

Revelation 14:1-20

REVIEW...

● OUTLINE...

- o THREE times – PAST – PRESENT – FUTURE – **Revelation 1:19**
- o THREE events – RAPTURE – WRATH – RETURN of Jesus
- o THREE judgements – SEAL – TRUMPET – and BOWL judgments

● Rise of the Antichrist...

- o After the blowing of the SEVENTH trumpet – John saw SIGNS:
 - THIRD Temple [two witnesses] – the birth of a CHILD [Jesus] – and the war of the DRAGON...
 - Then John saw a BEAST rising up out of the SEA [humanity] – the Antichrist - **I John 2:18**
 - The DRAGON gives the BEAST all his power and authority [rules the whole world]
 - The BEAST is killed – and RESURRECTED – and the whole world WORSHIPS him...
 - ANYONE who name is NOT written in the Book of Life...
 - And for THREE and a HALF years he will make WAR with the SAINTS!
- o Then John saw a SECOND beast coming out of the Earth...
 - He looks like a LAMB but speaks like the DRAGON – and tells the world to worship the BEAST...
 - He performs SIGNS and WONDERS – calling down fire – causing the image of the beast to speak...
 - Then he tries to make EVERYONE take the MARK of the BEAST – 666!
- o The Choice...
 - In the aftermath of the WAR in heaven – and the MARK of the beast...
 - The question has to be asked – what is the RESPONSE of God to these events...
 - NEVER forget that the desire of God is for the WHOLE world to be SAVED – **II Peter 3:9**
 - Although He allows the WAR and the MARK – it is NOT to condemn men...
 - It is to give them a CHOICE – whom do they want to WORSHIP...
 - As we come to **Revelation 14** – we will see God EMPHASIZE that CHOICE!

REAPING THE HARVEST...

● 1ST – THE EVANGELISTS... vs. 1-5

- o 1st – Their Location... vs. 1
 - The end of the WAR...
 - We saw the BEAST go to WAR with the SAINTS – and he was VICTORIOUS – **Revelation 13:7**
 - Does that mean that the Antichrist will be able to kill ALL the believers...
 - The answer to that question is a firm NO!
 - Then I looked - and behold – the Lamb standing on Mount Zion!
 - The vision jumps to the CONCLUSION of the SEVEN years of wrath...
 - John sees the LAMB [Jesus] standing [perfect] on Mount Zion...
 - Mount ZION - an alternative name for the City of Jerusalem – **II Samuel 5:7**
 - Do NOT miss the contrast – the BEAST is no longer standing in the HOLY place...
 - The ABOMINATION of DESOLATION has ended – **Daniel 9:27**
 - INSTEAD – Jesus [the Lamb] is now the one who is standing in the HOLY city...
 - And He is NOT alone – the BEAST was NOT able to KILL every believer!
 - With Him 144,000!
 - We FIRST saw these 144 thousand at the beginning of the Tribulation - **Revelation 7:4-8**
 - They are all JEWS – TWELVE thousand from each of the TWELVE tribes...
 - They will be the FIRST to be SAVED after the rapture of the church – so they can tell others!
 - Because even in the darkest times – God finds a way to make His LOVE known!

- Having His Father's name written on their foreheads!
 - NOTE – they are NOT killed by the Antichrist...
 - Instead - they are STANDING with Jesus at His Second COMING – **Revelation 19:16**
 - How did they manage to SURVIVE when so many will DIE for their faith – **Revelation 7:9**
 - The answer is they have the MARK of God – the name of the FATHER – on their foreheads!
 - It is worth noting – the MARK of God is not a DENOMINATION...
 - It does not say JEW – or CATHOLIC – or BAPTIST
 - The only MARK that can save – is the NAME of the LORD [יהוה]
 - There are only TWO options on WHO we can belong to in this life...
 - We will either be MARKED and belonging to the FATHER – or to SATAN – **Revelation 13:16**
 - And the simple CHOICE every person must make – what is our MARK!
 - **Matthew 6:24** – “No one can serve two masters. He will hate the one and love the other.”
- o 2nd – Their Song... vs. 2-3
 - The Voice... vs. 2
 - I heard a voice from heaven - like the voice of many waters - like the voice of loud thunder!
 - John not only SAW the 144 thousand – he also HEARD a VOICE...
 - The sound came out of heaven - it was LOUD - sounding like MANY waters – like THUNDER...
 - The VOICE John heard was the LORD – approving of the 144 thousand!
 - **Psalm 29:3** – “The voice of the LORD is over the waters. The God of glory thunders!”
 - And a Song... vs. 2-3
 - I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.
 - They sang as it were a new song before the throne - the four living creatures and the elders.
 - No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who were redeemed from the earth!
 - John HEARD the sound of HARPS playing in heaven [24 elders] – **Revelation 5:8**
 - Something LIKE a new song being sung by the FOUR living creatures and ELDERS...
 - But NO one can learn this NEW song – except the 144 thousand who are REDEEMED [perfect]
 - They key word – REDEEMED [ἀγοράζω] – purchased by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ!
 - **Revelation 5:9** – “[You] have redeemed us to God by Your blood.”
 - Receiving PRAISE from God in heaven – and learning to WORSHIP God in heaven...
 - Are both the direct results of being REDEEMED by God from heaven...
 - ANYONE puts their FAITH in Jesus – REDEEMED – will receive PRAISE from the Father...
 - And they will also get the NEW song [to them] – used to WORSHIP God in Heaven!
- o 3rd – Their calling... vs. 4
 - These are the ones who were not defiled with women - for they are virgins.
 - FIRST – they are NOT married [virgins]
 - Presumably this is because they are MARRIED to the MINISTRY!
 - **I Corinthians 7:34** – “The unmarried cares about the things of the Lord - that [they] may be holy both in body and in spirit. But [those] who [are] married care about the things of the world - how [they] may please [their spouse].”
 - These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes.
 - SECOND – they follow Jesus wherever he goes...
 - There is NO condition here – no matter WHERE the Lamb leads – they FOLLOW!
 - Too many Christians today give CONDITIONS to Jesus...
 - Only willing to FOLLOW if they like where He is taking them...
 - But CHOOSING Jesus – means we take up our CROSS – and go where He leads – **Luke 9:23**
 - These were redeemed from among men - being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb!
 - THIRD – they were REDEEMED from men [they are NOT special]
 - But they were saved FIRST [first fruits] – so they could PASS on the message...

- God used them as super EVANGELISTS – to spread the message of the Gospel!
- Did you ever wonder why after God saved us – He did not just take us directly to heaven...
- It certainly would have been a WHOLE lot easier – straight to GLORY...
- But God leaves us – so we can tell others about Jesus!

o 4th – Their Words... VS. 5

- In their mouth was found no deceit - for they are without fault before the throne of God!
- In contrast to the message of the BEAST – the Antichrist who DECEIVES...
- The MESSAGE that the 144 thousand share is NOT a LIE [no deceit]
- The MESSAGE that they share has the POWER to let them stand FAULTLESS before God!
- Everyone will have to STAND one day before the THRONE of God – **Revelation 20:12**
- For many it will be a SAD day – it is when we will have to answers for all our SINS...
- Only the GOSPEL can make us FAULTLESS – so we can STAND before God with JOY!
- **Jude 1:24** – “Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling - and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy!

• 2ND – THREE ANGELS... vs. 6-13

o 1st – First Angel... vs. 6-7

- The Gospel... vs. 6
 - Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven.
 - Having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth.
 - To every nation – tribe – tongue - and people!
 - God gave the world 144 thousand EVANGELISTS – so they could hear the GOSPEL...
 - But He LOVES the world so much He went one step further – He also sends an ANGEL!
 - John saw an ANGEL flying across the SKY [where birds fly] – **Revelation 19:17**
 - Having the eternal GOSPEL [εὐαγγέλιον] – the GOOD news...
 - And he PREACHED it to ALL [πᾶς] who are on the earth...
 - Every NATION [ἔθνος] – FAMILY [φυλή] – in every LANGUAGE [γλῶσσα] – and people [λαός]!
 - **FIRST** – this fulfills the requirement for the return of Jesus!
 - **Matthew 24:14** – “This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations - and then the end will come.”
 - **SECOND** – it shows us God does not NEED us to spread the GOSPEL...
 - The church has struggled for TWO thousand years to spread the GOSPEL across the world...
 - But God does it in a single DAY – using just ONE angel...
 - Obviously God does NOT need us – He uses us because He LOVES us!
 - When Hallel asks to help out with a PROJECT – I will always say YES...
 - Not because I need her [it usually takes longer] – but because I LOVE her!
- The message... vs. 7
 - Saying with a loud voice - Fear God - give glory to Him for the hour of His judgment has come.
 - Worship Him who made heaven and earth the sea and springs of water!
 - The MESSAGE the ANGEL gives – includes THREE commands...
 - FEAR [imperative] God – because unlike the beast – He is the GOD [τὸν θεόν]
 - GIVE [imperative] Him glory – because the hour of JUDGEMENT has come...
 - WORSHIP [imperative] Him – because He made EVERYTHING [heaven – earth – sea]!
 - When we consider who Jesus is – He is the ONLY God – **Isaiah 45:5**
 - And understand what He has done – He made EVERYTHING – **Colossians 1:16**
 - Realizing what He will soon do – He will JUDGE the world – **John 5:22**
 - The GOSPEL is just common sense – of course we should put our FAITH in Jesus!

o 2nd – Second Angel... vs. 8

- Another angel followed saying – Babylon is fallen - is fallen - that great city.

- SECOND angel follows after the FIRST – telling the WHOLE world - BABYLON is FALLEN [2x]
- BABYLON [Βαβυλῶν] – referred to here as the GREAT [μέγας] city...
- There are THREE main views on which CITY is being referred to:
- JERUSALEM – because it will be the CENTER of the false worship of the Antichrist – **Revelation 17:5**
- BABYLON – in modern day Iraq – the CENTER of the economy of the Antichrist – **Revelation 18:9-11**
- The massive amounts of OIL in the middle east have made them a modern economic powerhouse...
- There have been efforts in recent years to try and rebuild the ancient city of Babylon...
- Make it into a modern CENTER of FINANCE and commerce!
- ROME [Europe] – because it will be the CENTER of the political system – **Revelation 17:9**
- Because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication!
 - Whether it is RELIGION – MONEY – or POLITICS [or maybe all three]
 - The fall of BABYLON is a result of her INFLUENCE on the world...
 - She made them DRUNK with the WINE of her spiritual FORNICATION [πορνεία]!
 - Those who trust in RELIGION – will find they are not GOOD enough – **Isaiah 64:6**
 - Those who trust in MONEY – will find it there is not RICH enough – **Mark 8:36**
 - Those who trust in POLITICS – will find they are not STRONG enough – **Proverbs 27:24**
 - Bottom line – if we put our FAITH in anything other than Jesus – we will FALL!
- o 3rd – Third Angel... vs. 9-11
 - Then a third angel followed them saying with a loud voice.
 - If anyone worships the beast and his image - receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand.
 - He himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God.
 - Which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation.
 - He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone.
 - In the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.
 - The smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever - and they have no rest day or night.
 - Who worship the beast and his image - and whoever receives the mark of his name!
 - THIRD angel follows after the SECOND – warning the WHOLE world...
 - Uniquely this FINAL angel uses a LOUD [μέγας] voice – PAY attention...
 - ANYONE who takes the MARK of the BEAST – will [future] drink the cup of the WRATH of God!
 - You might wonder - what if someone takes the MARK – and does not understand...
 - They are just trying to PROVIDE for their families [buy and sell] – **Revelation 13:17**
 - But no one will have an EXCUSE – the whole world will be WARNED!
 - ANYONE who takes the MARK – CANNOT be saved...
 - They CHOSE to worship the BEAST – and the DRAGON – and they will be JUDGED...
 - What follows is one of the most GRAPHIC depictions of the LAKE of fire in the Bible...
 - The JUDGMENT is PAINFUL [fire and brimstone] – described as TORTURE – **Luke 16:24**
 - The JUDGMENT is CONTINUAL – there is no BREAK [day and night]
 - The JUDGMENT is ETERNAL – it will last FOREVER – **Matthew 25:41**
 - It is a SOBER warning about why we do not want ANYONE to end up in HELL!
 - **Hebrews 10:31** – “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”
- o 4th – The Hope... vs. 12-13
 - Keep the command... vs. 12
 - Here is the patience of the saints.
 - Here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus!
 - After the VERY sobering statement of the THIRD angel...
 - John stops to give us HOPE – we do NOT need to FEAR the Lake of Fire...
 - Because we are the SAINTS [ἅγιος] – those who keep the commandments by FAITH in Jesus!
 - Better off dead... vs. 13

- Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me.
- Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.
- Yes - says the Spirit - that they may rest from their labors - and their works follow them!
- John then heard a VOICE from HEAVEN telling him to WRITE [imperative]
- BLESSED are those who are DEAD – who DIE for their faith in the LORD...
- Because they will have REST – and their WORKS [martyr] will follow them!
- Written not for our SAKES – but for those who will come to FAITH in the TRIBULATION...
- From the middle of the TRIBULATION on – it is BETTER that they die...
- And most will not survive to see the RETURN of Jesus – **Revelation 20:4**
- But they can REST – knowing that they will be with the LORD!
- **3RD – THE HARVEST... vs. 14-20**
 - 1st – Good Harvest... vs. 14-16
 - The Harvester... vs. 14
 - Then I looked - and behold - a white cloud. And on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man.
 - Having on His head a golden crown - and in His hand a sharp sickle!
 - When John looked – on a WHITE cloud came one like the SON of MAN...
 - SON of MAN – a title used by 78x by Jesus - to describe His humanity [fully God fully man]
 - **Daniel 7:13** – “Behold - One like the Son of Man. Coming with the clouds of heaven!”
 - Jesus had a GOLDEN crown [στέφανος] – pointing to the fact He is a KING...
 - In His hand a SICKLE – because He was ready to begin the HARVEST of SOULS!
 - **John 4:35** – “Lift up your eyes and look at the fields - for they are already white for harvest!”
 - Ripe Harvest... vs. 15-16
 - Another angel came out of the temple crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud.
 - Thrust in Your sickle and reap for the time has come for You to reap.
 - For the harvest of the earth is ripe.
 - He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth - and the earth was reaped!
 - Another [ἄλλος] ANGEL came out of the TEMPLE in heaven...
 - He COMMANDED [imperative] with a loud [μέγας] voice – for Jesus to start the HARVEST...
 - For it was the HOUR [ώρα] – the HARVEST was RIPE...
 - RIPE [ξηραίνω] 16x in NT – the words actually means WITHERED – **Matthew 13:6**
 - There are TWO views as to what they could mean:
 - FIRST – the earth is OVERRIPE – overflowing with EVIL and WICKEDNESS...
 - SECOND – the believers are DRIED up – they have NO strength left...
 - Considering the connection to the previous statement – better off dead – **Revelation 14:13**
 - I would lean toward the SECOND view – Jesus is HARVESTING the weary SAINTS!
 - 2nd – Bad Harvest... vs. 17-20
 - Angel of Death... vs. 17
 - Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven - he also having a sharp sickle!
 - SECOND [ἄλλος] ANGEL came out of the TEMPLE – with a SHARP sickle!
 - Interestingly this is where we get an IMAGE of the GRIM reaper...
 - The ANGEL of DEATH who comes to HARVEST souls!
 - Fully Ripe... vs. 18
 - Another angel came out from the altar - who had power over fire.
 - He cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle saying.
 - Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth.
 - For her grapes are fully ripe!
 - THIRD [ἄλλος] ANGEL came from the ALTAR – in the TEMPLE – who kept the FIRE...
 - Worth noting he would be the one to HEAR the prayer of the SAINTS – **Revelation 8:3**

- **Revelation 6:10** – “How long - O Lord - holy and true - until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”
- The answer to that question had been NOT yet – but NOW they get their answer...
- He COMMANDED [imperative] with a loud [μέγας] voice – start to HARVEST the CLUSTERS...
- CLUSTERS – only here NT – those who are STICKING together [in rebellion]
- For the GRAPES are fully RIPE [mature] – the idea is they are perfect for HARVEST!
- The world will GATHER [cluster] together – putting their HOPE in their NUMBERS...
- They will VOTE to change LAWS – making WRONG seem RIGHT – **Isaiah 5:20**
- But it does not make a difference what men say – God will always be TRUE!
- **Romans 3:4** – “Let God be true but every man a liar.”
- Wrath of God... vs. 19-20
 - The angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth.
 - And threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.
 - And the winepress was trampled outside the city - and blood came out of the winepress.
 - Up to the horses' bridles - for one thousand six hundred furlongs!
 - The ANGEL gathered the HARVEST [of souls] – and threw them into the WINEPRESS...
 - The PEOPLE will be trampled outside the CITY [of Jerusalem]
 - Their BLOOD come up to the horses' bridle – about TWO meters...
 - And fill a space of ONE thousand SIX hundred furlongs – over THREE hundred kilometers!
 - A Reference to the Battle of Armageddon – **Revelation 16:16**
 - There in Israel – not too far from the city of Jerusalem...
 - THREE valleys in central Israel: Valley of Jezreel - Valley of Megiddo - Plain of Esdraelon
 - Where all of the nations of the earth will gather to battle Jesus...
 - It will NOT go well for them – with one WORD from Jesus – they will LOSE!
 - **Revelation 19:15** – “Now out of [Jesus] mouth goes a sharp sword - that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.”
- Two HARVESTS...
 - Jesus gave the PARABLE of the wheat and tares [weeds]
 - They are allowed to grow together – until the DAY of the HARVEST!
 - **Matthew 13:30** – “Let both grow together until the harvest - and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers. First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them - but gather the wheat into my barn.”
 - Our lives are not about living – they are about a CHOICE...
 - Where will we spend out ETERNITY – what happens to us AFTER the HARVEST...
 - The KEY is to make sure we have the GOSPEL...
 - Only then will we be able to STAND with JOY before our KING!