I. Three Main Satanic Strategies to Gain World Control

- A. Messaging First, the false prophet will be a prophet. That is why he is called a prophet. He is a messenger. Intrinsic to the false prophet is that he is a preacher. He will proclaim oracles that he claims are from God. His demonically empowered public speeches will be confirmed with great miracles to deceive the masses. He will make these public speeches before the nations. (Rev. 13:12-14)
 - 1. Through demonically empowered messaging, Adolph Hitler created the largest German political party, conquered a dozen nations, and slaughtered 21 million people during his 12 years in power.

Orators possess an extraordinary talent to move people, including intellectuals, emotionally, through the power of speech. They are unique and highly unusual human beings. In true oratory, a psychic and emotional exchange, possibly a fusion, occurs between such speakers and their listeners, which is absent in public speaking. I am tempted to say that orators "channel" in some sense, although I do not want to invoke specific New Age practice or suggest such powers exist. However, as a consequence of all this, oratory is often viewed as a magic art, a black art. – Andrew Hamilton

- 2. These messages will be backed by powerful signs and wonders. Satan has the power to mimic God's miracles to a point. God warns us not to judge miracles based upon the power of the miracle, but upon truth of the message and the character of the individual's heart and life (fruit of the Spirit). (Deut. 13:1-5; Ex. 7-9; Mat. 7:22-23, 24:24; 2 Thes. 2:9)
- B. <u>Establish a Religion</u> Secondly, he will establish a worldwide worship system that is related to worshiping an image of the beast, "the abomination of desolation". He will tell those who dwell on the earth "to make an image to the Antichrist or to the beast." (Dan. 9:27; Mat. 24:15-16; 2 Thes. 2:3-4)
 - 1. The image of the beast is animated in some way, in that it has breath and can speak. There is much debate concerning whether this image is technologically or supernaturally animated, maybe a bit of both. However it works this image will be real and be alive in some way. It seems you will be able to have a conversation with this image, and it will give orders that hold the authority of the antichrist himself, even the authority to give the death sentence. (Rev. 13:15)

- C. <u>Use Commerce to Demand Worship</u> Third, he will force the nations to worship the Antichrist through the mark of the Beast on their hand or forehead. He will force all to publicly declare their loyalty to the Antichrist through the receiving of a mark. To refuse this mark will result in not being able to buy or sell the necessities of life and can also result in you being sentenced to death. (Rev. 13:15-17)
 - 1. There is a great level of fear in the church that surrounds this mark and the number 666. The interpretations and superstitions of what exactly the mark is and what the number represents are as confusing as they are endless. We must not lose sight of the fact we are given this information to have confidence not to cause us to have fear.
 - 2. One of the most common fears that surround the theme of the mark of the beast is that you will get tricked into receiving it, or you will receive it unwillingly. The scripture is clear that the mark will be received voluntarily as a token of your allegiance and worship of the antichrist. Every single passage that talks about this mark tells us that those who receive it voluntarily worship and love the antichrist. (Rev. 14:9-11, 16:2, 19:20, 20:4)

II. Inspiring and Encouraging the Victorious Church (Rev. 14:1-20)

- A. The message of Revelation 14 is that Jesus will help us by supernaturally anointing the Church to walk in certain victory and holiness. It shores up our hearts that there will be real consequences for both righteousness and unrighteousness. Jesus promises justice by rewarding His people and judging the followers of the Antichrist. This knowledge under the anointing of the Holy Spirit will position the Church to walk in victory as "overcomers".
- B. 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)

III. Prophetic Encouragement: Section 1 "Davidic Warriors" (Rev. 14:1-5)

- A. These 144,000 were last seen in (Rev. 7), where they were identified as a group of Jewish men who are given a seal of protection from being affected by the judgments of God. In this section we are given much more information about them and when we cross-reference that information with the rest of the bible the identity and leadership role of this group becomes more clear.
- B. There is much speculation concerning this group of Israeli men. However, we can make some clear statements about them based upon the text here and the corresponding cross-references found in scripture.
 - 1. They are physical descendants of Jacob (Israel).
 - 2. They are supernaturally physically protected.
 - 3. They are numbered for war.
 - 4. They are victorious over the antichrist.
 - 5. They are prophetic singers.
 - 6. They walk in holiness and purity.
 - 7. They are a form of firstfriuts.
- C. Standing on Mount Zion: Zion is the name of the final stronghold that King David took in order to fully establish his kingdom and establish the city of Jerusalem. The term Zion then became the ancient name for the hills that make up Jerusalem, and is synonymous with the city itself. Prophetically, Jesus will do exactly as David did upon His return and He will then rule from that place forever. The term Zion is used 160 times in scripture and almost every time speaks of the literal geographical city of Jerusalem. (Psalm 48; Isaiah 24:23; Joel 2:32, 3:16-21; Obadiah 1:17,21; Micah 4:1, 4:7).
 - 1. With the above understanding in place, the lamb standing on Mt. Zion is a clear picture of the fullness of victory over all His enemies upon His return to establish His rule from Zion.

- 2. As we looked at when we saw this group in Rev. 7 we established that the only other times we see this type of numbering of men is in military and war terms. In fact this number with one exception (Rev. 21:16) is used as a number of soldiers in or for war. (Num. 31:5; Jos. 8:25; Jdg. 21:10; 2 Sam. 17:1; 1 Ki. 4:26, 10:26; 2 Ch. 1:14, 9:25; Ps. 60:1)
- D. <u>Voice from Heaven of Thunder and Many Waters</u>: This language is not new to our study of this book. We have established that thunder from heaven speaks of divine utterances from the throne as prophetic guidance and encouragement to His people. Specifically, in the book of Revelation seven divine utterances or thunders were given to encourage hearts and stir up partnering intercession and action in believers during the last days. (Job 37:4-5; Ps. 29:3; Jhn 12:29; Rev. 4:5, 10:4)
- E. They Sang a New Song The term "New Song" is used 7 times in the scriptures apart from the book of Revelation. In every single instance it is used in a prophetic eschatological context. In other words, it is a song that will be sung in context with the installment and realization of the Messianic Kingdom. (Ps. 33:3, 40:3, 96:1, 98:1, 144:9, 149:1; Is. 42:10)
 - 1. Singing Warriors There are some very strong scriptural indicators that one of the primary ways we will fight, defeat, and overcome Satan and his strategy is through Holy Spirit inspired and energized worship. In fact, it very well could be the way in which Jesus destroys the armies of the Antichrist in the final battle at His return. We are to see and understand the power of "overcoming worship" as we see this group of end time singing warriors. (2 Chr. 20:22; Is. 24:13-16, 30:27-33; Joel 3:1-16; Amos 9:8-15; Zech. 12)
- F. Victorious in Holiness This is one of the most powerful prophetic statements about the grace for holiness that is available to be walked in by the saints. Currently there is an unprecedented onslaught of sexual perversion and immorality sweeping across our land, and this will surly only increase as the day of the lord grows nearer. Every one of these 144,000 men resist the devil and flee from immorality. (Jam. 4:7)
- G. Firstfruits to God Most biblical scholarship agrees that the Firstfruits spoken of here is the Firstfruits of the last days' great harvest spoken of throughout the prophetic scriptures culminating in the entire nation of Israel coming to salvation. (Joel 2:28-32; Rom. 11:26; Rev. 7:9-14)