

Final Overview of the Last Half of Tribulation

Rev. 14:1-20

11/4/2020

In this final prophecy God is the one who has His Son (The Lamb) in the forefront of His plans for the end of this world as we now know it. This book is written in a logical, chronological, and precise manner so as to be a blessing to everyone who reads, hears, and keeps what it is announcing in its pages.

This chapter is an overview of what follows in chapters 15-19 (last half of Tribulation). It opens with the 144,000 and proceeds to four climatic announcements: 1) the proclamation of the everlasting gospel, 2) the fall of Babylon, 3) the judgment of the lost, and 4) the blessedness of the saved. The whole chapter surveys the final states of blessing and judgment that are coming in the future.

V1. "And I looked": The progression of John as the spectator of God's final story as it will unfold.

"Lamb": The Lord Jesus Christ

"Mount Sion" (Zion): As we have already indicated this is God's way of letting us get a handle on the intense scenes found within this book. This is the picture of the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom here on this earth. Jesus is going to reign from Jerusalem. God Himself called it the city of the great King. Psa. 2:6: "Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion." It is the Father's intention to place the Lord Jesus upon the throne of David in Jerusalem, and specifically on Mount Sion.

"144,000": These are the same ones we learned about in chapter 7. We gain additional information here concerning what is written in their foreheads (Father's name). They have come through this entire period of turmoil and not a single one was lost to his mission. They are shown with Jesus indicating the theme of God's Word that His workers will be rewarded with His presence.

"A voice": Since this scene has placed Jesus on Earth the voice here it seems must be that of power and authority which comes from heaven. We have identified that as God in previous passages of this book.

"A voice of harpers": This is the second sound that John is hearing.

V3. "A new song": This song is inclusive to the 144,000 who have entered into the Millennial with victory. Once again we see the indication of who is around the throne.

Note: In this narrative we see Heaven and Earth in harmony. This 1,000 year reign of Christ will be a time of peace and harmony which was God's design before the disobedience of the 1st Adam.

V4. "Not defiled": Let's remember our study of Jeremiah were God would not allow him to marry because of the times before him. This is the sense we should take from this statement. It is a terrible time of destruction and woe. These workers of God are to remain committed to the main task of presenting the Gospel during this period. In a spiritual sense they have kept themselves from the worship of the Beast and his image during the Tribulation Period.

"Firstfruits unto God": This is indicating what God has promised concerning Israel in the end. Rom. 11:15-16: "For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead? For if the firstfruits be holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root be holy, so are the branches."

V5. "Found no guile": This is indicating that these warriors for Jesus did not participate in the big lie of the Beast when he used lying wonders. They didn't fall for his lie. Jesus had said that except the time be shortened the elect could be deceived. They have victory.

"Without fault (blemish)": Their victory comes from the Lamb and His blood.

V6. "And I saw another angel": In the vision that God is giving to John he see many angels at work.

"Midst of heaven": In the original this language is indicating the "mid-heaven" which is the atmosphere that surrounds our earth.

"To preach": Here is the first and only place in the Bible where an angel is commissioned to preach the Gospel. An angel could not tell Cornelius how to be saved, he could only tell him to send for Peter for that purpose. (Acts 10:3-6) In this present age we are living only redeemed men can preach the Gospel, but at the "End Time", just before the return of the Lord, an angel will go forth to preach the "Everlasting Gospel".

"Gospel": This means good news.

The Gospel message being preached in our dispensation is the "Gospel of the Grace of God". (Acts 20:24) This is the Good News that Jesus Christ the rejected King died on the Cross for our salvation. This form of the Gospel is described in many ways. It is called the "Gospel of God" (Rom. 1:1), because it has its source in the love of God, John 3:16. Its character is grace. Its subject is Christ (Rom. 1:16; II Cor. 10:14), and it is the power of God unto salvation. It is also a glorious Gospel because it speaks of Him who is in the glory, and has been glorified, and who is bringing many sons to glory. (I Tim. 1:11, II Cor. 4:4, Heb. 2:10) And it is the Gospel of peace, because it makes peace between the sinner and God, and brings peace to the soul (Eph. 6:15).

The "Gospel of the Kingdom" (Mat. 24:24) is the good news that God purposes to set up a Kingdom on this earth over which David's Son, Jesus, shall reign, as prophesied in Luke 1:32-33. Two times this Gospel was preached. The first is what begun the ministry of John the Baptist, and the second is that which was preached by Jesus and His disciples which ended at the rejection of Jesus as King. This Gospel shall be preached again when the Church (Present Dispensation) is taken out. This will be the fulfillment of Mat. 24:24 Rd. It will have no reference to the Gospel that is now being preached to the nations. It is for a witness that the time has come to set up the Kingdom. Elijah prophesied it in Mal. 4:5-6.

The passage we are studying now (verse 6) shows us the "Everlasting Gospel". It is neither the "Gospel of the Kingdom" nor the "Gospel of Grace". Its main direction is not salvation but the burden is to announce judgment.

V7. "Hour of His judgment": Again the message of this angel is judgment. It is "good news" to Israel, and all who are passing through the "fires of judgment", because it declares that their troubles will soon end in the judgment and destruction of Antichrist. The message is clear that the Creator God is to be revered as such. This is the essence of what has been pronounced from Eden on through the Prophets and Patriarchs concerning God's plan for His creation into the "Eternal State".

V8. "Another angel": This is the second view God gives John of an angel showing what is coming during the last half of The Tribulation. This angel's message is the doom of Babylon, the source of all religious

false teaching from Nimrod to Antichrist and the False Prophet. (Rev. 17-18) We have proof that the City of Babylon is to be rebuilt as well as the language of Rev. 18.

Isa. 13:19 "And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah." The judgment of religious Babylon is found in Rev. 17 and upon commercial Babylon in Rev. 18.

V9-11 "Doom of Antichrist's followers": Those who do survive most of the Tribulation period will be those who have chosen to submit to the Beast and worship him and his system of "survival". The result of that decision is that their doom is fixed forever.

Sin is rebellion. Adam's sin was not larceny but rebellion. Rebellion against an infinite holy God must be punished by an infinite judgment. Denial of the awfulness of judgment results from ignorance of the nature of the holiness of God. Holiness is an absolute term. There are no degrees of holiness. The word "holiness" is defined as "moral and spiritual perfection". One is either holy or unholy. The least flaw, therefore, defiles, and God cannot condone the smallest sin.

"The wine of the wrath of God": Psa. 75:8 Rd. The Prophets foretold of this coming to pass that the cup of His wrath is filling up and when God has come to the point that it is filled He will press it to the lips of a godless society.

"Tormented": Satan would love to keep the lie going that He is in charge of Hell and the Lake of Fire but the truth is that it will be a place of torment for Him and all that believed his lies. We are seeing here that the judgment will be torment forever.

"In the presence of": The Lamb (Jesus) and His angels will view this eternal punishment. There is no evidence that those who are in the "Eternal State" living in the New Jerusalem will have any view of this torment or the "Bride of Christ" viewing Hell or the happenings during the Tribulation Period on Earth. The opposite is true of those "Christ rejecters" in the Lake of Fire. It is clear that they will be looking over a great gulf at the Redeemed and their King Jesus.

V12. "The patience": Luke 21:19 "In your patience possess ye your souls." Here is God's promise to the Tribulation Saints. It will be better to suffer now and be rewarded in the presence of God than surrender to the "Big Lie". Remember the giving up of the birth right for a single meal resulted in nothing but regret.

V13. "Die in the Lord": God is rewarding faithfulness to Him.

"Works follow": We are not saved by works but unto good works.

J. Vernon McGee: "Our works (good or bad) are like tin cans tied to a dog's tail; we cannot not get away from them. They will follow us to the bema seat of Christ."

V14. "A white cloud": This cloud is a mark of identification. Mat. 24:30 "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of God in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

"A golden crown": Jesus is the hero of Revelation. In this Book He is seen as King. The other two offices He has is now not needed that being Priest and Prophet. He is the King of the Millennium.

“A sharp sickle”: Again we are being taught the judgment of the wicked.

V 15-20. “The earth was reaped”: Mat. 13:40-42; Joel 3:13-14 Ref.

These verses describe a scene of Jesus Christ in heaven just before He descends to the earth for the Battle of Armageddon and His glorious appearing. This harvest of judgment on the Christ-rejecting souls and nations who gather against Him in Armageddon coincides with the seventh vial judgment of Revelation 16:17. When the “grapes are fully ripe” (at the end of the Great Tribulation) denotes the time after every living soul has made his choice to worship either Christ or Antichrist.

“Winepress”: This is the winepress of the “Fierceness and Wrath of Almighty God” Rev. 19:15. The Prophet Isaiah (Isa. 63:1-6) describes Christ’s share in it. It will cover the whole Land of Palestine, and extend as far south as Edom and Bozrah. So great shall be the slaughter that the blood will be up to the horses’ bridles (4 feet) in the valleys over the whole of Palestine for 1600 furlongs, or 200 miles. It will be the time of which the Prophet Isaiah speaks, when the land shall be “drunk with blood”. (Isa. 34:7-8) More detail will be given in Rev. 19. Isa. 34:1-3, 6. Psa. 45 Ref.

Now that God has given us a “break” from the opening of the seals of the book we will return to the structured events that will take place with the 7th trumpet which is beginning of the seven last plagues or vial judgments. May God give us a mind to warn those who are not today a Child of God. The Rapture of His true vine the Church can occur at any moment. These terrible events of the worst time this world has ever known will then be the lot of all who are left behind. God shall send strong delusion to believe a lie because they received not the love of the Truth. Let us get the Lost on our hearts!!!!!!