

UNVEILED!

**The Ancient Secrets of Daniel &
The Revelation of Jesus Christ**

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The Revelation of Jesus Christ

CHAPTER 14

14 And 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.

² And 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:

³ And 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.

⁴ These 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.

⁶ And 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,

⁷ Saying 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.

⁸ And 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.

⁹ And 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,

¹⁰ The 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:

¹¹ And 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.

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

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

¹⁴ And 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.

¹⁵ And 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.

¹⁶ And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

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

¹⁸ And 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.

¹⁹ And 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.

²⁰ And 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. (Revelation 14:1-20) [1600 fur. = 200 mi./322 km]

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Revelation 13 ends with the identity number of the beast. After the tribulation, the elect are caught up at the sixth seal.

The *angels* in 14:6-10 are *messengers*, people who speak for God. After the third angel warns the saints to reject the beast and his mark, those who die in the Lord are blessed. The winds of the sixth seal are restrained till the 144,000 are sealed:

7 And 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. ² And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living

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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. (Rev. 7:1-3) [An angel from the east has the seal for 144,000.]

Martyrs are mentioned in 6:11 at the **fifth seal**; in chapter 7 male virgins of the twelve tribes are sealed before the winds of the **sixth seal** shake the powers of the heavens. After the 144,000 are sealed, a multitude are with them in heaven who came out of the tribulation, worshiping and singing, having been caught up to the Lord (in 6:12; 7:9-17).

Another messenger in 14:6 appears before the sixth seal and calls the world to repent and believe the gospel to escape God's wrath. Another declares Babylon reprobate beyond redemption (in 14:6-12). A third warns everyone against worshiping the beast, taking his mark or number, or bowing to the image. This implies the great tribulation is imminent or upon us.

That tribulation is the worst ever, but its days are cut short. Not conceding to the beast or his mark, its martyrs and survivors ascend to Jesus before the indignation of God. (14:14-16; 17-20)

¹² I saw when the Lamb opened the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake. The sun became as black as sackcloth made of goat's hair, and the full moon became like blood. ¹³ The stars of heaven fell to the earth like a fig tree drops unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. ¹⁴ The heaven ripped apart like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from their places.

¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the military commanders and the rich and the mighty and everyone—slave and free—hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. ¹⁶ And they tell the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us, and hide us from the face of the One seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb. ¹⁷ For the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" (Rev. 6:12-17 TLV) [One is on a throne; another is the Lamb.]

²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of

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the heavens shall be shaken: ³⁰ And then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (Mat. 24:29-30)

Jesus was *the firstfruits of them that slept*, leading the elect who rose after Him and who entered Jerusalem, appearing to the Jews (in Mat. 27:52-3). The firstfruits of Israel, male virgins like Christ, lead the elect who ascend together to meet Him in the air.

¹² Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! ...

¹⁵ For if their being cast away *is* the reconciling of the world, what *will* their acceptance *be* but life from the dead? ... ²⁵ ... blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

(Rom. 11:12, 15, 25b NKJV)

Jesus comes for the first resurrection at **the sixth seal**. (6:12-13; cf. Mat. 24:29-31) The martyrs of the tribulation rise to life (in 20:1-3). Together with the saints who survive, having refused the beast, his number, and his mark,; not bowing to the image, they ascend to meet Jesus in the air. (1 Thes. 4:16-17) At the fifth seal, they were mentioned to souls under the altar, killed before them (in 6:11). At **the sixth seal**, the elect are caught up. His wrath is poured out before they return with Jesus. (19:7-9, 11-16; cf. 20:4-6)

Only the elect martyrs rise for the first resurrection (in 20:4-5). [Gr.: *anistemi*, “stand up”] The firstfruits are last to be sealed but first to ascend; the last rise first, and the first rise last. The martyrs of the past are rewarded at the last resurrection; but here, the elect are caught up with survivors and bypass the judgment: *so shall we ever be with the Lord.* (1 Thes. 4:14; cf. Rev. 20:4c)

Riding white horses, like lightning, Yeshua returns to earth with power, with 144,000 male virgins of Israel, and with the martyrs who reign with Him. (19:11-16; 20:4-6) *Them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him.* (See 1 Thes. 4:14) ... *they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.* (See Rev. 20:4c)

Another Abomination

The abuse of the Jews by Antiochus IV in 168-165 BC was foretold four hundred years ahead of time. (Dan. 8:24) Jesus spoke of a vast passage of events before another abomination is in the

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temple, alluding to its place in Jerusalem. *After that tribulation, Christ comes near/appears [parousia] on a cloud* to gather His elect from all the earth. (1 Thes. 4:15-17; Mk. 13:24-27)

The Roman general Titus destroyed the temple in 70 AD, not as Antiochus “Epiphanes,” who demanded worship and set up an idol, desecrating the temple. No Roman general would demand worship as Antiochus had done; it would have cost him his life.

Caesar Hadrian set up a statue of Jupiter in a temple built for Venus in Palestina, but that was not the “holy place,” which had been leveled. In the enormity of its scale, the holocaust exceeded Rome’s butchery of Judea in 70 AD, but all flesh wasn’t ended in 1945; the temple was absent, and the Jews were still scattered.

The Shortcut

The heavens are shaken. Islands and mountains are moved; *immediately after the tribulation*, i.e., after the martyrdom of the saints by the beast with a mark—its martyrs rise from death, and we’re changed to Christ’s likeness. The tribulation is terrible, but His vengeance follows it for *God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.* (See 1 Thes. 5:9)

¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

(1 Thes. 4:16-18) [Gr.: *anistemi* means “to stand up, get up, or arise.” This happens at the first resurrection in 20:4-6.]

¹⁴ Then the LORD will be seen over them,
And His arrow will go forth like lightning.
The Lord GOD will blow the trumpet.
And go with whirlwinds from the south.
(Zec. 9:14 NKJV)

Yeshua comes with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God. Michael the archangel is the prince of Israel, sent for their ascension. (Dan. 10:21) He also ministers to the saints of Israel on behalf of God. At the **trumpet of God**, His angels catch us up. It **is not** the last trump, one of seven at the

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end of time. The day and hour are hid, but the season is not. Only the foolish claim to know the day or hour when Jesus comes on a cloud; not even Jesus knew that! Since He died on Passover and rose on the Day of Firstfruits, we infer the feasts are for seasons and signs, but no one can know the day or the hour when Jesus will come, as He said.

It's time to apply our trials against the nature of our flesh in preparation for the tribulation that precedes the first resurrection and the elect saints' ascension.

²⁶ "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it. ²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ²⁸ For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together. (Mat. 24:26-28 NKJV)

Those who are left behind will think He returned, but He's with the elect in heaven till the last bowl of wrath is poured out in 14-16. Not many who are left behind will discern the Word.

There are two harvests (in 14:14-20): First Christ comes on a cloud (in 6:16; cf. 1 Thes. 4:16) to gather His elect (in Mat. 24:31) immediately after the tribulation (Mat. 24:29). Then sinners are gathered for the winepress of God's wrath (in 14:19; 19:15).

The living who are worthy are caught up before the wrath falls and will be forever in the presence of God: *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.* (1 Thes. 4:17) Not having died, we ascend to God; not bowing a knee to the beast, we confess Jesus Christ and may be put to death but do not suffer the judgment. (See Rev. 2:8b-11)

If we are among the martyrs who rise to life, we ascend to the Lord in the air (Mat. 24:29-31) but return for a thousand years to reign with Jesus Christ, apart from judgment. (20:5; 7:13-17; 13:11-18; 14:9-16) Note the distinction of martyrs and survivors.

Before Jesus returns to Jerusalem, Babylon is annihilated, and He destroys the armies in Armageddon where eagles feast on their flesh, the sign that fulfills the prophecy of His return.

We argue vain opinions, certain of teachings that shun God's words. Our leaders say we can never be perfect, but let's not put purity aside. Have we forgotten the scriptures on this matter?

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³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (Rom. 8:3-4 NIV) This is not a dream, but reality.

One out of two are short of oil, not filled with the Spirit, not yielded as His own. Half of the virgins are unprepared for His coming and are left behind. One of two are taken; one of two left behind. If our minds are of this world as sinners are, we won't be ready to meet Him when He comes on a cloud. If our thoughts are set on its foods, pleasures, or possessions, we're living in the nature of the flesh. If we're proud of our positions, discontent, ambitious, or envious of others, we're carnal. (1 Cor. 2:15-3:3)

If we press for the goal of our high calling of God in Christ, He prepares us to meet Him, leaving everything and everyone behind. The Spirit performs the impossible: His righteousness in us raises us out of sin to live by the same Spirit that raised Him to life. *If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.* (Rom. 8:9b) *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.* (Rom. 8:14) *He must increase, but I must decrease.* (Jn. 3:30) We live in the Spirit if we've died on the cross.

When the sun turns black and the moon, red; when the stars fall and the powers in the heavens are shaken, look up! *Every eye sees* Jesus Christ when we're caught up to meet Him at *the great trumpet of God!* It's not a secret. He foretold it ahead of time.

We are saved by grace through faith, not works, but James 2:26 says *faith without works is dead.* In Romans 8 Paul agrees. Jesus knows our works in Revelation 2 and 3. (Rev. 21:5-8, 27; 22:14-15) We are His workmanship; our works are not our own.

⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. (Rom. 8:6-8 NKJV)

If we live in sin or refuse to forgive, we're in unbelief. *Pray that ye may be able to escape*—not the tribulation that perfects us—but God's wrath, which falls upon an evil world:

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³⁴ “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”
(Lk. 21:34-36 NIV; cf. 21:25-36)

Three Mysterious Messengers

Four angels hold back the winds while others seal the male virgins of Israel in chapter 7. Between the seals, three messages precede the great tribulation: The last hour began as the gospel went forth from space with its warnings (in 14:6-7); Babylon is declared morally reprobate, past the point of repentance (in 14:8); before the winds shake the skies, the word goes out to refuse the beast, his mark, and the image, and it costs our lives (in 14:9-12).

1.) ⁶ And 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, ⁷ Saying 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. (Rev. 14:6-7)

At the right time in history, Billy Graham was a herald who obeyed his calling. His brother heard him preach at a young age and said, “He preached loud ... so loud he didn’t need a microphone or any amplification. “You could hear him a quarter mile away!” His mother warned him, “Son, you can’t preach so loud. You’ll scare people away!”¹⁶³ His stentorian voice would reach the world, mostly by radio and television.

2.) ⁸ And another angel followed, saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”
(Rev. 14:8 NKJV) [She’s judged in 16 and 18.]

In 1974 David Wilkerson prophesied of NYC’s judgment in his work, *The Vision*.¹⁶⁴ Recently, *The Harbinger*, by Jonathan Cahn, revealed the city’s prophetic place in the Bible, proven by its history; since the book’s release, all hell broke loose!¹⁶⁵

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3.)⁹ And 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,¹⁰ the 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: (Rev. 14:9-10)

A third messenger warns the world to reject the beast and his mark. God condemns all who take the beast's number or mark or who worship him. Redeem the time because the time is short.

Messages may remain amid the wrath to warn those who are left behind, "Repent and keep the faith!" Although His fury comes and hope seems gone, His Word endures: repent and come out of Babylon forever—pray for Jerusalem—Yeshua will return! Even now, all around the world, tenacious souls endure great trials till death as the evidence of their faith.

¹⁰ "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw *some* of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. (Rev. 2:10 NKJV)

Two Autumn Harvests

The early church suffered persecution, the tribulation of the verse above; one like it is coming globally and with more intensity. The firstfruits are sealed before the great tribulation ends. **The sixth seal** breaks *after the tribulation* at His coming on a cloud to gather the chosen ones to Himself. (Rev. 6:12-17; 14:14-16; Mat. 24:29-31)

Stunned by His Presence, men plead for an escape, but as Lot left Sodom, brimstone fell. The day Noah's family entered the ark; God shut its door, and the flood came. Scoffers will see Jesus on a cloud by the right hand of God at **the sixth seal**. As the tribulation ends, He calls for its elect, and His wrath falls.

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

¹⁸ And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle

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and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.” (Rev. 14:17-18 NKJV)

After the chosen ones rise and are caught up, angels leave the Sanctuary in heaven to pour out the bowls of wrath. Still the beast musters the nations’ armies against the Lamb to fulfill the Word: *And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished for that that is determined shall be done.* (Dan. 11:36; cf. Is. 66:14b, p. 221)

At the **seventh bowl**, God remembers Babylon, and she falls into the sea. Christ returns, and Armageddon is left a graveyard. Angels cast the beast and his prophet into the lake of fire and lock the dragon in the pit. Yeshua judges the nations with equity.

¹³ “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. (Mat. 7:13-14 NKJV)

His disciples, apostles, and prophets were killed, living by faith to lay hold of life. They died for their love of His goodness.

Whether we support His nation or turn against Israel, Yeshua wins her in the end. Though all nations stand against them, the world can’t destroy the Jews. He punishes them but favors them for His promises to the fathers. (Dan. 7:18; Gen. 17:5-6; Rom. 4:16-18)

The Great Tribulation

Since they hate the truth that shines its light on darkness, the world worships the beast. (13:7) When a nation accepts Babylon, Christians suffer for righteousness. If we are weak, God gives us strength for our faith; nothing can defeat Christ in us. (Rom. 8:37)

False teachers and false prophets draw crowds by miracles and wonders even though miracles and wonders are from God. By delivering only half the gospel, many of the teachers deceive the church. Most of us have believed the lies—lies about Israel; lies about practicing sin; lies about the future. But God is not mocked; what we sow we reap. We take up a cross to follow Jesus Christ or don’t follow Him at all. He can use anyone, even an apostate church, to fulfill the prophecies, which will come to

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pass. Their times are in the Father's hands, but the seasons are evident by the signs of the times.

Leaders have had their own motives from noble to nefarious. Men act by words, beliefs, thoughts, instincts, and impulses, but God calls us to believe His every word, if we'll receive it. The translators sometimes err by interpreting and not translating; it's warfare for them too. Even Satan fulfills the prophecies by his attempts to shut them up. In times like these, the apostles knew about trials:

⁷ These trials are so that the true metal of your faith (far more valuable than gold, which perishes though refined by fire) may come to light in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of *Messiah Yeshua*. ⁸ Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. And even though you don't see Him now, you trust Him and are filled with a joy that is glorious beyond words, ⁹ receiving the outcome of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

(1 Pet. 1:7-9 TLV)

When the Lord comes on a cloud to take up His elect, He appears during terrifying events—signs of His impending wrath. At that time, Israel, as well as all the world, will see her Savior with His nail-pierced hands:

¹⁰ “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. (Zec. 12:10) [The Days of Awe foretell this.]

Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: (Rev. 1:7a)

¹⁶ And they tell the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us, and hide us from the face of the One seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb. ¹⁷ For the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?” (Rev. 6:16-17 TLV) [The sixth seal has seven bowls of wrath.]

¹⁹ ... They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. ²⁰ But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. ... ²¹ ... Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and

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Antioch, ²² strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said. (Acts 14:19b-20a, 21b-22 NIV)

³² And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. ³⁵ Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. ³⁶ Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— ³⁸ the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

³⁹ These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, ⁴⁰ since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. (Heb. 11:32-40 NIV), and the *Tree of Life Version* continues,

12 Therefore since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also get rid of every weight and entangling sin. Let us run with endurance the race set before us, ² focusing on *Yeshua*, the initiator and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame; and He has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb. 12:1-2 TLV)

We overcome by faith in Jesus. The battle is His; its victory, ours. We're tried by fire, not just by the normal tests of life, but He is strong to bring us through:

¹² Beloved, think it not strange, concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as if some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, in as much as ye are partakers of

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Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. (1 Pet. 4:12-13)

³³ Those who are wise among the people will give understanding to many, yet they will die by sword and flame, and be captured and plundered for a time. ³⁴ When defeated, they will be helped by some, but many others will join them insincerely. ³⁵ Some of the wise will fall so that they may be refined, purified, and cleansed until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time. (Dan. 11: 33-35 HCSB)

God does His perfect will in us when we practice living by faith as Abraham had. It took time; he learned as he lived.

⁹ When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ... ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

¹² "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." (Gen. 22:9, 11-12 NIV)

We had committed many sins but are saved by grace through faith, yet we've claimed to have turned to Him by our own will.

¹⁸ And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." (Gen. 22:18 NASB) [Abraham feared God in Gen. 22:12.]

It's been said we are righteous without good works as if faith isn't substantive; however, if faith doesn't work, how can it be true? And if we doubt that it's true, then it isn't faith. *But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.* (Jn. 3:21) Faith proves itself in adversities. When we can't understand, faith outlasts the tests that humble us and turn us from our will to the will of God:

¹² Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.

¹³ Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent of the great transgression.

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¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer. (Ps. 19:12-14)

In 1917 the Balfour Declaration made a Jewish state for the Jews. In 1967 they gained Jerusalem's Old City. On December 6, 2017: President Donald J. Trump officially recognized the city as the capital of Israel.¹⁶⁶ The events were each fifty years apart like the Year of Jubilee when all their debts are cancelled: and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family. (Lev. 25:10b) And thus they've done.

¹⁶ The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. (Joel 3:16)

When these things begin to come to pass, then look up and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. (Lk. 21:28):

³⁰ "I will show wonders in the heavens
and on the earth,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

³¹ The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and dreadful
day of the LORD.

³² And everyone who calls
on the name of the LORD will be saved;
for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem
there will be deliverance,
as the LORD has said,
even among the survivors
whom the LORD calls. (Jl. 2:30-32 NIV)

In 2015 the UN celebrated its 70th anniversary as President Barack Hussein Obama opened its morning session.¹⁶⁷ In 2018 the U.S. Embassy celebrated its opening day on Israel's 70th national anniversary.¹⁶⁸ Revelation is the story about a war between two capital cities: One is a Bride; the other, a harlot—each has a king as her head: One has created all things; the other is the god the world worships. The scroll of Revelation reveals the completed conquest of the King of kings until all things are under His feet.

Insights: Chapter 14

Whoever believes God only blesses us or that trouble is only from the devil must reconsider their theology if they desire to believe the truth. In the *Revelation of Jesus Christ*, His living creatures call out to four horsemen, and the Lord opens two more seals of the scroll that He received from His Father. After the sixth seal, seven angels pour out His seven bowls of indignation.

The Lamb breaks the seals and sends hurricanes, famines, floods, and pestilence: judgments against the world—because He is good. He scourges His own (in Heb. 12:6-11), and He is good. He returns to destroy multitudes and is good. In righteousness, He reigns by a rod of iron. He was scourged, beaten, spat on, pierced, crucified, and in hell for us but rose to life the Victor.

He owns it because He paid for the world out of His desire for the treasure in it. This calls for endurance, obedience, and faith—even the faith of Jesus (in 13:10; 14:12). Now is the time to be full of the Spirit; faithful to the end; loving one another deeply, from the heart.

The dragon, the false prophet, and the beast will sentence opponents to prison and death, but we'll have faith and endure to the end, and we'll be saved (in 13:5-17). The ascension will come at last; then in the passion of their justice, God sends His wrath:

⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will see that they get justice and quickly. ... (Lk. 18:7-8a NIV) [the fifth seal]

¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. (Rom. 8:12-14 ESV)

There's great danger in presuming trouble never comes from God. I fear for people who are unaware that God corrects us by our trials. He turns us away from destruction by scourging us. This calls for careful discernment and much prayer rather than rash judgments that pin all our trials on the devil. Though not by intention, even he serves God's purposes at times, but he can do nothing to ruin the resurrection power inside us. (Is. 54:16-17)

The great tribulation tests our faith. If we're not tested by trials and hardship, we'll never have victories; however, if we

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praise the Lord through it all, we'll magnify His power and overcome our trials by our faith in Him. That kind of fruit bears the hope of our salvation. By fighting the trials without praise and thanksgiving, we can shipwreck our faith. It's good to resist evil, but also to rest in the assurance that God fights for us by our faith in Him to win our victories. At times our distress conforms us to His likeness, so He might be the One we're fighting, yet He is good. And remember to give Him praise for the victory. ... *all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose (in Rom. 8:28).*

Our destiny isn't based on what we've done for Him, but on what He does through us, and what He does through us is always good. Even so, for Him to work His works through us, we must decrease for Him to increase. We prepare for His coming by loving one another. Emptied of ourselves, we're filled with Christ and are willing to die for His name's sake. We are His servants, or we are not His who sends trials as well as blessings. Who is this King of kings? We discover His many attributes in the scroll:

¹³ When I shut up the heavens, so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people,¹⁴ if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chron. 7:13-14 ESV) [Pestilence = fatal epidemics.]

Chapter 6 ended with the firstfruits sealed in 7; the 144,000 male virgins from the twelve tribes of Israel are first to ascend into heaven when the sixth seal is activated at the end of chapter 13. Thus, the firstfruits ascend after the martyrs rise and before the elect ascend together in chapters 7 and 14. Then chapter 14 continues through 16, jumping to 17:15-18 through chapter 20, which leads to the seven trumpets.