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April 24, 2022

Before we start just a reflection on what has happened since 2014 worldwide with a focus on Russian and the US.

Vladimir Putin in 2014 set up a fund that amassed over 600 billion dollars prior to the invasion of Ukraine. Somehow knowing they would have financial pressure put on them.

That accumulation of wealth was under the watch of President Obama. Remember the open mic where Obama told the

President Obama: "On all these issues, but particularly missile defense, this, this can be solved but it's important for him to give me space."

President Medvedev: "Yeah, I understand. I understand your message about space. Space for you..."

President Obama: "This is my last election. After my election I have more flexibility."

President Medvedev: "I understand. I will transmit this information to Vladimir, and I stand with you."

www.youtube.com/watch?v=0mgQaFlo_p8

What could Obama possibly do to help Vlad after the election of 2012. 2014 may be a clue, Putin amasses 600 billion in reserve account and attacks Crimea. 2014 Putin annexes Crimea and puts troops on Ukrainian border all under Obama. Overall aggression stops or at least slows after 2016 US Elects Donald Trump.

America and the world due to God was blessed for 4 years after that with Donald Trump. As Mike has put it, it appears now looking back as a braking mechanism by God to allow other aspects of world issues to ferment.

During his tenure Donald Trump made America the unopposed world leader; strong economy, lowest unemployment in the history of the US, secured borders, exporter of oil and natural gas worldwide, recommitment from NATO countries to stand unified against communism, rebuilt US military. So how did such a changed following the 2020 elections?

All relatively stayed stable until 2020 when Joe Biden is elected President. If you follow the timeline after the 2020 elections it is clear, the road ahead for Putin is open by Biden. On the home front, President Biden on his first week in office, kills a critical pipe line in the US from Canada, stops all oil exploration on Federal land in US, opens US southern border, does not complete fence allowing invasion of US by millions of illegal aliens many from hostile nations toward US. Financial collapse of US economy, unemployment skyrockets, US headed toward recession, high inflation of US dollar, US not seen as world leader any longer, China seeking to overtake US dollar as world currency, Russia no longer accepts US dollars for oil, has to be in rubles, world in chaos with multiple communist or Islamic nations testing new missiles to be aimed at Israel and US.

All of this to say that God put Joe Biden in as President to bring the world and America to the point we are at now. There is more to come as the US and the world continue to implode under the Biden guidance.

Revelation 14

The Lamb and the 144,000

1And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty *and* four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

Several points to make here. For those of us who believe in Pre-Tribulation Rapture, this would take place at the end of Tribulation. We know that because Jesus does not set foot back on earth until the end or near end of Tribulation.

If we look back at Revelation 7, the first time we saw this group of 144,000, it was clear that they consisted of 12,000 from each tribe of Israel.

This excluded anyone from the tribe of Dan at this point and is likely due to the fact of Dan's tribal sin of idol worship. We do know that Dan was rebellious in several ways. It is believed by the names left behind that the tribe of Dan either voluntarily or involuntarily by diaspora moved to the far north and into today's Europe. According to Colliers Encyclopedia:

“In the Black Sea region, it's interesting, keeping with the tradition of naming places names after Dan their father. The rivers emptying into the Black Sea region used to be named Ister, Tyras, the Borysthenes and Tanais. After they arrived there, the names of the rivers were changed to Danube, the Dnestr, and the Don (Collier's Encyclopedia vol. 17 p.434).”

There is a wealth of historical information about the Tribe of Dan and their migration away from the Promised Land, even before the Assyrians attacked them.

I would imagine there is much more to it than that, but God has not revealed it yet to any extent.

2And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

1. God has spoken to all the prophets, and some hear his voice as described as “many waters” or described as the “voice of thunder”. The implication is LOUD, even deafening.

Revelation 4:5 Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;

Ezekiel 43:2

and I saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east. His voice was like the roar of many waters, and the earth shone with His glory.

2. As for Harpers, the origins date back to Genesis.

Genesis 4: 19And Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. 20And Adah bare Jabal: he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and of such as have cattle. 21And his brother's name was Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ. 22And Zillah, she also bare Tubalcain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron: and the sister of Tubalcain was Naamah. (emphasis mine)

The harps were used for worshiping God along with tambourines, horn, trumpets, loud-sounding cymbals, and lyres or psaltery. The

instruments coupled with singing was intended is to make a joyful noise before the Lord.

Psalms 98: 4 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

Some commentators identify these voices as those of the nations. I do not agree, I think it is clear that they are coming from heaven due to those involved in the following verses.

Q. These 144,000; are they believers?

Yes

Q. At what point did they become believers?

It would have to be after the rapture and early on in the Tribulation period. Assuming if they would have been believers before the Rapture they would have been taken in the Rapture. Seeing that they were not taken at Rapture but non-the-less stand with Jesus and are Israelis then they had to be saved after the Rapture; sealed by God early in the Tribulation and preserved during that entire tribulation time. These 144,000 are definitely Israelis but may be from all over the world, Jews still absent from Israel but still Jewish by heritage. They now stand on Mount Zion with Jesus at His Second Coming having completed their task over the 7-year period.

3And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

This new song is sung before the 4 beasts, the 24 elders and the Throne of God.

The 144,000 of course is a reference to the same 144,000 selected from each of the 12 tribes God identified earlier in Revelation. The elders are of course the 24 elders that have their seats placed around the throne of God.

Vs 4 continues to describe those of the 144,000 chosen by God.

4These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, **being the firstfruits** unto God and to the Lamb. **5**And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Virgins	Obedience to God and authority over their own flesh
No Guile	Not deceitful unlike most flesh
No fault	This can only be accomplished by the Blood of the Lamb.

The Three Angels and Babylon's Fall

6And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

It has been God's goal that the Church would spread the Word of God throughout all the nations and for the most part that has been accomplished even though often watered down in some cases. One has to ask, when the Gospel the Good News is watered down is it really the Truth that is being taught or some generic teaching that strives not to hurt anyone's feelings. How much of Obedience is left out in order to accommodate man held notions such as; prosperity gospel, name it and claim it, don't judge allow anyone to hold positions of church authority and responsibility and the list goes on.

Third world countries often have dynamic conversions to Belief in Christ accompanied by amazing miracles. But this pronouncement by this angel even though it allows for a change of heart of those who chose to follow Christ; it is intended for a predominately different reason. This Angel is proclaiming the coming judgement of God; it is in the Gospel as well even though many pastors shy away from judgment; it seems to turn off the

congregation to contemplate judgment. The next verse give us the focus of this Angel's preaching.

7Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for **the hour of his judgment is come**: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

This will be the first mention by name of Babylon. There are of course a variety of understandings of the term or name Babylon.

One train of thought is that it is totally a spiritual understanding and that it reflects the source or core of sin. We know from our studies that Satan had his presence often called "seat" in both Babylon and Tyre among a few others where he would endow leaders with certain evil powers. Similar to what he will do with the Anti-Christ in the days ahead.

The other train of thought is that it is taken literally and that the events that will be described are real and will happen as described. There is room in that understanding to realize that there is a mirror image of events on earth also taking place in the spiritual sense.

8And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

What do we know about Babylon the city?

1. Babylon was founded by Nimrod the Great Grandson of Noah; Genesis 10:8-10

Genesis 10: 8And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. 9He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD. 10And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

This was about 38 years after the flood that Nimrod started Babel.

Genesis 10:32These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood.

2. Babel was the center of idol worship even from its inception

Genesis 11: 1And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. 2And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. 3And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. 4And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. 5And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. 6And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. 7Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. 8So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. 9Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and

from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

3. Babylon was the opposite of Jerusalem and became the antagonist of all the Israeli Nation eventually destroying Jerusalem and carrying off its people into bondage for 70 years. It became the epitome of Satan's hatred toward Christianity even though the city no longer existed. God declares that it will be resurrected and the seat of power for the Anti-Christ as he begins his growth to power over the nations.

Revelation 17: [5](#)And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. [6](#)And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

4. The city of Babylon fell in October 539 BC
5. It fell to Cyrus the Great
6. The site of the former Babylon is 59 miles from Bagdad, Iraq.
7. Saddam Husain built one of his palaces in the ancient site of Babylon
8. There is a concerted effort on the part of the United Nations and other private organizations working toward rebuilding Babylon.
9. In 2009 the US under either Bush or Obama invested heavily in Babylon. Trying to run that down is difficult as when you go to the US State Department page you are met with a "sorry due to redesign of the site that page is not available" or something to that effect.

This is from Dr. David Jeremiah:

<https://www.davidjeremiah.org/age-of-signs/babylon-today-rebuilding-the-ancient-city>

“The United States government is taking seriously the rise of the city of Babylon and the central place of Iraq in the future of the world. On January 5, 2009, the largest and, at \$474 million, the most expensive U.S. Embassy in the world opened in Baghdad, not far from Babylon. The 104–acre, twenty–seven–building complex is situated on the banks of the Tigris River.⁶ It includes 619 apartments for staff, restaurants, basketball and volleyball courts, and an indoor Olympic–sized swimming pool.⁷

This embassy, known as "Embassy Baghdad," is the largest of its kind in the world. It is the size of eighty football fields—as large as Vatican City—with a population of 5,500. It dwarfs U.S. embassies elsewhere that typically cover about ten acres. The Baghdad embassy has its own defense force and is designed to be entirely self–sufficient. We can see by these moves toward rebuilding Babylon that the city has a special interest in the eyes of the powers of the world. I believe these steps signal the beginning of the fulfillment of biblical prophecy. Henry Morris explains:

“Never has a great world city had such a meteoric rise as New Babylon, and never will one experience such a cataclysmic and total fall. . . . Babylon on the Euphrates has lain dormant and foreboding for centuries. . . . But mighty Babylon is not really dead. . . . Suddenly it will rise once

again. Under the impact of overwhelming geopolitical needs, it will be authorized and implemented by the unprecedented building program undertaken by the federal ten-kingdom empire of the West, then pushed to dynamic completion by the Beast. Finally it will be inaugurated as the great world capital of the Beast, who will have become king of all the kingdoms of the globe.⁸

Even though some amazing things happened in Babylon through Israel and even though God used Babylon to punish Israel the corner stone's lain by Nimrod; visa-vi Satan, tainted the city forever. The flavor of Babylon was introduced to the world and the world suffered due to the source of Babylon's sins. That mark that was left on Babylon will be judged by God in the last part of the end times.

There appears to be a direct connection between Babylon, Satan, Anti-Christ, the Beast and the False Prophet. Immediately following the prophesied demise of Babylon is the warning not to take the mark of the beast and his image.

9And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand, 10The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and

brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

So, God declares the fall of Babylon and immediately after declares that anyone who associates with it through the mark will suffer as Babylon suffered and will be burned.

This was prophesied by Isaiah who prophesied for 55 years 750-695 BC. This prophecy seems to be about the King of Babylon and there were perhaps 6 or 7 of them. So, which one is this prophecy directed at? The answer is none from antiquity, it is directed to the one who is the essence of Babylon; and it bears his name in Isaiah 14:12.

Revelation speaks of Babylon as we saw calling her;

Revelation 17:5MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH”

Keep in mind to that some commentators equate the Mystery Babylon with Jerusalem as well as the original city of Babylon itself.

Isaiah 14: 4That thou shalt take up this proverb **against the king of Babylon**, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!

This prophecy from God through Isaiah is addressed as a proverb meaning a “truism”, “axiom” or “saying”.

Q. But who is it directed at?

A. “king of Babylon”, but which one?

5The LORD hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers.

6He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth.

7The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing.

8Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us.

9Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations.

10All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us?

11Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee.

12How art thou fallen from heaven, **O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! (emphasis mine)**

This entire prophecy is not about a city but about the one who's presence ruled and decimated not only a city but a region and the entire earth with evil.

13For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

14I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

15Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

16They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, **Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; (emphasis mine)**

God briefly reflects back on the man that was King of Babylon but was possessed by the power of Satan; God then returns to the source of the power; Satan himself.

17That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?

18All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house.

19But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet.

20Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because **thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people: the seed of evildoers shall never be renowned.**

21Prepare slaughter for his children for the iniquity of their fathers; that they do not rise, nor possess the land, nor fill the face of the world with cities.

22For I will rise up against them, saith the LORD of hosts, and cut off from Babylon the name, and remnant, and son, and nephew, saith the LORD. ***23***I will also make it a possession for the bittern, and pools of water: and I will sweep it with the besom of destruction, saith the LORD of hosts.

Q. Who is the King of Babylon in the spiritual sense identified in Isaiah 14? Lucifer, Satan who possessed various kings through his evil power and demons. We saw him do the same with the King of Tyre.

Q. So where is Satan's seat of power now today? We don't know, some say Rome, but I am skeptical. Rome definitely is in the throes of evil with all of the sex allegations and sex sin is one of Satan's most powerful weapons against man. But Rome does not strike me as an eminent power of doom. I again look more to the neighbors of Israel, Turkey, Syria, Iran, Iraq, even Russia has some potential.

May 22, 2022

As a short recap of this chapter, this is toward the end of the 7 years of Tribulation. God has called 144,000 Jews and sealed them with a sign that protects them from Satan. They are the last along with the Two Witnesses in Jerusalem that will clearly speak God's Word to a fallen and evil world.

In the earlier verses those who are still in the world after Rapture are warned by the 144,000 and two witnesses to fear and worship God due to the wrath or “hour of judgement” that is coming.

7Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

God then takes aim at Babylon in verse 8 in Revelation 14.

8And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

We spent time looking at what it was about Babylon that was so evil and deserves Gods full throated measure of wrath. Babylon is symbolic of at least two of Satan’s weapons against mankind. Drunkenness and all that accompanies the behavior prompted by excess use of alcohol and drugs and Satan’s most prolific tool, fornication in all its forms.

Once God has called out Babylon, He then refocuses on those who would worship the Beast and take the mark of the Beast, the same Beast in vs 9 and 10 that ruled Babylon; Satan.

9And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, 10The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation;

and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

Now onto today's study vs 11.

11And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

The judgment and sentence of God to those who joined with Babylon and Satan through worship and the mark is irrevocable. Culminating in the Lake of Fire that is unquenchable and in total separation from God for eternity. The soul does not die but it is in agony and distress forever in the Lake of Fire.

The question always comes up: How could a loving God do that to people? The answer is quite simple, He didn't, God simply laid out the rules of eternal life; each person by their choice does it to themselves by simply accepting or refusing the free gift of Salvation. It is each person's choice. Some will likely say; "I didn't know?". That is why we are told to tell them, all of them, they will make a choice and for those who say they won't choose, they have already made the choice and the choice was NO. God simply responds to each person's free will choice as to where they spend eternity. It has nothing to do with Religion, meaning

man's attempt to reach God. It has everything to do with Relationship, meaning God's method of reaching man.

Q. How many people does God want to SAVE?

All

2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.** (emphasis mine)*

12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that **keep the commandments of God,** and the faith of Jesus.

Q. God prefers what over sacrifice?

Obedience over sacrifice.

There are 62 verses in the Bible both old and New Testament that declare God's desire for obedience. Remember obedience is not salvation, obedience is what should follow salvation. We are saved by Grace not by any work.

1 Samuel 15:22

*And Samuel said, "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? **Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,** and to listen than the fat of rams. (emphasis mine)*

Romans 6:16 **15** What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. **16** Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto

death, or of obedience unto righteousness? [17](#)But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. [18](#)Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

John 14:15

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

Romans 5:19

For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Proverbs 21:3

To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.

Obedience to the Law does not save us, it is only by God's Grace through the Blood of the Lamb that we are saved. Obedience is what God is asking us to walk in after we are saved. He is asking us to walk in HIS PERFECT WILL.

From birth we were allowed to walk in His Permissive Will until we found His Son and asked Him into our lives. Now that we have repented of our sin and asked Christ into our lives, God does not want us to continue to walk as the world walks but to be separated. In order to understand what He wants from us we must study His Word daily find out what walking in Righteousness really is and set that as our course. Encouraging one another in

that Godly effort, looking to Him as the author and finisher of our faith.

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Romans 8:4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Colossians 2:6 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

So, what is God's desire in our lives after we have been saved by the Blood of the Lamb? (have someone read)

Colossians 3:1If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

5Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: 7In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. 8But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

11Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

12Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. 15And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. 16Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

13And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

My understanding of this verse and the idea that believers will die during the Tribulation is contrary to some who believe that all who are saved during the Tribulation will have a mark put on their forehead and protected from the onslaught of evil and God's judgments against the fallen world. Let's see what the God says.

Revelation 7: 1And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. 2And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to

*whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, **3**Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, **till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.** (emphasis mine)*

Vs. 3 is directed at a group of people that will be “sealed” they are called the servants of our God. This seal will be on their foreheads. The angel that came down from heaven had with him the “seal of the living God”. That seal was to be placed on the **“servants of our God in their foreheads”**.

Is there a difference between a “servant of our God” and just a believer? We need to take this in context so we need to look at the verses before this or verses after this and see what the context is.

Revelation 6 is about the seal judgements and one particular judgement seems to effect believers. This judgement is during Tribulation. We believe that Rapture will be before the Tribulation and all “believers” will be taken out of this world at that point. So, who are these “martyrs referred to in

Revelation 6: The Fifth Seal: Martyrs

9***And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: **10**And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? **11**And white robes were given unto***

every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled. (emphasis mine)

These believers are called “servants” and these are killed during the Tribulation.

Back to the “mark” or “seal” that is put on the foreheads of the Servants of God. We see looking back in Revelation 6 the context is not about people that are protected due to a mark on their forehead as those we see in Revelation 6:1-11 are actually killed during the Tribulation and there is no indication that they were protected from death according to Rev 7:3 “.....***till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.***”

Let’s move forward to

Revelation 7:4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

Based on what I can find, it appears that many “believers”, “servants” of God will be killed during the last half of Tribulation for refusing to take the mark of the beast. The exception will be the 144,000 that receive a mark or “seal” from God on their foreheads thus protecting them as they carry out their mission of proselytizing a lost world.

We know it now and are filled with the Truth of the Spirit that testifies about God and Jesus. It will be a far harder matter to accept this truth during the Tribulation. We are today not protected from death even though we are saved. Even though we are sealed with the seal of God, the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1: [13](#)In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, [14](#)Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. (emphasis mine)

2 Corinthians 1: [20](#)For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. [21](#)Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; [22](#)Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts. (emphasis mine)

One final comment on the last part of Revelation 7 vs 13.

[13](#)And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.” (emphasis mine)

This last part of the verse could cause someone problems if we take it the wrong way and out of context. First there is no work on our part that can save us, period. This work that will follow Believers is the work that is done purely for God, authored by Him

and carried out by Him through a willing vessel, IE the servants of the Living God, believers.

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Once we receive our entire inheritance we can rest from those labors because everyone in Heaven or wherever God eventually places His Kingdom, are all pure and righteous with the sin nature destroyed through the Blood of the Lamb. With everyone at that time in resurrected bodies with a full knowledge of the Gospel there is no further need to spread the Gospel so that type of work or labor we can rest from doing.

14And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

Q. Who is this describing?

Jesus the King and Laborer of our Salvation.

White of the cloud refers to purity of Christ, the cloud itself was previously described when Christ left earth and returned to His Father in heaven.

Acts 1:9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

Son of man has been an often-repeated description of Jesus as being fully God and fully man. It was His laying aside His power and authority while on earth and relying in Faith, solely on the Power of His Father and the Holy Spirit to direct His steps on earth that Jesus was able to declare Himself a worthy sacrifice for all of mankind through OBEDIENCE to the Father's Will.

The Crown of Gold depicting His Power and Authority as King of Glory and of the Earth all that God had given Him.

And finally, a sharp sickle in His hand with which to harvest or take home with Him the final group of people that would declare their allegiance to the King of Kings. This sharp sickle is indicative of the ability of Jesus who God has given total authority of judging; to separate the wheat from the chaff.

Matthew 9:37 [37](#)Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; [38](#)Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

The disciples were the first of these laborer's, we are part of the final group of laborers before Rapture. We as laborers were not sent to judge others, that is Jesus' responsibility, our job was to carry the Good News to an unsaved world out of Love, to our neighbors, our families and friends to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the One who Harvests, and this is the final harvest on earth before the Great White Throne Judgment that will come approximately 1000 years after this event.

15And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. 16And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

These past few verses are of course a simile; Jesus is not literally brining a sickle to earth and cutting people. It describes how believers during the Tribulation are removed from the earth at their death during the tribulation. The description is like a wheat harvest which most people in that day would easily recognize and understand.

This reaping is the taking of the final souls that will accept Christ as Messiah. The moment of understanding for these during Tribulation; the cost of our Salvation will be just as intense as it was for each of us. Just as when we held our breath when we first heard of the death of Jesus, but the story did not end in the death, and it has not ended yet, nor will it ever. The Death of Christ was immense but not as immense to the universe as His rising from the dead. There is yet one more swipe of the sickle to finish the harvest.

17And another angel **came out of the temple which is in heaven**, he also having a sharp sickle.

Remember there are some commentators that try to put this temple in Jerusalem, but the words are quite clear; this temple is in Heaven.

18And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

This verse is another simile describing something that culture would be familiar with and understand the process of harvesting grape vineyards. God is now going to mix a simile with reality.

This harvest is not for those destined to be with Christ. This harvest is for the winepress of God. The winepress is a descriptive way of showing us the great intensity that these souls will encounter. A human being was not intended to go through a winepress, in this time of the Bible it uses a human being walking on the grapes to squeeze the grape to the point that all the juice is squeezed out of it. I don't take this part of the verse to be literal; but God has told us that the Soul is eternal, whether born again in the Spirit or not. I believe Biblically all humans have a spirit. Our spirit is in a slumber state, until awoken by the Holy Spirit. For those whose spirit is never awoken, it may be that very part that

God will extract through this great judgment and pressure. These poor unfortunate souls will have no need for all eternity for a spirit; they will never commune with God for all time.

This swipe of the sickle is the final harvest on earth prior to the last battle at the conclusion of the Millennial period.

19And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast *it* into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 20And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand *and* six hundred furlongs.

This is the mixture of simile and reality. The idea God is describing is that when a human foot presses down on a ripe grape its skin ruptures from the pressure and the juice runs out. To not be too graphic some immense pressure will cause perhaps as many as 200 million soldiers to rupture releasing all the blood that is within them. The valley of Armagedon in distance is approximately 180 miles long. This valley averages about 1 mile in width which give us 5,018,112,000 sq. feet; so, to have 200 million troops in this valley. If you calculate out the measurements with the number of people, animals, and machines it will not allow them to hardly maneuver. In reality if it were only 200 million people they would barely have 25 sq. ft (5ftx5ft) to maneuver, but add in all the military hardware, tanks, Humvees, artillery, there is

just no room to move. This is the battle of Armagedon that happens at the end of Tribulation, just prior to the beginning of the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth called the Millennial Period.

There is a final war after this one that happens at the end of the Millennial Period and it is described in Revelation 19.

Revelation 19: [13](#)And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. [14](#)And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. [15](#)And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. [16](#)And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James.