



Αποκάλυψη

# REVELATION

14:6-13

# OUTLINE

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- 📍 Main Point
- 📍 The Vision
- 📍 The Everlasting Gospel (v. 6)
- 📍 Proclamation of Coming Judgment (v. 7)
- 📍 Babylon is Fallen (v. 8)
- 📍 Result of the Mark (v. 9-10)
- 📍 Contrasting Groups (v. 11-12)
- 📍 Fate of the Saints (v. 13)
- 📍 Lessons for Us

# MAIN POINT

- 👤 We are given a series of proclamations by angels to the earth-dwellers
  - 👤 Angel One preaches the Everlasting Gospel, which centers on our accountability to God as Creator
  - 👤 Angel Two declares the sure and upcoming fall of Babylon (city and system)
  - 👤 Angel Three Gives a warning to any who are thinking of taking the Mark and tells them their ultimate fate if they do
- 👤 Compare and contrast the fate of the Saints with the fate of the Earth-Dwellers
  - 👤 Both an encouragement and a warning
  - 👤 Those doing the right thing are not promised an easy time (they are promised the opposite)
  - 👤 Whatever knowledge those Tribulation Saints have of God and the Word, they will need to hang onto to make it through the Tribulation (dead or alive)
- 👤 The importance of “spiritual muscles”
  - 👤 Often overlooked and should be a practical part of our “devotional life”
  - 👤 What does this look like and how do we strengthen them?
  - 👤 Take the long-term view of things

# THE VISION



# THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL (V. 6)

## 👤 “another angel”

- 👤 We have the beginning of a new section
- 👤 Recall that chapter breaks are largely arbitrary
- 👤 Have completed the drama of the 144,000 and not have a new set of characters and information that God needs to give John
- 👤 “another” is difficult to understand because we have not had an angel spoken of for a while

## 👤 The Eternal Gospel

- 👤 Given out to everyone on Earth
- 👤 Other “Gospels” (Missler, *The Book of Revelation Handbook*, p. 281)
  - 👤 False gospel (2 Corinthians 11:4; Galatians 1:6)
  - 👤 Gabriel brought good news of the birth of John the Baptist (Luke 11:19)
  - 👤 Angelic proclamation of the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:10)
  - 👤 Good news concerning the spiritual growth of the Thessalonian church (1 Thessalonians 3:6)
  - 👤 Declaration of the Mystery of God to be completed (Revelation 10:7)
  - 👤 Gospel of the Kingdom (Matthew 24:14)
- 👤 Something unique which makes this “eternal” and goes beyond what we think of as the “gospel” (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)
  - 👤 Creation-centric
  - 👤 Judgment oriented
  - 👤 Offers a choice to the hearer
  - 👤 Falls within a different Dispensation; but then how is it “eternal”?

# PROCLAMATION OF COMING JUDGMENT (V. 7)

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## No requirement to believe

 Similar to the message in **Jonah 3:4**

 Here there is an implication of repentance with “worship Him”

 People have a choice between giving worship (allegiance) to the Beast, or giving allegiance to God

 God will not force anyone to love Him or believe Him; but there are natural consequences of our actions

 Why would someone want to go to Heaven who does not love God and want to serve Him?

## A call to worship God as Creator

 Amazing how much we are held accountable based on this simple fact (e.g. **Romans 1:18-32**)

 Because God made us and all other things, He decides what the rules are

 If we have nothing else, we should understand our accountability to Him as the one who made us

 **Psalm 19** is a good example of this

 Learning about God by studying His creation

## Even in the midst of deception, God is holding them accountable to Him based on what He obviously did

 With no further information, God expects people to know who He is based on His creation

 What can we learn about God from His creation?

 How does that knowledge apply to our lives, personally?

 Consider that the universe at present is in a fallen state; how does that knowledge change the way we view these discoveries?

# BABYLON IS FALLEN (V. 8)

- 👤 We will conduct a more complete study of Babylon in Eschatology in **Chapters 17 and 18**
  - 👤 For more information, read **Isaiah 13-14; Jeremiah 50-51, and Zechariah 5:5-11**
- 👤 A new angel is brought forth for a new proclamation
  - 👤 A new angel implies the weight of the message
  - 👤 Instead of a single angel giving many messages, each message is given to a single angel
  - 👤 This proclamation on the heels of the previous implies that those that reject repentance will not be party to this judgment
- 👤 We have a glimpse of a future event from the time of the proclamation
  - 👤 Not so much, “is falling right at the moment the angel is speaking, “and more, “Babylon is going to fall and you know how sure that is because it is spoken in the present-tense”
  - 👤 This is a foretaste of what will happen in **Revelation 17-18**
  - 👤 Similar to how the First Beast was foreshadowed in **Revelation 11:7** and fully revealed in **Revelation 13:1-10**
- 👤 What is Babylon?
  - 👤 **Hypothesis 1:** Jerusalem. Views the destruction of Babylon as the same event as the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. But the timeline does not match, nor the scale and nature of the destruction (e.g., **Revelation 18:21**)
  - 👤 **Hypothesis 2:** Symbolic for Beast-worship. Some truth, but there are clear literal uses of Babylon in Scripture and Revelation, so this cannot be the full meaning.
  - 👤 **Hypothesis 3:** Rome/the Papacy. Often cited with **1 Peter 5:13**, but does not align with the whole of Scripture (see above) which sees Babylon as a literal place on the Euphrates. John also used literal names in **Chapters 2-3**, so why depart now with no explanation? The Papacy is too narrow, but also has some measure of truth.
  - 👤 **Hypothesis 4:** Both a real city with a political/religious center, and the broader system which supports it. Discussed more in following chapters. It is clear that there is a real, literal character to the reference, but there is also a religious/spiritual element at work. “The great” likely ties back to **Daniel 4:30** and speaks to the overarching power and character of Babylon.

# RESULT OF THE MARK (V. 9-10)

## 📍 So far...

- 📍 Proclamation to worship God as Creator
- 📍 Announcement of the imminent destruction of Babylon

## 📍 No we have a final warning

- 📍 Not to take the Mark
- 📍 Directed to those tempted or wavering in their desire for an easier life
- 📍 Warns them of the eternal punishment that will come if they pass that point of no return
- 📍 It would be better to suffer in the present than to suffer for all time (c.f. **Matthew 18:6; Luke 12:5**)

## 📍 There is a choice offered

- 📍 People can willingly and knowingly take the Mark or they can willingly and knowingly not take the Mark
  - 📍 Note the “he himself”
- 📍 Both paths are laid out for people
- 📍 The choice is personal and the punishment is personal

## 📍 Eternal punishment

- 📍 Those that reject God, even after so much revelation, will be given what they sought
- 📍 They did not want anything to do with God, so God will cast them from His presence... forever
- 📍 Eternal torment is the logical consequence of not wanting to be around/with God
- 📍 They had all of history, God’s work as Creator, and their own lived experience to tell them the right thing to do, and they still chose something else
- 📍 Why would God, or anyone else, want them to be in Heaven?

# CONTRASTING GROUPS (V. 11-12)

## 👤 Punishment is clearly pictured as eternal

- 👤 There is not death of the soul
- 👤 Can be proved by Scripture from this passage and others such as **Isaiah 66:24** or **Luke 16:19-31**
- 👤 Can also be proven by our current best understanding of physics

## 👤 Rising smoke

- 👤 Often used as a means of expressing the judgment of God (e.g. **Genesis 19:28**)

## 👤 Repetition not to take the Mark

- 👤 Emphasis continually added for people not to take the Mark
- 👤 Clearly important to God
- 👤 God is doing everything possible to make it clear why people should not take the Mark
- 👤 Very easy for us (even Christians) to take an easy way out instead of enduring suffering

## 👤 V. 12 seems directed at those who are wavering

- 👤 They know the truth, want to follow it, but are under enormous pressure
- 👤 Told to be patient, endure, and keep going
- 👤 God does not always make our problems go away
- 👤 He can, but that is not the broad experience of the faithful through the ages (e.g. **Hebrews 11:35b-40**)

# FATE OF THE SAINTS (V. 13)

👤 There will be a lot of people that will die in the Tribulation

👤 A “happy ending: is only promised to those who die “in the Lord”

👤 Living by faith is not always easy (**Hebrews 13:35b-40**)

👤 Our reward will not be here, but in Heaven

👤 Sits here as an encouragement

👤 Encouragement for those that will follow the example of the 144,000

👤 Shows them the end-state and rewards of following Christ

👤 Contrasts that with the temporal ease of following the Beast

👤 We are not promised an easy time

👤 We will all suffer, but let’s make sure it is for the right reasons (c.f. **1 Corinthians 13:3**)

👤 Do the right thing in the right way for the right reasons

👤 Why is it so easy to take the quick and easy way, instead of the long, hard, spiritual path?

👤 Everything around us taps into our senses and uses that to pull us in one direction

👤 We have let our spiritual sense atrophy from disuse or neglect

# LESSONS FOR US

- 📍 How can we exercise our “spiritual muscles” or spiritual sense?
  - 📍 Fasting and prayer (c.f. **Daniel 9:3; Matthew 17:21**)
    - 📍 Actively and consciously deny the flesh for the spirit
  - 📍 Fellowship (**Hebrews 10:25**)
    - 📍 What is fellowship, actually?
  - 📍 Live out the things we say we believe
    - 📍 Will look different for everyone
    - 📍 Find your spiritual gifts and use them
  - 📍 Actively try to look at things through God’s “lens” (people, places, history, etc.)
    - 📍 Probably not our first instinct
    - 📍 See what He is/was doing behind the scenes via second- and third-order effects
  - 📍 Turn Bible study into your hobby
    - 📍 Do we take this as seriously as our favorite hobby?
    - 📍 How much time do we spend practicing our hobby vs. how much time do we spend studying (not just reading) the Bible?
    - 📍 When we do study the Word, we need to get more out of it than facts and figures
      - 📍 Those are important, but if that is all we get, then we have missed the point