

**Revelation**  
**A Wednesday Night Bible Study**

Lesson #33  
4/11/2007

**The Judgment of God, The Great Tribulation, The Great Day of God's Wrath**  
**Chapter Fourteen - An Interlude**

1. The Lamb on Mt. Zion With the 144,000 Saints
2. The Everlasting Gospel
3. Pronouncement of Judgment on Babylon
4. Pronouncement of Judgment Upon Those Who Receive the Mark of the Beast
5. Praise for Those Who Die In the Lord
6. Preview of Armageddon

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**The second event is the proclamation of the everlasting Gospel.**

**Revelation 14:6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,**

**Revelation 14:7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.**

We shall discover some interesting characteristics, some very unique, about this presentation of the Gospel. The statement in verse six focuses on the manner in which this Gospel is proclaimed. The statement in verse seven describes some very important emphases of this proclamation.

**First**, consider the manner of proclamation of this Gospel. **The first of six angels, each called "another angel,"** is introduced who proclaims this everlasting Gospel.

This signifies a radical change in the presentation of the Gospel. In this day in which we live, and up until this day, the proclamation of the Gospel has been entrusted to the followers of Christ. Jesus gave the Great Commission to all of His followers, commanding each person who experienced His saving grace to proclaim it to others (Mark 16:15; Matt. 28:19-20). When He ascended back up into heaven He clearly charged His followers to go into the uttermost parts of the earth and share the Gospel (Acts 1:8). It is sadly obvious that we, His followers, have not been obedient to His command. Nevertheless, while God sometimes in the Old Testament times used angels as His messengers to mankind (Hebrews 2:2), since the cross of calvary He has used only blood-bought messengers to share His Gospel of good news.

Times and circumstances will be drastically different during the Great Tribulation Period. Though Jesus will have His 144,000 faithful and protected servants surely preaching the Gospel they are not enough to communicate with every person on the earth which Jesus said must happen before the end comes (Matthew 24:14). His two witnesses have finished their specific assignment and been raptured up to be with Him in heaven. The intensity of Satan's hostility will likely make it almost impossible for the gospel to be proclaimed in any public gatherings and the believers remaining on the earth will probably not have access to any broadcast media.

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However, God has other means by which He can communicate with man. Having given man the technical knowledge to place communication satellites in the sky and to institute the world-wide-web, or internet as it is called, God can easily take advantage of the fact that most people in our world have access to television and cellular phones with access to the internet. If God wishes, this angel can take over the satellites of the skies, have his own broadcast system, and place His message simultaneously on every T.V. and cell phone around our world. Satan can't stop him. God wants it done and He always has a way to get it done. His angels are always available and unstoppable. Furthermore, Jesus is emphatic in stating that every person will hear His message, His warning, so no man will have an excuse. Though God has always made His presence known to all men who simply recognize the evidences He has placed in nature so that *"... they are without excuse"* (Romans 1:20), this time He presents the complete gospel to all men. The angel is **"to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people."**

Some have characterized this **"everlasting gospel"** as a new and different gospel. That is incorrect. Paul wrote in Galatians 1:8 *"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."* He warned the Corinthians to reject any Gospel that presented a different message about Jesus: *"For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him"* (2 Corinthians 11:4). With such clear admonitions and warnings in God's Word we can be sure that this **"everlasting gospel"** is the same as the one being preached today though it may have a different emphasis than what is commonly heard now.

Today, the love and grace of God is emphasized and that is good because sinful man needs desperately to hear of God's love and grace. However, seldom today are people warned to **"fear God"** though this is an essential part of the Gospel of good news which is preached in this day. The fear of the consequences of doing what is wrong, illegal or criminal is a legitimate motivation for people choosing to do what is right instead of what is wrong. Warning signs are posted to warn people of dangerous places and activities so that people might avoid the consequences of making choices that could harm or kill them or others. It is the fear of the consequences of such actions that motivates people not to take those actions.

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Likewise, **“fearing God”** motivates a man not to disobey God because of the pain or destruction it brings to the disobedient. To avoid proclaiming the **“fear of God”** is to fail to warn sinful man of the reality of the pain and destruction that follows disobedience. For a preacher to avoid the subjects, the truth, about the consequences of sin, i.e., judgment, hell and eternal fire and brimstone is to preach a false gospel. The **“fear of God”** is a vital component of the gospel, will be proclaimed by the angel in Revelation 14:6-7 and should be a vital component of every gospel presentation today.

Then, during the **Great Tribulation Period**, **“fear God”** has an ominous urgency about it because of what follows. This proclamation of the **“everlasting gospel”** places a focus on God as Creator by emphasizing that they are to **“... worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”** It centers the attention of all men, including those from the backward and uncivilized areas of the world, upon that which is around them and focuses on God as the One Who brought it all into existence and is therefore the Owner and Master of it all.

He has been using His creation in various forms of judgments, judgments which those living on the earth have all seen and experienced. They have seen heavenly bodies falling to the earth, the waters turning to blood, earthquakes shaking the planet and other actions in God's creation that cannot be ignored. The proclamation of the **“everlasting gospel”** by the angel reminds these earth dwellers of what has happened and stresses the reality that God does not and has not changed. He has always been in control and the **“everlasting gospel”** has not changed.

Even as God and His gospel has not changed, man's options have not changed. Accept God's grace and receive forgiveness and salvation. Reject God's grace and receive judgment — and the judgments to follow will be awesome indeed and more intense than any previously known. However, though grace will be offered by God, repentance will be rare for already men have had opportunities to respond to God in repentance, but **“... repented not ...”** because of the hardness of their hearts (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12). Though some may yet be saved it will likely be that they will be those who have not previously rejected God's grace and hardened their hearts towards Him. In Rev. 9:20-21 we have already read where the great pain and suffering which demons inflicted upon unbelievers failed to motivate them to repent. It is a picture of the perversion of a hardened heart where the sinner so loves his sin that he will not repent of it even when it causes him great pain. Not even the “fear of God,” i.e., fearing the judgment of God will cause some people to repent.

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**The third event presented in Chapter fourteen is the proclamation by  
"another angel" that "Babylon is fallen."**

**Revelation 14:8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is  
fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations  
drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.**

After showing John the scene in the Millennial Kingdom of the 144,000 saints worshipping the Lord in opening this Chapter, God continues to show John events about to happen on the earth. God introduces Babylon as the object of His wrath. Here He presents a simple, concise statement of what is about to happen. Later, in Chapters seventeen and eighteen, God will describe more fully the judgment He brings upon this wicked city, the symbol of all false religions and paganism.

**"Babylon is fallen, is fallen"** is stated as if it has already happened, for in the plans and purposes of God it is as if it is historical reality. **Nimrod's Tower of Babel** at the original site of Babylon (Genesis 11:1-9) was the birth place of organized idolatry. There the wild fable was born about Semiramis, Nimrod's wife, emerging full grown out of an egg in the Euphrates River, and giving birth by an immaculate conception to her son Tammuz. This most outrageous fable, promulgated by Satan, was so fantastic that it became the basis for a whole system of mythological religions that swept the globe appearing in various forms in most cultures of the world. The worship of Semiramis and Tammuz was one of the major factors in leading Israel into the idolatrous condition that prompted God to send the Israelites into the seventy-year captivity which is the basis for Jeremiah and Ezekiel's prophecies (Jeremiah 7:18; 44:17-19; Ezekiel 8).

Babylon thus became the birthplace of the devil's religions and a fitting symbol of various forms of religions offered by Satan as an alternative to the worship of God. Not only were the results of this idolatry seen in the domination of the Greek and Roman cultures, but almost every religion organized by man has been affected by images and traditions born in Babylon. For example, such common practices associated with the word **"Easter,"** such as the **"Easter Bunny,"** which emphasizes the reproductive habits of rabbits, along with the **"Easter Eggs"** celebrating Semiramis' arrival in an egg are derivatives of the paganism of Babylon. For a more thorough understanding of the affects of the paganism born at Babylon consult Alexander Hyslop's book, **The Two Babylons**.

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**“The wine of the wrath of her fornication”** referred to here regards this influence of paganism which has so polluted our world and drawn men into the worship of Satan. Though such expressions regarding wine and the pressing out of the juice from the grapes may not be familiar to us, they were well understood by the people of John's day. We will see that God uses such expressions even more fully in His additional descriptions of His wrath in passages still before us.

**The fourth event of Chapter fourteen is then announced by the “third angel.”**

**Revelation 14:9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,**

Those who had accepted the **“mark of the beast,”** (13:16-17) might have accepted the right to buy food and participate economically in society, but they also identified themselves as the objects of God's wrath. By so aligning themselves with Anti-Christ they aligned themselves as enemies of God. It was an act with serious consequences.

**Revelation 14:10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:**

**Revelation 14:11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.**

Those who had refused to accept the “mark of the beast” in Chapter thirteen suffered greatly, likely starving to death, but their suffering was temporary and small compared to the suffering now to be experienced by those who accepted the “mark of the beast.” They invited, even seemed to dare, God to do something about it, and He did!

Remember, the Tribulation Period has a unique relationship to the Jews. Here, we have an expression out of the Old Testament, Psalm 75:8: **“For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them.”**

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Those who have been intoxicated by drinking the **“wine of Babylon’s fornications”** will now drink from another cup, **“the cup of God’s wrath.”** The cup of wine in the Lord’s hand, described by the Psalmist, had been held for centuries, restrained by the patience of God, but it had been there, prepared to be poured out upon those who have rejected His grace. Now, after men openly and brazenly declare their love for and allegiance to Satan and his Anti-Christ in full rejection of the Son of God, the cup is to be poured out. God’s indignation is to be restrained no longer. Notice what each of God’s enemies, the recipients of His wrath, are to experience — **“and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone.”**

The word for **“torment”** actually means **“to torture.”** God, contrary to the view some have of Him, will actually torture, inflict great pain, upon those who openly declare their loyalty to Satan by receiving his **“mark.”** This picture of Himself that God presents to us is so different from the views some have of God that it is extremely difficult for them to accept as true what God says of Himself. This is why verse seven told us that the angel proclaimed the gospel, emphasizing the **“fear of God.”** While God is love, God is also holy and righteous and it is these attributes which tell us that He indeed hates sin and will not tolerate it in His presence nor will He tolerate rebellion against His throne. Those whose distorted views of God cause them to reject and deny what God says about Himself will learn that they have lived dangerously and have deserved His wrath.

The **“fire and brimstone”** which God poured out upon Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:24), in destroying those wicked cities of sexual perversion was real, and the **“fire and brimstone”** of Revelation 19:20 and 20:10 will also be real. Furthermore, such wicked ones will be resurrected (John 5:29) with bodies designed to suffer eternally, without being consumed by the fire, and to experience the maximum level of suffering, all preparing them for this **“torment which ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night.”** It will be eternal with no relief or end, ever!

It is the same place of suffering, the same **“lake of fire and brimstone,”** into which the beast and false prophet are to be **“cast alive”** (Rev. 19:20) and to be joined one thousand years later by Satan himself (Rev. 20:10). It is the place which God has already **“prepared for the devil and his angels,”** but apparently others can and will choose to join them there (Matthew 25:41). All of this, we are told, is to be done **“in the presence of the Lamb and the holy angels.”** Justice will finally be done!