

# Revelation Ch 14.

Part 1



# Basic outline

- Revelation 14 serves as a contrast to Revelation 13, where the beast and his followers dominate. Here, we see the Lamb, the 144,000, and the judgment of the wicked.
- The Lamb and the 144,000 (Revelation 14:1-5)
- The Three Angelic Proclamations (Revelation 14:6-13)
- The Harvest of the Earth (Revelation 14:14-20)

# VS 1

- The 144,000
  - It shows that *ALL* of them are there!
  - They were sealed and protected.
  - By who?
  - This is towards the end of the seven year tribulation.
- PROBLEM!
  - Where is Jesus?
  - Where does John see Jesus?
- Noah and the Ark
- The three in the furnace.
  - Remember the parallel between Revelation and Daniel.

# Speaking of Daniel

- Daniel is a foreshadowing of Revelation.
- Daniel as the church?
- His life, experiences, and prophetic visions provide significant parallels to the role of the Church during the tribulation and in the unfolding God's plan.
- Daniel Was Absent During the Fiery Furnace (A Picture of the Rapture?)
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into the fiery furnace, which can be seen as a picture of **the Tribulation** (Revelation 13).
- **Daniel is notably absent from this event**, even though he was a prominent leader in Babylon.

- Daniel as a Faithful Remnant

- Daniel was taken from his homeland but remained faithful in a foreign land (Babylon).
- Likewise, the Church is a **remnant of faithful believers in a world system opposed to God (Babylonian system in Revelation 17-18)**.
- Daniel remained **set apart** from the culture, just as the Church is called to be a **holy and distinct people** (1 Peter 2:9).

- Daniel Had Prophetic Insight About the End Times

- Daniel received **visions of the Antichrist, the Great Tribulation, and the return of Christ (Daniel 7-12)**.
- Jesus Himself pointed to **Daniel's prophecy of the "Abomination of Desolation" (Matthew 24:15) as a key sign of the end times**.
- The Church today, like Daniel, has been given **spiritual discernment** through prophecy to understand the times (1 Thessalonians 5:1-5).

- Daniel Was a Man of Prayer During Persecution

- In **Daniel 6**, he continued to **pray despite the king's decree**, leading to his being thrown into the **lion's den**.
- This reflects the Church's **role in persevering through persecution** and relying on God in times of trouble (Luke 21:12-19).
- Like Daniel, the Church is called to **faithfulness even under pressure from governing powers** (Revelation 13:7, 14:12).

- Daniel Was Elevated and Rewarded After Trial (A Picture of the Church's Future?)

- After being rescued from the lion's den, **Daniel was promoted and given authority** (Daniel 6:28).
- Similarly, the Church will **reign with Christ after the Tribulation** (Revelation 20:4-6).
- Daniel's **faithfulness led to influence in a pagan kingdom**, just as the Church is called to be **ambassadors of Christ in a fallen world** (2 Corinthians 5:20).

# Zion

- A low hill in Jerusalem, Israel, located to the south of the Old City
- The site of many important events in the Bible, including the Last Supper and the coming of the Holy Spirit
- The traditional site of David's tomb
- The site of the Church of Holy Zion, which was likely the first church built in Jerusalem
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- The site of the Church of the Dormition, which commemorates the belief that Mary was assumed into heaven
- The site of the Pentecostal effusion, as recorded in Acts 2
- It is mentioned over 150 times in Scripture and represents God's presence, His covenant with His people, and the ultimate fulfillment of His kingdom.

# The Place of God's Dwelling

- Mount Zion is often synonymous with Jerusalem, particularly the Temple Mount, where God's presence dwelt in the Old Testament.
- Psalm 132:13-14 – “For the LORD has chosen Zion, He has desired it for His dwelling, saying, ‘This is My resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it.’”
- This makes Zion a symbol of God's presence and His relationship with His people.

# The City of David and the Kingship of Christ

- Originally a Jebusite fortress, Zion was conquered by King David and became his capital (2 Samuel 5:6-7).
- David made Zion the political and spiritual center of Israel.
- The Bible connects Zion to the coming Messianic King, Jesus Christ, who will reign from there.
- Psalm 2:6 – “I have installed my King on Zion, my holy mountain.”
- Isaiah 9:7 – Christ’s kingdom will be established on David’s throne, which is linked to Zion.

# Zion as a Symbol of Spiritual Salvation

- In the New Testament, Mount Zion becomes a symbol of salvation and the heavenly city.
- Hebrews 12:22-24 – “But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem...”
- This shows that Zion points beyond just an earthly place to the eternal dwelling of believers with God.

# The Place of Christ's Second Coming and Millennial Reign

- The Bible foretells Jesus' return to reign from Mount Zion in the Millennial Kingdom.
- Zechariah 14:3-4 – The Lord will stand on the Mount of Olives (near Zion) and establish His rule.
- Revelation 14:1 – The 144,000 redeemed saints are seen standing with the Lamb on Mount Zion, symbolizing God's final victory over evil.
- Micah 4:2 – “For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.”

# Zion as the Eternal Kingdom

- The ultimate fulfillment of Zion is the New Jerusalem, the eternal home of believers.
- Revelation 21:2 – The New Jerusalem comes down from heaven, described as God's dwelling with His people forever.
- This means that Zion is not just an earthly location but represents the final, restored Kingdom of God.

# Why Zion Matters Today

1. It represents God's presence and His covenant with His people.
2. It is tied to Jesus as King and His future reign.
3. It is a picture of salvation and the eternal home of believers.
4. It is a prophetic sign of Christ's return and the final restoration of the world

# Psalm 2:6

- Psalm 2:6 – “I have installed my King on Zion, my holy mountain.”
- This is a response to the world’s declaring war against God.

Why do the nations rage,

And the people plot a vain thing?

<sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves,

And the rulers take counsel together,

Against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*,

<sup>3</sup> “Let us break Their bonds in pieces

And cast away Their cords from us.”

- <sup>4</sup> He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;  
The Lord shall hold them in derision.  
<sup>5</sup> Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,  
And distress them in His deep displeasure:

# Vs 2-3

- A voice from heaven
- A voice of harps
- They (144000) sang a new song.
  - A song of redeemed
- Before the beasts and the elders.



# Vs 4-5

- The 144000
  - Not defiled with women.
  - Is this literal?

## The Literal View (Physical Virginity)

- Some interpret the **virginity** in Revelation 14:4 as **literal**, meaning these 144,000 Jewish men have never engaged in sexual relations.
- This view suggests they are **set apart for God in a unique way**, similar to how certain groups in Israel (like Nazirites in Numbers 6) were consecrated.
- Supporters argue that the text says, "**These are they who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins.**" (Revelation 14:4)
- Since these 144,000 are described as **first fruits (v.4)**, some believe they are a unique group of Jewish evangelists or martyrs during the Tribulation who remain celibate.

### **Objections to the Literal View:**

- The Bible never presents marriage or sexual relations as defiling (Hebrews 13:4).
- If taken literally, this would exclude married men from this group, which seems unlikely for a representative remnant of Israel.

### **The Symbolic View (Spiritual Purity)**

- Many scholars believe "virgins" is symbolic, representing the spiritual purity and faithfulness of these 144,000 followers of Christ.
- In the Bible, spiritual fornication (idolatry) is often used to describe unfaithfulness to God (e.g., James 4:4, Hosea 1-3).
- The 144,000 are contrasted with those who "commit fornication" with Babylon (Revelation 17:2), suggesting they have not compromised with the world system.
- 2 Corinthians 11:2 – Paul says believers are presented as a chaste virgin to Christ, meaning spiritual purity rather than literal celibacy.

# Side note:

## Ephesians 5:26

### New King James Version

- <sup>26</sup> that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,
- <sup>27</sup> that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.
- THIS IS Spiritual not physical.
- This does not mean that the Church is the bride
- It does mean that the Church has been cleansed and washed.

- The Bible frequently uses sexual purity to symbolize faithfulness to God.  
The phrase "follow the Lamb wherever He goes" (Rev. 14:4) suggests total devotion, not necessarily physical celibacy.
- The entire Church is called the Bride of Christ, meaning purity is a spiritual quality rather than just a physical one.
- While some take the virginity of the 144,000 in Revelation 14:4 literally, the weight of biblical symbolism suggests that it represents their spiritual purity, faithfulness, and devotion to Christ in the midst of a corrupt world.

# Vs 6-7 The First Angel

- Notice that this angel flies AROUND the world preaching the gospel
- Does the Entire World Have to Hear the Gospel Before Jesus Returns?**

There are two main interpretations:

## 1. The Gospel Must Be Preached to Every Nation Before Christ's Return (Traditional View)

- Many believe Matthew 24:14 means that Jesus will not return until every tribe, tongue, and nation has heard the gospel.
- This view emphasizes missions and evangelism, encouraging believers to spread the gospel worldwide to "hasten" the Lord's return.
- Supporters cite 2 Peter 3:9, which says God is "not willing that any should perish."

- How do we define "the whole world"?
- In Colossians 1:23, Paul said the gospel had already been preached "to every creature under heaven." Clearly, he didn't mean every single person but that the message had reached the known world.

### The Gospel Has Already Been Proclaimed in a Global Sense

- Some argue that Jesus' words in Matthew 24:14 refer to a general worldwide proclamation rather than a literal requirement for every single person to hear the gospel before His return.
- Colossians 1:6, 23 suggests that the gospel had already "gone out into all the world" in Paul's day, meaning the message was already spreading rapidly.
- Jesus could return at any time (imminency of the rapture, 1 Thess. 4:16-17), which contradicts the idea that a specific evangelistic quota must be met first.

# What Does Matthew 24:14 Really Mean?

- Contextually, Matthew 24 is about the events of the Tribulation, not the Church Age.
- "The end" refers to the Second Coming of Christ, not the rapture.
- During the Tribulation, the gospel will be preached globally, especially through:
  - The Two Witnesses (Revelation 11:3-12)
  - The 144,000 sealed Jewish evangelists (Revelation 7:3-8, 14:1-5)
  - The angel preaching to the entire world (Revelation 14:6-7)

# A different gospel?

- YES!  
Note what the angel is saying?
  - A gospel of judgement VS 7 A warning!
- We have NOW a gospel of grace.
- The Gospel of Grace is the message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, emphasizing God's mercy and forgiveness.
- It is the central message of the New Testament and the Church Age.  
Ephesians 2:8-9, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 and Titus 2:11
- Focus: God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness through Jesus' sacrificial death and resurrection.
- Audience: The whole world (John 3:16).
- Offer: Anyone who repents and believes in Christ receives eternal life (Romans 10:9-10).
- Timeframe: Now, in the Church Age

- The Gospel of Judgment proclaims that God will judge the wicked, punish sin, and establish His righteous kingdom.
- It is a warning message, often associated with the Tribulation period and Christ's Second Coming.

•Revelation 14:6-7, Matthew 24:14 and 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

- Focus: God's holiness, justice, and wrath against sin.
- Audience: Primarily unbelievers who have rejected Christ.
- Offer: A call to repent before judgment falls.
- Timeframe: Especially relevant in the Tribulation and at the Second Coming

#### •DO THEY CONTRADICT EACH OTHER?

NO they are two sides of the same coin. Grace is offered first, but judgment follows if grace is rejected.

- John 3:16-18 – God offers salvation through grace, but those who reject Christ are already condemned.
- Romans 2:4-5 – God's kindness leads to repentance, but rejecting it results in wrath on the day of judgment.
- Revelation 20:11-15 – Those who reject the Gospel of Grace will face the Great White Throne Judgment.

- Before we move on to vs 8
  - Notice what vs 7 says
    - The focus yes is on fearing God and His coming judgement
    - But it is reinforced with His creation.
    - He MADE...
    - Understand that this is the root of the issue of rejecting God.
    - They don't believe there is a God
    - This has been the steady slide down that people don't believe
    - Or they have a casual belief is God
    - BUT not one the understands FEAR
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# FEAR

- From G5401; to *frighten*, that is, (passively) to *be alarmed*; by analogy to *be in awe of*, that is, *revere*: - be (+ sore) afraid, fear (exceedingly), reverence.
- **Total KJV occurrences: 93**
- **Hebrew:**
- *yaw-ray'*
- A primitive root; to *fear*; morally to *revere*; causatively to *frighten*: - affright, be (make) afraid, dread (-ful), (put in) fear (-ful, -fully, -ing). (be had in) reverence (-end), X see, terrible (act, -ness, thing).

- Fearing God is a central theme in the Bible, but it does not always mean being terrified of Him. Instead, the fear of God carries a deep sense of reverence, awe, and submission to His authority.

### Servile Fear (Fear of Judgment)

- This is the terror of God's punishment, like a slave fearing a cruel master.
- Unbelievers experience this fear because they are under God's judgment (Hebrews 10:31).
- Example: Adam and Eve hid from God in the Garden after they sinned (Genesis 3:8-10).

### Filial Fear (Reverence & Respect)

- This is the deep respect and love for God that leads to obedience and worship.
  - Believers experience this fear, not as terror, but as awe for God's holiness.
  - Example: A child respects and honors a loving father.
- “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (*Proverbs 9:10*)  
This means that true wisdom starts with recognizing God's authority.

# What does that mean for us?

- Reverence in Worship – Approaching God with humility and awe (Hebrews 12:28).
- Obedience to His Word – Honoring His commands (Deuteronomy 10:12-13).
- Hatred of Sin – Turning away from evil (Proverbs 3:7).
- Trust in His Justice – Knowing He will judge righteously (2 Corinthians 5:10-11).
- Confidence in His Mercy – Fearing God leads to blessing, not dread (Psalm 34:9).
- To fear God means to honor, respect, obey, and love Him while recognizing His power and justice.
- For believers, it is not a fear of punishment but a deep awe and devotion that leads to righteous living.