

Book of Revelation Study (Session 27) Sunday May 13th 2018
Satanic Strategy and Prophetic Promises (Part 2) (Rev. 14:6-20)

I. Prophetic Encouragement Outline (Rev. 14)

- A. There are 3 sections in Revelation 14 containing 7 truths that will be the fuel the saints use to war against the Antichrist in praise (song) and proclamation to encourage one another.
1. Section 1- Jesus will stand on Mount Zion in Jerusalem with 144,000 Messianic Jews anointed and called as Davidic warriors. (Rev. 14:1-5)
 2. Section 2 : Four prophetic promises and proclamations are given that the Spirit will anoint and release conviction upon, confirming them with signs and wonders, so as to strengthen the spirit of the saints. (Rev. 14:6-13)
 3. Section 3: Reveals two different end-time harvests accomplished through intercession. The great harvest of righteous souls and the harvest of wickedness and evil from the earth. This section assures us of the results of intercession that release power for the Great Harvest and end-time judgments. (Rev. 14:14-20)
- B. Last week we looked at section 1 of Rev. 14 so we're going to focus our time today on Sections 2 and 3.

II. Prophetic Encouragement Section 2 (Rev. 14:6-13)

- A. This Second section reveals four prophetic promises and proclamations that the Spirit will anoint and release conviction upon, confirm with signs and wonders, in order to strengthen the spirit of the saints in that day.
1. The Gospel will go Forth with Power – John is assured that during this time of great trouble the gospel will be going forth with supernatural power and conviction. The worldwide missions movement will feel and see a surge of anointing and fruit in the days to come. This evangelistic power will produce the greatest harvest of souls history has ever known. (Mat. 24:14; Rev. 7:9-14)
 - a) The evangelistic message that the angel cries out sounds different than what's common today in evangelical altar calls. “Revere God above all else, repent from your sins and give him Glory, He upholds your breath.” (Acts 2:38-40, 10:42; 2 Cor. 5:20; Phil. 2:9-11)

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2. Assuredness that Babylon will Fall – Prophetically, “Babylon” sometimes refers to a literal city, sometimes to a religious system, sometimes to a political system. However, the biblical idea of Babylon always encompasses evil character, great influence, and rebellion against God. (Is. 21:9; Jer. 51:7-8; Rev. 18:2)
 - a) Much more on Babylon will come in Revelation 17. For now, John would understand this cry as a statement concerning the fall of Babylon to mean that the oppressive nation that is persecuting and seeking to destroy his people will fall.
 - b) There will be angelic activity and prophetic encouragement that will be sent from the courts of heaven to believers world wide to not place their hope or trust in the worldwide religious and economic system that is known in the book of Revelation as Babylon. We find out later that this system is extremely alluring and seductive. There will be clear and ongoing warning from the Lord to get out of Babylon for it will soon fall.

3. Warnings to keep your heart from following the Antichrist – Anointed proclamation of the certainty of eternal judgment coming on all who worship the antichrist will embolden the saints to stand against it. This will manifest in three primary ways.
 - a) Pastoral Care – Shepherds will be stirred with the burden of the Lord for the body and will constantly be giving warnings and guiding people away from the deception of the antichrist and his system.
 - b) Evangelism – Evangelistic effort and burden will also increase as this angel is loosed to proclaim the eternal consequences of following the antichrist. We will be moved with godly compassion and desperation to keep our family, friends, and neighbors from worshiping the antichrist.
 - c) Justice – Once again we see the same phrase as we saw before concerning the sure justice that will come to the antichrist and his faithful followers. This knowledge will give believers the strength they need to not seek their own vengeance upon their oppressors and to stay steady in their faith in the face of seeming hopelessness.

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4. Assuredness of Eternal Reward – There will be an empowering in the church to not only understand the truth concerning eternal rewards, but to practically walk in the hope of gaining them. In my opinion, the church in the west has lost sight of the emphasis the scriptures put on the theme of Christ centered eternal rewards, however in the days leading up to the return of Jesus these truths will be our strength. (Mat. 5:19, 6:20; 1 Cor. 3:8-15; Col. 3:1-2; Rev. 3:18
 - a) This passage not only encourages us to press into the hope of our eternal rewards in Christ, but seems to suggest a unique blessing, or eternal reward, that belongs to those who die during the great tribulation.

This subject of the judgement seat of Christ and eternal rewards is one of the most important themes in the Word of God. Jesus talked on this subject more than any other teacher in the Bible, because He knew the most about this subject, therefore He saw its value like no one else. This theme is referred to in every New Testament book and in many of the Old. Sadly, It is mostly neglected in the teaching of the Body of Christ. – Mike Bickle

III. Prophetic Encouragement Section 3 (Rev. 14:14-20)

- A. This final section of this angelic explanation shows the full harvest of the earth both of the righteous and the wicked. It is the fullness of time and of maturity for both the church and the spirit of Antichrist. The delineation of the values and priorities of humanity could never be more stark than they are going to be in the last days.
- B. The Greek word originally used actually means to be “over ripe” we are to think of this harvest as being accomplished at the last possible moment. This speaks of the perfect timing of Jesus as He waits until as many souls as possible turn to Him in repentance and the progression of wickedness reaches critical mass. Then and only then the sky splits and the Son of Man comes on the clouds of Heaven to set up His eternal kingdom. (Dan. 7:13-14; Joel 2:28-32; Mat. 13:36-43; 17:26; Rev. 19:7)
- C. The original meaning of the word “crown” used here does not mean a crown of power or government but rather it speaks of a crown won in battle. Jesus wearing the “victors crown” speaks prophetically of the certainty of the hour that He will reign victorious over all His enemies and be given the glory due His name. (Ps. 45:3-7, 72:2-4; Is. 11:3-5; Rev. 19:11)

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1. The Harvest of the Saints - Many Christians think of Jesus' second coming as only consisting of the rapture of the Church and then we all live in heaven happily ever after. Jesus is returning to destroy and eradicate wickedness from the earth, set up a righteous worldwide government, and dwell with us permanently. The worldwide harvest of saints in scripture is always associated with the event of His return. (Zech. 9:14; Mat. 24:23-27; 1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thes. 2:19, 3:13, 4:14 Rev. 1:7)

2. The Harvest of the Wicked – The harvest of wickedness means that not only wickedness will have reached its peak but it also speaks of the consequences of that wickedness will come to fruition. As we looked at in earlier sessions this final judgment of wickedness manifests in a military battle outside Jerusalem in the valley of Armageddon.
 - a) The pinnacle event of this harvest of wickedness will be when Jesus engages the antichrist and his army in the greatest battle the world has ever known. The number of the wicked slain will be so great it will take 7 months to bury all the bodies. This harvest of judgment will result in a river of blood that will run nearly 200 miles or the distance from Megiddo in the north to Bozrah in the south. Isaiah saw the Messiah marching to Jerusalem from Jordan (Bozrah in Edom) in the south. (Ps. 110:5-6; Is. 63:1-9; Eze. 39:1-29; Zep. 1:1-18; Joel 3:9-17; Rev. 14:18-20, 19:11-21)

 - b) As part of this great harvest all the kings of the earth will be gathered into one geographic area. Jesus will trample them in “this winepress”. A winepress was associated with the time of the harvest. (Zech. 12:2-3, 14:2; Joel 3:2, 12; Zeph. 3:8; Rev. 16:14)

IV. In Summary

- A. Revelation Chapter 14 is to bring us great and unshakable confidence in the leadership of Jesus as we think about facing the events leading up to His return. I find it interesting that we are given 7 prophetic promises in this chapter that our Great Shepherd will carry us through that difficult time. The number 7 is the number of divine completeness or perfection.

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. (Col. 2:8-9)