Application: Just as Revelation speaks about standing firm in faith during trials, apply Ephesians 6:13, which encourages putting on the full armor of God, to confidently face peer pressure and group challenges by staying true to your faith in Jesus.

Scenario: Imagine you're in a group where everyone wants to ditch a school responsibility.

Discussion Question: How can you stand firm in your faith and values while encouraging the group to make a positive choice? What might you say or do to reflect your beliefs in this situation?

2. Relationships

Application: Reflecting on Jesus' call to love others (John 13:34-35), focus on building relationships based on respect, love, and honesty, choosing to treat others as you would want to be treated, even when faced with relationship conflicts.

Scenario: Suppose a friend is spreading rumors about you, and has hurt your feelings.

Discussion Question: How can you respond in a way that shows love and respect for them while also addressing the situation truthfully and constructively? How can this response demonstrate your faith?

3. Responsible and Kind Communication

Application: Colossians 4:6 emphasizes letting your conversation be gracious and attractive. Apply this by ensuring your digital interactions are respectful and kind, portraying Christ-like compassion in text messages, social media posts, and online discussions.

Scenario: Imagine you see bullying and harassment online.

Discussion Question: What are some ways you can intervene or respond that align with letting your speech be gracious? How can your actions make a positive impact and reflect your commitment to God's and His Word?

These application points aim to help Gen Z navigate their daily environments while faithfully following Jesus' teachings with Biblical integrity and living out the gospel.