

**Now For A Word From Our Sponsor
Light In The Darkness
Revelation 14:1 – 13**

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When we moved into Revelation 12, we knew we were going to be introduced to seven different individuals who would be major players in the Great Tribulation. With the completion of unholy trinity in Revelation 13, we have now met the seven actors.

1. A woman – Revelation 12:1 Israel, it is not Mary, it is not the church
2. A man child – Revelation 12:2 Jesus, Messiah
3. A great red dragon – Revelation 12:3 Satan, liar, murderer, fallen divine being, leader of those he misled and convinced to join him, the first member of the unholy trinity
4. Michael – Revelation 12:7 Archangel, General, Warrior, Divine Being, Israel's Unseen Angelic Prince
5. The woman and her persecuted descendants – Revelation 12:13 – 17 The remnant of Israel (Matthew 24:15 – 21), Tribulation saints and the 144,000 (Revelation 14:1 – 5)
6. The beast out of the sea – Revelation 13:1 – 8 The coming world dictator, the anti-Christ, the beast, the second member of the unholy trinity
7. The beast out of the earth – Revelation 13:11 – 18 The false prophet, the third member of the unholy trinity

It is still half time; the Great Tribulation players have been introduced. Where are we on our outline?

Halftime

The little book 10:1 – 11
The tribulation temple 11:1 – 2
The two witnesses 11:3 – 14
The seventh trumpet 11:15 – 19
Israel, the birth of Jesus, and war 12:1 – 17
The monster from the sea 13:1 – 10
The monster from the earth 13:11 – 18
A word or two from our sponsor 14:1 – 20

God is in control of all aspects of the Great Tribulation, He will show us that here in chapter 14. Just like in some television shows, where there is a leap back or a leap forward to help provide context for us poor viewers, the Holy Spirit is also sensitive to those who are living during this time period.

If there is any group that needs to have hope, it will be those who still have 3 ½ years to go. Not all of them will make it to the end. They need a reason for hope. The Beast will not win, the Lamb will.

John has just told us what is coming up in the immediate future, it looks dark and dismal for anyone still on this planet and especially for the “earth dwellers,” but for those who, in this time of Great Tribulation, are faithful to Jesus, it is time for some encouragement.

John’s view moves from the previous vision, of the dragon overseeing the arrival of two wild beasts. In his anger, the dragon wants to kill all who believe, who have aligned their loyalties to the one whose General just kicked Satan and his minions out of heaven. We were treated to the image of the dragon superintending these two beasts who come up from the sea and the land.

We have had a view of Satan and his henchmen. It looks dark, but God...

Revelation 14:1–5

“Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps. And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth. These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb. And no lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless.” (NASB95)

John will see seven things in this chapter before we move into the seven bowl judgements.

Of the seven things seen by John in chapter 14, the second and the sixth take place before the bowls are poured out, the third, the fourth, the fifth, and the seventh take place as the bowls are poured out, and the first takes place after the bowls are poured out. (Gingrich 2001, 67)

We are going to hop around time a little bit. Let’s start off with what looked like a miserable time for the planet.

We have come forward through time, we are on Mount Zion and the Lamb is standing on the mount. He is the conqueror. He is in the process of consolidating His power and there is this photo op that takes place. This is not a fake lamb as we saw in Revelation 13:11, this is THE LAMB, Jesus Christ. He is on Mount Zion. This is significant.

What did we just see in the previous chapter?

Over against the confessors and worshippers of the Beast, having his mark, is the company of the Lamb’s followers, having their mark, even the name of the Father and the Son written in their foreheads. Over against the Beast’s moral system, which is nothing but harlotry, spiritual and literal, the worship of idols and the trampling under foot of all God’s institutes, here is an opposing style of life and conformity – a virgin purity which refuses to be debauched by the prevailing fornication. (Seiss 1913, 17)

The Lamb, a thinly veiled metaphor for the Davidic Messiah, is depicted as standing in order to suggest that he functions as a warrior prepared to destroy his enemies. (Aune 1998, 803)

Not branded or stamped but written. As a reminder.

There are two different words at play here in the Greek. In Revelation 7, the 144,000 are sealed with a mark, ἐσφραγισμένοι (esfragismenoi.)

This comes from the word σφραγίζω (sfragizo.) This word means to “provide with a seal as a security measure; to close something up tight, seal up something in order to keep it secret; to mark with a seal as a means of identification, mark, seal; so that the mark denoting ownership also carries with it the protection of the owner; to certify that something is so, attest, certify, acknowledge; to seal something for delivery, seal. (Arndt, et al. 2000, 980)

The word used regarding the mark of the Beast is the word χάραγμα (charagma.) This word means “a mark that is engraved, etched, branded, cut, imprinted, mark, stamp. (Arndt, et al. 2000, 1077)

And standing on Mount Zion

Psalm 2:6–12

“But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain. I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. ‘Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession. ‘You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.’ ” Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; Take warning, O judges of the earth. Worship the LORD with reverence And rejoice with trembling. Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!” (NASB95)

Everyone in David’s day knew there was plenty of real estate north of Zion, even inside Israel. Second, while Zion is beautiful, it’s a bit short on elevation. It’s not even the tallest peak in Jerusalem. At 2,428 feet, the Temple Mount is almost a hundred feet lower than the modern Mount Zion (the former Western Hill was thought to be more fitting for David’s palace, so it was renamed Zion in the first century), and almost three hundred feet below the highest spot on the Mount of Olives. (Gilbert 2018, Kindle Location 1227)

This is the only reference to Mount Zion in the book of Revelation. Zion is one of the mountains of Jerusalem, not the temple mount, but the fortress of Jerusalem. David captures it when he captures the city from the Jebusites (2 Sam. 5:6–7; 1 Chr. 11:4–5) and it becomes known as the “city of David” (2 Sam. 5:7; 1 Kgs 8:1; 2 Chr. 5:2). When he completes the temple, Solomon takes the ark “out of Zion” to place it in the temple (2 Chr. 3:1). The fact that Zion is a fortress fits with the military imagery of the scene. (Leithart 2018, 86)

Psalm 48:2–11

“Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, Is **Mount Zion** in the far north, The city of the great King. God, in her palaces, Has made Himself known as a stronghold. For, lo, the kings assembled themselves, They passed by together. They saw it, then they were amazed; They were terrified, they fled in alarm. Panic seized them there, Anguish, as of a woman in childbirth. With the east wind You break the ships of Tarshish. As we have heard, so have we seen In the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God; God will establish her forever. Selah. We have thought on Your lovingkindness, O God, In the midst of Your temple. As is Your name, O God, So is Your praise to the ends of the earth; Your right hand is full of righteousness. Let Mount Zion be glad, Let the daughters of Judah rejoice Because of Your judgments.” (NASB95)

Isaiah 2:2

“Now it will come about that In the last days The **mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains**, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it.” (NASB95)

Joel 2:32

“And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Will be delivered; For **on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who escape**, As the LORD has said, Even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.” (NASB95)

The Lamb, standing as conqueror, is standing on Mount Zion, most likely immediately after the events of Zechariah 14:4-5. Jesus has returned, the Mount of Olives has split in two and He has made His way over to Mount Zion and the Temple Mount area. Recall that part of the change He will initiate in Jerusalem is the creation of a vast plain on which the Millennial Temple will stand (Ezekiel 40-45.) An area with plenty of room, and it will be needed because standing with their conquering King are the same 144,000 who were sealed back in chapter 7.

For those who are looking at the face of 3 ½ more years of darkness, there is the encouragement of all 144,000 Jewish evangelists prevailing and standing with Messiah...conquerors.

These 144,000, the same as in Revelation 7, are in the area earmarked in Ezekiel, Mount Zion, as being the future location of the throne room of God here on planet earth when Eden is reestablished. We also see that they are virgins, they have kept themselves pure, and they have conquered and stand with the Lamb.

This is the exact opposite of what took place in Genesis 6.

In Genesis 6, there were holy ones, watchers, who came to earth and then defiled themselves. They took off what it is we desire to put on. (Jude 6, 2 Corinthians 5:2)

...where the fallen angels lusted after the daughters of men and took for themselves wives, thus defiling themselves and abandoning God's order. ... In terms of the commentary in 1 En[och] 15:3–12, the angels should not have taken wives from the daughters of men because (a) they have thereby defiled themselves, (b) they have thereby begotten strange children in terms of 1 En[och] 10:9, and (c) angels in any case have no need of wives since they are immortal, while men need them to perpetuate the species. ... John borrows this negative imagery from the erring Enochic Levites to create an anti-image of the representative 144,000 undefiled virgins. ... [The 144,000] are ... an anti-image, not only to the followers of the beast mentioned in the preceding chapter and Rev[elation] 14:6–20 (cf. Rev[elation] 17–18); but also to the fallen angels of 1 Enoch 1–36 in their ritual purity.

The theological point is that the 144,000 holy ones who fight the Beast (Antichrist) are counterpoints to the holy ones who rebelled and defiled themselves with human women. John telegraphs that these holy ones will help their earthly compatriots defeat the Beast and rectify the impurity brought to earth by the Watchers. (Heiser 2017, 167)

Enoch 15:3–12

“Why did you leave behind the high, holy, and eternal heaven? Why did you go to sleep with the women and be defiled with the daughters of humans, taking for yourselves women like the sons of the earth, making and begetting for yourselves giant children? And you were holy, living, eternal spirits. But then you were defiled with the blood of the women, and with the blood of the flesh you brought forth children and you longed for the blood of men, just as any of those of flesh and blood do, those who die and are destroyed.’ “Because of this I gave women to them in order to be impregnated and procreate children by them this way, and so that all work is not forsaken in them upon the earth. You were living eternal spirits and not dying into all the generations of the age. And because of this I did not make wives available for you; but the spirits of heaven, their dwelling is in heaven. And now the giants who are born from the spirits, even the strong spirits of flesh upon the earth, their dwelling will be on the earth. Evil spirits went out from their body, for they came from the higher places, and the beginning of their creation and foundation is from the watchful holy ones. They will be called evil spirits. And so for the spirits of heaven, their dwelling will be in heaven, and the spirits that are born upon the earth, their dwelling will be upon the earth. “The spirits of the giants were doing unjustly, destroying, attacking, and wrestling with each other

and thrown together upon the earth, the hard spirits of the giants. They are making courses and no one is eating, but they are fasting and thirsting and stumbling spirits. These will rise up against the children of men and women because they have gone forth from them.” (Lexham Press 2020, Enoch 15:3-12)

Isaiah 14:13–14

“But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’” (NASB95)

Satan’s goal, to sit on Mount Zaphon as King usurping God and His chosen Mount Zion.

Isaiah 14:13–14

“You said to yourself, “I will climb up to the sky. Above the stars of El I will set up my throne. I will rule on the mountain of assembly on the remote slopes of Zaphon. I will climb up to the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High!”” (NET)

What was one of the goals of Satan, one which Michael put an end to when he kicked Satan and his followers out of the heavenlies back in chapter 12? The goal was to make Mount Zaphon into an infernal Mount Zion. Further north from Mount Zion, there was a perceived dark spiritual stronghold located at Mount Zaphon.

40 km to the north of Ugarit, Jebel al-Aqra’ rises to the height of about 1770 meters. The identification of Jebel al-Aqra’ with mount Zaphon in the Ugaritic texts, first proposed by EISSFELDT (1932), is unanimously accepted. Its peak being often shrouded with clouds, Mount Zaphon was regarded as a holy mountain in the mythological and ritual texts of Ugarit. (Niehr 1999, 927)

In the Ugaritic mythological tradition, Mount Zaphon receives its holiness from Baal’s palace built on its peak (KTU 1.3–4). Nearly always in the mythological texts Mount Zaphon is mentioned together with Baal because mount Zaphon is his divine abode. (Niehr 1999, 928)

KTU 1.101:1-4

Baal sits like the base of a mountain; Hadd se[ttles] as the ocean, in the midst of his divine mountain, Saphon, in [the midst of] the mountain of victory. Seven lightning-flashes [], eight bundles of thunder, a tree-of-lightning [in his] ri[ght hand]. (Wyatt 2002, 388-389)

Specifically, Baal’s home was a mountain, now known as Jebel al-Aqra’, situated to the north of Ugarit. In ancient times it was simply known as Tsaphon (“north”; Tsapanu in Ugaritic). It was a divine mountain, the place where Baal held council as he ruled the gods of the Canaanite pantheon. (Heiser, *The Unseen Realm: Recovering the Supernatural Worldview of the Bible* 2015, 361)

Baal, a common Semitic noun meaning ‘lord, owner.’ (Herrmann 1999, 132)

Baal is Satan, he also went by Marduk, Addu, Hadad.

Each time Israel has been invaded, with the distinct exception of Egypt, it has come from the north. The part of Israel that split off, the northern kingdom, were idol worshipers and they went north. When the people first took the land, they defeated a leader named Og in Bashan in the north.

In Genesis 6 we see the story of a group of fallen angels who arrived on earth and polluted it with their sin and their offspring – Nephilim. The Book of Enoch provides a location as to exactly where this all took place. In the north at Mount Hermon. The coming of Jesus, the Messiah, would, to a Jew living in the first century, be the beginning of the reversal of what started back in Genesis 6.

The 144,000, is an anti-type of the watchers, who were pure but defiled themselves as one, corrupting the world to the degree that the only solution is to start over with 8 people after the flood. The 144,000 are

those who God has selected from man, from His people the Jews, who will remain pure in a reverse repeat of what took place in Genesis 6.

Matthew 24:36–39

“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.” (NASB95)

The victory of the 144,000, being prophesied here in Revelation 14, points to the overturning of the corruption of Genesis 6. Whereas the watchers failed, God’s selected evangelists will succeed. Those who will be going through the Great Tribulation need to know this.

Revelation 14:2–3

“And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps. And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth.” (NASB95)

John is providing us a prophetic picture only looking 3 ½ years into the future from the beginning of the Great Tribulation. He sees the 144,000 with the Lamb and hears music coming from heaven.

The Scriptures tell of nine “new songs,” and each one speaks of a glorious theme specifically designed for the singer of the song. The first six are in the book of Psalms (Psalm 33:3; 40:3; 96:1; 98:1; 144:9; 149:1) and one is in Isaiah 42:10. One of the new songs was that sung by the redeemed host at the throne of the Lamb when He received earth’s title deed (Revelation 5:9). The last new song is here on this occasion. One other song is mentioned in Revelation, but it is not a “new song,” being identified rather as “the song of Moses, and of the Lamb.” (Morris 1983, 260)

What is heard is the (very loud) new song sung by the redeemed. It is not only loud but melodic as well, as the unfolding similes make clear. The sound that John hears from heaven is like the roar of a mighty cataract (or the roar of the ocean; NJB). Ezekiel uses the same figure for the sound of the winged cherubim in flight as they accompany the chariot throne of God (Ezek 1:24). It is like the voice of God approaching in his glory (Ezek 43:2). Apparently the Seer was greatly impressed by the sound, for he adds two more descriptive similes: it is like the sound of thunder (cf. 6:1; 19:6), and it is like the swelling refrain of an ensemble of harpists. (Mounce 1997, 265)

The 144,000 have come through the entirety of the Tribulation. They have been delivered through all of it, and now they rejoice in the finality of the victory achieved by the Lamb.

Revelation 14:4

“These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb.” (NASB95)

The 144,000 are the male Jewish evangelists from every tribe of Israel except for the tribe of Dan. They are indeed the first fruits of the harvest of the Jewish remnant from the Great Tribulation.

In a world that has gone mad and accepted the lies of Satan as truth resulting in confused sexuality, attention is drawn specifically to those who have not listened to the culture. Jesus referred to the confusion of the last days and the Tribulation period as well.

Luke 17:26–30

“Just as it was in Noah’s time, so it will be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating, drinking, marrying, and being given in marriage right up to the day when Noah went into the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed all of them. So it was in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But on the day when Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed all of them. The day when the Son of Man is revealed will be like that.” (ISV)

1 Corinthians 7:25–28

“Now concerning virgins I have no command of the Lord, but I give an opinion as one who by the mercy of the Lord is trustworthy. I think then that this is good in view of the present distress, that it is good for a man to remain as he is. Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be released. Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife. But if you marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Yet such will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you.” (NASB95)

The 144,000 evangelists have not been sucked in by the culture prior to their commissioning, and during the period they were in service, they remained pure and on mission.

Revelation 14:4–5

“These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb. And no lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless.” (NASB95)

The “Church of the first born” (Hebrews 12) has already gone up on high; the millennial things are not yet come, the kingdom is not yet set up. But this 144,000 belong to that kingdom (as is seen at once by their being with the Lamb on Mount Zion). Marvelous wonder of God’s grace and keeping power: they come alive through the fire of Antichrist’s days, to walk as “firstfruits” into the 1000 years—an earnest-purchase from among men for the reign of heaven on earth! And “firstfruits” mean that harvest is on! The sight of this 144,000 should remind us that “life from the dead” for the world is made doubly sure by this preserved remnant, just as its promise is connected with the national receiving of Israel. (Newell 1935, 217)

In a time of lies, the 144,000 did not lie, they shoot straight. This contrasts with the Beast and his false prophet who are lying continually.

2 Thessalonians 2:8–10

“Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.” (NASB95)

The veracity of the first fruits from Israel, the 144,000, is a fulfillment of Zephaniah 3:13.

Zephaniah 3:13

“The Israelites who remain will not act deceitfully. They will not lie, and a deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouth. Indeed, they will graze peacefully like sheep and lie down; no one will terrify them.” (NET)

This large number have been kept utterly clean from the false religion of the great tribulation. (Walvoord 2008, 216)

The word angel is a job description; it simply means messenger. John shows us three angels performing that duty.

We are going to meet six of them, each with a distinctive mission.

Revelation 14:6–7

“And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; and he said with a loud voice, “Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters.”” (NASB95)

Currently, we are used to the fact that God chooses to use us, as weak as we are, to communicate His word to the world. Why couldn't God just announce via an angel, like at the birth of Jesus, to the world that He is tired of the sin and what needs to happen to be saved?

Dr. Charles Ryrie looks at these verses coupled with the 144,000 and concludes that they have been removed from the earth prior to the beginning of the Great Tribulation and the scene is one of the Lamb enjoying their homecoming. As a result, the only ones who can get the word out are angels.

God will use extraordinary means to communicate His word if that is the only way to get the word out. He used dreams and visions during the time of the old and new testament, why do we believe that He would not continue to do so today?

About a decade ago, those of us who work in Muslim outreach started to hear about something new in the world of Islam. God was opening the closed hearts of Muslims by giving them spectacular dreams and visions. At first, the stories were rare, but today these amazing accounts of God breaking through to Muslims have become a common occurrence. We find that about one out of every three Muslim-background believers has had a dream or vision prior to their salvation experience. Some more precise surveys are a bit more conservative and suggest a little over 25 percent of Muslims had a dream or a vision before becoming disciples of Jesus. (Doyle and Webster 2012, 127)

Joel 2:28–29

“After all of this I will pour out my Spirit on all kinds of people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your elderly will have revelatory dreams; your young men will see prophetic visions. Even on male and female servants I will pour out my Spirit in those days.” (NET)

Here in Revelation 14:7, we have an angel, flying around in mid-heaven, obviously broadcasting to the entire planet with the eternal gospel message of...“Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters.” The only way earth dwellers will hear now, is supernaturally. “Last call!”

Before God pours out His seven bowls of terrible judgments upon the wicked, He gives every man an opportunity to receive the gospel and be spared from His wrath. To be delivered from this coming wrath, all that men need do is to fear (reverence), worship, and give glory to, the creator God. This is done by accepting the Christ of the gospel. (Gingrich 2001, 69)

One more time the Good News is communicated. One more time everyone is reminded that He is the creator of heaven, earth, sea and the springs of water. That reminder is intentional. Before God pours out His judgement on the earth dwellers, He reminds them of what it is He made, and since, as the maker of those things, He is also free to use them as a means of judgement.

The first four bowl judgements will impact the earth, the sea, the springs of water, and the heavens. Stop and think, even though the 144,000 evangelists are still out and about, the technological surveillance economy created by the False Prophet all but invalidates people from being able to communicate the gospel, so God uses someone the False Prophet cannot touch...an angel. At this point, it's not like they haven't heard.

Not only have they had access to the Bibles and Christian literature left behind when believers were raptured but also they have heard the testimony of Enoch and Elijah for three-and-a-half years, have experienced many great divine judgments on earth, have seen and heard angels of God flying through

the skies, and have realized at least in measure what is really happening in heaven and earth. (Morris 1983, 263-264)

They have been tortured by demons, over a billion murdered by demons, and now Satan and his gang are on earth. But one more time God's grace will reach out and He will try one more time to reach just a few more before it is too late. Because it is about to become, too late.

So far, the rocks have remained silent.

Luke 19:39–40

“And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”” (ESV)

No, not really, they have already cried out.

Revelation 5:13

And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, “To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.” (NASB95)

John 3:16–18

““For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.” (ESV)

Revelation 14:8

“And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality.”” (NASB95)

This is more encouragement for those who are believers and in hiding hoping they survive the next 3 ½ years. The world system, which is shown in the scriptures as a battle between Jerusalem and Babylon, will result in the fall of the world system, Babylon, the political system, will fall. We do not see the discussion of the final fall of Babylon until we get to chapter 16, but we are introduced to the topic of its impending doom, which is encouragement for those who live at the time of the events.

For everyone who has rejected the message of the first angel with the eternal gospel message of fearing God, there is a message from the second angel...judgement is coming.

This fall is highlighted and emphasized strongly in the following ways. (a) The verb is an aorist indicative and it may be what we call the prophetic or dramatic aorist. It dramatically points to a future event with the certainty of an event which has already been fulfilled. The aorist indicative generally is used of a completed historic event. Here it is used prophetically of what is certain in the sovereign plan of God. (Keathley III 2002, Re 14:8)

It is Babel, the first city of rebellion; it is Babel, the city of confused voices; it is Babylon, the city of exile; it is Babylon, the city overthrown by Cyrus the Anointed One, who announced Jubilee and set the exiles free. (Leithart 2018, 96)

Revelation 14:9–11

Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their

torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” (NASB95)

Recall back in Revelation 13:17 “and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name.” (NASB95)

That was the proclamation from the False Prophet, God has a response to that proclamation. Those that take that mark, who show loyalty to the Beast, “will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”

Wrath - θυμοῦ (thumoi) - intense expression of the inner self, frequently expressed as strong desire, passion, passionate, the wine-cup of God’s passionate wrath. A state of intense displeasure, anger, wrath, rage, indignation. (Arndt, et al. 2000, 461)

The Greek word refers to anger that is passionate and vehement. The wine of God’s fury is said to be “poured full strength into the cup of his wrath.” The participle (which literally means “mixed”) was used of the preparation of wine by the addition of various spices. (Mounce 1997, 273)

For those with the mark, it is now too late. If they have the mark, they are done.

A third angel adds to the message of impending judgement. First it was about the political world system, but now it gets personal. Taking the mark of the beast is a decision not to be taken lightly.

Just as the first of the angels was loudly spreading the gospel, this third angel, is loudly warning of giving in to the culture. The answer is not in the world, and there are eternal consequences with the decision people must make.

We learn about hell from this angel.

For apostate Christians, those who think they can get the best of both worlds, this removes that option. Now there is no question. Today though, lying to one’s self is still attractive. Laodicean Christianity is still looking pretty good. But...

Matthew 7:21–23

““Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’” (ESV)

Just as the fallen angels had a decision to make, one that is not undoable, on that has resulted in eternal damnation, the earth dwellers, those who are aligning their loyalties with the dragon and the beast from the sea, will be making a similar decision. A decision in favor of the mark will result in eternal damnation...eternal. A decision to eat and do business for the next 3 ½ years in exchange for an eternity in hell.

Matthew 10:28

“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.” (ESV)

...”tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb...”

This torment takes place in the very presence of the Lamb and his holy angels. In Luke 12:9 Jesus says that those who disown him before others will be disowned before the angels of God. To suffer in the presence of the hosts 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; soon their antagonists will suffer before a more august gathering. (Mounce 1997, 273-274)

Luke 16:22–26

“The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’” (ESV)

...the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever...

The punishment of the damned is not a temporary measure. The smoke of their torment rises forever and ever (cf. 20:10). Without hope of acquittal, they pay the eternal price of having chosen evil over righteousness. A number of modern writers point out that the doctrine of hell is offensive to modern people. Yet the teaching of the NT on the eternal consequences of willfully rejecting the love of God as manifested in the death of Christ for our sins does not allow us to put the doctrine aside as sub-Christian or reinterpret it in such a way as to remove the abrasive truth of eternal punishment. It was Jesus more than anyone else who spoke of the fires of hell. (Mounce 1997, 274-275)

The word translated as hell, gehenna, shows up 12 times in the new testament, Jesus is behind 11 of the 12 references. Jesus warned us of hell more than anyone else in the new testament. He does not want anyone to go there.

For the believer, the one who chooses not to follow the beast, they will be unable to purchase food, they will be actively hunted, they will be placed into concentration camps and ritually, systematically slaughtered. But for those who decide to follow the Beast, the decision results in the inability to ever be saved.

Revelation 14:12–13

“Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, “Write, ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!’ ” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them.”” (NASB95)

Martyrdom will be the rule of the day for those who follow Jesus. This is a special blessing for those who die in the Great Tribulation.

This is the second of seven blessings that are in Revelation

Their deeds, their works are as the same in James 2:20. “Their deeds indicate their true allegiance, their true selves.” (Reddish 2001, 279)

The testimony of the Spirit is that the followers of the lamb look forward to the rest that eludes those who worship the beast. (Paul 2018, 251)

Revelation 1:3

“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.” (NASB95)

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