

Revelation - Chapter 14 & 15

Tribulation Announcements & Victory of the Lamb

Before the seventh trumpet sounds John witnesses a series of signs or symbols of events that will occur in Heaven and on earth during the Great Tribulation. Enraged by his ejection from Heaven, Satan attempts to wipe Israel and all believers in Jesus Christ from the earth. Although he is unsuccessful this will be the largest and deadliest of persecutions God's people has ever seen.

Satan then sets up his earthly kingdom, giving power to his Antichrist and False Prophet who together will cause the world to worship Antichrist. Antichrist will commit the ultimate in blasphemy when he sits in the temple of God to proclaim that he is god. The False Prophet will cause all the unsaved to receive the mark of the beast. Antichrist will begin to wage a massive world war that will continue until Jesus returns.

Then there is a celebration of the tribulations saints that the salvation, power, kingdom of God and the authority of His Christ has come. The Tribulations saints have overcome Satan because of the blood of the Lamb and word of their testimony.

Jesus standing on Mount Zion with the 144,000

John has just seen Jesus, as the Lamb, in a prophetic vision of Jesus' ultimate triumph following His second coming to earth when He joins the 144,000 on Mount Zion, the highest point in ancient Jerusalem, at the beginning of His Millennial reign.

The 144,000 were first seen at the beginning of the Great Tribulation. Nothing will be able to harm them, because God will seal them (Rev 7:3-4). In sharp contrast to the mark of the beast on the foreheads of the unsaved the 144,000 have the name of Jesus and God written on their foreheads.

They are singing a new song joyously praising the Lord for their protection and triumph. They will remain chaste and completely loyal to the Lamb. They are the first fruits to God and to the Lamb, will only speak God's truth, and will proclaim the gospel. They will enter the Millennial Kingdom as living men.



Tribulation Announcements

Three angels flying in mid-heaven preach the everlasting gospel, pronounce judgment and promise doom. They also deliver God's last call to repentance before the final judgments fall and Jesus returns.

Everlasting Gospel



The first angel proclaims the everlasting gospel, announces that the hour of God's judgment has come, and commands the people of the earth to worship God. Here the everlasting gospel seems to be neither the gospel of grace nor the gospel of the Kingdom, but rather the good news that God at last is about to deal with the world in righteousness and establish His sovereignty over it.

Judgment

The second angel announces the fall of Babylon, which will come later. Sadly, this implies that the first angel's message was largely rejected. The nations who participate in the spiritual corruption induced by Babylon, Antichrist's worldwide political, economic and religious empire, ultimately share her divine condemnation and judgment. The promise of judgment upon the evil Babylonian system is designed to bring comfort to those in trial during the Great Tribulation.



Doom

The third angel proclaims the sad doom of those who worship the beast. As unbelievers drink of the wine of spiritual immorality, they will also drink the cup of God's wrath. God's wrath here is described as full strength, untempered by the Lord's mercy and grace.

Blessing of the Saints

A blessing or encouragement is given to those who put their trust in Christ in the time of the Great Tribulation. The Holy Spirit repeats the blessing and adds the blessing of rest from their labors and that their deeds follow with them.



The Judgment of the Son of Man - Grain Harvest - 7 Bowl Judgments

John sees Christ participating in God's judgments on an evil world. Jesus is seen as the Son of Man. It is the last time Scripture refers to Jesus as Son of Man.

He is sitting on a brilliant, white cloud symbolizing His glory and majesty, waiting for the proper time to stand and begin the reaping which includes the seven bowl judgments. He wears a golden crown, the type worn by victors in war. He is seen as the triumphant conqueror over all His enemies (Matt 24:30). He is about to take possession of the entire earth. An angel announces the time has come and Christ reaps with his sharp sickle referring to the judgments at His second coming.

Angel With Sharp Sickle - Grape Harvest - Judgment of Armageddon

The time has come for the final harvest. An angel with a sharp sickle comes out from the altar in heaven and swings his sickle to the earth, harvesting the clusters of overripe grapes symbolizing the earth's wicked people. Their destinies had been sealed. They had rebelled against their Creator and Redeemer, taking the mark of the Beast, the ultimate sign of rebellion, and adopting a wicked lifestyle to match.

While the wheat harvest represents the sudden, swift intrusion of God's judgement into human history, the grape harvest signifies the severity of that judgment. The world armies will gather to battle Christ at His second coming in an area within a two-hundred mile radius outside of Jerusalem.

The blood is said to flow up to the horses' bridles due to the carnage. This is a prophetic picture of the ultimate judgment of unbelievers at the second coming of Christ.



Seven Angels With Seven Bowl Judgments



Then John sees the Holy of Holies, the inner sanctuary where God's presence dwells, opens and out of the temple comes seven angels with seven plagues, the seven bowl judgments, the final and worst judgments of God. They contain the last of God's wrath. No one can enter into the temple until God is finished.

The song of the Lamb and the song of Moses are sung by the redeemed tribulation saints. Both songs speak of redemption. God's character is extolled as the omnipotent, immutable, sovereign, perfect and righteous Creator and Judge. This song closes with joyful anticipation of the Millennial reign of Christ, when all the nations will come and worship before God. We are

assured of Christ's ultimate triumph and judgement of evil.

Today, the invitation is still open to those who will receive the grace of God by trusting in Christ and being saved from entering this awful period that may be impending for this present generation.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16, NASB95)

"while it is said, 'Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me.'" (Hebrews 3:15, NASB95)

"that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation." (Romans 10:9–10, NASB95)