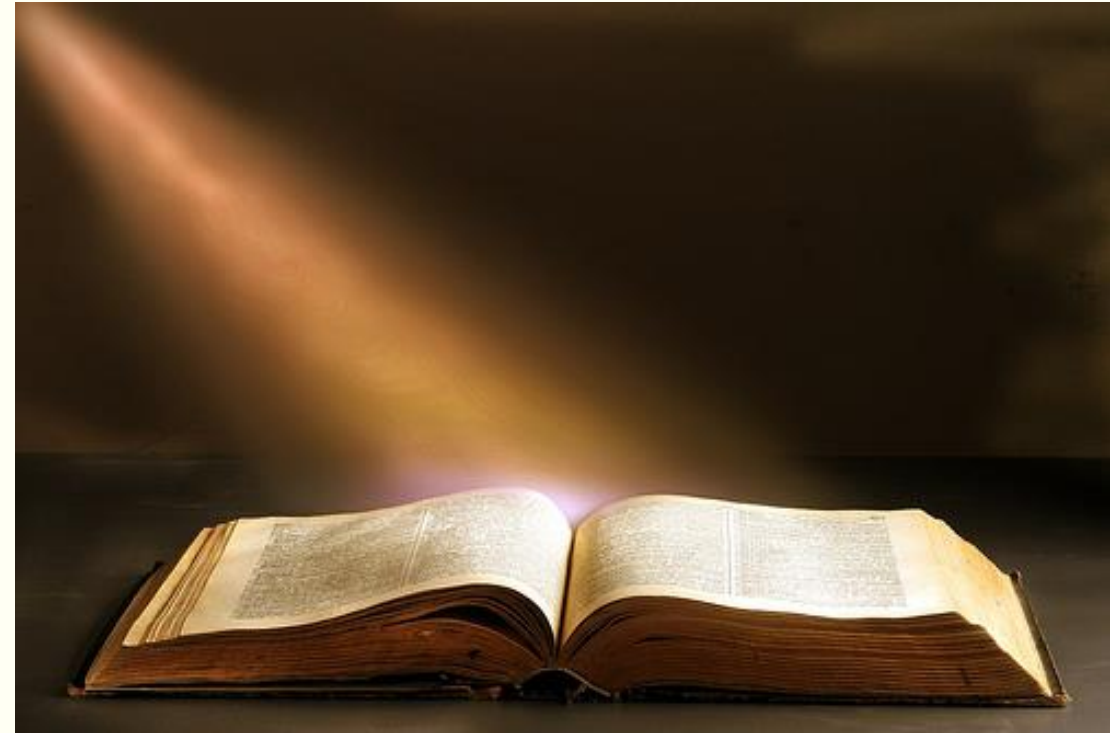




Exploring the Book of Revelation: Verse by Verse

Chapter 14





CHAPTER 14

God's Last Message to Humanity

Chapter 14



Primary purpose of our Bible study is to understand Jesus' message to His church AND its personal application for us today

Introduction

The 144,000

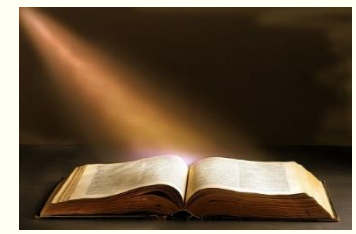
The 1st Angel's message

The 2nd Angel's message

The 3rd Angel's message

Earth's final harvest

Revelation 14:1-5



1 Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. **2** And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. **3** They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. **4** These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being first fruits to God and to the Lamb. **5** And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Introduction

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John” – Rev 1:1

Jesus is the central figure of Revelation. This study focus is on Jesus Christ. Revelation is both **from** Jesus and **about** Jesus. He is the center of all hope!

The primary purpose of prophecy is to assure us that no matter what the future brings, God is in control, even through the coming alarming final events.

Revelation 14 is the center of the Book of Revelation. It begins and concludes with Jesus.

In the original manuscript, with no chapter breaks, Revelation 13 continues into Revelation 14

John looks on a happy scene before the throne of God. In vision, He sees the Most Holy Place. It is a flash forward showing the triumph of the overcomers of earth's final battle before the throne

The 144,000 is introduced first because they are the messengers for Jesus to take the everlasting gospel to the world including God's apostate children. It is the final message of reconciliation.

God is now giving His final message to those who have not declared their allegiance to Him

The three angels' message is given to counteract the counterfeit message from Babylon

Revelation 14 ends with Christ's second coming with His reward and judgment on the wicked

The 144,000

Revelation 14: 1-5 is a flash forward to a future scene of the redeemed in heaven

Those who receive the mark of the beast on the forehead and hand are contrasted with the remnant who have the Father's name written on their foreheads

“...saying, “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have **sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.**” And I heard the number of those who were sealed. **One hundred and forty-four thousand** of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed.” Revelation 7:3-4

John heard the voice of those who were sealed from God's last day church. 144,000 stands for the totality of God's end-time people (Spiritual Israel) standing in the Holy Place



Mount Zion is the center of God's rule in the Messianic kingdom. It is the place of deliverance for God's faithful end-time people and their final victory.

“And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in **Mount Zion** and in **Jerusalem** there shall be deliverance, as the Lord has said, among the **remnant** whom the Lord calls.” – Joel 2: 32

“But you have come to **Mount Zion** and to the city of the living God, the **heavenly Jerusalem**, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and **church** of the firstborn who are registered in heaven...” – Hebrews 12:22

The 144,000 stand with their Savior. While in Revelation 7, they were being sealed to withstand the final events, in Revelation 14, they are victorious and before the throne of God

The 144,000

“And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who **keep the commandments of God** and have the **testimony of Jesus Christ.**” – Revelation 12:17

Redeemed (Greek – agorazo) means to buy or to purchase

Like Israel of old, the remnant are released from slavery of sin and Satan. Purchased by the priceless blood of the Lamb on the cross, they no longer belong to the world.

The 144,000 are the remnant of the woman’s offspring whose identifying mark is obedience to God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. God’s name on their forehead signify their wholehearted commitment to God. They are now secure forever!



John hears the redeemed 144,000 in heaven singing joyfully to God. The sound of the music is rapturous! They were alive to witness the second coming of Jesus and did not taste death.

“And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the **victory** over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having **harps** of God. They **sing the song of Moses**, the servant of God, and the **song of the Lamb**, saying:” – Revelation 15: 2-4

Like Israel of old, Spiritual Israel will sing a song of deliverance...like the song of Moses in Exodus 15. They have a unique experience of deliverance through the final battle

No other group of the redeemed can sing, play, or learn this song. It is a song of redemption.

The 144,000

Sexual immorality is a symbol of unfaithfulness to God

“You have a few names even in Sardis who have not **defiled their garments**; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.” – Revelation 3:4

A woman is symbolic of the church. A defiled woman is an apostate church. To defile means to soil the mind and character with ungodliness, false and erroneous teachings.

Without fault (Greek – amomos means blameless) refers to **fidelity to Christ**. Virgin refers to the faithful people of God who are doctrinally pure and true to Jesus and His truth

While all the world commits fornication with end-time harlot Babylon and her daughters. God’s end-time people will keep themselves pure and remain loyal to the Lamb



“For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a **chaste virgin to Christ**.” - 2 Cor 11: 2

“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to **ten virgins** who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.” – Matt 25: 1

Their salvation is centered in what Christ has done for them and in them and not because of their own holiness, righteousness and works

“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to **present you faultless** before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy” – Jude 24

The 144,000

“I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own...and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; **and the sheep follow him**, for they know his voice.” – John 10: 3, 4, 14

The 144,000 have always followed the Good Shepherd wherever He goes. Nobody and nothing is able to separate them from His love. They have a close relationship with Jesus.

The firstfruits to God is the first of the harvest offered to God acknowledging that everything we have has come from God and belongs to Him. It was an expression of thankfulness for God’s provisions and faith that the rest of the harvest would come



Firstfruits were given at the Feast of Harvest, the 2nd of the three annual festivals. Celebrated as the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost 50 days after the Passover.

“..and the **Feast of Harvest, the firstfruits of your labors** which you have sown in the field; and the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you have gathered in the fruit of your labors from the field.” – Exodus 23:16

“Israel was holy to the Lord, the firstfruits of His harvest.” – Jer 2:3

“Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.” – James 1:18

The 144,000 are firstfruits of the end-time wheat harvest of Rev 14:14-16, **not the only fruit!**

The 144,000

“The remnant of Israel shall do no unrighteousness, and **speak no lies**, nor shall a **deceitful tongue** be found in their mouth;” – Zephaniah 3:13

Lie (Greek – pseudos) meaning conscious and intentional falsehood, deceit

Blameless (Greek – amomos) meaning without blemish, morally faultless

“But there shall by no means enter it anything that **defiles**, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.” – Rev 21:27

“But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and **whoever loves and practices a lie.**” – Rev 22: 15

The deception and deceit characterized by the antichrist power is a repulsion to the God’s faithful people who are like their Master Jesus, the spotless Lamb of God

“So, he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” – Rev 7: 14

Blameless does not refer to absolute moral perfection but to one’s fidelity to Jesus. **To be blameless means to walk with God** as Noah did (Gen 6:9) and Abraham (Gen 17:1)

The 144,000 are blameless because they received a love of the truth and refused to exchange the truth of God’s Word for a lie. They rejected the doctrines of corrupt, apostate Babylon

“Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, **without spot and blameless;**” – 2 Peter 3: 14



The 1st Angel's Message

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.” – Matt 24: 14

Jesus gave the Great Commission to His people to be preached to all nations in Matt 28:19,20

At the time of the end, God will send His final warning message as a witness to the inhabitants of Planet Earth who have not declared their loyalty to Him

When God's everlasting gospel has been proclaimed worldwide, then the end will come

Immediately following the proclamation of the gospel is the final harvest (Rev 14:14-20)

The everlasting gospel is the same proclaimed from Pentecost in its fullness. It is the good news of Christ, His ministry, His death on the cross, burial, resurrection, victory over the devil, His ascension, enthronement in heaven as Ruler over the universe, His intercession, judgment and soon return in the clouds to bring an end to sin and take His faithful people. The everlasting gospel is centered on Jesus Christ! (1 Cor 15:1-4)

The swiftness of the message is denoted by the flight of the angels. It is announced with a loud voice as it is a wake-up call to the inhabitants of the earth. The consequences are severe and eternal

As Satan's end-time activities to coerce the world to give him their allegiance and worship him, the end-time gospel message is to reach every nation, tribe and people and call them back to worship their Creator



The 1st Angel's Message

The phrase “everlasting gospel” is used only once in the Bible

The everlasting gospel is good news for the whole world. It begins with a focus on Jesus who died for the sins of the whole world. Unfortunately, most people stop there.

It is everlasting because everyone who will be saved that has lived before or after the cross will **only be saved by faith in Jesus**. There has never been a time when anyone was saved by obedience to the law. This is a fallacy from a lack of understanding of the gospel in the Old Testament

God killed a lamb to cover Adam and Eve when they sinned in Eden. Jesus was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. The Ten Commandments was introduced in Exodus 20 with the reminder that God deliverance of Israel by the blood of the lamb showed how He would deliver them from bondage, sin, guilt to a life of obedience

The sanctuary service was a pictorial of salvation pointing forward to the Lamb of God

“And Moses said unto the people, **Fear not** (Hebrew – yare’ means **afraid**): for God is come to prove you, and that his **fear** (Hebrew – yir’ah means **reverence**) may be before your faces, that ye sin not.” – Ex 20:20

God does not want a slavish fear. It is offensive to Him. God is love!



The 1st Angel's Message

God desires a reverential awe and godly fear from a heart of love (as our Father)

Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come!

“Be not wise in thine own eyes: **fear the Lord, and depart from evil.**” – Prov 3:7

When the world refuses to recognize the awesome power of God and His works, knowing He holds their breath in His hands, they will refuse to repent, acknowledge God as their Creator and Savior from their sins and reverence Him

“And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and **they did not repent and give Him glory.**” – Rev 16:9

God is glorified through a life of loyalty, faithfulness and obedience to His commands. We are called to represent God faithfully through our words, actions and influence.

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God and keep his commandments:** for this is the whole duty of man. For **God shall bring every work into judgment**, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.” – Eccl 12: 13-14

God's first phase of judgment takes place before the Second Coming. This is called the pre-advent judgment. It occurs simultaneously as the final proclamation of the gospel goes throughout the earth. **The everlasting gospel is incomplete without it!**



The 1st Angel's Message

God's executive judgment upon humankind (every tribe, tongue, nation and people) would be at the end of the world. Before this, there is need for an investigative judgment. Not for God's sake as He is Omniscient. But God must not only be Just, but He must be seen as being just.

“I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the **judgment was set**, and the **books were opened**...and **judgment was given to the saints** of the Most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom...**But the judgment shall sit**, and they shall take away his [little horn power] dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.” - Dan 7: 9, 10, 22, 26

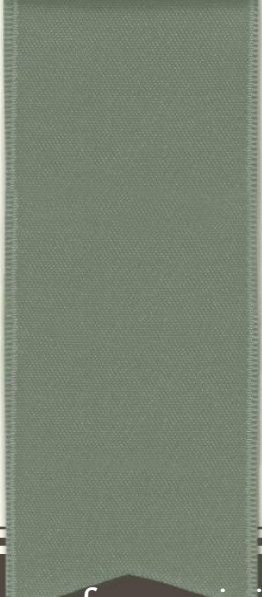
The pre-advent judgment has come (present tense). It commenced after 1798, after the little horn power ruled for 1260 years. The exact date is 1844 which is revealed in Dan 8:14

It is an examination or investigation to determine innocence or guilt of every human being who has ever lived and to reveal the justice of God for the sake of humanity and entire universe

The end-time gospel proclamation and the pre-advent judgment will conclude with the great separation between those who have chosen allegiance to God and those who have chosen allegiance to Satan. Jesus returns with His reward to harvest the earth.

“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: and before him shall be **gathered all nations**: and he shall **separate them one from another**, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and he shall set the **sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.**” - Matt 25: 31-33





“The process of examining the life record of the saints is intended to display to the universe that those who are to be saved in the kingdom of God have accepted God’s gift of salvation and are covered with the blood of Christ, thus meeting the conditions laid down for entrance into heaven. While eternal life is a gift, that gift may also be lost. Eternal life is conditional; a believer must continue in the faith. Unfortunately, there are millions of people who commence the Christian life but fall away from Christ. Vast numbers of others claim to be Christians yet have never had a born-again experience. This is the reason an examination is essential. It constitutes a public audit that will reveal those who can rightfully and justly be granted eternal life at the second advent. Some subscribe to the theory of ‘Once saved, always saved,’ but Scripture teaches the opposite, stating that, “he who endures to the end shall be saved.” Matt 24:13”

The 1st Angel's Message

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”
2 Cor 5:10

God's judgment is to vindicate His faithful people and deal with all oppressing powers who have persecuted them. To the unfaithful, judgment brings terror.

“Who shall not **fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name**? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and **worship before You**, for Your judgments have been manifested.” Revelation 15:4

We give God glory when we love and worship Him, and our lives show the beauty of His holy character through our love for others and obedience to God

The central issue in the final crisis will be who to worship!

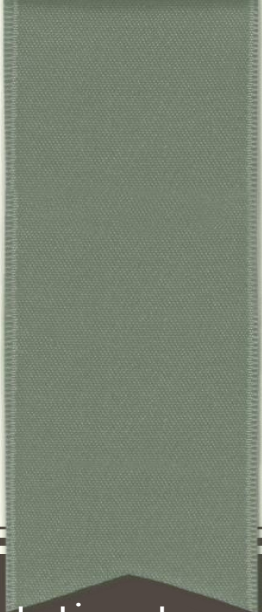
The fear of God leads to true worship. The first angel's message is a call to worship the Creator God and not fear the threats of the beast power or worship him and his image

The beast's demand for worship is violation of the first four of the Ten commandments

The Creator is the Lord of Sabbath, who made the heaven and earth and sea. The Sabbath is a memorial of Creation and Redemption (Ex 20:8-11)

We must have complete trust in Jesus for our salvation. The Sabbath calls us to rest in Jesus and everything He has done for us.





“The exhortation to worship the true Creator God is especially significant for the end-time generation for at least two reasons. First, the exhortation has become especially relevant in the climate of the rise and popularity of the evolutionary theory that denies the validity of the biblical account of the creation and diminishes God’s creative power. Second, the exhortation to worship God – the Maker of the heaven and the earth and the sea and the fountains of waters – is an evident allusion to the fourth commandment of the Decalogue. The parallel between the language of the message of the first angel and that of the fourth commandment suggests that the call to worship God is given in the context of the fourth commandment. This suggests...that the Sabbath will be an integral part of the issue in the final crisis.”

Revelation of Jesus Christ, Commentary on the Book of Revelation, page 455-456

The 1st Angel's Message

The falsehood of evolution, fostered by Darwin originated in 1844, the very same year that the investigate judgment began in heaven and God sent out His special message for humanity to worship the Creator

The world is now being lured into the worship of the beast and his image

“But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” Matt 15:9

The world will be split into two groups. Many will say they are worshipping God but give their allegiance to the beast. Only a small few will dare to defy the beast power and worship God

Those who fear and worship the true God, honoring His holy Sabbath and receive God's seal on their forehead will be hated by those who fear and worship the beast power (Satan), honoring the false Sabbath and receive his mark on their forehead or hand

Satan's deception will be so successful that the world will worship the beast and receive his mark. But God will have a remnant who will take their stand and give Him their allegiance

In the end, everyone will have to choose (not whether to worship or not), but whom to worship

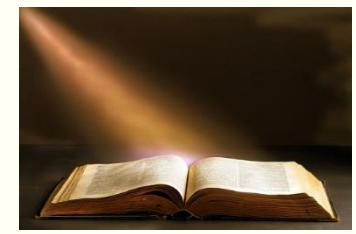
When every pressure is brought on God's end-time people to renounce their loyalty to God and worship the beast, the 144000 will not yield



“In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import—the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels’ messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention. The most solemn truths ever entrusted to mortals have been given us to proclaim to the world. The proclamation of these truths is to be our work. The world is to be warned, and God's people are to be true to the trust committed to them..”

TESTIMONIES TO THE CHURCH, VOLUME 9, PAGE 19

Revelation 14:6-8



6 Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people— **7** saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

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.”

The 2nd Angel's Message



The 2nd angel's message announces the fall of Babylon

The cry re-echoes from the words of the Old Testament prophets of the demise of the ancient city of Babylon with prophetic certainty

“And look, here comes a chariot of men with a pair of horsemen!” Then he answered and said, “**Babylon is fallen, is fallen!** And all the carved images of her gods, he has broken to the ground.” – Isa 21:9

“**Babylon has suddenly fallen** and been destroyed. Wail for her! Take balm for her pain; perhaps she may be healed. We would have healed Babylon, but she is not healed. **Forsake her**, and let us go everyone to his own country; **for her judgment reaches to heaven and is lifted up to the skies.**” – Jer 51:8-9

“Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar [Babylonia], and they dwelt there...Therefore, its name is called **Babel**, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.” – Gen 11:1,2,8,9

Babylon is the most famous city from ancient Mesopotamia [Babylonia] whose ruins lie in modern-day Iraq 59 miles southwest of Baghdad. The name is thought to derive from *bav-il* or *bav-ilim* which, in the Akkadian language of the time, meant 'Gate of God' or '**Gate of the Gods**'. The Hebrew word *bavel* means '**confusion**' - World History Encyclopedia

Babylon was the Greek name of the city. It was founded on the Euphrates River and rebuilt in splendor by Nabopolassar and his son, Nebuchadnezzar II. The two sieges by Darius Hystaspes and the one by Xerxes destroyed much of the beauty of the city. Alexander the Great desired to make it again a great center and to build an immense fortress in the city; but in the midst of this undertaking he was murdered, while living in the palace of Nebuchadnezzar.

(<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/babel-babylon-1/>)

The 2nd Angel's Message

300 years before King Xerxes of Persia destroyed Babylon, the prophet Isaiah predicted its fall

“And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees’ excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. **It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in** from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there.” - Isaiah 13:19-20

From its beginning, Babylon stood as the seat of rebellion, center of ancient occult worship & astrology and opposition power to God. It represents a false, boastful religious system.

Ancient Babylon was an enemy of God’s people, Israel. It embodied rebellion, disobedience, persecution of God’s people, pride, and idolatry

In Isaiah 14, God uses Babylon as a symbol of Satan because Babylon was so hostile and devastating to God’s work and His people. The fall of the king of Babylon is used to describe the fall of Lucifer

In Revelation, Babylon refers to the end-time Babylon, an enemy to God’s church

End-time Babylon is a religious-political confederacy of false doctrines, corruption and deception that stands in opposition to God backed by political powers, which seek worldly dominance and persecutes God’s people



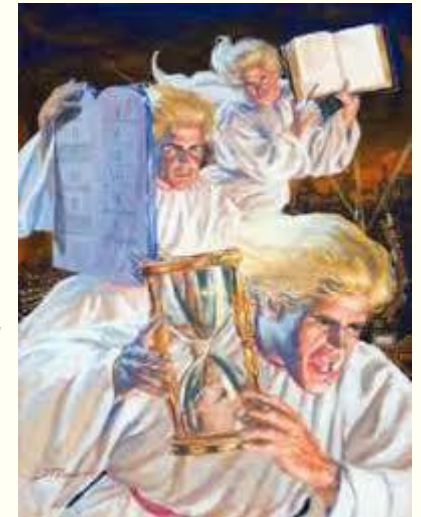
The 2nd Angel's Message

The second angel's message is linked to the first angel. It is a call to every man, woman and child to reject all false systems of worship that stands in opposition to worship of the true God

Babylon the Great is a reminder of the self-boasting words of Nebuchadnezzar.

“The king spoke, saying, “Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?” – Dan 4:30

“Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the **great harlot** who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.” So, he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a **scarlet beast** which was **full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns**. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name was written: **MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH**. I saw the woman, **drunk with the blood of the saints** and with the **blood of the martyrs of Jesus**. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.” – Rev 17: 1-5



“Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a **beast** rising up out of the sea, having **seven heads and ten horns**, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a **blasphemous name**. It was granted to him to **make war with the saints and to overcome them**.” – Rev 13:1

The coalition of the Papacy, apostate Protestantism and non-Christian religions and governments will form an alliance against God and His faithful people

The 2nd Angel's Message

The announcement that “Babylon is fallen” refers to its departure from Bible truth. Babylon encompasses all the systems of false religion in the world

“Babylon represents all human attempts to provide the way of salvation, all those plans and programs that because they are built alone on human reason and devices, attempt to frustrate the divine plan for the world.” – William G. Johnsson, page 35

“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, **teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.**” Matt 15:8-9

The Protestant churches that originally protested the false teachings of the Papal power (Mother church) and left her during the great Protestant Reformation, sadly later embraced her false doctrines and practices. These fallen churches are her daughters.

Babylon the Great is a family name that embraces both the Mother Church and those of her daughters who are also fallen. She is called “The Mother of harlots” because she has daughters - religious systems and churches who continue to embrace doctrines which are the commandments of men

Through the influence of the Counter Reformation and rejection of the first angel's message in 1831-1844, these churches fell farther from the pure truth of God's Word.

“Babylon that has fallen encircle the churches who refused to receive the messages of the Second Advent because they chose to embrace the premillennialism doctrine that Christ will establish a 1000-year reign of peace on earth with the saints before the Last Judgment. After the Great disappointment, they identified themselves more closely with the church of Rome.



The 2nd Angel's Message

“I saw another angel come down from Heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, **Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen**, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.” “And I heard another voice from Heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”
Revelation 18: 1,2,4

The great harlot carries a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication

“Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” – Jm 4:4

In Bible prophecy, a woman, symbolizing the church, is to be married to Christ. But when the church leaves her allegiance to Jesus and forms an alliance with political powers, she is guilty of committing spiritual fornication or adultery. She has turned away from Christ is unfaithfulness to His Word.

The fornications in the cup are the false teachings and doctrines she has spread through her great influence over multitudes and alignment with the political powers of the world

The wrath of her fornication symbolize her intolerance and anger against those who hold to the purity and truth of God's word. The Papacy and apostate Protestantism will use the powers of the state to persecute anyone who dares to defy them

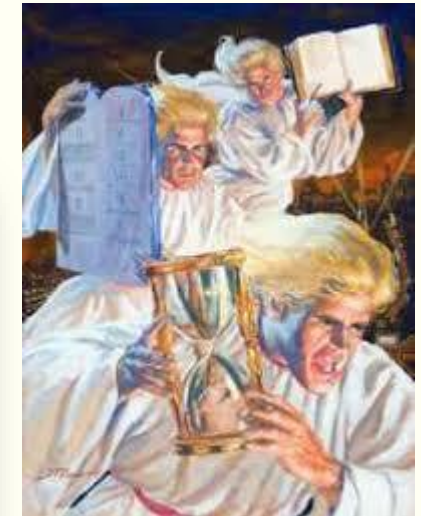
The loud cry of the mighty angel of Revelation 18 includes a call for God's people who are still in these apostate churches to come out, be separate and not be seduced to worship the beast



The 2nd Angel's Message

“Babylon was a golden cup in the Lord’s hand, that made all the earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; therefore, the nations are deranged. – Jer 51:7

The wine of Babylon refers to the unscriptural deceptive doctrines offered by this apostate religious system. These include theistic evolution as opposed to Creation, theological traditions replacing sola Scriptura, embrace of Sunday sacredness instead of the Biblical Sabbath, belief in the immortality of the soul, which is the foundation for spiritualism, futurism and the secret rapture instead of the biblical teaching on the Second coming of Jesus, rejection of the biblical definitions of gender and marriage, etc.



300 A.D. prayers for the dead
300 A.D. the sign of the cross
320 A.D. wax candles
375 A.D. veneration of angels and dead saints & the use of images
394 A.D. the development of the mass
431 A.D. the exultation of Mary, “Mother of God”
500 A.D. clerical garb
526 A.D. Extreme Unction
593 A.D. the doctrine Purgatory
600 A.D. Latin as the official language of the church to be used in mass and worship
610 A.D. the title of pope was conferred
709 A.D. kissing the pope’s foot
755 A.D. the temporal power of popes was established
786 A.D. the worship of the cross, images and relics instituted

850 A.D. the use of holy water
890 A.D. the worship of St. Joseph
927 A.D. the College of Cardinals was established
965 A.D. the baptism of bells
995 A.D. the canonization of dead saints
998 A.D. fasting on Fridays and during Lent
11th century the mass was developed as a sacrifice
1097 A.D. the celibacy of the priesthood was declared
1090 A.D. the Rosary was developed
1184 A.D. the Inquisition, which declared death for convicted heretics, or those who disagreed with papal doctrine
1190 A.D. the sale of indulgences
1215 A.D. the doctrine of transubstantiation, or that the bread and wine became the actual body and blood of Christ was declared as a dogma
1215 A.D. Auricular Confession began
1220 A.D. the adoration of the wafer
1229 A.D. the Bible was forbidden to laymen

The 2nd Angel's Message

Other doctrines include that sinners burn eternally in hell, baptism by immersion is not necessary, and the law of God has been amended or changed.

Many of God's people, sincere Christians, are in these churches which have departed from the foundational truth of the Bible and chosen the popular traditions of men

These sincere Christians have been faithful to all the light of truth which they have known, and God extends them a final invitation of mercy. God is passionate about His people still in these churches, and He follows the 3 angels' messages with a fourth angel in Rev 18

Babylon traffics in the "souls of men" which God denounces for treating people as merchandise rather than as precious souls bought by the blood of Christ (Rev 18:11-13)

We must call God's faithful people to come out of Babylon like Abraham and not be like Achan who coveted the riches of Babylon and the Babylonian garments

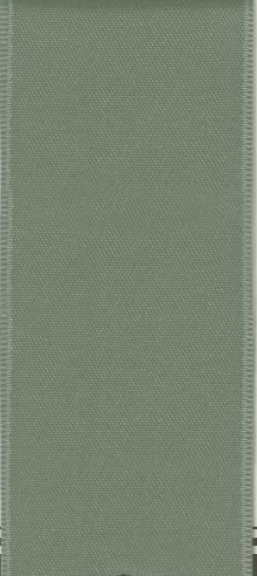
"And Achan answered Joshua and said, "Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and this is what I have done: When I saw among the spoils a **beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them.** And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it." – Josh 7:20-21

"The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia [Babylon], before he dwelt in Haran, and said to him, 'Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.' Then **he came out of the land of the Chaldeans [Babylon]** and dwelt in Haran." – Acts 7:2-4

God calls everyone of His children to come out and be separate (2 Cor 6:17)



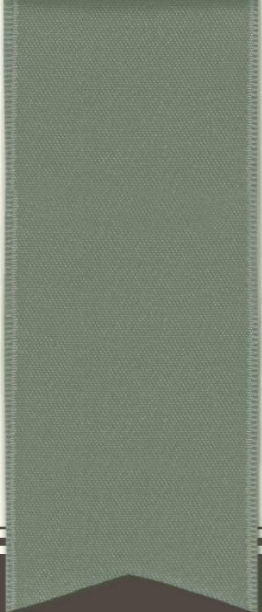
1287 A.D. the Scapular
1414 A.D. the cup was forbidden to the people in the communion service
1438 A.D. Purgatory was declared as a dogma
1439 A.D. the Seven Sacraments
1508 A.D. the Ave Maria
1534 A.D. the Jesuit order was established
1545 A.D. tradition was declared equal to the Bible
1546 A.D. the Apocryphal books added to the Catholic Bible
1560 A.D. the creed of pope Pius IV was declared
1854 A.D. the Immaculate Conception was declared as a teaching of the established church
1864 A.D. the Syllabus of Errors was produced
1870 A.D. the infallibility of the pope was declared
1930 A.D. Public Schools were condemned
1950 A.D. the assumption of the Virgin Mary, which means that she was bodily taken into heaven, was made a doctrine



“Babylon is said to be “the mother of harlots.” By her daughters must be symbolized churches that cling to her doctrines and traditions, and follow her example of sacrificing the truth and the approval of God, in order to form an unlawful alliance with the world. The message of Revelation 14, announcing the fall of Babylon must apply to religious bodies that were once pure and have become corrupt. Since this message follows the warning of the judgment, it must be given in the last days; therefore, it cannot refer to the Roman Church alone, for that church has been in a fallen condition for many centuries. Furthermore, in the eighteenth chapter of the Revelation the people of God are called upon to come out of Babylon. According to this scripture, many of God's people must still be in Babylon. And in what religious bodies are the greater part of the followers of Christ now to be found? Without doubt, in the various churches professing the Protestant faith. At the time of their rise these churches took a noble stand for God and the truth, and His blessing was with them. Even the unbelieving world was constrained to acknowledge the beneficent results that followed an acceptance of the principles of the gospel.”

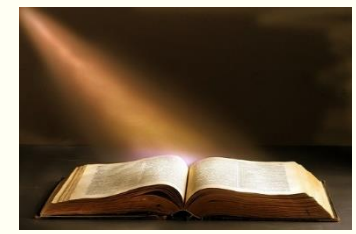
“In this scripture [Revelation 18:1-4.] the announcement of the fall of Babylon, as made by the second angel, [Revelation 14:8] is repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the churches since 1844. A terrible condition of the religious world is here described. With every rejection of truth, the minds of the people have become darker, their hearts more stubborn, until they are entrenched in an infidel hardihood. In defiance of the warnings which God has given, they continue to trample upon one of the precepts of the decalogue, and they persecute those who hold it sacred. Christ is set at naught in the contempt placed upon His word and His people. As the teachings of Spiritualism are accepted by the churches, no real restraint is imposed upon the carnal heart, and the profession of religion becomes a cloak to conceal the basest iniquity. A belief in spiritual manifestations opens the door to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. The influence of evil angels is felt in the churches throughout the land. Of Babylon at this time it is declared, “Her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.” [Revelation 18:5.] She has filled up the measure of her guilt, and destruction is about to fall upon her. But God still has a people in Babylon; and before the visitation of his judgments, these faithful ones must be called out, that they “partake not of her sins, and receive not of her plagues.” Hence the movement symbolized by the angel coming down from Heaven, lightening the earth with his glory, and crying mightily with a strong voice, announcing the sins of Babylon. In connection with his message the call is heard, “Come out of her, my people.” As these warnings join the third angel's message, it swells to a loud cry.”

SPIRIT OF PROPHECY, VOLUME 4, PAGE 421-422



“Notwithstanding the spiritual darkness and alienation from God that exist in the churches which constitute Babylon, the great body of Christ's true followers are still to be found in their communion. There are many of these who have never seen the special truths for this time. Not a few are dissatisfied with their present condition and are longing for clearer light. They look in vain for the image of Christ in the churches with which they are connected. As these bodies depart further and further from the truth, and ally themselves more closely with the world, the difference between the two classes will widen, and it will finally result in separation. The time will come when those who love God supremely can no longer remain in connection with such as are “lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof...[when] the union of the church with the world shall be fully accomplished throughout Christendom, will the fall of Babylon be complete.”

Revelation 14:9-13



9 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, **10** he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. 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 ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” **12** Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. **13** Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.”

The 3rd Angel's Message

God's wrath is not a popular concept with those who prefer to focus on His mercy and love. His wrath is directed at evil, the disobedient and those who persecute His people.

The message of the third angel is not a message of woe and destruction, but a message of hope of becoming overcomers like Jesus and God's justice on the wicked

The heart of the three angels' messages is in the third angel. It culminates with the distinctive characteristics of the 144,000 introduced in the beginning of the chapter

The experience of the Jesus especially in His death on the cross typify the experience of every believer who will face the wrath of the beast and be victorious

Three Characteristics of the (144,000) Overcomer

Patient endurance, Obedience to God and Faith of Jesus

In the third angel's message, God is responding to the events of Revelation 13

As the beast compels and threatens the whole world to receive the mark of the beast and worship the dragon, God warns humanity not to submit to this worship

God is seeking to avenge those who continue to oppress His people, beginning with the 7 last bowls of God's judgment and culminating in the flames of hell fire

The severity of God's judgment is that it is poured without mixing with mercy. It is God's undiluted wrath against evil (Greek - akrotou), judgment without mercy



The 3rd Angel's Message

Rome continues to claim that Sunday sacredness is the mark of its authority. Therefore, when Sunday observance is enforced by law, all who consent to accept it will receive the mark of the beast.

“And **all the world** marveled and followed the beast...and causes **the earth and those who dwell in it** to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.” Rev 13: 3, 12

The loud voice of the third angel is proclaimed with power and goes throughout the globe so no one can plead ignorance. As the worship of the beast is enforced on every person worldwide, the call NOT TO receive it will also be given globally.

“the **wine** of the **wrath** of her fornication” – vs 8

“the **wine** of the **wrath** of God which is poured out full strength into the cup of her **indignation**” – vs 10

“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” – Matt 10:28

The warning is given in stark contrast and is of eternal consequences:

Anyone who rejects Babylon's cup of false doctrines will receive Babylon's wrath, but will not receive the wrath of God

Anyone who drinks of Babylon's cup which is full of abominations will also drink of the wrath of God's cup overflowing with indignation



The 3rd Angel's Message

Execution of the wrath of God is often symbolized by drinking from the Lord's cup

Two words in Greek describe the eschatological wrath of God: "thumos" (strong and passionate anger or fury) and "orge" (displeasure and righteous indignation)

"His eyes shall see his destruction, and he shall **drink of the wrath of the Almighty.**" Job 21:20

"But the Lord is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. **At His wrath the earth will tremble,** and the nations will not be able to **endure His indignation.**" Jer 10:10

"And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the **fierceness of His wrath.**" – Rev 16:19

"For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is **fully mixed**, and He pours it out; surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth drain and drink down." – Psalms 75:8

"Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" – John 18:11

Two phases of torment on the worshipers of the beast: 7 last plagues + Hell fire

"Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the **wrath of God is complete**...So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men **who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.**" - Rev 15:1, 16:2

"And **anyone not found written in the Book of Life** was cast into the lake of fire." – Rev 20:15



The 3rd Angel's Message

Contrary to popular belief, the torment in the eternal fires of hell does not go on forever

An understanding of the expression, “smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever, and they have rest no day or night” comes directly from the Old Testament

John the Revelator is using an imagery from God's punishment on Edom to depict the final reward of the wicked at the end of time. The purpose of the fire is to consume not to preserve.

“For the **indignation of the Lord** is against all nations, and His fury against all their armies; **He has utterly destroyed them**, He has given them over to the slaughter. Also, their slain shall be thrown out; Their stench shall rise from their corpses, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood. All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and **the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll**; All their host shall fall down as the leaf falls from the vine, and as fruit falling from a fig tree...For it is the **day of the Lord's vengeance**, the year of recompense for the cause of Zion. Its streams shall be turned into pitch, and its dust into **brimstone**; its land shall become **burning pitch**. **It shall not be quenched night or day; its smoke shall ascend forever**. From generation to generation, it shall lie waste; no one shall pass through it forever and ever.” – Isa 34, 2-4, 8-10

This is not a picture of unending eternal torment, but of complete and utter destruction. The consequence of the destruction is eternal, not the burning. This is the second death (Rev 21:8). The burning will be long enough to make their destruction complete until nothing is left to burn.

“But on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and **destroyed them all.**” – Luke 17:29

“As Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, **suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.**” – Jude 7



The 3rd Angel's Message

Prior to announcing the three angels' message, the spotlight was shone on a group of people (144,000) who will live through the last events of earth's history and who will dare to defy the beast and face his wrath in the last and greatest conflict between the dragon and the Lamb

How would these be able to face this great conflict without losing their faith and become overcomers? Because they follow the Lamb.

As Jesus went through the perils of the cross and the portals of the tomb and came through victorious, even so His followers must become overcomers. The saints of God who will receive the seal of God on their forehead will possess these three characteristics:

- 1) **Patience Endurance:** God's people must have steadfast endurance through the sacrifices they will experience as they refuse to yield to pressures to give their allegiance to the beast power. They would rather die than disobey God.

“Therefore, we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us **run with endurance** the race that is set before us, 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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For **consider Him who endured** such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.” – Heb 12: 1-3

“For you have need of **endurance**, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.” – Heb 10:36



The 3rd Angel's Message

2) **Obedience to God's Law:** God's people do not only proclaim God's law, but they also obey it with delight...all 10 commandments. They would rather obey God than men.

“though He was a Son, yet **He learned obedience** by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to **all who obey Him.**”
Heb 5: 8-9

“Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come—In the volume of the book it is written of Me—**To do Your will, O God.**’ ” – Heb 10:7

Then I said, “Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book, it is written of me. **I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart.**” – Psalms 40:7

3) **Faith of Jesus:** This is not referring to faith in Jesus as our Redeemer, nor does it mean living by the teachings of Jesus. Rather it is having the faith of Jesus which means possessing the same confidence in God as Jesus did even when all seems dark.

“I am **crucified with Christ:** nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the **faith of the Son of God**, who loved me, and gave himself for me.’ – Gal 2:20

“For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the **just shall live by faith;** But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.”
Heb 10:37-38



The 3rd Angel's Message

God is coming for a people who are sealed in their allegiance to Him, whose characters reflect their Savior, who are settled in their faith and steadfast in obedience. These are the 144,000 who will not taste death. They will be translated at the Second Coming of Jesus and will be presented as the first fruit before the throne.

From the fall of man up to the end of time, in no other generation will be seen a worldwide group of people committed to the faith of Jesus

However, they will many faithful followers of Jesus whose characters will be perfected at the end of time, but who will not experience translation. They will fall asleep (die) before the Second coming of Jesus. They too are referred to as being blessed.

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the **death of his saints.**” – Psalms 116:15

“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.**” I Thess 4:16

“**Blessed and holy** is he that hath part in the **first resurrection**: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.” – Rev 20:6

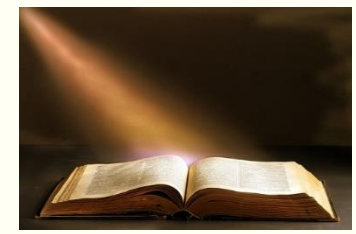
Greek word for “rest” (kopos) meaning grief, sorrow, trouble, efforts or weary toil

Many of God's people who have labored to proclaim the everlasting gospel despite the difficulties and have fought the good fight of faith in their struggle against sin, self and Satan will sleep in the Lord before His coming and find rest from the persecution of the dragon

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, **knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**” – I Cor 15:58



Revelation 14:14-20



14 Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like 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 who sat on the cloud, “Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.” **16** So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped. **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 and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.” **19** So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. **20** And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses’ bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.

Earth's Final Harvest

The sides have been decided. The last message to the world separates every man, woman and child into two groups: God's people and the unsaved. **The destiny of everyone has been decided.**

In the great final judgment, though everyone will receive the reward for their works, the final separation takes place before the Second Coming of Jesus.

“Son of Man” was Jesus' favorite title for himself. He used it 81 times in the gospels. John uses the same title when he first saw Jesus in vision on the island of Patmos.

“...and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the **Son of Man**, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.” – Rev 1: 13

“Then they will see the **Son of Man coming in the clouds** with great power and glory.” – Mark 13:26

Jesus predicts His coming to bring judgment. Daniel saw in vision His first coming to begin the investigative phase of judgment in heaven. After Jesus receives the kingdom (marriage), He will come to take His possession (wedding feast). John saw in vision His second coming for the executive phase of judgment on earth. Billion of angels that accompany Him are the white clouds.

“I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the **Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven!** He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him.” – Daniel 7:13

“Behold, **He is coming with clouds**, and every eye will see Him.” – Rev 1:7

“For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father **with His angels**, and then He will reward each according to his works.” – Matt 16:27



Earth's Final Harvest

The golden crown (Greek – stephanos) is not the royal crown, but the crown of victory

Jesus told two parables in Matthew 13 about sowing and reaping: The Parable of the Sower and the Parable of the Wheat and Tares

At Jesus first coming, He came to sow the good seeds of the gospel

“But Jesus answered them, saying, “The hour has come that the **Son of Man** should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless **a grain of wheat** falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.” – John 12: 23-24

“He answered and said to them: “He who sows the good seed is the **Son of Man.**” – Matt 13:37

Rev 14 and Matt 13 both describe two harvests. However, the two groups (saved and unsaved) grow together until the final harvest

At Jesus second advent, He reaps the harvest and gathers the wheat into His barn

“For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”
Mark 4:28-29

“The **field is the world**, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, **the harvest is the end of the age**, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore, as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.” – Matt 13:38-40

“**Let both grow together until the harvest**, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them but gather the wheat into my barn.”
Matt 13: 30



Earth's Final Harvest

“The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved!” – Jer 8:20

In the Parable of the Sower, the different soil describes the heart of the hearers

“But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.” – Matt 13:8

The early rain and latter rain are essential to mature the grain and produce fruitfulness

In the Hebrew agricultural economy, they depended on the former rain in the fall to sprout the seed and enable it to grow through the winter months. In the spring, the latter rain would ripen the crop, so it is ready for summer harvest.



The church experienced the former rain when the Holy Spirit was poured out in Pentecost. The seed that Jesus had sown sprouted and grew exponentially.

“Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” – John 3: 5

Every believer must be born-again to experience the former rain. Every believer must accept Jesus as his/her personal Lord and Savior, be baptized and experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit (which simply means to be filled with the Spirit)

“Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God; for He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you—**The former rain, and the latter rain** in the first month.” – Joel 2:23

Earth's Final Harvest

They do not say in their heart, “Let us now fear the Lord our God, who gives rain, both the **former and the latter**, in its season. He reserves for us the appointed weeks of the harvest.” –
Jer 5:24

“Therefore, be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives **the early and latter rain.**” –
James 5:7

As we approach the end of earth's history, the latter rain and final outpouring of the Holy Spirit is our most desperate need. Like the five virgins, without this extra oil, we will not be prepared, perfected and ripe for the harvest.

We need to pray daily for the baptism of the Holy Spirit!

“**Ask the Lord for rain in the time of the latter rain.** The Lord will make flashing clouds; He will give them showers of rain, grass in the field for everyone.” Zech 10:1

A Christian without the Holy Spirit is a powerless Christian with a form of religion

What is delaying the coming of the Jesus? When the proclamation of the gospel is complete, the world has been warned and the grain is ripe. Then the harvest begins.

The angel comes from the Most Holy Place (Greek – naos which is the very presence of God) with a message from God announcing that the time of the harvest has come.

“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”
Matt 24:36



Earth's Final Harvest

Three angels (reapers) are again involved with the final harvest of the unsaved (grapes)

“Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake. So, the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.” – Rev 8:5

The angel with power over fire who signaled the seven trumpets of God's partial judgment on the wicked who oppress His people now signals judgment without mercy

“When He opened the fifth seal, I saw **under the altar** the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You **judge and avenge our blood** on those who dwell on the earth?” Then a **white robe** was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was **completed.**” – Rev 6:9-11

The plea for legal justice to vindicate His faithful martyrs throughout the ages was heard and is now granted. Now their brethren (144,000) have also shown their obedience to the point of death. They too have been made complete with the character of Jesus. They are also clothed in white garments symbolizing their victory over sin and faithfulness to God.

God is about to begin executing judgment on the enemies of truth and oppressors of His faithful people, beginning with the 7 plagues and culminating with their complete destruction in the fires of hell

With special urgency the call is given as the angel comes from the altar to commence the harvest of the unsaved symbolized as casting grapes into the winepress of God's wrath



Earth's Final Harvest

“Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; for the winepress is full, the vats overflow—for their wickedness is great.” – Joel 3:13

The grain harvest is followed by the treading of the vintage in the winepress

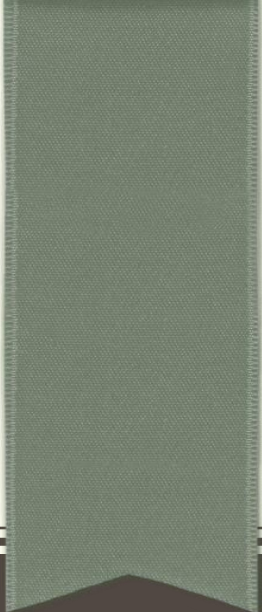
In Revelation, Jesus is first pictured with a sickle in His hand wearing the crown of victory, and later He is seen with a sword in His mouth wearing the crown of royalty

“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and **in righteousness He judges** and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were **many crowns**. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called **The Word of God**. And **the armies in heaven**, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now **out of His mouth goes a sharp sword**, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself **treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God**. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.” Rev 19:11-16



The time of the gathering of the redeemed happens before the execution of the wrath of God on the wicked. The redeemed are sealed and under the special protection of God before the seven last plagues begin to fall. Probation closes for the wicked. Grace is no longer available. The gospel proclamation is over. There is no opportunity for repentance.

“He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.” – Rev 22:11



“Who is this that comes from Edom, from Bozrah in garments-stained crimson? Who is this so splendidly robed, marching in his great might?” “It is I, announcing vindication, mighty to save.” “Why are your robes red, and your garments like theirs who tread the wine press?” “I have trodden the wine press alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their juice spattered on my garments and stained all my robes. For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and the year for my redeeming work had come. I looked, but there was no helper; I stared, but there was no one to sustain me; so my own arm brought me victory, and my wrath sustained me. I trampled down peoples in my anger, I crushed them in my wrath, and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth.”

Isaiah 63: 1-6

Earth's Final Harvest

This is a well-known Jewish concept describing the severity of divine judgment which will be executed on the wicked in the closing days of earth's history. The city is spiritual Jerusalem, the church of God. In Rev 19, we see Jesus is clothed in a robe dipped in blood.

The winepress was trampled outside the city alludes to the 20-mile long Kidron valley separating Gethsemane on the slopes of the Mount of Olives from the walls of Jerusalem

Kidron Valley (Hebrew means dusky or gloomy brook) refers to the brook which flows through the Valley of Jehoshaphat located east of the original city of Jerusalem. It later became a common cemetery (2 Kings 23:6) and dump site (2 Chron 29:16)

“I will also gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land.” – Joel 3:2

“They marched up over the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from heaven and consumed them.” – Rev 20:9

One stadium or furlong ~ 600 feet is the Greek distance of an ancient foot race. 1600 stadia or furlong ~ 184 miles roughly the length of Palestine from north to south

The hyperbolic expression from battle was common among the Jewish to describe the final judgment as the entire surface becomes a battlefield and is completely covered with blood

God's enemies will be completely and finally overthrown, and the kingdom of glory begins



Earth's Final Harvest

In Old Testament times, it was not uncommon to use horses to tread down grapes in the winepress. The angelic horsemen riding behind Jesus are treading down the unsaved.

“The horse shall walk through the blood of sinners up to his chest, and the chariot shall sink down up to its top. In those days, the angels shall descend into the secret places. They shall gather together into one place all those who gave aid to sin. And the Most High will arise on that day of judgment in order to execute a great judgment upon all sinners.” – 1 Enoch 100:3 (an ancient Hebrew apocalyptic historical book)

“But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.” – Rev 11:2

The beast trod down the church of God for 1260 years. God now intervenes and treads them down. The slaughter is so great that it reaches the bridles of the angelic horses.

“And cast the **unprofitable servant** into the **outer darkness**. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” – Matt 25:30

“But He will say, ‘I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you **workers of iniquity**.’ There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves **thrust out**.” – Luke 13:27-28



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