

THE REVELATION

AUGUST 18, 2024

Chapter 14:6-18

(4) The Angel with the Gospel Message (14:6-7)

(a) In the Midheaven (14:6a)

Rev 14:6a And I saw another angel flying in midheaven,

The Church will be in heaven by this time in the story. For at least 2000 years the Church had been the primary source used by the LORD to share the eternal gospel to every soul on earth. But the Church had been removed from the earth in *Seal Six*. That does not mean that the Gospel had been removed from the earth. It will still be here; it will still be found in the printed words of the Holy Scriptures. It just means that the primary verbal communicators of the Gospel have been removed. However, the LORD will not allow the Gospel to be extinguished even when the Church has been transferred to heaven. People will still be on earth who need to have the chance to hear the eternal salvation Gospel message about the LORD and what He did to offer everlasting life to all who will listen and believe. The LORD always provides a way for a lost soul to find salvation through the Gospel and that will still be true during the *End Times*. Three angels will proclaim the LORD's Gospel. This first angel will make his entrance by flying in the "*midheaven*." Do not confuse this angel with the "*eagle flying in the midheaven*" (8:13); the two are completely different. In chapter 8 it was an eagle, here in chapter 14 it is definitely an angel. All the copies of the ancient manuscripts agree with our translation of these two passages. No mistakes have been made in their transmission into the English language. However, the word "*midheaven*" is the same in both passages. It means the *zenith*, or the *highest point in our atmosphere* that can be flown by earthly creatures. Angels are not earthly creatures and they can certainly fly though outer space, if needed, simply because they are spiritual creatures that can move between heaven and earth. Yet, according to John, this angel was flying at the same level as the eagle found earlier in the story of the REVELATION.

(b) With the Eternal Gospel (14:6b)

Rev 14:6b having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people;

The message of the angel is the "eternal gospel." Just to be clear, this Gospel message has not changed one bit since the days of the first pages in the book of Genesis. When Adam's grandson was born, it was in that year that men "*began to call upon the name of the LORD*" (Genesis 4:26). At Bethel, Abraham "*called upon the name of the LORD*" after his sinful trip down into Egypt (Genesis 12:8). When Hagar was desperate in the wilderness and had no place to turn, she "*called upon the name of the LORD*" (Genesis 16:13). The same language can be found for the acceptance of the Gospel message in the books of Exodus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, Psalms, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Daniel, Amos, Micah, Zephaniah, Zechariah, and most of the books in the

New Testament. The way to salvation has never changed. It has always been done by *calling upon the name of the LORD* and giving Him worship and glory.

(c) With a Message (14:7)

Rev 14:7 and he said with a loud voice, "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters."

In this passage, the “*eternal gospel*” message contains the same core of the everlasting message of the LORD, “*Fear God, and give Him glory.*” It is a terrible thing to “Fear God” and to refuse and reject Him. Bible teachers often interpret the word *fear* to mean worship; that is not the case here. The Greek word is *phobeo* and it is the basis of our word *phobia*. It means *to be terrified*. This angel’s message will be meant to scare to death the people living all over the world at this time in the Revelation story. With that, the angel gives hope in the words “*give Him glory.*” “Glory” means to give *praise and honor*. In other words, the angel is imploring the people of earth to turn their hearts to the LORD. Why? “*Because the hour of His judgment has come.*” If anyone on earth would like to say he did not know about the coming of the judgment of the LORD, he will be without excuse. This angel will be sent to make sure of that. The decision to give glory to God will rest solely in the heart of each soul just as it does today.

(5) The Angel with the Announcement Message (14:8)

Rev 14:8 And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality."

The LORD will not send just one angel with a message. A second will be sent to give the reason why “*the hour of His judgment has come*” and all the people should “*Fear God, and give Him glory*” (14:7). His announcement says, “*Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality.*”

Who is “Babylon the great” and how will she have forced the nation to drink the “*wine of the passion of her immorality?*” This is the first mention of this person; it is the first mention of her intent. We know nothing about her to this point in the story and we will have to wait until she is explained by John to understand why the anger of the LORD is pointed at this person called “Babylon.” The one thing we can safely say at this point is that she is eternally in trouble with the LORD, for her actions she will be imposed on the people of the whole world. We will meet her again in chapters 16 and 17.

(6) The Angel with the Warning Message (14:9-11)

Rev 14:9 Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will 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 goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

And then the LORD will send a third angel to corroborate the message of the first two angels with an incredible warning. For the first time we discover the eternal doom for those who fall into the trap that will be set by the *beast, his image and his mark*. Those who follow this *beast* and his

requirements will be stopped in their tracks. Where? The REVELATION has not told us yet, but we know. It will start in the valley of Megiddo when the followers of this *beast* will be surrounded by the “*holy angels and ... the Lamb*” who will rain down fire and brimstone upon them. That will be just the beginning of their torment; his followers from that point on will be eternally tormented for following the *beast*.

We have already heard about the *image of the beast* and the *mark of the beast* in this *seventh trumpet*. As a reminder, the *beast from the land* will require that all the people worship the *beast, the image of the beast*, and have the *mark of the beast* placed on either the forehead or the right hand.

We began our interpretation of the *seventh trumpet* under the premise that it contained *history within the prophecy* by presenting the participants of the tribulation in the order of their entrance into the recorded history of the ages since creation. We started with God’s Covenant with creation stored within the Ark in heaven followed by the *woman* known as Israel and her twelve stars known as the tribes that composed the Nation of Israel. The *great red dragon* and the Baby born to the *woman* came next. Then came the *first beast* and the second beast followed by the singing voices of the 144,000 sealed Israelites. We also included in the premise of our interpretation that the orderly description of these participants would include enough information that we would be able to identify their origin, current status, and future intent. Even though we discovered each participant in order with specific details about the lives of each, as a third premise, we held to the interpretation theory that many of the specific details were still yet to be acted upon and will be fulfilled in the future of this story.

At this point in the story, we have the perfect example to prove our whole premise of interpretation. These three angels will arrive in the story in chronological order after the *second beast* has arrived on the earth but before he has required *everyone to worship the first beast, his image and take his mark on the forehead or hand*. How do we know this? The third angel’s warning says, “*If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ...*” This warning was attached to the two previous statements by the two previous angels in context. All three angels are presenting the message of the “*eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people,*” (14:6). Therefore, the “*eternal gospel*” is being offered to every human on earth at the time the angels are making this proclamation. Even though it will occur after the *two beasts* have arrived in their positions on earth, the proclamation of the *second beast* will occur after every human on earth has heard this warning. In other words, the LORD will have the angels tell everyone, “Do not worship the beast or his image or take his mark on your forehead or hand,” before the *second beast* actually makes that demand. Why? Because it is the nature, characteristic, mercy and compassion of God! It is how God works; it is how God treats His creation. For example, He warned Adam about the fruit of the forbidden tree long before he had a chance to eat of it. He warned Noah about the coming flood long before a single drop of rain fell. He warned Abraham about his descendants’ bondage of 400 years in Egypt three generations before they set their tents in the land of Goshen the first day. He warned the Pharaoh of Egypt about each plague before it occurred. He warned the Nation of Israel about her impending sins and gave her the Ten Commandments as a guide before she broke every command. He warned the Northern Kingdom about the coming king of Assyria long before

Sennacherib arrived on her doorstep. He warned the Southern Kingdom about Nebuchadnezzar long before he swept away the brightest of the nation's youth. He warned the Nation of Israel about the coming empires that would rule over her through a dream to Nebuchadnezzar long before each began to take their promised turn in history. He even warned Mary and Joseph about the Child they were to have shortly. He warned Joseph of Herod's deadly plan for their Baby. He warned the nation about the coming Messiah through a dirty old prophet named the Baptist. He warned the twelve Apostles about their Leader's death, burial, and resurrection. Need we go on? God never warns after the fact! Not once! It is not a warning if it is after the fact. He never says, "I meant to tell you about that, but, even though I didn't I am going to punish you anyway." Never! In fact, in the book of Hebrews we learn that it is God's nature not to hold a sin against a person if He has not told the person it is a sin! But when He does, it is a sin. Therefore, with the voice of the third angel's proclamation to all humans in the whole world, it is the first time they will have heard the warning and it is God's nature to proclaim it before any have been required to worship the *beast and take the mark*. God is ahead of their plans. How do we know? We know because God makes the foot of the Cross equally available to every human; no one has a better place at the Cross; one place is just as good as another; every human is invited whether he accepts the invitation; it is plainly and simply God's nature to be fair to every soul that He knew would be born even before He spoke creation into being. It is not His nature to warn about the tattoo of the number of the *beast* on the forehead or the hand after some people have already been to the local shop for the imprint. If it is found on the forehead or hand, the penalty is torment, and God's nature will not let a soul enter a contract like that without first hearing the warning. This warning will not be in the fine print; it will be heard from the "*mid-heavens*" around the world. Everyone will hear the screech of these three angels and understand every word. Then, those who worship the *beast, his image, and take the mark* will be without excuse.

With all of that said, we can safely say that we are just about to catch up with the end of the story of the two witnesses and the salvation of the Nation of Israel.

(7) The Perseverance (14:12-13)

(a) The Saints (14:12)

Rev 14:12 Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

Human saints are once again living on earth. The last saints we knew about in this story were the ones John wrote about in the *Sixth Seal*, the "*great multitude ... with palm branches*" that had left Earth and arrived in heaven. Only sinners were left on earth, sinners who needed salvation to become saints. Oh, perhaps the two witnesses were saints, if they were in fact human, but that question remains until we all can discover that answer when we arrive in heaven. But truthfully, they could not have been around in the days of Zechariah and remained alive until the *End Times*. If they came today to the Americas, they would be well over 2,500 years old and for that reason, those two *sons of oil*, as the Hebrew calls them, *who stand on earth for the LORD*, must be heavenly creatures and not earthly.

A new crop of saints will emerge since the departure of the Church. They will put their trust and belief in Christ; they will grasp the Scriptures and hide the word of God in their hearts; they will make

God's commandments their eternal code. Sinners they are, saved in the same way every member of the Church was saved by *calling upon the name of the LORD Jesus* and making Him their Messiah. They will not accept the *faith* of Baal, the red dragon, either beast or image; they will accept the *faith of Christ* and therefore, Christians will once again roam the earth with the message of salvation for all who will hear.

(b) The Blessing (14:13a)

Rev 14:13a And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'"

But waiting for salvation comes with a great price in the days of the tribulation. John hears the word from heaven say, "*Write.*" What John must write constitutes both a blessing and a warning of what is to come. "*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!*"

In the *fifth seal* we met the souls under the altar who had died because they held to the testimony of their faith in Jesus. They lost their lives as martyrs. We remember that they asked Jesus, "*How long will these deaths go on?*" And Jesus told them, "*These deaths will continue until every soul that is to die for his faith in Me has died,*" (Revelation 6:9-11). There we find the blessing and the warning. The prophecy of the *fifth seal* has not been fulfilled as of yet in the story. It means that they will heed the warning of the three angels and refuse the requirement of the empire to worship the *beast, his image and take his mark*. The penalty for their earthly rebellion will be a heavenly reward.

(c) The Rest (14:13b)

Rev 14:13b "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."

The work of the *red dragon*, and the *two beasts* will not transpire on earth without a fight, a spiritual conflict, a battle of theology, a war of faith. In the short run of the *red dragon's* time on earth, with his two henchmen in tow, they will send many saints to their rest in glory with the LORD. It will be the same for them as it was for Paul, "*To be absent from the body is to be present with the LORD.*" What a place the LORD has prepared for them. It is a place of prominence and perseverance right under the altar in heaven. Their deeds on earth for the cause of Christ will be recorded in the books of heaven, but the most important deed in their record will be their acceptance of Jesus as their Savior. No more toil, no more labors, no more heartache, tragedy, sorrow, or tears. Nothing but glorious rest within the presence of their Savior! Oh, what a Savior He is!

But now, the Savior has a task to do. It is His turn to enter the scene again in this story of His REVELATION.

(8) The Son of Man (14:14-16)

(a) His Crown (14:14a)

Rev 14:14a Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud was one like a son of man, having a golden crown on His head

We are still in the *seventh trumpet*, and we are still being introduced to the participants in the events of the last few days. As the tribulation continues here on earth with many saints being martyred by the *dragon* and his *beasts*, John sees the LORD sitting on His throne in the cloud. John recognizes

Him as the “*one like a son of man*.” In the New Testament, this title is a reference to Jesus. It is used in the context of His ministry and the last week of His life, often called His passion. But the greatest body of material in the New Testament uses it in reference to His Second Coming. Matthew, Mark and Luke repeat the context of Daniel 7:13 concerning Jesus’ coming on the clouds of heaven to appear before the throne of God and be given dominion over all people of the world and an everlasting kingdom as we see in this REVELATION passage (Matthew 24:30; 26:64; Mark 13:26; 14:62; Luke 21:27; 22:69). Specifically, we see this “*son of man*” come in glory and take His throne (Matthew 25:31) suddenly (Matthew 10:23; 16:28; 24:27, 38-39; 24:44; Luke 17:22-27) to condemn unrighteousness (Matthew 13:41; 16:27; John 5:27).

What authority did Jesus have to come as the “son of man?” Daniel gives the answer.

Daniel 7:13-14 I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.

His authority came from the “*Ancient of Days*,” another title for God the Father. With that authority, Jesus was given a “*golden crown*.” The word *crown* in the REVELATION always means the authority to rule over a kingdom. In this case, the “*Ancient of Days*” has given Jesus the authority to rule over the final kingdom on earth, His kingdom that will never end – Amen, Amen!

(b) His Sickle (14:14b)

Rev 14:14b and a sharp sickle in His hand.

As the ruler of the final kingdom, the Crowned King of Glory has the authority to rule over and protect His people. John saw a “*sharp sickle in His hand*” to accomplish that. It is not a bow and arrow; it is not a spear and shield; it is not a sword and dagger. It is not an implement of war; it is an implement of agriculture used to reap a harvest. It is a semi-circled knife with a sharp edge to the inside. Its shape can wrap around several stalks in the field at the same time and sever them with a single pull. An acre can be dropped to the ground in short order by a single skilled reaper. The One Who holds this sickle created its design, and He is the most skilled user of such an implement in all of heaven and earth. One of the most important skills for a reaper is the knowledge to know when to reap the harvest because reaping at the wrong season produces no usable crop.

(c) The Angel Cry – Reap (14:15)

Rev 14:15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe."

The hour of judgment has come, the hour of judgment on those who *worshiped the beast, his image and took his mark*. They have all heard the warning from the three angels, and yet they listened to the evil voice and bowed at the foot of the *red dragon*. The earth will be divided by this time; all who would follow the *beasts* will be under his control, and all who would not will remain as far away from him and his ways as they can. The hour is ready; the *red dragon and the beasts* will somehow gather all

their followers together like clusters of grapes ready for the sickle. *"Reap the harvest for it is ripe,"* the angel says to the LORD on His throne in the cloud.

(d) The Son of Man – Reap (14:16)

Rev 14:16 Then He who sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped.

One swing and the LORD has done His job. The harvest is over. Surely that harvest will be in the valley of Megiddo, but we do not know that yet.

(9) An Angel with a Sharp Sickle (14:17)

Rev 14:17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle.

But the harvest was not yet complete because the angel has a sickle too; therefore, there must be another harvest to reap besides the one in Megiddo.

(10) Another Angel (14:18)

(a) His Power (14:18a)

Rev 14:18a Then another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar;

Who is this angel? He must be a Seraph. Such angels are called that name because it means fiery, flaming, like the one guarding the door to the Garden of Eden and the Tree of Life until the right time to open its gate again on earth.

(b) His Call (14:18b)

Rev 14:18b and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Put in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe."

The fiery angel told the angel with a sickle to reap a harvest from the earth. Why? Was the LORD's harvest not complete in the vision? Surely it was! He reaped the harvest in Megiddo but the rest of the earth He left for His angelic reaper to complete. But this harvest was specific, too! Notice that he was to reap from the *"vine of the earth."* This tidbit phrase brings great heartache to the students of God's Word. Remember Jesus' words, *"I am the vine and you are the branches."* He was speaking about His relationship with the Nation of Israel. In the book of Romans, we learned that many of the natural branches of the vine will be broken off, and unnatural branches would be grafted onto that vine. In short, Israel would be broken away from Jesus and the Church would be grafted in until the *End Times*. Then, Israel would be grafted back into Jesus. But that does not mean that all of Israel would automatically be grafted back in. Even though all the holy city of Jews gave glory to God at the end of the *Sixth Trumpet*, and the political and religious leaders of the Nation of Israel had finally accepted Jesus as their Messiah, it does not mean that all Jews followed their lead and accepted Jesus. Across the world, there will be Jews who refuse Jesus even though the assemblies of their faith have put away their Rabbinic Judaism and become Christian. These rebellious Jews will be part of the *"vine on the earth"* that must be harvested so a true and believing Nation of Israel can enter the Kingdom of our LORD and of His Christ for one thousand years.

Jesus will reap the final evil empire; His angel will then reap the final remnant of an evil Israel.