

Revelation 14 – The Day of the Lord

By Holly Effiom

V1

What is Mount Zion?

Where is it located? 2 Sam 5:7-9, 12:1; Isa 40:9; Gen 10:16-18.

Who is the Lamb? Is this the same Lamb from Chapter 5? Rev 5:6-7

What is significant about this Lamb standing on Mount Zion?

LESSON: Mount Zion is the name for the city, initially inhabited by the Jebusites, that David conquered and took for himself, as described in 2 Sam 5:7-9; and the city came to be called the “City of David”. By the time you get to Isaiah’s writings, Zion has become synonymous with Jerusalem.

In 2 Sam 7, God promises to secure the throne of David eternally in response to David’s heartfelt desire to build God a house or temple. He didn’t allow David to build the temple because he had too much blood on his hands (1 Chron 28:3-8); however, David made provision for the temple, and had a part in its construction through Solomon (1 Chron 29:1-5).

David ALWAYS wanted God near him – consider his attempt to bring the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem in 2 Sam 6. David was king and he captured a major base of power for the Amorites, Mount Zion, but his greatest concern thereafter was having the Ark of the Covenant *near him*. Even when Solomon commences fulfilling his father’s desire for the temple of God, it was his intent to also build a palace for himself. David just wanted to live in God’s presence.

Rev 14:1 opens with the Lamb (who is Jesus) standing on Mount Zion. Now, having a better view of the history, we understand the verse to be a “word picture” of the King taking *His* throne, *His* inheritance in the earth. Hallelujah!!!

Who are the 144,000 standing with the Lamb? Are they the same 144,000 from Rev 7:3-4?

Are these Jews that are redeemed through the blood of Jesus Christ?

What exactly was the “seal” that was placed upon their forehead?

What does it mean to have a “seal” in your forehead?

LESSON: Understand when reading in the Bible, the terms “Jew(s)” or those who “keep the commandments of God”, we are discussing those who were given the commandments of God specifically (Exodus 19). Christians are those who “have the testimony of Jesus Christ”. Together, the two groups are the “saints” or “saints of the Most High God” – it’s *spiritual*, not the nation with which you are affiliated. It’s not the nation Israel that is being redeemed, but rather, the *spiritual* Israel. It’s not just the church that is being redeemed, but rather, the *spiritual* Church of Jesus Christ!

Using Israel as the example, beginning in Exodus 19, the Law (or Commandments) of God was given to all those there, including descendants, that made themselves part of the covenant God, but not everyone there performed their part of the agreement – The Book of Numbers shows us this. God is redeeming those who do the commandments. Jesus’ coming did not nullify this.

Similarly, in the Church, all invite Jesus into their hearts, but not all do the words of Jesus – not all put on Jesus. God is redeeming those who are the doers of the word (the *spiritual* Church of Jesus Christ). “whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.” Matt 12:50

Why is this so important to understand? Because Jesus gave clear warning in Rev 2 and 3 that not everyone singing next to us in church (or the synagogue) will survive the coming judgment.

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VV2-5

What did John hear?

Why all the music? What does it mean to sing or have a song?

What was the name of the song that the 144,000 will sing?

To whom will this group be singing?

Can you sing their song? Why or why not?

Why are they called the “first-fruits”? Lev 23:10-14

Of what are they the first fruits?

LESSON: “Ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that you have brought an offering unto your God” Lev 23:14. The first-fruits of your harvest belong to God, Leviticus tells us clearly. So, when applying this to Rev 14:4, we understand that God and the Lamb have labored in the earth and the harvesting has taken place. If the 144,000 are the first-fruits of that labor, who makes up the rest of that harvest? The character of the first-fruit is:

- To be virgins;
- To follow the Lamb wherever He goes;
- To be redeemed from among men;
- To have no guile in their mouth;
- To be without fault before the throne of God.

First-fruits of the harvest are not different from the rest in character other than being first. We know that those who have the testimony of Jesus Christ (Rev 11:3-4; 12:17) are also a part of the harvest, so what would their character be? I would argue that our character would have to be the same. So, let’s look at the characteristics more carefully.

Notice that the first four items on the list are things over which man has control.

1. **Virginity:** Do you think that there will ONLY be virgins among the harvest of those who have the testimony of Jesus Christ?

Throughout scripture, God uses the example of marriage in describing His relationship with Israel. So, when Israel was being “unfaithful”, it was in relation to idolatry – they were sharing their hearts, their *being*, intimately, with some other god. So, look at virginity, as mentioned here, from a spiritual context, which is to come right to the marriage – your heart *betroted*, your very *being* given, intimately, only to your husband (or to your wife), to *God Almighty*;

2. **Follow the Lamb:** The New Testament is comprised of the “gospels” – witness testimony by those who were there, in the presence of Jesus and saw – and the “epistles” – the letters of the apostles, teaching people *how* to be followers of Jesus Christ;
3. **Without guile:** It is also through the epistles that we learn to avoid any kind of guile in our mouths, as followers of Jesus Christ;
4. Rev 2 and 3 tell us plainly that it will be the “doers” of His word whom God will redeem;
5. It is God who determines whether or not we are without fault before His throne; but He’s given us the “guideline” of Jesus Christ to ensure this. Hallelujah!

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Messages from Three Angels

VV6-7 The Everlasting Gospel

Who is preaching the gospel to the world in this section of scripture? In, Who does Jesus “commission to “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature”?

Mark 16:15

Why is an angel preaching the gospel to the world? Why do you think an angel preaches the gospel? What else is the angel telling the world?

Why would an angel continue to preach the everlasting gospel; for what purpose?

LESSON: I would argue that the reason an angel is preaching the everlasting gospel is because the church is no longer in the earth; and in fact, the description of the rapture of the church is set forth in Rev 11:12 in which the 2 witnesses (2 candlesticks, Rev 1:20) ascend or are caught up to heaven in a cloud (1 Th 4:17), with the sounding of the 7th or last trump (1 Cor 15:51); just as it was promised in Rev 10:7.

But why would God provide an angel to continue preaching the gospel? The message of the gospel is one of hope, reconciliation with God, and that God had become a man, in the person of Jesus Christ. If the church is no longer in the earth, for who is this message meant? I would argue that the purpose of the angel continuing to preach, even after the rapture of the church, is to try to encourage those who had been *deceived* and now realize they’d been deceived (like those in Rev 11:13), to the Lord Jesus Christ – to give them hope!

V8 Judgment upon Babylon

What is the announcement made by this angel?

Why is it significant that the demise of Babylon be broadcast?

What do we know about Babylon?

LESSON: Nimrod – son of Cush, son of Ham, son of Noah – founded Babel, among other great cities, in the land of Shinar. Nimrod became great among the people, who called him the mighty hunter before the Lord. Gen 10:8-10.

God’s instruction was for Noah and his sons to go out and populate the earth. Which they did, sort of... they traveled from the east to the land of Shinar, and they decided to stay there, and because they had nothing better to do, they began to build a tower, and the rest is history. Gen 11:1-9

It is anyone’s guess what “the mighty hunter before the Lord” means, but it might be presumed Nimrod used force to subdue others – animals and humans. However, the behavior of the people of Babel provides even more of a hint about the leadership of the town – and it probably wasn’t good. The attitude of the people of Babylon was:

1. Disobedient. God told them to go out and populate the whole earth, not build one city with a tower whose top reached heaven;
2. Self-centered. The entire goal of building that city and tower was self-aggrandizement, not the glory of the God who had preserved them.

And now, in Rev 14:8, we find that when the people of Babel were scattered over the face of the earth, they took their bad attitude with them. God is now going to mete out judgment upon that spirit.

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VV9-11 Punishment upon Worshipers of the Beast

What is the message of the third angel?

Who are those that worship the beast and his image?

What will happen to them?

Will they just die? How do you know?

What do these worshippers of the beast have to do with Babylon?

LESSON: We are focusing on the messages of the angels in this section of scripture, but it is noteworthy to consider that it would be the church preaching the everlasting gospel, and warning against the evils of Babylon and idolatry, if it was still in the earth.

Let's go back to Rev 13 and remember what we know about the mark of the beast.

It was the beast from out of dust – a man – empowered by the dragon that fooled the whole world into worshipping the first beast. And, he did this by *constructing* and bringing an image of the beast to life and giving it the ability to speak, and cause to be killed those who refuse to worship *his construct*. We've read a story very similar to this in that of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. In Daniel 3, we studied the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, but we also looked deeply at the character of the king of Babylon at that time.

In Daniel 2, Nebuchadnezzar had learned that his dominion was represented as a head of gold in a dream he had had. By the subsequent chapter we find Nebuchadnezzar commissioning the construction of a huge image of gold in the plain of Dura, in Babylon; and he went further, he made the entire leadership of the land bow down and worship that image or die in a fiery furnace (Dan 3:1-7). We see in Dan 3:15, that Nebuchadnezzar viewed himself as all-powerful; and, when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to accede to this "*almightiness*", he was pushed over the edge by his anger, such that he gave himself over to *hatred* – increasing the heat of the furnace, and even having his seat placed in such a way that he could watch the suffering of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Dan 3:19-26).

We can learn something about the beast from out of the earth from king Nebuchadnezzar.

- He was petty. As if 3 men would have made him any less powerful than he already was (Dan 2:37-38).
- He was vain. What's up with the image of gold? It wasn't even an image of himself – just something he made (Dan 3:1).
- He was an authoritarian. Why was it necessary to have every other kind of leader submit to the dog and pony show? He was already king (Dan 3:2-7). Could it be said that this beast was a "*mighty hunter before the Lord*"? Using force to try and control people, like Nebuchadnezzar... like *Nimrod*?

The whole plain of Dura stunt was all about Nebuchadnezzar, even if the image wasn't an image of himself. He wanted to *feel* powerful and *show* the world how powerful he was.

I believe that that beast from out of the earth (Rev 13:11) will have a character similar to Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel chapter 3, except that his "*construct*" may not be a physical image of gold somewhere, but rather, an idea or philosophy, which will ultimately be a *lie*, created to feed this beast's own deficiencies. Taking the mark of the beast would be acceding to the idea that the beast, whose deadly wound was

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healed, is your *economic* provider, the *world's* only economic provider. What will the beast from out of the earth get out this? Control. After all, this beast *is* an *authoritarian*.

Taking the mark of the beast means something more to God than just having something tattooed on or inserted to your hand or forehead. It is *intentionally* aligning oneself with and worshipping some other god. It is intentionally having “sexual relations” with one who is *not* your husband – knitting your spirit with one that is *not* God. Those who do this have the spirit of Babylon – they are violent, disobedient, self-aggrandizers.

Rev 14 is God speaking loud and clearly, he does not like that character and hated that *spirit* from its inception; and He’s now bringing judgment upon it and those who have chosen to affiliate with it. It’s not just a different opinion or alternate lifestyle – it’s a *choice* subject to God’s judgment.

VV12-13

What does this verse mean?

How is it related to Rev 13:10?

What does John say about this “patience” in Rev 1:9?

Who are these “saints” that must have patience?

Who is speaking in V13?

What is the message being given?

And, what does this prove with regard to our understanding of the message of the angels in this chapter?

How is V13 different from the message in Rev 9:6? What is the difference?

LESSON: In a strange way, Rev 14:13 is a comfort. We know that some who had been deceived will awaken (Rev 11:13, Matt 24:13) after the rapture of the church (the 2 witnesses) will have taken place, and God’s hand will be stretched out to them still. There will not be a church in the earth to go and obtain healing through the word, He will still have the angels preaching the everlasting gospel, and there *will* be those among the awakened who will respond to the message; however, this is *after* the rapture, and these saints will have to go through the wrath of God. The good news is that they will be *able* to die – unlike the people of Rev 9:6 – and that they have the hope of eternal life with God. The Spirit *affirms* that these saints and *their* work will NOT be forgotten. Our God is merciful!

The rest of this chapter will be studied with Revelation 15 because topic is from the perspective of heaven.